STOWMARKET HIGH SCHOOL

17 July 2026

NEWSLETTER

HEADTEACHER'S END OF TERM MESSAGE

Dear Parents and Carers

As we reach the end of another busy and successful academic year, I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on some of the many achievements, celebrations and opportunities that have made this term so memorable.

The final weeks of the year have demonstrated the strength, resilience and spirit of our school community. We have faced some particularly challenging weather conditions, and decisions regarding whether to remain open are never straightforward. Balancing the safety of our students and staff with the importance of maintaining continuity in learning is always a difficult judgement. I would like to thank our staff for their flexibility and professionalism, particularly those who adapted teaching materials at short notice to support learning. I am also incredibly grateful to our support staff, especially our site team and kitchen staff, whose dedication ensured the school remained safe, operational and well fed throughout these challenging periods.

One of the highlights of the term was undoubtedly our Year 11 Prom. It was a wonderful evening celebrating an exceptional group of young people as they marked the end of their journey with us. Seeing our students dressed so smartly and enjoying their evening together was a fitting way to recognise all they have achieved during their time at Stowmarket High School.

Our annual Drop-Down Day once again provided students with a wealth of exciting experiences. Educational visits to France, Legoland, Harry Potter World and the theatre sat alongside engaging workshops, guest speakers and cross-curricular activities in school. These opportunities allow students to broaden their horizons, develop new interests and engage with learning in different and memorable ways.

We have also welcomed many local Year 5 pupils into school through our taster sessions. Visiting students enjoyed workshops in Art, Music, Mathematics, English, Science, Design Technology and Food. It has been fantastic to introduce them to life at Stowmarket High School and to see their enthusiasm and curiosity as they explored new subjects and experiences.

Our Summer Showcase was another outstanding event, bringing together students from across all year groups to celebrate the incredible breadth of talent within our school. From music and performance to creativity and confidence, the evening highlighted the many strengths of our students and provided a wonderful opportunity for our community to come together. Closely followed by our annual Art Exhibition and the Year 7 'Sing Competition', whereby the entire year group learned and practiced songs to perform with enjoyment and confidence to the school.

Music continues to thrive at Stowmarket High School. Recent performances have showcased both our established musicians and the emerging talent developing within our growing music department. Students have embraced opportunities to perform on stage and share their talents

with wider audiences. With exciting developments ahead, including new classrooms and practice rooms, the future of music at our school is extremely bright.

Sport has also been at the forefront of school life. Sports Day once again demonstrated the values that make our school community so special. The event brought together students of all abilities in a spirit of healthy competition, perseverance, teamwork and encouragement. It was inspiring to see students supporting one another and giving their very best throughout the day. We were then delighted to celebrate the achievements of our sporting champions at our Sports Awards Evening, recognising success across a wide range of sporting disciplines.

Throughout the term, our Celebration Assemblies have provided an opportunity to recognise students who consistently demonstrate our R.I.S.E. values. We were delighted to celebrate these achievements through a special breakfast event attended by students and their families, as well as through year group assemblies where students were recognised by their peers and teachers. These occasions remind us of the importance of character, kindness and contribution alongside academic success.

The summer holidays will also mark a significant period of transformation for our school site. Major developments will take place within our Music block, Science classrooms and Main Hall, while work on our new build continues at pace, with attention increasingly turning towards the internal design and fit-out. Earlier this term, the three highest merit holders from each year group joined Mr Stoneman, Mr Morrison, local councillors and me to leave their mark on the project by signing the steel framework of the new building—a lasting contribution that will remain part of the school's history for generations to come.

We are equally excited about the continued development of our sporting facilities. The new athletics track is now ready to help elevate our athletics programme from September, while the football pitch will provide further opportunities for students to develop their skills and compete at the highest levels. These facilities will support and strengthen the proud sporting tradition that Stowmarket High School has become known for.

To fully capture the breadth of opportunities created by our staff would require far more space than this newsletter allows. Their impact on our students cannot be overstated. Time and again, colleagues willingly give up evenings, weekends and holiday periods to provide experiences that enrich the lives of young people.

