Stony Dean School

Working to Inspire

Stony Dean School Bulletin: 26th March 2018

Dear parents and carers,

It's that time of year again where we are nearing the end of another productive and successful term at Stony Dean School. School continues to move at a pace and the activities and events that the staff provide outside of the classroom environment are phenomenal. These activities are specifically designed to provide opportunities for pupils to improve their independence, to build confidence in themselves and to show them different opportunities that our community has on offer to enhance their lives. This term we have had pupils and staff go to the concentration camps of Auschwitz to mark holocaust memorial week; closer to home students have been to the National Gallery, skiing at the Hemel Snow Centre, Tate Britain, Tesco bag packing to raise money for the year 13 Montpellier trip in the summer, Birchwood Landscaping project, Alfriston school project, Clay pigeon shooting and many sporting fixtures. All of these opportunities are on top of the volunteering and work experience that takes places at Latimer, Amersham Town Council and the Entertainer.

All of these activities and experiences are not to be eclipsed by the unwavering commitment to lessons that pupils partake in everyday with a sense of pride. Whenever I have the pleasure of taking parents, head teachers and other professionals around the school, I am always so impressed with the levels of personalisation and focus that is taking place. Progress is made not just academically, but also socially, emotionally and importantly enjoyment. Our staff are committed to making sure every child develops the academic skills for life, but these skills have to go hand in hand with our pupils ability to communicate and function in society as well rounded individuals and I'm immensely proud of what the school does on a daily basis to support this. With this in mind, no organisation is ever perfect and if there are ever any problems please do communicate with the school so that we can get it right. We welcome feedback and if there are ever serious concerns there are systems and processes in place to manage this (please see the webpage for contact details, policies or any other information). Good news is always welcomed as well; we strive to constantly to deliver positive messages of growth and improvement with the pupils, so if there is anything that you are particularly happy with please do feedback this to us also.

On the subject of good news, I would like to recognise the pupils that are due to attend the Arts Society Chiltern Hills Area 'My Golden Moment' awards ceremony. It gave me great pleasure to see the pupils creating work that will be recognised for its creative talent at this local awards ceremony.

If you are able to join us for our end of term assembly please do. We will have an assembly on the theme of success. The days running order starts at Thursday 29th March at Stony Dean School 10:00am for an assembly, followed by the opening of our outdoor gym and finished with the Easter Fayre. All of this has been made possible by the hard work and commitment of the PFA who do such an amazing job and are always interested in volunteers to help!

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With the Easter Holidays just around the corner I would like to wish you a happy and restful holiday with your family. I would also like to challenge parents if they have not already please follow our handle on twitter @StonyDean and our Vimeo account https://vimeo.com/stonydeanschool. There are some interesting videos we have made about managing anxiety and e-safety. I also do recognise that Easter can be difficult with the change of routine and lack of activities. Please do look at the website https://www.bucksfamilyinfo.org or read on for information on activities to make the break a mixture between rest and meaningful activities. Have a good break and I look forward to welcoming the pupils back on the 17th April 2018 (Monday 16th April is an Inset Day).

Mr. Strain
Head Teacher

Term dates

	Open on the morning of:	Closes at end of afternoon of:
SPRING TERM 2018	Friday 5 January	Thursday 8 February
	HALF TERM 12 – 16 FEBRUARY	
	Monday 19 February	Thursday 29 March (1.30pm)

	Open on the morning of:	Closes at end of afternoon of:
SUMMER TERM 2018	Tuesday 17 April	Friday 25 May
	HALF TERM 28 MAY – 1 JUNE	
	Monday 4 June	Tuesday 24 July (1.30pm)
	School will be closed on Bank Holiday Monday 7th May 2018	

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Dates for your diary

	29th March	Stony Dean School Easter Fayre
*	~~26th April~~	~~Year 13 Parent's Eve~~
	10th May	Year 7 Parent's Evening

*Year 13 Parent's Evening has been cancelled. A reminder to parents and carers of year 13 pupils to please contact the school, if they haven't already, to request and arrange phone calls home from subject teachers. Thank you in advance.

