



Stone Soup Academy News

Lockdown Edition
Half Term 6

Stone Soup Student Achieves 1st Class Honours Degree

Becky Ashmore

Here at Stone Soup we love to hear from ex-students and listen to all the great things they've been up to. When an ex-student got in touch last week we could not have been more proud with the news they had to share with us.

Finnley King started her journey at Stone Soup Academy feeling the education system had given up on her. She had been excluded from various mainstream schools and in her own words this led to a 'lot of anxiety and complete lack of ambition'.

During Finnley's time at Stone Soup we put things in place such as providing a 1:1 form group where myself and Finnley would have an opportunity to talk through events, allowing her to reflect on things, and as a school we would always ensure to focus on the positives. Finnley had a great passion for art and as always with Stone Soup, she was encouraged to explore her interests and talents and really shone in this area with her amazing work constantly receiving praise from both staff and students alike.

We watched Finnley's confidence grow and when she earned herself a place on the reward trip to Birmingham sealife centre and went on to win student of the term we could all see her confidence beginning to grow. When Finnley left us in 2015 it was great to see her believing in herself.

Words cannot express the way I felt when I bumped into Finnley some years later and she told me she was at the University of Derby studying a degree in Creative Expressive Art Therapy and I could not wait to pass this on to everyone at Stone Soup. Kerrie our Principal invited Finnley into the academy to do her second year placement and for all of us that worked with Finnley as a student, to watch her work with students that were where she had been was nothing less than inspirational.

Fast forward to last week and we have received the fantastic news that Finnley will be graduating with a first class honours degree. As a whole school team we could not be more proud of what Finnley has achieved and her ambition to go out and help young people who struggled with education as she did. In Finnley's own words 'exclusion is not the end'.



@stonesoupacademynotts
Instagram
@StonesoupAcad
Twitter
@mrviceprincipal
Instagram Fitness

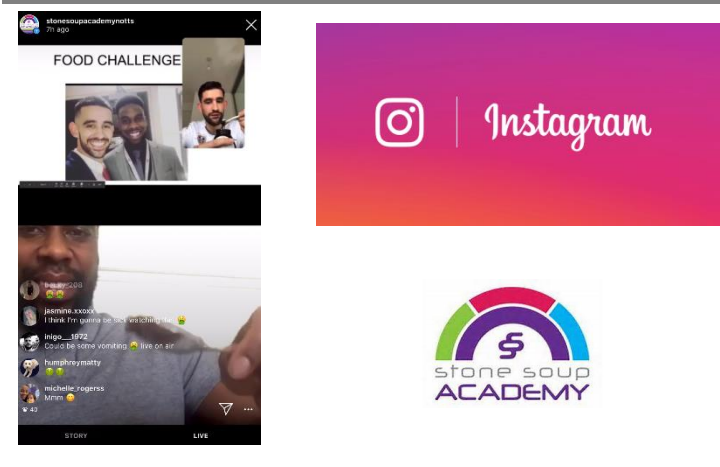
Keep on Playing

Joshua Glover

It has been more important than ever to make sure music has a place in the lives of our learners as they limit their interactions with their friends and teachers. I'm incredibly proud of all the work our learners have been doing via soundtrap – an online virtual studio. The quality of work, along with the numerous students who have gone above and beyond in responding to my verbal feedback has been great. I've been able to collaborate in real-time with students on their projects, helping them improve their work and explore new musical possibilities right in their browser.

I am incredibly proud of all the work our learners in music technology have done, and their work can now be accessed and listened to via soundcloud.com/stonesoupacademy

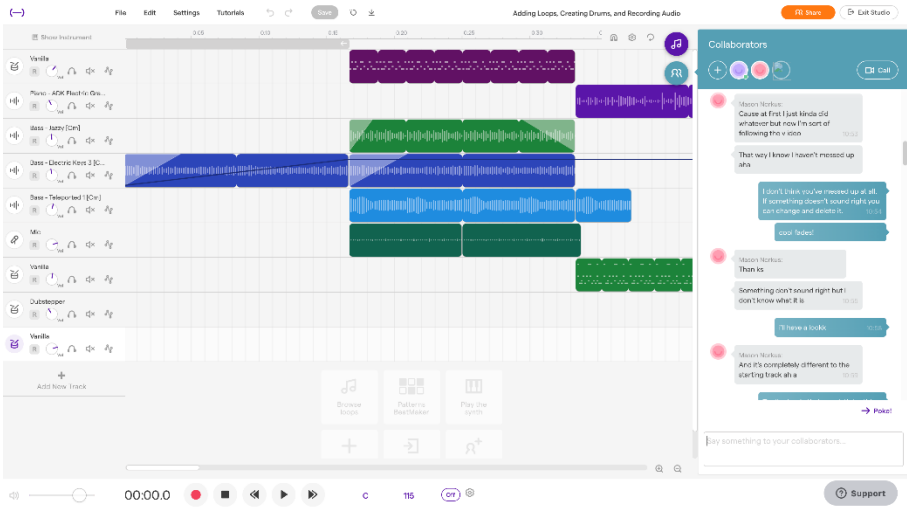
In the picture I'm collaborating with Mason on his Music Technology work, guiding and questioning him as he follows an instructional video I sent to him via email at the start of the lesson. In this app, called SoundTrap, students have the ability to add instruments and play them using the letters of their keyboard or iPad and edit them just like we would in school. It's been a remarkable tool during lockdown.



Instagram Famous

Oliver Sillito

Stone Soup Academy have been hosting a weekly Instagram quiz for all our learners. With the help of other staff we have been promoting the quiz to all students. Numbers for the quiz have been great with over forty learners tuning in to watch live. The quiz was put together by Kerry, Josh, Becky, Jordan and myself with many of the staff joining in weekly watching and commenting live. Students who win the quiz earn a £10 voucher for amazon each week. We have had brilliant feedback from a number of other students who have been logging into the quiz, with one student saying “I really enjoy the quiz, I love speaking with loads of staff at once and it feels like Stone Soup again”.



