

# Stone Soup Academy News



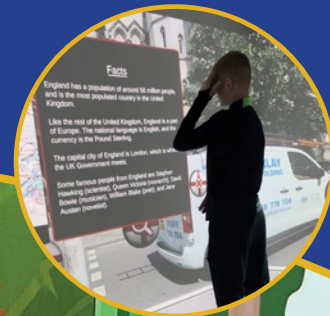
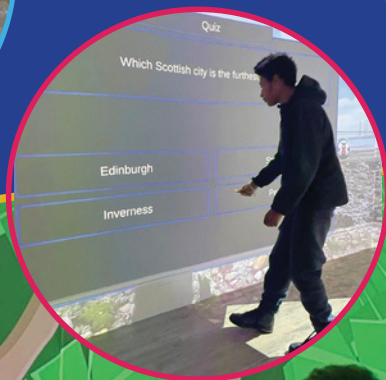
## Issue 18 | July 2024 Half Term 6

### Engage, Explore, Experience: The Immersion Room

Shannon Rogers

The Immersive Room at Stone Soup Academy is a great resource for all students, especially those with Special Educational Needs. It allows for personalised learning and flexible use. The SEN team often uses the room for fun multi-sensory activities, games to channel excess energy and to create a calming space for students to manage their emotions. As part of the SEN team's approach, the immersive

room provides a flexible setting for regulation, making learning fun and helping student well-being. By catering to the needs of all students, with or without disabilities, the immersive room helps make their educational journey more enriching and supports their overall development.



## The Best is yet to come

Kerrie Henton

Finally we have moved into our brand new building, Milbie House and we have been able to share with our young people all the wonderful opportunities that this building has to offer. Students now have access to our new sensory room and immersive suite and as part of sport they have been watching some of the Euros in our new cinema room as well as using our superb gym. 'It's in Nottingham' have sponsored our courtyard and they have developed it into a lovely garden for our young people. A garden designer, Jack Harris from Grow Notts came into the academy and worked with our students to

develop it into a lovely space for reflection and it is now used regularly by the SEN department. We are also growing our own herbs and salad veg which we are giving out to our students to take home to create their own meals.

Changes are again happening over the summer break and new spaces are being created to support our development. In September we will have two secondary sites. At High Pavement we will have years 9, 10 and 11 and at Milbie House we will have years 9 & 10. Exciting times ahead!!



## Exciting Updates from Our Students' Achievements and Experiences

Jordan Senior

**Lia's Remarkable Journey: We are thrilled to share the inspiring story of Lia, one of our dedicated alumni.**

Lia left our school before sitting her GCSE exams but has shown incredible resilience and determination by deciding to resit her exams with us. This courageous decision will enable her to attend college in September 2024. Lia's story is a testament to the power of perseverance and the importance of seizing second chances. We are immensely proud of her and wish her all the best in her academic endeavours.

**Asia's Work Experience at Welbeck Primary School:**

Asia recently completed a valuable 4-day work experience at The Welbeck Primary School. During her time there, she actively engaged with students and staff, gaining practical experience in a primary school setting. The school praised Asia for her enthusiasm, dedication, and ability to connect with young learners. This positive feedback highlights Asia's potential for a future career in education and her capability to make a meaningful impact in any educational environment.

**Angel's University Insight with NTU:** Angel's had a unique and enriching experience through a work program at Nottingham Trent University (NTU). She worked closely with Dr. Lia Blaj-Ward (SFHEA), an Associate Professor specialising in Academic Literacies and Language within the School of Arts & Humanities. Throughout her time at NTU, Angel shadowed Dr. Blaj-Ward, gaining first hand insight into the academic and administrative life of a university professor. This experience not only provided Angel with a glimpse into the day-to-day responsibilities and challenges of a university academic but also inspired her to consider higher education opportunities and career paths in academia.



