# STOWMARKET HIGH SCHOOL

12 June 2026

NEWSLETTER

## AN INTRODUCTION FROM MS HERNANDEZ

Dear Parents and Carers

As we approach the last half term, I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on all that our school community has achieved and to look ahead to the exciting events still to come before the summer break.

This half term has been characterised by determination, resilience and a positive mindset from students across the school. I have been particularly proud of our Year 11 students as they have approached their final examinations with maturity, focus and perseverance. The commitment they have shown throughout this demanding period has been exemplary and we wish them every success as they complete their exams and prepare for the next stage of their educational journey.

Looking ahead, there is much to celebrate. We are eagerly anticipating the Year 11 Prom, which will provide a wonderful opportunity for students to come together and mark the end of their secondary school experience. We also have our final Drop-Down Day of the academic year involving a wide range of trips and events, offering valuable opportunities for enrichment, personal development and wider learning experiences.

The coming weeks will also see some of the highlights of our school calendar. Sports Day promises to showcase the enthusiasm, teamwork and competitive spirit of our students, while our Summer Showcase and music events will provide opportunities to celebrate the remarkable creativity and talent that exists throughout the school.

In addition, it has been exciting to watch the expansion project continue to take shape. Seeing the progress being made reminds us of the bright future ahead for our school and the opportunities these new facilities will bring for both current and future students.

Thank you to all our students, staff, parents and carers for your continued support throughout the term. Together, we continue to create a school community where young people are encouraged to aspire, achieve and thrive.

I hope you enjoy reading this edition of the newsletter and look forward to celebrating the many successes and events of the weeks ahead.

**Ms Hernandez – Headteacher**

# FAREWELL

It has been a real privilege to be Head of Year for this group since Year 8. They have grown into a cohort that supports one another with kindness, resilience, and a strong sense of community and this is something to be incredibly proud of.

They have embraced school life fully, celebrating each other's successes, representing the school with pride, and creating many memorable moments along the way, from trips and sports days to everyday laughter.

This is a year group that will be greatly missed and they deserve every success in the future. It will be a pleasure to celebrate with them all at the prom.

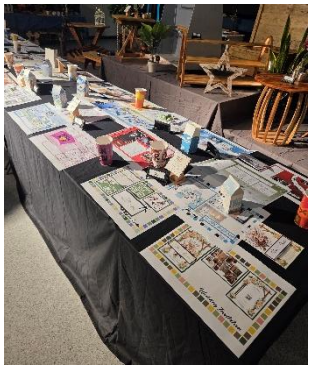
Mrs Goss – Head of Year 11

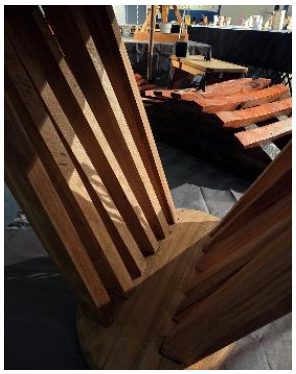
# DESIGN EXHIBITION

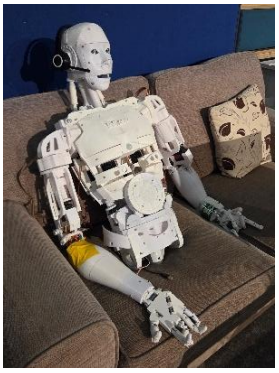
Last month marked the exciting return of our annual Design Exhibition! The event showcased the impressive final projects our pupils have spent the past year conceptualising and creating. Visitors enjoyed a diverse range of work spanning multiple disciplines, including Resistant Materials, Textiles, Engineering, and Graphic Design. It was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the immense effort, dedication, and hard work our students have poured into their subjects over many months. More than 500 parents and members of the local community attended the exhibition across the three-days, with many commenting on the remarkable standard, originality and quality of the work on display.

The standard of work this year was truly exceptional. To honour the students who demonstrated outstanding design flair and technical excellence, several prestigious prizes were awarded. We extend a massive thank you to the local businesses and organisations whose generous sponsorship made these awards possible: TMJ Interiors, Precon, Young Furniture Makers Company, Clarke Fencing, Timberwolf, Spi-des-ign, Hart & Craftsmen, Barnes Construction, Eastern Education Group, Jackson, Bosch, Suffolk County Council & Concertus. Please see the table below for the full list of our GCSE prize-winning students.

Bringing these ideas to life is a long and challenging process, and our students certainly faced obstacles along the way. However, looking at the final products, we could not be more delighted or prouder of their resilience and achievements. Well done to everyone involved!