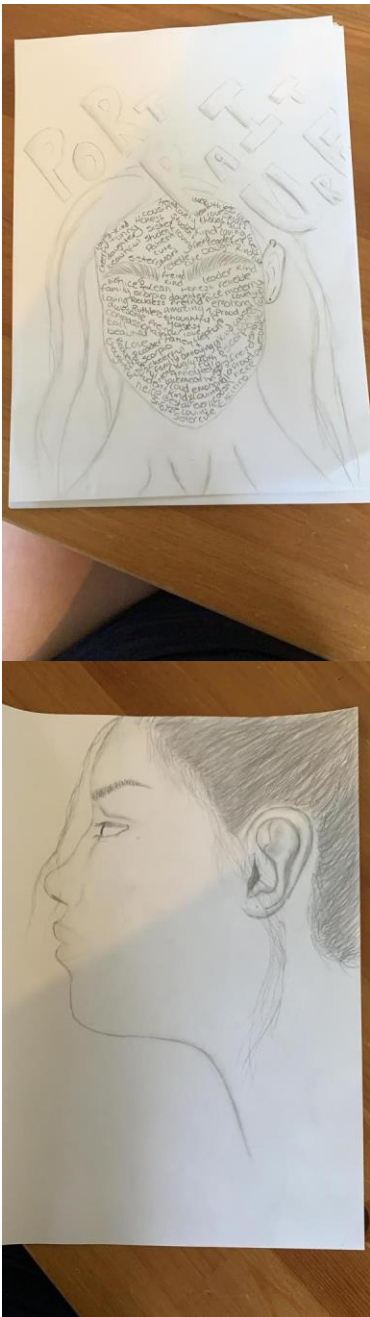
Portrait Project

Perspective, tone and drawing techniques developed in Art and Textiles

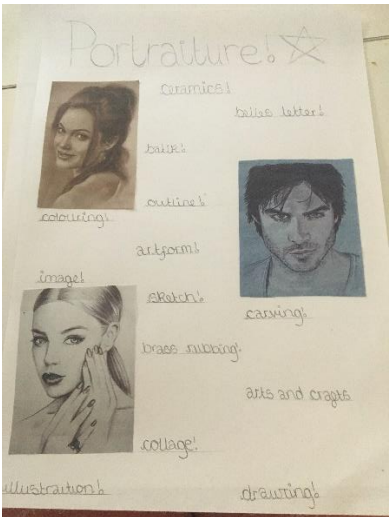
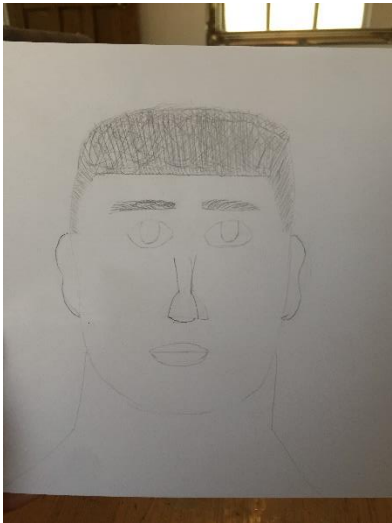
Holly Lee

Art and textile students have been super busy over the last couple of terms. Students started their exam, generating some highly innovative and creative ideas. Each student was given a brief with seven different themes to choose from. Once selected, students began researching their topic, and different artists that inspire them. Incorporating the skills, they have learnt prior to their exams, students demonstrated their subject and technical knowledge with how they applied their chosen material. From the work produced it is clear to see each students’ individual thought process.

Whilst working remotely students have focused on a mini portrait project, developing their skills further and evidencing what they have learnt and how they apply this knowledge. The project involved building upon perspective, tone and drawing techniques.



In light of what is happening around the world, I thought to raise awareness of ‘Black Lives Matter’ by celebrating the work of those whose voices have been muted for so long. Students have been introduced to artists from black backgrounds, to not only gain subject and technical knowledge but to celebrate their work and develop a deeper understanding of what is happening in the present day. This work enabled students to engage and understand perspective. Artists include; Alma Woodsley Thomas, Kehinde Wiley, Jean-Michael Basquiat and more.



Sporting Futures

Duncan Bennett

BTEC Sport students have been studying Unit 2: Practical Performance in Sport and Unit 1: Fitness for Sport and Exercise. While studying these units’ students will explore rules, regulations and scoring systems of sports, technical and tactical demands and analyse performance. Other elements of these units include components of fitness, training methods and principles of training. Year 10 and Year 9 students have taken well to these units and are making great progress.

Year 11 students completed all necessary coursework while the school moved to an online platform and grades have now been submitted following the government guidelines to finish the academic year.

Year 10 students continue to study and engage from online platforms including emails and google classroom. Many students are making great progress and have been returning to school for one on one lessons. It has been great to see students in the classroom again.

Year 9 continue to engage in the online platforms available participating in online workouts, daily sporting challenges and sharing physical activity they complete at home. Those students who have picked sport have begun to receive work to start their journey on a BTEC course. I’m looking forward to having year 9’s in the building once again before the end of the academic year.

FIT Friday

Fit Friday continues through our vice principal’s Instagram profile @mrviceprincipal and has been well received by both staff and students. It has been great to see an online presence for sport at Stone Soup Academy during this lockdown period and the HIIT sessions Kevin produces are great for keeping people physically active.

Many of the staff and students have been sharing their daily activities via Instagram, Strava and Google Hangouts. Staff and students remain happy, healthy and active during Friday afternoons which is great to see. A big thank you to those staff who have continued to push students to remain active during this home learning period.

Sport England/SSAT Leadership Legacy Project

I continue to be involved in the Sport England healthy lifestyles project which involves targeting a group of inactive students and changing their lifestyle choices. The inactive group progress will be measured against punctuation, attendance, behaviour and engagement in lessons. The project looks at the impact of physical literacy on school life. The PE conference scheduled in June has been postponed but we continue to collaborate and share ideas with other schools. The project has been a great space to share best practice, further teaching knowledge and create sporting links with other organisations and schools.



Cooking Up Fun During Lock Down

Leona Dunleavy

Well this has been an unusual half term! Lock down and the school closure has meant we have had to explore new ways to engage our learners remotely whilst in this period away from school. We have really missed our practical lessons and realised early on that our students were too. After receiving some photos of baking done at home by one student, we developed the idea for a Lockdown Menu. We posted a recipe each day onto our school Instagram and Class Dojo pages, so our students and their families could access them and cook along with some of our recipes as inspiration. Recipes have been varied and tried to cover different interests, but also using general ingredients that students may already have at home.

This has been very well received and we have been delighted to receive so many photos of the

wonderful food our learners have been making at home. Some students have also requested specific recipes that they can recreate at home, which has been lovely and we have really cherished this interaction with our learners. Whilst we wait for the day we can all return to school and get back to cooking in our lovely classroom, our lockdown menu will help ensure that we can continue to encourage our learners to keep cooking in the meantime.



Academy Careers

Jordan Senior

It has been a different challenge this term regarding careers at the academy but we have still been engaging our students in various experiences and activities.



We have signed up and taken part in the Virtual Work Experience run by Learn Live which ran from May 21st - 25th. The main issue I found we had with these online experiences is that the majority of our students request hard copy work as they may not have the best access to the internet at home. It was great to see those with access taking the opportunity for Virtual Work Experience.

From the week commencing 15th June we held 1-1 meetings about transition with our Year 11 cohort. I have put together a Questionnaire which we will go through which includes a range of questions from transport to bank accounts.

I have been in contact with a representative from Life Skills to talk about opportunities with the police from workshops to apprenticeships. We will speak more when schools reopen and people can conduct visits.

I have also looked into Barclays Life skills and Buzz quizzes for year 9. The resources available will help build confidence, develop and gain experience for life.

I have also been in contact with Princes Trust about how we can work together to help our post-16 students. We will stay in contact and receive newsletters so we are consistently getting up to date and relevant information about all the opportunities.



Award Winner

Kerrie Henton

Winners of 2020 Aspiration Award Centre of the Year

Stone Soup Academy has been selected as a winner of the 2020 NCFE Aspiration Awards in the Centre of the Year category. The criteria for this category included examples of going over and above to help learners and having a positive impact on learners and the wider community.

Apparently the judges spent hours reviewing and deliberating over the large amount of entries received as it is a national award. They told us that choosing a winner out of so many wonderful nominations was not an easy task, however, after reading our nomination they were so impressed with achievements of Stone Soup Academy that we won!! Isn't it amazing what we can achieve together living our vision of 'Creating Unimagined Futures'.



Key Signings Made in Key Stage Three

Kyle Saddington

At Richmond house the Key stage 3 team has acquired a new member, Rebekkah Ashmore. Becky is already the Assistant Head of Engagement and she is now the Head of Engagement for Key stage 3. Becky will be a great addition to Richmond House and it will help us replicate High Pavement and establish a strong team.

Our philosophy of creating unimagined futures helps young people re-engage with education along with helping them realise that learning can be a positive experience. We have built excellent relationships with our year 9's and it is exciting to see them progress into year 10 in September.

This year we had aimed for our learners to have completed entry levels in both Maths and English before they finished year 9. This would help build on their existing knowledge and begin their journey to achieving success at Stone Soup Academy. This, however, was halted by the Covid-19 pandemic. We aim to start this again next year with a new cohort of year 9's.

The Key Stage 3 curriculum is both broad and rich. This year we have added Humanities subjects, Geography and History, which is really exciting. Our timetable now consists of Maths, English, Science, PSHE, Business Studies, ICT, Art, Music, Sport, Cooking, Geography and History. We chose these subjects as we feel it is something that all learners will benefit from and will support their transition to KS4 at High Pavement. Further development of the timetable is currently in progress as we are discussing how we can incorporate taster sessions in the subjects that are offered as options within year 10. This will provide experiences that will help our learners decide what they want to study in Year 10 and avoid some of the stress when it comes to making those choices at the end of Year 9.

