



Monday 11th October to Friday 15th October 2021

Headteachers' Blog

Training Day

The staff training day last Friday was Waveney Valley Academies Trust's first Trust wide event, in which all member schools took part. It was originally planned to take place here at Stowmarket, however the increase in Covid cases in West Suffolk required us to move the event online. The key part of the training was a talk from Mary Myatt, one of the UK's leading thinkers and writers on curriculum development. Mary began her career in Suffolk, teaching RE at Claydon High School, and went on to become a county adviser where I first encountered her when I worked at Westbourne Sports College in Ipswich.

Mary has gone on to establish an outstanding reputation amongst school leaders, and so I was delighted that all my staff were able to gain from spending some hours listening to her advice and guidance on adding depth and challenge to our curriculum.

I know that these training days can present real challenges for working families so I wanted to let you all now that the day was well spent, and the school will be improved as a result.

Open Evenings

Last week we ran three very successful evenings and this week 2 more events will be run, with a third SEND focused event on Wednesday. It was a risk to run smaller, quieter events, but such has been the positive response from our guests that I know that this was the right decision. One of the key selling points has been our students - they have been outstanding ambassadors for us – so confident, polite, upbeat and helpful. They make me so proud.

Covid Cases

We are seeing an increase in cases at school, but through some kind of miracle far less than many schools in West Suffolk are coping with. This is not because we are doing anything special or different, we just happen to be lucky at the moment. I have kept in contact with the Local Authority and with Public Health, and we continue to be advised as to what steps to take.

Last week a letter was published by Suffolk Public Health changing the guidance around siblings of positive cases, which we will follow, and the local media is running numbers of stories about the rapid rise in cases.

I will continue to monitor the situation closely and will do everything I can to protect the health and education of the school community. Right now, it is a case of 'watch this space.'

Holiday Activities – Careeriosity

Not easy to say, but easy to sign up to. Some great events taking place here at school and in other key venues around Stowmarket – please do look to sign up – details below.

Have a great week everyone – stay safe.

Mr Lee-Allan

Would you like to help our school?

This is Lisa's story...

In 2015 I moved to Onehouse to start a semi-retired life with my husband, returning to his childhood base in Suffolk. I was keen to get involved in local Stowmarket life and also to give something back to the education sector, following a happy 30 years of teaching. Stowmarket High School were looking for new governors to join the well-established board of 10 and I was delighted to be invited to join them.

The school is now part of the Waveney Trust and we are known as committee members, but this hasn't affected the experience of being part of a team offering to support the head and his staff in ensuring the pupils are given the best experience of school life.

Being a committee member involves a termly meeting at school, where we hear about the progress of pupils, the plans for development and can ask questions to ensure that we are confident that the school is growing as it should.

As the committee member with responsibility for Learning Support, I also have the opportunity to meet with the school's SENCo and I am looking forward to continuing with learning walks and meeting with the pupils, once Covid restrictions are lifted. I feel very proud to be a small part of this local community; to have seen the amazing changes over recent years, from the new building, to increasing numbers on role and improving outcomes for all. With great opportunities to develop new skills, undertake a range of interesting training sessions, I would encourage anyone to join our team of committee members and become part of this rapidly improving school.

If you would like to find out more about helping us shape our school by becoming a committee member please let us know by emailing enquiries@stowhigh.com




**Stowmarket
High School**
THE FUTURE · OUR BUSINESS

The Full 'English'

At Stowmarket High School we are continually developing our curriculum to ensure we are offering the best possible learning experience for our students. Acquisition of the knowledge and skills needed for exam success is clearly a key priority for every faculty. However, the aims of our curriculum go far beyond GCSE grades. We endeavour to nurture well rounded individuals who are inquisitive, culturally aware, and resilient.

Over the summer, the English Faculty critically reviewed its curriculum and has instigated significant changes to the learning experience it now offers our students.

