



STOPSLEY WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

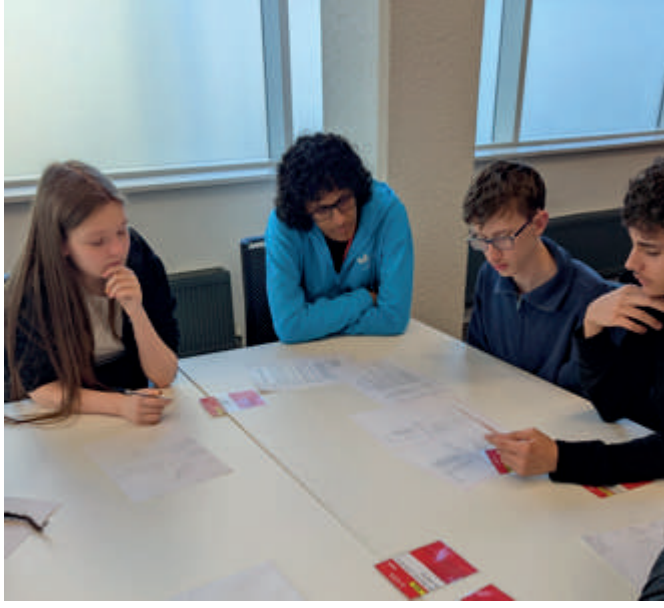
FRIDAY 7TH MARCH 2025

HEADTEACHER'S UPDATE



Dear all,

Monday was a very important day for Year 6 students and their families as they received the news of which secondary school they have been allocated. Mr Blanchard, Miss Makepeace, Mr Rowles, the Year 7 tutor teams and Year 7 students have been busily preparing to welcome the students and launch the Sun Bear Trail. Rather than have me describe what it is please watch the wonderful video here from our students and keep your eyes peeled for the Sun Bears too!! We are very excited to be hosting our Discovery Afternoon for all our Prospective Year 6 students on Thursday 20th March 4pm - 6pm. Come along to find out more!!



This week is National Careers Week and thanks to Mrs Winter we have had six of our Year 10 students attending a week long placement at the University of Bedfordshire, where local companies have been putting on work related activities each day. Companies include, Beds Uni, Luton and Dunstable Hospital, EasyJet, Tui, Whitbread, ZSL, Luton Council, Kier Construction, Willmott Dixon and Wates construction. There has been a different focus each day. All students in Year 10 were invited to apply for the opportunity with 60 students applying in total! Our six students joined forces with 14 students across Luton schools to engage with this fabulous opportunity. Easyjet picked out a few students who they said have really shone and if they were to interview at EasyJet would do really well and one was our very own Luke from Year 10.

The photo shows a student group in action supported by a student ambassador. They had to look at the faults on 8 aircrafts and find solutions for them and prioritise which fault they would fix first. Nadia was the spokesperson for this team and was super confident in her delivery.

It hasn't been just Year 11 undertaking mocks this week. Mr Wise took up the offer from the exam board, Edexcel, to have our Year 10 Design & Technology students participate in trialling potential changes to exam paper content. This was also observed by a lead person from the exam board who was very complimentary about the attitude and behaviour of the students, especially given that it was their first formal exam in exam conditions.



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 World Book Quiz and To Thine Own Self Be True quiz available on X here where you have to match the member of staff to the bookshelf. Special thanks to Ms Wrigley for making that and to all the staff for sending their bookshelf photos too. I downloaded my results and must now put it in my record of achievement! Thank you to Mr Rowles for helping with organising form time activities, and form tutors reading with their students this week. There's also all the teaching and support staff who've been ensuring that Drop Everything and Read goes ahead every day at the end of period 6. Thank you to Mrs Fry and the team for sending comms out to the parents and carers of all students in Years 7, 8 and 9 to have a reading book with them. There has been an increased uptake in books being borrowed from the library and some students taking two copies so their parent or carer can also enjoy the book alongside them. Huge thanks to Mrs Stewart for providing costumes and accessories but also to all those staff who dressed up - thank you for making reading week 2025 so memorable.

Have a wonderful weekend everyone,

Ms Hand

THIS WEEK'S ISSUE:

- HEADTEACHER'S UPDATE
- QUOTE OF THE WEEK
- YEAR 9 DRAMA
- MONTHLY SAFGUARDING NEWSLETTER
- LEXIA ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE WEEK
- DISCOVER STOPSLEY
- WAKE UP WEDNESDAY
- UPCOMING DATES & EVENTS:
- TERM ENDS - FRIDAY 4TH APRIL
- SUMMER TERM 2025
- TERM STARTS - TUESDAY 22ND APRIL (INSET DAY)
- WEDNESDAY 23RD APRIL - WHOLE SCHOOL RETURNS

ATTENDANCE NOTICE:

