



Stone Soup Academy News

Half Term 4

Pythian Club and Nottingham Forest

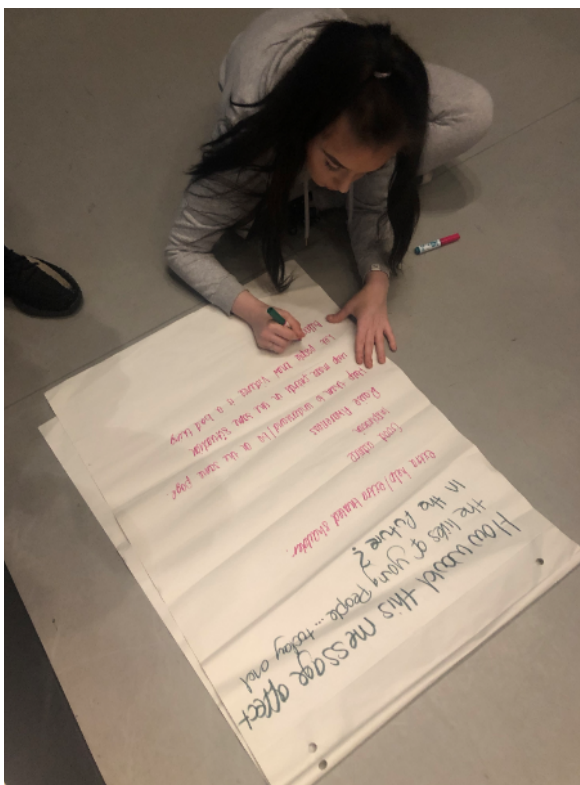


We are Stone Soup
We are
Outstanding

March 2019

Becky Ashmore

Through Graham Moran at Nottingham Forest our Stone Soup students have been enabled to work with the Pythian Club. The Pythian Club focus on empowering young people and creating a platform for them to express themselves. Our learners were invited to the Bonington Theatre in Arnold to watch their thought provoking performance 'Double Edge' based on the consequences of knife crime and its impact on families, communities and individuals and were asked to give their feedback. The students were educated on young person led change, the law on knife possession and using a knife and joint enterprise. It was amazing to see how well our students engaged with this and 10 of them will hopefully go forward to be involved in a performance with the Pythian Club. It was such a privilege to have our students involved with this passionate group of people whose vision is to create an army of young people all making the right choices.



Bonington Theatre

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Fitness and leadership dominate the sport schedule

Each week BTEC Sport students have attended gym sessions and led coaching sessions at NTU

Duncan Bennett

Stone Soup students get the gym time they deserved. Sport students this term have excelled in their progress and benefited from the physical application of the course.

Students have delivered coaching sessions on football, basketball, handball and badminton this term. There have been some excellent sessions throughout the term.

With the upcoming exam on Fitness for Sport and Exercise, students have benefited from extra time in the gym. This has enabled them to apply their knowledge in a practical way.

A fantastic term for all sport students.



Macbeth

Richard Garbutt

Macbeth

On Thursday 24th January a group of ten students and three members of staff attended the National Theatre’s touring production of Macbeth.

This was a fantastic experience for all the students that attended and they represented the school in such a positive way. Reece had the following to say about the performance:

‘I have never read a Shakespeare book but I have seen the film Romeo and Juliet but seeing something live on stage was better than a film. This was my first time I have ever been to the theatre and it was a great experience so thank you’



More performances to come this year!



It's not what others do for you, It's what you do for yourself!

Becky Ashmore

In February, Stone Soup Academy played host to motivational speaker Jim Roberson from Independent Thinking. Jim's belief is that young people should grasp the opportunities they have and understand that whatever has happened in the past there is always another way; this is something he definitely passed on to our learners. The lessons he shared were from his own life growing up in the Bronx and the message he has for young people is, 'it's not what others do for you, it's what you do for yourself'. Jim shared leadership skills with our students and encouraged

them to be the best they can be. It was inspiring to watch the students take in what Jim was saying; in front of them stood a successful man whose beginnings had not been too dissimilar to their own and this gave each student who listened to him the self-belief to take a lead on their own lives and want to be the creator of their own destiny. All students involved said they felt empowered and motivated after listening to Jim, but a stand out comment was from one student who left the session stating, 'I learned I can be somebody, I'm going to be somebody'.

New Arrivals

Richard Garbutt

Students have continued to enjoy learning how to look after the animals at the Stonebridge City Farm.

We had some new arrivals too.





Media on the Move

Matt Murphy

This term students have been working very hard producing their moving image products for their coursework portfolios. This year students are creating products such as TV adverts, music videos, short films and even stop-frame animations. All of these products will go towards student’s final BTEC grade which they will receive at the end of the year.

