



STOKE PARK
— SCHOOL —

NEWS

2024

Friday 12th January 2024



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Dear parents and carers,

Happy New Year. I hope you enjoyed your time together over the Christmas period.

It has been an enjoyable week welcoming students back. It has been a busy time for our year 12 students who have returned and began their A level mock exams. They have worked incredibly hard, and will receive feedback from their teachers in the coming weeks.

Next week our Year 10 students will sit their GCSE mock exams. The exams will take place in the sports hall. This will give the students experience for when they come to sit their GCSE exams next year. The year 10 team have put together a letter and exam timetable for you. Please view it [here](#). It is important your son or daughter uses this weekend to revise, get plenty of rest, so they are ready and arrive on time on Monday.

This week, year 9, 10 and 11 history students experienced an interactive session from the Frontline Living History Company. This will be the third year they have visited Stoke Park School and delivered an informative and enjoyable experience to our students. During the sessions they explore uniforms, weapons, and share experiences of World War One soldiers. This gives the students a real insight to what the soldiers and their loved ones went through during those times.

Well done to our mathematicians, Alex and James, who took part in the next round after their past successes in the UKMT Senior Math's Challenge. Both students have shown many of our school values throughout and should be extremely proud of what they have achieved.

Breakfast club resumed on Monday. It is available to all students Monday to Friday from 08:00am and is now in the Post 16 canteen area.

Friday 26th January will be a teacher training day; therefore, school will be closed to students.

Have a lovely weekend.

Miss Rock
Headteacher



POST 16: THE SCHOLAR

The first term was so important to all of us in Post 16. So much is done, so quickly in such a short space of time. The impact of being a scholar motivates all Post 16, whether year 12 or 13. Year 12 as ever, rises to the challenge of academic A level study, the wider school and community involvement. The amount of activity in the morning is tantamount to the wider school initiatives, shown through all the endeavors both last term and the beginning of this one. Year 12 have been working with KS3 readers, assisting in the library, mentoring younger years and tutoring year 11 through GCSE content. Along with this academic involvement, our school community ambassadors have been supporting charities with 'homeless gift bags' and were delivering Christmas Cards to the less fortunate and those in Care Homes right up to the final whistle of last term. All of this, caring and scholarly. Even up until the final Wednesday of December, we had Alumni visit to speak with the year 12; Amandeep Gill, a former Stoke Park and Post 16 student, now living in Boston, spoke about how this school had shaped her career and life journey, both her academic results and her ideological values. Alby, another of our Alumni, now studying medicine at Cambridge, always takes time out to revisit us and work with our aspiring Oxbridge candidates and potential Medicine students, engaging our learners for two hours on the Oxbridge process. We also enjoyed our celebration assembly and Christmas buffet lunch on the final day.

We ask that all year 12 be recharged, reflected and revised for their upcoming mock exams that are now underway. These exams are the first landmark moment to assess our teaching and learning and students' progress so far. Work experience also begins May 13th for year 12 and again, we ask that they are all researching, calling and discovering experiences that will benefit their future choices. Reports have also come out to you for both years, and we ask that you have those meaningful conversations with your sons and daughters, but do please get in touch if anything needs clarifying, and we ask you, as ever, to support them in their A level study.

There was also a critical friend meeting at the end of last term, where our DOK Ms Pinder met with parents of KS5 students. Much was discussed and explored, and the findings will be broadcast out through the usual sources. If this is something you would like to be involved in going forwards, do please contact us here in the Post 16 building or through reception. We would love to hear your thoughts.

UKMT SENIOR MATHS CHALLENGE

Further to their successes in the UKMT Senior Math's Challenge, Alex Dalton Y12 and James Redpath Y13 qualified to take part in the next challenging rounds.

James completed the Andrew Jobbings Senior Kangaroo competition and he put in a strong performance, only 5 marks off the threshold for a prize.

Alex qualified for the prestigious British Mathematical Olympiad Round 1, and completed 6 grueling Math's problems in 3.5 hours. He succeeded in gaining a Merit prize, placing him in the upper 50% of entrants and only narrowly missing the top prize of a Distinction by 4 marks- there's always next year, Alex!

Well done to Alex and James.



YEAR 11: THE ARCHITECT

We have 53 school days until the first set of GCSE exams 2024. Every day counts!