CAN PARENTS/CARERS PLEASE INFORM THE SCHOOL IF YOUR CHILD IS UNWELL AS WE ARE MONITORING ATTENDANCE. REPORT THIS THE NORMAL WAY BY CONTACTING THE ATTENDANCE NUMBER: 01582 870912 OR THE EMAIL ADDRESS:

ATTENDANCE@STOPSLEYHIGHSCHOOL.CO.UK

WORK WITH US:



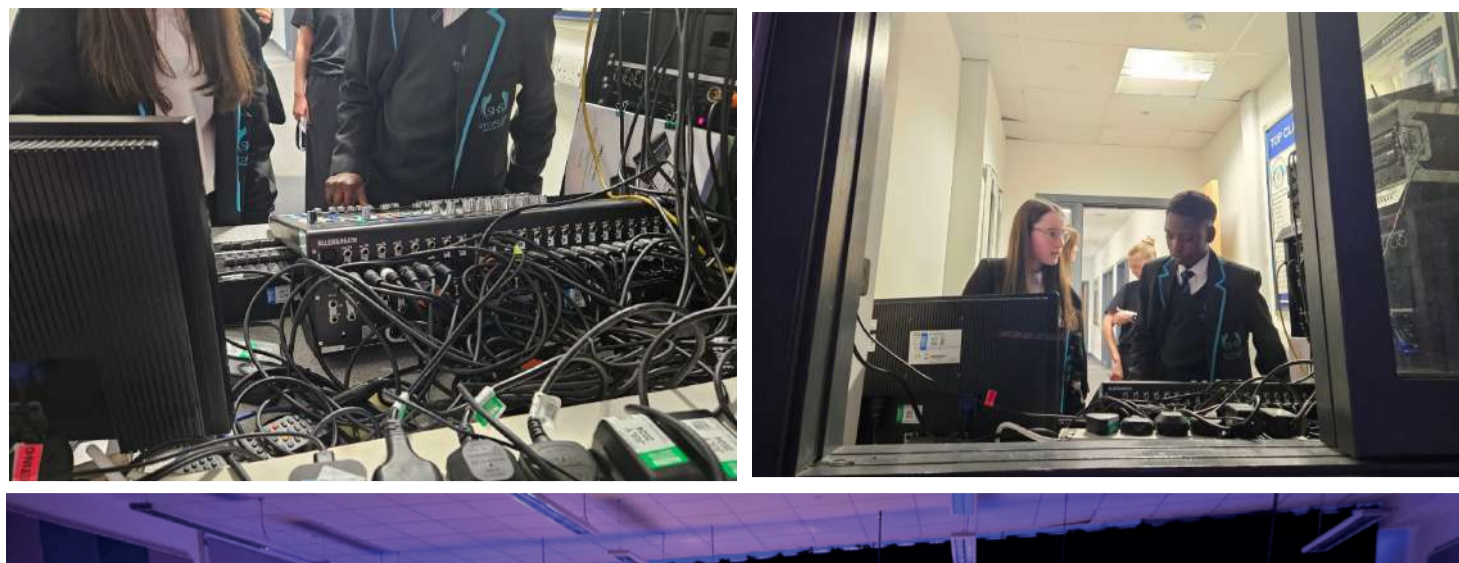
CLICK HERE OR VISIT MY NEW TERM TO FIND CURRENT VACANCIES AVAILABLE AT STOPSLEY HIGH SCHOOL.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"SUCCESS IS NOT FINAL; FAILURE IS NOT FATAL. IT IS THE COURAGE TO CONTINUE THAT COUNTS." - WINSTON CHURCHILL

YEAR 9 DRAMA

Year 9 students enjoyed a stage lighting taster session after school yesterday



WORLD BOOK DAY

During reading week, we participated in World Book Day as staff dressed up as their favourite book characters.



MONTHLY SAFEGUARDING NEWSLETTER

Click here to view this month's Safeguarding Newsletter



Knife crime is a growing concern in many communities, affecting young people and their families. While most children will never become involved, it's important for parents to stay informed and engaged. Understanding the risks, recognising warning signs and having open conversations can help keep our children safe.

In this issue:
 Knife crime
 Sexism and misogyny

The reality of knife crime

Knife crime is not just a problem in major cities; it can happen anywhere. Although most young people do not carry knives, those who do—whether for self-defence or due to peer pressure—significantly increase their risk of harm.

What you can do as a parent:

- **listen without judgment** - children need to feel safe talking

CONVERSATIONS ABOUT KNIFE CRIME
 These can feel difficult but the way you approach it makes all the difference. Here's how to start the conversation:

Lexia Achievements of the Week

Top Lexia Users This Week:

1. Emmanuel A. - 90 minutes
2. Yulia S. - 86 minutes
3. Abhi S. - 59 minutes
4. James M. - 58 minutes
5. Andrea U. - 56 minutes

SECURED YOUR PLACE? STILL DECIDING? DISCOVER STOPSLEY!

