## A Message from Mr Bland

I don't know if it's just me getting older, but the years seem to be going faster than ever before - we have just passed the halfway point of the academic year, and with the Winter behind us (almost) and Spring beginning to show its green shoots, it's good to look back at what's been achieved and what we still plan and hope for ahead in the next few months.

There are some people for which we're more than half way through the year: our Year 11 students. It's strange to think that having just got their mock results from the Autumn exams that we're looking at just 10 school weeks until the GCSE exams start! Time really does move quickly.

I am inspired by the Year 11 students' work ethic; they are focused in lessons, attending revision classes and coming to Masterclasses. It has reminded me of a year where I decided to also study a GCSE - a GCSE in Astronomy - but later that year, Covid hit and work became very different, and the idea got lost altogether. This was the year my eldest was starting his GCSE courses; he's now 20 years old! As we approach the 5-year anniversary of the Covid-19 restrictions, I've been reminded of that dream of mine to study that GCSE subject and how easy it is to lose sight of things we want to do when life takes over.

And so yesterday I ordered the textbook book for GCSE Astronomy to reignite that 5-year-old idea to study again, being inspired by the Year 11's attitude to their own studies.

#### In this issue:

- Introducing our school council
- Poetry Live trip
- Student band debut
- Construction trip to former hospital

Perhaps at the halfway point of the year or, perhaps, as we approach 5 years from the first lockdown, it's good to firstly look back and reflect on what's already been achieved and then to plan ahead for what can still yet be achieved.

I hope you enjoy the half term break with your young people. I'll see you all again as Spring sets in again and the expectation of another Summer becomes closer in our minds than the cold of Winter!

Take care,

Mr Bland

## **Introducing Our School Council**

The 31st of January played host to the 2025 School Council election for Year 7, Year 8 and Year 9. This, however, did not tell the full story, as the hard work began on the 14th of January, as those selected from Year 7 through to Year 10, after expressions of interest, met for the first time. For Year 10, only two students expressed an interest, and therefore were 'elected' straight away - congratulations to Oscar, particularly for his re-election for a second term, and Biba.

In this meeting the nuts and bolts of planning a campaign to achieve the most votes from their year group was delivered. A daunting task lay ahead, with many hours required to plan and deliver a campaign that needed to capture the heart and minds of their peers. The candidates approached this with steely professionalism, and worked tirelessly to produce resources that even Labour and the Tories would be proud of.

The main events included every candidate visiting each of the form groups of students in their year group. Over 5 school days, it was here where the candidates delivered their key issues, how they would implement meaningful change, and used a plethora of persuasive techniques to encourage their peers to vote for them. These visits were received well by staff and students, and created a real buzz ahead of the election day.

Additionally, candidates were required to design a board with an interactive element to show in the Atrium on the 30th of January at the School Council marketplace. Students approached this with a curious mind; coming along at break and lunch to ask questions of the candidates and support their favoured candidates.

The big day arrived on the 31st of January. A polling station was set up in the Breakout Area and all students from Year 7 to Year 9 came down, out of their lessons, and cast their vote. Students learnt about the key aspects of an election as they queued up; accompanied by some tension-building music to add to the occasion. The votes were cast and counted over the first hours of the school day, with the results being announced at the end of period 5. The 2 students from each year group with the highest number of votes were elected into a year's term on the School Council.

I would like to say a big congratulations to the following students for captivating their year groups and winning the vote:

- Year 7: Yash & Bobby
- Year 8: Maisey & Max
- Year 9: Luke & Alfie
- Year 10: Oscar & Biba



## **KS4 Poetry Live Trip**

On January 22nd, a group of Year 10 and 11 students had the unique opportunity to experience the magic of poetry firsthand at the prestigious Poetry Live event in Ipswich.

This exclusive gathering offered a rare chance to hear from celebrated poets including those studied at GCSE: Imtiaz Dharker, John Agard, Carol Ann Duffy, and Simon Armitage. The event provided a captivating platform for these literary giants to discuss their work, share their insights, and engage in insightful conversations. Our students were treated to a captivating blend of readings, discussions, and performances, leaving them inspired and enriched. This experience undoubtedly broadened our students' horizons and supported their understanding of the GCSE examination skills needed to succeed.