STONY DEAN SCHOOL EASTER FAYRE

Thursday 29th March at 11:15 -1pm

Join us at our whole school assembly at 10am followed by the opening of the new outdoor gym area and the Easter Fayre.

Grand Raffle (prizes include: A stay at the Lodge of a castle for six, spa day for two, family ticket for the biggest slide in the world, £50 cash, gift hampers and much more!) Look out for tickets being sent home this week. Raffle drawn at 12.45pm.

Spicy Delights Stall - Veg Curry £2, Chicken Curry £2.50, Samosa 50p, Spring Roll 30p
Refreshments - Sausage Roll 30p, Hot Cross Buns 30p

Cake Stall	Money Tree	Young Enterprise Stall	Coin in a bucket game
Tombola	Hoopla	Guess the weight of the cake	Play your cards right
Lots of Easter games	Photo booth	Popcorn	Jukebox

Most games are 30p so bring as much change as possible!
Cake donations on the day will be very welcome.
Tombola donations welcome now! Collection boxes at reception.
Please tell reception if you are taking your child home after the fayre.

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Messages from our Governors

Hello, my son Charlie is in Y8 and I recently became a Parent Governor at Stony Dean School. Given that the school plays such a central role in my son's daily life and that he has now settled into Y8, I decided it would be a good time to make a positive contribution and provide a parent voice. I also knew it would be beneficial to both the school and my family to become more active in the school community and bring my years of experience in business to the governing body.

As a Parent Governor I am invited to attend Governor meetings periodically in order to give a parent's perspective – a crucial role in providing balance to all decisions. The Governing Body are very supportive and are keen to work with parents, this is demonstrated by the warm welcome and solid support that I have received whilst being on-boarded as a Governor.

There are currently two Parent Governor vacancies at Stony Dean School and it would be great to have another couple of parents to share the experience with. If you are interested in becoming a Governor, please let either myself or Jacqui Dwyer know. (Jdwyer@stonydean.bucks.sch.uk)

If you would like to contact me to find out more about my thoughts and feelings on the role so far please email me on angela@forkgen.com. It would be great to hear from you ☺

Angela Forkgen

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Getting to know our staff

Here at Stony Dean School we have a team of dedicated staff who are committed to the development and education of our pupils. As part of the school bulletin, we thought it would be fun to gain a little insight into our staff and who they are by asking them a few questions created by our pupils. Each newsletter we will feature a different member of staff to help you get to know our team! I have volunteered to put myself in the hot seat as first interviewee.

Name: Mr Strain

Job role: Head Teacher

1. **How long have you worked at Stony Dean School?**
   I first started working at Stony Dean School in April 2012.

2. **What do you like most about working here?**
   The best thing about the school is pupils and staff working together to achieve a common goal of success. Success looks different to different people but everyone at the school is committed to being the best they can be and achieving all they can achieve. Success is not always exams results; it's personal to each person and their journey.

3. **What was the first job you ever had?**
   When I was 15 I had a job delivering newspapers in the morning to people's houses. I found it really difficult getting out of bed early in the morning, but it got easier over time. Having a part-time job taught me valuable lessons of time keeping and hard work.

4. **What would be your dream job and why?**
   Being a Head Teacher is my dream job. My second dream job would be a Canoe Instructor. I would like to do this job because I like teaching and I really like canoeing!

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5. **Do you have any hobbies?**
   In my spare time I enjoy spending time with my family, running and watching Wycombe Wanderers fight for promotion to League One.

6. **If you could visit anywhere in the world, where would it be and why?**
   I would love to visit the Yukon territories in Northern Canada, as it's an unspoiled wilderness in Canada and I could do lots of canoeing there.

