

STOPSLEY WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY 10TH JULY 2026

HEADTEACHER'S UPDATE



Dear Parents and Carers,

Today has filled me with such pride as I look around the school and see a sea of colour, jewels, sequins but most importantly radiant smiles and positivity flowing in abundance. Celebrating the diversity of our community is one way in which we remind ourselves that our differences are actually what brings us together, they are what our culture of respect is built upon and every opportunity is a learning opportunity. As I write my entry for the newsletter the fashion show has just taken place and hearing the students proudly declare how they are representing their culture I am buzzing with excitement about what I will encounter as I pop into lessons which have all got a cultural focus today. Thank you to our wonderful students and their families for supporting this important event in our school calendar and of course the school staff who have contributed to make this a legendary event. However, special thanks to Mrs Huni who has led on this following feedback from Student Voice - you're amazing.

THIS WEEK'S ISSUE:

HEADTEACHER'S UPDATE
 CELEBRATING OUR PREFECTS
 NATIONAL JUNIOR PARA GAMES
 AXIOM MATHS
 RSHE POLICY CONSULTATION
 PARKING REMINDER

UPCOMING DATES & EVENTS:

TERM ENDS - FRIDAY 17TH JULY
 AUTUMN TERM 2026
 STARTS TUESDAY 1ST SEPTEMBER (INSET DAYS 1ST, 2ND, 3RD SEPTEMBER)
 FRIDAY 4TH SEPTEMBER - 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:



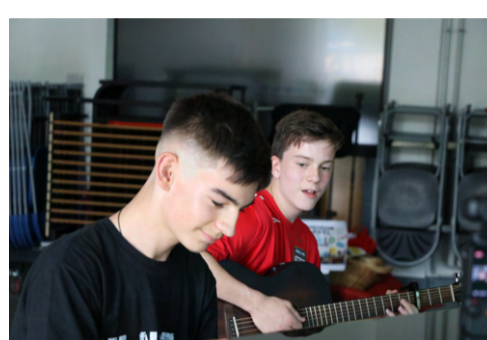
CLICK HERE OR VISIT MY NEW TERM TO FIND CURRENT VACANCIES AVAILABLE AT STOPSLEY HIGH SCHOOL.

REMINDER

PLEASE ENSURE THE SCHOOL IS MADE AWARE OF ANY CHANGES TO EXISTING MEDICAL CONDITIONS OR NEW MEDICAL CONDITIONS FOR YOUR CHILD.

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK

CLICK HERE TO GO TO OUR FACEBOOK. FOLLOW US FOR UPDATES AND MORE.



This week has been another week full of activities promoting Careers and future prospects for our students. Thank you to Mrs Winter for planning and coordinating the activities but also to every member of staff involved in supporting or generating such wonderful insightful opportunities for students.



Well done to our Year 10 Construction students who completed their bricklaying assessments this week in very hot conditions. Thank you to Mrs Wilde, Mr Fitzjohn, Mr Copeland and Mr Chavda for supervising and clearing up after the bricklaying assessments all week - fabulous work produced by the students by the way!

Year 10 Drama students also completed their practical GCSE exam on Wednesday, having rehearsed all day in the high temperatures. Despite the unbearable heat the students delivered stellar performances in full suits, jackets and cardigans in some cases - just amazing!! Thank you to Mrs Stewart and Ms Lucas for preparing, rehearsing, cheerleading and recording the students.

Last night we welcomed parents and students for our September 2026 Year 7 intake. It was lovely to meet so many of you and hear how excited you are to join us. Thank you to our Year 10 prefects who supported the event and were excellent ambassadors for the school. Many of them had also been involved in the bricklaying assessments and the Drama exam so really showed commitment and resilience in supporting this event too.

I highlighted to you last week that our last day of term is Friday 17th July. We will be having a staggered dismissal on that day.

The timings are as follows:

Year 10 - From 11:35

Year 7 - From 11:40

Year 8 - From 11:45

Year 9 - From 11:50

Have a wonderful weekend everyone,

Ms Hand

Celebrating our newly appointed Prefects

A huge well done to our newly appointed Prefects, who completed their initial training today. A brilliant start to their leadership journey.

They spent this morning deepening their understanding of our Top Class values, strengthening teamwork, and shaping the rewards for our exciting new Supercurricular programme launching this September. Their enthusiasm, maturity and creativity set exactly the right tone for what's ahead.

Our Prefects are now fully prepared for their first major responsibility: supporting Year 7 form tutors at Thursday evening's Meet the Tutor transition event. A fantastic opportunity to put their training into action and make a positive impact from day one.

A brilliant start and plenty more to come from this impressive team.



National Junior Para Games

A huge congratulations to one of our amazing students on an incredible achievement at the National Junior Para Games!

Competing at a national level, Daniel finished 1st in both his age category and Para category across all three events, a fantastic accomplishment and a testament to his hard work and determination.

This was also Daniel's first running long jump competition, making his success even more impressive.

We are incredibly proud of everything he has achieved and can't wait to see what comes next. Well done Daniel!



Axiom Maths Club End of Year Celebration

On Tuesday, members of our Axiom Maths Club came together to celebrate another fantastic year of problem-solving, perseverance and mathematical achievement.

To recognise the hard work and commitment shown throughout the year, students enjoyed a well-deserved celebration with pizza and cupcakes. It was a great opportunity to reflect on the challenges they have tackled, celebrate their progress and spend time together outside of their usual sessions.

A huge thank you to everyone who has taken part in Axiom Maths Club this year. Your enthusiasm, resilience and willingness to embrace complex mathematical thinking have been fantastic to see.

