

# World Book Day 2024

Taylor Gilmour

Since December, the English Teaching Team has been hard at work creating unimagined futures for all of our students at Stone Soup Academy.

We have seen some outstanding progress when it comes to Functional Skills qualifications within Year 11. Every single Year 11 student should be proud of what they have achieved so far and should be putting in their best effort as we enter the final stretch of the year.

Continuing on from the successes of last year, we are once again aiming to ensure that all of our Year 11 students leave with a Speaking and Listening qualification. They will then be able to use this experience and qualification when approaching prospective colleges and future employers.

Our Year 10 students have also started learning the GCSE English Literature and Language content. All students in Year 10 have been studying A Christmas Carol, a key GCSE text that covers topics such as charity, social inequality, and social responsibility. Our blended approach to the curriculum means that all students will experience some GCSE English Literature content which will help them make an informed decision should they choose to carry on studying the subject in Year 11.

Our KS3 students have also been studying a wider range of literature too covering stories through time in Stepping Stones and short stories in Year 9. We are also making progress using the online reading platform Accelerated Reader for targeted reading





continued

intervention and reading assessment. We hope to enhance the use of this online platform even further when we move over to Milbie House and are excited to explore how our new immersion room can be used to support reading engagement. We have also recently invested in a variety of different text types that will populate the new library space at Milbie House.

Staff and students across the Academy also celebrated World Book Day 2023 on 7th March. As well as dressing up as well known book characters, staff shared their favourite novels and encouraged all students to share their reading interests throughout the day. Students even took part in a literature scavenger hunt during their English lessons. All staff made a fantastic effort sharing their memorable moments and characters from literature.



## Record Breaking Year for Maths

Darrell Drummond

It has been an incredibly busy last few months in Maths for our Y11 students. Not only have they been working through the syllabus in preparation for their summer exams and also sitting mock exams to brush up on their technique but they have also been taking their Functional Skills exams too. And they have been very successful, shattering records as they go! For the first time EVER all of our Y11 students have passed their Functional Skills Level 1 exams in Maths by the first week of March! This is a phenomenal achievement and something they can all be very proud of. So, here is the roll call . . .

Alex, Alisha, Angel M., Asha, Bria, Cole, Crystal, Danel, Deanna, Evan, Hanif, Janelle, Kailum, Kayleigh, Kelsea,

Kyran J., Lacey-May, Lahmia, Lauren, Layla, Leo, Lewis L., Lewis H., Lexi-Jo, Leyton, Mariah, Megan, Mollie, Noah, Rio, Shaan, Taylor T., Trayveon and Zdenek!

All of these students have passed at Level 1 and there are even a few students who have already passed their Functional Skills at Level 2 and here they are . . . Alisha, Bria, Kyran J., Lauren and Taylor T. Well done to all of you.

All that is left now is preparation for those GCSE exams in the summer. Let's hope you are all equally as successful in those endeavours!!

## Year 10 Maths Feast Challenge

Nathan Edwards

At the end of February, four Year 10 students – Cery, Jake, Jamil, Kaden – attended the Maths Feast challenge at the University of Nottingham. Maths Feast is a fun educational challenge for Year 10 students which tests problem-solving and teamwork skills. There are several rounds requiring different skills and strategies for success. For example, in Round One, students were required to spot a pattern and continue it and in Round Four, students were tasked to construct various 3D shapes and calculate the surface area and find an applicable formula.

The event was attended by a number of different schools from across Nottinghamshire, including the High School. The four students from Stone Soup Academy showcased their mathematical ability and were able to compete with the mathematicians from all schools. A special mention is deserved for Kaden and Jake who worked excellently together, bouncing ideas from one another, and demonstrating their mathematical ability.

After the session, the students were treated to a McDonalds to celebrate their partaking in the

event and to debrief on the happenings of the feast. The Maths Faculty are looking forward to the next opportunity for our students from Stone Soup Academy to attend Maths Feast again in the near future.





