



# SPOTLIGHT

STOKE NEWINGTON SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM MAGAZINE | AUTUMN 2015



SCHOOL SPIRIT | WINTER CONCERT | CREATIVE DAY | RED KYTE

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**ON THE COVER:** ORIGINAL ARTWORK BY  
CALLUM WINTER, 13H



**COMMUNITY SPIRIT AT SNS**  
SNS staff and students helped Syrian refugee charities with not one, but two events to raise almost £5000.

**CREATIVE DAY**  
Stoke Newington School's students surprise us every day with their passion for creative endeavours; it's what makes this school unique.

**RED KYTE**  
This band of Stoke Newington sixth formers played at the Royal Albert Hall. Guitarist Robbie McGrail tells us what it was like to go on stage at one of London's most prestigious music venues.

## Dear parents and carers,

I am pleased to tell you about some of the factors in school which reflect our celebration of and support for the academic success of all our students during this school term.

We were very pleased to see you all on Progress Review Day. Those shared discussions about the students are crucial to their progress over the coming months. I hope you found the discussion useful and were able to celebrate success as well as determining the next steps for your child to improve further.

The students have continued to work hard since then with the Year 11, 12 and 13 students having mock examinations as I write. We try to make these as similar to the real exams as possible, including the students getting results on a special "Mock" results day in January.

We know that at times some students need additional help too. We have been supporting students across all the year groups with additional English and Maths classes: these happen after school and on Saturdays. We have also extended the library opening hours (at the request of the students) so that they can continue to work until later in the day in a studious atmosphere here at school.

We are completing this hardworking term with achievement assemblies when all the students come together to hear about academic successes and where many receive prizes.

I hope the coming year continues very well for your child and I look forward to welcoming you to school very soon.

Very best wishes,

**Annie Gammon**  
**Headteacher**





# NEWS HIGHLIGHTS



## Students take over the school!

This term's student takeover day was a huge success. Lots of the staff roles were given to students for the whole day. Ms Gammon gave her headteacher's office to Mr Pond in Year 9 and the kitchen and reception was ran by students all day. This article has been written by students too! We also took over the school Twitter feed. Take over day was on at the same time as the sixth form student elections for head boy and girl, so some students were in charge of the polling station.



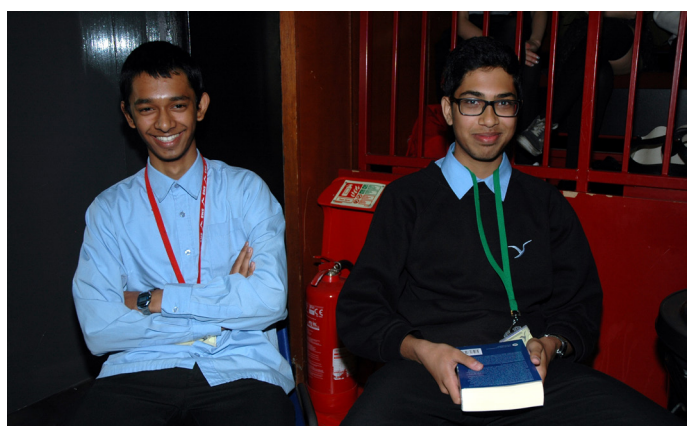
## Leila gets animated!

Leila in 8I put together an incredible stop motion animation film to show London life in the 1820s. The film is very funny and expertly written by Leila who spent a long time putting it together. The video had 300 views within the first 48 hours of being uploaded, with one lovely comment (even if it was from her dad!), "Fantastic timing and very good script, this girl has a future in the film industry , well done!" It really is a must watch, so head to our Twitter page (@stokeyschool) to watch it.



## Jack serves a Masters-class

As a regional tennis player, Jack, Year 7, was invited as a special guest to the ATP World Tour Finals to watch a match and even play on the practice courts and rub shoulders with some of the biggest names in tennis. He watched Berdych V Nishikori in the O2 Arena. He said, "it was a really exciting match that ended with Nishikori winning 7-5, 2-6, 6-1. The whole day was really great."



## Student assembly about the Qu'ran

Two Year 11 students, Ajwad and Ziyaad volunteered to assist Ms Leslie by reciting, Al Imran, a section from the Qu'ran about forgiveness and did so to a silent sixth form audience who were both respectful and encouraging. Ajwad recited then Ziyaad translated the recital into English. Both students were nervous so it was great that the audience received this assembly with such positivity. You did a great job at public speaking, boys!