7. **Who is your favourite superhero?**
   There are many Superheroes' to choose from; I have recently enjoyed watching Guardians of the Galaxy 2, Thor Ragnarok and Black Panther. But, I always go back to Batman as my favourite Superhero. It has been suggested that Batman has no super power, so cannot be counted as a Super Hero. Batman cannot fly, spin a web or owns a Hammer from the Gods. However, I would say his determination to do the right thing, building a team to save the Earth and the fact he never gives up is a quality of all Super Heroes.

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Fundraising for 6th Form residential trip

Dear Parents & Carers

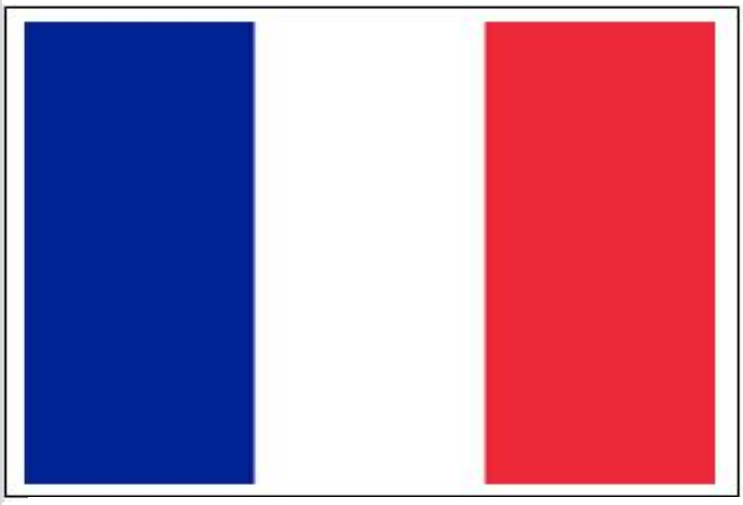
On the 8th April I will be running the Paris marathon! This is a sponsored 26.2 mile run and is to help fundraise for the year 13s, who are going on a 5 day residential trip to France in June.

As part of the experience, pupils are helping fund their own trip, through various fundraising activities, and as the organiser of this trip I felt it was only fair that I also play my part.

If you would like to make a contribution, it would be greatly received! Please use the link below:

www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/mrevisonmarathon

Many thanks
James Evison
Head of Year 9



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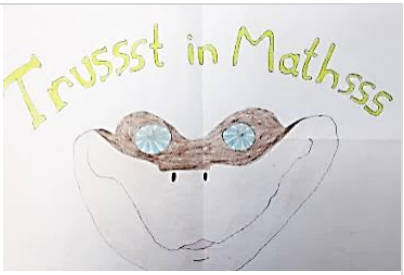

Mathematics

It has been an eventful half-term already, what with Snow Days, mock exams and actual exams for our KS4 and KS5 pupils; but as always we are proud of the effort and progress all our pupils are making in mathematics.

Wednesday 14th March, 18

The 14th March is an important day in the Maths Department – we use it to celebrate Einstein's Birthday in KS3 and Pi (π) 3.14 (14th day of the third month) in KS4 and 5. Our KS3 pupils learn a little bit about Einstein himself as well as make valuable links to science. To celebrate, many of our pupils draw a portrait of Einstein using icing on a biscuit. Please see the pictures below taken of some our foundation pupils enjoying Einstein day.

Some designs and finished products below and one of our pupils in action on the right.

Our Key Stage 4 and 5 pupils will often take time to recap drawing circles using a compass to a given measurement and recap the meaning of Pi which is the ratio of a circle's circumference to its diameter. They then get to enjoy a fruit pie!

