



# Stone Soup Academy News

## Half Term 2

# Eventful End with Enterprise Day

Duncan Bennett

Our second Enterprise Day was held this term and students benefited from a variety of activities. We had a group visit to Ideagen's office space in Ruddington and a group visit to the Dryden Enterprise Centre. Whilst these workshops were off site, students on site were involved in themed lessons. The focus was on preparation to adulthood, careers and skills for their futures.





# Preparation for Adulthood

Duncan Bennett

At Ideagen, students were given a tour of the office space where they could speak to a variety of staff carrying out different roles within the business. There is a 200 degrees coffee shop at Ideagen and students were treated to pastries, fruit and drinks upon arrival. It was a warm welcome to a magnificence space. The students attending were then given a presentation on the business and introduced to the Think Big Project. The students who attended the session will be working with Ideagen next term aiming to make an impact in our local community.

The students who performed well on Enterprise Day gave themselves a chance to be on reward trips the following term. Below is a phot from our trip to Ideagen and to the right is a photo from the reward NFFC stadium tour. More rewards to follow next term



Amy Dennett

During our enterprise day nine business students over both year 10 and 11 had the fantastic opportunity to partake in an entrepreneur activity put on for them by Enactus. Students competed in different activities to test their entrepreneurial skills and teamwork skills to earn the most money from their decision. The students had a lot of fun during this time and there was some strong healthy competition between them. They made the school proud, showing the true qualities of Stone Soup Students.





# Well Being Award for Schools

Kerry Day

On the 8th of October 2021 we welcomed Catherine Kirk into the Academy who joined us from Optimus Education. She spent the day in the Academy and inspected our portfolio of wellbeing evidence. We invited parents into the school to speak about their positive experiences with our Academy. Catherine also spoke to our Chair of Governors Tina Byrom, our staff members and our students. We were delighted with the news that we have achieved the Optimus Wellbeing Award and we are delighted to continue to showcase what we do as an Academy to support mental health and wellbeing.

To continue to promote wellbeing the female students in the Academy have been joined by the Know More workshop and have been attending sessions based around positive relationships, both with themselves and with others. These sessions have been running on a weekly basis and we think that in turn this will improve the wellbeing of our female students in our Academy.

The success of our Sixth Form enables us to continue to have a positive impact on the lives of our students. Students from previous years come back into the Academy to get help with any college coursework that they have been struggling with and to join in with cooking sessions held in the Academy. It is brilliant to see the positive impact on wellbeing that we can have on our previous year’s alumni.

In the upcoming term we have many fun and exciting events occurring such as our annual school Christmas Lunch, Christmas Jumper Day, a shopping trip to London and a reward trip to go-karting. All of these events are what put the wellbeing of our students at the forefront of what we do.

Our Wellbeing Team will be meeting again this term to look at what new ideas we can put forward to keep the topic of wellbeing and mental health fresh and relevant in our Academy.





# Music Thriving through Phone Calls Home

**Josh Glover**

This term has continued in spectacular fashion with high attendance and engagement in our students' music lessons.

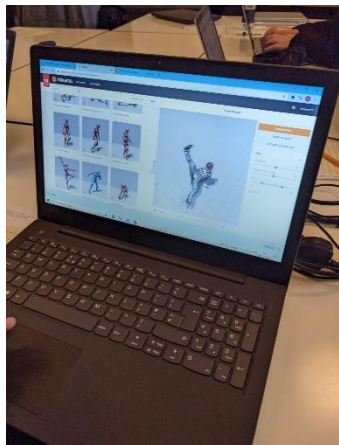
During last term we started personalised rewards for our students, giving them the chance to earn either a positive phone call or postcard home, or a personalised message to their personalised coach. We can't overestimate how much this has positively changed the way our students are working.

Over 50 positive phone calls later, and 38 postcards and music

is thriving! We're so proud of all the music students.

This term Y11 and Y10 are creating their own music products, either podcasts, tracks, or trailer music. The ideas they are coming up with are inspiring and we can't wait to help them on their journey to creating this.

Our Y9 students are learning about all the online music tools they have, and how they can be creative with them. We've already spoken to parents who have told us about their children using these at home to create music!



# Move, Sing and Dance in Media

**Matt Murphy**

Year 9 students are currently creating a 3D Animation using professional software. Students have chosen a wide variety of different characters who will move, sing and dance in the final animation - featuring 3D locations and props.

Year 10 students are creating 2D and 3D games using professional software. Students are learning how to create an environment, to add interactive elements such as collectibles, rewards and enemies and even to "rig" the character so it will move on command.

Year 11 students have made an excellent start on BTEC Media coursework with students taking the first pre-production steps in creating a moving image product or a video game.

All great examples of students Creating Unimagined Futures.



# Ready Steady Cook

Leona Dunleavy

This half term we have been delighted to kick start our 6th form cooking sessions, inviting students from the past couple of years to join us to cook. We have made great use of our Stone Soup Academy recipe book and plan to cook the recipes featured in the recipe book through our sessions. We have sent students away with a recipe book they can use at home, to recreate the dishes. It has been really lovely to see students from different cohorts and catch up with them as they join us to cook.