Moving forward over the summer we are making improvements to Richmond House undertaking the creation of a Science lab and the purchase of more Chromebooks for students to use in lessons. Our priority is to provide an environment that supports our vision of creating unimagined futures.



Future Soup Stars

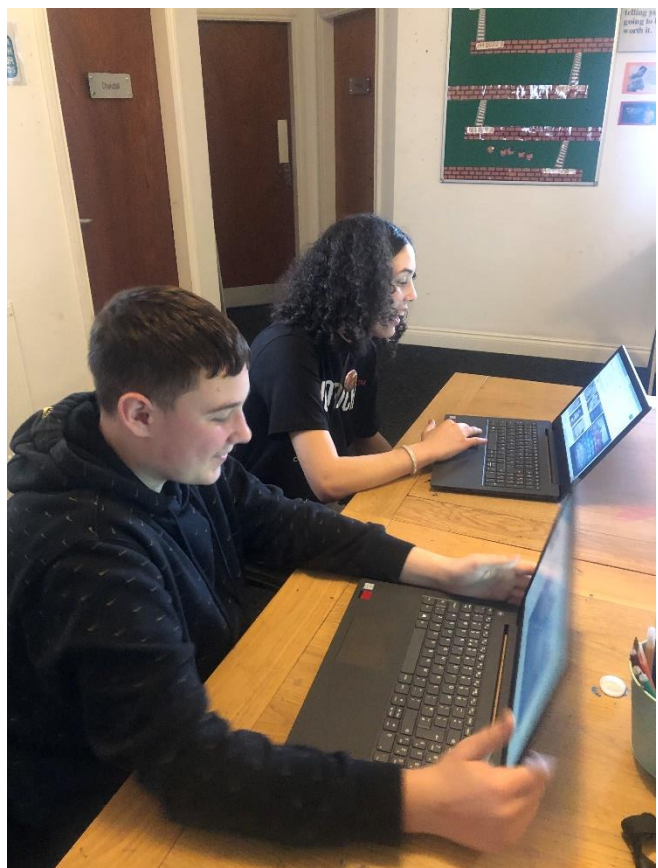
Science, Business and ICT in Key Stage Three

Amy Dennett

In January three new subjects were introduced to the Year 9 curriculum; Science, Business Studies and ICT. By adding these subjects we wanted to give the year 9's more options going into year 10. This year we have added Science and Business for students moving into year 10 helping further with the transition from KS3 to KS4. One of our biggest aims for the year 9 cohort is to re-engage them back into education, having different and interesting subjects on their timetable is a brilliant way to encourage this.

In Science our learners will be taught different topics in all three Sciences; Biology, Chemistry and Physics. They will have the opportunity to conduct experiments and use scientific equipment to bring about a love for the subject and encourage them to want to know more. In Business Studies our learners will have the opportunity to be innovative, to problem solve and to create their own products. All skills that can be used in all walks of life. Finally, in ICT our learners are learning how to extend their knowledge beyond watching videos and playing games. Students are learning how to use a spreadsheet to do their maths for them, how to find detailed information using the internet and much more.

By adding these new subjects to the curriculum we are offering the Year 9's skills they will use in future jobs, further education and skills that will hopefully give them their 'unimagined future'.



Engagement Team Keeping It Real

Oliver Sillito

Contact

The Engagement team has been working throughout the whole of lockdown including the holidays to maintain great contact with our students. We spoke as a team of keeping the stone soup family feeling alive during lockdown. As a school we had amazing things in place straight away but as always we wanted to keep pushing with engagement and showing what we do is unique for our learners.

We have also been making plans that are in place for next year so that we are well prepared. I have broken down what we have been doing as a team during lockdown and plans for next year.

Daily Calls

Ensuring relationships with students and trying best to safeguard our students. This is done by the whole of the engagement team calling and texting our students and parents twice a day. This continued relationship building and safeguarding students has been incredible. From engaging them with work sent by the amazing operations team then delivered by our amazing teachers. We as an engagement team just wanted to support both sides and ensure that everyone felt supported. The team continued throughout the holiday to call the vulnerable students.

Staff Focus

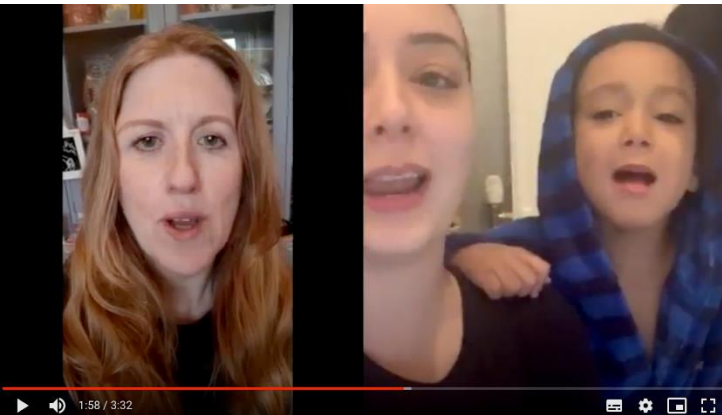
I have been editing staff focus videos of all staff thanking students during lockdown and trying to put different themes on them.

Students can see the staff and see that all staff are still buzzing about all their work and how proud of them we are of them. Students will then send us emails and texts back thanking us and telling us they miss staff and the school.



Daily Challenges for Students

Throughout the lockdown we have been posting daily challenges for students to join in with and send their videos to the google classroom. This gives them the chance of earning a £10 voucher at amazon. This has been keeping students engaged. This has really helped maintain contact and keep the morale in the school. Challenges have gone from the best paper airplane to the best Tik Tok dance.



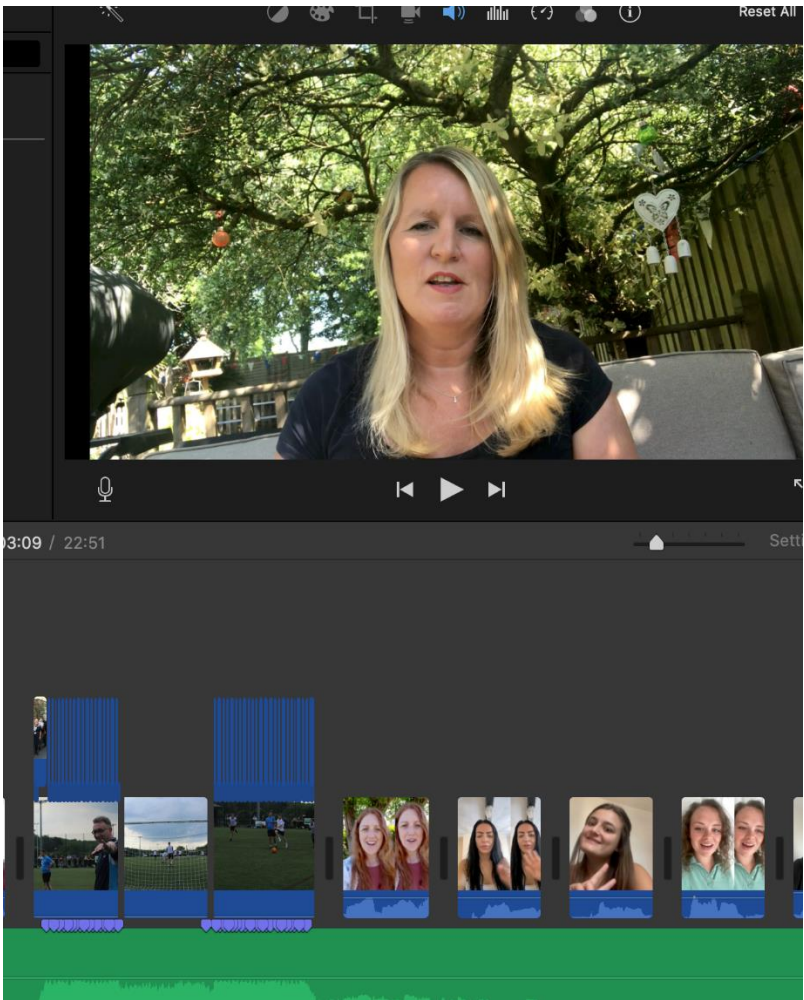
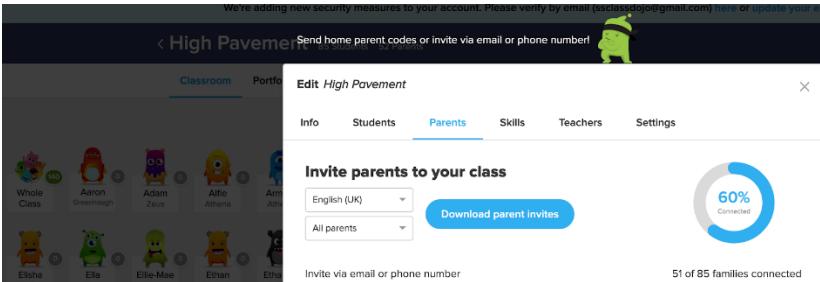
500 Miles Song

