

THE STOPSLEY NEWS AND MEDIA TEAM PRESENTS...

THE STOPSLEY SOURCE



NEWS

Welcome back to another edition of *The Stopsley Source*!

We are returning to an old format this week while one of our editors-in-chief is away, but we'll be back to normal in no time.

This week was Reading Week, but there has been a host of other things to keep us busy, too.

Tanmi leads the charge with an exclusive look into the return of the Maths Challenge on Satchel One, speaking to Mr Wahby about what the challenges are and why they're important.

Then, Zuzanna takes us on a brief exploration of Mother's Day, which is coming up this weekend.

Mother's Day is only one of the special events taking place this month, as Katey demonstrates with an article about Pi Day, which will take place on 14th March.

Adding on to the STEM topics, Jonathan shares some insight on the Year 9s preparation for moving into the next stage of their education in Science.

Finally, our newsletter this week is padded out with some staff contributions, to highlight the incredible achievements of our students and to talk about everything that went on to celebrate Reading Week and World Book Day.

We hope you enjoy reading—have a lovely weekend!

FRIDAY 8TH MARCH 2024

Young people and adults can contact the NSPCC helpline, Report Abuse in Education
On: **0800 136 663** or
email: **help@nspcc.org.uk**



@STOPSLEYHIGHSCH

TERM DATES

Students' last day is Thursday 28th March.

Problem of the Week - Maths Challenge Returns!

At Stopsley, extracurriculars are as much of a priority as providing high-quality education. Classwork is designed in a way not just to ensure that the students get the most out of it, but to make it as effective and innovative as possible.

However, homework is as usual the least popular and there are always complaints regarding it! Thanks to Mr. Wahby from our Maths department, one of the most joyous members of staff in the school, who brought about the Maths challenges for each week. These challenges are set as the "Problem of the Week" on Satchel One.

When asked about the motive behind the idea of setting these challenges, Mr Wahby said he intended "to give students more opportunities and enrichment to solve more mathematical problems," which doesn't necessarily always involve calculations but can contribute to improving students' problem-solving skills.

Mr Wahby also believes that these challenges "allow the students to do something more fun and different whilst they are at home," unlike the normal homework which is set for the purpose of recapping and reflecting.

He did admit to some disappointment regarding the active responses to these challenges, which are currently around "40-50%," mostly involving "Year 10s and 11s." He hopes for a more positive "mentality for some people to put effort into trying something different." He asks us to "encourage [our] friends and other people around [us] to try and solve the challenges that are being set. It would be really nice to see a 100% student response."

Many thanks to Mr Wahby for putting in the extra effort and time into setting tasks like these. Thank you also for sharing your thoughts with us!

Next time you are scrolling through Satchel One for your required homework, make sure to check out the latest Problem of the Week that's been set. Let's see if you can solve it!

- Tanmi T., Year 9

Mother's Day

Mother's Day is on the 10th of March, this Sunday. Mother's Day started in the 16th century and was originally called 'Mothering Sunday'; it always takes place three Sundays before Easter. Originally, people would mark the day by visiting their 'Mother Church' (i.e. the parish church, the church they were christened in, or the nearest cathedral).

Some countries celebrate it on different days, for example, in Poland they celebrate it on the 26th of May, in Japan they celebrate it on the 12th of May, and in the US, they celebrate it on the 8th of May. These differences occur due to Mother's Day being implemented later or earlier in history than the UK.

Originally, mothers received Simnel cake, 'mothering buns', or fig cake, but they also received items like flowers. Nowadays, mothers get a variety of gifts such as cards, jewellery, and other items to show their children's gratitude and thankfulness.

- Zuzanna H., Year 8

International Women's Day

As well as celebrating Mother's Day, March is also Women's History Month, wherein International Women's Day is celebrated.

This year's theme for International Women's Day is *#InspireInclusion*, which, according to the International Women's Day website, means celebrating "diversity and empowerment", underscoring the "the crucial role of inclusion in achieving gender equality".