Our students in years 10 and 11 have been making great progress in practical lessons this half term. Practical lessons as always are very popular and generate lots of eager tasters. Our students love to cook and really delight in sharing their food with others.



Year 11 students have been working to complete work and as part of Unit 2 of the course, students are required to plan and research six dishes, which they then cook and evaluate as part of their coursework evidence. A popular dish was our research for burger recipes. Students compared ingredients and chose the toppings they would use in planning lessons, resulting in great lessons making and eating delicious burgers.

## Nottingham Violence Reduction Unit

Becky Ashmore

We recently had the Nottingham Violence Reduction Unit come in to work with two groups of our learners - one group of girls and a group of boys. Both groups discussed the topic of serious violence in Nottingham. To say we were proud would be an understatement; the level of maturity and engagement shown by each student involved was astounding. The letter we received from the NVRU thanking us and our students for such a positive experience was the cherry on the cake and the report will be provided in November and is likely to be available on their website in December or early next year.



# New Wave of Potential Plasters

Stevie Greaves

This term for multiskills the year 10's have started tiling, After finishing painting they were eager to start something new and get hands on, The year 10s have taken to tiling brilliantly and got stuck in with the work that needs to be done. As you can see from the picture of Tav's work this is really high quality and even the tutor couldn't believe he picked it up so quickly. We will now be working our way through some advanced techniques in tiling. The year 11's are carrying on with joinery as there is a lot to get through, We have practiced and perfected 5 joints including dovetail joints which is level 2 work and now making a stool using the skills we have learnt. The year 11's have loved joinery and the students are interested in the course for when they move on to college which again is brilliant news as last year we had 4 of our year 11's attend Basford Hall college post 16.



Some moments from our first work experience this term.  
Well done Layton.





# Ideas on Identity in Photography

Annie Gadsby

This term the young Photographers at Stone Soup Academy have been exploring and responding to the theme of ‘Identity’. Through group discussions they have been considering together what makes up an individual’s ‘identity’ and celebrating the differences between one another. They have begun thinking about their identity metaphorically, as a texture, and considering the differences between their ‘outer’ identity and ‘inner’ identity. These have been represented within the ‘feel’ of an object. When creating their imagery they have also been developing skills in composition, lighting and depth of field.



In art, the year 11’s have done a one-week project based on portraits and the work of the artist Henry Moore. The students have experimented with fluid line drawings using

Multimedia as well as practicing anatomically correct drawing techniques to create a still life face sketch. Moving on from this, they are beginning to explore artists' work by recreating pieces by either Angie Lewin or David Hockney in their own style.



Alternatively in year 10, the students have just started their new Pop Art project focusing on the famous pop artists Roy Lichtenstein and Andy Warhol. Moving on from this, they will be exploring the work of these two artists by first recreating pieces of work before using the skills they’ve developed to create their own original piece using photos of either family, friends or themselves.



## Muscle Mondays

Stevie Greaves

After school Gym is still going strong with select students. I have also been getting a good portion of students involved in the handyman duties around the building, In particular I’d like to mention Riley for helping me get a good portion of my jobs done around the building, Riley has always been interested in getting involved with maintenance and has gone above and beyond when it comes to staying after school and helping out.



