

## A Message from Ofsted

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**Amanda Spielman**  
Her Majesty's Chief Inspector

19 September 2018

Mr Keith Hobbs  
Headteacher  
Stephenson Studio School  
Thornborough Road  
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LE67 3TN

Our ref: 407916

*Dear Mr. Hobbs*

### Removal from special measures

I am writing to congratulate you and your school team on your recent inspection outcome.

I know that the progress your school has made is the result of hard work and commitment on the part of many people. You and your team have worked effectively to address weaknesses identified at the last inspection. It is reassuring to note that leaders have a more accurate view of how well the school is performing. I am pleased to read that pupils enjoy learning within a positive working environment. Increasingly, teachers provide pupils with work that is well matched to their needs. As a result, outcomes are improving, particularly for pupils in Year 10. However, you will want to make sure that this good work takes place for all pupils.

I hope that you are all celebrating the improvements you have made. I am sure that you agree that the progress made by you and your team will benefit every pupil at the school.

I wish you every success in your continuing drive for further improvement in the months and years ahead.

Yours sincerely

*Amanda Spielman*

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### Special points of interest:

- *Amanda Spielman congratulates Stephenson Studio School*
- *Trip to a temple and mosque*
- *Record attendance at parent's evening*
- *Top at puzzles*



## Citizenship Trip to Temple and Mosque

A group of thirteen Year 10 and 11 students went on a very special Citizenship trip to visit a Leicester Hindu temple and a mosque.

As a part of the students GCSE Citizenship curriculum, all students are expected to show a good understanding of other cultures and religions in the UK.

In order to help students build up their awareness of different cultures in our locality, one of our governors facilitated a number of students making the trip to a Leicester temple and mosque to experience worship in very different settings to what they may be used to.

First up was a trip to a Hindu temple. 'We went to a temple,' Vincent Clarridge-Ansell explains, 'and we learnt how they

pray with singing and in a different language called Sanskrit.'

Sanskrit is an extremely ancient language that is only used now for prayers and by priests.

The temple was very lively, with a worship session in full swing.



Students were invited to ring the bell, which was a part of the service.

One of the interesting things that the students learned was that Hindus feed their god and dress them and wash them, caring for them as though they were a person.

## And then it was on to the Mosque

In comparison to the temple, the mosque seemed to be very quiet and peaceful. We were welcomed by the imam, who is the person that runs the mosque.

The imam showed us around the mosque, telling us where different things happened.

He also talked about what it is like to live as a Muslim. Even though he was

the imam of a fairly big mosque, he liked to go out and enjoy himself in the evenings, when the evening prayers allowed for it.

Following the visits to the temple and the mosque, we all went to the the Peepul Centre for a curry.

Students really enjoyed the morning out. Year 10 student Declan Breen commented that the 'temple was full of colour and energy'.

'We firstly visited the Hindu temple,' Brook Hutchinson said. 'When we arrived we were shown into a huge room. Inside we watched them pray. They began singing in Sanskrit.'

Jorja Lawson was particularly impressed that Hindus feed their gods. 'We wore hijbas and bindi,' she noted.

Milli-Anne Peach commented that, 'most Muslims have the same life as us but all they do is pray five times a day.

Other than that they have a social life and they do the same thing as us.'

'It was interesting to learn about different religions,' Brandon Lycett said. 'In particular learning about how different religions pray to their gods.'

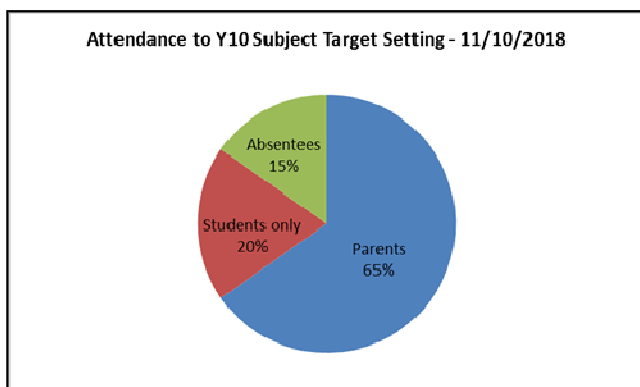


## Open Evening and Record Parents Evening

Our Open Evening in October was one of our most successful to date. We had a large number of engaged parents and new potential students visit us, keen to find out about our school.

We were especially proud of our student volunteers, who were all very smart and extremely helpful on the night and presented themselves in a professional manner.