The planning, administration and responsibility involved in organising trips, visits and enrichment activities is considerable and would understandably discourage many. Yet year after year, I continue to be inspired by the commitment, enthusiasm and generosity of our staff team. Their dedication enables students to access a remarkable range of opportunities, from educational visits and careers experiences to recreational activities that build confidence, character and ambition.

These experiences encourage our students to look beyond Stowmarket, discover new passions, raise their aspirations and create lasting memories of their time at school. We are incredibly fortunate to have such a talented and committed staff team who consistently go above and beyond to help our young people realise their potential and understand the possibilities that lie ahead.

Finally, I would like to thank all our students, staff, parents and carers for their continued support throughout the year. I wish everyone a safe, restful and enjoyable summer break, and I look forward to welcoming you back in September for another exciting year at Stowmarket High School.

Ms Hernandez – Headteacher

YEAR 6 TRANSITION

We were delighted to welcome our new Year 6 students for transition, and I'm pleased to say we had a fantastic couple of days.
The programme was packed with a range of activities, including lessons, a mini sports event and a production, all designed to give students a real feel for life at Stowmarket High School. It was wonderful to see the children engaging so positively, making new friendships and approaching each experience with enthusiasm.

Our student helpers were outstanding, supporting the new students throughout the two days, and our staff worked incredibly hard to ensure everything ran smoothly.
Most importantly, it was brilliant to see how excited the children are about starting with us in September—we are very much looking forward to welcoming them back as part of our Year 7 community.
Mrs Goss - Head of Year 7 in September

BEHAVIOUR AND SAFEGUARDING

As we come to the end of another academic year, I would like to take a moment to reflect on what has been a fantastic year for our students and our school community.

As Deputy Headteacher responsible for Behaviour and Safeguarding, people often assume my role is centred on dealing with poor behaviour. Whilst supporting students through challenging behaviour is an important part of the role, it makes up only a small part of what I see each day. Far more often, I have the privilege of seeing the positive choices our students make. This year, students have earned thousands of merits, with many receiving Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum awards. Celebration assemblies, celebration breakfasts, rewards events, sporting success, performances, school trips and so many other opportunities have highlighted the talent, effort and commitment shown by our students.

We will always have high expectations because they help create a calm, safe environment where everyone can learn and succeed. However, it is the character, resilience and ambition of our students that really stands out. They are a credit to themselves, their families and our school.

As we look ahead to September, I would encourage all our students to think about the 'story' they are writing. Every school day adds another page. For some, September is an opportunity to turn the page, start a new chapter and make a fresh start. For others, it is a chance to continue building on an already successful story. Whatever your journey has looked like so far, remember that it is never too late to make positive choices, set high expectations for yourself and write the next chapter with confidence.

I wish all our students and their families a well-deserved summer break.

Ms F Hubbard - Deputy Headteacher

ATTENDANCE

Celebrating Our Outstanding Attendance Success

We are delighted to celebrate a significant achievement in our school's attendance this year. Thanks to the continued commitment of our students, families, and staff, our overall school attendance has improved compared with last year and is now **more than 1% above the national average for secondary schools**. This is a fantastic accomplishment and reflects the value our community places on regular school attendance.

We are also proud to have been recognised in the **top 25% of similar schools** in the Department for Education's termly attendance reports. This places us amongst the strongest-performing schools nationally for attendance and highlights the positive culture of commitment and engagement across our school.

Our attendance is particularly strong amongst:

- **Boys**
- **Students who receive SEND support**
- **Year 7 students**
- **Year 9 students**

These successes demonstrate the positive impact of the strong partnerships between home and school, as well as the determination of our students to make the most of every learning opportunity. Regular attendance underpins your child's academic progress, wellbeing, confidence, and wider personal development. Every day in school provides valuable opportunities to learn, build friendships, develop resilience, and participate fully in school life.

We recognise that, from time to time, families may face challenges that make regular attendance difficult. We remain committed to working closely with parents and carers to provide support wherever possible, ensuring that every child has the best opportunity to succeed. Please get in touch with your child's Head of Year if you need support with your child's attendance.