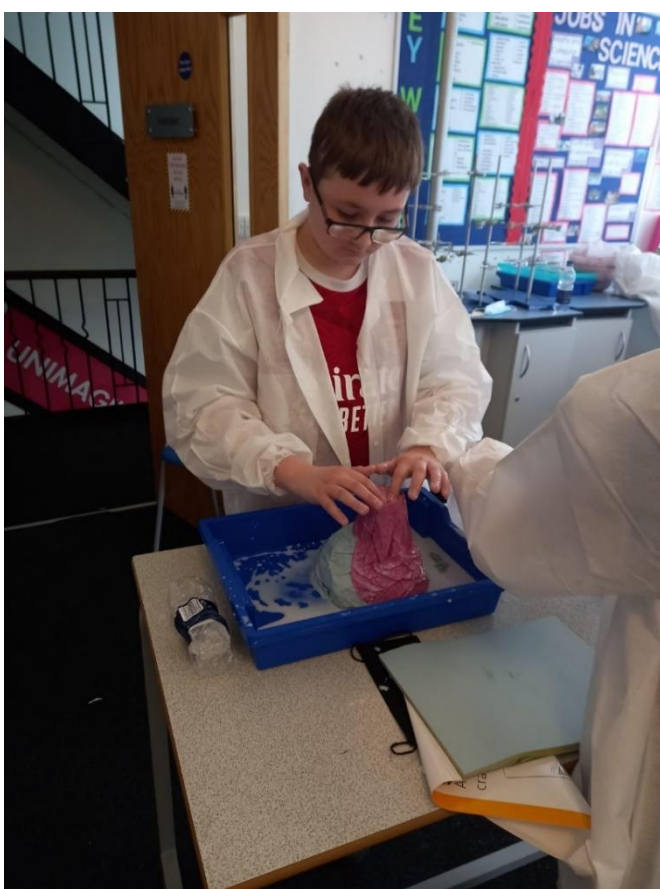
# Careers at Stone Soup

Jordan Senior

This term has been a good one on the Careers front. We have had an external provider week. We started off with a careers roadshow which was more about raising aspirations and showing the young people what is out there (career wise) and exposing them to different careers. This took nearly a full school day and included activities and inputs from various police departments including CSI, drones, firearms, dogs etc. We also had external partners who support us, which included Ambulance, Fire service, Army, The Navy, and the RAF. Assemblies with the two major colleges in Nottingham, Confetti and Nottingham College and a chat with HMRC about their springboard programme.

## An update on Sixth Form

We have had cooking sessions with our Alumni, handing out the SSA cookbook to all students who attended so they could take it home and try out the recipes themselves. We had Alumni from 15/16 all the way up until students who left last year, we informed them about the SSA Award as well as signposting them to Princes Trust and Futures.



# Accelerated Learning Makes the Difference

Amy Dennett

It has been a really successful half term. Students have been using the option of accelerated learning time to continue working on their coursework with many students making excellent progress with their work. This has been a particularly beneficial time for students who joined Science in Year 11 and have not had the same amount of lessons to complete their coursework. The year 9's have also made a great start to this term and have completed some great experiments in Science, they have shown great enthusiasm in the practical aspect of Science.





# Eco School

Joshua Glover

Our eco-team has been working hard since setting ourselves up for the Green Flag award. This term our first student eco-committee will meet to discuss the ways we can improve our school, and We're looking forward to the 'Dragon's Den' style proposals they will be putting forward to our Principal.

We will also be running a trial for plants in classrooms this term, with select staff getting plants for their rooms. We're keen to see if this has any impact on students in class and the air quality across the academy, but we're honestly more proud to get green into SSA.

Team Green are continuing to create an environmentally friendly space for our students.

# A Functional Skills Math's Success Story

Darrell Drummond

This term we have seen two more of our Year 11 students taste success in their Functional Skills Maths at Level 2 - they are Lia and Sumayyah and they both join Dylan in passing at this level. Well done to them both!

Tiyla and Natasha were among those students who passed at Level 1 in Maths this term and joined Chloe, Cody, Ellie-May, Faiz, George, Jai, Kyle N, Remai, Ramarni and Umar in having passed the Maths qualification at this level. Well done to everybody there!

It will soon be time for our half-term mock exams and this time everybody in Year 11 will be sitting a mock GCSE exam. These mock exams are taking on much more importance now due to the ongoing virus situation and may end up being used as evidence for our students in the summer. Good luck to everybody sitting those exams!

# Stepping Stones

Connor Bartle

The second half term for Stepping Stones has started as we left off at the end half term 1. Student's attendance is high and behaviour scores have improved from last half term. We have started with 7 pupils, with 4 of them being new to the Academy. The topic this half term has been The Real World. Throughout this topic the sub topics include Time Management, Taking Responsibility, Life Skills and Your Future. The pupils have so far been working on projects for where they have created their own business, for this they have created a company name, logo, business plan and a form of promotion for the business. Another project the pupils have completed is around carbon footprint and the effect we have on the planet. Coming up later on throughout the half term pupils are going to be learning about life skills such as cooking, speaking in front of others, managing time effectively and visiting homeless people hoping to give them food and drinks.





# Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) Education

Osiris Santana

In an effort to promote empowerment amongst our young women in the Academy, we have started sessions with the Know More Project as delivered through the Equation Organisation. The Project’s aims are for young women to recognise their rights within relationships, build their confidence in being women, and make positive relationship choices.