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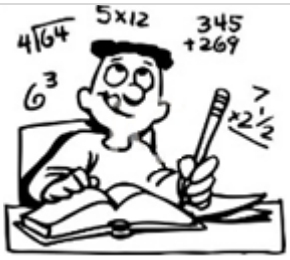

Additional Learning (AL)

Just a reminder, please prompt your child to complete their Additional Learning – it really does make a difference to their learning. Please feel free to support your child while they are undertaking AL and any comments regarding support given, what they found easy or hard are always appreciated by their maths teacher. Additional Learning is used to reinforce concepts being taught in class and the majority of time reflects what they are learning or is revision of key mathematical ideas. By completing their Additional Learning it is helping your child to remember the work they have been undertaking and therefore have better recall of it.

Last half-term's KS3 AL stars are as follows:

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9
Bronze	Rahan Adrees Sahand Elliott	Mubasher Jayden	Dean Tom Caleb
Silver	Haydn Daniel	Caylum Pat Adam Felix Jack	Apollo Tom
Gold	Thomas Karlton Adam Emmanuel Rowan Darren Daren Preston Tyler Bailey	Aman Samuel Leo Jack Daniel Daniel Kyle Zain Umar Joe Johnny Callum Joshua Jack Harvey	Faizan Alex Daniel Tyrone Arbaaz Andreas Jordan Kai Chris Reuben Viking Sonny

KS4 and KS5 MALL (Maths Additional Learning Lotto) winners will be announced in the next bulletin.

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World Monopoly Day – Monday 19th March, 18

Monopoly is one of the most popular board games in the world and the game itself is celebrated twice a year. On the 19th March, 18 it is World Monopoly Day and on the 19th November it will be National Play Monopoly Day.

Monopoly was first published in 1935 and it is estimated since then it has been estimated that over five million people have played the game it is various editions.Many of our pupils enjoy Monopoly and not only does it support maths and developing strategies, it is also a great game for turn taking and communication. We occasionally play Monopoly in maths and some groups will play it to celebrate World Monopoly Day. Furthermore, within the last few weeks most form groups have now got their own Monopoly game that can be played during registration or GOAL.

Maths Skills for Life (MSfL)

This half term in Key Stage Three (Years 7, 8 and 9) our focus is time. Key Stage 4 (Years 10 and 11) and Key Stage 5 (Sixth Form) learn about different aspects of money through the academic pathway they are on and the related examinations they are preparing for.

- ✓ Ways that you can help your child become more confident when dealing with telling the time are by:
- ✓ using an analogue clock as opposed to a digital clock
- ✓ asking for the time – start with easier times to begin with such as o'clock, half past, then quarter past and quarter to
- ✓ asking for time estimates such as *How long do you think it will take you to eat your breakfast? To get ready to go out?* and so on
- ✓ working out lengths of time such as TV programmes

Contacting the Maths Department

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the teaching and learning of Mathematics at Stony Dean please contact the school office and leave a message for Sue Keith, Head of Department (HOD) of Mathematics.

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Auschwitz Project

Two of our Sixth Form students, Amaad and Peter, were given an amazing opportunity to take part in the Lessons from Auschwitz Project, organised by the Holocaust Educational Trust. The Lessons from Auschwitz Project is a four-part course and Amaad and Peter had to agree to take part in all four parts.

Part 1: Orientation seminar
They heard Rudi Oppenheimer, a Holocaust survivor, speak about his experiences; they learnt about pre-war Jewish life and they prepared for the visit.

Part 2: The Visit
They flew to Poland for one day to visit the former Nazi concentration and death camp of Auschwitz-Birkenau. They were able to tour the authentic sites and see museum exhibits. They also took part in a memorial service at the end of the tour.

Part 3: Follow-up seminar
During this seminar, they reflected on the visit and discussed the contemporary relevance of the lessons of the Holocaust project.

Part 4: Next steps
Amaad and Peter are currently working on this part of the project, which is to design and carry out a plan to communicate the lessons they have learned to the community. They intend to do an assembly in school and they will repeat this assembly one evening, so they can invite parents and members of the wider community (date and venue to be confirmed).