## The Anxiety Workbook for Teens

Michelle Bramhall

This term KS3 students are learning different activities to help deal with anxiety and worry in everyday life. Having these skills will enable our students to help mentor others who may be struggling with anxiety and worry.

Each student will learn different modules including Mindfulness, Deep breathing, Anxiety patterns, All or nothing thinking, Positive Affirmations and Serenity, Courage and Wisdom.

## Creative Digital Media Production

Paolo Iannattone

### Year 9: Knowing Media Fundamentals

Year 9 students have delved into the foundations of media, learning the essential keywords and their definitions. This groundwork aims to bolster their comprehension, should they choose to pursue CDMP for their BTEC.

Previously, their journey has included immersive experiences with augmented reality (AR) and virtual reality (VR) using Oculus technology. Next on the agenda is crafting personalised animated avatars and creating assets. They'll use these skills to integrate avatars and environments into software for video game development, such as Unity, Unreal Engine 5 or Buildbox.

### Year 10: Moving Image (Unit 3)

In the realm of Year 10, the focus has been on the captivating world of moving images. After thorough discussions on key terminology, students were tasked with demonstrating their understanding through interactive quizzes. Impressively, both classes achieved an average recognition rate of 80%. Simultaneously, they're perfecting their skills in setting up standard lighting configurations using

three lights (key, fill, and back). This is a cross-topic that the media subject has in common with photography. This is essential for creating diverse lighting effects in video production as per movie industry's standards. Their ultimate objective is to craft a 30-second advertisement, analysing formats, platforms, and target audiences.

### Year 11: Portfolio Development and Exam Preparation (Unit 1)

For Year 11 students, they have been dedicated to crafting comprehensive portfolios. These portfolios serve as a narrative, documenting their ideation, pre-production, production, and post-production processes for their media projects, be it moving images or video games. This portfolio is a testament to their creativity and individuality. Following this phase, they'll dive into the analysis of Unit 1, gearing up for their exams by utilising past papers. Additionally, they'll be tasked with articulating their understanding of every facet of the unit, ensuring they're thoroughly prepared for the upcoming assessments.



## Preparation for Adulthood

Jordan Senior

### Work Experience at Welbeck Primary:

One of our Year 11 students Angel who expressed an interest in childcare during her Careers guidance meeting had the opportunity to do work experience at The Welbeck Primary School. Angel's time at Welbeck Primary was met with glowing commendations from the school staff. The Head teacher expressed regret at not having the chance to speak with Angel before her departure. Positive reports circulated about Angel's interactions with the children and her helpful contributions in the classroom. The school was genuinely pleased to support Angel's placement and her transition into the professional world.

"It was so lovely to host Angel, I didn't get a chance to catch her before she left. I heard lots of good things about her manner with the children and how helpful she was in class. We were really happy to support this placement and her journey to a world of work."

### HMRC Work Experience:

Work experience was conducted at Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC). The program encompassed a range of activities designed to expose students to various facets of HMRC's operations.

### Mock Court Cases:

During the work experience, students engaged in simulated court cases related to tax matters. This exercise proved to be instrumental in fostering an understanding of the legal aspects underpinning HMRC's role. Participants were tasked with navigating hypothetical scenarios, thereby gaining insights into the complexities of tax regulations and legal procedures.

### Industry Expert Sessions:

An integral component of the program involved sessions with industry experts. These professionals shared their expertise on current developments within the tax landscape, offering valuable perspectives on the challenges and opportunities facing HMRC. These interactions provided participants with a broader understanding of industry trends and regulatory changes.

### Presentation on a New Tax Concept:

The students have now been tasked with preparing a presentation on a novel tax concept. This exercise required them to research, analyse, and articulate their findings. The objective was to cultivate critical thinking

skills and enhance the ability to communicate complex tax concepts. The presentations, delivered to a group audience of HMRC Bosses will take place in June.

Work experience at HMRC has so far provided students with the exposure to the organisation's operations. Engaging in mock court cases, interacting with industry experts, and preparing presentations on innovative tax concepts. It has been a great learning experience.

