

Headteacher's Message

It has been a privilege to see the 'awaking' within our learners following the introduction of literacy and numeracy focused daily tutor sessions. Students have been on a journey from in some cases, reluctance, through acceptance, into active engagement resulting in exceptional progress within their key skills.

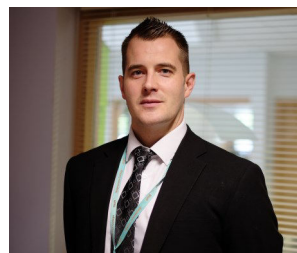
Our learners can now see the link between core literacy and numeracy skills and the application of these skills into other curriculum areas and work placement.

I am pleased to note that feedback from all parents who engaged with our progress review day was extremely positive. Progress made by learners

during half term 3 is a testament not only to the hard work and dedication of staff at Stephenson studio school but the developing resilience, GRIT and determination of our students. I would also like to thank parents for their support in working with the school in driving standards within the school to ensure that every student can be the best that they can be.

There are **67 days** until the first exam.

All staff at Stephenson undertake their own action research and application of learning and students continue to be inspired by this. Our Assistant Headteacher, Stephan Collishaw who celebrates having his fourth book published. Creative writing enrichment sessions



have never been more popular and I will continue to enjoy reading and sharing the results of the students' work with you.

Ms Jones organised another fantastic educational visit to the theatre to watch Blood Brothers. The students were a credit to school and their parents. They were exceptionally well behaved and their engagement with the complexities of the play was incredibly uplifting.

Excerpt From a Student's Creative Writing

The fog lay down as they marched through the forest. The only thing to light their way was a small lantern which was burning bright with a petite spark of fire.

The man walked slowly, almost falling over from the weight of the stone he

was holding. He was caked in mud. His arms and legs were chained. He was muttering his last prayers.

Fear gnawed at him. It was the biggest mistake he had ever made.

The stone crushed him, it

was too heavy.

A flashback to his father caught him off guard. "When you slip, you get back up. Don't be afraid to try again."

The first few paragraphs from talented writer Ellis Paling's new story.

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Special points of interest:

- Student writing
- Fabulous trips to the theatre and sites of historical importance
- Learning more about our teachers
- Book launch—everyone invited



Blood Brothers Trip

Stephenson Studio School had the great opportunity of going to the theatre to watch *Blood Brothers*, which students have been studying in English for their GCSE.

It helped them get a better understanding, but also brought the play alive to help us succeed!

Leading up to the trip, all the students were very excited (though Mr Hobbs excitement beat everyone's).

The school visited the Lyceum Theatre in Sheffield. The theatre company was led by Bill Kenwright,

We spoke to some of our students to see what they thought of the experience and asked them whether it helped them have a better understanding of the play and their reaction was to say that they all,

now, had a better understanding of the play.

Students also said the whole experience was amazing, because the performance is only as good as the atmosphere the audience gives off.

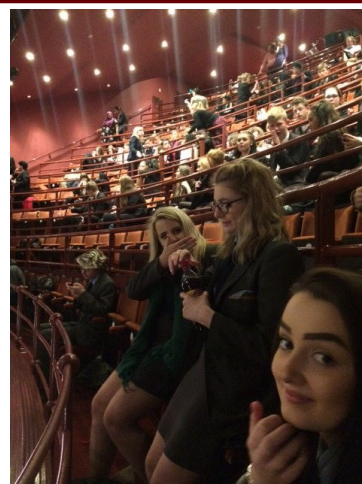
- SSS reporters Georgina Pope & Emma Woods

Student Voice:

'I really enjoyed it,' Adam Haines (Y10) commented. 'The fact that you could actually experience the play for yourself was the best thing.'

'I loved it!' Bayleigh Jelley (Y11)

'It was all right, actually; the best thing about it was the acting.' Kenzie Hutchins



Students at the Lyceum Theatre waiting for the play to start.