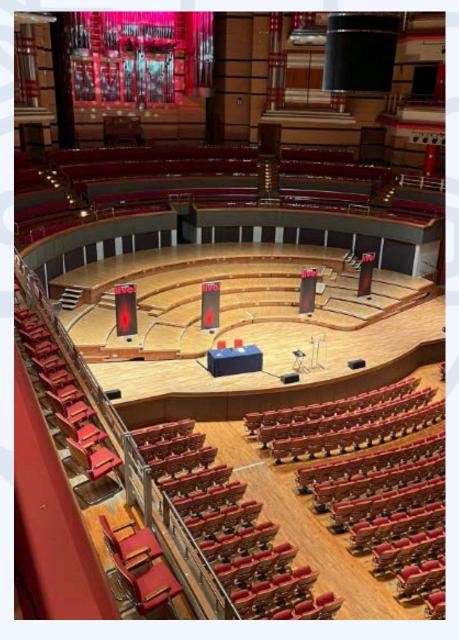
"The event provided a captivating platform for these literary giants to discuss their work, share their insights, and engage in insightful conversations."



Simon Armitage



Carol Ann Duffy



## **Year 9 Enterprise Day**

Earlier this month, our Year 9 students took part in a day of Enterprise, gaining insights into skills such as entrepreneurship, teamwork and financial management.

The students worked in teams to tender for a 'prom catering contract'. Students worked with guests from a range of businesses who gave invaluable insights in the business world.

The day finished with each team delivering their pitches for the catering contract and the winning team from each form progressed to the final which will be held after half term.





### **Careers Fair**

As part of us as a school meeting the statutory requirements for careers here at Stanway that ultimately enable us to ensure that all students are able to gain access to training providers from all settings, as well as employers and professional organisations, we hosted in our school hall our own Careers Fair on Thursday 13th February.

Students were challenged to talk to at least 1 each of - employer, college, a university, an apprenticeship and a training provider. Students collected stars if they had a meaningful encounter but also leaflets, prospectuses and most valuable knowledge about some of the career opportunities and routes into a number of different areas of employment in the future. The sports hall was humming for 2 hours with all of year 9 followed by all of year 10 in attendance. The fair also remained open for the evening until 6.00pm for parents of any year group to attend with their students and have their questions answered also.

The event was a huge success and the exhibitors are already signing up for next year's event due to the students setting such a wonderful impression of us as a school and also for their fabulous engagement with the whole event. The students definitely lived up to our Stanway Standards and are to be commended.

## **Year 11 Construction Trip**

Construction students in year 11 visiting the site of the former Essex County Hospital in Lexden Road as part of their studies into brownfield developments.

Students were escorted by around the construction site by the project and site management staff, and provided with information about the key stages in the development with the sustainable working practices on site, new build structures and the conservation methods being used on the now grade 2 heritage listed former hospital buildings.

The demolition and clearance of the site has taken four years before the construction of the new build can commence, mainly due to the extensive and meticulous archeological survey and excavations that have taken place. Students were privileged to receive a presentation from Adam Wightman, the fieldwork manager of the Colchester Archeological Trust. He explained the historical significance of the site, and expertly narrated photographs of the archeological finds on the site.

"The project and site managers talked the students through their career pathway into management, some via the trades, others having undertaken post 16 professional studies."

The project and site managers talked the students through their career pathway into management, some via the trades, others having undertaken post 16 professional studies. They described their roles on site and fielded questions from the students.

The site visit provided students with a unique opportunity to gain a more detailed understanding of brownfield development in the historical context of Colchester, and having the opportunity to speak with the site staff.



For regular updates, follow us on Facebook <u>@TheStanwaySchool</u>, Twitter <u>@StanwaySchool</u> and Instagram <u>@stanwayschool1</u>

## Student Band To Make Debut Performance

Students from the school that have formed a band called Panoramic are due to make their first appearance at Colchester Arts Centre on Friday, 14th March 2025.

Part of the Schools Rock Prom 2025 program, the event showcases the talent in local schools and has become quite a lively night in recent years with a record number of bands taking part in 2024.