### Diversity and Community Magistrates (DCRM) Workshop:

The acknowledgment of the impactful work at the Diversity and Community Magistrates workshop emphasised the commendable job undertaken by the school. The message conveyed appreciation for the schools efforts in changing the lives of vulnerable youngsters, preventing them from falling into the Criminal Justice System. The statement reflected deep appreciation for the transformative work being carried out.

"Firstly, a very big "thank you" to both you and your wonderful team for making us so welcome today. You are doing such an amazing job and changing lives for so many of these vulnerable youngsters who would otherwise slip through the net and risk falling into the Criminal Justice System."

### 100% of Year 11s Applying for College:

100% application rate from Year 11 students for college. This positive outcome indicated a successful culmination of efforts to guide and motivate students towards pursuing higher and

further education. We ensure that all students are prepared and eager to take the next step in their academic journey. The next step is to make sure they attend their meeting and enrol in August.



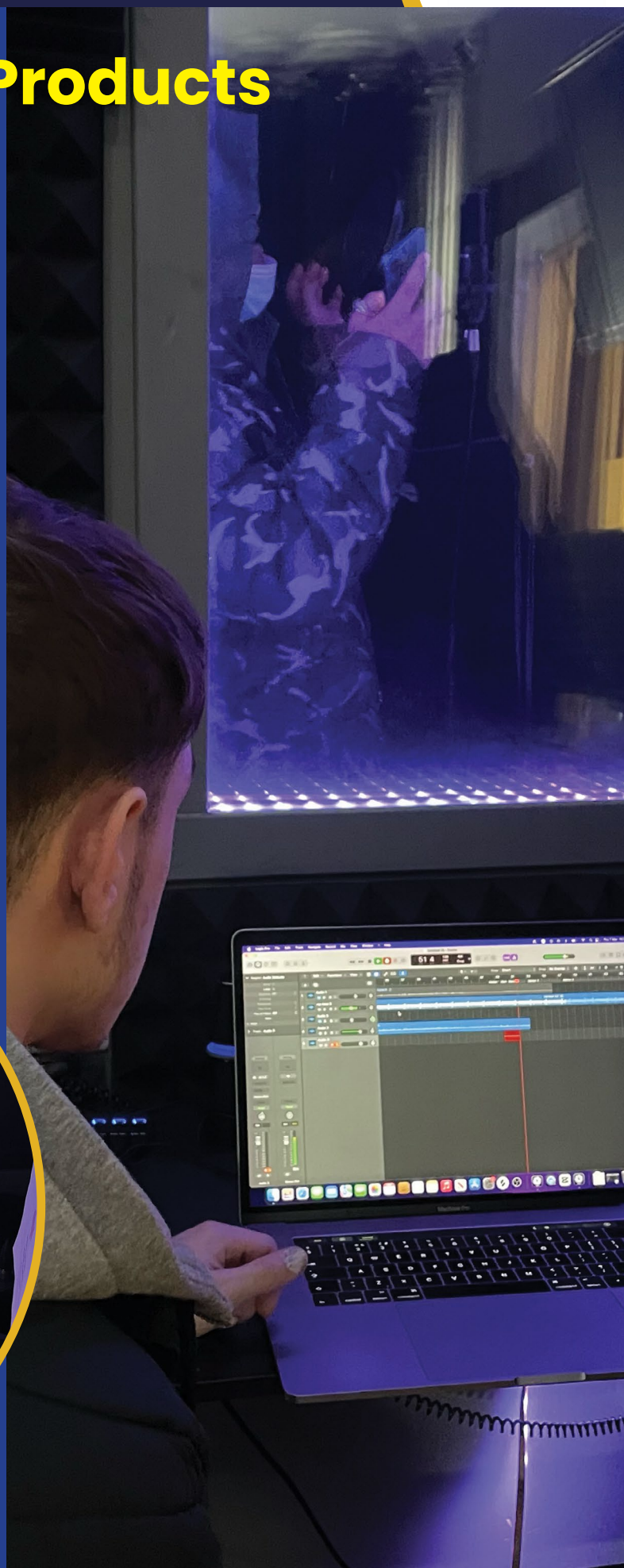
## Managing Music Products

Richard Christie

As part of 'Managing a music product' we have made a link with Urban Spirit Studios, Nottingham. Our Year 11 students go to the studio for one lesson a week where they are taught by industry professionals and also have the chance to record music and receive feedback for their work.

