



THE STOPSLEY NEWS AND MEDIA TEAM PRESENTS...

# THE STOPSLEY SOURCE

Friday 16th February 2024

Happy (belated) Valentine's Day! This issue of the Student Newsletter is coming out on the 16th, so we hope you showed your appreciation for your friends, family, and loved ones. We don't have an article on the special day this year, but we do have one from last year if you're interested. With that being said, here are this week's articles:

First, we have an article by Katey on a pop-up exhibition that took place in the library, showcasing the curriculum for GCSE Art for Year 9 students who are interested.

Next is an article by Zuzanna on LGBTQ+ History Month, which recounts the past of the fight for LGBTQ+ rights.

Finally, we have an article on the Year 7 and 8 Spelling Bee finals, which took place on Tuesday 13th of February. The Year 9 Spelling Bee finals will take place after half term.

We hope you enjoy our selection of articles for this week and we wish you a wonderful half-term.

Young people and adults can contact the NSPCC helpline, Report Abuse in Education on: 0800 136 663 or Email: [help@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:help@nspcc.org.uk)

## LGBTQ+ History Month

February is LGBTQ+ History Month in the UK. LGBTQ+ is an umbrella term including lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer identities, with the plus sign standing in for other labels, like intersex or asexual. This month celebrates the accomplishments made by queer people, as well as events relating to queer people and their history. Some famous events include the Stonewall Riot, (1969), the first Pride March (1972), and the World Health Organisation declassifying homosexuality as a mental illness (1992).

There are many queer people in history who have made important contributions to culture, technology, and society. LGBTQ+ History Month seeks to celebrate their legacy and to continue the fight for LGBTQ+ rights, as well as recognising the fact that LGBTQ+ people have existed in every culture throughout history. For example, there are many different examples in history of "third genders" (existing outside of the binary of "male" and "female"), such as hijra in South Asia, two-spirit in Indigenous North American culture, Fa'afafine in Polynesia, Muxe in Mexico, Māhū in Hawaii, and Sekrata in Madagascar.

Some famous LGBTQ+ people whose lives should be celebrated this month include Marsha P Johnson, Sylvia Rivera, Stormé DeLarverie, Alan Turing, Gilbert Baker, Elton John, Barbara Gittings, Simon Nkoli, Ifti Nasim, and Freddy Mercury.

– Zuzanna H, Year 8

### GCSE Pop-up Art Exhibition

On the 6th of February, the Art Department held an exhibition of various KS4 students' work in the library. As GCSEs creep closer, they aim to show students the types of work they do in higher years. The exhibition included Year 11 works but was mainly focused on showing off what the Year 10s were working on.

The Year 10s' topic showcase was entitled 'Flight', which included various artworks about birds and flying insects. They studied multiple artists of different styles, such as Kristy Patterson, who paints on antique dictionary pages with pastels and colour pencils, Mark Powell who uses biro pens to also draw on vintage paper, Jim Moir who uses watercolours and black marker, and Alexander Calder, who makes continuous line drawings and 3D wire-frame sculptures.

The Year 11s also displayed their talent by working on two themes: 'Movement' and 'Environment', including impressive hand drawings in charcoal and paper collages of nature respectively.

The Year 10s are currently working on creating 3D bird sculptures out of wireframe and mesh as part of their work on Alexander Calder. The next pop-up art exhibition will reveal these wire-frame birds in the library.

The Year 10s and Year 11s have truly displayed their immense talent and understanding of the subject of art, and have done a good job of showcasing what's to come for those interested in the subject.

More of these pop-up exhibitions are likely to be held soon for various other subjects as well, so make sure to check the library to know if anything is happening that day about a subject that you like. With that being said, we hope that Year 9s will use these opportunities wisely to aid them in their all-important decision of which subjects to pick for their GCSE options.

– Katey O, Year 9

### Year 7 and 8 Spelling Bee Final

Congratulations to Mary M. and Aisha K, who spelled their way to victory in the Year 7 and 8 Spelling Bee Finals!

Before Christmas, spelling competitions were held across all the form groups in the school, and this week saw the victors from the Year 7 and 8 forms pitted against each other to find out who is the best of the best. In front of an audience of their fellow students, the Year 7 and 8 victors went head-to-head to determine who would come out on top.

Mary and Aisha did a fantastic job, staying cool under pressure and spelling some highly complex words. Their competitors put up a formidable challenge, and should all also be congratulated for making it to the final.

When we return from half-term, we will put the Year 9s to the test in their own Spelling Bee final.



