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STOPSLEY WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY 26TH SEPTEMBER 2025

HEADTEACHER'S UPDATE



Dear all,

September has felt like a whirlwind. It has been and gone in the blink of an eye. Our students have completed the third full school week whilst staff have completed four full weeks due to our INSET training days at the beginning of September. The mindset of all in our community remains focused on being Top Class and as we approach half term comes the additional bonus of Top Up week for our students where they can earn additional achievement points to boost their conduct scores.

Thank you to all our Year 10 parents, carers and students who attended the information evening on Wednesday to find out more about what it is like studying at KS4 and top tips from our Heads of Maths, English and Science on how to be successful in their subjects.

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

Thank you to all those students, in advance of our Open Evening on **Thursday 2nd October 5pm - 8pm**, who will be our ambassadors for all those wanting to find out more about Stopsley High School. 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 delightful weekend all,

Ms Hand

THIS WEEK'S ISSUE:

HEADTEACHER'S UPDATE

OPEN EVENING

AUTUMN DISCO

PUMPKIN CARVING

WAKE UP WEDNESDAY

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

"EDUCATION IS OUR PASSPORT TO THE FUTURE, FOR TOMORROW BELONGS TO THE PEOPLE WHO PREPARE FOR IT TODAY."
- MALCOLM X

UKMT MATHEMATICAL COMPETITION FOR GIRLS

Well done to Year 11 students who took part in the inaugural UKMT Mathematical Competition for Girls. The Competition is a 90 minute challenge designed to inspire and challenge young female mathematicians across the UK. We are so proud of the students who have taken part and look forward to receiving back the results.

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 LEARNING 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!

SCHOLASTIC **TRAVELLING BOOKS**

Come to the

BOOK FAIR!

AND EARN FREE BOOKS FOR OUR SCHOOL

FROM THE 1ST OCTOBER IN THE LRC

At The National College, our [WakeUpWednesday](https://www.thenationalcollege.com/guides/youth-violence) 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 www.thenationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about YOUTH VIOLENCE

Youth violence affects one in four children in the UK, but it doesn't have to. With parents, carers, and educators understanding the risks, they're better placed to support young people. The right support, mentoring, therapy, and guidance can help young people affected by violence to feel safe, manage conflict, and make positive choices.

UNDERSTANDING YOUTH VIOLENCE

WHY DO YOUNG PEOPLE COMMIT SERIOUS VIOLENCE?
A recent study surveyed over 10,000 young people affected by violence, asking why serious violence occurs among their peers, such as an assault involving a weapon or sexual violence. The most common reasons that drove them to violence were due to a personal characteristic of the victim (e.g. race, religion, sexuality, gender, a gang or school rivalry), and being provoked while not all young people face these issues, many lack the emotional regulation skills needed to manage provocation.

WHAT ARE SIGNS A YOUNG PERSON IS AT RISK?
Children and young people often express that something is wrong through behaviour rather than words. Be alert to signs such as sudden mood changes, secrecy around friendships, excessive phone use, unfamiliar slang, unexplained injuries, fear of school, aggression, getting missing or substance use. They may also be associating with older peers. These behaviours can indicate underlying issues that can lead to violence.

ONLINE INFLUENCES
Social media plays a powerful role in normalising and escalating violence. Platforms like TikTok and Snapchat can expose young people to harmful content, often shared by algorithms they see violent material that doesn't really belong to their age group. A recent study found 72% had seen real-world violence online, and 52% felt less safe in their communities. Alarmingly, 39% said it made them more likely to carry a weapon. Online conflict can often spill into real life, with serious and sometimes tragic consequences.

WHEN IS VIOLENCE MORE LIKELY TO HAPPEN?
For children and young people in England and Wales, the hours between 4 pm and 8 pm - just after school - carry a particularly high risk for serious violence. This can stem from conflict that occurs during the school day, online arguments, or simply moving through unfamiliar areas on the way home. Understanding this risk helps us support safer travel and routines. Our recent report found that over one in three young people don't feel safe in the areas they live in, and 68% don't feel safe working the streets.

