



Upper School Newsletter

Spring 2020

Dear Families,

I hope you are well and are looking out for one another.

The purpose of our termly newsletter is to celebrate and highlight the successes that have taken place throughout term. It is for this reason, that we will not be giving out information about the school's response to Covid 19. The Headteacher will continue to provide weekly updates regarding school operations via email.

As we approach the Easter break, I want to acknowledge and thank our students and teachers of the Upper School for their hard work, especially over the last three weeks. Thank you all for persevering with online learning and for being understanding during the transition to our new way of working and learning. The continued support from parents and carers is truly appreciated.

The next few weeks are going to present us with new challenges, and we will endeavour to provide as much support as we can. Now more than ever, is a time to remember our core school values. Working together as a community will always make us stronger.

Take care of yourselves and your loved ones and I look forward to seeing you all very soon.

Ms Lashley

"A community that is engaged and working together can be a powerful force."

Idowu Koyenikan



Ms Roxanne Lashley
Head of Upper School



Mr Michael Collins
Deputy Head of
Upper School



Adios Year 11?

When Boris Johnson announced schools would be closing on 20th March, social media went into a frenzy.

Year 11 students across the country began to discuss the possibility of not seeing each other and not having a proper send off. With the help of Mr Enebeli organising an end of day guard of honour, year 11s were shown a small token of our appreciation as they left the school for possibly the final time as year 11 students.

We would like to commend all Year 11 students for the determination and resilience they have shown this year.

Good luck and we hope to see many of you return to the Sixth Form.



Tree planting

We had 15 new trees planted this term in our 5s court playground, which will provide beauty, shade, and fruit in years to come. We had some terrific help from the students, staff and the volunteers from Safaplace to make this happen. A special mention to Ismail Khan (year 11) who was our expert tree planter. He was digging great holes and was not afraid to get his hands dirty! It was also his birthday on the day he chose to help so we've dedicated the tree in the far corner to him! A huge thanks to Ms Mann and Mr Hill for coordinating such a great initiative.



Extended assemblies

Year 9 author visit

Year 9 had an extended assembly with the award-winning author, Muhammed Khan. Not only has he won the 2019 Branford Boase Award, he has also been shortlisted for the YA book prize and nominated for the CILIP Carnegie Medal. Khan has taken his inspiration from students at a secondary school where he taught maths and from his own upbringing as a British-born Pakistani to discuss and tackle social issues such as toxic masculinity and peer pressure.

All year 9 pupils read chapters 1-4 of his book SPILT during registration time in preparation for his assembly and came up with questions to ask him in a Q&A session at the end of his presentation. Year 9 were impeccable as always and Mr. Khan was very impressed with the year group and some of the questions they asked.

Year 9 County Lines Theatre Performance

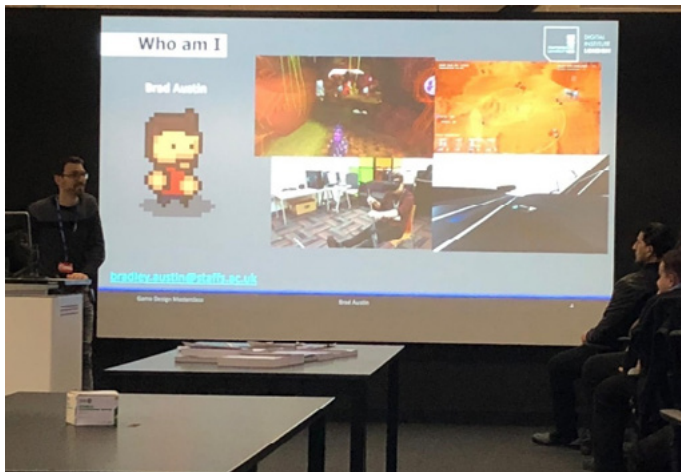
Year 9 also had an awareness raising assembly on youth criminal exploitation and the drug trafficking operation known as County Lines. This involved a live theatre production that played out a range of scenarios in which young people left themselves vulnerable to exploitation from gangs. This was followed by an interactive discussion on how our young people could avoid these situations and how they could handle themselves better if they did. The performances were hard-hitting and the pupils took a great deal from the production.