For further information about attendance expectations, procedures, and the support available, please visit our school website and read our **Attendance Policy**. Mr Stoneman – Assistant Headteacher

MFL

And that's a wrap for another year…

Well done to everyone who took part in our Duolingo Challenge and made it onto the leaderboard this year! It has been fantastic to see so many of you learning a new language or continuing to develop your French and German skills.

We are looking forward to welcoming our new Year 7 students in September as they begin their language-learning journey with French.

A huge congratulations to all of our Year 10 German Students who completed their Walking, Talking Speaking PREs earlier this month. You approached the challenge with great maturity, and we are incredibly proud of your efforts.

As I write this, we are on the coach to St Omer, France with our Year 9 students. Next stop: Calais, followed by a visit to a snail farm, where we will be tasting local food and putting our French speaking skills into practice!

If you are travelling this Summer, we would love to hear from you. Just like last year, please send us a postcard telling us where you are and perhaps sharing something interesting about the language or culture of the place you are visiting. Please address your postcard to **Miss Pawsey** at the school's address.

We wish you all a wonderful summer break and look forward to seeing you again in September.

Miss Pawsey and the MFL Team

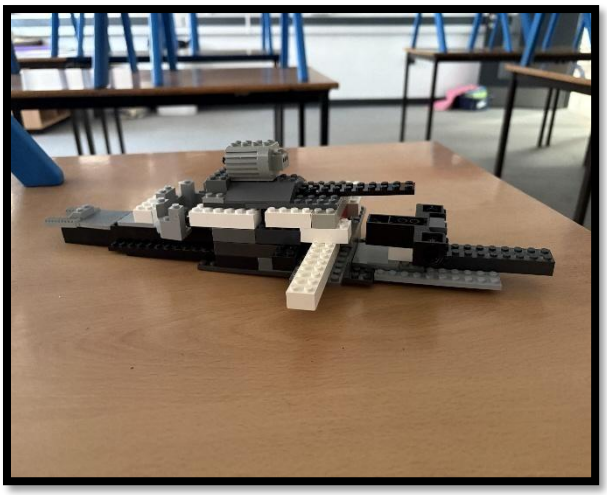
LEGOLAND VISIT

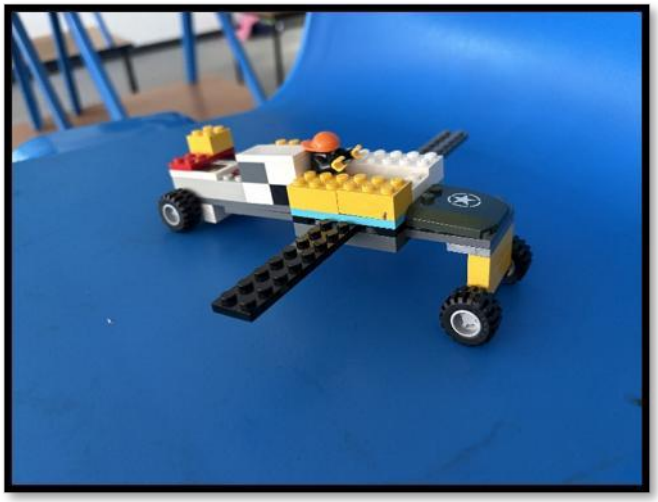
We had a really fun day on rollercoasters, log flumes and being Ninjas, despite the traffic on the way there. Students were well behaved and we hope that hey had an amazing visit!

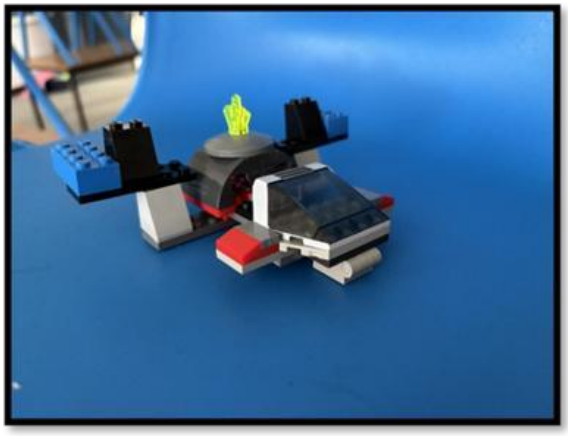
LEGO CLUB

Some of our Lego Club creations. I have been really impressed with students' creativity. Hop to see more of it next year!