I put together an edit of all staff doing a rendition of the 500 miles song for students to watch and laugh and remind them of the SSA staff. Staff all did a line each and it made up the entire song. Some great feedback from the learners and they loved seeing staff doing something like this.

Parents logged on to Class DoJo

Michelle Rogers

We have been working with the engagement team to get parents logged into our class dojo system for updates for parents. Parents have been interacting and speaking to us through this and we have been maintaining a positive relationship with parents as well as students. We now have had more parents than ever before logged on.



Form

We have google form groups for students to have discussions and comment on Votesforschools topics. This gives students a chance to speak with their form and helps the learners be part of their form still whilst being off school. Students can keep up with discussions and keep the form moral during a time when some students can feel quite alone.



Thanking our Students' Parents, Grandparents, Carers

We hope our parents/careers enjoyed the card that we sent to all parents and carers thanking them from our Principal. It was important for us to show the appreciation of the academy to the parents who are working so hard at the moment, whilst also helping support their children at the same time. - Parents messaged back thanking us! As well as that we made a staff video for all the parents with staff sending them their thanks for all the support they have given to us during the lockdown. Parents were really thankful that we sent the video.

Here is some feedback - *"Wow. That was sooo lovely. However a massive thanks goes to all staff at Stone Soup for adapting and supporting students so brilliantly throughout this bizarre time. Stay safe. X"*

Year 11 Edit

All the staff filmed a video for the year 11 cohort sending positive messages to our year 11 students. We have been editing it has been put together with music and photos.

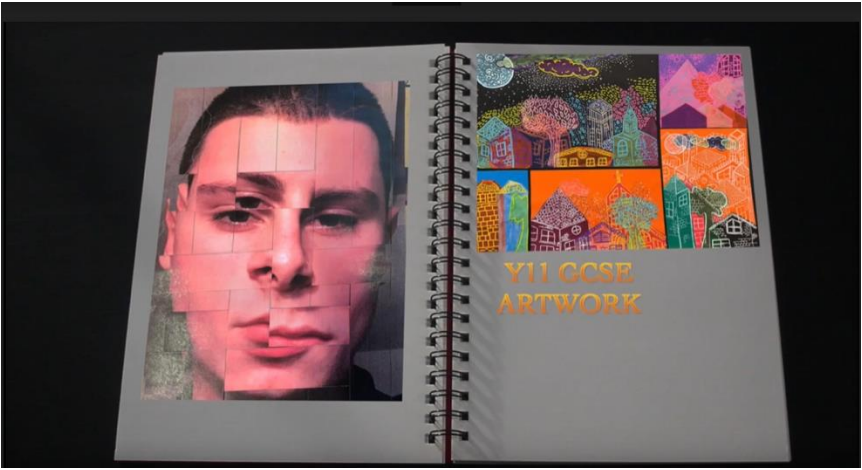
More from the engagement team coming up



Matthew Murphy

During these unprecedented times, the Creative Faculty has continued to work to its usual high standards with SSA students.

Stone Soup Academy’s Creative Faculty was shortlisted for The Mighty Creatives Learning team Award. Unfortunately, due to lockdown, the ceremony has been postponed. However, as soon as further updates are available, I will make them known to all.

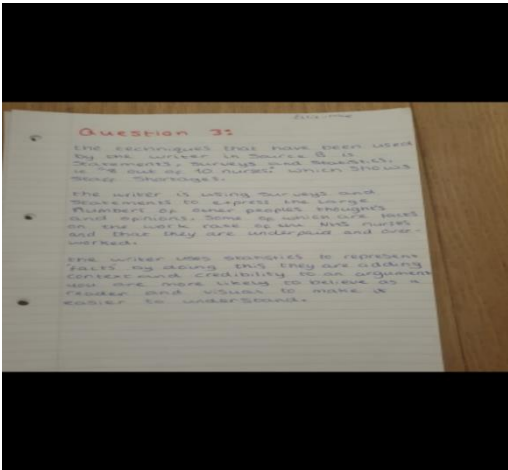
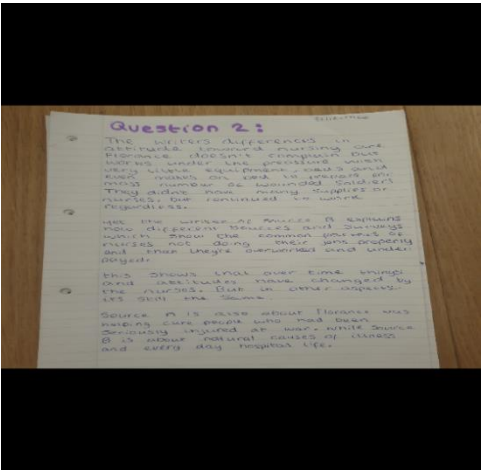
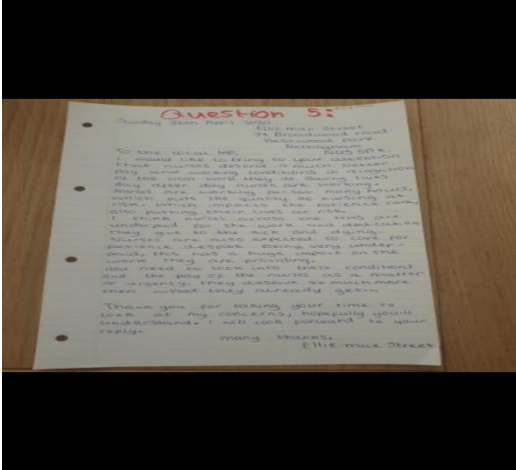


English Boosting Chances of Success

Richard Garbutt

Despite the lockdown both Year 10 and year 11 students have continued to engage with English and some fantastic work has been done over the last 3 months. The unusual circumstances have meant that this year all the year 11 students will be awarded a predicted grade that is based on their performance throughout the year in the classroom and the mock exams that they have sat. Year 11 students have taken the opportunity to boost their chances of success by sending in work for both paper 1 and paper 2 of the English language exam. Also, for the first time this year, a group of nine students will be awarded both English language and English literature GCSE. This is a fantastic achievement and is the result of all the hard work that the students have put in throughout the year.