The students who have taken advantage of this opportunity really enjoyed the time spent there, as for some of them this is the first time they have been to one. We work during the week on topics and take some of the discussions and practical work to the studio, where the students quite often see them come to life. The reaction has been heartwarming as the staff there are building good connections with our students.

There is a certain serendipity to this connection, as the studio was set up by an ex-student Amazon Marsay, now Creative Coordinator, who left Stone Soup Academy in 2017. A true acorn who has grown into an oak tree.





## Artificial Intelligence (AI) at Stone Soup Academy

Younes Henini

**As Stone Soup Academy expands, we are looking for the potential use of AI to support students, staff and the stakeholders.**

AI has been making significant strides in recent years, and its potential applications in education are becoming increasingly evident. AI can be used to personalise learning, automate administrative tasks, and provide student support services.

AI can be used to create personalised learning experiences for students by adapting the content, pace, and sequence of the academy to meet each student's individual needs. Adaptive learning systems use algorithms to analyse student performance data and adjust the learning path accordingly. This can help students who are struggling to keep up or provide additional challenges for students who are ready for more advanced material.

AI can be used to automate administrative tasks which can free up teachers' time to focus on more important tasks such as lesson planning and student support.

AI can be used to provide student support services such as tutoring and counselling.

AI-powered chatbots can provide instant feedback and support to students, while AI-powered tutoring systems can provide personalised instruction and feedback.

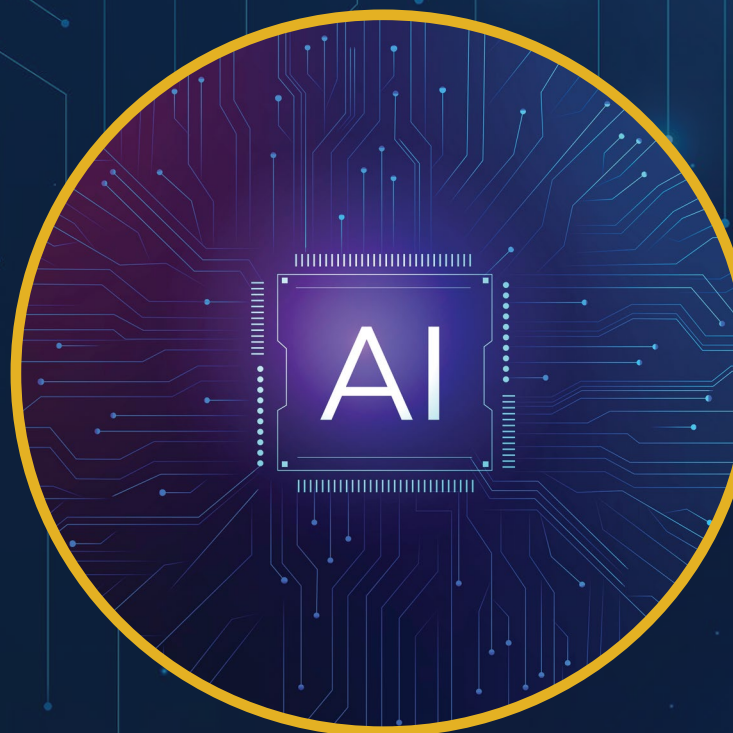
AI-powered counselling systems can provide students with mental health support and resources.

### Benefits of AI:

The use of AI has several benefits, including:

- **Increased Efficiency:** by automating routine tasks, freeing up teachers' time to focus on more important tasks.
- **Personalized Learning** as AI can adapt the content, pace, and sequence of instruction to meet each student's individual needs.
- **Help students to achieve better learning outcomes** by providing personalised teaching and feedback.
- **Increased accessibility** to students with disabilities by providing adaptive learning experiences and assistive technologies.