# THE POWER OF SCHOOL SPIRIT



In order to help the Syrian refugee crisis, Stokey staff and students joined forces to create not one, but two special events to raise money for Save the Children. The true spirit of our school and the Stoke Newington community was illustrated in the lengths people went to help and the amount of money that was raised.

## Shabna Begum

SNS sixth form students and staff put on a fabulous sit down dinner for 100 guests. We raised just over £1200 and this money will be shared between Save the Children and a convoy to Calais from Hackney.

Thanks to Hoxton Beach Café for creating a feast from a tiny budget and all the sixth form students who worked tirelessly to deliver an exceptionally professional dinner service. Our musicians for the evening Yasmine Latkowski and her middle eastern band Taqaseem, helped to create a lovely atmosphere for our guests. Speakers Muzna al-Naib, (Syrian Solidarity Movement), Zak Cochrane (Stand up to Racism) and Sonia Bedi (Save the Children) brought us together to think about who we were raising the money for, they spoke about events in the world and were incredibly moving about the scale of the crisis and our responsibility to act. With the generosity of local businesses, our raffle was also a huge success! Above all the evening was symbolic of what we as a school community stand for, social responsibility, justice and a work ethic that can make just about anything happen!

Thank you to everyone that helped make the event so successful, and especially all of our local businesses who were so very generous with their donations:

Hoxton Beach Cafe  
Hackney Empire  
Hackney Picture house  
Rio cinema  
Hackney Empire  
Arcola Theatre  
Rose and Crown  
Sapid Coffee  
The Parlour  
Il Bacio  
Rosa Lingerie  
Yum Yums

Search and Rescue  
Meat N16  
Shine  
Beaucatcher  
Church Street bookshop  
Design Store  
Clicia  
Sutton & Sons  
Sainsbury's Stamford Hill  
Hamdy's Stoke Newington  
High Street

## Noor Hasan

Thousands of refugees face a harsh winter in makeshift camps across Europe and desperately need better shelter, warm clothing and food. Staff and students at SNS care deeply about raising awareness of their plight and showing our support by raising greatly needed funds.

AS Citizenship built a Refugee Camp Installation, as part of the Active Citizenship element of their course. They sourced tents, sleeping bags and tarpaulin from members of staff and constructed a camp site. Unfortunately the days that followed brought gale force winds and heavy rains, which completely destroyed the camp site. To watch this and think that families, and children particularly, lived in these conditions was very powerful and instigated a lot of discussion in the playground about how hard it is and what we could do to help.

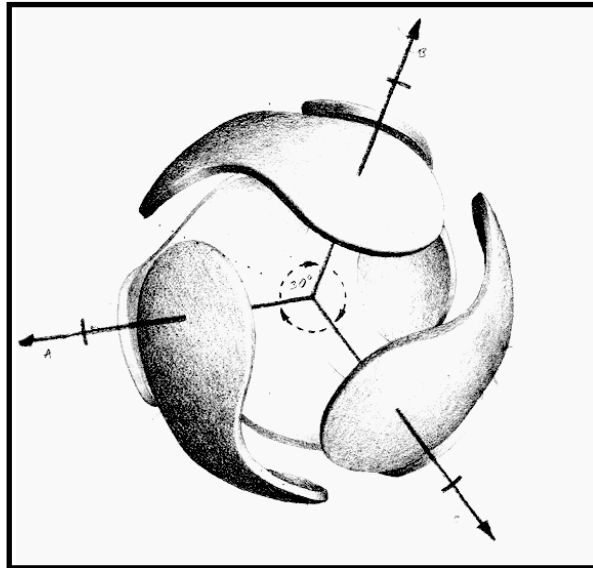
On Wednesday 9 December, five members of staff and myself slept in these tents. We had no access to hot water, heating or toilets and came into work as normal the next day. The purpose of this was to again illustrate the suffering experienced by so many, whilst simultaneously raising money through sponsorship. We were well prepared for the cold weather, but not as prepared for the foxes chewing the guy ropes! All in all, it went as well as we could have hoped and we have raised over £3000 – more than tripling our target! We are hugely grateful for all of our sponsors and the kind words of support from students, parents, colleagues and governors.

Lastly, thank you to Danielle Parker, Juliet Cook, Afra Cory, Jim Brown and Alex Sherston for giving up their warm beds for the night and contributing to this huge achievement!

Let's keep the momentum going, we'd like to hit £3500 – enough to feed 1000 children for a week:  
[www.justgiving.com/stoke-newington-school-sit-in](http://www.justgiving.com/stoke-newington-school-sit-in)



# Keep it fair



**Abdul Alibhai, Stephan Singh and Piotr Ozgur are putting pressure on the Premier League to use Fairtrade footballs for all matches.**

Football stitchers live in countries such as India, Pakistan and Bangladesh, and they get paid under 20p a day for hand-stitching the panels on to footballs. We use those footballs here!