We have prospective students from many different schools interested in the small groups and the distinctive curriculum offer at Stephenson Studio School and we are looking forward to potentially meeting them next academic year.



Our first Parents' Evening for new Year 10s was one of the best attended evenings we have ever had with 85% of all students in the year group being represented.

Only 15% of students were not represented at the evening, which focused on giv-

ing students very personalized advice on where they currently were at with their work and how to improve.

We will be working very hard to ensure that at our next Parents' Evening every single student is represented. If you have problems attending, please let us know so we can make alternative arrangements.

## Warhammer Club

Mr Hoffmann has recently signed the school up to the Games Workshop School Alliance scheme and formed an afterschool Games Workshop club.

GW are well-known for their miniature games such as Warhammer and their expertly crafted fantasy miniature kits. GW were kind enough to send us a ton of free resources such as paints, models and even whole board games to get some of the school's students into the hobby.



During session one, the students took part in a group game of "Warhammer: Age Of Sigmar" pitting an army of Lizardmen against a horde of ghosts known as the Nighthaunt- the true victors of the battle is still questionable! Following this, the students received their first models and took to the task of assembling them.

There are still a couple of spaces left so if you are interested, come and speak to Mr Hoffmann.

## Stephenson Studio School Number 1 in the World!

Always seeking new ways to involve students in challenging themselves and encouraging competition, the maths department recently launched Stephenson Studio School's participation in the Puzzle of the Week..

Puzzle of the Week is a free international puzzle competition for schools. Students submit answers to a puzzle which is published weekly on Mondays. School and student performances are recorded and leader boards are pub-

lished on the results page. This weekly maths puzzle is tackled by 150 schools around the world.

Year 11 responded very enthusiastically to the first puzzle and were ranked number 1 in the world for a time on Friday afternoon before eventually coming second.

Not bad for such a small school!

In terms of engagement in these puzzles, special mention should go to Year

11 student George Carter for his inventive problem solving skills.

This week's puzzle is on the next page. Have a go and see how well you can do. Anyone can enter, including parents and teachers.

Just go to [www.puzzleoftheweek.com](http://www.puzzleoftheweek.com) and click on the link to the entry form.

# Teacher Profile—Ms Gibbs

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## How long have you been a teaching assistant?

I have been a teaching assistant since 2011.

## What made you decide to become a teaching assistant?

I taught for 21 years, and felt like a change, but didn't really want to leave education as it's something I passionately believed in and enjoyed. It's been a thrilling, challenging and always interesting experience, because I've seen the school grow, transform and evolve. No day is ever the same and I can honestly say it's never dull.

## What do you like about teaching at Stephenson?

I love our school, because, we give everyone the support and opportunity to be the best they can be. Our school is small, friendly and everyone is approachable. We have a can do attitude, in that if something doesn't work we try something else. We endeavour to develop the skills and enthusiasm for learning that can carry you through school and beyond.

## What do you do when you are not teaching?

I go swimming a lot and have recently mastered front crawl, so it's

never too late to learn. I can actually beat some of the men now as we race each other in lengths, which I'm really chuffed about. Don't think they are though.

My other lifelong interest is live music, ranging from folk, Jazz, musical theatre, Ska Punk and good old 70s funk.

## What book are you reading now?

I have recently just finished reading 'Half a yellow Sun', a novel set during the Nigerian Civil war, which I knew nothing about. So not only was this a vivid, evocative and tragic story, I learnt something new into the bargain.



## Puzzle of the Week Challenge

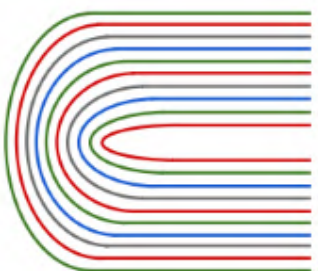
**PUZZLE OF THE WEEK**

Entries open: 15/10/18  
Entries close: 21/10/18

scan to enter


puzzle number  
**73**

Natalie has a newspaper made of 10 large sheets of paper folded in half.



The newspaper contains 40 pages altogether.

The outer sheet contains pages 1, 2, 39 and 40.



Natalie takes out a sheet that contains page 29.

**What is the lowest page number on Natalie's sheet?**

**Extension:** What could the answer be if the newspaper contained  $n$  pages?

@asharpeducator

Original puzzle source unknown, edited by Andrew Sharpe

[www.puzzleoftheweek.com](http://www.puzzleoftheweek.com)

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