Years 7, 8 and 9

For the lower school years, each term commences with a knowledge rich project scheme of work designed for meaningful progression into GCSE exam preparation. Each project embeds key skills before moving on to the study of a class novel, play or series of extracts on a similar theme. The first project of each year 'introduces' skills in a supportive way, the second project focuses on 'developing' learning with activities to thoroughly embed these skills whilst the third project 'secures' learning with clear GCSE skills such as synthesis and comparison.

Each project consists of 19th century fiction, classic poetry, and non-fiction from the 19th century and the present day which mirrors the texts students meet at GCSE. The extracts step up in word count and complexity across the three years to gradually build reading stamina. As well as being skills rich, the projects are knowledge rich. The lessons encourage students to think critically and make meaningful links between texts and to compare present day experiences with those of the past via thoughtful questioning and opportunities for exploration.

The project topics and linked accompanying texts have been carefully selected to interest and provide challenge to all students. The Year 7 'Literature Through Time' anthology, for example, exposes all students to the literary greats, the Year 9 novel 'Boys Don't Cry' challenges traditional gender stereotypes whilst the Year 8 novel 'The Bone Sparrow' confronts the contemporary issue of refugees.

GCSE Classes

By the time students are in Year 10, the curriculum has been clearly divided into the two separate examination subjects of English Language and English Literature. All our students study the new Pearson Edexcel 'Lift' English Language GCSE qualification which is designed to engage and motivate students through a choice of contemporary texts, relatable modern themes, and real-world writing tasks.

For their English Literature GCSE, students study the Shakespeare Play 'Macbeth' with its universal theme of ambition, the 19th century novella, A Christmas Carol with its contextual powerful message of attitudes to poverty and an anthology of poems covering the last 250 years with the theme of 'relationships'.

Whilst the current Year 11s study the play 'An Inspector Calls', those in Year 10 and below will study the play 'Refugee Boy'. This change of text has been influenced by SHS becoming a Lit in Colour Pioneer school. This scheme echoes our belief that our students should be given access to books by BAME writers and those from a range of backgrounds, to ensure a better reflection of contemporary culture and society and to provide students with both experiences beyond their own and experiences that may resonate with them.

Literacy

Underpinning the new English curriculum is literacy. Each English lesson commences with a 5-minute grammar starter ensuring that all students are proficient with these crucial skills. Once a fortnight, our students will have a 'free writing' lesson where the focus is on instilling confidence in imaginative, descriptive and nonfiction writing. In addition, students are also encouraged to expand and develop their vocabulary, reading skills and cultural capital through the online learning platform 'Bedrock Vocabulary'. Finally, all students are encouraged to read for pleasure. This might mean that they read a book from home, borrow a book from the school's library or via the Book Buzz scheme which Year 7 will be involved with after half term.

