

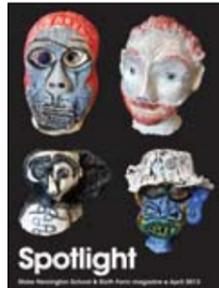


Spotlight

Stoke Newington School & Sixth Form magazine • April 2013

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Cover: clay heads based on works by Picasso and Van Gogh. Clockwise from top left, by year 8 students: **Afra Ali-Abdallah**, **Eugenie Robinson Lee**, **Nancy Taylor** and **Onur Erdogan**

Letter from the headteacher

Dear parents and carers,

I am pleased to look back on a very successful spring term and forward to new developments. Construction of our new purpose-built sixth form block will be fully under way next term, and the builders have already begun work on a groundbreaking Compact Athletics Facility at the south end of the school.

This will have a short, straight running track, a long-jump pit, a high-jump area with landing pad, a shot-put area and fitness spaces.

The facility is an innovative project funded by Sport England and the London Marathon Charitable Trust. It is a pilot for similar projects across the rest of the country – we are setting the standard for others to follow.

The project is designed to provide high-quality athletics facilities in a relatively small space – often all that is available in an urban area. Hackney is one of the few boroughs without an athletics track, so this provision will fill a local gap.

We are really pleased and excited that we have been chosen to host this. Our students will use the facility for PE lessons and after school.

Primary school students will be able to join us and the track will also be available for community use. Please look out for details of the launch, which is expected to be late in the summer term or early in the next school year.

We have been discussing how we can make sure

parents and carers can let us know about any concerns you have – and where you think things are going well. I hope you have filled in the survey we sent out. We will be reporting back on the results this term.

If you have any specific concerns it is best to raise them with your child's subject teacher or form tutor initially. You can find email addresses for all staff on the school website or you can phone for an appointment.

You can also contact the head of subject or year curriculum coordinator, myself or one of the deputy headteachers if you would like to speak to someone more senior.

Our reception staff can help if you are not sure who to speak to – we have a Turkish speaking colleague who can translate if necessary. We are keen to address any concerns you may have – and to hear positive feedback.

Thank you very much for all your support for the school during the past term. We look forward to seeing you soon.

● **Annie Gammon**



Work experience reveals abilities



Year 10 students worked with children, with animals, in offices, on boats, in TV studios, gyms, museums, schools, shops and restaurants on their work experience fortnight in March. Here's what they learned...

- I can be determined and hardworking when it comes to something new and difficult like work – **Alae Ibrahim**
- If I want to be someone in life I have to work hard for it. Also, I didn't realise I was good at small talk – **Evelyn Fasulu**
- I am very patient with people, and also that some jobs are not as fun as they look – **Adam Ali**
- I'm proud of everything: of working with kids and telling them what's right and what's wrong – **Umit Simsek**
- I didn't realise I was good at conducting research – **Matthew Davis**
- I learned your maturity definitely changes when you are not in school – **Amina Khandoker**
- For the first time I wasn't shy to talk to anyone and was comfortable in explaining anything – **Damla Gurpinar**

Google partnership starts with trip

Internet giant Google opened up its London headquarters to a group of SNS students last month, as part of a long-term partnership between Google and SNS that will also include work experience, vocational learning, mentoring and other joint projects. Our students report...

Jasmine Ranasinghe, year 9

On the last day of term year 9 students went on a trip to the Google Campus building.

When we got there, we had a tour around the campus then some entrepreneurs talked to us about

their businesses and how they got to where they were and gave us advice about being entrepreneurs.

Later in the day we had a go using a device called Raspberry Pi which let us hack into a game called Minecraft and let us give it commands. It was really fun and exciting to learn about all these new things.

Keave Tollington, year 9

I enjoyed the trip to Google Campus because it was very interesting and I found it a really great opportunity because we got to grasp the basics of programming.

It looks like a cool place to work and it was good to hear stories from the entrepreneurs that used the space to develop their ideas.

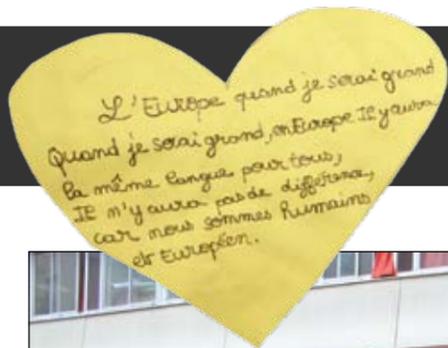
Joseph Mathiszig-Lee, year 9

When I visited Google Campus, I met many young entrepreneurs and have seen how far they have come from just playing with code and how they work in Tech City developing programmes for millions of people.