Please ensure your child arrives on time and attends everyday so they can maximise their life chances.

Year 11 parent evening is Tuesday 16th of January 2024. Please log on to school cloud and make virtual appointments to discuss your child's progress ahead of the GCSE examinations.

<https://stokepark.schoolcloud.co.uk/>

Please encourage your child to ensure they are revising daily and applying themselves to past papers. Please see the following link that provide free GCSE revision resources for a range of subjects.

<https://revisionworld.com/gcse-revision>

YEAR 10: THE INVENTOR

Year 10 students have been preparing themselves for their mock exams that begin on Monday 15th January 2024. They have been given their individual mock exam timetables/exam candidate sheet and we have gone through updates to the JCQ regulations during Assembly that students must abide by when completing their exams. Daily examination timetables will also be displayed on the door of the Year 10 Pastoral Office throughout each day of the mock exams week. Students must ensure they give their best account of themselves as these results will give us a good understanding as to where students are in their learning in preparation for the real exams in May/June 2025. We ask for your continuous support in ensuring your son or daughter is preparing themselves daily for their exams. By revising in the evenings, resting, getting plenty of sleep, eating correctly and staying hydrated. If they have a positive routine during these exams it will help to build good habits in time for their real exams next summer. Please ensure to read the letter that Year 10 parents have been sent separately that includes the mock exam timetable. This letter also includes attached JCQ documentation that will help to support your child. The information within the document will make you aware of the rules and regulations your son or daughter must adhere to when completing their exams. Attendance during the mock exams is a crucial part of your child starting their day off correctly. They must arrive at school on time and ready to start their exam. We wish students the best of luck and look forward to seeing the progress the students have made, as a result of the hard work and effort they are putting in every day.

YEAR 9: THE REVOLUTIONARY

Year 9 have made a fabulous start back to school in the New Year of 2024! The year team hopes all families had a lovely Christmas and a Happy New Year. We thank all parents for supporting in getting students fully equipped and in correct uniform which has allowed many of our students to have a settled first week back. We continue to push attendance in year 9 and punctuality, a reminder students should be on school site by 8.35 and in their morning registration for 8.40 to ensure a calm start to the day. It is important they receive their daily notices and delivery of quality PSHE sessions.

Year 9 had a fantastic session by Frontline Living History on World War 1. The session was interactive, with some students being dressed up as WW1 soldiers. As a year group we celebrate how curious the Year group are, many stayed behind in their breaktime to have a look at all the artefacts bought in by the facilitators and ask them questions. Staff from Stoke Park School and the visitors were impressed with how Year 9 handled themselves during the session and how mature they were.

YEAR 8: THE PHILOSOPHER

It has been wonderful to welcome Year 8 back to school this week and see so many students ready to hit the ground running with their learning. I have been fortunate to have the opportunity to visit many lessons where students are excited to discover their new learning. In English, in particular, students have been very passionate about their Shakespeare study, discovering the famous villain Richard III. Students enjoyed discovering the local history element of knowing his body was found in a Leicester car park! Later in the year, we plan to take students to the Royal Shakespeare Company in Stratford to fully immerse themselves in the world of Shakespeare!

In other news, the student council have been very keen to start thinking about their focus for this term. Students spoke with year team leaders to discuss the opportunity of creating a charity event for the year group. Watch this space for their ideas to come to fruition!

A polite reminder that the school day starts at 8.40am and we expect students to be on school site by 8.35am at the latest, to ensure that they are in tutor on time, ready to get prepared for the day and begin their PSHE lessons. Students need to ensure they are fully equipped for the day with their Stoke Park 5 and a reading book. All students must be in correct uniform without nails or excessive jewellery. We thank you for your cooperation with this and look forward to working with you over the coming term.

YEAR 7: THE ORATOR

In Year 7 this week, students have been starting some new project lessons in Design, Food and Art! This is an exciting time for all of our students as they get to learn new skills that they may never have had learnt before!

Students have been delving into achieving their positive points and we have lots of students who are nearly at their sapphire award!

What a lovely start back after the holidays for our Year 7 students.

YEAR 7 Mathematicians for the MESME Maths Circles programme.