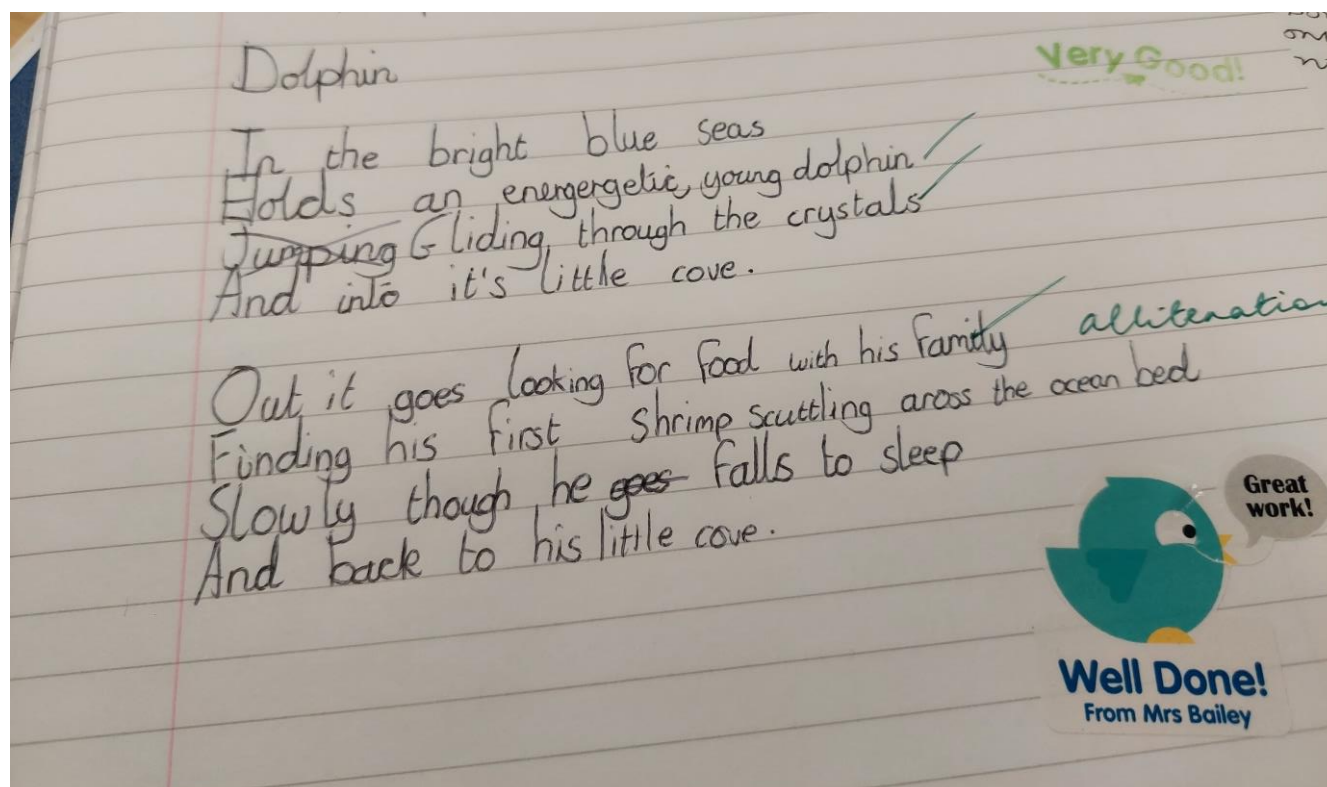
Co-curricular activities of trip, visits, and clubs.

The English Faculty has always had a strong commitment to providing students with memorable experiences away from the traditional classroom. Now that the worst of the pandemic seems to be over, the faculty is keen to resume this joyous element of the curriculum. Already theatre company visits to school are organised for Year 8, 10 and 11, with an external trip for Year 7 planned. In addition, collaborations are intended again for Year 9 and 10 involving the Primadonna Festival and the Museum of East Anglian Life together with a lunch time writing club and a book group.

Literacy Matters



This Thursday was National Poetry Day – the day which encourages everyone to enjoy, discover and share poetry. As part of their English lessons, students in Year 7 and Year 8 read, wrote, and enjoyed a variety of different poems. This year the theme was Choice, so each teacher was given the opportunity to share one of their favourite poems. In Mrs Bailey's year 7 class they explored 'The Eagle' by Tennyson and 'The Thought Fox' by Ted Hughes before thinking about the traits of their favourite animals. Here are two of her favourites:



Fox curious Fox

Slinking through the ^{engulfing} night,
Not a star to be seen,
Not ^{all} at a speck of fright,
Sniffing something green,
Snarling and circling around the leaf,
The Fox kinked its tail,
The leaf got caught in the wind,
The Fox started to bail,
Not eaten ^{had the} Fox ^{cor} week on end,

She heard her babies ~~hungry~~ screams,

She turned her head to spot a levet, *wonderful rhyme*

Hopping through the greens.

Sheathing her claws she licked her lips,

High ~~ate~~ alert around,

she pounced on the levet hurting her ^{hips} ~~her~~,

She lay there on the ground.

Lily-Rose - this is amazing!
You have captured Ted Hughes'
style.