Year 10 'Hate' Workshop

Year 10 had a visit from Humza Arshad, an actor, comedian and writer who has well over 100 million views on his YouTube Channel. In 2014, Arshad was commissioned by the Police to produce a film called "Think for Yourself" to highlight the dangers of extremism and radicalisation. This extended assembly, produced in conjunction with the Police, centered around a short film he produced called 'Hate' which is a hard hitting film that draws out many issues for discussion such as violent crime, radicalisation, extremism, racism, intolerance, Islamophobia and keeping our community safe. This was then followed up with a presentation from SO15 Counter-Terrorism Police and a Q&A with Humza and the Police Officers. Humza was full of praise for year 10 who he described as "engaged and informed".

Our second Creative Day



Year 11 on a visit to E Sports at Staffordshire University
(Here East campus)

As always, our latest creative day featured a range of activities to engage students in activities that fall outside the remit of the everyday curriculum.

Our Year 9 History students visited the Science Museum to see the collections of Henry Wellcome and the Science Museum Group. This included viewing the world's first MRI scanner, Fleming's penicillin mould, a professional pianist's prosthetic arm and even robotic surgery equipment. The remaining year 9 students stayed in school to take part in a super-science day, where they engaged in a variety of exciting science experiments.

Year 10 attended a workshop session led by Inspire to develop their understanding of how work experience links to their future career aspirations. They had sessions to develop their appreciation of the skills and qualities employers look for, gain confidence in promoting themselves in

interviews and develop their problem solving and resilience skills to help them make the most of their work experience placement.

Year 11 completed an online programme called Start, a digital platform offering schools and colleges a single starting point to help simplify and improve careers guidance in schools. By following Start's structured and progressive activities, the platform helped students to make more informed decisions about future study and career options at the right time. They then had a professional speaker from Inside Knowledge who delivered a talk on "What Employers Want". The trainer highlighted what employers are looking for in addition to qualifications, helping the students understand their key personal qualities and how to start using them in job applications and networking.



Students then had a choice of joining a workshop delivered by industry professionals. These included: Psychology and Social Work, Careers in Theatre, AI STEM Robotics Workshop, Film, Television and Journalism Workshop, Staffordshire University Gaming and Media Workshop and many more.



Year 11 recent mock exams

Year 11 worked extremely hard preparing for the most recent round of mock exams.

Well done to all those who put the hours in revising and studying during this period.

Work experience

Year 10 had the fantastic opportunity to participate in a two-week work experience programme at the beginning of March. During those two weeks, they would have gained valuable knowledge about the world of work and developed their employability skills.

Here is a picture of some of the students who had a great one week placement at Grant Thornton.



Year 11 – special shout-outs

Well done to George Lammiman (11N) for successfully gaining admission into The Brit School after going through two rigorous auditions up against thousands of other students.

Well done to Sam Foxell (11G) for successfully gaining admission into The National Youth Guitar Ensemble (NYGE). This is essentially an ensemble for the highest-level youth guitarists in the country.

Mr Enebeli

Year 11 science trip

In celebration of International Women's Day (12th March) and Science Week, a group of year 11 students attended an exclusive pre-screening of the new biographical drama about the life and work of Marie Curie entitled *Radioactive*.

It was a great opportunity for those who are thinking about studying a Science A level in September.



Year 11 English class visit Abney Park

Ms Harrison took her Year 11 English class to Abney Park Cemetery to inspire them for their Jekyll and Hyde work and their creative writing unit.

The students were enthusiastic throughout and were extremely hardworking in such an unusual setting.



Oliver!