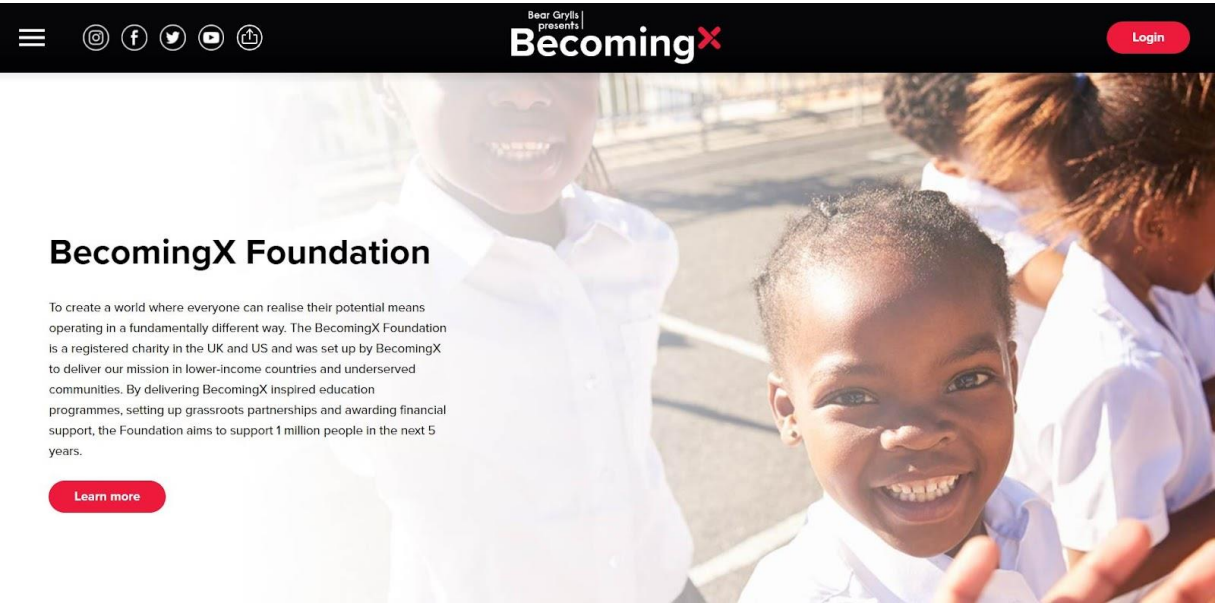
There will be a total of 8 sessions covering different topics to help achieve those goals.

The topics are as follows:

- Introduction to the project and boundary setting
- Being a woman and social expectations of womanhood
- Choices – tools and techniques to consider your actions and their consequences
- Dealing with feelings and anger
- Healthy Relationships – what young women deserve from a relationship
- The importance of personal space and raising awareness of sexual bullying
- Women who have achieved and positive goal setting
- Creative Work and Celebration

At the time of writing, we have had two sessions within the Academy that have been supervised by Personal Coach Chelsey Reid. Chelsey had this to say, “It’s wonderful, the women are great and empowering and the girls settled in well. The students all looked forward to next week and I’m excited to see the outcome of these sessions.”

We have also started incorporating aspects of Becoming X into the Academy. Becoming X is an educational platform created by adventurers Paul Gurney and Bear Grylls with one focus: “To create a world where everyone can realise their potential.” The website has a variety of resources including lesson plans, assemblies, discussions, surveys and a collection of videos highlighting various celebrities, sports entertainers, politicians, CEOs and other inspirational people who have overcome adversity on their journey to success. Actor Channing Tatum has a short video in which he details his struggles with ADHD throughout education and how he eventually found success through lots of hard work and a generous amount of self-belief. We have started our students on the survey provided to better assess their needs and self-confidence, which will help Jordan Senior with Careers and myself with PSHE and RSE.





# Business and Sport Studies Continue to Shine

Duncan Bennett

At KS4 both business and sport continue to make excellent progress working towards their first sitting of exams. Business groups are working on Unit 2: Finance in Business whilst the sport group work on Unit 1: Fitness for Sport and Exercise. In sport, we continue to use NTU sports hall, Hyson Green Youth Centre and the on-site gym for practical lessons. The business curriculum continues to develop with links being established with Ideagen and Enactus. We hope to collaborate with both companies and offer the opportunity for students to be involved in business themed workshops at some point during this term.

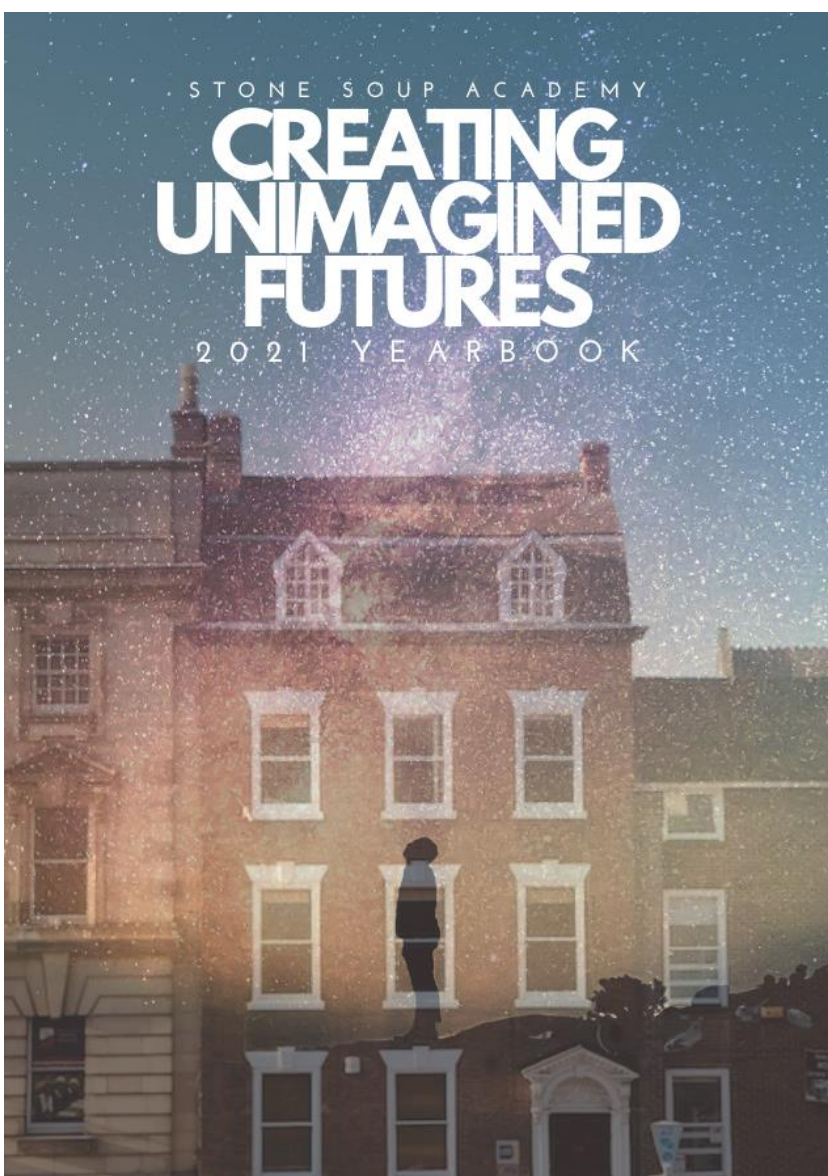
At KS3 students are enjoying practical based lessons at Hyson Green Youth Centre and play a mixture of sports including football, basketball, dodgeball and indoor cricket. Business students are being introduced to the business world through the study of different business ownership and creating plans in their “My Business Plan” booklet.