The band formed in 2022 and consist of 4 student members - Leo as the singer and guitarist, Finn as bassist, Riley as the drummer and a new addition - Josh as the secondary guitarist.

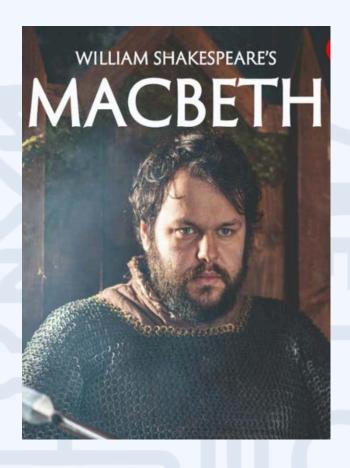
The band formed when Leo and Riley were jamming on their respective instruments and Finn (a drummer at the time) was told to try out at bass-little did they know this would become a much bigger hobby then they first anticipated, with the boys reaching over 40,000 followers on their Tik Tok. They play a variety of styles in and around the genres of rock and grunge, with very diverse band inspirations and idols for each of them.

Tickets are available at the Colchester Arts Centre website https://colchesterartscentre.ticketsolve.com/ticketbooth/shows/117365 5034/events/428656623 "They play a
variety of styles
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## **Year 10 Macbeth Trip**

Earlier this term, 100 Year 10 students travelled watch a live performance of William Shakespeare's bloodiest tragedy 'Macbeth', at West Cliff Theatre in Clacton. The performance provided a traditional rendition that enabled students to consolidate their understanding of the plot, characters and key themes that will be coming up in future exams. This is the second of two performances Year 10 have had the opportunity to watch this week, with an earlier show of Charles Dickens' 'A Christmas Carol' taking place in school. We are pleased to have been able to offer students the chance to see these GCSE literature texts live in action, in order support them with the foundational knowledge to write about them successfully in their exams.



## **Years 8 & 9 NEMO Competition**

It's that time of the year again! Last week we took eight Year 9 students to take part in our Maths NEMO event which was held at the Thomas Lord Audley School. The event consisted of Stanway competing against other schools both within and outside of the Trust answering many different Maths questions in order to score the highest points.

There were three separate rounds ranging in topics. The first round consisted of a puzzle in a similar style of Sudoku where the students had to input the correct numbers into the empty spaces to make sure each line added to the right amount. The second round, the students had to construct many different sized triangles and then cut them out and organise them all to fit together and create a square. Finally the third round was a mixture of many different questions where the teams had to work together to answer as many questions as possible in the given time frame.

All students worked incredibly hard and we as a Maths department, as well as a whole community, are very proud of each and every one of them. Congratulations to Nathan, Evie, Molly, Tomiwa, Noah, Dinula, Matilda, Abigail and Matilda!

## **Out of School Success**

#### **Rally Driving**

Year 8 student Jay is currently training to compete in next years UK and Irish Rally Drivers Junior Championship.

In February half term he has been invited with this years Championship drivers to go to Sweden for an ice driving course where he will be driving various cars on Ice.

Jay has been driving since the age of 8 and will pair up with fellow junior drivers to take to the ice for 2 days and self teach driving on a frozen lake. He will drive a mix of cars ranging from front wheel drive, rear wheel drive and also the possibility of super cars! Jay is super excited for this training and his future in Rallying and we wish him well and look forward to hearing more about it next half term.



#### **Australian Jamboree**

Year 8 student Lilah recently attended the Australian Jamboree and had this to say about the experience:

"Over the course of four weeks, I went to Kuala Lumpur and Australia where I made many memories and learned loads of new things. I went with Essex Scouts and we traveled all across Australia together and attended the Australian Jamboree 2025 with Scouts from all over the world. We left on Boxing Day then boarded the longest flight ever, 13 hours of boredom. I at least got to sit with my friends; I was a bit nervous traveling to the other side of the world without my family. When we got to Kuala Lumpur we went to the mall and finally got something edible to eat. The rooms were the nicest place ever and breakfasts were delicious. We went to Genting Skyworld, a theme park which was literally above the clouds. One of my favourite parts of the trip was the Great Barrier Reef where I got to swim with sea turtles and see loads of fish. It was the most beautiful place I have ever been. This was near Cairns. When we arrived at the Jamboree after a 22 hour train ride, we were beyond tired. We met the Australians we were camping with, got all set up and then finally got to go to sleep. The activities were really fun but due to the mass amount of rain, the whole site was a complete swap. The mud run was the absolute best part, I got covered from head to toe. We also toured the Sydney Opera House on a massive jet ski before heading home. My memories are the best and I went away with many life skills and lifelong friends. It was the best trip of my life. I'm not sure my mum liked washing my clothes after 25 days away!"

