

STOPSLEY

March 2020

SPOTLIGHT

Ambition. Endeavour. Success.

What's inside?

- My first term!
- Budding careers
- Stopsley leaders





Welcome

Welcome to the first Stopsley Spotlight of 2020. As the new year begins, we take the chance to reflect on the excellent activities that happened before Christmas, whilst looking forward to 2020 and embracing the fantastic opportunities ahead of us.

It was a pleasure to show off our school to hundreds of new families at our open events and I was delighted to hear all their positive feedback. We will be welcoming our 2020 starters to our Discovery Afternoon on 17th March to experience secondary school life first hand. This is one of several events they will attend before joining us full time in September. In this edition, we get to hear from our Year 7 students on how they have settled in during their first term.

Whilst our Year 7 students have begun their journey with us, our Year 11 students are mid-way through an important academic year, preparing for their GCSE examinations and their future beyond secondary school.



The building of the broader skills that our students require and preparing them for further education, higher education and the workplace is a consistent theme across the school, and in this edition of Stopsley Spotlight. In the careers programme, we hope to develop responsible, resilient, independent citizens equipped for the demands of the 21st century.

I hope that you enjoy reading about the exciting times at Stopsley. Should you want to find out more, please do not hesitate to contact us and book a tour or a personal meeting. You can also visit our website and follow us on social media (@StopsleyHighSch) to keep up with all our latest news.

Karen Johns, Headteacher



MY FIRST TERM

We know that moving from primary to secondary school is a big step! That's why we make every effort to make this transition as seamless as possible.

Our transition programme starts the day students receive an offer. We host numerous events before the start of term, providing students with the opportunity to make new friends, get to know their teaching staff and familiarise themselves with their new surroundings.

We know that this reduces anxiety and allows students to settle in quickly. We caught up with two of our new starters to hear about their experiences.

Aryan,
former St Matthew's
Primary School pupil



How did Stopsley help you to settle in?

The school has supported me from day one! The teachers are kind and caring and they always offer help and support when I need it. We also took part in different events and activities to help us make new friends.

What have you enjoyed most so far?

I have enjoyed the range of subjects at Stopsley from English, Maths and Science to new subjects like Drama and Construction! I love that I am broadening my understanding of topics, being challenged and learning new skills that will help me in the future.

What extracurricular activities do you enjoy?

Stopsley offer a wide variety of clubs so it was really easy to find something I am interested in. I have enjoyed participating in games club, movie club and football.

Tilly,
former Putteridge
Primary School pupil



How did Stopsley help you to settle in?

I got to take part in lots of activities before my first day. The Discovery Afternoon and Induction Day allowed me to meet and socialise with other students who were going to be in my year.

Have you enjoyed your first few months at Stopsley?

Yes, I have made lots of new friends and have enjoyed learning new subjects and topics with my teachers who are so supportive.

What have you enjoyed most so far?

I love the range of opportunities at Stopsley, from science where we get to do lots of experiments to the sports clubs, such as trampolining, where I get to develop my passion for sport.

BUDDING CAREERS

At Stopsley, our extensive careers programme provides students with skills, knowledge, support and experience of the world of work to enable them to make informed career choices. From Year 7 onwards students will benefit from access to top universities, external speakers and businesses, taster days, work experience and a wide range of workshops.



STEM in the Armed Forces

Last term BAE Systems, the Royal Air Force and the Royal Navy visited Stopsley, with the aim of opening the eyes of our young people to the broad and diverse range of careers opportunities that can be achieved from studying STEM subjects. Students were shown all the technologies that the RAF and Royal Navy use, learning how important technology is to the defence industry.



BRITISH AIRWAYS CAREERS ARE TAKING OFF WITH BRITISH AIRWAYS

Year 11 students interested in engineering signed up to take part in workshops delivered by British Airways. They heard from a range of British Airways employees about their journey into engineering and discovered all about the exciting apprenticeship opportunities available. What's more, they had a digital tour of the apprenticeship accommodation and the hangar at Heathrow.

Mm LITTLE BIG PLANET STUDIO

Stopsley girls from across all year groups went to Media Molecule, the producers of Little Big Planet, where upcoming games are currently being made. The trip showcased the different roles people can take up in the media industry, including animators, producers and voice actors, and how these different talents come together to make something spectacular.

CAREERS FAIR

Last term, Year 11 students attended a careers fair where they had the opportunity to meet many colleges, universities and apprenticeship providers, including JTL apprenticeships, GKN aerospace and the University of Bedfordshire. It was an excellent chance to find out about the range of pathways students can take after secondary school; and what qualifications are required for certain subjects at college and certain careers.



TOMORROW'S ENGINEERS

Our future engineers in Year 7 attended a STEM workshop facilitated by Learn By Design. They learnt about how important it is for us to continue to be innovative to lessen the effects of climate change and were set a challenge to build and run their own mini electric vehicle! The aim of the workshop was to provide an insight into the range of career opportunities that the renewable energy sector has to offer.

"I really enjoyed building the model car. It showed me how engineering can help solve lots of problems in the world."

Year 7 student



APPRENTICESHIP EVENING

This term, we held an apprenticeship evening for our Year 11 students and their parents. We had a talk from ASK apprenticeships where students and their parents got to find out about the different levels of apprenticeships, the many sectors in which they are now available and what an apprenticeship in 2020 looks like. We also had a number of other apprenticeship and training providers attend the event including Luton Borough Council, TUI, Active Luton, JTL and Paragon Training, to share the opportunities available both locally and nationally.