## West Notts Construction event:

Students recently had the opportunity to attend an informative and engaging event focused on the construction industry. This event highlighted the vast diversity of career paths available within the construction sector, showcasing how it can provide continual personal and financial development for everyone involved. During the event, students received a basic understanding and elementary insight into some of the most interesting trades within the construction industry. Hands-on workshops, including a demolition simulator, digger operations, and drone working sessions, were delivered by a range of local employers. These interactive experiences allowed students to explore various aspects of construction work, sparking potential interest in careers they may not have previously considered.

**Cybersecurity Work Experience:** Our students are about to embark on an exciting and practical work experience journey. To start, they will participate in mock interviews conducted by an industry professional, to determine their specific job roles. Following this, the students will visit small businesses in our community to conduct cybersecurity audits. This hands-on experience is designed to equip them with essential skills in identifying and addressing cybersecurity threats. By engaging directly with local businesses, students will not only apply their knowledge in real-world scenarios but also help enhance the cybersecurity measures of these businesses, contributing positively to our community.

**These stories showcase the diverse and dynamic experiences our students are engaging in, demonstrating their commitment to personal and professional growth. We are incredibly proud of their achievements and look forward to seeing how these experiences shape their futures.**



## Creative Digital Media Production

Paolo Iannattone

### Year 9: Exploring Media Fundamentals

Year 9 students are enthusiastically diving into media studies, using iMovie and Garageband to edit videos and audio. These tools are key in helping them learn the basics of media production, laying a solid foundation for those considering the CDMP BTEC. Previously, they've enjoyed hands-on experiences with augmented reality (AR) and virtual reality (VR) through Oculus technology. Next, they'll be creating personalised animated avatars and integrating these avatars and environments into game development software like Unity, Unreal Engine 5, or Buildbox.

### Year 10: Learning Digital Audio Production

In Year 10, students are exploring the fascinating world of Digital Audio Production as part of Unit 4. They are getting to grips with different types of microphones and their specific uses, which is crucial for achieving high-quality recordings. Additionally, they are learning how to plan and execute effective recording sessions. A major focus is on recording and editing short audio adverts, providing them with practical skills and a solid understanding of the audio production process.

### Year 11: Mastering Digital Audio Production

Year 11 students are also engaged in Unit 4, with a focus on honing their Digital Audio Production skills. Building on what they've learned in Year 10, they are deepening their understanding of microphone types and mastering the art of planning recording sessions. Their main project involves creating and editing short audio advertisements, allowing them to apply advanced techniques and showcase their creativity in audio production. This practical experience not only sharpens their technical abilities but also prepares them for future media projects, enhancing their portfolios and overall competence in media production.



# Stone Soup Academy News Music

Richard Christie

The introduction of our new flagship building Milbie House, has brought about new opportunities for teaching and learning especially for our key stage 3 learners.

We have been able to enhance the curriculum delivery for all students. Our focus has always been music production and music technology. With the state of the art iMac computers which now carry the same music software that is at our High Pavement site our offer is brilliant across both sites. We are continuing to introduce elements of our curriculum earlier and our learners are more equipped to make informed timetable decisions about what music at key stage 4 actually looks like.

As teachers and educators we are extremely indebted to the hard work of many who have enabled us to get to this point. As a team, and a department, we say thank you.



## PSHE / RSE / VFS / RE

PSHE Team In this half term we have looked at a

variety of topics across KS3 and KS4. We continue to use Votes for Schools from Monday to Thursday and PSHE Association on a Friday when we deliver this in an extended form time (12.20 - 12.45).

The Votes for Schools topics this term have generated some great conversations between our young people, especially around AI content as this is present daily on the social platforms our young people use. We came to the conclusion that AI generated content was very believable and could

easily fool those who didn't know what they were looking at. 37 students agreed and 7 disagreed.

Relationships have been the main focus of conversation and different factors around relationships in this half term, again some of the points and scenarios made for some interesting discussion. It's always good to hear opinions shared and where we can give advice and thoughts to help the young people address the topics they are faced with in daily life.