This has really inspired me and trying code out for the first time on the Raspberry Pi has pushed me further to develop my own app.

Penpals go to Paris

Forty-four year 8 students spent a week staying with their penpals from Collège Georges Braque, Paris. They saw the sights as well as going to school with their hosts



Outside Collège Georges Braque and, above, SNS students join the class



Three Oxbridge offers

Craig Hewitt, director of sixth form

Three of our sixth form students have been offered highly sought-after places at Oxford and Cambridge universities.

Rebecca Verlander has an offer of a place to study human, social and political sciences at Clare College, Cambridge.

Miriam Stewart has secured a place to study theology and philosophy at St Peter's College, Oxford. And Jake Morgan-Stead also has an offer from Oxford, to study history at Queen's.

'I was so pleased to get this offer to study human social and political sciences,' Rebecca said. 'Thanks to all the amazing opportunities at Stokey,

the summer schools and the hours of help with my personal statement, I was able to compete with people from private schools and make a successful application.

'It wasn't easy but if you take up the opportunities on offer here and work hard then anything is possible.'

Jake said: 'I'm really glad my hard work has paid off and that I've proved to other people from SNS that our sixth form is the sort of place that sends students to Oxford. Now all I've got to do is get the grades!'

More than 60 SNS students have sent off university applications and over 50 already have offers, many of them from leading Russell Group universities. Congratulations to all our successful applicants.

Petchey award: Emily's efforts win recognition

Danielle Thom
Head of modern languages

Congratulations to year 9's Emily Pond, who was nominated for a Jack Petchey Award by her peers for her extensive work in fundraising.

Emily has given up her free time to raise money for the Pete Brennan Trust, the school fund that is used to help make sure that students can take part in school trips and activities, regardless of their financial circumstances.

She has given the £200 Petchey prize money to the art department, to ensure access to art materials for students who need them.

Baroness brings a buzz

Abdel Rebika, year 12

Baroness Lola Young, a peer who sits in the House of Lords, visited school last term. Members of the SNS students' House of Lords and House of Commons attended as well as A level politics students.

The atmosphere in the resource centre was electric as we awaited the arrival of the baroness, and she didn't disappoint. Questions from the students clearly startled the baroness,

and that just goes to show the passion for politics shown by SNS students.

I was really impressed with how the event went. I also wasn't expecting the Baroness to be so down to earth with us. It highlighted that it's ordinary citizens that work in our legislative system and politicians are just like us.

The event was an eye-opener into our legislative system and how it's people like us that work to make a difference. We all play our part.



Chefs go global

Veronica Flavell
Design and technology

SNS staged its own *MasterChef* as year 11 GCSE catering students designed and prepared an 'international meal for two'.

All the students demonstrated their creativity, culinary skills and professional standards of presentation. They produced dishes from America, Italy, Poland, the Caribbean, Greece and Turkey.

Every dish was cooked to perfection, with delicious results.



We ran the science class

Three students ran a year 9 triple science class as part of Takeover Day at the end of term. They took on teacher and teaching assistant roles and led the lesson on dissecting a heart to learn about blood and circulation. The lesson was enjoyed by all – with only one detention.

Mohammed Nuh said: 'I find it good as students get to do the lesson how they think it should run. I also like the dissection as it is not something I normally do.'

George Fletcher, a 'teacher' for the session, said: 'I enjoyed it quite a lot.

It was nice to know how a teacher feels when the class challenges them. It wasn't easy.'

Fellow 'teacher' Alex Samuel added: 'The lesson was exciting to teach. Students behaved really well and it was good.'

And 'teaching assistant' Lara Tollington said: 'It was fun, but shows how hard it is being a teacher.'

The enthusiasm of the students was clear. Can Celik explained: 'It was exciting because you have a different view of how children become teachers.'

Year 11's Sam Joseph produced a chilling tale, below, for GCSE English. We also have two stories from the creative writing club



Pic: GCSE photography work by **Silver Yates**, year 10

A pond full of souls...

The clock struck twelve and a distant bell rang. There was a full moon that shone through the misty woods. A pond full of souls lay in the middle of a forest. There were no bodies in the pond, but hearts.