Stone Soup Academy is planning to train all staff on how to use AI tools effectively and ethically. This will require ongoing professional development and support for all across the academy.





## Success in Science

Amy Dennett

The students taking Science this year have done the academy proud! Year 11's have worked hard to complete their deadline for their Biology coursework with many students putting in large amounts of effort to increase their grade.

Bria in particular worked hard to progress her biology coursework to a merit and deserves a massive shout out, we are super proud of her commitment and focus with this.

The students are continuing to work through their coursework with dedication to completing the course strong and achieving their best. This is also the same for the Year 10 who have continued to work in lessons well and have also produced some brilliant work over all 3 areas of Science and are ahead of where we would like them to be at this point of the year.

## Mechanics

Chelsey Reid

Mechanics has been positive this half term with our students continuing to gain knowledge and experience regarding Motor Vehicle. All of the

students on the course are up to date with their coursework and are on track to completing their qualification.

## Suits Day or Oscars? You won't be able to tell.

Oli Sillito

Suits Day planning is progressing smoothly as we approach our 11th event.

To enhance the experience for our students, we're incorporating some extra special surprise moments aiming to make it the most heartfelt and exciting event to date. Anticipate remarkable awards, captivating entertainment, and our 4th edition to our own Stone Soup yearbook to wrap up this memorable occasion! To be involved please get in touch with:

**Oli Sillito - [osillito@stonesoupacademy.org.uk](mailto:osillito@stonesoupacademy.org.uk)**





## Photography in the Academy and Beyond

Oli Sillito

Our students have been learning more and more about techniques in photography and a few students are ready to take the next step in their journey by being involved in some of our high events this year.

Excitingly, a new competition is on the horizon, taking our students beyond the classroom to showcase their skills. Winners will have the unique opportunity to actively participate in our upcoming Knife Crime event, gaining invaluable insights from a seasoned professional photographer.





## Ingenuity Impact Leaders Programme in Business Studies

Duncan Bennett

In business we started the term by studying finance in business and we have now moved on to enterprise in the business world. Students are creating their own business and applying their knowledge into real world scenarios. A number of female students have joined this year's Ingenuity Impact Leaders programme. The programme is being delivered by the my business my way team of Dr Isobel O'Neil and Debbie Clarke. They have been brilliant with our students and we have made excellent progress with their entrepreneurial skills.

Each student that attended all the sessions received a reward of £100 in Amazon vouchers. We also had stand out students in Mollie and Bria who both received an additional £30 in Amazon vouchers for their amazing work.

This has been a great incentive to offer and the students have loved their Wednesday afternoons visiting the Nottingham Ingenuity Centre. This programme concluded on the 13th of March with students presenting their final pitches of their created business. It has been another amazing programme and we are looking forward to providing the same opportunity for female students again next year.





## Stone Soup's Writing Challenge

Lovelle Pennant

Last term the Stone Soup writing challenge was based on the theme of Valentine's Day.

Therefore, it was all about love and romance. Students were asked to write a piece of literature of their choice, such as song lyrics, a poem, a diary entry or a short story. The idea behind our half-termly writing challenges is to prepare students for their GCSEs and to increase their writing skills.

We had some incredible entries and deciding on the winners was a very difficult task. Our worthy winners were Asia, Cerys, Declan, Jamil, Hanif, Summer, Layla, Logan P and Kamarni. Congratulations guys! They should all be very proud of the level of effort and detail they put into their work. These students all won a red rose and Valentine's Day chocolates.

**Well done again!**



## PSHCE/RSE / VFS / RE

Adam Castledine

In this half term we have looked at a variety of topics over both our sites and we continue to use Votes for Schools from Monday to Thursday and PSHCE Association on a Friday when we deliver this in an extended form time (12.20 - 12.45).

