



# Stanley High School

## Aspire Challenge Excel





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# Welcome from the Headteacher

## Dear Parent/Carer

We recognise that choosing the right secondary school for your child is one of the most important decisions you ever have to make. We hope after reading our prospectus that you gain a meaningful insight into the opportunities that Stanley High School has to offer your family.

I am immensely proud to be Headteacher of Stanley. It is a successful, popular and forward-thinking school and offers a challenging and supportive education to students of all abilities. It is also an ambitious school that has high expectations of every single student in its care.

I do hope that after reading about what we have to offer you are encouraged to visit the school, either at an open evening or one of our open mornings when the school is in session. If parents and carers cannot access any of these times, we are always more than happy to arrange personalised tours of the school when it is more convenient for them.

We provide all students and parents/carers with a warm welcome and you are soon made to feel part of the Stanley family.

**Ed Fitzpatrick BSc (Hons), MA, NPQH**  
**Headteacher**



**“The Headteacher has a clear view of how the school needs to improve and has high ambitions for the school and students’ achievements.”**

Ofsted 2012





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# What we believe

All students are entitled to experience a happy, challenging and safe learning environment.

- Every student in our care should be equipped with high-quality learning experiences to prepare them for life in the 21st century.
- The key to improving students' understanding is by offering classroom experiences that are characterised by high-quality questioning that stretches their thinking.
- It is important to develop the 'whole person' and place great emphasis on Stanley students being mature, respectful, well-mannered young people who have the requisite skills to work effectively with others.
- By nurturing a genuine partnership with parents/carers and students there are no barriers to what students can achieve.
- Students' ability to learn and achieve is not 'fixed' and that a critical indicator of students' future success is their attitude to learning.
- It is important to develop students' leadership skills by providing numerous opportunities for them to progress, for example as subject champions, school council members and form captains.

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# Challenging learning

As a school we expect every single student to make good progress.

- We remind ourselves of this ambition every week in our full school assemblies when we celebrate the achievements of students and staff as a whole school community. We know this is an ambitious goal, but we feel that the students in our care deserve nothing less.
- We set aspirational targets for every student and send home four reports on student progress each year - three interim reports and one full narrative report that provides detailed information about a student's progress and attitude to learning. Our reports are easy to understand and jargon free.
- We expect students of all abilities to complete personal study (homework) and we expect parents and carers to support their children's learning by taking an active interest in their achievement.
- Students who are able and talented are challenged by providing them with personalised learning opportunities to ensure they reach their full potential and have the highest aspirations of themselves. We do this by providing early access to higher education institutions and tracking their progress carefully, working closely with parents and carers.
- For students who need extra help with English and Mathematics we provide intensive extra support in years 7 and 8 to ensure they develop their reading and basic numeracy skills so they can fully access the curriculum.
- In Year 7 students study the subjects of English, Mathematics, Science, ICT, Modern Foreign Languages, Art, Music, Drama, Technology, History, Geography, RE, PSHE and Citizenship.
- We ensure our students have access to a broad and balanced curriculum in all year groups with a wide array of subjects to choose from in years 10 and 11.





**“Students in danger of falling behind in their work get plenty of extra support so that their progress improves.”**

Ofsted 2012





**“Students feel safe in school and they behave well whilst in and around the school.”**

Ofsted 2012



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# Supporting learning

We believe that by creating a family atmosphere in which all students feel happy, valued and supported they are able to realise their full potential. We are committed to providing a personal approach that treats all students as individuals.

- We are a caring school. Our well-established faculty system provides all students with a unique sense of belonging to a family. Form groups are organised in mixed ages so older students can support their younger counterparts.
- The key person who acts as the link between home and school is the Form Tutor. You can expect the Form Tutor to make regular contact with you to ensure that your child is happy, secure and cared for.
- All forms have trained peer mentors so younger students do not feel anxious about any aspect of school life. The welcome our year 7 students receive is one of our special strengths.
- We have mentors and family support workers to ensure that all students and their families feel fully supported and valued.
- We are of the opinion that all students are special and we strive to meet the needs of every individual, whatever a child's particular learning needs. We have great expertise and experience in supporting students who have specified learning needs.
- We believe that good channels of communication between home and school are critical if students are to realise their potential. To support this process, we offer a weekly Headteacher blog and electronically alert parents and carers about school news and events. We also provide termly bulletins and a half-termly Headteacher question-and-answer session so parents and carers can raise any issues they may have, as well as hearing about the latest developments at the school.

We provide our young people with unambiguous guidance and support about what is expected of them in terms of their behaviour and conduct, and we want Stanley students to be ambassadors in our local community. We expect parents and carers to support their children by actively encouraging them to follow the school policies on behaviour, uniform and attendance. Copies of these policies can be downloaded from the school website.

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# Enriching learning

We believe that students at Stanley are entitled to the widest range of learning experiences outside the classroom. This has been shown to be critical in supporting learners' achievements. Some examples include:

- A comprehensive Duke of Edinburgh's Award programme offered to all year 9 students at Bronze Award level and to students who wish to pursue their Silver Award in year 10.
- We have an extensive array of after-school clubs in all disciplines from science to developing public speaking skills.
- We have a flourishing arts provision at the school - supported by excellent facilities - and have a full theatrical production planned again for 2015 following the wonderful production of the Queen musical *Schools Will Rock You* in 2013. Students also get the chance to shine at many annual events such as the Stanley's Got Talent show which takes place each autumn.
- We organise a wide range of educational trips, both within the UK and abroad, that develop students' cultural and aesthetic awareness. During the past year we have visited London, France and Iceland, with further trips planned to France and Austria in 2015.
- We have a proud history of boys and girls sporting success in many disciplines at a local, regional and national level. This is supported by an extensive programme of out-of-hours provision in both individual and team sports.
- We also have a longstanding tradition of raising money for local, national and international charities. This is part of our commitment to educating the 'whole person' and preparing students to be active and responsible citizens.
- Students who have an interest in animal care and/or horticulture can also become a farm volunteer at our on-site farm and if they wish can study for qualifications in these subjects.





**“100 per cent of parents questioned would recommend the school to other parents.”**

Kirkland Rowell Survey 2012



# Our partners in learning

As a school we are actively supported by a range of partners who are committed to improving the education that all students at Stanley High School receive, and also to ensuring the school's work benefits the local community. Examples of this partnership working include:

- A strong, highly skilled governing body that supports the Headteacher in securing improvements.
- A strong partnership with Edge Hill University College to help develop teaching and learning at the school.
- A highly productive working relationship with the Connexions service to ensure Stanley students get unbiased careers advice.
- We also work very closely with all our local feeder primary schools in Churchtown, Crossens and Marshside to ensure their transition of students from primary to secondary school is as smooth as possible.
- We also have close links with all the local post-16 educational providers including Southport College, KGV, Christ the King Sixth Form, Runshaw College and Mysercough College.



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