An unknown figure who had no face. Just a pair of dark, dusky eyes. He had risen from a single and recent heart that had been chucked in there. He took the form of a ghost that floated above the floor. He wore a trench coat that reached his feet. His feet dangled with no life like himself. He had no hair, but a cowboy hat and he looked as frightening as a goblin.

The unknown figure started to float through the forest. The sound of crickets buzzed in a high pitch frequency and if he was a human his brain would stop working and pop and lifeless eyes would roll back. As he moved further into the jaws of the wood the sounds of wolves howled around. Pairs of eyes crept in and out of the darkness and the sound of

scattering and panting moved around the twining trees. The figure looked out and saw the glow of the moon that lit up the start and end of a lonely and quiet path. His journey starts here.

The path was straight and flat and an obscure fog could be seen in the distance. As he floated down the path animals and creatures from below rapidly sprinted across in fear of the figure. One of them caught the dark cold eyes and turned into ice that soon burst into a thousand shattered shards. He kept on moving along, as if nothing had happened. The creatures in the woods closed their eyes in fear of turning into nothing, nothing but a puddle of water when the day would come.

The figure stopped suddenly and his mind travelled back. Back into the past. 'We will ask you again. Give us your money or we will kill you,' said the gang of thieves whilst they kicked and punched him.

'I swear I have no money, please, I

beg you,' sobbed the unknown figure.

'Well then you know what's going to happen. Get him boys!' shouted the leader of the thieves. The unknown figure snapped out of the past and clenched his eyes. He kept on moving down the path.

Foggy

Everything started to go foggy and the visibility became low. There were signs with bones painted on them but why would that stop the figure? So he kept floating along. The path was muddy and squelchy. Skulls and bones stuck in the mud and some of the skulls had dents in the side of them as if they had been smashed continuously by a smooth rounded rock. Some even had their brain inside. Foaming and rotting slowly. He could remember there was blood that filled the air. He was here.

An enormous mansion stood in front of him. The windows were all boarded up and there were hands

nailed in the wall. The figure could remember the 'Bang! Bang! Bang!' from the hammer and the innocent people screaming. He shouted out, 'Is anybody there?' But nothing came out because he didn't have a mouth. He went inside and looked around. It was a slaughter house that was originally for animals but then used on humans. What they used to snap the necks were meant to be used to kill chickens. What was meant to cut pigs in half was used to chop humans into bits.

The rounded staircase was broken, but as the figure looked up he saw it. He saw his past dangling. His lifeless corpse was hung from the highest point. Where heart was meant to be there was a hole. A hole now filled with stolen gold. The figure blacked out and the last words he heard from the past were:

'Don't worry. This will not hurt a single bit!' as the thief stabbed the knife into his chest. ■

'He shuffles too'

Lily McKay, year 7

We've just come home from a camping holiday. You go upstairs to your room to unpack your bag, I do the equivalent. You take your scouts gear out of your backpack and fold it into your chest of drawers. You do the same with your bedtime pyjamas, you see your teddy and hug it. I come to your room and we play with our teddies; we dress them to the personalities we gave them.

Your teddy is shy and short tempered but keeps his emotions inside. My teddy is lively and nice. I love my teddy, so do you.

'Mackenzie, Lola,' our mum shouts, 'Supper time.' You didn't realize the time, neither did I. You run down the stairs excited to know what's for dinner. You realize it's macaroni cheese, you pull your tongue out and point at it: 'Yuk,' you say. 'Don't be rude, Mackenzie, Lola requested it,' our mum said. I look at you smartly, as a reply. You stick your tongue out at me. We argue all though supper.

We both go up to our rooms; your small teddy bear is lying on your pillow. You shout at it angrily as if it was his fault we had macaroni cheese. You walk to your bin and cough up a load of cheese.

You go to sit on your bed. When you do you realize teddy's not there. You look behind you, you're petrified, a big grizzly bear looks at you, he growls. You shuffle away, he shuffles too. You then glare out a window on the other side of your room.

Outside of it, I'm shouting up to you. You come to look at me, the bear follows slowly. I'm sitting under a big old tree, it's tilted messily.