The school's Learning Resource Centre currently has a display promoting books by and about inspirational women and girls; combine celebrations of International Women's Day and Reading Week by giving one a go!



Pi Day

Pi Day takes place every year on the 14th of March and is one of the most notable maths-related observation days. While admittedly in part due to its name, there's more to it than just its closeness to pie. This day celebrates a symbol that changed maths, science, and engineering forever.

First, we need to know what Pi is. Pi is 3.14159...etc, and is represented by ' π '. It is found by dividing the circumference of a circle by the diameter. What makes Pi special is several factors: first, you always get Pi when you use this formula, no matter if this circle is nanometers or light-years across. Pi is also an irrational number, which means it goes on forever with no pattern. Now, Pi isn't unique in this regard, as you could do the same with, say, a square, and you'd get 1.41421...etc, but that's just square root 2. But no matter how you try, you can't square or square root Pi to get a whole number.

Now, let's discuss the invention of Pi. The person to thank would be none other than the Greek mathematician Archimedes, who invented the Archimedean screw still used in water pumps today and the Principle of Displacement (during which he allegedly coined the phrase "eureka!"). He found Pi by drawing a regular hexagon inside a circle, adding more sides until he had a 96-sided polygon, and measuring the diameters he proved that Pi would be within the range of 3.1408 and 3.1429. Mathematicians would finally start using the Greek symbol ' π ' to represent Pi in the 1700s.

But what about the actual day? It was started by physicist Larry Shaw in 1988 at the San Francisco Exploratorium. He aimed to promote the beauty of Pi and maths in general to the public, and he chose the 14th of March because, in the US date format, it matches the first 3 digits of Pi (3/14). The holiday then quickly spread and became a US national holiday in 2009.

There are various activities you can participate in to celebrate Pi Day. The first idea to stick out would be to eat some pie, which they even did on the first Pi day, but you could also eat other round foods like pizza and cake. Other ways include attempting to recite as many digits of Pi as possible, learning more about maths, or trying to draw a perfect circle on Neal.fun.

Coincidentally, Pi Day isn't the only celebration of March 14th—two famous physicians are related to this same day, with Albert Einstein being born and Stephen Hawking passing on the 14th.

Overall, Pi Day is more than just a day where you get to eat pie and have your teachers make you memorise it. Pi Day is also a celebration of maths as a whole, and the effect it has on our lives. Pi Day brings much-needed awareness to a subject that many take for granted, so this year, maybe take some time to appreciate this little symbol.

- Katey O., Year 9

Year 9 GCSE Science Prep.

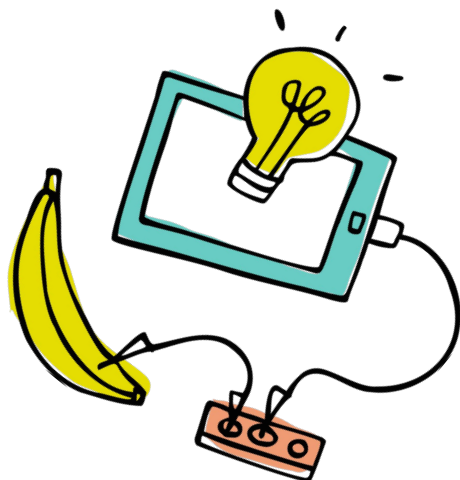
This year, the Year 9s will be starting their GCSE course in Science.

Currently, there have been no changes in the classes, but these will soon be incoming as the teachers finish marking the assessments which were undertaken by the Year 9 cohort earlier in the year.

These tests will decide if the students are entered into Triple Science or Combined Science for their GCSEs in KS4.

In preparation for the transition to GCSE, Year 9s can expect more challenging material to start appearing in many of their subjects.

- Jonathan B., Year 9



Headteacher's Letter

Dear all,

This week Stopsley High School ran a plethora of events across the week to celebrate and raise the profile of Reading Week and World Book Day.

