



STOPSLEY WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY 12TH SEPTEMBER 2025

HEADTEACHER'S UPDATE



Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been fantastic to see the happy, smiling faces of our wonderful students as they greeted their peers and staff alike on their return. I find it so heart warming to see the older students directing or escorting lost Year 7 students to where they should be or being that friendly face at break and lunch; making sure everyone is included. This really is a very special community.

I have had the absolute pleasure this week of delivering assemblies to every Year Group and have been delighted with the engagement and participation of the students. I was very proud to share the achievements of our very own Stopsley Superstars, last year's Year 11 students, and their incredible stories of overcoming challenges and despite it all securing incredible outcomes.

I would like to ask for the support of parents and carers at the beginning and the end of the school day in supporting a safe and calm entry and exit. If you are dropping off or collecting your children by car please ensure that you drive into the allocated dropping off point to avoid congestion of traffic making it unsafe for children and staff at the school. You will see staff directing cars to where it is safe to wait but if you can arrange to collect your children a short distance from the school this will be greatly appreciated. We are also controlling the flow of students out of the gate at the end of the day so that it is a safe and steady flow.

Open Evening - Thursday 2nd October 5:00 - 8pm

We will be hosting our Open Evening this year on Thursday 2nd October 5:00 - 8pm. We will be asking our students to participate too, whether as a tour guide or a department helper their involvement is key in communicating to new families what it means to be a part of the Stopsley High School community.

In order to ensure the school, staff and students are ready, we will be having an early closure on Thursday 2nd October where students will be dismissed from 1:45pm and a delayed start on Friday 3rd October when students will come to school for 11am and go directly to their period 3 lesson.

Have a wonderful weekend all, so that students are ready and refreshed for the completion of their Week A timetable next week.

Ms Hand

THIS WEEK'S ISSUE:

HEADTEACHER'S UPDATE

SCHOOL GOVERNOR

OPEN EVENING

WAKE UP WEDNESDAY

LUTON BASKETBALL SESSIONS

UPCOMING DATES & EVENTS:

EARLY DISMISSAL - THURSDAY 2ND
OCTOBER - 1:45PM

DELAYED START - FRIDAY 3RD
OCTOBER - 11AM

HALF TERM - 20TH TO 31ST OCTOBER

MONDAY 3RD NOVEMBER - WHOLE
SCHOOL RETURNS

INSET DAY - FRIDAY 28TH NOVEMBER

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

"YOUR SUCCESS AND HAPPINESS
LIE IN YOU" - HELEN KELLER

HAVE YOU CONSIDERED BEING A SCHOOL GOVERNOR?

We are delighted to share that we have 1 Parent Governor vacancy for the Local Governing Board at Stopsley High School and we are calling on our fantastic community of Stopsley parents to stand for election. Please click here to see the letter detailing further information. The deadline to stand for election is Friday 26th September 2025. The first LGB meeting of the academic year is Wednesday 15th October 2025. To apply please complete the nomination form included in the letter. Should you have any questions, please contact lgbclerk@stopsleyhighschool.co.uk



STOPSLEY HIGH SCHOOL

AMBITION LEADS. ENDEAVOUR DRIVES. SUCCESS FOLLOWS.

EXCELLENCE FOR ALL

OPEN EVENING 2025 2ND OCTOBER – 5:00PM – 8:00PM

STOPSLEY HIGH SCHOOL

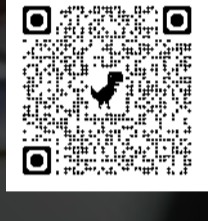
BOOK YOUR PLACE ONLINE

ST THOMAS' RD, LUTON LU2 7UX

E: ADMIN@STOPSLEYHIGHSCHOOL.CO.UK

T: 01582 870900

W: WWW.STOPSLEYHIGHSCHOOL.CO.UK



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 and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about CONSPIRACY THEORIES

Conspiracy theories are false or misleading beliefs that explain events as secret plots, often involving powerful groups. While once fringe, they are now more accessible through digital media, online influencers and because of algorithmic recommendations. The DfE guidance document, 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' (KCSIE) explicitly recognises conspiracy theories as potential content risks. This guide will help parents and educators understand the risks, spot the signs, and build children's resilience to conspiracy theories.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

UNDERMINING TRUST

Conspiracy theories can lead children and young people to distrust democratic institutions and British values, teachers, and even their own families and loved ones. This erosion of trust makes young people more vulnerable to extremist narratives by isolating them from reliable sources of information.

ONLINE ALGORITHM TRAPS

Social media platforms can often recommend sensationalist content. Once a child engages with one conspiracy-themed video or post, algorithms push more of the same, thereby creating an echo chamber that can intensify their beliefs.

MENTAL HEALTH IMPACT

Exposure to frightening conspiracy content, such as global plots, viruses, or government control, can fuel feelings of anxiety, paranoia, or hopelessness. For some young people, it can trigger prolonged distress or obsessive thinking.

GATEWAY TO EXTREMISM

Conspiracy theories can often overlap with extremist ideologies. Narratives that blame specific groups, such as politicians, scientists, or particular ethnic groups, can groom children in ways that foster hate, bigotry, and radicalisation.

CONFLICT WITH PEERS

Belief in conspiracy theories can lead to isolation or conflict at school. Children may struggle with peer relationships if they express these beliefs or become distrustful of others who disagree; sometimes, confrontation can even result in a strengthening of the belief in the conspiracy theory.

ERODED CRITICAL THINKING

Young people influenced by conspiracies may reject evidence-based learning. This risks undermining their academic progress and weakening their ability to think critically, assess risks, or engage in healthy debate.

Advice for Parents & Educators

I WANT TO BELIEVE

CREATE SAFE CONVERSATIONS
Don't mock or dismiss any questions that children and young people ask about conspiracy theories. Instead, create open, judgement-free spaces to talk. This strengthens trust and makes it more likely they will confide in you.

PROMOTE CRITICAL THINKING
Teach young people how to assess information critically. Encourage them to ask appropriate questions, such as: Who is telling me this? What evidence is there? What do other trusted sources say? Use real examples from current media to explain your answers and reasoning.

MONITOR DIGITAL BEHAVIOUR
Be aware of the content children are accessing, especially on platforms such as TikTok, YouTube, or Reddit. Use parental controls, but more importantly, maintain ongoing dialogue about online experiences and influencers.

REINFORCE RELIABLE SOURCES
Point children toward trustworthy and reliable sources of news and information in a variety of formats tailored to the young person's age. Build habits of verifying facts using reliable sources, and teach them how to spot misleading content.

Meet Our Expert

Brendan O'Keefe is a headteacher and digital education consultant with over a decade of experience in education. As Director of Digital Strategy across multiple schools and an advisor to The National College, he specialises in digital safety, PREVENT, and pastoral care.



Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/conspiracy-theories>
Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 30.09.2025

SPORTING INSPIRATIONS CIC

COME ALONG TO OUR FREE COMMUNITY

LUTON BASKETBALL SESSIONS

- TUESDAYS -
For ages 11-18

SEP - OCT SESSIONS

SEPTEMBER - 16TH, 23RD & 30TH
OCTOBER - 7TH, 14TH & 21ST

@Sports Hall,
Stopsley High School, Luton
6-8pm

