

Monday 13th September to Friday 17th September 2021



Headteachers' Blog

Covid Vaccines for 12-15 Year Olds

The government has announced that Pfizer vaccines will be made available for all young people aged between 12 and 15 in the next few weeks. The Schools Minister Nick Gibb told the Education Select Committee on the 7th that schools had been told to be ready. Unfortunately, that is not quite accurate, as we have not received any such instruction or guidance.

What I can say, is that we will engage with what we are directed to do by the DFE, but we will not engage in a debate about the effectiveness of the jab or the efficacy. Parents will be asked to give their consent and that is then down to them to say yes or no, and we will honour that decision. When I know more information, I will duly pass it on.

So Far So Good

I am delighted to report a really positive start to the school year. Staff are upbeat and students seem focussed, smiley and friendly. One of the never ending joys of my job is walking around the school and literally having hundreds of students saying 'Hi' to me. There is a sense of optimism around the school, and a pride about learning at Stow High.

Early Notice

The 8th October is a non-pupil day as staff are training, specifically on curriculum design with renowned educational consultant Mary Myatt.

Mr Lee-Allan

The 5Rs of Homework/Show My Homework

When learning in the classroom, students will often be using their short term or working memory. This is continually updated in their classes. However, once they move to another lesson the working memory is replaced by the next topic. In an ever-changing world education is more than just memorising facts. Students need to learn how to access information that is relevant to them and understand how to transfer knowledge to new situations.

Therefore, revising both the key skills and knowledge from the class during homework is scientifically proven to increase the likelihood of student retaining this in their medium- and long-term memories. Homework is also critical in developing curious and independent learners at Stowmarket High School.

We believe in an ethos which is based around the 5Rs of responsibility. These include:

- **Read Around** – Find out more...
- **Research** – Prepare or consolidate your learning
- **Review/Revise** – Revise, test or re-test
- **Respond to Feedback**- Act on advice/Purple pen work
- **Retrieve**- Actively recall knowledge and concepts

Pupils will be set a variety of tasks throughout the year which allow them to prepare, revisit and consolidate their knowledge and understanding using the 5Rs. There will be a greater emphasis on peer and self-assessment. Homework needs to be both 'meaningful and manageable'. This is true for both pupils and staff alike so it is important that we prioritise 'quality over quantity'.

Show my Homework will remain as our platform for delivering tasks. It offers a much more effective way to communicate and support pupils and parents with links to websites, videos and resources. To support your child you can access their accounts via the website www.showmyhomework.co.uk. If you have questions regarding your child's homework or would like more advice on how to support your son/daughters progress do not hesitate to contact me. If you are having issues logging onto your student's profile, please e-mail Becky Earrye – b.earrye@stowhigh.com.

Steven Smith – Assistant Headteacher for Teaching and Learning



School Photos are now live

If you have pre-registered, you should now have an email with your unique access link.

If not please contact Carmel Jane Photography via the following link: <https://www.carmeljane.co.uk/pre-registration-support/>

All photographs will be sent straight to home address with free postage and time limited discounts available for the first 14 days.

Punctual, Prepared and Productive

At Stowmarket High School we are working closely with all students to ensure that they understand the importance of **being punctual, prepared and productive**. To support us with our work, could you please ensure that your son/daughter enters through the school gates before 8.45am every day. This provides students with the time they need to enter their form room so that they are ready for their registration session which begins at 8.50am.

Added to this we place a great deal of importance of students being dressed appropriately for school wearing the correct uniform. Students should arrive to school, always dressed in the correct school uniform. If your son/daughter arrives without wearing the correct uniform, they should seek a uniform pass from the tutor immediately. We take pride in the way students look and we want them to look smart and feel proud of their school. This starts with the way in which they wear their uniform.

At the same time please talk to your son/daughter about the equipment they need for school. It is essential that every young person is equipped to be successful. This includes having the correct equipment for every lesson.

Finally, we want every young person that attends Stowmarket High school to understand that there are a range of extra-curricular clubs and activities that they can participate in. As a school we are not an exam factory and it important that productivity is not just measured in terms of exam success. At Stowmarket High School, achievement is measured through student's involvement in extra-curricular clubs, through being kind to one another and by being productive in everything we do. Please encourage your son / daughter to participate in one of the many extra-curricular clubs available to them.

Andy McLellan – Assistant Headteacher
Pastoral/Designated Safeguarding Lead and Attendance



Free School Meal Information

We have received several queries from parents asking how Free School Meals work using our canteen system. Therefore, I hope the following information will help you:

Students have £2.30 a day to spend on their lunch and will have a free drink of milk, if you would like your child to be able to have a morning snack you will need to add funds to their Parent Pay account. Year 7 Parents you will have received a letter from us in July with your log in details, if you have any questions about this please email finance@stowhigh.com If your child does not use all of the £2.30 in one day it **will not** be carried forward.

Free school meal students are also entitled to a free breakfast in Lilies before school.

30th September – Careers Event

8th October – PD Day

12th October – HPV Immunisations Yr. 8 & 9 Girls and Boys

20th October – Flu Immunisations

22nd October – Non Uniform Day

25th October – Half Term



Useful Contact Information:

Head of Year 7	Mrs T Goodman	t.goodman@stowhigh.com
Head of Year 8	Mr S Peckford	s.peckford@stowhigh.com
Assistant HOY 8 & 9	Mrs A Coole	a.coole@stowhigh.com
Head of Year 9	Mr M Blewitt	m.blewitt@stowhigh.com
Head of Year 10	Mrs L Wellham	l.wellham@stowhigh.com
Head of Year 11	Mrs R Dolby	r.dolby@stowhigh.com
Finance		finance@stowhigh.com
General Enquiries		enquiries@stowhigh.com

To report a student absence please call **01449 613541** and select option: 1