



THE STOPSLEY NEWS AND MEDIA TEAM PRESENTS...

# THE STOPSLEY SOURCE

FRIDAY 13TH OCTOBER 2023

Hello and welcome back to The Stopsley Source! As we make our way into the final stretch of the term, things have been getting very busy. The Year 11s have been preparing for their GCSEs with a round of mock exams that started this week, and students from KS3 have taken a trip down to the University of Bedfordshire to get an idea of university life. Preparations are underway for the upcoming Chess Tournament, and votes are being cast in the Year 7 Shoebox Set Competitions. While this has all been going on, our journalists have been on the hunt for other headlines to share to help you get your weekend started.

First off this week, Tanmi in Year 9 talks us through Anti-Bullying Week, giving an overview of its history and importance. Then, Katey covers another calendar event with an interesting discussion of the origins of Black Friday, and some of its controversies.

To round us off, Zuzanna is here to fill you in on everything that Student Voice have been talking about in their recent meetings, ranging from uniform to lunch menus!

We hope you enjoy this week's newsletter, and wish you all a lovely weekend!



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## Anti Bullying Week

Anti-Bullying Week is an annual event that aims to raise awareness of bullying among young people. It also emphasises prevention and effective response to bullying. It first began in 2002 and is coordinated by the charity Anti-Bullying Alliance. Anti-Bullying Week 2023 took place from Monday 13th – Friday 17th November. The theme for this year was Make A Noise About Bullying.

Anti-Bullying Week has a different theme each year. 2012 marked the 10th anniversary of the Anti-Bullying Alliance, focusing on the theme “We’re Better Without Bullying.” This event recognises that bullying has a long-term effect on the victim’s mental health and quality of life. It was organised to remind us of the importance of taking a stance against bullying and encouraging a zero-tolerance policy.

The Anti-Bullying Association introduced “Odd Sock Day” in 2017, starting on the first day of Anti-Bullying Week. Odd Sock Day celebrated diversity and helped raise awareness. In 2020, over seven million young people participated in Anti-Bullying Week. More than 100 members of school staff and 300 youth helped develop the theme “United Against Bullying”.

Bullying and banter are two common terms that are often misunderstood, but they are not the same. While banter can be a harmless form of teasing among a friend group, bullying can be a serious issue with long-lasting effects. Banter can be used by bullies as a mask when they are caught out. In most cases, sharing jokes and banter with friends can be fun and can help strengthen friendships.

However, when the banter stops being funny because it's constant or when it crosses the line of acceptability, these behaviours may become bullying, which can have a serious effect on the victim whether we realise it or not.

Therefore, it is our responsibility to help Anti-Bullying Week reach its aim. Together we can make a difference by standing up to bullying and helping others to do the same. There is a range of helping points around us, to whom you can go for support: your friends, family members, teachers or any other trusted adults. In Stopsley, our pastoral team and student well-being ambassadors are especially there to support you when you are in need. You are also free to talk to your Form Tutor, Head of Year or anyone that you trust, whether it's your friend, or any member of staff.

–Tanmi T, Year 9

## Black Friday

Black Friday has always been a very strange “holiday”. For starters, it isn’t even a federal holiday in its own home country, the US. And yet, it’s popular in most developed countries. But is it fading away as a holiday? In this article, we’ll try to answer that question by looking back at history.

The first mention of Black Friday was from early 1960s police officers in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania complaining about the post-thanksgiving shopping rush. Americans would flood stores the day after Thanksgiving to get ahead on holiday shopping. This gave police extra work, as they had to deal with traffic jams, shoplifting, and other issues. Some tried to rename it as ‘Big Friday’ to avoid racial concerns, but to no avail.

## Student Voice

The Student Voice representatives from across every year group have had their first formal meeting of the year, coming together in the library to consider ideas on how to improve the school with Ms Mitchell, who is an Assistant Headteacher. Those students who wear the Student Voice badge provide a bridge between the students and staff, making sure that students' priorities are considered when changes happen within the school. At the moment, there are several things on the Student Voice agenda.

Currently, Student Voice is discussing if the school uniform should include blazers or not. If the school did include blazers, they would be made from recycled plastic bottles, which would help the school to be more sustainable. The blazers would have large pockets for students to put pens, pencils, and other knick knacks inside. While many students agree that blazers might help them look smarter and more grown-up, the expense of changing the uniform is a worry for many, and something that the school will be working hard to resolve.