Mr Allen and I are extremely proud of the way both young men conducted themselves throughout the project, especially during the physically exhausting and emotionally draining day trip. This project has had a profound effect on both Amaad and Peter. It has had a life changing effect on both of them (and on Mr Allen and me). We hope that you will all be able to support them when they deliver their evening assembly to the wider community.
Ms Bowen

Based on the premise that 'hearing is not like seeing', this four-part course explores the universal lessons of the Holocaust and its relevance for today. The LFA Project aims to increase knowledge and understanding of the Holocaust for young people and to clearly highlight what can happen if prejudice and racism become acceptable.

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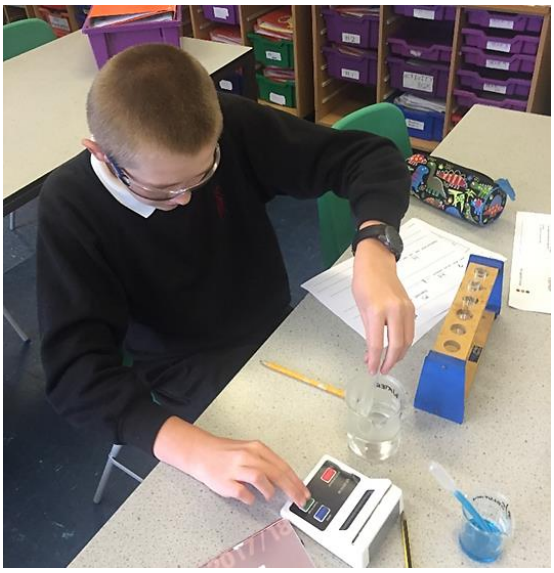
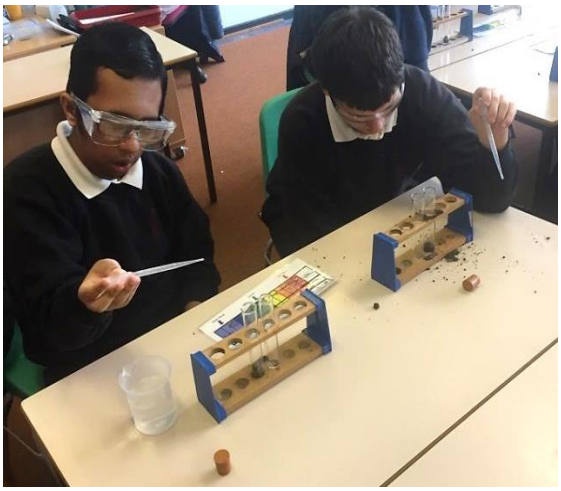
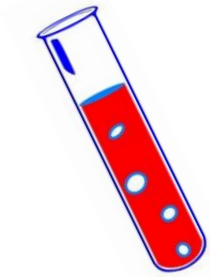
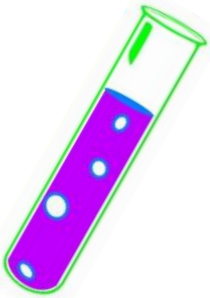
In Science students have been looking and testing the pH soil levels preparing for planting onions which will be used for their meals at school.

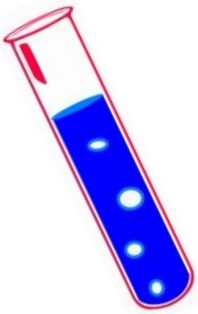
The students in year 8 have been looking at chemical reactions testing different methods and learning about the effects of rusting.