Improving Literacy with Bedrock

Each week, every student at Stowmarket High School should be accessing Bedrock Vocabulary as part of their English homework. In addition, one English lesson a fortnight is timetabled in the Learning Resource Centre, and, for part of that lesson, your child will be working on improving their vocabulary and reading skills with Bedrock Vocabulary. During this lesson, students are also able to take out or change their library book. Those students in Year 7 and Year 8 who take Literacy, will have additional opportunities to use Bedrock Vocabulary.

Whilst 'Bedrock' is designed to expand students' vocabulary, students' reading skills and knowledge of the world is also enhanced. Students can listen to the human narrated texts enabling them to hear and read words in context. As they progress through a variety of topics, they experience engaging, language-rich fiction and non-fiction texts that expand their knowledge of the world as well as their vocabulary. Subjects range from hot air ballooning, Galileo, and sea creatures in Block 3, to the climate crisis, Charles Dickens, and social media in Block 11.

Understanding Bedrock Progress

Each Bedrock 'lesson' begins and ends with a test. Progress is defined as the different between the Pre and Post-test.



More than 95% of students across all groups of learners show an improvement after completing 5 blocks. This improvement increases for students completing 10 or more blocks. On average students can expect to make 32% progress.

Celebrating Bedrock Success in September

Congratulations to all those students who continue to work hard with Bedrock. This month over 30% of your achieved more than 80 points and the top 20 high achievers recorded progress ranging from 100 % to an amazing 809%.

Class recording most points per student in September	80 Literacy
Class recording the most progress September	80 Literacy
Most Points Achieved during September	Progress Leader Board
George Manser 80 En	Harry Flack 8S En
Sasha Ward 110En	Sean Magahy 9H En
Harriet Carr 9H En	Taylor Girling 9S En
Afreen Shamsher 8H En	Jack Banham 8W En
Scarlett Finch 8G En,	Chloe Payne 8T En
Mollie Cullum 7I En	Keenan Goymer 8I En
Jack Rodger 7I En	Safia Fisher 8G En
Maddison Crawford 7O En	George Green 100 En
Adam Hooper, 9O En	Samuel Gridley 8I En

Reading for pleasure and progress



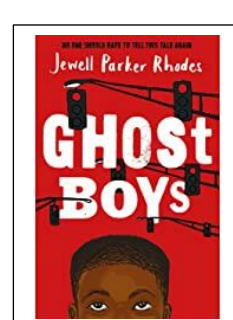
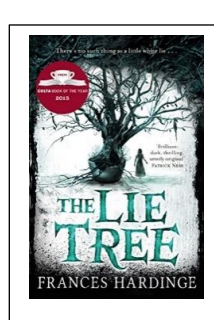
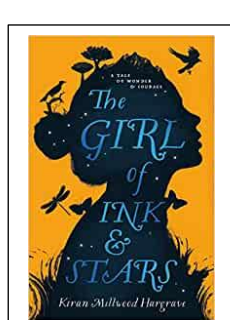
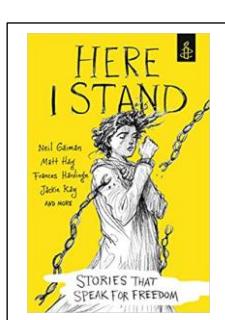
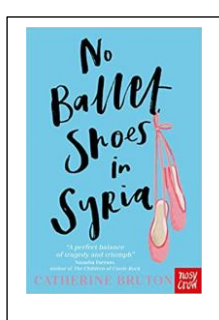
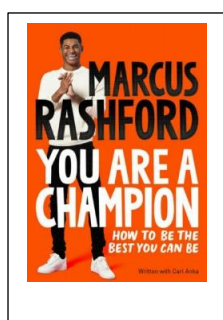
All the evidence suggests that reading, especially reading for pleasure, makes an enormous difference to both a child's educational performance and their future happiness. At SHS, we are working hard at creating a reading culture in our classrooms.

