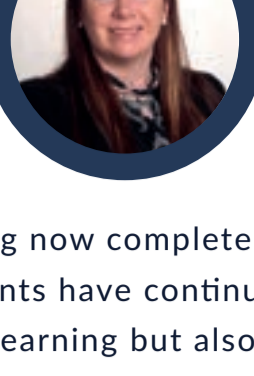




STOPSLEY WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY 19TH SEPTEMBER 2025

HEADTEACHER'S UPDATE



Dear all,

I am delighted to share with you all that having now completed our second full week back at school our students have continued to impress us with their Top Class attitude to learning but also the respect and consideration that they give to one another makes me very proud indeed.

Thank you for supporting us at the beginning and the end of the school day with a safe and calm entry and exit. As a polite reminder, 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 entering and exiting 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

As mentioned last week, we will be hosting our **Open Evening** this year on **Thursday 2nd October 5pm - 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.

I also wanted to share some amazing news about our very own sports legend Mrs Ramsay who has kindly agreed to share the amazing photos and explanation of how her achievements have been recognised below.

"The photo below is my framed England shirt alongside my very first international cap. Each player is awarded a velvet embroidered cap to mark the occasion of their debut for England. For me, this memorable milestone took place on 09/01/2000.

This display serves as a reminder of the honour of representing my country and the proud tradition of England Rugby.

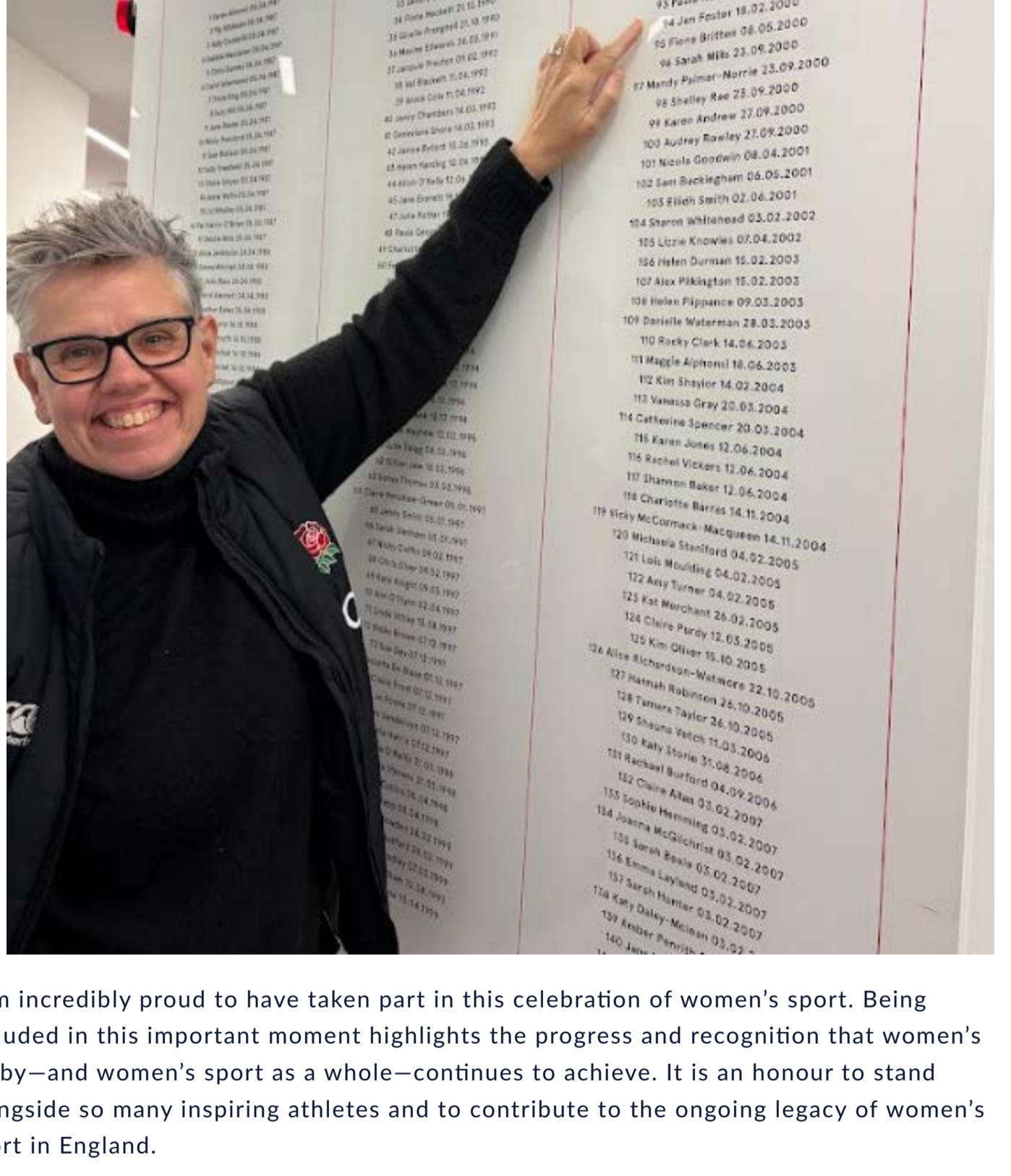


I am honoured to sign the Red Roses Honours Board, now proudly displayed in the ERIC Room at Twickenham Stadium (currently known as the Allianz Stadium). The ERIC Room serves as the Twickenham base for members of the England Rugby Internationals Club—an exclusive group for players who have been capped by England Rugby.