All PSHCE/RSE are accompanied by PowerPoints and the staff in form time will initiate conversation around some starters based loosely on a given scenario, this engages the students in discussion and allows them to voice their opinions and also listen to that of others. For example - Does Alien Life Exist?

On the last Friday of every term we deliver our RE curriculum and this term we have delivered to students on the different types of places that are used for worship. We use keywords and will keep repeating these and asking students what they mean during the sessions to improve knowledge.



## Multi Skills

Fred Slaney

Moving on from last year the two courses one on Thursday and one on Friday have completed more of the assessments and Health and Safety that is needed to complete the course.

The Thursday group have completed tiling and health and safety and now moving on to painting, plastering and bricklaying. They have worked hard and have been very confident to complete these in the time given.

The Friday group have started their joinery practice and they are working towards their assessment which is in the next couple of weeks, they have also completed half of the Health and safety assessment.

Both groups are working well to complete their assessment and achieve passes and hopefully be able to gain their certificates when finishing the courses.





## Virtual Reality in SEND

Channon Cross

Our SEND team has had the benefit of our own Quest VR to use since December in a wide range of intervention work with our students. The VR contains a number of games that aim to build on skills such as self regulation methods when a student becomes overwhelmed, the concentration lengths a student can manage when fully engaged. We also have a different perspectives game allowing students to look at the same situation from three different perspectives. This works on our students' understanding of others and empathy levels.

All students who have been participating in these interventions have made massive progress in their personal skills.



## Literacy Legends

Channon Cross

We have continued to support the entire academy in getting our students to a functional reading age using a number of different literacy strategies across both KS3 and KS4. Our students have continued to engage with our literacy programme **Literacy Gold** which builds on reading skills such as text skimming for important information, spelling, phonics and fluency.

As part of our literacy interventions we also have been reviewing students' reading ages and checking the effectiveness of our intervention strategies, a number of our students have made huge progress having already made over a year's development since November. The students are: Amy, Ava, Lewis H, Lewis L, Mckenzie, and Jace.

As well as the Literacy Gold, we have continued to work with our Year 11's building on exam skills and confidence in answering these exam style questions. These students are given the choice of a collection of past paper questions to attempt with 1-2-1 support from a member of the SEND team. Within these interventions students have built upon their abilities to pick out key information from the questions, and also their confidence in understanding the structure of answering longer exam questions.

Following the success of implementing touch typing within our KS3 interventions, SEND have gained additional licences enabling our KS4 students access to the multi-sensory programme building on their skills in writing, and spelling. The students who do fully engage with touch typing can receive an additional qualification within touch typing.

### Touch Typing Key Quest

This half term we have introduced students to the Touch Typing programme. Touch typing is a typing technique where you rely on muscle memory and technique to type without looking at the keyboard, this can increase typing speed and accuracy.

This intervention can be particularly beneficial for those with Special Educational Needs (SEN) in several ways:

**Accessibility:** Touch typing can provide additional methods of communication for those with motor coordination difficulties and can offer an alternative to handwritten work.

**Reducing cognitive load:** Once the technique is mastered students can focus on their thoughts rather than typing, this can be beneficial for those with attention-related challenges

**Enhancing focus:** Touch typing encourages children to maintain concentration and focus as they type without looking at the keyboard.

Students that have shown incredible typing accuracy this half term are: Cian W, Zdenek, Rocko, Taylor T, Asia and Megan T.





## Beauty

Siobhan Stevenitt

This term in beauty we will continue to work towards BTEC level 1 Hair and beauty, students have identified which units suit their progression plans to enable them to use this qualification to their advantage in the future. This term we have concentrated on progression and career goals and implemented that into the cover letters and applications for employment/college. Further plans for the rest of the academic year will consist of practical assessments and scheduling treatments appropriately to enable students to manage time effectively and deliver first class customer care. We have also run some enrichment sessions for KS3 which have been well received.