## Writing Challenge

Lovelle Pennant

This half term, I decided to link the theme of our writing challenge with mental health awareness week, which was on the 13th-19th of May. We thought this was a great idea, as the exam period can put a lot of pressure on our young learners, so I thought it would be an ideal time to remind them of their resilience. The aim was to write about a time when 'a person faced a challenging situation that they overcame'. It was no surprise that

our students rose to the challenge, and I was very proud of the high level of entries I received. Our winners were Asia, Brandon, Carey, Charlie, Jamarl, Kian, Korie, Kamarni, Lacey, Logan P, Ronnie (Y10), Ronnie and Tia (Y9). First place went to Lan'i, who had an exceptional entry. I thoroughly enjoyed reading each and every one! Well done all of you and I hope you all enjoyed your prizes! I look forward to the next writing challenge.

## SSA Strike Gold at the AP Olympics

Duncan Bennett

We attended the first ever AP Olympics with a mixture of students from KS3/KS4. This was an amazing experience for all and a brilliant opportunity to engage our students with athletics. There were a total of eight schools across Nottingham who attended and we won gold in the triple jump and bronze in the 100m sprint.

It was an amazing day and one we will be continuing to offer for our students moving forward. Well done to Carey and Kaden for picking up the medals for SSA

Year 11 students have finished their courses! They have made fantastic progress and have been a pleasure to teach. Year 10's and 9's continue to participate in regular practical lessons and are working on a variety of course content in lessons.

We also attended the AP Football Festival with other schools from across the Midlands this term. This was a great day and a good experience for all our students. We sadly didn't make it out of the group stage but I'm confident our students will learn from the experience and come back stronger next year!

We finished the term with an exciting day on the River Trent with Active Row. Students were given the opportunity to row on the River Trent and experience the gym space at Nottingham Rowing Club. We had a great day and plan to visit again next academic year.



## 'Punch' Workshop and Expanding our Library with Experian

Taylor Gilmour

We welcomed Natalie Bruce and Jacob Dunne from Nottingham Playhouse. Natalie and Jacob ran workshops for both KS3 and KS4 students on the dangers of violence and gang crime. Jacob shared his experience of unintentionally murdering a young man in Nottingham after he got into a fight and punched him once. Jacob pleaded guilty and was sentenced with manslaughter. After getting out of prison, Jacob dedicated his time to working in schools and youth centres educating young people through sharing his experiences. Natalie and Jacob have worked together recently to write and stage a play, 'Punch', at Nottingham Playhouse. Students have been reading extracts from the stage play and the workshop gave us a great opportunity to bring their learning and understanding to life.

As we continue to develop literacy across the Academy, we have continued our work using Accelerated Reader to assess and target students for personalised reading development. We have also managed to secure funding from our partnership with Experian who have agreed to assist us in stocking up the new library space at Milbie House. We have been working hard to establish expectations and routines around the use of the library space with our KS3 cohort and we hope that the new addition of texts will help us drive engagement even further.



## Beautiful finish

Michelle Rogers

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.



## Art and Photography

Annie Gadsby

Our year 10 students are currently practising independent portfolio development in preparation for next year's exam. Each student has chosen a title they prefer from four options with the most popular being "Emotions" and "Identity." They have all responded well to the challenge in a variety of ways including painting, collage and cartoons and have begun to settle into their own personal styles which is wonderful progress in regards to their preparation for year 11.

Also, this term, we have celebrated an art and photography afternoon where our students had the choice between creating their own bead animal keychains, designing stand up to knife crime bracelets for charity or participating in the photography challenge at the arboretum. Our students all had a wonderful time being creative and were all such souperstars.



## Food

This term has found us saying goodbye to our year 11 chefs in the making.

Over the last term they have been buzzing with ideas to create a plan and menu of some amazing samples of food as part of their final cooking exam.

We have reinvented Eton Mess, Moroccan lamb tagine and classic steak and chips. A huge congratulations to year 11 students for making such fantastic dishes.

Year 10 students have been busy practising cooking skills and exploring recipes and putting together their portfolio and thinking about dishes they would like to explore next. They have cooked pizzas, fresh bread and gooey brownies.

We also had a "Ready, Steady Cook" theme for Business and Enterprise afternoon this term which was fantastic! The students made some amazing dishes and had a great time.