I show you a small teddy bear identical to yours. You realize there is still a big bear behind you. You hear a thud and you see your bed shaking, you jump to it and stop it from wobbling, you see a little teddy bear rolling on your pillow, identical to mine. You pick it up. 'Teddy,' you whispered, 'I'm sorry.' Holding your bear, you turn to the back to the window; the grizzly vanished. ■

'All passengers stay in your seats'

Martha French, year 7

The plane shook. Amelie screamed. Her mother held tight onto her. 'It's going to be alright!' she insisted, but she wasn't even convincing herself.

A phone rang. On and on, over and over. Nobody answered it.

'Could all passengers stay in their seats and...'

There were screams and the plane was suddenly sinking in the air. A wave of panic that had already washed across the plane was now 10 feet high and more dangerous than a tsunami.

The water was ice cold. Amelie and her mother watched as the plane disappeared beneath the surface of the deep blue surface. They were sitting on an unidentified piece of aeroplane, shivering in the cold.

'Where's daddy?' Amelie croaked, her voice barely a whisper.

'I don't know,' Her mother lied, wiping tears from her mascara stained face. She had seen her husband disappear beneath those evil waves and hated herself for not doing anything to help him. 'Come on,' she mumbled.

'Let's go and join daddy.' ■

Different class

Two creative days last term saw whole year groups from years 7 to 9 plunge into very different learning activities – and have fun. The special activities included a trading game, bringing together maths and humanities in a role-playing exercise to learn about the global market, catching a spy using science and maths skills, exploring the importance of languages through music and drama, and combining art and humanities to stage a human rights demo for LGBT History Month.

Students highlighted the things they had learned on their creative days – from prime numbers to the work of artist Keith Haring and, as one student put it, ‘building my confidence’.

Many students said taking part made them feel ‘happy’, ‘excited’ and ‘proud’. Here is a selection of their thoughts on the two creative days.

Taking part made me feel...

- ‘Happy that I was learning lots of languages.’
- ‘More intelligent and mature.’
- ‘Good because I know all of these things and I feel smart and it’s a different way to end the term.’
- ‘I didn’t know that so many celebrities had learned another language. Learning how many

people do have other languages, and how useful and valuable they are, makes me want to try harder in my own languages.’

- ‘Really happy about my skills and what I can do.’
- ‘Good that I took part.’
- ‘Very happy and very proud that I learned something.’
- ‘Proud of my school and community for being so welcoming towards LGBT people.’
- ‘Taking part made me want to learn more languages.’
- ‘I had a lot of chances to think hard – this was really fun.’
- ‘Maths and science are a lot more interesting and fun than I originally thought.’

- ‘Proud I am helping to make a lot of people’s lives better by helping raise awareness for LGBT!’
- ‘I felt happy that I know more than one language (English and Turkish)!’
- ‘Like a real spy and it made me feel really important.’
- ‘A part of a group.’
- ‘Privileged to come to SNS!’
- ‘More interested in language and the way people communicate.’



Harsh truth of trainers trade

Jaya Rathbone, year 8

We did trading trainers on creative day – a game to simulate the lives of families living and trading in Third World countries.

I really enjoyed this game as not only was it very fun but one also realised the sheer desperation of these people’s lives. All our teams had to steal things to survive – in reality families steal just to buy food.

This game raised awareness of the harsh truth of these people’s lives: they work twice as hard yet still regularly starve to death.

This has been one of the best creative days out of many. I thoroughly enjoyed it.

Reading stars are going for goal

Joel Dos Ramos Pinto, year 7

On Thursday 7 March, year 7 pupils attended the first ever Premier League Reading Stars event.



We started by playing a game so we could know the names of each other and what teams we supported.

We played several games that were fun but made you think, like hangman, and that involved literacy but instead using football words.

There were lots of books to read about football. We read for five minutes and we can read more next week.

We all got our own football cards, just like the playing ones. You needed to put your name, what position you play in football, say your strength, speed and reading skills.

Mr Brown, who was proudly wearing a Newcastle shirt, started playing a game where students had to do the opposite of what the teacher said.

If he said 'catch it' you had to head it, and if he said 'head it' you had to catch it. It was a hard game but Lauren and Aaron were the winners.

Then, the match...

The teams had a mix of teachers and students. It was a cold and rainy day and it made it hard to control the ball.

We all played well. We all played our best.

The final score was 5-3 and the man of the match was Aaron – even though he was on the other team!

We all enjoyed it very much. Next week, we are going to the Emirates for a tour (not to play!).

If you want to come to the club, you should talk to Mr Brown, Mr Lakin or Mr Medway.