We were recently invited to nominate some of our top Year 7 Mathematicians for the MESME Maths Circles programme. The successful students will participate in free, out-of-class maths clubs, meeting regularly with a mentor to tackle intriguing questions, discover and explore exciting ideas, and learn to think like advanced mathematicians. The programme has been designed for Year 7 students who have the potential to achieve highly and have already scored highly on Key Stage 2 tests.

The following 17 students were nominated

Aleksander B- 7KHU, Aaqil A- 7LCA, Prashna G- 7KHU, Jenson T- 7FC, Hasif H-7RMI, Gaurav G-7KHU, Sophie B- 7LCA, Zeke J- 7KHU, Abolfazl M- 7MPE, Aaron SS- 7FC, Abhay M- 7LCA, Ankit P- 7LC, Devhari V- 7LC, Tiana T- 7JTO, Blake K- 7LC, Anas M- 7JTO, Ayomide M-A- 7LCA.

The applications were oversubscribed, so we are very pleased to see that the following 5 students have been offered places in circles **Anas, Jenson, Aaqil, Tiana and Blake**. We wish them lots of luck as they start in their groups this term.

FRONTLINE LIVING HISTORY DAY:



Year 9 and our GCSE students took part in an interactive session from Frontline Living History this week. Students from year 9 were introduced to some of the topics they would study in their History GCSE. They were given the opportunity to explore the different uniforms, weapons and experiences a World War One soldier would have in the trenches on the front line. The students were fantastic at getting involved, trying on the uniforms and answering the questions asked.

year 10 and 11 also enjoyed their session focused on WW1 medicine revision. This was particularly useful with year 10 completing their mocks next week and the information given to both year groups was fantastic. Both year groups asked brilliant questions, answered questions well and also got involved. Four students became stretcher bearers from year 10, and one of our year 11 students was an injured soldier for some of the session. They were also given the opportunity to handle different pieces of equipment and allowed a greater insight into the medical issues on the Western Front.



YEAR 8: WARWICK UNI TRIP



Some of our year 8 linguists took part in a French cultural day at Warwick University this week, where they competed against other schools in quizzes and speaking activities about sports and designed and presented an Olympic logo and French slogan ahead of the Paris Olympics 2024. A massive well done to Darius, Yannick, Stesi, Lola, Oliwia, Tawfeeq, Wasim, Jovin and Lily for Representing Stoke Park so brilliantly.

TEACHING GADGET

COMPETITION RESULTS

The music department took part in the National Teaching Gadget Music competition in December, in which Stoke Park musicians submitted an incredible 572 entries! Congratulations to our highest scoring students in Year 7, 8 and 9 who all received Amazon vouchers.

Y7
NADIA & SOHAIL

Y9
FARBOD

Y8
ELLOUISE

SPORTS NEWS

Y9 Netball win vs Ernesford Grange School 6-3



The Year 9 Netball team gave a very solid performance to win against a good team. Some fantastic defence was shown in the opposition's circle and great teamwork from our shooters with most shots on target led us to a convincing win this week. Thank you to the Y8 students who also subbed in, scored for us and played at the end, Zahra, Sienna, Olivia, Andreea, Holly. Player of the match was awarded to Brooke for sterling job mid court, playing with aggression and composure. Well done to all!

BOOK OF THE WEEK:

Selected for 2024's Book of the Week is Tom Palmer's *Resist*. Palmer has written quite the collection of popular books with teenagers, from one extreme to another. On the one hand he has written several popular football books, such as the Football Academy and Football Detective series. Meanwhile he has written some incredible stories on the topic of war.

Resist is a story of war, but not about being on the battlefield, rather what it's like to be a young civilian, stepping up to try and protect her home. It's also a quick read, making it more accessible to students who generally struggle with focusing on a book.

As the brutal Second World War stretches on with no end in sight, life for ordinary Dutch people in the Nazi-occupied Netherlands is fraught with peril and hardship. There is very little to eat, and the population lives under the constant threat of arrest and enslavement.

After the murder of her beloved uncle and the capture of her brother by the Germans, Edda is determined to do anything she can to help the resistance fight back against their oppressors. But what can a teenage girl do and how much risk is she willing to take?

Multi-award-winning author Tom Palmer shines a light on life under wartime occupation, in a beautifully told story inspired by the childhood of Hollywood legend Audrey Hepburn. *Resist* has also been nominated for the Coventry Inspiration Book Awards in 2024.