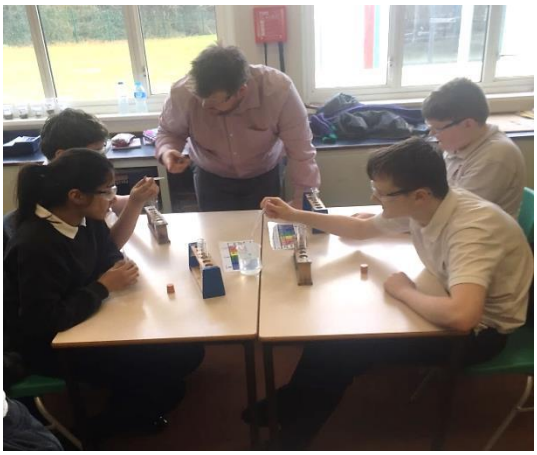












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Foundation

In Daily Living Skills, students have been learning about flower arranging using spring flowers, shrubs and oasis.

They have also potted primroses and decorated them with ribbons for Mother's Day.

In art, pupils have been focused on creating and decorating Chinese conical hats, designing blue and white Chinese pottery and making a dragon for their whole school assembly!

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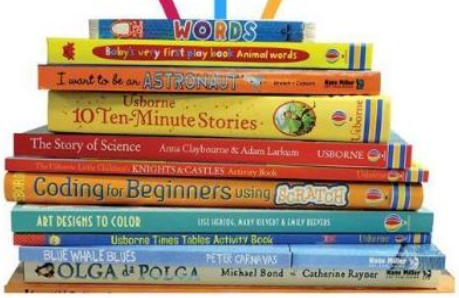
World Book Day 2018

A belated World Book Day was celebrated on Friday 9th March. Due to the snow, we had to cancel the week before but enthusiasm was still high as pupils and staff dressed up as their favourite book characters! The theme was fairy tales and a short history of the influence of fairy tales on English Literature was presented at the assembly, followed by the difficult task of choosing the three best costumes. Of course everyone who participated was a winner and well done to all for making the assembly so successful!



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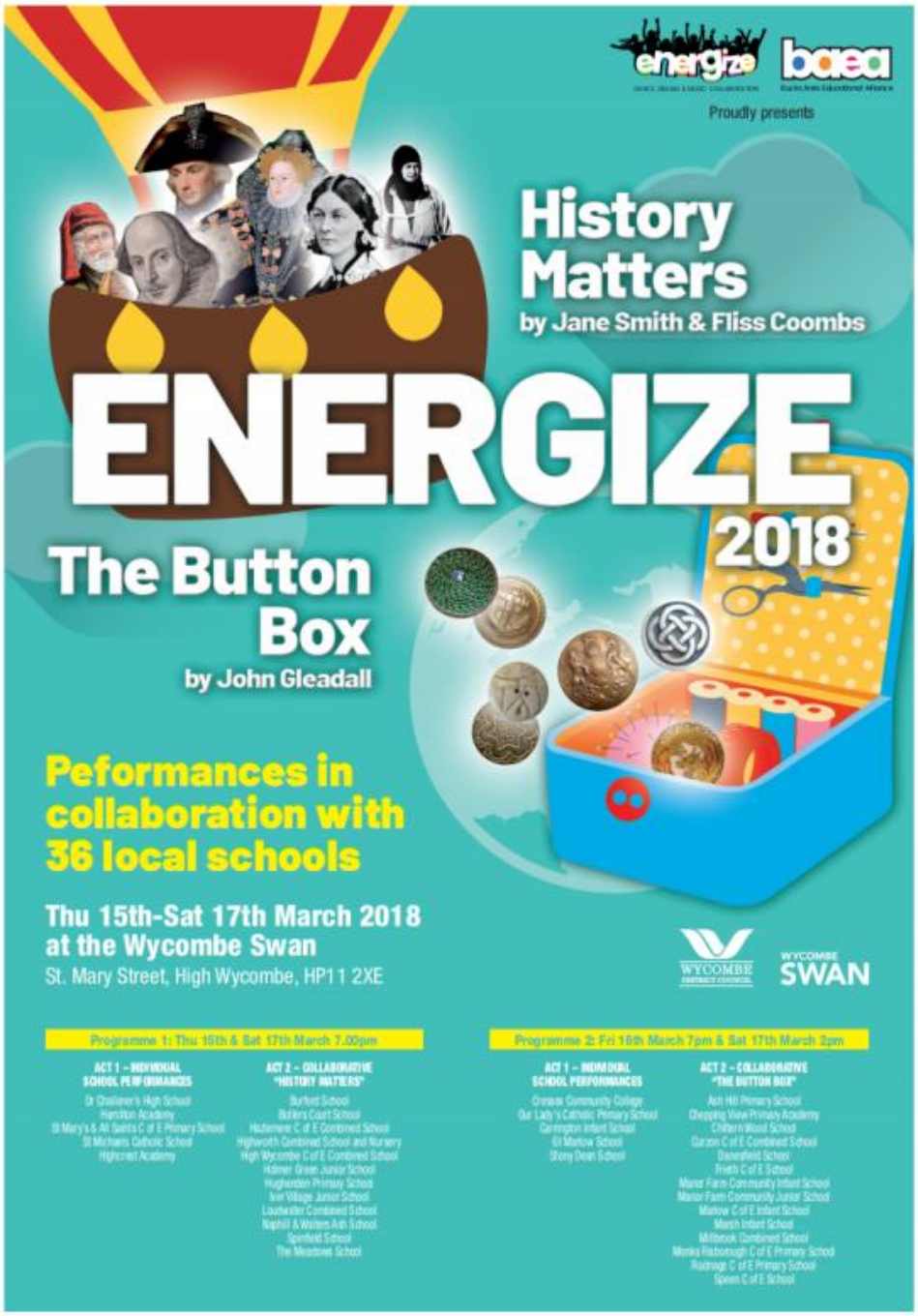
Energize 2018 at the Wycombe Swan