Sports teams excel as Olympic athlete visits

Steven Clark, PE department

It's been another very successful term for SNS students competing in a range of sports – and we've had a visit from an Olympic athlete too.

Olympic 400m runner Perri Shakes-Drayton was in school last month to put students through their paces (below).

There was success for our **year 8 boys' rugby team** (right) who won the plate in the City Academy rugby sevens competition.

Our **KS4 boys** won the North London Badminton Tournament.



In cricket, our **U13 and U15 girls' teams** and our **U13 boys' teams** have all taken top spots as Hackney indoor cricket champions.

The **year 8 boys' football team** won the Hackney six-a-side tournament. This achievement was matched by the **U13 and U15 girls' football teams**, who won a Football vs Homophobia tournament at the Emirates and the prestigious Premier League football tournament. Our girls will now represent Arsenal in a national tournament.

Our girls' and boys' teams came second and third respectively in the **Hackney Swimming Gala**, winning nine gold medals, 14 silvers and four bronzes.

Rene Auty came second in the Hackney indoor rowing championship. **Alex Machin-Paley** came 14th out of over 100 runners in the London schools' cross country race. And **Romayne Stewart** was crowned East London Individual Table Tennis Champion at U16 level despite only being in year 9.



It's the fort that counts

Abena Agyei, humanities department

Year 7 students have been working hard to create their own medieval castles with defensive features. They produced a huge variety of castles and you could tell the students had pushed the boundaries in terms of creativity.

The work was outstanding. We set up a showcase so staff and students could see them all – and there were lots of positive comments about the quality of the castles.

The showcase also gave the students an opportunity to look at the work of their peers. A big congratulations to all the students who participated for their hard work and diligence. They have definitely set the bar high for next year.

Red sea raises £1,500 for charity

Helen Adekanmi, year 12

Does red have connotations of anger? Well not at SNS: on Comic Relief day SNS went red for charity.

Excitement had been brewing for days as students raised money by painting nails, staging an art exhibition and organising a bake-off between tutor groups, which brought out the positive competitive streak in students.

The atmosphere was electric as in between lessons the corridors were a sea of red with students going as far as dying their hair.

Even our sixth formers took part by dusting off their old uniforms and wearing them in. 'I asked teachers to sponsor me to wear my uniform and they said they would double any money I made if I wore a skirt,' said Toby from year 12.

We raised a total of £1,565.49 and next year we plan to go even bigger. A well done and big thank you to everyone involved.

In harmony at LGBT showcase

Caitlin O'Shaunessy-Palmer, year 8

We were very excited to be asked to play at this year's London Schools LGBT Showcase at the Emirates stadium. There were many schools there and the view of the pitch from the stage was amazing.

My group played an Antony and the Johnsons song and afterwards people told me that it made them cry.

All of us really love the opportunities that we are given through music and we are looking forward to the next event.



Diary

Tuesday 23 April	Governors' resources committee
Tuesday 23 April	PTA planning meeting
Wednesday 24 to Friday 26 April	<i>Grease</i> – SNS musical
Monday 29 April	Year 7 parents' and carers' evening
Tuesday 30 April	Late start
Tuesday 14 May	External exams begin
Saturday 18 May	Full governors' meeting
Wednesday 22 May	Turkish, Kurdish and Turkish Cypriot achievement day
Wednesday 22 May	PTA evening
Monday 27 to Friday 31 May	Half term holiday
Monday 3 June	Primary school (year 6) induction interviews
Tuesday 4 June	PTA planning meeting
Tuesday 11 June	Governors' resources committee
Wednesday 12 June	Year 8 parents' and carers' meeting
Monday 17 June	Start of health week
Monday 1 July	Start of higher education week
Monday 1 July	'Beginning Key Stage 4' evening
Monday 8 July	Start of year 12 work experience fortnight
Wednesday 3 July	Sixth form induction day
Thursday 4 July	Primary school induction day
Thursday 4 July	Sports presentation evening
Friday 5 July	Year 11 prom and year 13 leavers' event
Thursday 12 July	Full governors' meeting
Friday 13 July	SNS creative event
Thursday 18 July	PTA evening
Friday 19 July	Takeover Day
Tuesday 23 July	Last day of term

Contacts

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Look back: March 2013

The Barbican has featured work by SNS A level photography students in a new book, *Everything Is Moving*. Students, staff, parents and carers went along to the official launch at the Barbican to pick up copies of their published work.



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