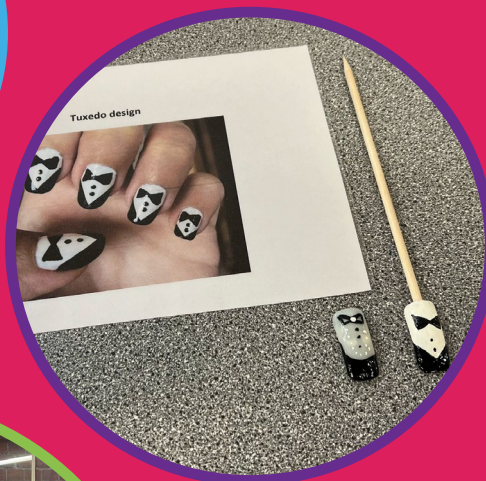


## Hair and Beauty

Michelle Rogers

The students have continued to excel through their hair and beauty qualification, they have all now completed two out of the three units, passed a summative assessment and completed a small exam. Charlene (course leader) and I are extremely proud of the professionalism and behaviour from all students and we have enjoyed treatments from the Level 2 college students as a reward.

We have experienced the Wheelgate salon in which students were given a tour around a working professional salon. This confirmed for some students that the industry is something they definitely can see themselves doing post 16. We will be going back in a couple of weeks to get the chance to be clients and have a range of free beauty treatments by the level 3 students.



## KS3 on the Move

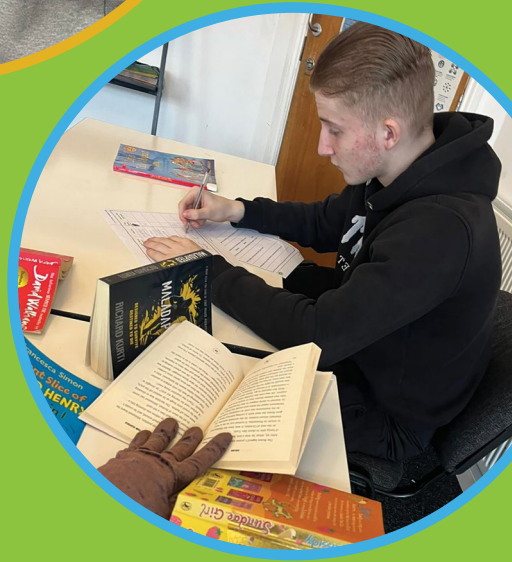
Alsasha Rogers

We continue in our preparations to move to Milbie House and students have been enjoying going to see the building as it slowly transforms into their new learning environment. One thing they are particularly excited about is the new kitchen and hatch, allowing them both to cook and serve food to their peers.

Year 9 have been enjoying the new addition of Art to the curriculum. Last term we studied a unit on 'Fantasy' and they enjoyed drawing, shading and creating (out of clay) a variety of mythical and hybrid creatures. We have just ordered some sketchbooks to help the students display their work and also allow for the addition of annotations to accompany their designs.

This is all in preparation for KS4, where these skills will be required. We are also thrilled to say that two of our Year 9 students have been chosen to attend the trip to Barcelona on the 24th March. These students were picked due to their high attendance, behaviour score and engagement within lessons. These two students have been with us since the start of year 8, when they were part of our Stepping Stones programme. The KS3 team are exceptionally proud to see the growth and progress of these two students.

In HT4 we have had a big focus on support cards for our students. These support cards consist of 3 targets. We take pride in celebrating our students' strengths whilst also positively encouraging them to improve their weaknesses. Students receive positive DOJO points for achieving these targets, and interventions if they struggle. This has helped students track their behaviour and also enables them to take greater accountability.





## Reward Trips

Michelle Rogers

The top 20 students and the winning form have enjoyed Indian cuisine at Lagaan's restaurant. They enjoyed it so much they opted to go two half terms in a row.

Students have continued to work hard on achieving their weekly rewards and we have now got an attendance board which celebrates the students who end each week on 100% attendance and punctuality.