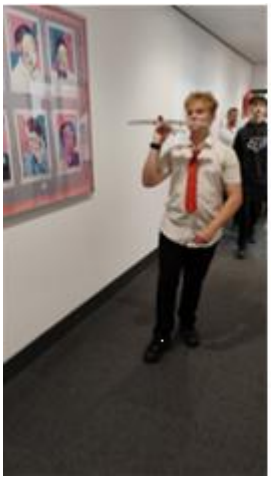


# ENGINEERING

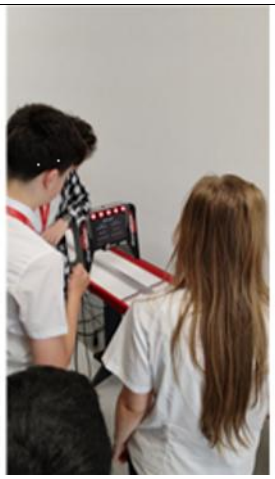
## Year 10 Engineering—Vinten's Engineering Experience

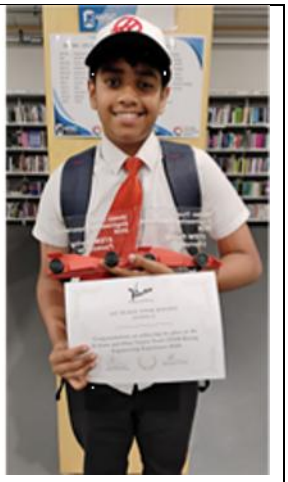
The start of the Summer 2 term saw a group of Year 10 Engineers take part in a Engineering Experience run by The Vintens Trust, held at Abbeygate Sixth Form. The two day experience was a unique opportunity for students interested in **STEM careers** to gain practical experience, meet industry professionals, and explore future pathways while working in mixed teams to tackle real-world engineering challenges, developing problem-solving, teamwork, and innovation skills.

The experience saw students competing against each other in a survival glider challenge, where they had to produce a prototype that would fly and reach their 40m target. The challenge required group members to collaborate and bring together their thoughts and experience while designing, testing and manufacturing the final glider in tricky windy conditions, that would ultimately determine their success. Various strategies and approaches were taken, with some of the best performing groups featuring students from Stowmarket High School. In addition to the flight, each team was required to produce a presentation board to demonstrate the decision making journey the group had been on, to a panel of eager judging engineers. A big shout out should go to Emily Rivers who's team won the overall competition for their combined achievements with their flight and presentation.



In addition to the glider challenges, each of the attending school was pitched up against each other in an F1 drag race where reaction times and engineering precision decided races that were completed in less than 2 seconds! Stowmarket entered a range of vehicles with varying success which ultimately resulted in Team Kratos representing Stowmarket in the knockout final. This saw schools going head to head against each other to find the overall winner. After a tense and energised afternoon, Team Kratos came out on top, winning the head to head and being crowned champions. Congratulations goes to Jomet M and William G for their efforts.





On top of the teamwork and competitions, the students were also given the chance to explore The Gene Haas Centre for Advanced Manufacturing, observing some top of the range CNC equipment in action, amercing themselves in the VR world inside The XR Lab and making connections with local employers, exposing them to the opportunities in engineering through local based apprenticeships. Overall, our students were a credit to the school and we would like to thank our partners at Abbeygate Sixth Form and The Vintens Trust for everything they put together. The experience will be one that will help springboard the next generation of engineers and is a fantastic opportunity we look forward to taking part in again soon.

Vinten

ABBEYGATE
Sixth Form College

# YEAR 7 & 8 JUNIOR MATHS CHALLENGE

On Wednesday 29 April 2026, 117 of our most able Year 7 and 8 Mathematicians sat the Junior maths challenge paper. This is a set of 25 questions designed to make the students think and apply their maths skills in different ways. Many students across the country took this paper, with the highest scorers achieving bronze, silver and gold certificates and some of the highest gold certificate scores qualified for the next round which include the Kangaroo and Olympiad challenges.

Well done to everyone who took part and we are delighted that the following students achieved recognition for their efforts with this challenge.

An extra recognition goes to the incredible achievement of the 4 students who received a gold certificate who qualified for the next round of the competition (Kangaroo and Olympiad challenges). Austin, Freya and Abigail qualifying for the Kangaroo challenge where only the top 5% of students from all the entries nationally qualify for this round along with Ezra who qualified for the Olympiad challenge with only 2% of the students nationally from all the entries qualifying for this round.

## Gold

**Year 7**

Ezra B - Qualified for the Maths Olympiad Challenge
Austin S - Qualified for the Maths Kangaroo Challenge
Freya B

**Year 8**

Freya M – Qualified for the Maths Kangaroo Challenge
Abigail C – Qualified for the Maths Kangaroo Challenge

## Silver

**Year 7**

Rafe C
Henry C
Aaliyah C
Thomas H
Bella-Mae L
Chloe W

**Year 8**

Tommy A
Brenda A
James B
Bow J
Jamie K
Darcy L
Jasmine L
Albert M
Georgia O
Lily P
Olivia-Eve S

## Bronze

**Year 7**

Immy A
Ethan A
Elsie B
George B
Belle C
Blake G
Jacob G
Jessica G
Eloise G
Albert H#
Hollie H
Ada H
Henry J
Bryony J
Logan M
Hollie M
Zachary S
Mila W

**Year 8**

Ellie B
Riley B
R J B
Zachary B
Ollie B
Jasper D
Dylan H
Bow L
Jack M
Evie-Louise P
Charlie R
Michael T
Jessica W

## MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

We have just over a month left till the final DuoLingo prize draw of the year. Those students that have been in the top 3 on the DuoLingo leaderboard since Easter will be entered into the prize draw. We have students, and teachers, learning a range of languages on the platform: German, Italian, French, Spanish and Russian! The prize draw will take place on *Thursday 16 July 2026*.