## Multi Skills

Fred Slaney

What a year with the Multi Skills Course at Basford College, the two courses which run on Thursday and Friday have both done well, both groups have worked hard and completed all their assessments and all their Health and safety work. This has been a very well worth undertaking from all students who have attended the Multi Skills course. All the

students have passed with a City and guilds Level 1 which will stand them in good stead for any of them to go on to construction courses in any college they chose to go. I have been so proud to have had the opportunity to be part of their success throughout the College course that they have undertaken.

## Milbie House

### KS3 Team

The facilities at Milbie are outstanding and the feedback from parents and referrers has been incredibly positive. The addition of the gym, with greater cardio equipment, is utilised on a daily basis for intervention, curriculum lessons and sensory circuits at the start of the day. The immersive room has proven beneficial, particularly with some of our younger students, and we are currently looking into further options available with the software at a higher academic level. The library is now fully stocked with a huge range of reading materials and we are linking up with a local PCSO, who is a qualified teaching assistant, and she will be coming in to complete some reading intervention with the students from this week onwards.

We have also teamed up with a local company, GrowNotts who provide green spaces in

Nottingham. They have designed a beautiful courtyard garden space for us which has just been completed and looks amazing!

Since Milbie House is more spacious this has had a positive impact on student time outs and zones of regulations. We are able to use the new gym, intervention room, immersive room or the SEND hub for student timeouts and it allows students to offload in a more private space away from distractions and disruptions which in turn encourages them to return to lessons. Students have also been very eager to attend lessons in classrooms that are subject-specific such as access to the food room and the art room.

## Summer Games

### Duncan Bennett

Summer Games were held at the Forest Sport Zone this academic year and we split the afternoons into KS3 and KS4. It was a brilliant afternoon where the students participated in rounders, ultimate frisbee, tug of war and a football match. It was great fun and both staff and students joined in with all the sports.



## Staff Vs Student Football Game

Duncan Bennett

The Staff Vs Student football game was another amazing afternoon for all involved. The students were brilliant and deserved the victory, winning the game 6 - 4! Well done students!



## The Wonderful World of Business

Amy Dennett

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 In Business this term the students have seen some great success. The Ingenuity project in collaboration with the University of Nottingham and the MyWayProject was finished in HT4. This was a massive success and saw 3 students receive rewards for their contributions during the programme. Bria, Deanna and Mollie all received their money for attending all sessions in the course, with Bria and Mollie standing out with their excellent presentations during the final pitch of ideas.

We have also seen many of the Year 11's finish their coursework strong this term and have shown their determination to do the best they can. Students have also sat their second attempt at their exam and again showed their determination to try harder. Year 10s are making excellent progress in their work, with some students aiming high and working on the merit criteria of their coursework.

Enterprise Day was a massive success, with students in KS3 and 4 participating in some brilliant activities including;

- Jewellery making with an eye towards creating business cards to sell the jewellery with Annie and Katy
- Music production with a CD cover being created and used in an advert with Paolo and Richard
- Students going to Nottingham Castle and writing an article about their experience with Taylor
- They played a trading game where students had to make decisions with Amy
- CV writing and job quizzes took place with Jordan and Alesha
- Finally students had the opportunity to take part in "Ready Steady Cook" with Dom.
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## John Lewis Work Experience

Younes Henini Students at Stone Soup Academy will have an amazing opportunity to participate in work experience one day a week with John Lewis Nottingham in September 2024.

At Stone Soup Academy we believe that participating in work experience offers numerous benefits that extend beyond the classroom.

Work experience is invaluable for students as it contributes to their personal, academic, and professional development. It equips them with a diverse set of skills, enhances their employability, and provides a clearer sense of direction for their future careers. "John Lewis is a chain of British department stores operating throughout the United Kingdom. John Lewis Nottingham is situated in Victoria Shopping

Centre. The store comprises four floors covering homewares, fashion, technology and more. The branch covers fashion, homewares, technology, and more. It also has a wide range of services including an Elemis SpaPod, Shavata Brow Bar, and Personal Styling. There's also a Nespresso Boutique located on the ground floor and Filmore & Union cafe on the first floor.."