Work submitted by Ellie

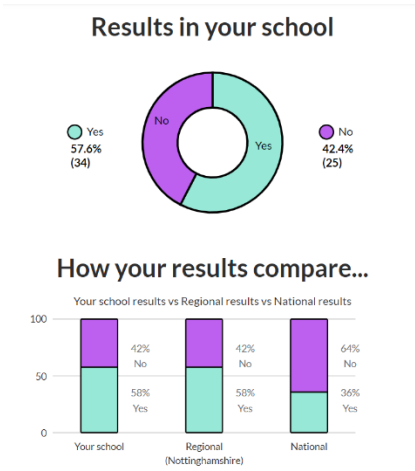


Physical, Social, Health and Economic Education

Osiris Santana

Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education at Stone Soup Academy has continued to thrive during lockdown. We have worked to engage our students with Votes for Schools (VfS) by way of Google Classroom, covering a range of topics through questions such as:

- Are communities strengthened in a crisis?
- Do you get enough sleep?
- Can we learn more outside the classroom?
- Will the recent anti-racism protests lead to change in the US?
- Should teenagers be in charge of their own money?



When in the Academy, the VfS questions and materials are discussed amongst staff and students, sharing our opinions and challenging the viewpoints of others in respectful and civil discourse. The students are asked to vote yes or no on the question, the results are then collated and aggregated amongst year groups and genders within the school, as well as regionally and nationally. This has changed with lockdown being in effect, moving the materials and questions to Google Classroom so that our learners can still engage and express their thoughts.

In an effort to address current events happening in America, We thought it would be expedient to reach out to our learners, parents and the community by creating a live event on Instagram. We opened with a description of the events surrounding George Floyd and the subsequent protests, riots and looting, as well as offering insight into the systemic issues that led to the social unrest. Throughout the Live session, we took questions from students and staff alike to clear any confusion and, hopefully with my insight as an American expatriate, help process all our feelings in a constructive way. In times like these, it is especially important for us to work together and support each other.

We have lots planned for PSHE and are excited for what we can show you in the coming year, particularly surrounding Relationship and Sex Education. Part of this will be to expand our C Card staffing so that we may better serve our young folks, as well as targeting specific areas that may need strengthening, e.g. physical health and hygiene, financial responsibility, cultural literacy, etc. Across the Academy we are taking a look at mental health, how we can best support our students in our specific areas and ensuring that we normalise these discussions. We are also expanding our website to have a list of resources available for current students and alumni. The resources will cover a variety of topics such as life skills (grocery shopping, laundry, budgeting and paying bills), careers (CV writing, Job Centre locations, interview advice), and health information (how to book doctor’s appointments, sexual health clinics, where and how to seek help). This and more is in the works through our PSHE curriculum, all in an effort to equip our learners for their bright futures and to tackle any obstacle set before them.



Photography Voices Their To Be Heard

Sally Croft

Students in Photography have been looking at ‘Documentary Photography’. Many students have taken this as an opportunity to make their voices heard about the current outcry for ‘Black Lives Matter’. It’s been such a joy to see students so passionately engaged both politically and morally to carve a world in which they want to live in and one that they so deserve.



“Doug Barrett’s photos are mainly black and white and of black American people hoping for people to look and understand why these people have to protest to become the same level. “ Written by KW.
Photograph by Doug Barrett.

Art students have also been busy making protest banners to express their view and have their voices heard.
Made by JJ.



Some photos from students

Mapping Math Grades

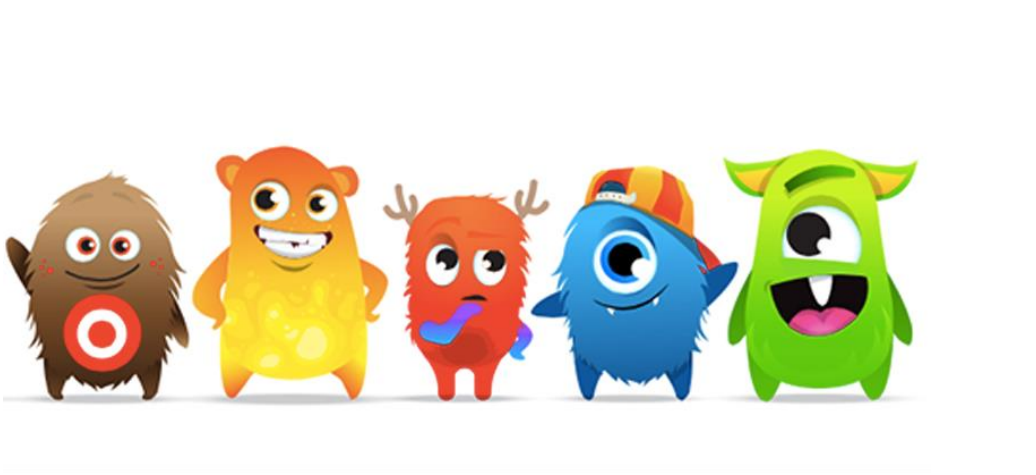
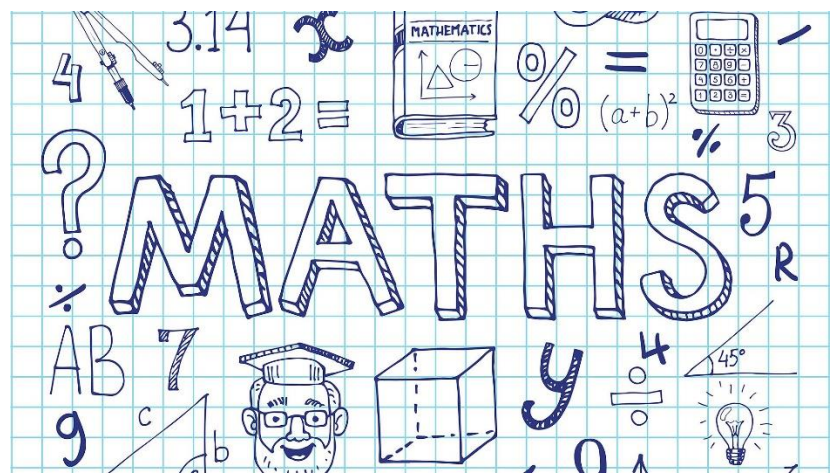
Darrell Drummond

Year 11

A significant amount of time this half term has been devoted to assessing the performance of all of our Year 11 students for the academic year and then submitting their predicted grades to AQA. This task was made substantially less problematic because our students had taken a complete set of mock exam papers throughout the year. What was initially designed as a very worthwhile practice exercise for their summer GCSE exams became invaluable as a tool for accurately predicting their grades. I am also hoping that they serve as robust evidence for these predictions under external scrutiny. We also have our Google Classrooms to thank for giving our students the opportunity to consolidate their grades by completing any of a large number of worksheets, graded assessment questions and also practice papers.

Year 10

Our Year 10 students have been working remotely this term and as a result the importance of Google Classroom has greatly increased. Our students can now be assigned personal copies of all assignments as well as (with some careful external manipulation) their own online version that can be edited at source and feedback given as soon as they answer a question. They also have the opportunity to watch videos that are posted to the stream to help them understand the task they are working on. Some of our students have responded well to the challenges presented by a more independent style of learning and this has been refreshing to see.



Good vs Evil

Darrell Drummond

Our learning regime this half term has been all about Google Classroom. Work packs have been sent home but some of the capabilities of the online classroom have helped create a much more worthwhile educational experience for our students. The entire animated series of good and evil has been streamed in the classroom for all of our students to watch. It tells the biblical story in thirteen parts from Creation through to the early Christian Church and is extremely informative when viewed as a whole or even in small chunks. A similar set of animated stories from the Quran have been sourced to stream until the end of this academic year. Our students have also been set a number of tasks to show their knowledge about Christian beliefs and practices and also Islam beliefs and practices too.