# Plans begin for Suits Day and Year Book

Oliver Sillito

This is an ongoing project this year. We have already booked early meetings with Broadway Cinema where we hope to go over how we will make it bigger and better than last year. In December we visited the venue with the student leadership group to gain their input into the organisation of one of the best days in the Academy calendar.

The yearbook design has started already as well as we want to create as the year goes on and make it with the students so they can see their journey.

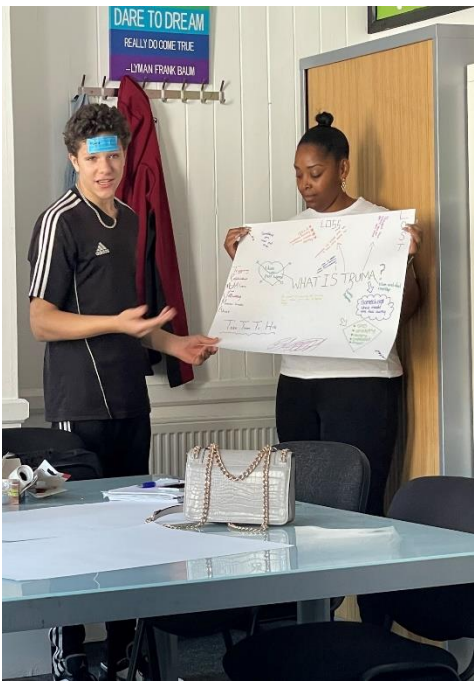




# Helping Kids Achieve

Becky Ashmore

We have recently started working alongside Kieren Thompson from Helping Kids Achieve. He has been running workshops with two groups of 8 students based around trauma and strategies to aid students who may have had adverse experiences. The workshops have gone really well so far and we are excited to see how they continue and sincerely hope they will positively impact all students involved.



# Well Being Friday

Duncan Bennett

We continue to offer wellbeing Friday and encourage both staff and students to be physically active. We have enrichment sessions with DCT Boxing on Friday afternoons for students and staff if they wish to join and these have been well received by all. We are offering Ultimate Frisbee for all students on a Thursday afternoon and these sessions are delivered by Nottingham University coaches. Both sessions contribute to the mental, physical and social wellbeing of those involved. Here are some pictures of the Ultimate Frisbee sessions:



Some moments from Ultimate Frisbee this term



# Accelerated Learning for Students Trough Quality Teaching

Younes Henini

Stone Soup Academy has put an accelerated programme in place to allow students and teaching staff to have a one to one learning sessions to enable a high quality of learning that will support students to make the required progress as a result of gaps in learning due to various factors including Covid.

The sessions are tailored and personalised to each individual student.

Stone Soup Academy run successfully the mock exams for years 9-11 on the 7th, 8th and 9th of December 2021. The mock exams are an essential component of exam preparation for any qualification. The mocks mirror the real exam experience under timed conditions, with exam standard questions. Mock exams will help students to improve their technique and also an improved sense of how much time is available. No surprises on the big day! Research has shown that students that attempted 2 mock exams had an 86% chance of a pass. Students that attempted no mock exams however had a 70% chance of a pass.

