

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Please find attached our *Information Sheet* and *Financial Information* for the 2025/2026 school year. Summer reports are now available on VS Ware. If you experience any difficulty accessing your VS Ware account, please contact our school office at **info@stanhopesecondary.ie**.

We are delighted to share some important updates as we look ahead to the new school year:

Welcoming Male Students – A New Chapter for Our School

This coming school year marks a historic and exciting milestone as we welcome male students to our school for the very first time. Our 1st Year intake will increase by over **50%** compared to last year. Despite this significant growth, we regret that we were unable to accommodate all applicants. At this time, there are no plans for further increases to 1st Year enrolment in the coming years, as our focus remains firmly on maintaining the highest standards of teaching and learning for our entire school community.

Free Books and Classroom Resources

We are pleased to announce that from this September, **all Senior Cycle students** will receive free books along with essential classroom resources such as copybooks, pens, and pencils. Additionally, our **Book Rental Scheme** will remain free of charge for all students, helping to ease financial pressures for families.

Ongoing School Improvements

Throughout the past year, we have made substantial investments to enhance our school's learning environment:

- New **Art Room, Library, Home Economics Room, and Music Room** have been completed.
- Over **500 new tables and chairs** were purchased, revitalising our classrooms and positively impacting student wellbeing and engagement.
- Our long-awaited **school roof replacement** is scheduled to begin this autumn — a major project that will greatly improve our facilities.
- Our new PE uniform will become compulsory for students from this September.
- Students must have their ¼ zip, jersey and choice of bottoms for PE.
- On a trial basis, student's will have the option of remaining in their new full PE uniform for the day they have PE. i.e. they will not have to change.

Looking ahead, we are excited to progress our next major project: the creation of **two state-of-the-art Science laboratories**. We have submitted an application for funding through the *Summer Works Scheme*, with the hope that works can be completed within the next two years. This development will significantly enhance learning opportunities in STEM subjects.

Promoting Digital Literacy and Innovation

We are committed to preparing students for success in a modern digital world. Following the successful introduction of **Digital Media Literacy**, we plan to pilot a project introducing **tablets for classroom use**. If this proves successful, our goal is to extend this initiative, providing each student with access to a tablet for schoolwork.

Expanding Our Curriculum

As our school continues to grow, we were proud to introduce **Music** as a subject last year — a welcome addition for students, parents, and staff alike. It has quickly become a favourite among students.

Strengthening Communication and Student Support

We continue to refine and develop our communication systems:

- **VS Ware** remains our primary platform for monitoring attendance, behaviour, and exam results.
- Our focus is on promoting positive student behaviour, with over **150 prizes awarded** in April for outstanding contributions.
- Parents can access the **school calendar** on our website for live updates on school events, holidays, and closures.

We are also embedding **Restorative Practice** as a core part of our school culture. This approach is transforming how we support student wellbeing and resolve conflict, fostering a more caring and respectful school environment. We hope your daughter has shared some of these positive experiences with you.

Investing in Our Teaching Team

Improving teaching and learning remains our top priority. We continue to invest in our teaching staff through continuous professional development, with a particular focus this past year on:

- Junior Cycle and Leaving Certificate reforms
- Subject-specific collaboration
- Restorative Practice
- The BÍ Cineálta (Be Kind) initiative
- Universal Design for Learning

These initiatives are having a meaningful impact on classroom practice and student outcomes.

Payment System

Following feedback from our school community, we have developed and will introduce an online payment system for school payments. Parents/Guardians will have the option of making payments through VS Ware or through our school office for the coming school year.

Stay Connected

We invite you to stay up to date with school news, achievements, and events through our social media platforms:

- [Facebook: Stanhope Secondary School](#)
- [Instagram: @StanhopeSecondary](#)
- [Twitter: @stanhopess](#)
- [Website: www.stanhopessecondary.ie](http://www.stanhopessecondary.ie)

Finally, we would like to thank you for the trust you continue to place in us as educators and mentors to your children. It is a privilege to work in partnership with you in supporting their growth and development. We wish you and your family a safe, restful, and happy summer break, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back for another exciting year ahead.

Kind regards,

Mr. J. O'Brien
Principal

Mr. P. Flynn
Deputy Principal