Music to My Ears

Josh Glover

In Music we have been emulating and working with techniques used by professionals. We're currently in the process of creating our own tracks, based on each individual student's favorite tracks.



Time to Work

Jordan Senior

This year has seen great strides made by Stone Soup Academy students. Some students have been getting their conditional offers for work experience in the form of 'Golden Tickets'.

Students have attended a Nottingham city homes open day to explore potential apprenticeship opportunities. Students had the chance to discuss careers such as plumbing, bricklaying or working as an electrician

There are plans to visits both Nottingham Universities in for further opportunities.

There will be an Adult Social Care recruitment campaign coming soon too.

Watch this space.



The Future Looks Bright

Michelle Rogers

28/01/2019 - Managing Conflict - Students learned about how situations escalate and how the physical symptoms of anger may present themselves. They were led through a reflective activity and were shown how to spot the symptoms of anger within themselves. Following this the students looked at how to deal with conflict and what they could do to manage challenging emotions when they arise.

11/02/2019 - Money, Money, Money - Students learned about unexpected costs of living and how to create a budget. Students were then led through a practical activity which highlighted to them the importance of living within your means and the difference between wants and needs. Finally, practical advice was given on handling debt, and the importance of avoiding payday loans as well as advice being given on what to do when you face financial hardship (e.g. approach your bank first rather than unreliable lenders).

18/03/2019 - Communication 101 - This workshop was based around the different personality traits considered for team working. Students learned about the four personality types (e.g. driver, adventurer, energiser, perfectionist, cheerleader and stabiliser) and asked to explore where they fit. Students were then asked to complete the spaghetti exercise by working together to build a tower, the students then reflected on the role that they had taken and how they had communicated their ideas. Finally students were asked to discuss the impact of their personality and ways to combat issues that may arise within employment.

[See back page for more details \(TFTF\).](#)



Nottingham Castle Trust Project

Osiris Santana

We are excited to announce a project with the Nottingham Castle Trust that will showcase the city through the eyes of its young folk. A group of six Year 10s have been selected to work with London poet, Mr. Gee, who will help the students tap into what the city of Nottingham means to them. The end goal is to have a detailed brief that will then be fully realised by an artist, selected by the students, and put on display in a new stairwell connecting the Robin Hood exhibit to the Civil War exhibit in the newly refurbished castle.



In an effort to better understand the city, the group of students and Mr. Gee have had brainstorming workshops and trips around Nottingham City Centre. Gee has asked, “If Robin Hood is a figment of our imagination, why did our imagination come up with him?” This seemingly simple but complicated question has offered insights into what similarities the students may have with Robin Hood and real life connections to Nottingham.



The visits have included the City of Caves tour and a photography walk around the City, as well as the National Justice Museum and a team building activity. The Caves opened the student’s eyes to the world beneath their feet and how integral the sandstone caverns were to Nottingham, often serving as homes and work rooms for its poor but just as easily as a veil for its criminals. For the photography walk, each student borrowed a digital camera and took photos of the city in an attempt to capture just how they see it. The photos offer a unique insight through the eyes of the students.

There are two recurring themes that seem to continuously pop up: friendship and loyalty. As we explore Robin Hood and his Merry Men, we will also explore how these themes shape who we are, how they shape our city and how we, in turn, shape the city.

The Council Take Action

Becky Ashmore

The student council have been provided with the opportunity to work towards gaining an SSAT student leadership qualification. The qualification will encourage them to focus on skills such as commitment, organisation and planning, communication and being accountable, alongside other skills required to be an effective leader. The students will have to demonstrate their leadership skills in ten areas and will be putting together a portfolio of evidence to highlight the leadership roles they have taken on within the school. They will be taught skills that will enrich their lives long after they leave Stone Soup Academy.

They have also been involved in interviewing for a new Assistant Principal, planning the end of term trip as well as coming up with the fantastic idea of putting on after school revision sessions for Year 11 students which have now started running and students are participating in. The students have also been focusing on incentives to improve behaviour and attendance. Great work guys!

Some more moments from this year



Flo Park

Duncan Bennett

Students continue to make good progress and have great fun at Flo Skate Park. Skateboarding has been a massive success this year. Students are loving the ride!

Our students were welcome at Flo Skate Park during a Vans promotion day and were involved in discussion about the company and what it is really like to work for Vans.

Big rewards have come to those students’ who have shown commitment and enthusiasm throughout their time at Flo Skate Park. Ethan Grice and Harrison Collins will receive a gift of their own skate boards for their efforts this year.