Meanwhile, the Premier League pumps millions into Britain's favourite sport and footballers are paid extraordinarily large sums of money!

These football stitchers, who are often children too, work up to 20 hours a day, are not protected by health and safety regulations and are forced to work and make footballs in unsafe places in order for other people around the world to buy them at high prices. These people have no choice over where they work as they are the poor and vulnerable who get paid hardly anything in order to survive. These people are being exploited and it is our fault! It is our demand for branded footballs that keep the supply coming.

Our e-petition aims are to persuade the Premier League and its CEO, Richard Scudamore, to purchase and use Fairtrade footballs. This action would change the lives of those who stitch the footballs – they would get paid fairly, get better working

conditions and help their communities with education and healthcare.

**“In India, the average wage for people stitching balls is 20 rupees, a third of the minimum wage of 63 rupees.”**

Fairtrade footballs will give people a fairer wage for making the footballs. Fairtrade helps them by making schools for the younger generation to be educated and have a brighter future. They also provide medicine for the old and the ill. They provide homes and re-build a whole community. Nike, Adidas, Puma and many more brands that make footballs do not provide education, houses, medicine and food for their workers and do not improve their communities!

We must try to encourage people to buy Fairtrade footballs as it is England's most popular sport, played by many!

Sign our e-petition here:  
[www.change.org/p/richard-scudamore-premier-league-football-persuade-the-premier-league-to-use-fair-trade-footballs-in-matches](http://www.change.org/p/richard-scudamore-premier-league-football-persuade-the-premier-league-to-use-fair-trade-footballs-in-matches)



# WINTER CONCERT

**“This year’s concerts reflected the highest standard of musicianship and the greatest breadth of musical genres - from individual students performing through to the bands, the jazz ensemble and the amazing string quartet. The concerts highlighted the huge amount of work and dedication put in by the students and staff of our school. Yet again, I was astonishingly proud to be a member of staff at Stoke Newington School.”**

**Alan MacAskill, deputy headteacher**

**By Rianna Kellman**

It was an enormous pleasure to be able to perform with such amazing musicians from Stoke Newington School. The concert was superb – high quality and very well organised and controlled by Mr Bourne. I think it shows how much hard work the music department and students have put in, we’ve all made a lot of progress and there’s lots of potential ahead for music at SNS.

The winter concert was filled with joyous and spirit lifting songs. We enjoyed an ensemble put together by Ms Bryant of ‘Rather Be’ by Clean Bandit. Also a confident performance by Rianna Kellman singing ‘Loving You’ by Minnie Ripperton.

We also enjoyed the sweet sound of the young SNS

choir singing ‘Hold Back The River’ which SNS parent, Ms Ings said was ‘magical’ and ‘demonstrates all that is brilliant about music and its potential for young people at the heart of a curriculum, as well as highlighting the values and ethos at the very core of SNS.’

The audience was fantastic and gave great support to every performance. Mr Bourne said, “I’d like to thank all the brilliant pupils for their excellent contributions and commitment to ensembles this term, all the parents for coming to watch, the amazing catering and HR team for providing the raffle and refreshments, the school management for allowing this concert to happen and all the amazing instrumental and teaching staff who put hours and hours of passion into these events!”









# Creative Day

**There was so much going on in Creative Day, Year 7s used music to journey through time and Year 8 learned about women in sport. Year 9 had an Animal Farm themed day - Nemi Bang tells us what it was like living through Orwell's satirical novella...**

Mr Burn and Mr Brown started the day off in assembly with their own SNS reenactment of George Orwell's Animal Farm.

Mr Brown started telling us how bad our attendance was whilst Mr Burn tried to convince us that we could improve this. Mr Brown interrupted Mr Burn quite a few times, accusing him of telling vicious lies.

At the end of the assembly it was decided that Mr Burn would go on trial to see if he or Mr Brown would be head of year.

We started the day off with English where we chose whose side we were on, Mr Burn's or Mr Brown's. We made big posters and newspaper propaganda that tried

to convince the opposition who should win the trial.

The teachers had also filmed clips of themselves telling stories of bad experiences they'd had because of Mr Burn. They also had a pack of ginger nut biscuits next to them whilst talking (which strangely, are infamous for being Mr Brown's favourite...)

The rest of the afternoon was spent making more propaganda posters in anticipation for the big trial.

