

STOPSLEY

July 2019

SPOTLIGHT

Ambition. Endeavour. Success.

Open Evening
Thursday 3rd October
at 6-8pm

Open Morning
Friday 4th October
at 8.45-10.30am





Welcome

Welcome to the summer edition of Stopsley Spotlight. As the academic year draws to a close, we can reflect on the growth of our school, students and staff, and appreciate another very successful year at Stopsley High School.

We celebrate many of the highlights throughout the last term, but look forward to a future that will be just as successful. Our Year 11 students have recently embarked on their GCSE exams and their hard work and dedication has been evident: we know you will have done brilliantly. We are all very proud and look forward to celebrating with you on results day!

Whilst we place a strong emphasis on ensuring our students achieve the best academic credentials, we go the extra mile to develop their personal characters and skills through the provision of enriching experiences, a dedicated careers programme and a support network. The result is individuals who are not just academically successful, but are also resilient, confident and independent citizens of the 21st century.

We may have said goodbye to our Year 11s, but we will be welcoming our new cohort of Year 7s in September. This term, we have been busy supporting their move to Stopsley through our unique transition programme, which includes events such as our Discovery Afternoon. You will also read about our work with local primary schools that aims to enhance the opportunities for all pupils in Luton and further support with bridging the gap between primary and secondary school.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish our families, staff and community a restful, enjoyable summer break. I look forward to the next academic year, which I am sure will be filled with success, happiness and celebrations, achieved together.

Karen Johns, Headteacher



STARTING LIFE AT STOPSLEY

Over many years we have perfected a transition programme that we know delivers results. By providing opportunities to get to know their new peers, teachers and environment, students are not only full of enthusiasm and ready to embrace their new school, but by their first day we already know them and can set out to provide them with the opportunities they need to fulfil their ambitions.



Stage 2: Getting to know you

Throughout May and June our dedicated transition team met our new students and their current teachers. This helped us to get to know everyone's personalities, interests, academic abilities, needs and vulnerabilities so we ensure every young person receives the personalised education they deserve.

Stage 1: Introductions

Having received their offers, pupils and their families were welcomed to our Discovery Afternoon on 12th March. It's one of our favourite events as it is our first opportunity to meet all our new starters. Pupils were treated to a variety of activities while parents and carers heard from key members of staff and Stopsley students. It was exceptionally well attended and a lively, enthusiastic atmosphere was prevalent throughout.

Stage 3: Meet the parents

We place great importance on working closely with our parents and carers for the benefit of students' learning. From Discovery Afternoon to Induction Evening, our new parents and carers have been invited in to have their questions answered. They emerged from the sessions much better informed of the positive learning experience we will provide for their children.

Stage 4: Experience life at Stopsley

Through Discovery Afternoon, a series of workshops and team building activities and Induction Day, our future students have experienced a number of curriculum lessons, toured their new school, and started to build relationships with their new peers and teachers. They have been inquisitive, eager and have demonstrated excellent talent.



Bridging the gap between primary and secondary school

We are committed to providing everyone with the chance to share our state-of-the-art facilities as well as gain an insight into the exceptional education that students receive here at Stopsley. Here, we take a look at our recent collaboration with local primary schools where we aim to enhance opportunities for pupils and help bridge the gap between primary and secondary school.



STRIKING SUCCESS

Utilising our dedicated astro turf facilities, we hosted a football festival for over 20 primary schools last term. Planned and delivered by Stopsley's Sports Leaders in Year 9, over 200 pupils had a fantastic time working in teams, competing against each other and learning new skills.



DISCOVERING TREASURE ISLAND

It was a pleasure to welcome pupils from Sacred Heart and Stopsley Primary Schools to see live performances of our latest theatrical production, *Treasure Island*, getting an idea of our varied curriculum and focus on nurturing talent. The performances saw the end of what was an outstanding collaborative project between staff and students from Years 7-9, and a true illustration of the strength of our drama department.

LEADING IN LANGUAGES

To raise the profile of languages and give those with a passion for languages the opportunity to develop their interest further, our MFL department introduced the Language Leader programme. Students who were successfully selected to be a Language Leader kickstarted their role by planning and teaching French lessons to Year 4 pupils at Bushmead Primary School. It was a great opportunity for our students to share their knowledge and to support and enhance the pupils' learning, practice presentation skills and gain experience in the teaching profession.

"Thank you so much for bringing your students to teach Year 4. The children thoroughly enjoyed their French lesson and it gave them an opportunity to recap some vocab they had previously learned, then progress to making longer sentences and finally move onto the challenge of writing sentences – a very well planned lesson! Your students are a real credit to Stopsley High School and we wish them all the best for their future." Madame Till,
Bushmead Primary School





FUTURE-READY

Whether our students have their hearts set on securing a place at university, on an apprenticeship scheme or a professional placement, we're committed to providing them with the experiences to develop the skills and knowledge they need to make successful educational and career choices.

An insight into life as an Oxford undergraduate

Students in Year 10 attended Wadham College at the University of Oxford as part of the college's Aspiration Day Programme, giving an insight into university styles of teaching, learning and living. Our students attended academic taster sessions in biology and chemistry, exploring the power of laser technology and the conservation of forests and wild animals in Malaysia. They also enjoyed guided tours around Wadham by current students who answered questions about the academic and social sides of student life. A visit to Oxford's Natural History Museum was another highlight of the day, particularly the opportunity to handle some of the exhibits.

Enhancing employment skills

Last month we hosted an employment skills workshop with a facilitator from the Assessment Centre, designed to enhance our students' ability to excel in a job interview. From research and identifying their abilities and attributes that match the job role to understanding the importance of body language and communication, students learnt about the best interview preparation and techniques to help them land that dream job.

