



The fortnightly student newspaper for Stoke Newington School & Sixth Form

## Evan's 'small' photo makes big impression!



**Evan, year 13, has had his photography published in The Guardian and The Observer!**

Evan had his work published in The Observer/Guardian Witness

this weekend as part of their weekly photography competition, this week on the theme of 'Small'. Evan submitted one of his photographs from a recent project and it was

selected by the photo editors as one of their favourites. Well done Evan – the first of many published photographs!

[View the full story here.](#)

### Dear parents & carers

Thank you for your ongoing support for our school. I am pleased to tell you that, following input from students and parents, we have introduced some additional communication systems in school. These are to support students or parents wishing to raise safeguarding concerns of any sort. We still prefer parents and students to come to us directly but we are aware that sometimes "telling" has its own barriers and sometimes people do not feel able to report all issues openly. One system is online and is for students and parents/carers. You can find the website [www.thesharpsystem.com](http://www.thesharpsystem.com) and use the menu to find North London schools: You will then find the button for Stoke Newington School. You can also access the site via the [school website](#). You can use the simple online form to report any concerns you have e.g. about gang involvement, bullying, mental health, drug misuse etc that you might not feel able

to report openly. The other method is for students mainly. There are red postboxes around school which students can use to post any concerns. There is also a box in Reception which can be used by visitors. Both systems are checked daily and the pastoral and safeguarding teams will take any necessary action. Our students have been informed about the systems by their form tutors.

I hope you find this helpful: please do let me know if you have any suggestions or queries.

Best wishes  
Annie Gammon  
Headteacher



## Diane Abbott visits SNS: "You are your neighbour's keeper."



**Last Wednesday KS3 got an exciting visit in assembly from our local MP of 30 years, shadow home secretary Diane Abbott, to talk about Holocaust Memorial Day.**

Holocaust Memorial Day is commemorated every year in

memory of the millions who were murdered in the horrors of the Holocaust.

Announcing, "I am here today to warn you about the dangers of dehumanising and the dangers of othering", she told us of her own history and the importance

of standing together as a school, borough and wider community.

"You are your neighbour's keeper" was her overriding message to the students, a message that resonated with them and provided topic for much discussion in classrooms after.

---

## Year 8 reflect on how society expects boys to behave

**Year 8 boys have been doing some great work in lessons discussing the expectations placed on men young and old in today's society.**

**Here's one year 8 student's reflection on those expectations...**

**How does society expect you to behave?**

Society expects boys from a young age to like the colours blue, red and green and to play with toy dinosaurs, cars swords or soldiers. Boys are taught to be heterosexual, not feminine and to be physically strong and it's fine with boys being slightly aggressive and reckless. Men aren't supposed to show their emotions and talk about how they feel because they would seem weak and cowardly. Men are expected to like sports and also not to care too much about their appearance compared to women, who are told that their appearance is the most important thing.

There are language associations made with men, for example, "Man up!" or "Be a man!" Men are

supposed to be able to support their family with their job and be very successful in their career.

**How would you like society to expect you to behave?**

I would prefer if people didn't always assume I was very strong physically and that I like sports since I'm not that interested in sports and I think that's it's not that important to be very strong. I don't want people to find my interests and behaviour eccentric since people can be interested in whatever they want to be in. I don't want to have to like specific things that boys are supposed to like. I don't want to be seen as cowardly for my actions, things that I say and my emotions. I want to be able to express my emotions. If I'm scared or upset, I don't want to hide that. Lots of boys and grown men hide their feeling and this causes mental stress.

# SNS launches LGBT month with author Juno Dawson!



**We were lucky enough to have Juno Dawson grace us with her presence this week!**

She delivered an assembly, read an excerpt from her new book to an enchanted year 7 and signed copies of her book in the

library.

In a busy morning, the transgender writer delivered an inspiring assembly about being true to yourself to all our students, then performed a reading of 'Margot & Me' in the theatre for

year 7, as well as answering lots of questions about her work. She then very kindly signed copies of her books (and a few student planners!) in the library at break time. Juno's novels are available in the library.