Literacy at Stone Soup

Kerry Day

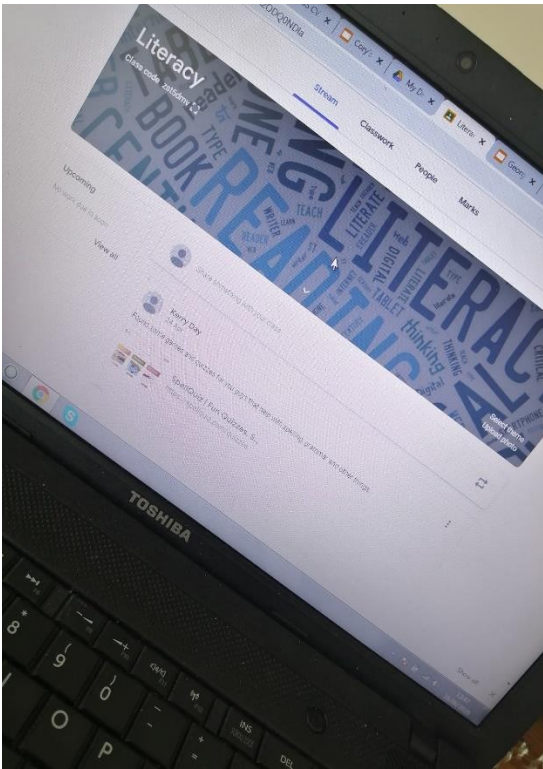
This term we have focused on training all the staff on a particular part of our Literacy Policy. We want the Literacy Policy to be fully embedded in our school, so we have spent the lock down sharing important information with the staff linked to the new Literacy policy. The four Cs are one of the first parts of our Literacy Policy and are Cultural Literacy, Critical Literacy, Creative Literacy and Competence. Each week we have sent information about these concepts and then a quiz to check that the staff have familiarised themselves with the information. The staff who have completed the quiz the quickest have been awarded a prize each week.

The students completed their 10 week course at the local Forest Ground, which linked sport to Literacy. Declan Barker worked with the school to arrange this and the students were taken twice a week by engagement member Stevie Greaves to the Forest Ground. The students enjoyed the Literacy booklet they completed and the football that they played towards the end of each session. We are ready to check the reading ages of the students who attended to see if they have improved. This will be done when we are back in the Academy full time.

The Library resources have been ordered after consultation with all subjects. We wanted to ensure that the Library resources are specialised to that subject and have been reviewed by the experts in that subject, which in this case are our excellent teachers. We have been able to create an extensive list of books and they will be up on shelves by September. Furthermore we have compiled a list of Academic subscriptions and have incorporated new subjects such as Science and Geography into this list.

We are excited to also have Literacy boxes for each classroom. These will be full of useful resources for each subject teacher and the students in their classroom. The boxes will be filled with resources such as handwriting pens, useful books and many other things.

A Literacy classroom was created during lock down on our google classroom site. We shared useful links to help students with their Literacy and also to help their younger siblings. Competitions with cash prizes were also shared in this classroom, for the students that wanted more of a challenge and so that the page showed differentiation and catered to all. September will see Literacy resources being used in the classroom and online.



Building a Brighter Future with Engagement Team

Oliver Sillito

Coming up

As our Suits Day has been a tradition and held every summer we wanted to still do something special. This Suits Day would have been our 8th Suit Day. I have been organising with the rest of the school sharing their stories to go into a yearbook for the year 11 cohort.

Look out for these new videos coming soon:

- Lockdown edit showcasing all the work, daily challenges, quizzes, workouts and more.
- Tour of the school for new starters
- Promotion edit where it will have information on the school that can go onto the website and in main reception in the school.
- Suits Day 18/19 at Broadway where new students can see what they have coming up year by year.



Videos help

Inigo & Chelsey support Key sheets

HT5 key sheets
[Support presentation](#)

Case study help

Work to go through

Lockdown run through of work

Some thanks from year 11's and great moments below

Matty H thanking Osiris and the Stone Soup team “You’ve been a huge part of my SSA life and it’s been a rocky ride but I appreciate the fact you never gave up on me, Stone Soup is a place like no other and I know for a fact, it’s changed my life”

Mason N “in any other school I might have one maybe two teachers I could ring. At Stone Soup I could ring any member of staff and have a full conversation with them because of the sense of the family.”

Reece H “It’s been the best school I have ever been in. I love it”

Josh B “ I miss school, I wish we could just go back now”



Work Experience

Connor Bartle

This year the students that have been attending Work Experience have had the opportunity to be at one of three workplaces. These include Crowne Plaza Hotel, Trent Bridge Cricket Ground, and John Lewis & Partners. All three offered our students the opportunity to look at the working environment in a different way.

We have had a mixture of both Year 11 and 10 students with a total of 17 pupils attending, with them all having the opportunity to gain the qualification NCFE Level 1 Certificate in Occupational Studies for the Workplace.

Crowne Plaza

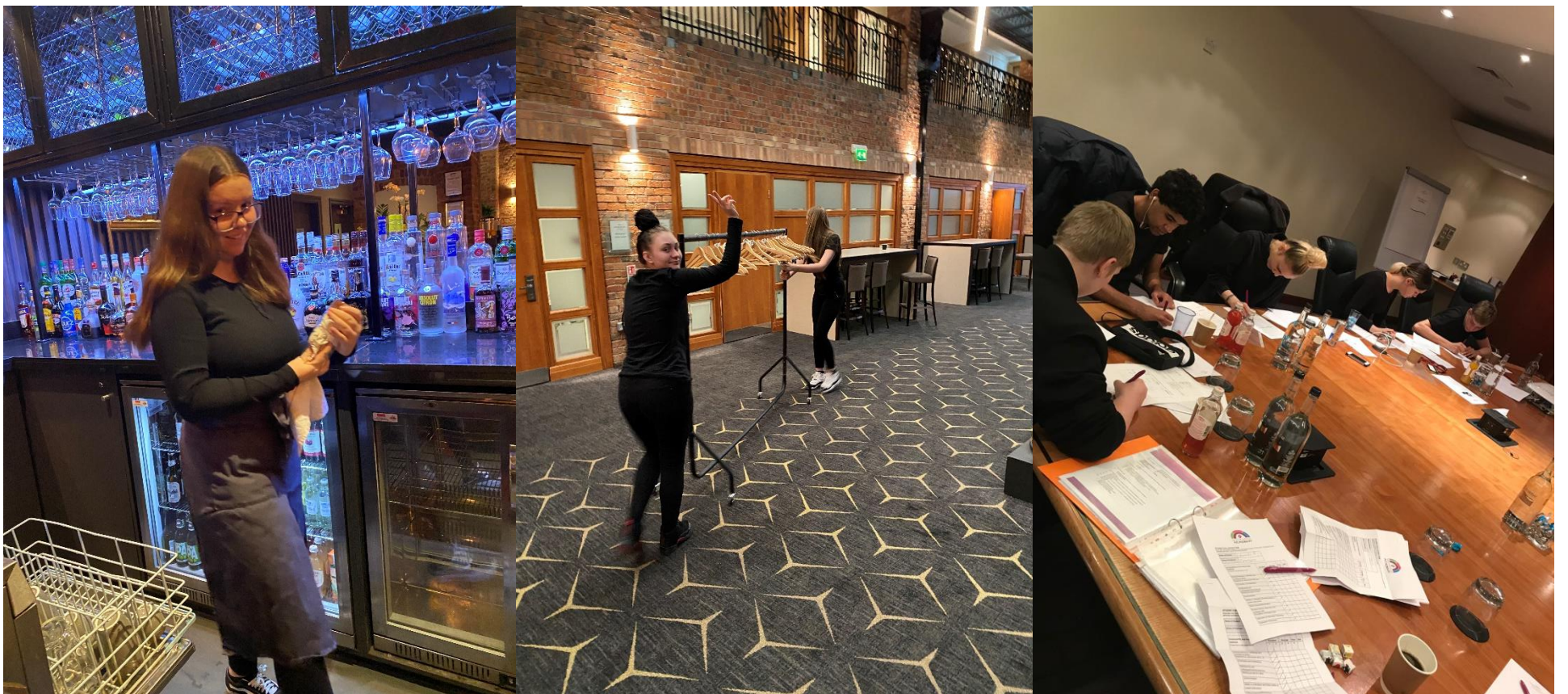
Whilst our pupils were at Crowne Plaza they were given the opportunity to work in a variety of roles at the organisation. These roles included Housekeeping, Spa assistant, Breakfast service, Maintenance team, Bar staff (cleaning and waiter/waitress), and the front desk. Each week the pupils would be given the opportunity to decide which role they wanted to do, but also when Crowne Plaza was busy they would be put into areas that needed the most amount of people. A great example of this would be when there was a Wedding and four of our pupils helped set the room. This included setting tables, decorations, cutlery, and glass polishing/cleaning with the Wedding having over 250 guests. It was great to see that although the student had only been there a few weeks that they trusted our pupils and this gave the pupils an insight into what actual work life is. It was even great when 2 of our pupils were offered the opportunity of a part time job at Crowne Plaza.