This September we launched an exciting Tutor Reading Programme. Twice a week, as part of the tutor programme, all students will follow along as a

skilled reader reads aloud. The vital initiative provides most of the benefits of silent reading with none of the barriers for non-fluent readers meaning that it is more likely to narrow the attainment gap and positively influence the reading culture in the school.

As well as exposing students to a variety of contemporary texts that they might not necessarily have chosen themselves, the tutor reading programme aims to enable students to recognise themselves in the text they read, promotes reading as an aid to well-being, and creates a calm and purposeful start to the day.

Tutors will be reading some of the following texts to their tutor groups:



Student Leadership Opportunities

Please encourage your son / daughter to apply to the student leadership roles that are currently on offer. We are looking for students to lead initiatives in 5 different areas including:

1. Equality and Diversity
2. The Environment
3. Mental Health
4. Extra-curricular
5. Charity

The roles have been promoted in assemblies and during tutor time. Students will find more information on the positions via Satchel one or through talking to their tutor. The deadline for all completed applications is Friday October 15.



OCTOBER HALF TERM 2021

FAMILY PARK COOKING



FOR CHILDREN AGED 8+
(younger siblings are welcome)

MONDAY 25TH - FRIDAY 29TH OCTOBER

An outdoor cooking masterclass for the whole family to enjoy!

Learn to cook a hearty and nutritious meal in an outdoor environment. You'll also receive a free box of food and recipe cards to make 5 meals at home!

Additional Activities Include:

- Woodland Activities
- Pumpkin Carving
- Archery
- Firelighting
- Marshmallow Toasting

...and more!

***FREE FOR CHILDREN WHO ARE ELIGIBLE FOR FREE SCHOOL MEALS OR MEET OUR ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA.**



BRANDON BURY ST EDMUNDS HAVERHILL MILDENHALL
STOWMARKET NEWMARKET SUDBURY

TO BOOK EMAIL: EXPLOREOUTDOOR@ACLEISURE.COM





OCTOBER HALF TERM 2021 ACTIVITY DAYS



MONDAY 25TH - FRIDAY 29TH OCTOBER

**FOR CHILDREN AGED
8-12 YEARS OLD**

Activities Including:

- Archery
- Combat Archery
- Geocaching
- Pumpkin Carving
- Firelighting
- Shelter Building
- ...and more!



***FREE PLACES AVAILABLE FOR CHILDREN WHO ARE
ELIGIBLE FOR FREE SCHOOL MEALS OR MEET OUR
ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA. ENQUIRE AT
EXPLOREOUTDOOR@ACLEISURE.COM**

**BRANDON
NEWMARKET**

**BURY ST EDMUNDS
STOWMARKET**

**HAVERHILL
SUDBURY**

**TO FIND OUT MORE OR TO
BOOK VISIT:**

EXPLORE-OUTDOOR.ORG





Careers advice workshop for the Music and Events industries - for ages 14-19

**John Peel Centre, Stowmarket
Wednesday October 27th 2-6pm**

followed by the Primadonna Gig – featuring great local female- led acts including Anorak Patch at John Peel Centre from 7pm

**Want to be Ed Sheeran? Mix sound for Dua Lipa?
Start your own music festival?**

Come and join industry experts as they share their career ups and downs, and find out how to find a career on stage or back stage.

Talks, practical & fun exercises plus tips and tricks for your career.

To register for the careers workshop go to www.careeriosity.co.uk

**To apply for work experience setting up the Primadonna Gig 6-7pm
email Primadonnafestival@gmail.com**

For tickets to the gig featuring Anorak Patch, Gabby Rivers and others tbc, go to <https://www.johnpeelcentre.com/whats-on/>

With support from BAPAM, John Peel Centre, The Mix, Babergh & Mid Suffolk District Council, Re-Production Productions Ltd and Primadonna Festival.

Careeriosity Festival

Have you heard about Careeriosity Festival?

Taking part over the half term holiday and free to attend.