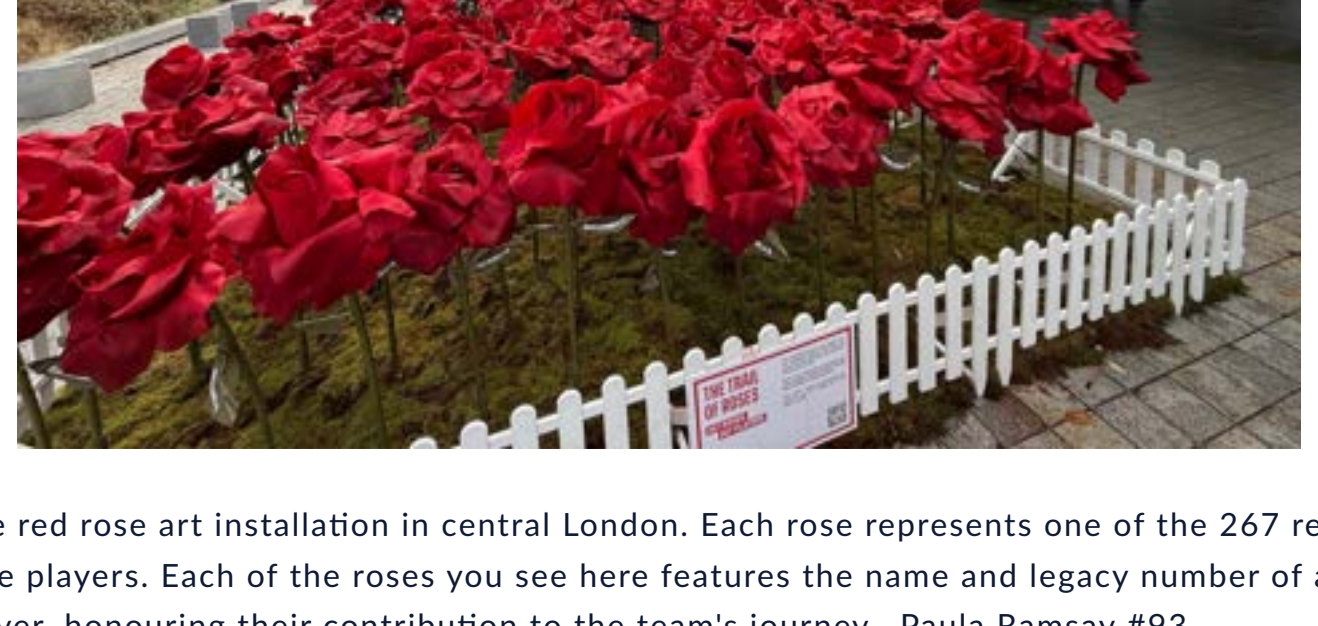
This honours board has only recently been added to the ERIC Room, marking a significant milestone in the celebration and recognition of England Women's Rugby. It stands as a testament to the achievements and contributions of the Red Roses, and I am incredibly proud to be part of this historic moment.

Within the England Home team changing rooms, we now have both men's and women's full England caps representative Rolls of Honour. I am pictured here pointing to my name, Red Rose #93, having proudly received my first cap on 09/01/2000.

The women's board was officially unveiled on 27/04/25, marking another significant step forward for women's rugby. This lasting tribute not only recognises the achievements of England's female players, but also celebrates the progress and growing recognition of women's rugby at the heart of our national game.



I am incredibly proud to have taken part in this celebration of women's sport. Being included in this important moment highlights the progress and recognition that women's rugby—and women's sport as a whole—continues to achieve. It is an honour to stand alongside so many inspiring athletes and to contribute to the ongoing legacy of women's sport in England.