Mocks exams also aim to:



## Friday Feasts

Inigo Garbett

As a result of my food menu ideas , we created ‘ Friday Feast ‘, where staff cook for their colleagues and his is yet another activity helping at improve staff wellbeing. I cooked for all the staff on a Friday after the students had left the site. I had support from Layton in year 11, he hopes to follow a career in the hospitality industry in the future. We made baguettes, wraps and pasta pots, delivered to the staff in the games room.

It was a great success and it gave Layton some invaluable experience. Layton proved to be a hardworking and a reliable assistant in the kitchen.



# Jim Roberson Returns

Becky Ashmore

On 21st September we had Jim Roberson from Independent Thinking come into the academy for the day. Jim worked with every student in the school and did what Jim does best which is working to encourage them all to believe in themselves, be the best they can be and understand that they are the authors of their own stories and can be whatever they want to be. As expected, the students loved working with Jim and bounced off his positive energy. Jim also did a CPD at the end of the day with all staff and there were discussions around a trip for 5 students to go to New York. Watch this space!



## Key Stage Three

Kyle Saddington

This term in KS3, we have continued to support our learners' successful transition into KS4. Our students take a number of subjects in an effort to give the students a chance to decide what they would like to study in the future. The various staff that come to Richmond House give our learners the opportunity to meet staff from High Pavement and begin to build relationships with teachers which they will continue to have throughout their Stone Soup journey.

Students also get the opportunity to attend High Pavement every Thursday when they take part in cooking and music, further allowing them to familiarise themselves with the building and practices ready for KS4. The lessons students take in KS3 currently are: English, Maths, Science, PSHE, History, Geography, Sport, Cooking, Media, Music and Business studies. KS3 replicates the practices of KS4 with a more pastoral approach based on the age of our learners. Based on the period of lockdown we take on students who may have large gaps in education and some who have more memories of Primary school education than Secondary. We aim to give our students the time in which to catch up on lost learning opportunities and begin their Stone Soup journey. We have a number of learners with varying SEND needs. This term Imani has worked closely with Becca to consider ways in which we can support our learners' needs and put practice in place which will continue throughout their time in Stone Soup. An example of this would be considering effective ways to support a learner who struggles with keeping still or feels the need to wander around the classroom, strategies such as 'brain breaks', allowing a student to complete their work in a standing position or the use of fidget toys have had a direct positive impact on our students.

Despite KS3 being made up of primarily boys, this term we have taken on more females which has been a welcomed difference in our building. KS3 continues to grow and year 9 currently stands at 8 students. We look forward to KS3 continuing to grow and seeing the different array of characters begin their journey. New displays have been put around Richmond House, ensuring a much more welcoming and bright environment.



Students achievements and tracking are visible to ensure visitors and most importantly students can be reminded of their Class dojo progress and student of the day and week.

Next term we aim to take students off site on a more regular basis for trips pertaining to their current subjects such as History trips to the National Justice Museum, Nottingham Caves and the Nottingham Castle. Students are currently greatly enjoying their time at Stone Soup Academy, we have had positive statements from parents and currently have a KS3 student parent sitting on the parent committee. We look forward to seeing the future of KS3.

## Chilwell Barracks

Chelsey Reid

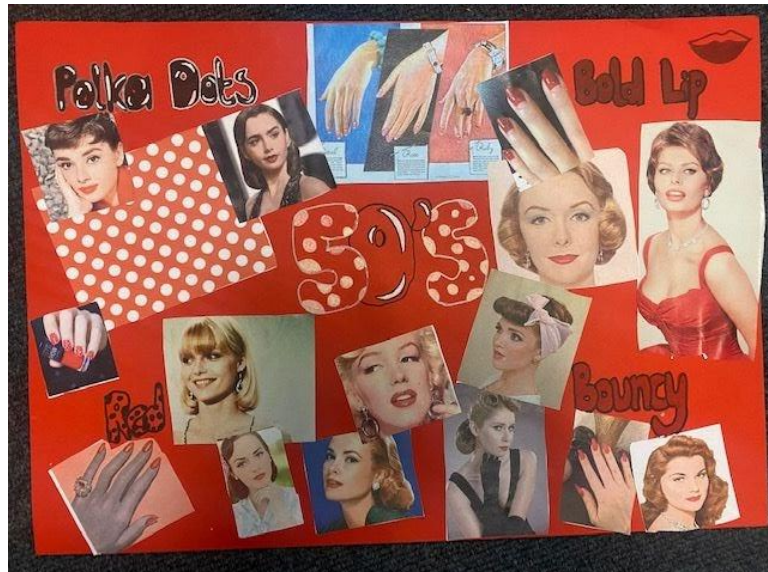
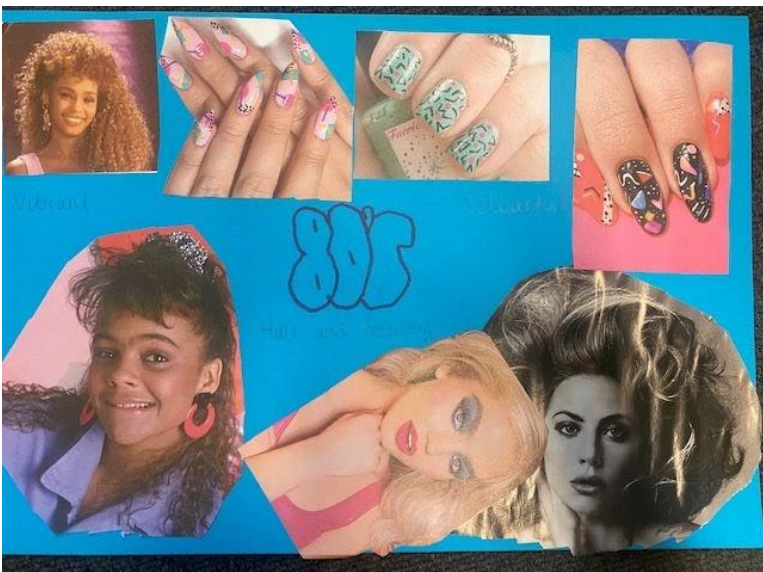
This term as part of our careers package we have taken a group of students on a trip to Chilwell Barracks. One of which has been supporting on a trip to Chilwell Barracks. Throughout the day the students were given an insight into various parts of Army life. This included being able to look at and practice with modified weapons, to look around various vehicles used in the army and to try on the uniform used on a day to day frontline basis. Our young people loved the visit and it was a really positive experience for all.