## The government v mental health: it's time for change

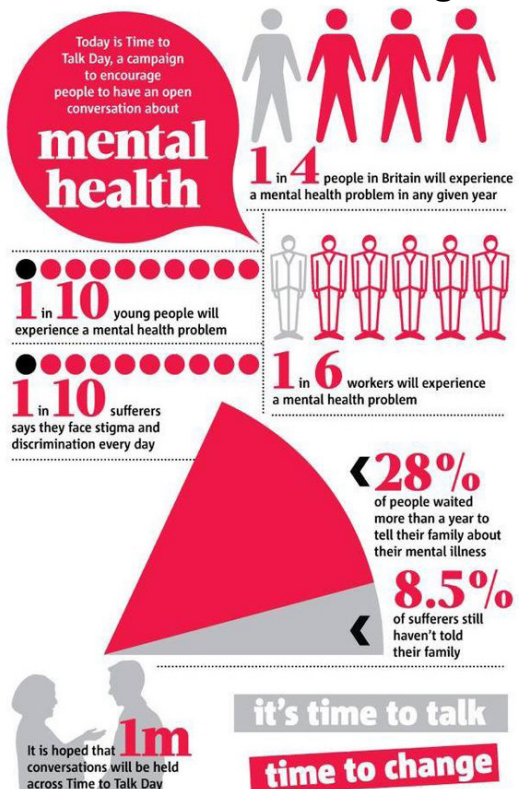
By Sansel Colak

**The government funds different departments in the country based on how desperately said department needs it. At least that's how you think they would be doing it, the reality is a lot different.**

Rates of depression and anxiety among teenagers has increased by 70% in the past 25 years. The number of children and young people turning up in A&E with a psychiatric condition has more than doubled since 2009 and, in the past 3 years, hospital admission for teenagers with eating disorders have almost doubled. Lastly, in a 2016 survey for Parent Zone. 93% of teachers reported seeing increased rates of mental illness among children and teenagers and 90% thought the issues were getting more severe, with 62% dealing with a pupil's mental-health problem at least once a month and an additional 20% doing so on a weekly or even daily basis. So you would think that funding in mental health services would increase, so that help is more available for these young people. Unfortunately, since 2010 children's mental health services in London has been cut by 5%, in the North East by 12%, in the North West by 9% and 5% in the East Midlands.

So why is it that cuts are being made to children's mental health services when they so clearly need more funding? That is the question our government

**Continued on page four**



Sources: Time to Change, Mind, Mental Health Foundation, ONS. Pictures: Time to Change

### Continued from page three

hasn't provided a valid answer for, which is reasonable since there isn't an answer or an excuse the government can come up with that would be good enough to excuse them from depriving young people of their mental health care services. Services that could have helped save the hundreds of young people who have committed suicide in the last decade. Since this question hasn't been answered we should ask ourselves what we can do to change this problem which only seems to be getting worse.

That's an easy question. You can write to your MP (Diane Abbott) via email or letter, you can donate to/ volunteer at MIND charity, you can organise marches or protests. Lastly, you can sign this petition: <https://www.change.org/p/justine-greening-raise-awareness-on-mental-health-issues-in-secondary-school>  
In the end the only way the funding to mental health services is going to go back up is if we -as the people - choose to do something about it because clearly the government isn't going to.

## Poetry at SNS

Here at SNS, we're very proud of the creativity our students show on a day-to-day basis. In this issue of Spotlighter, we're lucky enough to be able to publish two incredible poems from our students.

Tell me - did they blind you  
Or did you tie your own blindfold  
Tell me - do you see it at all  
The deception blurring perception to make exception for oppression  
Inflicted by the vindictive, those who strive to divide the contradicted from the conflicted  
And the lost ones  
Who've been convinced that such villains are gifted  
And while they ensure  
Not one refugee  
passes through their door  
Their people are breaking, opinions overtaking -  
Remaking the ethics that are forsakenly quaking  
You talk about uniting  
But I don't see you unite with the women  
Raped by the men you taught  
Or our earth that you idly, carelessly persist to onslaught  
Not the children you orphan with the bombs you import,  
but your pride, wealth and power to remain unflawed.

By Leila Edelsztein

Is a tree still a tree without leaves?  
Are leaves still leaves without trees?  
These days, these nights, it's getting dark,  
Grow, grow, grow, green leaves, brown bark.  
As I walk home from school,  
One foot, then another,  
I see leaves fall,  
Walk home to my mother.  
My bag on my back,  
My shoes on my feet,  
Strength, I don't lack,  
But it's hard to find heat.  
It's getting dark these days...

By Stella D.P



Stoke Newington School  
& Sixth Form

Clissold Road, London N16 9EX.

Tel: 020 7241 9600

[admin@sns.hackney.sch.uk](mailto:admin@sns.hackney.sch.uk)

[www.stokenewingtonschool.co.uk](http://www.stokenewingtonschool.co.uk)