## **Out of School Success**

#### Year 7:

Seth played for Stanway Villa and won a tournament and received medals.

Toyosi's football team, Stanway Rovers, are competing in the Colchester cup on the 16th of February

Alice competed for Essex County swimming and swam in the Olympic pool! She was in the top twenty-eight for her age group for Essex!

#### Year 8:

Faye passed her Medical Training in Army Cadets

Max achieved brown belt in kickboxing

Oliver scored 7 goals in 10 games for his football team

#### Year 9:

Robin received a Bronze Leadership award in Cadets









#### The Stanway School

for supporting Colchester Foodbank.

We are extremely grateful for your amazing Christmas 2024 donation Of 282 kgs

This will make a BIG difference to local individuals, children and families who face food and financial crisis at



How to book Early bird tickets will be available from 9am Tue 4 More tickets will be released three days in Book online at Scan the QR firstsite.uk or call 01206 713700 booking, please let us know as soon as possible by calling 01206 713700. If you contact us 24 hours before the event your How to find us High Street, Colchester CO1 1JH







# School Vaccination Catch up Clinics

## Has your child missed their school vaccinations?

We are running local catch up clinics for their routine teenage vaccinations. \*\*

Your nearest clinics are:

Room RA-08, Fryatt Hospital, Harwich CO12 4EX 10am to 2:30pm

· Saturday 15 March

Greenstead Children's Centre, Hawthorn Avenue, Colchester CO4 3QE

10am to 3pm

Tuesday 18 February (half term)

Clough Road Clinic, 16/17 Clough Road, Colchester CO4 9QS

10am to 3pm

- Wednesday 19 February (half term)
- · Saturday 1 March

It's easy to catch up, book your nearest clinic NOW on 0300 790 0597.

For information on school aged vaccinations please visit our website: eput.nhs.uk/childrensvaccines

\*\*HPV (from Year 8) DTP & Meningitis (from Year 9)

#GetWinterStrong









#### **Correspondence Sent Out This Week**

- Sports Newsletter All Years (10th February)
- Danbury Medical Forms Year 7 (11th February)
- Vaccination Catch Up Clinics Years 9, 10 & 11 (12th February)
- Careers Fair Details Years 9 & 10 (12th February)
- Ski Trip 2025 Nut Allergy Reminder Year 11 (12th February)
- Football Tour to Holland 2026 Reminder Years 9, 10 & 11 (12th February)
- Essex County Council Message on Road Improvements All Years (13th February)

#### **Revision Classes:**

#### **Monday Lunch**

• Art Exam Drop In (Year 11 only)

#### **Monday Afterschool**

- Child Development (3.10 pm to 4.10 pm All Students)
- German (3.10 pm to 4.10 pm All students)
- Business Studies (3.10 pm to 4.10 pm Students aiming for L2D invite only)
- Geography (3.10 pm to 4.10 pm All students)
- Graphics (3.10 pm to 4.10 pm All students)
- Technology (3.10 pm to 4.10 pm All students)
- Music (3.10 pm to 4.10 pm All students)

#### **Tuesday Lunch**

- Computer Science (All students)
- Geography (All Students)

#### **Tuesday Afterschool**

- French (3.10 pm to 4.00 pm specific classes)
- Child Development (3.10 pm to 4.10 pm All students0
- Business Studies (3.30 pm to 4.15 pm All students)
- Technology (3.30 pm to 4.15 pm All students)
- BPE (3.30 pm to 4.15 pm All students)
- Drama (3.30 pm to 4.15 pm All students)
- H&S Care (3.30 pm to 4.15 pm All students)

#### **Wednesday Lunch**

- Art (All students)
- Business Studies (Year 10/11 Resit identified students)
- History (All students)