This year's school production of *Oliver* was an absolute smash-hit and it was possibly the best production yet! Well done to all the staff in the music and drama departments for all the time and hard work they put into the production and of course, to all the Upper School pupils involved. Many parents got in touch to send their praise to staff and students, including the following two emails which were gratefully received:

"It was a total joy to watch. Amazing performances and great work from the backstage crew and teachers. I am very happy that I am going again to see it on Saturday."

"I had the pleasure of attending the opening ceremony of the school production of Oliver last night and I was blown away with it. Not only do we have such a talented bunch of students but the energy and enthusiasm of the drama and music department was infectious and clearly spread to the children whose joy in putting on their performance was evident - such a lot of work involved by teachers and staff dedicating their own time to make this production so special - congratulations to you and your staff Zehra for a truly special evening."

If you didn't get a chance to see it live, there's good news. The full performance was recorded and will be released on DVD. We will let you know how to get your copy as soon as they are ready.



Tribute to Ms English

Our much-loved art teacher Katy English sadly passed away on Monday 9th March, she had been absent from school since January for cancer treatment. Ms English was a popular staff member, passionate about teaching young people and she will be sorely missed. Ms English was an incredibly brave and courageous person, her contributions to the wider aspects of school were phenomenal. In our recent production of Oliver! she played the important role of make-up artist and set designer.

Our thoughts are with Ms English's family at this time and when the time is right, we will organise an event to honour Ms English at school.

Mrs Jaffer
Headteacher



Visit from an ex-student

In January, we welcomed back an ex-student, Skye Fitzgerald, who came in to talk year 9s about her journey from SNS to Oxford University. During the talk, students were given the opportunity to ask questions about her journey and how to apply to such a prestigious university.

The questions posed were mature and insightful and the students were all engaged. It was great to celebrate the success of a former student and for her to inspire our current students to reach for the stars. Thank you Skye for taking the time out to share your story.



Zanzibar fundraising

The fundraising for the 2021 Zanzibar trip for years 9 and 10 is well underway. There have been a number of cake sales and stalls during parents' evening and other events that have taken place in school. Due to the school closure, we have had to put a hold on any current events but will inform you of our plans once we are back in school. If you have any great fundraising ideas that you would like to share, please contact Mr Enebeli on Francis.Enebeli@sns.hackney.sch.uk



Everyone loves a good book!

Whilst we have an extended time at home, it's a fantastic opportunity to engage with literature both new and old. Whether you are a poetry enthusiast, or you enjoy a graphic novel every now and then, there is always something out there for you to enjoy. To help you on your discovery, check out the links below:



Book websites with audio books, extracts, recommendations, reading lists and books to read online

schoolreadinglist.co.uk/category/secondary-ks3-ks4-reading-lists
everywherebookfest.com
stokenewingtonschool.co.uk/asset/850
www.audible.co.uk/?ref=Adbl_ip_rdr_from_US&source_

Poetry

poetrysociety.org.uk/young-poets/
poetrysociety.org.uk/competitions/foyle-young-poets-of-the-year-award/

Local libraries with online E-Resources for library card holders

hackney.gov.uk/e-library#E-books
www.islington.gov.uk/libraries-arts-and-heritage/libraries/online-resources-journals-and-magazines
haringey.gov.uk/libraries-sport-and-leisure/libraries/ebooks-and-audiobooks

Community languages - GCSE and A levels

Stoke Newington School is now proud to be an examination centre for Community Languages. Please note, we do not offer classes in the language areas, but do facilitate the examinations. Examinations will not be running this academic year however students will of course be able to sit them in the future. If you would like to find out more information regarding your child sitting an additional GCSE or A level in their heritage (first/home) language, please send an email to community.languages@sns.hackney.sch.uk

Please be mindful that responses may be delayed due to the school closure.