We hope everyone has a wonderful summer, and we look forward to welcoming both returning and new members to Axiom Maths Club next year!



On Track To Achieve Ends the Year on a High

As the end of the school year approaches, our On Track To Achieve intervention concluded with a fantastic celebration event on Wednesday 9th July.

To showcase the skills and confidence they have developed throughout the programme, the students took the lead in delivering a football match and an arts and crafts session for members of 7B on the astroturf. Taking ownership of the activities gave the students the opportunity to demonstrate their leadership, teamwork and communication skills while creating an enjoyable experience for younger students.

The event marked a positive end to the intervention, celebrating the progress made by everyone involved throughout the year. We are incredibly proud of the commitment, resilience and personal growth shown by the students and look forward to seeing them continue to build on these achievements in the future.

A big thank you to all the staff who supported the programme and helped make the celebration such a success.



RELATIONSHIPS, SEX AND HEALTH EDUCATION (RSHE) POLICY CONSULTATION

We are currently reviewing our Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSE) Policy and would like to invite parents and carers to share their views as part of the consultation process. RSHE plays an important role in helping young people develop the knowledge, skills, and understanding they need to build healthy relationships, stay safe, and make informed decisions as they grow up. As part of our review, we are keen to ensure that the policy continues to reflect the needs of our students and wider school community.

The draft policy is available to view on the school website or the link below: (<https://www.stopsleyhighschool.co.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=2936&type=pdf>)

and we encourage all parents and carers to take a few moments to read it alongside Appendix one which provides a detailed overview of the RSHE topics and themes covered within our PSHCE curriculum.

Your feedback will help ensure that our RSHE curriculum remains relevant, responsive, and reflective of the needs of our young people. If you have any questions, comments, or would like to discuss any aspect of the policy in greater detail, please contact us: mgatenby@stopsleyhighschool.co.uk. We welcome your engagement in this important consultation process.

Thank you for your continued support and engagement.

PARKING REMINDER

Reminder: When picking up or dropping students, please do not park on the yellow lines directly outside of school. Please park in the bays provided.





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OPEN SESSIONS FOR NEW PLAYERS - SCHOOL YEARS 9 & 10 (from Sept 2026)

Sundon Park Rangers U15 Girls

Join SPR's first ever girls team
Brave. Energetic. Ready to grow.

Session Dates & Time:
9th June • 16th June • 23rd June
- 30th June

7 PM to 8 PM

Newton Recreation Ground, LU5 4QB

£3 per session

Message Dan on WhatsApp to book your place
07422 901 363



Bedfordshire Fire & Rescue Service

bedsfire.gov.uk
Southfields Road
Kempston, Bedford
MK42 7NR
bedsfrealert.co.uk
@bedsfire

Dear Parents and Carers,

Important water safety message – please read

As the school holidays approach and the weather becomes warmer, we want to share some vital information about **water safety**. Many young people enjoy spending time near rivers, lakes, and other open water, but these environments can be very dangerous—even for strong swimmers. This message is supported by **Bedfordshire Fire & Rescue Service** and local partners, including the **Police**, the **East of England Ambulance Service (EEAST)**, **RLSS** and **local authorities**, who often respond to water-related incidents during the summer.

Open water areas may look inviting, but they can hide serious hazards such as:

- **Cold water shock** – sudden immersion can cause gasping, panic and breathing difficulties
- **Hidden dangers** – weeds, debris, strong currents and sudden changes in depth
- **Risk of injury** – jumping or diving into unknown water can cause serious harm

Emergency Advice

If someone is in trouble in the water:

- **Do not enter the water yourself**

Phone – Float – Throw

If you see someone struggling in the water, remember **Phone – Float – Throw**. It is a simple way to act quickly while keeping everyone safe.

- **Phone** – call 999. Ask for the **Fire Service** for inland water (rivers, lakes, canals) or the **Coastguard** at the coast.
- **Float** – Encourage the person to **float on their back** with their ears in the water, relax their breathing, and call for help. Once they feel calmer, encourage them to swim to safety if they can.
- **Throw** – help them to float in the water by throwing something that floats (a lifebuoy, throwline, football, or even a bottle) and encourage them to hold on. Keep talking to them until help arrives.

More information about water safety is available on the **Respect the Water** website: www.respectthewater.com and the **Bedfordshire Fire & Rescue Service** website: www.bedsfire.gov.uk.

The **RLSS water Safety Code video** is also easy to understand for young people

Please take a moment to talk with your child about these key messages to help keep them safe and ensure everyone enjoys the warmer months.

Kind Regards

Stacey Moore
Community Safety Officer
Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service



EVERY CONTACT COUNTS | WE'VE GOT YOUR BACK | WE DARE TO BE DIFFERENT | WE ARE ACCOUNTABLE



Bedfordshire Fire & Rescue Service

bedsfire.gov.uk
Southfields Road
Kempston, Bedford
MK42 7NR
bedsfrealert.co.uk
@bedsfire

ALWAYS FOLLOW THE WATER SAFETY CODE



Whenever you are around water:

STOP AND THINK

Take time to assess your surroundings. Look for the dangers and always research local signs and advice.

STAY TOGETHER

When around water always go with friends or family. Swim at a lifeguarded venue.

In an emergency:

CALL 999

If you are at the coast, call 999 and ask for the Coastguard. Don't enter the water to rescue.

FLOAT

Fall in or become tired - stay calm, float on your back and call for help. Throw something that floats to somebody that has fallen in.

Enjoy Water Safely

Learn basic lifesaving and CPR skills. Visit www.rlss.org.uk

EVERY CONTACT COUNTS | WE'VE GOT YOUR BACK | WE DARE TO BE DIFFERENT | WE ARE ACCOUNTABLE