LETS Fair

In March, our students attended the LETS (Luton Employment, Training and Skills) Fair event, an excellent opportunity to network with local employers and training providers and make a positive first impression. They were able to attend workshops by the National Careers Service, Dame Kelly Holmes Legacy Trust and the National Apprenticeship Service; as well as receive expert help with filling in application forms, writing CVs and practicing interview skills.

Stand out CVs

In June, Year 10 took part in a CV workshop run by Viv Davidson at Jobcentre Plus. As students approach the final year of their Key Stage 4 studies, it is prime time for them to be giving their next move some serious thought. The day provided an invaluable chance to master writing a CV that ensures you stand out from the crowd. We will also be using the information included in their CVs to identify potential career paths and therefore provide the necessary support and opportunities in the future.

SPOTLIGHT ON STEM

Science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) education is important since many of the careers available to students will be related in one way or another. At Stopsley we are committed to encouraging and preparing students to be successful in careers of the future, and therefore provide opportunities in STEM subjects for everyone.



Robogals at Imperial College

Robogals is a global student-run organisation that aims to encourage girls to explore an interest in engineering, science and technology, as well as cultivate self-confidence in these areas. Our Year 8 girls were invited to Imperial College London to take part in engineering and technology workshops; they got the chance to build and program robots using the university's Lego Mindstorms kit.

“It was very inspirational and very interesting to learn more about programming. I’m taking Computer Science into consideration for my GCSEs.” Phoebe, Year 8 student

The fun didn't stop there; the girls then visited the Science Museum to look at an exhibition called 'The Information Age'. The students found the trip very inspiring, especially being introduced to female engineering students at Imperial College.

Microsoft's DigiGirlz

To celebrate International Women's Day and increase female participation in STEM, our Year 8 girls were provided with the opportunity to attend the DigiGirlz event at Microsoft's office in London. Students heard from a number of successful females in the company about their career journeys and took part in a number of activities, such as inventing and presenting a new technology product for people with disabilities and using Microsoft's virtual reality systems. Our students left the event feeling motivated to make a positive change in the world.

STEM Day at University of Bedfordshire

Through our close partnership, the University of Bedfordshire hosted a STEM Day for our Year 8 students. There were several workshops running, including a psychology workshop on optical illusions and a coding workshop where students could programme their own robot. At the end of the day, students attended a lecture from Dr. Anne-Marie Imafidon on her inspirational education and career pathway. These activities made a real difference, developing motivation in our young people and contributing to their awareness and understanding of the opportunities that a career in STEM can create.





An insight into construction at Stopsley

The demand for skilled tradespeople continues to grow, so offering construction at Stopsley provides the perfect start to building a career in the construction industry, whilst also gaining key life skills and knowledge that will be useful in the future. Below we hear from two of our budding construction students.



Eva, Year 10

"I couldn't wait to choose construction as one of my GCSE courses because I have always been fascinated by the process of designing and constructing buildings. I enjoy the challenge of my lessons, the gaining and refining of practical skills and the greater sense of responsibility you get for using the complex tools.

If I were to choose a career in the construction industry, I would most likely go into bricklaying because I love the idea of creating something from nothing. After Stopsley, I would like to continue developing my skills at college or gain an apprenticeship. Even if I don't pursue a job construction, I am grateful to Stopsley for allowing me to study the subject as it has provided me with the practical skills and knowledge that I can use in the future."



Blake, Year 9

"Stopsley put on a construction taster session for us this year and it was the first time I got to experience the subject. I enjoyed it so much that I have decided to choose it as one of my GCSE options next year.

Electrics are my favourite part because I have wanted to be an electrician since I was in primary school. My grandad works in construction and has been my inspiration, so I am thrilled that Stopsley offers the subject so that I can develop my passion and skills further. One day, I would like to run my own construction company.

I would recommend construction because there are many aspects to it; you have the chance to find out which one suits you best. Construction at Stopsley is really popular and while you are pushed and challenged, you receive lots of support from our specialist teacher. What's more, the construction facilities are brilliant! We even have students from other schools around Luton come to do their lessons here."



IN OTHER NEWS

EXPRESSING CREATIVITY

In March, Year 9 students were involved in the first Arts and Culture Youth Conference at the University of Bedfordshire. Students listened to motivating seminars delivered by representatives from different organisations on topics such as the importance of creativity and self-expression. They also participated in a variety of workshops designed to provide an insight into local and national opportunities within the arts and culture sector, in terms of careers and progression routes.



WE DAY

WE Schools is a year-long programme that nurtures compassion in young people and gives them the tools to create change in their local and global communities. Our Year 7 students celebrated all the active citizenship they and other schools have been doing across the UK at the SSE Arena in Wembley, for WE Day. A-list celebrities including The Duke and Duchess of Sussex and Nicole Scherzinger, as well as inspiring speakers and world leaders such as Nikki Christou, Connor Franta and Australia's first female president Julia Gillard, came together to discuss social action in areas of mental health, well-being, self-esteem and social issues such as poverty and inequality. It was a moving experience for our students and a great way to celebrate a year of action that they have taken part in through the WE Schools programme.

LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION!

Our student voice journalism team have been hugely successful in producing their recently launched Student Voice Newsletter, informing the school community about the exciting student experience here at Stopsley. To develop their skills further, we provided them with the opportunity to take part in a project with the University of Bedfordshire.

The project involved the team creating their own news show for 'UoB Today', the university's news programme. From writing news stories, rehearsing, directing and producing, our students learnt about a variety of new techniques and developed skills such as teamwork and presenting. Their work has been impressive, and is a hugely promising indicator of what they are set to achieve in the future.



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