It's five days of demonstrations, talks, activities and walks with a host of individuals, businesses and organisations doing amazing work here in Suffolk and beyond. It's about giving 10–19-year-olds ideas, choices, knowledge, and power to make connections, change perceptions and get to know some of the exciting careers available to them.

There are talks and workshops at The Regal, The Mix, Stowmarket High School, Museum of East Anglian Life, and the John Peel Centre! Topics include Gaming, Business, Sport, Film & Photography, Forensics, Science, Music, and Technology.

Head to this link for more info: <https://www.careeriosity.co.uk/>

Babergh District Council and Mid Suffolk District Council have partnered with some great individuals, businesses and organisations doing amazing work here in Suffolk and beyond for the sessions:

Stowmarket High School

Screen Suffolk

The Mix

The Regal Stowmarket

Orbital Media

Museum of East Anglian Life

John Peel Centre for Creative Arts

West Suffolk Sports Department

Menta

Maze-Theory

West Suffolk College

Primadonna

Kinetic



CAREERIOSITY
— Festival 2021 —

**STRIVING FOR A CAREER
IN FILM? FASCINATED BY
FORENSIC SCIENCE? DRIVEN
TO RUN YOUR OWN
BUSINESS? CURIOUS ABOUT
FUTURE TECH?**

A free festival aimed at young people to
find out more about the opportunities
that exist in the world of work.

25th – 28th October

To book and for more information visit:
[careeriosity.co.uk](https://www.careeriosity.co.uk)

COLOUR RUN 21st OCTOBER

The Colour Run will take place on Thursday 21st October 2021 when we will adopt revised timings to allow for an earlier lunch break to enable the event to take place at 1.50pm. We are asking for a minimum donation of £4.00 per student which includes a donation to the Cardiomyopathy UK Charity and covers the cost of the paint for the Colour Run.

The powder paint used is the same used in Colour Runs in other primary/secondary schools across the country. It is safe to use with people, safe for the environment and easy to clean by brushing off or using water. Further information can be found on <http://www.holicolorpowders.co.uk> under 'cleaning and safety'.

If you are happy for your child to take part in the Colour Run, please ensure they come to school in light coloured tops/sports clothing ready for the run and bring a pair of goggles or sunglasses. Please send your child with a spare change of clothes for those getting the bus home. Should your child not be taking part they should wear their school uniform as normal.

Please pay your minimum £4.00 donation via ParentPay by Monday 11th October 2021. This will automatically enter your child into the run. If you need login details or require financial assistance, please contact the finance office at: finance@stowhigh.com. __

In addition, this time we have set up a Just Giving page for family and friends to sponsor your child in this event. <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/stowmarkethighschoolcolourrun>



Friday 15th October = Young Minds #HelloYellow

Here at Stowmarket High staff stand with you and will also be wearing yellow accessories!

Wear a Yellow accessory with
your school uniform on Friday
15th October:



Some Accessory Ideas?

Socks
Bag
Tie
Hair Band
Hats
Badges
Face Masks



Extra-Curricular Activities

We are very pleased to be able to offer students over 65 extra-curricular activities during lunchtimes and after school.

To view the full timetable please follow this link to our website:

<https://www.stowhigh.com/parents/clubs-timetables/>

15th October - #HelloYellow

20th October – Flu Immunisations

21st October – Colour Run

21st October – Year 7 Tutor Evening

22nd October – Non-Uniform Day – Halloween Themed

25th October – Half Term



Lost Property

Has your child lost any of the following?

- 2 x school blazers
- 2 x pairs of glasses
- 2 x pairs of football boots
- 3 x mobile phones
- 5 x school hoodies
- 2 x pencil cases
- 4 x water bottles
- 2 x pairs of school trousers
- 1 x pair of black leggings, black jogging bottoms, a hoodie, a black coat, a school jumper, a white school shirt and a PE top



These items are in Student Services and will be kept until Xmas, if they are not claimed by then they will then be taken to a local charity shop.

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