History Trip to the King Richard III Visitor Centre

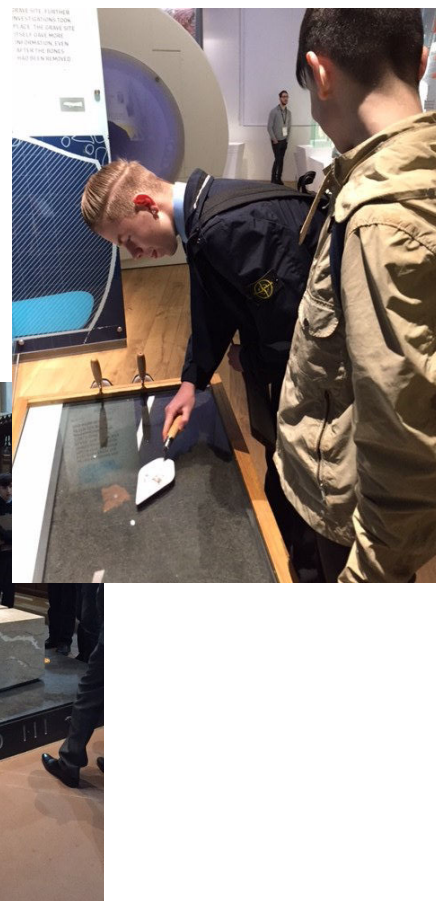
On Friday 27th January, 11 Year 11 Applied History students visited the King Richard III visitor centre and Leicester Cathedral to see the tomb of King Richard III. The trip was to help them in their research for their fourth and final assessment on King Richard III: Hero or Monster?

The tour at the visitor centre started with some video clips of Richard III's relations, including his wife Anne Neville and his older brother King Edward

IV.

Students were then able to view an exhibition and Richard III family tree, view a replica of the thrown and a map of the location of all the battles of the War of the Roses.

Finally students saw a 3D print of Richard III's skeleton and the exact place his remains were discovered, they crossed the street and saw his tomb, Richard III's final resting place.



All New GCSE grades

Students at Stephenson Studio School are getting their heads around the new GCSE grades in English, mathematics and Science.

And the teachers are too.

The changes to the English, maths and science courses and the new GCSE grades are part of the biggest shake-ups in education for the last 30 years. And nobody is quite sure what it is all going to end up looking like.

While schools are working hard to understand what all the changes mean, the government has been busy warning schools NOT to try and predict the new grades this year.

Ofqual, the organization that regulates exams wrote, ‘Our advice to schools

would be this: do not rely on any predictions of grade boundary marks for the new GCSEs next summer’.

Despite that, Ofqual did make it clear that the new Grade 1 would be the same as the old Grade G; the new Grade 4 would be the same as the old Grade C; and the new Grade 7 will be equivalent to the old Grade A.

Schools and students and parents won’t really know until the results come out in August. Until then we are encouraging students to focus on skills, and building their knowledge and understanding.

New grading structure	Current grading structure
9	
8	A*
7	A
6	B
5	
4	C
3	
3	D
2	E
1	F
	G
U	U

Annotations in the table:

- GOOD PASS (DfE) 5 and above = top of C and above
- AWARDING 4 and above = bottom of C and above

Teacher Profile—Ms Redding

Mrs Redding teaches Humanities alongside her responsibilities as Head of Key Stage 4. When she is not whizzing around after all her lovely ones, she likes to entertain with friends and family and enjoy the outdoors, but in the chilly times prefers to curl up in a cosy hideaway.

How long have you been teaching? 20 years (I feel sooo old!)

What made you decide to become a teacher?

I have a passion for learning new things and wanted to share that with young people. I always want to do my best and

wanted to instil that work ethic in others, in particular help to inspire our young people to be well rounded individuals.

What do you like about teaching at Stephenson? We all work together with the same core purpose in mind...to do the very best for the young people we work with on a daily basis.