Trent Bridge

Trent Bridge was the second location that we started Work Experience. This is a completely different type of business to Crowne Plaza and this gave us the opportunity to get interest from our pupils who would prefer working in a sporting environment. Throughout their time at Trent Bridge, we were with the Trent Bridge Community Trust the official charity of Nottinghamshire County Cricket Club. The pupils had time working on various projects including how to get more people into cricket, learning how large sporting teams use different media platforms to promote themselves with them designing their own ideas on how they would do this. They were with the ticket office team, speaking more about the financial side of the company. This gave all of the pupils involved to expand their knowledge of different roles in a sporting organisation.

John Lewis & Partners

John Lewis & Partners is the most recent location we have started Work Experience with. This again is different from the other two locations with this one being a very much customer face to face organisation. Roles like this included reception desk, re-pricing, display organisers. There were also roles of which were behind the scenes such as Click and Collect, unloading of deliveries, and the media team. This gave our pupils the opportunity to learn more about work that is done behind the scenes that customers do not see.



Year 9's in Good Hands

Becky Ashmore

Since the school closure, the year 9's have all been contacted twice daily by their personal coaches in the same way the year 10's and 11's have. Contact has been very positive, with the majority of them engaging well.

It has been fantastic to see some of the year 9's getting involved with both our Instagram quiz and the daily challenges that we put on, the Instagram quiz in particular gave them an opportunity to interact with both staff and students in other year groups. One of our year 9's has managed to earn five student of the day awards during the lockdown period and therefore received his £50 just eat voucher to treat himself and his family to a take away. The gratitude shown by both the student and his family was heart-warming; he shared pictures of the food he bought with the voucher as well as sending text messages of thanks.

We have recently made contact with all the year 9 students and their parents/carers regarding their option choices for next year. It was great to speak through the move to High Pavement with all of them and go through all the things they are excited and worried about. After conversations with both myself and the year 9 team I feel that all the students are looking forward to the transition, despite naturally being a little nervous.

A meeting took place with myself and Ollie where we have now discussed the change of personal coaches for all the year 9's; as we went through each student and discussed which personal coach would meet the needs of each student best and this information was shared. Moving forward, we plan to arrange phone calls between new personal coaches and their new soon to be year 10 key students and their parents so that they can all be introduced properly to one another and start building those positive relationships.

We are very excited about the current KS3 students making their move to High Pavement, as well as welcoming the New Year 9's to Richmond House.



Teaching and Learning

Younes Henini

All staff at Stone Soup Academy continue to deliver a first class education during the lockdown. All staff have been following their scheme of work and plan personalised lessons for each student. The students' work has been marked regularly and returned back to students. The staff continue to reward students in various ways including issues of ClassDojo, sending postcards home and phone calls to parents. All students have been monitored very closely lesson by lesson and every day to keep them engaged during this difficult time. Lots of amazing work has been produced.

All staff have been working very hard to accommodate the government guidance to predict the grades for year 11 students in all subjects they studied. This has been moderated internally at many levels to make sure all predictions are justified and reflect the students’ ability and work completed.

At Stone Soup Academy we review our curriculum every year to make sure it is fit for purpose and it matches our students’ needs and abilities. Also it reflects our staff strengths.

As a result we introduced new subjects and we stopped offering some subjects.

All students in year 10 study maths and English and they choose four different subjects, from four different blocks:

GCSE Maths, GCSE English, NCFE Food, GCSE Photography, GCSE Art, BTEC Media, BTEC Sport, NCFE Music, BTEC Science, BTEC Science, BTEC Music and Enrichment activities on Friday.

All students in year 11 study maths and English and they continue with their four different subjects that they studied in year 10 which are: GCSE Maths, GCSE English, NCFE Food, GCSE Photography, GCSE Art, BTEC Media, BTEC Sport, NCFE Music, Health and Social, Fashion and Textile, GCSE RE short course, Functional Skills and Enrichment activities on Friday (periods 4 and 5)

The plan for next year is to carry on with our external courses to all students in KS4 with priority to year 11 students. This will allow us to add breath to our curriculum and also for students to gain a variety of life skills.

Due to high demand for multi-skills we planned an extra day for next year to accommodate the needs of our students. The plan looks as follow:

- Monday: Confetti
- Tuesday: Multi-skills
- Wednesday: Hair and Beauty
- Thursday: Multi-skills
- Friday: Motor Vehicle



Students Continue To Impress

Imani Lockhart-Davis

During this term our students have been presented with a situation they have never had to deal with before. Despite the unpredictable and strange time we have been in, the Stone Soup students have continued to impress me with their positive attitudes, innovative at home ideas and projects at home. As we look toward the return to school I cannot wait to see all of the cheery, excited faces as we begin to fall back into normality. I hope each and every student feels so proud of themselves!

Helen Spurr

A big well done to our year 11 students who have passed their Functional Skills English and Maths exams. SSA had a record number of students passing level 1 and 2 maths and English.

Functional skill courses provide the essential skills people need for their working and personal lives, and are included in most education and training programmes in schools and colleges. For those of you enrolling at college in September, Functional Skills are a required component of Diplomas, Foundation Learning Programmes and Apprenticeships. Good Luck for the future.

Stevie Greaves

The literacy project ran for 10 weeks in which the students studied a wide range of reading and writing. The fantastic thing about this project is we could see the progression the students made by the confidence of their reading and speaking in front of a group. Some students, in particular, struggled to engage at the start but when they realized the work was about football and something they're passionate about they really delved into the project and came out of their shell. The incentive of playing a football match after every lesson was something the students loved and responded well to, especially when it was the crossbar challenge really got the competition going.



Creating Unimagined Futures

Kerrie Henton

Our Vision at Stone Soup Academy is ‘Creating Unimagined Futures’ and for those of you who have had the opportunity to visit us, you will see it across the Academy. But to us, it is not just about seeing the vision on a wall, it is about living it in the daily life of the Academy.

This year we have been looking for new and innovative ways to engage our students in our vision and offering them greater challenges to succeed.

We have achieved so much this year and even through Covid-19 our family of Stone Soup Academy was still able to achieve greatness. Throughout lockdown, a number of our students won £50 to treat themselves and their families to a feast. To receive this reward they had to achieve 5 ‘student of the day awards.’ Excellent work! We also had students exhibiting their cookery skills, their sporting prowess and their fun side by posting films on our google classroom for daily challenges.

Moving forward, we again want to focus upon what we can do better. To do this we have formed a working group of staff at the Academy. We are looking at the idea that ‘If Money was no object, what would you do at the academy to make it even better?’ All the staff came up with amazing ideas including, becoming a green Eco Academy, starting an allotment, looking for international links, and setting up a pop up art gallery next July at the top of Richmond House and developing life skills to better support students as they leave. We are also looking at what we can do to improve your health and mental wellbeing.