Street Doctors

Becky Ashmore

We have recently placed a high precedence on educating our students on knife crime. We have done this through inviting the Police in to talk to our students. They educated them on the law and stop and search as well as giving the students a chance to ask any questions they may have. This was a fantastic opportunity for our students and all those involved engaged in a positive and mature manner.

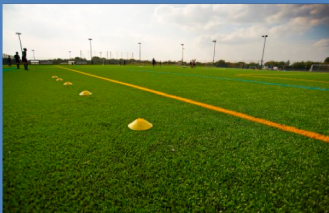
The students also had sessions with the Street Doctors, who were set up in 2008 by medical students in Liverpool who realised they could save lives by teaching emergency first aid to young people. Our learners were involved in interactive sessions tailored for young people where they were taught what to do if someone is bleeding or unconscious. Teaching young people to call for help and deliver simple first aid can and does save lives and it was great to have our students involved in these workshops.

TFTF

Gang Culture (6th May 2019) - Gang characteristic, motivation for membership, recruitment tactics, dangers and cost and resistance and exit strategies.
Radicalisation and Extremism (17th June 2019) - Tackling inner bias, what is extremism, what is radicalisation, steps of conditioning and tackling terrorism.

SOME OF THE EXCITING EVENTS NEXT TERM

School Football Team



TFTF



GCSE



Some Important Dates:

BTEC Sport Exam Monday 1st April
GCSE Mock Exam Tuesday 2nd April
GCSE Mock Exam Wednesday 3rd April

Suits day Friday 21st June (Parents welcome from 14:00Pm)
Year 9/10 Celebration Evening Thursday 18th July 16:30 – 19:00.

Creating Unimagined Futures

Stone Soup Academy rated Outstanding by Ofsted

Kerrie Henton

When the news is filled with negative stories about exclusions and the questionable quality of some provisions, Stone Soup Academy bucks the trend by achieving for the second time the Outstanding rating from Ofsted. Inspected at the start of March the Inspectors recognised that students ‘make excellent progress and achieve strong outcomes at GCSE supported by the very effective use of well thought out strategies to maintain the well-being of pupils.’

Ofsted recognised the innovative work that Stone Soup Academy are involved in, including projects aimed at the prevention of Knife Crime working with Detective Superintendent Simon Firth from Nottinghamshire Police and the Ben Kinsella Trust.

Kerrie Henton Principal of Stone Soup Academy said:

‘We are so proud of our students and staff for achieving the Outstanding judgement, but for us it is more about what we do and achieve on a day to day basis with our learners. They are amazing and they have such potential that is sadly missed in some educational settings. We work hard every day to ensure that our learners achieve the futures that they didn’t believe were possible before they arrived at Stone Soup Academy and we are very proud that this has been recognised’.

For more information about Stone Soup Academy please go to: www.stonesoupacademy.org.uk



Ben Kinsella Trust Trip – London

Kevin Wildrienne

Five of our students were invited to travel down to London to visit the ‘The Ben Kinsella Trust’ exhibition and attend a workshop run by the trust at their base in Islington, London.

With knife crime in the UK reaching record highs we have a responsibility to raise awareness of the dangers of carrying knives, the potential consequences and associated risks and this trip provided a fantastic opportunity for our students to access a program which is at the forefront of tackling this important issue.

The Ben Kinsella Trust was formed following the tragic death of Ben Kinsella, a 16 year old boy who was stabbed to death in Islington in 2008. Since its formation the trust has been responsible for many changes and achievements in the battle against knife crime, including the introduction of ‘Ben’s Law’ with the minimum sentence for knife related murder increasing from 15 to 25 years. The exhibition that our students visited launched in 2012 is a five roomed, interactive exhibition (one of which, a mock prison cell in which we were given a very hard hitting and honest presentation from a young man who had spent three years in prison for joint enterprise following a stabbing committed by his friend) which is used to educate young people across the country about the true consequences of getting involved in knife crime.

Following this event our students will be working closely with the National Justice Museum to support them in producing an exhibition that will address knife crime in Nottingham which will open to the public in the summer term.



Raising the Grade!

On the 26th of March four students attended the annual ‘Raising the Grade’ Conference at Nottingham Trent University. Yusuf, Sam, Kian and Lamar thoroughly enjoyed the day where they spent time looking at how to improve their scores in the upcoming GCSE exams. Each session featured a different topic, such as mathematical misconceptions and lovely algebra, and all four students contributed so well in all of the sessions that at the end of the day when prizes were awarded for outstanding effort, Sam and Yusuf both received a special Easter Egg! The organisers also gave a special mention to Stone Soup for the resilience shown by all four students during the day! Well done boys and let’s all hope that all your effort really does Raise your Grade!