What do you do when you are not teaching? I love to: go shopping, walking, entertain friends, spend time with family, talk, giggle, watch a film, read and eat cake!! Not in order of priority!!

What book are you reading now? ‘The girl on the train’, a great book!



The Studio School has been working together with its sponsor college to create a new bespoke 16-19 study programme to support students bridge the gap between school and college.

This ‘Step Into’ Programme will provide school leavers with the opportunity to Step into College, Step into Apprenticeships, Step into Work and Step into Success.

Instead of a qualification supplemented

by work experience the ‘Step Into’ programme of study is work placement supplemented by vocational delivery.

Students will benefit from small group support supplemented by weekly personal coaching and academic mentoring and part of vertical house group with opportunities to coach and mentor school age learners.

The ‘Step Into’ students will be enrolled within the school, where they will bene-

fit from pastoral sessions, tutorials, academic mentoring and coaching sessions. They will have a base within the school to feel ensure they feel secure; building their confidence, employability skills and independent study skills.

Students will benefit from English and maths tutorials, and an introduction to College life and technical study programmes.

For more details see the school website.

Teacher Profile—Ms Jones

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How long have you been teaching?

I've been teaching now 5 years (it feels like nearly 50!). All at Stephenson Studio School.

What made you decide to become a teacher? I can't put my finger on the moment I decided to become a teacher, but it's all I've ever wanted to do. At school I had some amazingly inspiring teachers who taught me the power of words and their magnificent capabilities and I've never looked back.

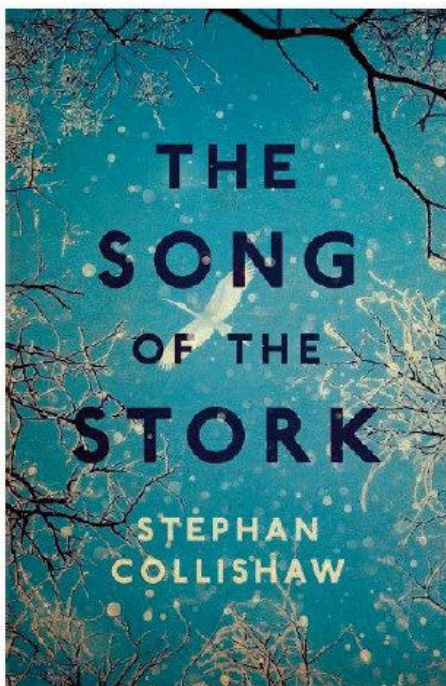
What do you like about teaching at Stephenson? Small class sizes and the 'family feel' really make the Studio school unique.

What do you do when you are not teaching? Outside of school (when I manage to escape the classroom cupboard) I spend a large proportion of my time volunteering at my local amateur dramatics group where I help write, produce, direct and choreograph two shows a year. Each year the group raises several thousands of pounds for local charities in Leicestershire. Since

its first show, we have donated somewhere in the region of over £50k to charities supporting our local communities.

What book are you reading now?

I'm reading several books at once. The first is 'The Book Thief' by Markus Zusak. Another book I'm reading at the moment is 'Fosse' by Sam Wasson. It's the story behind the legendary dancer, choreographer and Broadway extraordinaire Bob Fosse – one of my all-time heroes.



Stephenson Studio School invites you to the launch of Stephan Collishaw's new novel

The Song of the Stork

Wednesday 1st March, 4-4:30pm

Room 4 Stephenson Studio School

Stephan Collishaw is the author of three novels. The British Council nominated him as being one Britain's top twenty young authors and the Independent on Sunday chose his first novel as one their books of the year.

Praise for The Song of the Stork:

'At once tightly written and suspenseful, Collishaw's historical novel is a darkly compassionate fable of human endurance in absolute extremity.' Stevie Davies

'An elegantly crafted, beautifully written novel about love, survival and hope against all the odds – The Song of the Stork is a reading experience to savour.' William Ryan