#### Wednesday Afterschool

- Art (3.10 pm to 4.30 pm All students)
- BTEC Dance (3.10 pm 4.10 pm All students)
- English (3.10 pm 4.10 pm All students)
- Drama (3.10 pm to 4.10 pm All students)
- GCSE PE (3.10 pm to 4.10 pm All students
- History (3.30 pm to 4.15 pm All students)
- Citizenship (3.30 pm to 4.15 pm All students)
- Graphics (3.30 pm to 4.15 pm All students)
- Big 5 Masterclasses

#### **Thursday Lunch**

• English (Grade 7-9 Students)

#### Friday Afterschool

• Science - General Revision - Science Department Rooms

#### Clubs:

#### **Monday Lunch**

- Year 7 Drop In B0:05
- All Years Creative Writing Club Room: B1.14
- Welfare Hub Room: C0.02
- Years 7 & 8 Film Club Room: Break Out Space
- · Taking English Further Room: B107
- Magic Gathering Club Room: C1:09

#### **Monday Afterschool**

- Years 9, 10 & 11 Trampolining
- Years 7 & 10 Boys Football

#### **Tuesday Lunch**

- Year 7 Drop In B0:05
- Welfare Hub Room: C0.02
- Years 7 & 8 Film Club Room: Break Out Space
- Years 7 & 8 Drama Club Room: B004

#### **Tuesday Afterschool**

- VEX Club Room: C1.09
- Year 8 Family Food Club Room: C009
- Stanway ESports Game Developers Room: B106
- Technology/Construction Club Room: C004
- Year 11 Netball

#### Wednesday Lunch

- Year 7 Drop In B0:05
- Welfare Hub Room: C0.02
- Years 7 & 8 Film Club Room: Break Out Space

#### **Wednesday Afterschool**

- STEM Club Room: C1:09
- Cycle Maintenance Room: C006
- Years 9 & 10 Netball
- · Year 9 Boys Football
- All Years Girls Football

#### **Thursday Lunch**

- Year 7 Drop In B0:05
- Welfare Hub Room: C0.02
- Years 7 & 8 Film Club Room: Break Out Space
- Dungeons & Dragons Room: B105
- Book Club LRC
- Debate Club Room: B207
- Year 9 Drama & Theatre Room: B003

#### Friday Lunch

- Year 7 Drop In B0:05
- Welfare Hub Room: C0.02
- Years 7 & 8 Film Club Room: Break Out Space
- Amnesty International Room: B215
- Maths Games Club Room: B203
- Young Enterprise Room: B002
- Dungeons & Dragons Room: B107



#### **Reporting Student Absence**

If your child is going to be absent from school i.e. illness/appointment etc. please report this on Arbor -

Press:



→ Attendance → Summary → Log absence (Green Button at the top)

or via:- Email: student.absence@stanway.school

#### **Parental Support**

Norfolk and Suffolk NHS have recorded a number of webinars aimed at offering help and advice for parents. Topics include how to support your child with Anxiety and Low Mood as well as Building Confidence and Managing Anxiety.

https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/psychology-in-schools-team-nsft-32627846273

We recently put out a Google Form asking you to let us know what support you would like, and how you would like it delivered, and we are working on putting a programme together. Thank you to all who completed the form.

#### Menu

#### Monday:

Meatballs with Cream Sauce and Mashed Potato Quorn Sausage and Mashed Potato

#### Tuesday:

Chicken Tikka Masala with Rice and Naan Bread Vegetable Curry with Rice and Naan Bread

#### Wednesday:

Roast Beef with Yorkshire Pudding, Roast Potatoes and Vegetables Vegetable filled Yorkshire Pudding with Roast Potatoes

#### Thursday:

Hunters Chicken with Jacket Wedges Mac n Cheese with Garlic Bread

#### Friday:

Cheeseburger in a Bun with Chips Spicy Beanburger in a Bun with Chips Chicken Goujons with Chips

All main meals include fresh potatoes, vegetables or salad.

POLITE REMINDER - ALLERGY AWARENESS - NO NUTS OR FISH-RELATED FOOD ITEMS TO BE BROUGHT INTO SCHOOL PLEASE