Year 10 German students are busy preparing for their PREs exams. Their speaking mocks will take place between Wednesday 1st - Friday 3 July 2026 with Miss Pawsey and Mrs Whiting, students will be getting their times from their teachers this week.

Tuesday lunchtime revision sessions will continue to take place during the PRE timetable, the focus will be on speaking skills to prepare for the speaking exam. The dates for these are as follows: Tuesday 16 June 2026 (role play practise) and Tuesday 23 June 2026 (picture task and general conversation practise).

Charlotte Pawsey - *Curriculum Lead for MFL*

## MUSIC

All of Year 7 will be taking part in 'The Big Sing' during the school day on Tuesday 7 July 2026. This event is the culmination of the work students have been doing in their music lessons throughout the summer term, where they have been developing vocal skills, ensemble awareness, and confidence in performance.

They have been engaging with this project with lots of positivity and enthusiasm in their music lessons this term and I am really looking forward to seeing the students have the opportunity to showcase their songs to one another and celebrate everything they have achieved together this term.

*Mrs Fouracre-Smith - Curriculum Leader for Music*

# Careers at Stowmarket High School – What's Coming Up?

## June 2026

9th — Title: Serving as LGBTQ+ In the British Army
Date & Time: Tuesday 9 June 18:00 - 19:00
Register Now

23rd — Title: Joining the Army Series: Officer
Date & Time: Tuesday 23 June 18:00 - 19:00
Register Now

## July 2026

1st — Title: Joining the Army Series: Soldier
Date & Time: Wednesday 1 July 18:00 - 19:00
Register Now

8th — Title: Virtual Harrogate Open Day
Date & Time: Wednesday 8 July 18:00 - 19:00
Register Now

13th — Drop Down Day – 13th July 2026
Including Year 10 WEX & Mock Interview Celebration Assembly

## On The Horizon

**Year 11 Next Steps Evening – Thursday 17th September 2026**

# THE MIX ARE RECRUITING

# F.O.S.H

We just wanted to say a massive thank you to the following companies for their very generous donations for our carnival float: Wickes, PPG, ASDA, Polstead Press, Huws Gray and Trade Counter Distribution Ltd.

Thank you also to the person who kindly donated two tins of paint via the school office.

Finally thank you very much to Brightside Wealth Management Ltd for helping us collect our donations.

We are very grateful for all the support we have received.

Please come along and give us a cheer at Stowmarket Carnival on **18 July 2026**!

**Raising Extra Funds**

We are supporting the school to raise funds to purchase a much needed set of classroom computers for the maths department. Our target is to raise close to £10,000.

If you can, and in the spirit of keeping charity close to home, make any donation you can directly to the FOSH bank account – details are listed below. Alternatively, you might like to give regularly by standing order. Any amount would be most welcome to support our school community.

Whilst FOSH exclusively sponsors items and activities for the school, it is independent of the school and details of donees and donations are not shared with the school.

Barclays Bank
Sort code 201612
Account 13117316

## EXAMINATIONS

GCSE final written exam will be on Monday 15 June 2026.

**Click here for the GCSE EXAMINATIONS Summer Timetable.**

Students should ensure that they are also available all day on 24 June 2026 – this date has been reserved as a National Contingency Day, should an exam not be able to take place nationally and need to be rescheduled.

Results Day will be Thursday 20 August 2026 – Should you be unable to collect your results in person, you can nominate a person to do so on your behalf.
You will need to sign and send the 'collection' letter to the Exams Officer and the person nominated to collect your results must attend the centre with the 'confirmation' letter also signed by you.

Year 10 PRE examinations begin on Monday 15 June 2026. Students will have been given their timetables via their tutors.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

| | |
|---|---|
| Wednesday 24 June 2026 | - Year 11 National Exam Contingency Day |
| Thursday 25 June 2026 | – Year 11 Prom 6.30pm at Blackthorpe Barns |
| Saturday 27 – Sunday 28 June 2026 | – Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Final Expedition |
| Tuesday 30 June 2026 | - School Uniform Sale 3.30pm – 5.00pm in the Main Hall |
| Monday 29 - Tuesday 30 June 2026 | – Year 6 Transition Days |
| Thursday 2 July 2026 | - Year 7 & 8 Celebration Breakfast |
| Friday 3 July 2026 | - Year 9 & 10 Celebration Breakfast |
| Thursday 9 July 2026 | - Sports Day |
| Friday 10 July 2026 | - Sports Awards Period 4 |
| Monday 13 July 2026 | - Drop Down Day (3) |

## CONTACT INFORMATION

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Head of Year 7 | Ms L Baker | l.baker@stowhigh.com |
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| Head of Year 10 | Miss O Hart | o.hart@stowhigh.com |
| Head of Year 11 | Mrs N Goss | n.goss@stowhigh.com |
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