There is so much more that we can do for you and with you, so next year I would like to see some of our students, parents and businesses on this group, voicing your ideas about what imaginative and creative ways to make the Academy the best that it can be. If you would like to be part of this group and you are a student, parent or local business then please contact me. You don’t need anything other than some time, great ideas and the willingness to work with us to make those ideas a reality.

#teamgreen

Josh Glover

Responding to feedback from the staff Think Day we're currently looking at how we can make SSA a greener, more ecologically responsible school. We have a responsibility to our students, our environment, and to the broader role we play in our community. A small dedicated team of staff are creating a program where the academy can: recycle up to 80% of the waste that we produce, by sorting on-site; develop an allotment to grow our own vegetables and teach students about sustainable food sources; and providing a higher variety of healthy food in our canteen.

Becky Ashmore

As part of our creating unimagined futures project, I have been emailing clothing companies such as JD Sports, Footlocker, Next and ASOS to enquire if they could support Stone Soup in any way. Students could benefit from us stocking up on spare clothing in the academy for a variety of reasons, I have therefore emailed explaining a little bit about ourselves and have reached out to them to see if they would be happy to donate anything to the Academy in terms of clothing or perhaps gift us some vouchers. I am also in the process of getting hold of some links for clothing companies in Nottingham and am hoping to do the same. It has been great getting the Stone Soup name out there and I am hoping we will hear back from some of the companies I have been in touch with in the near future.

Pop Up Gallery

Holly Lee

Within Creating Unimagined Futures as a team we have been building on the foundations of ideas from all members of staff. The development of an exhibition area within the academy used to showcase the work of our students. The exhibition will include art and photography displays, creative media, music and other subjects that highlight the excellent work completed by our students. Open to students, parents and even the public on occasion, bring the community and academy team together. Working together to research various exhibition display ideas and how the students work will be presented to fully highlight their hard work and innovative ideas.

As well as researching into the exhibition, a lot of time has gone into enhancing student’s experiences. Grants and bursary that would support the academy in enabling students to experience various religions and different cultures first-hand. Finding a couple of websites that offer funding and support with planning trips, more research is going into this idea to ensure students will have the opportunity to gain wider experiences.

Within each room of the academy are quotes of the individuals that each room is named after and quotes on the wall that fits the ethos of the school, giving uniform feel in the school. In the last 2 years, the academy has developed in style, both interior and exterior, to create a welcoming, enriching and engaging environment for the staff, students and visitors. The idea to continue the development of the school environment, is to have different success stories of staff and past students flowing throughout the academy. Rather in poster form, these will be presented in bold sticker form. To modernise the room names in the academy and make the names relatable to the subjects taught, students have the opportunity to participate in a poll. Selecting the majority vote, the room will be renamed and quotes will be displayed in the subject room.

International Opportunities

Younes Henini

At Stone Soup Academy there is no limit to our creativity and imagination at every level as we aim to expand our students’ experiences and increase their chances in life. We always aim to find new ways of engaging them in their learning and accelerate their progress.

We are currently working on establishing long term collaboration including an exchange programme of staff and students with international schools to widen our horizon in terms of our students and staff experiences by allowing them to explore different international educational systems. Also, it will allow us to explore the different practices in diverse parts of the world. These will keep our minds open to new ideas and will benefit our stakeholders.

In addition we are always keen to look to introduce and implement the latest and new technologies that can benefit to advance our learners to make limitless progress.

Life Skills

Kyle Saddington

In the Creating Unimagined Futures group we have had a lot of discussion about how we can improve as a school and develop what we already have. One of the areas that we are looking into is the implementation of basic life skills for all of our learners. This is something that we believe will give our Stone Soup learners that extra edge when it comes to leaving us at the end of their time with Stone Soup Academy.

Basic life skills is something we believe that we should focus upon as we need the skills to live and survive not only physically but through money and many other aspects of life. Some of the ideas that we have come up with to date are, learning how to bank, interview skills, being safe online and CV writing. All of these are skills that we need for when we leave school and is something that we want to help our learners develop.

Other areas that we have discussed to implement are the basic skills of life. We already do cooking lessons for our learners so we thought what other skills do we need to live by ourselves? After thoughtful discussions, we have come up with, ironing, folding clothes, organisation, budgeting, cleaning and other aspects of house life that we all take our parents/careers for granted. This is something that we believe will give our learners the head start they need to live a successful independent life when leaving the academy.

Lastly one aspect of life that we all should learn and hope that we may not always need but we believe is a necessary skill is basic first aid. This is something that we don't really learn as individuals until we are in the workplace and we thought as an academy, this is something that we all should know no matter what age. Learning basic first aid saves lives and helps our learners understand what to do in a situation that they might find themselves in one day.

All of the areas that we have touched upon today are just some of the ideas that we are implementing within Basic Life Skills.

We're going through changes

Kerry Day

During our period in lock down the Creating Unimagined Futures team agreed that it was the perfect time to think about revamping the rooms in the Academy. We have created a spreadsheet and the Teachers in the Academy submitted names of famous people that they would like their rooms to be named after. We have then put it to an Instagram vote and the name of each room will be decided by students, parents and staff. The room names all link to the subject taught in that room. Names include Ramsay, Mathers, Mercury, Boyega, Dahl, Banksy and Rowling. We are very excited about the prospect of having new room names and eager to know what they will be. As an Academy we are also thrilled that the parents and students have had a say with the names. The votes are taking place on Instagram every Friday until the end of term. To vote visit [stonesoupacademynotts](#) on Instagram.

Your mental health is your wealth

At Stone Soup Academy we understand that there has been a stigma attached to mental health for many years but we are working hard to change this and make mental health an open conversation. We now have four Mental Health Ambassadors in school and these are Michelle, Kerry, Laura and Imani. This group of staff are working hard to ensure that we have Mental Health days in school, which would focus on a particular aspect of mental health. These Mental Health days will be taking place on the 17th of September, 11th of March and 19th of May. We are also working to make sure that resources are available for the students both inside of school and at home. Part of this is the amazing website we have been working on, which now has links to Mental Health resources, thanks to the collaboration with Osiris Santana. Keep your eyes peeled for more Mental Health News on our Social Media.

We are Stone Soup

'Creating unimagined futures'

We are committed to the education and welfare of our students, with the goal of preparing them for life.



Holly Lewis Sharing Her Thanks

Sally Croft

Below is Holly's work she has shared during the lockdown.

Holly Lewis

I like how the people are happy and having fun in this image this shows that they are getting closer to the people they live with due to this pandemic. They are also celebrating the NHS for all the work they have done for us during the corona virus outbreak.

The second picture has got a boy playing football in the sand, I have chosen this image because of the message behind it. No matter how bad the situation it can always get better by doing the thing you love.

In conclusion to this, the elements I will take from these images are the fun things that people are doing to keep themselves entertained during this lockdown.



SSA Get Their Five a Day

Kevin Wildrienne

At SSA we use our rewards system to encourage our student's engagement and motivate them to achieve. Throughout the lockdown our students have continued to engage positively and we have been overwhelmed by the work and effort we have seen from students working remotely.

We have continued throughout this time to use Class Dojo to recognise positive behaviour and engagement and as always have awarded 'Student of the Day' to the students whose efforts deserve special recognition. At the start of the lockdown we set students the challenge of achieving 5 students of the day whilst working from home and those that achieved that accolade would be rewarded with a £50 voucher for Just Eat to enjoy a take away with their families and carer's during lockdown.

We have had 20 different winners of student of the day since our doors closed and have now had 2 students achieve the £50 voucher. So a special mention goes out to Jasmine Johnson and Riley Paranby for your incredible effort and we would like to say a big thank you to all our students and parents for the work you have put in and the dedication you have shown to our school during this uncertain time.