@StopsleyHighsch

**We were delighted to receive our UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge results this week. Well done to all the students who took part. There were some brilliant results from our students who were competing against other Y9, Y10 and Y11 students from across the country.**

**A special well done to the following students:  
 Olivia G Y9 – Silver Award and Best Score in Year 9  
 Lidia K Y10 – Gold Award and Best Score in School  
 Joshua I Y11 – Silver Award and Best Score in Year 11**

**Well done to the following Students who achieved an award:**

Joshua I	Silver
Yunus C	Silver
Leah D	Silver
Pawel D	Silver
Bisma R	Silver
Mateusz S	Silver
Niall T	Silver
Jasper W	Silver
Jesulayomi A	Bronze
Musab	Bronze
Bjorn B	Bronze
Edward D	Bronze
Milly H	Bronze
Filip L	Bronze
Mckayla L	Bronze
Abdurrahman T	Bronze
Cristian T	Bronze
Aryan U	Bronze

Karin A	Bronze
Inaayah A	Bronze
Nadeem A	Bronze
Dominik B	Bronze
Ewan D	Bronze
Jenny D	Bronze
Riyaad H	Bronze
Thisal J	Bronze
Nathan K	Bronze
Emilia M	Bronze
Adsaya N	Bronze
Sean P	Bronze
Sumit S	Bronze
Angel C	Gold
Balraj S	Gold
Lidia K	Gold
Reuben A	Silver
Moses A	Silver
Bilal A	Silver
Bader S	Silver

Olivia G	Silver
Jonathan B	Silver
Michael A	Bronze
Sahara B	Bronze
Amy B	Bronze
William C	Bronze
Stefan G	Bronze
Luke H	Bronze
Zoya K	Bronze
Hassan K	Bronze
Chris K	Bronze
Safiya R	Bronze
Harrison R	Bronze
Ignacy S	Bronze
Jax T	Bronze

**Dear Parents and Carers,**

**As we rapidly approach the half term break we have been reflecting on all that has been achieved as well as considering what is required in the half term ahead. To this end we have taken the opportunity to refresh expectations with the students in reminding them of the qualities that make a Top Class Student. To ensure you receive the same messaging and be able to reinforce it from home you will be receiving a letter in the post with the relevant details included.**

**As you are aware from my previous messages in the newsletter and the letter posted home checking we have the most up to date contact details for your child, we are changing our management information system (Sims to Arbor) which will be in place from Monday 26th February for staff. We will share the details of how to access the parent portal and offer information and support evenings on our return from half term.**

**A reminder to all Year 8 Parents that we have the Online Year 8 Parents Evening on Wednesday 28th February. You will not need to download any additional software to access the appointment. You will receive an email from a platform called the "Parents Evening System" inviting you to book an appointment. You can also book by going to <https://stopsley.schoolcloud.co.uk/>**

**The booking system is now available for use and will close at 10:00 am on Wednesday 28th February. You can find a booking guide here. On the evening itself you will need to open your email and click on the link to start the meetings at the appropriate time. If you do not receive the email inviting you to make your appointments, please check your spam/junk folder first, and then contact [admin@stopsleyhighschool.co.uk](mailto:admin@stopsleyhighschool.co.uk) so that we can check your details on our system. If you have any difficulties booking the appointment remotely please also contact us on the same email address above.**

**Finally I would like to wish you all a happy, safe and restful half term,**

**Ms Hand**



## February half-term update 2024

### 1) COLOUR RUN SATURDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> July (HIGH SCHOOLS)

We are delighted to be bring you our annual Colour Run on the 6<sup>th</sup> July. This popular town-wide event has been running since 2017 and brings together people from all backgrounds to have an enjoyable day and raise funds and awareness for our work. To register your interest please email back.

### 2) YOUNG AMBASSADORS

We are really pleased to be working with a number of high schools on the Young Ambassadors programme. If your school hasn't already signed up to our resources pack then do get in touch.

### 3) HELP FOR YOUR FAMILIES

We want to remind you that schools can obtain food parcels from us if they are one of our referral partners. If you would like more information about becoming a referral partner, please get in touch.

### 4) ADVICE SESSIONS FOR PARENTS

Your parents can access information and support from our Advisor, Nicola. These can be done by phone or in person appointments, subject to availability.

If you would like a free home energy visit, email us and we will be able to refer you the National Energy Foundation. They will be able to install free energy saving measures to help save money on bills and help keep you warmer at home, this includes things such as draught-proofing and low energy lightbulbs.

### 5) OTHER SUPPORT

Our sim cards have arrived, if your school is a referral partner your families can benefit from receiving a sim card with data and minutes for six months.