



# • STUDENT VOICE •

# NEWSLETTER

*Ambition • Endeavour • Success*

## Welcome

Hello and welcome to another edition of the Stopsley Student Voice Newsletter. Today, as well our usual articles, we are asking YOU what you want to see in our newsletter. Complete the survey by clicking [here](#), and thanks in advance. In this issue we have an important article about children's mental health week, and an interview with author Taran Matharu. We hope you enjoy this look inside the #stopsleyexperience

Assistant Editor EVIE GILSENAN

Layout and Proofing by Charlotte Lovelock

## Children Mental Health Week

Monday 3rd February marked the start of children's mental health week, a whole 7 days designed to spread awareness and break the stigma surrounding mental health and its possible difficulties. After much research it was found that 17.7% of children struggle with a diagnosed behavioural, developmental or mental health problem; in other words, at least 1 out of 8 children. To put into context of how much this can affect a person's everyday life, 65% of students in this position report cancelling social plans, educational plans and even health-related appointments due to the lack of help they receive for their difficulties.

The theme this year is 'Find Your Brave'. The aim is for everyone to think about what makes them feel able and strong. This year, children and young people should be encouraged to try something new, build confidence and begin to feel good about themselves. Place2Be is an online organisation based solely around assisting under 18s battling all types of issues, from eating disorders to autism and low self esteem. Place2Be's goal is to combat children feeling lonely, ashamed, worried and scared.

If needed, you can also find help from ChildLine, Young Minds, CAMHS, and even your local GP. Help can be received in and around school by talking to a trusted parent or carer, a member of the housebase (or student support team), or a subject teacher.

By Molly Lewis



Week 20 07/02/20

# 3

 Key Features of the Student Voice Group

1. Determined
2. Enthusiastic
3. Empathetic

## Term Dates

School Closes: Friday 14th February 2020

School Opens: Monday 24th February 2020

## House Points Board

	Corinth	43948
	Olympia	48596
	Delphi	51877
	Hellenic	48890

# Author Visit

On the Tuesday 4th February, New York Times best-selling author Taran Matharu visited Stopsley and spoke to us about his career. He was first published at 22, and rose to fame with his well-known Summoner series. Taran has been able to go on book tours all over the world, including America and Poland. He has also visited Dubai on a special request from the Prince of Dubai.

By Caitlin Botham



## Author Interview

with Taran Matharu

What inspired you to become an author?

I've always loved reading, and I think of being an author as reading your perfect book, because you're the one writing it!

How long did it take you to write your first book?

I started writing the book as part of a competition, so I finished the first 2/3 of it in about a month. The last part took a bit longer, around 3 months, because I was actually backpacking around Australia when I wrote it.

Have you ever based a character on someone you know?

Naturally, I take inspiration from the people around me, but I don't think I would ever entirely base a character off someone. I often take parts of different people and mix them up, that way you create an entirely different character. There's also a theme in my books of conflict between races, which I have actually experienced in real life.

What did you want to be when you were younger?

I think I've always wanted to write, since I can remember, but I never thought I would be able to do it full time. I did want to be an archaeologist for a while, back when Jurassic Park came out! I was always writing when I was younger, and I wish WattPad had been a thing back then.

Are there any surprising facts about being an author?

Well, something you might not know is that the author rarely gets to choose the title of the book, it's normally the publishers' job. For me, it's always amazing the things people do to show their support. I've seen some brilliant fan art, received amazing gifts, like some swords a blacksmith in America sent me, and people have even got tattoos of my work!

Have you met any other famous authors?

I've met one of my biggest inspirations, Darren Shurn, when we were both speaking at a conference. I've also met Cressida Cowell, the author of the How To Train Your Dragon books, as we are both published by the same people. I also met Ali A once.

Where do you want to be in five years?

In the next five years, I'd really like to publish another 5 books. In a dream world, I would also have a video game made based on my books, as well as a movie.

