



Dear Parents/ Carers,

We are writing to you to introduce ourselves. We are the **Learning Champions** at Stanley High School and would like to take this opportunity to tell you about some of the projects we have been working on this year.

The Learning Champions are a group of thirty students whose role is to represent students' opinions and put forward their ideas. We come from all year groups and meet every two weeks. During these meetings we discuss areas we would like to investigate, give an update on our latest projects and discuss issues relating to learning across the school. We are currently looking to expand our group so that we can make an even greater contribution to school life. Being a learning champion can be quite demanding. We are expected to perform extra work in our own time and fit our work as learning champions alongside our studies in school. We are all passionate when it comes to making our school a better place and improving the education of both ourselves and others. We have worked as Learning Champions for just over a year and believe we are now starting to make a real difference in school.

Our main function is to give students at Stanley a voice. We want all the students at Stanley to make as much progress as possible during their time here; both inside and outside the classroom. We also want to ensure that students have an enjoyable experience and that our

school listens and acts upon our ideas and opinions. We constantly strive to improve the school in whatever way we can.

During the past year we have been involved in a number of projects and would like to share some of these with you.

One of the first studies we completed was an investigation into the attitudes of students towards learning. This has allowed us to create a profile for each student: their likes and dislikes; how they learn best along with their strengths and weaknesses. This information was then used to identify the characteristics of certain classes so teachers can use this in planning their lessons. We have also spent some of our time surveying classrooms and other work spaces around the school; identifying improvements that could be made and helping teachers make classrooms better places for us to learn in. We have also conducted a range of studies to give teachers an idea of student opinions. In addition, we have also looked into the many ways in which the school can assist KS4 students in preparation for their exams. At present the Year 8 Learning Champions are researching student enjoyment, behaviour, marking and progress across the curriculum.

In addition a group of Learning Champions regularly meet up with the governors to discuss issues from a student's perspective. We talk

about issues that are important to us along with how the school is helping students receive a high quality education. Learning Champions have also played an important role in helping Year 7 students settle into the school. We undertook a survey earlier this year to check on how well they were settling in and to see if there were any issues. Thankfully no problems appeared and it was really pleasing to see that Year 7 students were enjoying their time at high school.

One of the most challenging tasks we have undertaken is playing a part in staff training. In order to achieve this we have created videos expressing a students' perspectives regarding various aspects of school. These have included marking, what makes a good teacher and what the best lessons are like. Not only have these been used for staff training in school but they have also been used by both the local authority and for Teacher Training at Edge Hill University.

Finally we have sent representatives to talk to the local council about issues concerning us as young people.

We are constantly looking for new areas to investigate alongside ideas we have to improve students' learning. This often requires members to use their own initiative in planning and presenting information on behalf of students.

In the near future we are hoping to start a school council to work alongside the Learning Champions. This will have less of a focus on



student's learning; instead concentrating on developing the extra-curricular side of school. We would also like to start an anti-bullying committee which will work closely with the school's peer mentors.

Additionally, the Learning Champions are currently working towards earning the school a Fair Trade Award and becoming an Eco-school.

With so many ideas and plans we are finding it difficult to find the time to do all these things... and finish our homework so have decided to recruit some new members. We have recently spoken to students in Key Stage 3 during assemblies with the aim of recruiting new volunteers. We need our new learning champions to be motivated; reliable; interested in learning and passionate in working to improve the education of others. They also need to be willing to spend their own time working independently on behalf of our school community.

With so much going on we thought it would be a great idea to share some of our work with parents and carers. Hopefully we will be able to update you on some of our new plans and ideas in the near future.

Yours,

Molly, Jess A, Jess M, Emily and Genevieve
(on behalf of all the Learning Champions)