Thank you to all those staff involved in supporting the initiatives to celebrate and raise the profile of Reading Week, including dressing up for World Book Day as well as The Masked Reader. Special thanks to Miss Wrigley, Mrs Duncan, Mrs Stewart and the English Department for making Reading Week 2024 so memorable.

Thank you also to our students for investing time, effort, and energy with their contribution, including some very tasty creative treats.

I am very grateful to Mrs Stewart and Ms Lucas who provided not one but two opportunities for students to experience live theatre last week, taking Drama GCSE students and KS3 *Shrek* stars on to see *Shrek* and also to see *Metamorphosis*.



AMBITION - ENDEAVOUR - SUCCESS

Our fabulous PE Department had another hectic schedule to fulfil this week in taking our athletics superstars to compete against other Luton schools. Thank you to Mr Swain, Ms Wilkinson, Mrs Gazeley, Mr Sicheri-Peel, and Mrs Gatenby.

There were successes for Year 7 Girls and Year 8 Boys Sportshall Athletics teams who competed in the county competition on Friday 1st March. Special mention goes to the Year 8 Boys who finished in fourth place and a special mention to the Year 7 Girls Team who finished 3rd in Luton and then went on to finish 3rd in the county competition!

Thank you also to Ms Asif, Mrs Hammoudi, and the entire English Department for the wide range of activities students have been able to participate in and further enrich their learning experience here with us. This includes participating in the Luton All Schools Debate Competition. Our team, consisting of Safiya, Amish, and Tanmi, were able to successfully debate against The Chiltern Academy on "This House believes that we each have a moral responsibility to consume less." Through their hard work and preparation, they emerged victorious, earning a well-deserved spot in the next round.

In addition, students were given the opportunity to enter a creative writing piece for an upcoming book publication with a number of our students' work chosen to be published.

These include Maxine, Olamiposi, Maisha, Tahsin, Ebony, William, Miroslav, Fraser, Harrison, Dominik, Mia, Maysen, Delia, Luke, Willow, Ethan, Aisha, Jacob, and Huja.

Have a wonderful weekend everyone,
Ms Hand

Headteacher's Award

Congratulations to Chris K. in Year 9 on receiving a Headteacher's Award.
Well done!



Debate Team Triumph!

Let's give a resounding round of applause to our brilliant Debate Team at Stopsley High School for their remarkable success in the Luton All Schools Debate Competition!

In a battle of wits and words against Chiltern Academy, our team showcased unparalleled dedication and skill, tackling the motion "This House believes that we each have a moral responsibility to consume less." Through their hard work and preparation, they emerged victorious, earning a well-deserved spot in the next round!

Congratulations to Safiya R., Amish P., and Tanmi T. from Year 9.

Let's give a special shoutout to the team for their unwavering commitment and dedication. Your passion for debate and tireless efforts have propelled our team forward, and we're incredibly proud of your achievements!

As we gear up for the next round against Chiltern Academy, let's continue to hone our skills and embrace new challenges with enthusiasm. With your determination and talent leading the way, we're confident that we'll once again emerge triumphant!

This success is a testament to the power of teamwork, perseverance, and dedication. Each member of our debate team has played an integral role in our journey so far, and together, we're unstoppable!

Your hard work, passion, and dedication inspire us all. Let's continue to strive for excellence and make Stopsley High School proud!

- Miss Asif, English



Stopsley High School Athletics

Our Year 7 Girls and Year 8 Boys Sportshall Athletics teams competed in the county competition on Friday 1st March. Well done to all students who attended, it was fantastic to see so many of you winning races and showcasing the talented students we have at Stopsley.

Congratulations to our Year 8 Boys who finished in fourth place, and a special mention to the Year 7 Girls Team who finished 3rd in Luton and then went on to finish 3rd in the county competition!



Reading Week at Stopsley High School

For the third year running, Stopsley High School went all out to celebrate World Book Day with a week's worth of reading-themed events!

In form time, students listened to a special reading assembly, faced a tricky literature quiz, and took part in group and individual reading. On World Book Day, they also had to figure out the mystery of the Masked Readers, by identifying members of staff in disguise who were filmed reading aloud.