At the end of the day, we all went to the sports hall where students began the trial by performing a play about Animal Farm. The play and the trial came to close with Mr Burn losing and being chased out of the hall by an angry pack of dogs.







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# RED KYTE FLY HIGH AT THE ROYAL ALBERT HALL

Stoke Newington band Red Kyte had the considerable honour of playing at the Royal Albert Hall in the Music For Youth Proms 2015. Guitarist and SNS sixth former Robbie McGrail tells us what it was like to play in one of the UK's most prestigious music venues.



Along with a kaleidoscope of young musicians in Britain, from Stoke Newington to the Orkney Isles, Red Kyte played at the Music For Youth Proms on Monday 23rd November. Our band consists of three current Stoke Newington Sixth Form students – myself (Robbie McGrail) on guitar, Hector O'Shea on bass and James Westwood as the drummer, with former SNS student, Hal Dixon on vocals.

We formed several years ago, playing in school concerts, parents' parties, hired venues, pubs and finally, after much auditioning, the Royal Albert Hall. The latter's achievement was all down to the youth organisation, CM, based in Tower Hamlets, which focuses on giving gigging and recording opportunities to young musicians, free of charge. Working with CM eventually led to an audition for Music For Youth, which were happening

all over the country. On the second attempt, Red Kyte proceeded onto the next round: Birmingham Town Hall. With another band under the bracket of CM, we went to the Midlands to play our music, accompanied by CM staff, Trevor McKinley and Connal Kelleher. I was sick all day, and would've asked for anything to replace waiting around, sound checking and performing, in an uncharted city. A couple of months after Birmingham, however, the acts to play at the Royal Albert Hall for the Music For Youth proms were confirmed and, to much surprise, we were on it.

The Royal Albert Hall is one of the most prestigious venues in Britain, housing The Rolling Stones, Frank Sinatra, and even Muhammad Ali. We spent much of our day gawking at the photographs of these history-makers who had performed and entertained there previously,





as well as watching the other acts sound check, which ranged from orchestras, to brass bands, choirs, singer-songwriters and folk duos. All of which were some of the best young musicians I have ever heard.

There have been many times in the past where I've felt wracked with nerves (drama performances and North London derbies to name a few), but none match the terror of standing in utter darkness before an audience of 5,000, especially when my pedal-board, a vital piece of equipment the whole band were relying on, practically crumbled before me. We carried on regardless, as there is no way of escaping a performance such as this, playing two of our own compositions, 'Wolf' and 'Inner City Living', to make up our 6-minute slot. The show concluded a few acts after ours, all of us feeling exhausted and surprised at how quickly 6 minutes can

go. A CM-made documentary is to be coming out shortly on our day at the Royal Albert Hall.

It was a fantastic experience, with nothing else really to compare with it, and it marked a turning point in the course of Red Kyte's career. The post-gig thaw that has followed has been one of quiet recollection, but we can now look ahead to more gigging and recording opportunities on the horizon.

We will be taking a year out between sixth form and university to work on our music, and see if we can carry on with the adrenaline gained from the Royal Albert Hall. The performance will long live in my memory, as it will for the other members of Red Kyte, but it could not have been done if youth charities like CM were not here to oversee it.

# Diary

• 4 Jan 16	- Inset day
• 18 Jan 16	- A level Geography trip
• 26 Jan 16	- Year 8 parents' evening
• 27 Jan 16	- Late start   school begins at 10.55am
• 1 Feb 16	- LGBT month
• 5 Feb 16	- Creative day
• 8 Feb 16	- Year 9 French exchange
• 9 Feb 16	- Parents forum (7pm to 8pm)
• 10 Feb 16	- Year 12 parents' evening
• 11 Feb 16	- Late start   school starts at 10.55am
• 12 Feb 16	- Ski trip (12/02/15 - 20/02/15)
• 21 Feb 16	- External applicant deadline for Sixth Form
• 23 Feb 16	- Options evening
• 3 Mar 16	- World Book Day
• 4 Mar 16	- Late start for students - school starts at 10.55am
• 7 Mar 16	- Year 10 work experience and national careers week
• 7 Mar 16	- Year 12 & 13 Mocks Week 2
• 8 Mar 16	- International Women's Day
• 10 Mar 16	- Sixth Form external interviews
• 14 Mar 16	- Shakespeare week
• 14 Mar 16	- Deadline for Year 8 options
• 23 Mar 16	- Drama production
• 23 Mar 16	- New York art and photography trip (23/03/15 - 29/03/15)
• 24 Mar 16	- Drama production

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