Another thing Student Voice is discussing is holding a non-uniform day to raise money for Food Bank Day. Currently, they are debating whether instead of bringing in food, everyone can come in non-uniform and bring in a pound. If everyone did bring in a pound, the school could raise around £1000 for the food bank and people in need.

The final thing Student Voice is discussing is the new lunch menu. Students have been asking if the canteen can sell fried chicken for lunch, and Ms Mitchell is thinking of having a fried chicken day every week in the canteen.

The term 'Black Friday' didn't become popular nationwide until the 70s, when retailers decided to change the negative narrative of the holiday, celebrating the fact that after a year of financial loss, shops would finally make a profit ("go into the black"). This attempt at rebranding was successful, as many people still think this saying is the namesake of the holiday.

However, Black Friday has famously had a darker side to it. You see, many people line up as early as right after their Thanksgiving meal to be first in line for these once-in-a-year savings, and at opening time, shoppers flood the stores, trying to grab whatever they want as fast as possible. These infamous stampedes have, on occasion, caused injuries to shoppers and employees alike.

Black Friday has also gradually extended as time went on, in an attempt by companies to make more money. Many holidays have been spawned out of it, such as Small Business Saturday, Cyber Monday, and Giving Tuesday. Companies have also started their deals earlier, and now most go for a "Black Friday Week" approach.

With the rise of the internet, however, in-person shopping has seen a gradual decline in favour of online shopping, which means that a certain essence of Black Friday is being lost. This process has been accelerated by the various COVID lockdowns. This significant change in "holiday" is one almost unique to Black Friday, as it exists as a day not for a belief or historical event, but as the accumulation of consumerism, something commonly exploited in the competitive, ever-changing landscape of the retail industry

-Katey O, Year 9.



Students within Student Voice have been sharing these discussions with their classmates, and when they next meet, will tell Ms Mitchell how their fellow students responded.

-Zuzanna H, Year 8

Dear all,

Well done to our Year 11 students for completing their first week of mock examinations. We are so pleased to see so many of you equipped with a revision guide, flashcards and mind maps demonstrating how seriously you are approaching these. Good luck for the final week ahead!

This week I had the opportunity to visit Ramridge Primary School, St Margaret of Scotland Primary School and Warden Hill Junior School to announce the winners of our Open Evening competition and donate books to their libraries. I am very grateful to the Headteachers, staff and students for the warm welcome we received and congratulations once again to those lucky winners of the Kindle Fire. Well done to Malaki, Sumaya and Eli, our winners. I was also delighted to receive such beautifully written thank you letters following our visit to William Austin Junior School last week.

Dear Ms Hand and Mrs Whiting

Thank you for gifting me a Kindle Fire. I felt surprised when you presented it to me and I really appreciate it. I enjoy using it in my spare time, and your gift made me very happy. I hope you liked your trip to William Austin Junior School. I look forward to seeing you next year. Once again, THANK YOU!

Yours Sincerely, Khadija

Dear Mrs Hand

We are grateful for the books you have given us. I have already read ~~the~~ the Boy at the Back of the Class and it was excellent. I am looking forward to reading The Jungle Book. They are amazing book choices. On Thursday in Singing Assembly, when I received the Boy at the Back of the Class, I was encouraged to read it and so I did! Thank you again for these exceptional books.

From Aduyan (Head Boy of William Austin Junior School)

Dear Mrs Hand,

First of all, I would like to say on behalf of our school, that we are incredibly grateful for the books you gifted us in our Thursday Singing Assembly. I, for one, think the books you have chose are really interesting choices and will be sure to encourage reading more around our school. I haven't read any of these books so far but am keen to read them after reading The Morning Gift (which is my current reading book). I really want to read The Boy at the Back of the Class after having a sneak peak at the book from our Guided Reading Lesson. Even though I'm not exactly a fan of animals, I am really excited to read The Jungle Book (I heard it was a long read). I would like to end this note of appreciation by saying thank you for these books. Words can't express our gratitude for these amazing gifts. One last thank you from me!

From Siana  
(Head Girl of William Austin Junior School)



Have a wonderful weekend all,  
Ms Hand