Choosing the very best place to gain invaluable experience is important. John Lewis Partnership has been carefully designed to give students involvement in real-time projects, more opportunities to show what students are capable of and to develop their skills, and to give them plenty of responsibility to help them prepare for coping with real life working environments.

## Mechanics

Chelsey Reid

This term at Mechanics, the students have been focusing on the practical side of the course. Students have been learning how to take a go-kart apart and put it back together, how to change tires and how the electrical engines in the go-karts work. All students have now completed their coursework and their final exam. I have been very pleased with their behaviour over this term with the students working together to achieve their qualification.



## The Records Keep Tumbling!

Darrell Drummond Our students are not satisfied this year with just doing well in Maths – they have to keep on making sure that all those records keep tumbling and new highs are laid down as a challenge for future years.

This year all of our Y11s had passed their Functional Skills Level 1 in Maths by the first week in March which was spectacular in itself. Their achievements did not stop there though. By the time they were ready to sit their GCSE exams in June there were FIFTEEN students who had also passed their Level 2 Qualification. Here is the record-breaking roll call . . . **Alex, Alisha, Angel M, Bria, Cole, Deanna, Evann, Kayleigh, Kyran, Lauren, Lewis L, Leyton, Noah, Shaan and Taylor T.**

### Wow!!! That's a lot of names!

And it might not even stop there because after the GCSE exams had finished, Crystal, Hanif, Kailum and Leo came back into school to sit their Level 2 Qualification and we all hope that they have been successful.

Now it would appear that here at the academy we have a cohort of Y10 students who are taking the attitude that anything the Y11s can do they can also do. For the first time ever the number of Y10 students that have already passed their Level 1 Functional Skills in Maths has reached double figures! Very impressive and here is their roll call . . .

**Kaden, Korie, Liam G, Ronnie and Taylor C.**

We have also been having a final push towards success in these last few weeks of term and more students have recently sat the Level 1 Qualification and hopefully Brandon, Brooklyn, Cerys, Cian, Harley, Liam B, Megan, Riley, Taylor A, Thor and Wahaab will find their names added to the list of successes in what has been a spectacular year for Functional Skills Qualifications.

Finally, there needs to be a big shout out to Ava, Jake and Kaden because they have already sat their Level 2 Functional Skills in Maths exams and we all hope that they have been successful. Now I know that I said finally in the last paragraph but what I meant to say is that finally it would be nice to recognise all the hard work that has been done by staff in helping to facilitate all of these exams for our students to prove how good they are. The last mentions go to Amy and Nathan for invigilating the exams, Channon for all the organisational expertise, Lucia for doing all the booking and Oliver, Becky and all the ET for convincing some students it all made sense.

**Happy Days!!!!**

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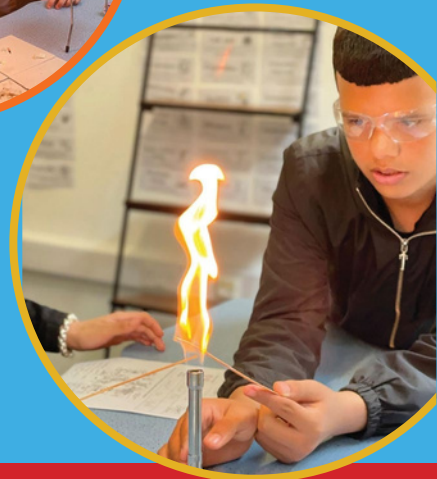
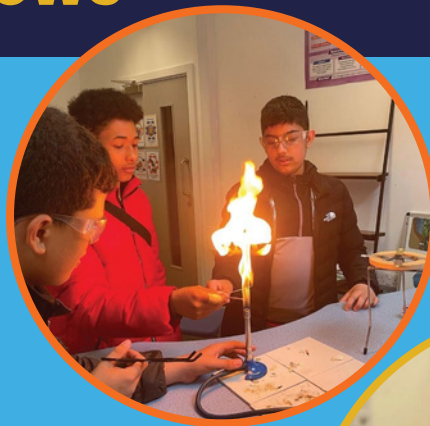
## Science

Hannah Smallwood

This term has been really successful in science. Year 11s have completed their coursework for their BTEC Science qualification. Some have worked incredibly hard to complete their work to a merit which is amazing!