WHY MIGHT A YOUNG PERSON CARRY A WEAPON?
Young people may carry weapons due to fear, threats, peer pressure, or a false sense of protection. Many young people feel as they feel unsafe and carry weapons 'just in case' while others may be influenced by social media, peers, or criminal activity. Some don't realise it's illegal or may believe it earns respect.

WHERE IS VIOLENCE MORE LIKELY TO HAPPEN?
Violence often happens in certain places. Busy areas like transport hubs carry risk simply because lots of people gather there. Other hotspots, like places linked to drug activity, attract those more likely to be involved in violence. Some areas become more likely due to poor supervision, such as poorly lit areas of public spaces. Understanding where violence tends to occur helps us guide young people safely through their communities and schools for better support and safer spaces.

Advice for Parents & Educators

TALKING TO CHILDREN ABOUT STAYING SAFE
Choose a safe moment for the conversation, emotionally and physically. If a child is upset or angry, help them settle before discussing serious topics. Listen actively without judgement, even if what they share is difficult. Avoid interrupting and offer advice when the time feels right. If you're worried, you're not alone, support is available.

HELP CHILDREN UNDERSTAND CONSEQUENCES
Young people can be searched by police or teachers if suspected of carrying a weapon. If found with a knife, they could face arrest and criminal proceedings. A conviction can result in a criminal record. Even being present during a violent assault, encouraging it, filming, or sharing footage can lead to prosecution. Open and honest conversations can help children understand these risks and make safer choices.

AVOID CONFLICT & MANAGE ESCALATIONS
Encourage young people to consider the 'Safe 10' - trust instincts, take a breath, and talk to a trusted adult. When triggered or provoked, they may react from their 'survival brain', unable to think clearly about the consequences. Taking a breath helps calm, and helps them access their 'thinking brain'. Remind them that moments pass, and seeking support from trusted adults builds resilience and safer decision-making.

REPORT INFORMATION
We all have a role in preventing violence. If a child shares concerns, you can act. For educators, it's important to follow your school's safeguarding procedures. Other adults can report anonymously through [Report Concern](https://www.nspcc.org.uk), Crimestoppers, and speak with other parents, the school, or local police through 101. If someone is in immediate danger, always call 999. These steps help protect children and the wider community.

Meet Our Expert
The Ben Kinella Trust is a UK anti-knife crime charity educating young people through immersive workshops, awareness campaigns, and community resources. Visit [benkinellatrust.org.uk](https://www.benkinellatrust.org.uk)

#WakeUpWednesday **The National College**

Source: See full reference list on guide page at <https://www.thenationalcollege.com/guides/youth-violence>

[@wake_up_weds](https://www.wake_up_weds) www.thenationalcollege [@wake_up.wednesday](https://www.wake_up.wednesday) [@wake_up.weds](https://www.wake_up.weds)

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WHERE CAN I FIND SUPPORT?

<p>Healthy Lifestyles, physical activity, healthy eating, dental hygiene</p> <p>https://www.activeluton.co.uk/</p>	<p>Mental health and wellbeing support</p> <p>https://giveusashout.org/get-help/</p>	<p>Mental health and emotional wellbeing</p> <p>https://chums.uk.com/</p>
<p>Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services</p> <p>Child and adolescent mental health service</p> <p>https://www.eft.nhs.uk/camhs/who-we-help</p>	<p>Supporting women and girls in Luton</p> <p>https://www.lutonallwomenscentre.org.uk/</p>	<p>Sexual health service, advice and support for young people</p> <p>https://www.lutonsexualhealth.org.uk/</p>
<p>PREVENT-Prevent radicalism and extremism</p> <p>https://actearly.uk/</p>	<p>Substance misuse</p> <p>https://www.changegrowlive.org/resolutions-drug-alcohol-service-luton</p>	<p>Supporting young people in Luton to aspire, be happy and healthy.</p> <p>https://tokko.co.uk</p>
<p>Support for women and children, domestic abuse</p> <p>https://www.womensaidinluton.org</p>	<p>Health and wellbeing</p> <p>https://www.totalwellbeingluton.org</p>	<p>National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children</p> <p>https://www.nspcc.org.uk</p>
<p>ONLINE, ON THE PHONE, ANYTIME childline.org.uk 0800 1111</p> <p>Support for young people online, on the phone, anytime</p> <p>https://www.childline.org.uk</p>		