## Creating an Image

Megan Harris

This half term we have started the new beauty qualification, which the students have made a wonderful start to. We have started creating mood boards for the Creating an Image unit where the students have chosen a theme and begun creating a mood board filled with nail, hair and make-up inspiration that fits with their theme. They will then use this to create a final image for an assessment, where they will do make up, nails and hair on a model. The students have shown a wonderful natural ability for the practical and theory side of beauty (most already able to label the structure of the nail!), I think we may have some future beauty therapists on our hands!





# Read All About It!

Taylor Gilmour

As we kick off another year at Stone Soup Academy, students’ reading habits and enjoyments are taking centre stage across the school.

Each week, students are reading a news article in their forms that discusses local, national, and world wide news events. This allows students to share their own thoughts and opinions whilst becoming more knowledgeable about the world around them.

Earlier this academic year we welcomed Stephen L. Holland, the Comics Laureate 2021-23 and owner of local comic shop Page 45, in to the Academy to lead a number of graphic novel workshops.

In an attempt to spark students' engagement and joy with reading, Stephen introduced an extensive array of graphic novels and comic books to the students to show them that reading isn’t just limited to prose. Those involved enjoyed the opportunity to explore the range of graphic novels that were on offer.

Alongside Stephen’s visit, we purchased a large number of graphic novels and established a dedicated space in the Games Room for students to read during their breaks. From the order a clear favourite amongst many of our students is the manga graphic novels; ‘Attack on Titan’, ‘One Punch Man’, and ‘One Piece’ being some particular favourites.

**Start a conversation around reading; ask your child what graphic novel they have been reading in the Academy? Which ones would they like to see added to our collection? If they haven’t started reading one yet, why not?**

# Sport Sessions Create a Buzz around the Academy

Becky Ashmore

We have recently started doing sports sessions each week with some of our female students. Our sports lessons are quite male orientated and the girls suggested they would like something just for them with no boys allowed! Every Thursday, the last lesson of the day, we go down to the gym and the girls get a chance to use the gym equipment or get involved in some ‘just dance’ and work out in a space where they feel confident and comfortable. I have thoroughly enjoyed this and hope the girls continue to do so too.