## Stone Soup Academy at Milbie House

Kerrie Henton

It is getting so close now to the grand opening of Milbie House. Purchased by the academy in December 2023, we have been working tirelessly to create a centre for excellence for our alternative provision community and the young people that we serve. We are almost there and our new site will have a grand opening on the 19th of April.

We have been busy planning the graphics for the front of the building and we cannot wait to try out our new Immersion room, gym and Cinema room. We have also included a brand new food room and games room fitted out with the latest tech for our young people.

Hopefully we will be able to show you more in our next edition of the Stone Soup News.



## Cooking up a Storm

Dominique Maragh

This term we are super excited for the opening of our brand new kitchen at our new site Milbie house. With brand new equipment and a purpose designed space so students can cook such yummy dishes that are sure to tantalise taste buds.

Over at High Pavement KS3 students have been cooking up a storm. Making yummy chicken strips, burgers and yummy fajita wraps.

Year 10s have been busy making yummy cheese cakes, burgers, learning the skill of combining ingredients to create new textures and new skills and methods strengthening their culinary skills that they will need going into year 11.

Year 11 have been grafting away at elements of their coursework. They have been busy planning and creating menus for their final dishes. The students have really exhibited their culinary skills that they have acquired over the last two years as they create their very own Menu. In response to a brief, each

student will create their final two dishes. Each menu and plan has been uniquely and independently designed by our student to present and be graded in May.

Over all this term we have been cooking up a storm and definitely enjoying some yummy dishes.



## Stand Up to Knife Crime Continues its Journey

Oli Sillito

Exciting progress with this year's event! As we gear up for its fourth edition, our aim is to surpass the success of the previous one, making it even bigger and better. We're thrilled to announce incredible guest speakers and talented artists. Additionally, we're actively coordinating with community groups, charities, and planning a careers fair to engage and inspire our young attendees. After the packed turnout last year, we are optimistic about replicating this success. Please keep checking the instagram page for updates @Su2kcnotts.

We will have videos from last year's events and also showcasing the amazing work we will be doing with our past and present students as they create their own music that will be part of the event! We are so excited to showcase all the work the team has been doing. Knife crime remains a huge issue in our city and country and we have some powerful guest speakers speaking at this

year's event/ We aim to highlight the extraordinary creative talents of individuals making positive contributions in our community. Please get in touch with Oli Sillito – [osillito@stonesoupacademy.org.uk](mailto:osillito@stonesoupacademy.org.uk) to get involved in this year's event.





## Stone Soup Flies to Barcelona

Kerrie Henton

We are off again but this time it is Spain where a group of the best of the best of Stone Soup Academy have flown off to this March. For 4 days our young people will experience culture, art, sport and lots and lots of fun whilst they travel around all that Barcelona has to offer. We will cover far more in our next edition of the Stone Soup News however here are a few photos to give you a flavour of what our young people have been up to.





## Young Leaders of the Future

Duncan Bennett

In sport we started the term by studying fitness for sport and exercise and now we have moved on to leadership in sport. Students are describing the attributes of sports leadership and will be given the opportunity to lead coaching sessions across sports of their choice.

We have played the AP Football League tournament this term and the students represented the school in a brilliant fashion. We won the league which qualified us for the knockout stages and went on to win the semi final 2-0 and qualify for the final. Unfortunately, we didn't win the final game but the students had a brilliant day and made everyone proud of their achievements. Another amazing tournament for all students in AP settings.

This term our students have participated in the Nottingham University Sports Discovery Programme provided by student volunteers. They have experienced a day at the university where they were given a tour of the sport facilities, a climbing experience and talks on what university life is like. The sports volunteers recently visited the school to deliver a presentation on student life and offer boxing coaching for our students. Both days have been excellent and the students have enjoyed the experience. We have another day at the university to follow later this year.

We have also had a match day experience provided by Ideagen and NFCT. Claire Knee provided the tickets and myself and Jordan took students to the Nottingham Forest vs Newcastle game. This was the final experience offered for the Think Big Programme.

Later this year we are engaging with another programme led by NFCT. The Forest Futures programme. More to follow on this later in the year.