By Charlotte Lovelock

## Website Quick Links:

[Revision page](#)

[Calendar](#)

[Letters to parents](#)

[Parent View](#)

[GCSE POD](#)

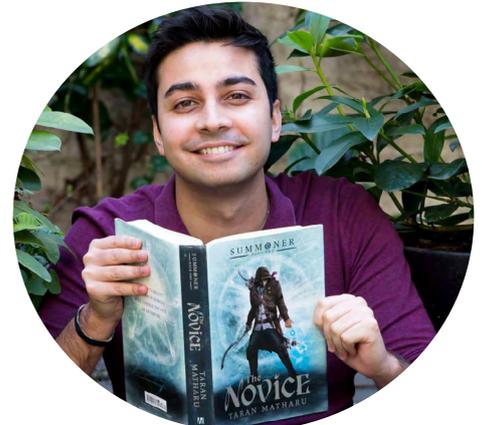
[SIMS Parent App](#)

[School Meals](#)

[BESP Invite to Parents](#)

[Attendance Office Contact](#)

[Chemistry Masterclasses](#)



# Chemistry Masterclass

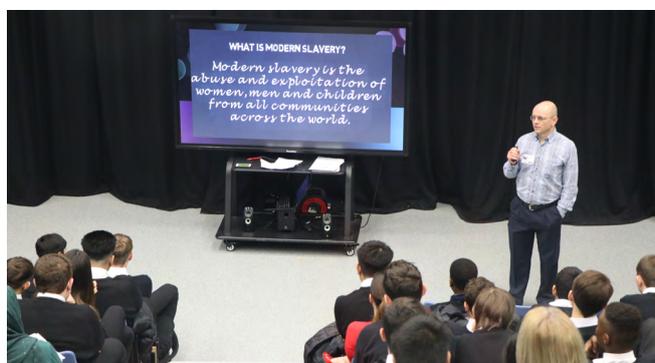
The Science department has organised 4 sessions with professor Dr. Bates to help Year 10s and 11s with their GCSE grade in Chemistry. This gives students a chance to boost their chemistry grade as he looks at content surrounding future exams. The next session will take place on the 25th of February, where he will be looking at acids and alkalis. All sessions last for 1 hour in the hall and this is a great opportunity for those who are aiming high or need a boost in their GCSE exams.

By Evie Gilsenan and Caitlin Blindell

# Modern Day Slavery

This week we had an assembly all about modern slavery, how to spot it and how to help someone involved with it. There are many different forms of modern slavery. These include debt bondage, where a person is forced to work for free to pay off a debt, child slavery, forced marriage, domestic servitude, organ harvesting and forced labour. There are an estimated 40.3 million people in modern slavery around the world. We watched different examples and discussed signs regarding modern day slavery. We all feel much safer and more educated in this matter. Some signs to look out for are if your friends are acting different? Are they coming home late? Hanging out with different people? If you think there is a problem with yourself or someone else report it. You can call the 24/7 Modern Slavery Helpline on 08000 121 700, for free support. They can offer you advice on your situation and on your options for getting out of it.

By Keira Hughes



# Holocaust Poetry

Two weeks ago, at the Holocaust Memorial Service, Hannah Barton, Ariana Chaudhuri and Roux Cooke-McDonald performed a 'shadow box' piece. A shadow box is a large white canvas with a bright light behind it. The people operating the box hold up the cardboard cut-outs, which creates a visual story for the audience. We have now brought this performance back to school and have been performing it in assemblies during the week. Kenza Jerbi is reading 'Checking Out Me History' by John Agard and Charlotte Lovelock is reading 'The Caged Bird' by Maya Angelou.



By Kenza Jerbi

# Homework Tips

- Do it as early as possible - that way there is no chance of you forgetting to do it, or having to rush it last-minute
- Try doing it with friends - obviously, you want your homework to be your own work, but some of your classmates might have remembered different information to you - pooling this information could boost your resulting grade
- Take a break when you need to - don't stay up all night doing homework, and take regular breaks if you feel overwhelmed - if you are too stressed or wound up, you won't be able to focus properly or complete your task to your best standard

By Molly Lewis

# Year 10 Work Experience Update

The deadline to find your own placements has been extended to Friday 14th February. If you would like to find your own placement please collect an own placement form from Miss Lynch in the Careers Office B115 if you do not have the original one given to you

# Upcoming Events

Tuesday 11th February -  
Safer Internet Day

Wednesday 12th February -  
Year 10 BESP Event 8:30 to 10:30