The red rose art installation in central London. Each rose represents one of the 267 red rose players. Each of the roses you see here features the name and legacy number of a player, honouring their contribution to the team's journey. Paula Ramsay #93

Have a wonderful weekend everyone,

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

SHS
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

MLT
Middlesex Local Trust

SHS

YEAR 7
AUTUMN DISCO

NOVEMBER 4TH

5-7PM
£4 ENTRY
PAY VIA IPAY

FANCY DRESS - FACE PAINT - DISCO - PHOTO BOOTH - PIZZA
PRIZE FOR THE MOST CREATIVE COSTUME

• PAYMENT CLOSSES 10TH OCTOBER •

PUMPKIN CARVING THURSDAY 16TH OCTOBER AFTER SCHOOL **3:15PM-4:10PM**
B036

YEAR 7 PUMPKIN CARVING COMPETITION

OPTION 1:
BRING YOUR PUMPKIN TO SCHOOL AND CARVE IN B036 ON 16TH OCTOBER 3:15PM-4:10PM

OPTION 2:
BRING YOUR PUMPKIN ALREADY CARVED ON 17TH READY FOR JUDGING IN ASSEMBLY

JUDGING - FRIDAY 17TH OCTOBER
YOU CAN DECORATE BUT THEY MUST BE CARVED IN SOME WAY TOO!

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 SNAPCHAT **AGE RESTRICTION 13+**

With over 900 million active monthly users and billions of 'Snaps' sent each month, Snapchat is a popular messaging app among children and young people. It allows users to share fun, spontaneous pictures and videos with friends and family while using playful filters. One of Snapchat's unique features is that pictures, videos and messages are only viewable for a short period of time.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

- ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE**
Snapchat's use of artificial intelligence (AI) includes features like the My AI chatbot and AI-powered filters, offering interactive experiences that can be fun but also pose risks. These bots may store unfiltered or inappropriate responses, promote unrealistic beauty standards, and collect personal data. Advanced filters and deepfake-style lenses can distort reality, potentially leading to manipulation, impersonation, or inappropriate content.
- SCREEN ADDICTION**
Snapchat boosts user engagement and daily use with features like streaks (daily Snapchat exchanges between you and a friend). When a streak's been going for a few days, users will see a 'streak' icon alongside it that shows the number of days, but if users miss a day and break the streak, the only way to restore it is to pay. This encourages daily use habits, and frequent notifications can keep users returning to the app even more often.
- SEXTORTION**
Because Snapchat's disappearing messages feature may foster a sense of safety, users may become targets of sextortion. For example, a predator may pressure someone into sending explicit images, then someone captures these images to threaten and intimidate the victim. This might involve claiming they will share the images with friends or family unless money is paid.
- SNAPCHAT+**
Snapchat+ is the platform's premium subscription service, offering early access to new and exclusive features. In June 2023, Snapchat introduced a new 'for called lens', giving subscribers access to hundreds of lenses and AR experiences for playing, creating, and sharing Snaps. These paid features may encourage young users to spend money to access exclusive content, increasing the risk of overspending or feeling pressured to make in-app purchases.
- ACCESSIBILITY**
Snapchat is now accessible from a web browser, meaning children can use it on a laptop or tablet without downloading the app. This can make activity harder to monitor, reduce the effectiveness of parental controls, and increase the risk of unsupervised communication or exposure to inappropriate content.
- INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT**
Some content on Snapchat isn't suitable for children. The hashtags used to group content are determined by the poster, so even an innocent search term could still yield age-inappropriate results. The app's disappearing messages feature also makes it easy for young people to share explicit images on impulse – so sexting continues to be a risk associated with Snapchat.

Advice for Parents & Educators

- ACCESS THE SNAPCHAT FAMILY SAFETY HUB**
Created with guidance from Common Sense Media, Snapchat has developed a Family Safety Hub that explains how the app works and how to use its in-app protections for teens. It's recommended that you review this guidance before allowing a child to download Snapchat. Remember, the app is only intended for children aged 13 and over.
- ENCOURAGE OPEN DISCUSSIONS**
Snapchat's risks can be easier to handle if you nurture an open dialogue. Talk about scams and blackmail before letting children sign up. If they're lured into a scam, encourage them to tell you immediately. Talk openly and non-judgmentally about sexting, emphasising its inherent risks. Furthermore, explain how popular 'challenges' on the platform can have harmful consequences.
- BLOCK AND REPORT**
If a stranger contacts with a child on Snapchat and makes them feel uncomfortable by pressuring them to send or receive unwanted or inappropriate images, the child can tap the three dots on that person's profile to report or block them. There are options to state why they're reporting that user, with a tailored reporting section under the 'Sturdy and Sexual Content' category. In this category, there's the option to report somebody for threatening to leak sexually explicit images, or 'nudes'.
- USE PRIVACY SETTINGS TOGETHER**
Sit down with the children in your care and explore Snapchat's privacy settings as a shared activity. You can help them adjust who can contact them, view their stories, or see their location on Snap Map. It's a great opportunity to explain why some settings are safer than others, reinforcing their understanding of online boundaries. Encourage them to regularly review these settings, especially after app updates or changes in their friendship groups.

Meet Our Expert
Dr Claire Rutherford is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and started out research for the Australian Government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.

#WakeUpWednesday The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/snapchat>

@wake_up_weds /www.thenationalcollege @wake.up.wednesday @wake.up.weds

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 17.09.2025

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