WORLDSKILLS SHOW

A group of Year 9 and 10 students attended the WorldSkills Live show at the NEC in Birmingham last term. The event gave them the opportunity to explore careers in four different industry sectors: Construction & Infrastructure, Health, Hospitality & Lifestyle, Digital, Business & Creative and Engineering & Technology. They tried hands-on job-related skills and received advice from employers such as BAE Systems, BMW, Coca Cola, Airbus, HS2, Greene King, NHS, Rolls-Royce, Toyota and the Army, Royal Navy and RAF.



LEADERSHIP AT STOPSLEY

We believe that our students should be given a wide range of opportunities to develop and practice leadership skills in preparation for life beyond school. It would be impossible to list all the opportunities students have to take on leadership roles at Stopsley so below is just a flavour of what was on offer last term.

Science Leaders

Throughout the school, students often practise their leadership skills and share their best practice with pupils from our local primary schools. Last term, our Science Leaders ran a 'Science in a Suitcase' activity with Year 4 pupils at Bushmead Primary School. We hear from Alex about his experience:

"I was inspired to become a Science Leader because I wanted something extra to do surrounding the sciences and wanted the opportunity to share my knowledge and skills with younger children. We had to plan an experiment to present to the Year 4 pupils that would fit in a suitcase. The pupils loved the lesson"

Anne Frank Ambassadors

Our recently-trained Anne Frank Ambassadors in Year 8 took part in the Anne Frank Exhibition, 'A History for Today', providing guided tours to Year 7 students at Stopsley and to pupils at our local primary schools.

The purpose of the exhibition was to educate young people in the dangers and harm caused by discrimination, prejudice and treating others differently. This is the third year that Stopsley has hosted this exhibition and we hope to continue our positive relationship with the Anne Frank Trust.

Stopsley Eco Council

Our Eco Council was set up last term with the aim of focusing on environmental improvements that can be made around the school. We currently have six students on the council from Years 7 and 8: Caitlin, Jazmin, Kynan, Adam, Moin and Ruvarshe. They have been busy liaising with students in assemblies to share their ideas and how they hope to implement action.

STOPSLEY VOICE

Regular readers will remember our Stopsley Voice feature, in which we hear from members of our Stopsley community. This time we caught up with some of our staff at the school to find out about why they love working at Stopsley.



Louise Lissaman,
Head of Science

What attracted you to a career in teaching?

I wanted to be a police officer or lawyer at a young age but as a teenager, I was successful in receiving an array of coaching awards within sport. Coaching football, instructing swimming and teaching about lifesaving skills changed my career aspiration to teaching.

What do you enjoy most about teaching at the school?

The students because they are amazing and really do appreciate a good teacher, especially one that is consistent and values them as individuals. I love seeing them progress and celebrating success with them.

What is unique about your role at the school?

I wear many hats! I'm Head of Science as well as having a role within the Senior Leadership Team. I also strive to provide students with a range of opportunities to raise their aspirations for success beyond the classroom.

What do you hope to achieve during your time at this school?

My personal ambition is that science gets a gold seal as being the best subject in the school! I want Stopsley students to achieve the very best grades they can in science and have a real love of the subject like I have!



Altaf Majothi,
History and sociology teacher

What inspired you to teach at Stopsley?

I have been at Stopsley High School for 10 years and was first attracted to the school because of the positive atmosphere generated by both staff and students – there is a great deal of mutual respect and appreciation.

What makes Stopsley unique?

What makes Stopsley unique is their supportive atmosphere, particularly for professional development. I hope to progress further at the school, playing a more prominent role and making a significant contribution to the well-being and development of all.

For student development, staff at Stopsley are keen to help students beyond school hours, something which is much appreciated by assiduous GCSE students and reflected in the impressive attendance at revision sessions.

Why do students love coming to Stopsley?

Students enjoy coming to Stopsley because of what is on offer at the school. The excellent facilities aid achievement and progress; and there is a wide range of extra-curricular activities run by willing members of staff. These include trips and activities involving external visitors and organisations.



BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Stopsley hosted a variety of events to celebrate this year's Black History Month such as themed dishes served up in the canteen; a visit from Kimba the poet who shared his journey of helping others to express themselves through the power of poetry; and a student-led assembly, informing students about lesser-known black pioneers and icons who contributed to world history.

CALDECOTTE XPERIENCE

Students from Year 8 went on a three-day residential at Caldecotte Xperience Outdoor Learning and Adventure Centre, where they got to take part in a variety of activities, including archery, abseiling, high ropes, problem-solving and raft building. As well as bonding with their peers, students were able to challenge themselves and develop key skills such as teamwork and communication. This is a fantastic opportunity Stopsley offers every year. Learning outdoors creates enthusiasm, engagement and increased energy in our young people and promotes a better understanding of both themselves and others – nurturing interpersonal skills and improving academic attainment.

“This was an amazing experience that I would love to go on again! We became closer to people we wouldn't normally speak to; we conquered our fears and we tried things we had never done before.” Year 8 student

*Discovery
Afternoon*

Tuesday 17th
March 2020



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