THURSDAY 20TH MARCH 2025 | 4PM-6PM

- STEP INTO THE CLASSROOM
- EXPLORE OUR FACILITIES
- MEET OUR TOP CLASS STAFF & STUDENTS
- FEEL THE COMMUNITY SPIRIT

WWW.TRANSITION-STOPSLEYHIGHSCHOOL.CO.UK
 ADMIN@STOPSLEYHIGHSCHOOL.CO.UK

SCAN THE QR CODE TO BOOK YOUR PLACE!

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed wider topics and themes. Conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider digital literacy. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators USING TECHNOLOGY TO BOOST READING SKILLS

The way we engage with text has changed dramatically over the years. Whether reading captions on social media, instructions in a video game or an e-book on a digital device, technology plays a major role in modern literacy. While traditional books remain invaluable, digital tools can enhance reading skills by making text more accessible, interactive and engaging.

- 1 THE RIGHT TYPE OF TEXT**
 Before integrating technology, consider the types of text that a child engages with. If they need help on occasion, digital reading pens can assist by scanning and reading words or sentences. These tools are especially useful for students with reading difficulties, and can even be used in exams if they're part of their routine learning process. Proper training and practice are required, but they can be a great help when tackling printed text.
- 2 READING ON SCREEN**
 Many digital reading devices, such as Kindle and other e-readers, offer features like word highlighting, adjustable text speed and built-in dictionaries. These tools help learners to break down complex words and phrases while maintaining an appropriate reading pace. Some programmes even allow users to track their progress, making reading a more structured and motivating experience.
- 3 ACCESSIBILITY TOOLS**
 Most modern devices include built-in tools designed to support readers. These features can be found in settings under 'Accessibility' and may include text-to-speech, speech-to-text and screen magnification functions. Enabling these tools can make digital reading more user friendly, especially for children with learning difficulties or visual impairments, who might have an easier time with spoken language than the written word, or who might require a closer look at the text.
- 4 INTERACTIVE READING PROGRAMMES**
 Many digital reading devices, such as Kindle and other e-readers, offer features like word highlighting, adjustable text speed and built-in dictionaries. These tools help learners to break down complex words and phrases while maintaining an appropriate reading pace. Some programmes even allow users to track their progress, making reading a more structured and motivating experience.
- 5 VIDEO GAMES AND READING SKILLS**
 Many video games require players to read instructions, character dialogues and mission objectives, making them an unexpected but effective literacy tool. Games that involve story-telling, puzzles or problem-solving often include large amounts of text – encouraging children to read these texts aloud or discuss them can improve their comprehension and vocabulary in a fun, engaging way.
- 6 SUBTITLES AND CLOSED CAPTIONS**
 Watching videos with subtitles or closed captions is an effective way to enhance reading skills. As children watch their favourite shows or online videos, they can follow along with the text, gaining a better understanding of how written words sound when spoken aloud. This is particularly beneficial for reluctant readers, as it exposes them to a wider range of words and contexts. Repeatedly watching content with subtitles reinforces word recognition and comprehension.
- 7 USING AUDIOBOOKS**
 Audiobooks are an excellent way to develop listening and reading skills simultaneously. Children can follow along with the text while listening to a narrator, reinforcing word recognition and fluency. For struggling readers, listening to an audiobook before attempting to read the text independently can boost their confidence and comprehension.
- 8 VOICE-TO-TEXT FOR WRITING AND READING**
 Voice-to-text tools allow users to dictate words, which are then transcribed into text. This feature helps children see the connection between spoken and written language. By using text-to-voice to have their dictated words read back to them, learners can identify mistakes and improve their reading and writing skills simultaneously.
- 9 TEXT-TO-VOICE TECHNOLOGY**
 Text-to-voice software reads digital text aloud, making it easier for learners to follow along. Most smartphones, tablets and computers come with this function built in. When enabled, users can highlight a passage or sentence and press Play to hear it read aloud. This tool is particularly helpful for auditory learners and those who struggle with decoding written words.
- 10 SOCIAL MEDIA AND PARENTAL CONTROLS**
 While social media provides opportunities for reading, most platforms have age restrictions for 13-16 years old, making parental guidance essential. Many social media videos include captions and comments that can encourage reading. However, it's important to use the platform's parental controls (such as time limits and content filters) to create a safe and educational online environment for children. Encouraging responsible social media use can ensure a balanced and productive approach to digital literacy.

Meet Our Expert
 Catrina Lawri is a qualified special needs teacher and experienced SENCO. She recently launched her own site, Neuroteachers, which offers a library of short, 'how-to' and explanation videos for educators. Catrina also writes and delivers online training and events for multi-academy trusts, businesses, schools and training organisations.

#WakeUpWednesday The National College

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