Mrs Smee– Teacher of Mathematics







MFL – Year 8 VISIT TO ST OMER, FRANCE

Year 9 Trip to St.Omer, France

We've had a brilliant couple of days in France, practising our French, team building and trying different French food.

We visited a local snail farm, where some students got very attached to the snails and we had the chance to try snails and some local jam.

We stayed in Château d'Ebblinghem in St.Omer and in the evening, we were crêpe making and toasting marshmallows round the campfire.

On our last day we had a trip to a war cemetery, supermarket and visited the beach for our picnic at Boulogne-sur-Mer. We even enjoyed a bit of coach karaoke on our journey back to Calais!

Mrs Romero, Miss Pawsey, Mrs Kent, Mr Wilson

MUSIC

A huge congratulations to Year 7 for their brilliant performance at The Big Sing. Their hard work in music lessons this term was evident and they delivered a confident, joyful performance that showcased their musical talent and teamwork.

The whole year group sang *Banaha*, a Congolese folk song performed with body-percussion and two-part harmony in a round — a challenging piece that they executed with real precision and spirit. They finished the show with a mash-up of *Hey Jude* by The Beatles and *One Day Like This* by Elbow, performed with gusto and leaving the audience on a high.

Each of our eight music classes also took to the stage with their own song, demonstrating excellent commitment to learning lyrics and showing great courage, with many students stepping forward to sing solos or perform in small groups. A particular highlight was 7C's lively rendition of *Beat It*, complete with an epic air-guitar battle and some impressive moonwalking that brought huge smiles to the crowd.
We are incredibly proud of each and every one of them for getting up on stage and doing their best. Well done, Year 7!

Open Mics

Thank you to all students who have sung or played at one of our lunch time open mics this year! These events are a great opportunity to showcase what you love to play and develop your confidence in performing to an audience in a relaxed and informal environment. I'm really looking forward to hearing those who have signed up to play on the penultimate day of term and watch this space for more dates next school year.

Mrs Fouracre-Smith – Curriculum Leader of Music

On Monday 13 July 2026 we held our final Drop-Down Day of the academic year. These days are an important part of our Personal Development curriculum and provide students with opportunities to develop the knowledge, skills and experiences that complement and enrich their academic studies.

At Stowmarket High School, we are committed to preparing students not only for success in examinations, but also for life beyond school. Through a range of practical workshops, external speakers and enrichment activities, students are encouraged to develop confidence, resilience, teamwork and an understanding of the wider world.

Below is a summary of the activities that took place for each year group for those students remaining in school. Many students went out on school visits.

Year 7 - Students will take part in a range of workshops focusing on mental health, engineering and space exploration. Thanks to funding from The Mix, Open View Education will deliver an interactive drama-based workshop promoting positive mental health and wellbeing. Students will also take part in a Formula 1 STEM challenge, a space technology workshop and a creative art or film session.

Year 8 - Students will explore the science of space through an engaging STEM workshop, learning about meteors, rockets and the future of Moon bases before putting their knowledge to the test in a space themed quiz.

Year 9 - Students will take part in a carousel of physical wellbeing activities, including martial arts, NFL tag, trampolining, golf and skateboarding, encouraging them to try new sports while developing confidence, teamwork and resilience.

Year 10 - Students will focus on preparing for their Post 16 pathways by attending a careers fair, participating in workshops led by external speakers and completing independent research into colleges, sixth forms, apprenticeships and online work experience opportunities.

Sushi Making

Tractor Simulator

Mrs Utteridge – Curriculum Leader of Business Studies & PD Lead

SEND

A Year of Growth, Achievement and Inclusion

As we reach the end of another successful school year, we would like to take the opportunity to celebrate the achievements of our students with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and thank our families for their continued support and partnership.

This year has been filled with moments of progress, resilience and success. While academic achievements are important, we are equally proud of the confidence gained, friendships formed, challenges overcome and independence developed by so many of our young people.