The Stony Dean performance at Energize went down a storm this year. Students performed Friday and Saturday at the Wycombe Swan Theatre. Organisers and audience members loved the students' adaptation of 'Be Our Guest'. Much **clapping and laughter could** be heard as pupils from Stony Dean created a hilarious dance number showcasing their wonderful comedy timing and rhythm. If you missed it this year check out the school Twitter feed and keep an eye out for us when we return to the stage in 2020! Well done to the performers - you were brilliant!

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Tate Britain

Some of the Year 11's had a great day out to Tate Britain in London. We had a long journey there and back but it was worth it! The pupils were able to see some of the art works we've been studying at school up close! We are now documenting this event as part of our course work, one of the pupils said: "I would give Tate Britain a rating 4.8 out 5 because I really didn't like art but when I went there it inspired me."

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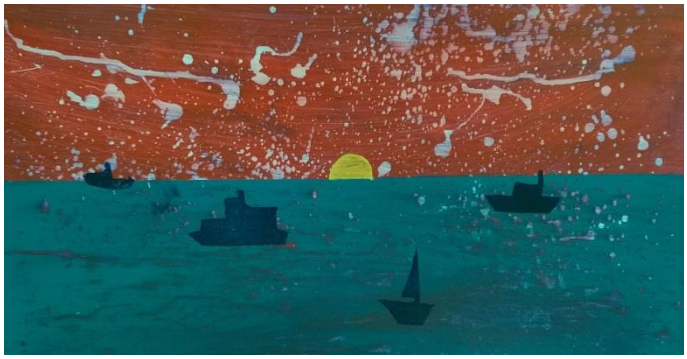
Golden Moment Competition