Over in the new science classroom at Milbie House our Year 9s have been studying electricity. They have built circuits and investigated which fruit or vegetable conducted the most electricity (it was the apple!).

Our year 10 students have been working really hard on their chemistry and physics work and safely carrying out practicals using the bunsen burner, looking at the conductivity of metals and solubility of sugar.



## Wear Red To Save A Life

Zoe Cooke

After losing my 21 year old Son Byron to knife crime in 2021, I became aware of bleed control packs. Bleed control packs are a step up from a first aid kit. Had there been a public accessible bleeding control pack available Byron may still be with us.

However there are many other ways for a catastrophic bleed to occur, such as from a car accident or a work related injury. We believe that having publicly accessible bleeding control packs in all major shopping centres, pubs/clubs, public transport stations and all public spaces is vital to provide the necessary first aid to reduce blood loss until professional medical help arrives. For the cost of a kit, a life could be saved

and their family spared lifelong grief knowing that they could perhaps have survived.

I then decided to raise money for these kits and started

the wear red day. This is where schools and businesses wear red and donate £1 towards the kits. Before I worked at Stone Soup they were one of the first schools

to come on board with the campaign and I now work at the school and they continue to support the wear red day In memory of those lost to knife crime and to help raise money for these much needed kits.

This year we again ran the campaign in school and this year not only the staff but also the students got involved which made it an amazing event for everyone.



# Stone Soup Academy News

## Suits Day Steps Up Again

Oli Sillito

Suits Day was another successful event for us all. This is a significant event in our calendar year. The highlight of the day was the awards ceremony in one of the Broadway cinema's impressive screening rooms. We showcased a video on the big screen that captures our students' incredible educational journeys, filled with funny and heartwarming moments. During the ceremony, we presented special awards to both staff and students. The event brought together parents, referring schools, all staff, and our Year 11 students, who celebrated their achievements in brand new suits and professional outfits that we provide for them. This year, we went the extra mile by creating a 56-page yearbook (our biggest yet). It captures memories from the day and includes a dedicated page for each student with messages from staff.

Following the ceremony, we had a delightful spread of food available in the upstairs bar. This was a wonderful opportunity to take photos, for parents to meet the staff, and to see our Year 11s in their new suits. A professional photographer was on hand to take photos, which we will display on canvases around the school. These photos will serve as inspiration for our next set of students, helping them look forward to their own Suits Day.



# Stone Soup Academy News Spring Lakes

Duncan Bennett

The top 20 students were taken to Spring Lakes for the day and we had an amazing time once again! Great fun and another great year!



# Stone Soup Academy News

## Knife Crime Event Back For A Fourth Year!

Oli Sillito

The Stand Up to Knife Crime event was a fantastic success in its fourth year! This year's event garnered significant positive attention and was more successful than ever. Each year, we strive to make it increasingly special, demonstrating to the students the amazing work they are capable of. We had some incredible guest speakers and musicians on the night, adding an extra layer of magic to the event. This event is always a significant highlight of the year, and we aim to keep this tradition alive for years to come.

Events like this are for the whole community. We witness incredible examples of student creativity every day, and we were proud to highlight some of their contributions at the knife crime event. Our students created powerful spoken word pieces and even travelled to London after reaching the finals of a songwriting competition. Some have won awards for their music and performances at the Youth Outreach Awards, while others have auditioned for and starred in roles in two films since the event. Additionally, students have collaborated with Ideagen to develop an app that helps locate bleed kits. These are just a few examples of their remarkable work. It's the daily dedication in every lesson, conversation, and interaction that supports and inspires our students. We even had the chance to speak about the event on Notts TV, which was very special.