The staff dress-up competition ran again, with staff making the effort to dress as famous and well-loved book characters, ranging from Willy Wonka to the White Rabbit.

Thanks to support from Mrs Stewart and Mrs Waygood, the Great British Book Off cake competition was once again a big success, with students baking and decorating book-themed cakes to be judged by our in-house expert, Mrs Waygood from DT.

Departments across the school got involved in the promotion of reading by displaying posters in their classroom windows which highlighted some books related to their subject areas, and for ten minutes at the end of every day, staff and students were encouraged to 'Drop Everything and Read', putting down their pens and picking up their books!

To cap it all off, the Blackout Poetry workshop returned to the Learning Resource Centre, once again teaching students how to engage their creativity by making new poems from old books.

Many thanks to everyone who had a hand in making this year's World Book Day festivities special, and particularly to Mrs Stewart for going above and beyond to help out with the Masked Reader video and the Great British Book Off.

- Miss Wrigley, LRC



Reading Week Gallery



Fright Club Competition Success!

I am thrilled to announce a momentous achievement by the talented writers of Stopsley High School. Our students have once again showcased their exceptional creativity and literary prowess by participating in a prestigious writing competition. Their dedication, passion, and hard work have truly paid off!

We are delighted to share that the remarkable pieces crafted by our students have been selected for publication in an upcoming book. This incredible accomplishment not only highlights the extraordinary talent within our school community but also underscores the power of perseverance and creativity. From thought-provoking narratives to captivating prose, their words have the ability to inspire, evoke emotions, and ignite imaginations.

I'd like to extend our heartfelt congratulations to all the students whose writing was published. Your achievement is a testament to your dedication, creativity, and literary excellence. We are immensely proud of each and every one of you!

Congratulations and well done to Maxine A., Olamiposi S., Maisha A., Tahsin S., Ebony A., William C., Miroslav P., Fraser H., Harrison R., Dominik D., Mia L., Maysen H., Delia P., Luke M., Willow C., Ethan S., Aisha B., Jacob B., and Huja B.

- Miss Asif, English



Spotlight on Transition! Attention Year 6!

What Is Taskmaster?

Each week the transition team will set you different challenges, a bit different, creative, and sometimes a little strange!

Each entry receives achievement points and of course each week there will be a winner too!



A poster for a 'Discovery Event' at Stopsley High School. The top left corner features the 'Ofsted Good Provider' logo. The top right corner shows the 'SHS' logo and the school's name 'STOPSLEY HIGH SCHOOL' with the motto 'Ambition | Endeavour | Success'. The main image shows two students looking at a book titled 'Lord of the Flies'. The text 'DISCOVERY EVENT' is prominently displayed in a dark blue box. Below this, the date and time are given: '14TH MARCH 2024 4:00PM - 6:00PM'. A circular logo with a star and the words 'GOALS' and 'ACHIEVEMENT' is also present. The text 'Secured a place with us in September?' is followed by 'OR Still considering your options?'. Below this, it says 'Come and join a Discovery Event at Stopsley High School, and see what our community has to offer you.' At the bottom, it says 'SCAN THE QR CODE TO BOOK YOUR PLACE!' next to a QR code, and 'OR FOLLOW THE LINK: WWW.TRANSITION-STOPSLEYHIGHSCHOOL.CO.UK'. The bottom right corner includes the school's social media handle '@StopsleyHighSch' and the phone number 'T: 01582 870900'. The bottom left corner has the 'MLT' logo and the text 'MLT INCLUSIVE LEARNING TRUST'.

Come and join a
Discovery Event
at Stopsley High
School,
and see what our
community has to
offer you.

Free Easter Holiday Camp Places

Bookings are now open for Energise Luton's Easter Holiday Camps. You will need your school code SHS24 or SHAC24 to book your child's free place.

The programme includes the ever-popular football and multi-sports camps with swimming, plus lots of other sports and creative options. Click here www.energiseluton.co.uk or call the Energise Team on 01582 400272 to find out where the camps are running this year and to book your child's place.