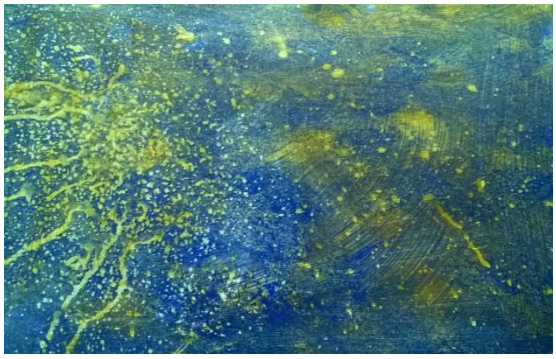
By Joe Y10

The Golden moment competition was organised by The Arts society to celebrate their 50th anniversary! The competition was open to schools in Buckinghamshire and parts of Oxfordshire. Three of our pupils: Joe, Jerome and William's art works have been selected as commendable for the 11 to 17 category. They will be awarded their certificate in an award ceremony on Saturday 17th March 2018 at Aylesbury county museum. All the winning entries will go on display at the museum until the 14th April.

By William Y10



By Jerome Y10



By William Y10

FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

Last Tuesday, the PE Department took two Key Stage 3 teams to a football tournament with 4 other special schools at Egerton Rothsay in Berkhampstead. We split them into a mainly Year 9 team and a Year 7 team. Both teams played exceptionally well and I was super proud of their behaviour and sportsmanship. They did not take it too seriously and they all had fun. The teams eventually finished 3rd and 4th out of 6, which was really commendable. Kai S and Keiran H scored a couple of goals each for the Year 9 team, with the Year 7 goals coming from Ryan S and Marius Y.

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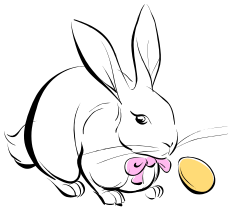
General Information

Easter Holidays Activities at Longridge and Green Park



We have been sent information about some great opportunities for pupils to take part in activities over the Easter holidays. Please see the information below for booking details and special discount codes for money off!

LONGRIDGE

It's sunny! It's finally sunny! As anyone who has had to spend time with her in the last month will know, our CEO hates snow. So to celebrate it all finally melting away, she's giving everyone £5 off Easter Holiday Activity Days with the code AMANDAHATESSNOW. Holiday Activity Days are for young people between the ages of 8 and 14 who are looking to explore some adventurous activities and get active during the school holidays. Four of our amazing activities and lunch, all for just £40. Drop off from 8.45am and pick up at 5pm. Book online here - https://alfvillages.cinolla.com/longridge/courses/holiday-activity-day-3

GREEN PARK

Spring is finally here! Goodbye, snow - you won't be missed! Use code NOMORESNOW for £10 off a Holiday Activity Day this Easter! Holiday Activity Days are for young people between the ages of 8 and 14 who are looking to explore some adventurous activities and get active during the school holidays. Four of our amazing activities and a packed lunch all for the price of just £40 (or £30, if you use the code!). Drop off at 8.45am and pick up at 5pm. Book online here - https://alfvillages.cinolla.com/greenpark/courses/holiday-activity-day-2

Our first Bank Holiday Taster Day is Monday the 2nd of April! Come down to Green Park and meet the new 2018 seasonal team, and try our activities for only £3.50 each! It's a great way to try everything out before committing to a whole course, or just get active and have some fun with your family or friends! Tickets are selling quick, so if you know you want to try something in particular then it's best to book early to avoid disappointment (a few sessions have already sold out, but at the moment there's still a bit of everything available!)
Book online here - https://alfvillages.cinolla.com/greenpark/courses/taster-day

and don't forget to use the discount codes!

Happy Holidays everyone!

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Venue hire!

Need a venue for an event? A sports facility? Consider Stony Dean School! Email our school bursar, Martin Harris, for fees and further information: mharris@stonydean.bucks.sch.uk

Follow our school news

Stony Dean School has a Vimeo account!

You can download Vimeo on Google Play and iTunes. It can also be accessed via the internet; www.vimeo.com. The Stony Dean School channel is https://vimeo.com/stonydeanschool; password: stonydean

We're on Twitter!

Make sure you are following us (@StonyDean) for up-to-date school news and e-safety advice/tips and tricks.

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