Across the year, students have accessed a wide range of support including targeted interventions, mentoring, literacy and numeracy programmes, emotional wellbeing support, transition activities and adaptive teaching within the classroom. We have seen students make significant strides towards their individual goals, whether that has been improving attendance, building confidence in learning, developing communication skills or achieving greater independence.

A particular highlight has been the continued commitment of our staff to creating an inclusive and welcoming environment where every child feels valued and supported. Through ongoing staff training and collaboration, we have continued to strengthen our inclusive practice and ensure that all students can participate fully in school life.

We would also like to recognise the incredible work of our Learning Support Assistants and wider SEND team. Their dedication, patience and unwavering belief in our students help make a real difference every day.

As always, our partnership with parents and carers remains vital. Thank you for working alongside us, attending meetings, sharing your insights and supporting your children through both successes and challenges. Together, we help our young people thrive.

We are already looking ahead to next year and are excited to welcome our new Year 7 students whilst continuing to build on the successes of this year. We remain committed to ensuring that every student receives the support they need to achieve their potential and feel a true sense of belonging within our school community.

We wish all our families a restful and enjoyable summer break and look forward to another successful year ahead.

Mrs Broxton - Assistant Headteacher & SENDCo

SPORTS AWARDS AND SPORTS DAY 2026

Sports Leader of the Year – Seth G

Exam PE Student of the Year – Freya U and Esme M

Core PE Student of the Year Female – Millie P Core PE

Student of the Year Male – Blake G

Extra-Curricular Contribution Female – Ada H

Extra-Curricular Contribution Male – Caleb G

Unsung Hero – Martin J

Team-make of the Year – Alys C and Oliver D

Breakthrough Player of the Year – Faith P

Outstanding Achievement – Keri N

Headteachers Award – Harry R Sports

Personalities of the Year:

Year 7 Female – Charlotte H

Year 7 Male – Ezra B

Year 8 Female – Emily W Year 8 Male – Finley F

Year 9 Female – Mollie B

Year 9 Male – Bailey L

Year 10 Female – Sienna S Year 10 Male – Euan M

Year 11 Female – Poppy H

Year 11 Male – Noah M

Team of the Year – U15 Boys Football

Overall Female Winner Sports Personality of the Year – Danielle T Overall

Male Winner Sports Personality of the Year – Ryan S

F.O.S.H

We have recently purchased some teaching aid models for child development/health & Social care lessons.
Sports day tuck shop – A BRILLIANT morning with FOSH student club members helping sell pocket money sweets to raise funds for the school. **Carnival 18 July 2026** THANK YOU AGAIN!
We just wanted to say a massive thank you again 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 of the support we have received.
We have 15 students due to be on the Float. Please come along and give us at Stowmarket Carnival on Saturday, July 18 2026.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

If you are purchasing a new school tie for September, please note that students will keep their current tie colour throughout their time at the school, up to the end of Year 11. Please visit our website for a full list of our uniform expectations.

EXAMINATIONS

Results Day

Results Day will be Thursday 20 August 2026 – should students have any concerns about their results, they can visit the examinations section of our school website (link here) which will provide further details on review of marking costs.

Mrs Smith – Examinations Officer

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tuesday 1 September 2026	- PD Day
Wednesday 2 September 2026	- PD Day
Thursday 3 September 2026	- Years 7 and 11 only in school
Friday 4 September 2026	- All students in school
Thursday 17 September 2026	- Year 11 Next Steps Evening
Thursday 24 September 2026	- Open Evening

CONTACT INFORMATION (FROM SEPTEMBER 2026)

Head of Year 7	Mrs N Goss	n.goss@stowhigh.com
Head of Year 8	Ms L Baker	l.baker@stowhigh.com
Head of Year 9	Miss S Durrant	s.durrant@stowhigh.com
Head of Year 10	Miss R Harrigan	r.harrigan@stowhigh.com
Head of Year Head of Year 11	Miss O Hart	o.hart@stowhigh.com
General Enquiries and Finance		enquiries@stowhigh.com
Attendance/Student Absence		attendance@stowhigh.com
Medical/Educational Visits		s.ward@stowhigh.com