Dziękuję/Grazie/Danke sehr/Obrigado

SNS creative writing competition

This term, we ran our first SNS Creative Writing Competition. The standard was extremely high, and the judges found it very difficult to choose the winners. However, the entries which stood out for the originality of ideas and the high quality of their writing are listed below. The English department would like to encourage everyone who entered to try again in the next competition and would welcome new entrants from anyone who loves to write!

Year 9 winners: 1st Prize – Jaaziah Grant 9T, 2nd Prize – Krish Rathore 9H

Football

In March this year, the under 14 and under 16 girls' football teams have both have made it through to their respective London Cup Finals. Well done, girls!

- Ally Moscon
- Lola Kennedy
- Elsie David
- Orla Hippisley
- Willo Ramlal
- Lauren Dawson Hall
- Yasmin Rubino
- Olive Orton
- Petra Norman
- Coco Ford Craik
- Evie Smith
- Marnie Evans
- Grace Day
- Mary Ann McAuliffe
- Tess Peake
- Daisy Brooke Taylor
- Daisy David
- Davina Thakore
- Thea Roland
- Maya Seleznyov
- Lola Orton
- Larny Bramble
- Keira Drummond
- Maddy Cooper
- Lili Wondwossen
- Evie Brotherton

SNS core values end of term prize winners

Year 9 core values end of term prize winners

Compassion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Naomi Stewart (9O) - Naomi consistently shows generosity to her peers. • Ekim Kandemir (9O) - Ekim consistently shows empathy and sensitivity towards others. 	Ambition <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lenica Stephens McLean (9G) - Lenica always strives to achieve her best and supports those around her to do so. • Krish Rathore (9H) - Krish continually seeks to achieve his best and always strives to perform at a high level.
Resilience <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maeve Newman (9S) - Maeve is excellent at overcoming difficult obstacles independently and uses this skill to excel. • Berdan Aksu (9T) Berdan always tries his best to keep high standards of work even when faced with the most challenging of tasks. 	Excellence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kaya Fisher – Kaya continuously seeks to improve her work, takes ownership of her learning and always goes above and beyond when approaching her learning. • Sam Culley (9N) - Sam consistently produces work of a high level, displays an excellent attitude to his learning, and always remains focused.

Year 10 core values end of term prize winners

Compassion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eva Hadley-Davies (10N) - Eva is always kind towards others. • Aaron Barrett-Mowatt (10N) - Aaron always displays kindness towards others. 	Ambition <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thea Roland (10O) - Thea is continually trying to improve both academically and in sports. • Tanvir Ahmed (10H) - Tanvir is extremely ambitious academically and always strives to meet challenging targets.
Resilience <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Onnamay Corlett (10W) - Onnamay always strives to put her best foot forward and has shown great resilience when approaching her work at school. • Oliver Shrimplin (10E) - Oliver has shown great resilience in school and has taken challenges in his stride. 	Excellence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tomke White (10K) - Tomke continues to produce outstanding work across the board • Isaac Trimble (10H) - Isaac has continued to display an excellent attitude towards his learning and he is a student who will not stop until he achieves excellence in his work.

Year 11 core values end of term prize winners

Compassion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Koby Waters (11T) - Koby is always willing to support his peers and shows a mature and caring attitude towards the younger students. • Sidal Emin (11S) - Sidal always wants the best for all students and promotes the school's core values. Her behaviour should be praised! 	Ambition <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anes Touati (11W) - Anes has been working diligently to become a world-class gymnast in future. • Elise Doyle (11E) - Elise gives her best in everything she does.
Resilience <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mehmet Doldur (11K) - Mehmet never gives up. He is extremely dedicated and has shown great commitment in year 11. • Briana Nyanor (11G) - Briana has shown great resilience this academic year. She is a dedicated and committed student. 	Excellence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kit Naylor (11G) - Kit produced a brilliant piece of artwork depicting the city of London. This demonstrated his excellence as it was produced during the school closure. • Eve Cottenden (11I) - Eve consistently achieves top grades in all of her 10 subjects and is never shy to take on a challenge.