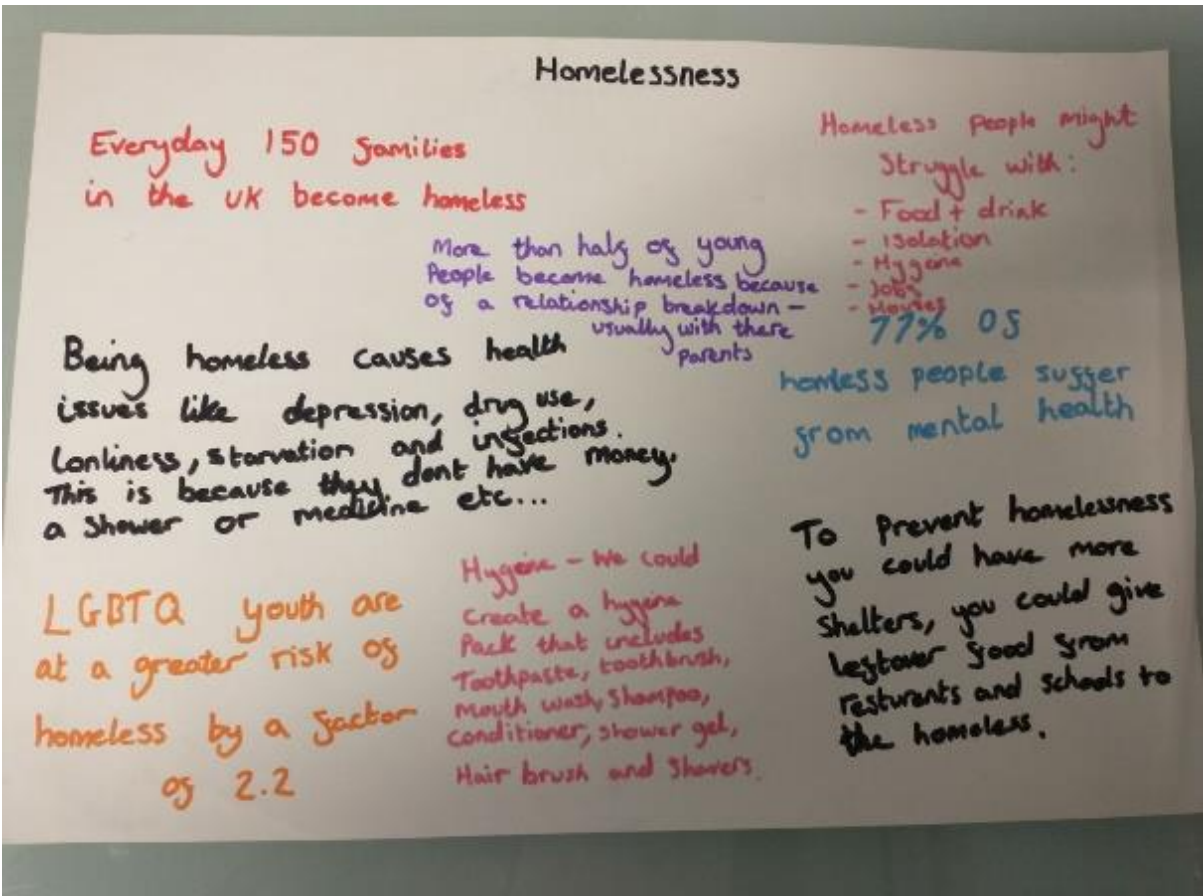
# Virtual Reality Makes a Match

Rebecca Hale

This half term the SEND team has been putting lots of new targets and strategies in place for various students. During 1:1 sessions students are engaging in a range of activities such as learning BSL, practicing reading strategies and even popping bubble wrap to improve coordination and finger strength. The gym is also proving to be a beneficial space for students accessing SEN interventions; supported by a staff member, students are utilising the gym to help calm themselves when feeling dysregulated or hyperactive. All students attending their 1:1 sessions are generally engaging well, with some proactively asking when they are having their session each week and identifying something they would like to work on.

To provide consistent support for our SEN students, staff have been receiving training tailored to our students. This has included making sure teachers know whether a text is accessible to all readers and understanding the impact visual stress can have on students and the best ways of providing support.

Exciting work around VR and empathy continues this term with support from both Enactus and Nottingham Trent University. I am pleased to say that we have secured a grant of £1000 with Trent University towards the project. The hope is that students will work with staff to create some virtual reality resources to explore perspective taking! Have you ever wondered what it's like to be homeless? Or to be a wheelchair user? These are the types of experiences the project hopes to address. I am currently in discussions with Paul Drury from Nottingham Trent about employing university students to help plan and create this VR content with our students. This will enable us to have some bespoke high quality resources and provide a select number of students with some work experience within Media.



# Parent Leadership Group

Becky Ashmore

On the 8th October we had our first Parent Leadership Group meeting. We had a very positive meeting with our parents over coffee and cake at a cafe in the city centre. Our parents shared such positive feedback about their experiences of Stone Soup and could not tell us enough about the stark contrast in their children now that they are here, with one parent saying she's never seen her son as happy as he's been since starting Stone Soup and he is unrecognisable from the child that attended mainstream. We look forward to the next meeting and are hopeful we will have more parents attend.



# Stone Soup Academy Football Team Shine in 5-1 Victory

Duncan Bennett

Stone Soup Academy were involved in their first fixture of the academic year this term beating Denewood Academy 5-1. It was a great performance from back to front with everyone in the team pulling together to get the result.

We have been invited to this year's AP Football Tournament in February and the squad is very much looking forward to the opportunity to shine at this year's tournament.

Here are some moments from the match.



## ATTENTION: Students who live in the city

Free School Meals vouchers and Holiday Clubs this Christmas!

Students entitled to Free School Meals (FSM) are set to benefit from extra support this Christmas holiday including:

- Supermarket e-vouchers of £15 a week (£30 in total per FSM student).
- Holiday Activity Clubs offering a free packed lunch at all sessions.

The Supermarket e-vouchers will be distributed to the parents and carers of FSM eligible students before the end of term. Places for the Holiday Activity Clubs can be booked in advance by visiting [www.asklion.co.uk/funandfood](http://www.asklion.co.uk/funandfood). There are a limited number of places available for children who aren't eligible for Free School Meals and these will be allocated on a first come first served basis.