

Monday 1st November to Friday 5th November 2021



Headteachers' Blog

Welcome back everybody, I hope that your children have enjoyed their holiday and are ready to get back onto the learning train!

Masks

We start with the reminder about the advice from Suffolk Public Health that students and staff should return to wearing masks in communal areas and that visitors to schools are kept to an absolute minimum. This unfortunately means that our planned Year 7 event this week in which parents were invited in to tour the school has had to be cancelled. When things get back to some sort of normal, we will of course run this event.

As well as the requirement to wear masks, I have added an extra safety process called Bio Fogging. Very basically, after all the students have been in the building for a day, on Monday evening a specialist company will completely sanitise the entire building using a process called Bio Fogging. It is completely safe, and basically sanitises the air and every surface. The effect lasts three days, and will help deal with any infection brought in. Other organisations, such as Suffolk One have been using this service for a while now, and although expensive I think will add to our safety and sense of well-being. We managed to maintain some very low infection rates last half term and I am obviously keen that this continues.

Looking Back

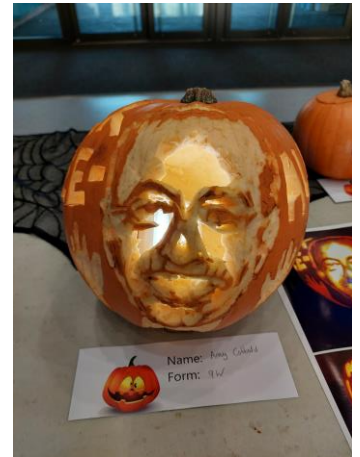
Before half term we had two special events – The Colour Run and Halloween. The Colour Run organised by Mr Duszynski and Mrs Brewster in honour of their colleague Lottie Shields-Bayliss who died after childbirth due to a very rare but deadly condition called Cardiomyopathy.

The weather was spectacular and the whole school came together in a festival of colour and fun. We were honoured to have Mrs Shield-Bayliss's grandmother, mother, sister, and niece in attendance to witness the very best of Stowmarket High. My apologies (sort of) for sending so many students home in such a mess!

The fun didn't stop there, as that evening Miss Ferguson supported by a small band of students decked the atrium out in full Halloween garb ready for the final day and the pumpkin competition. Our staff and students once again didn't disappoint, supplying a wide variety of costumes and pumpkin designs. The overall winner of the pumpkin carving competition was Balian Bevan 8G and the winner of the best costume went to Katie Stevens 8W.

Well done to all the students for such creative designs, Amy Cobbold produced an extraordinary pumpkin depicting me!





Overall Winner Balian Bevan



Safeguarding Update

At the end of last half term Mrs Alex Fenton left our service. She had provided an exceptional level of care and support for those of our students in greatest need, so her departure is a blow for all concerned. Fortunately, the combined work of Mr McLellan, Mrs Hawes and Mrs Miles will hold the fort until a permanent Safeguarding Lead can be employed.

Year 11 and Flu Jabs

This week Year 11 start gearing up for their Pre-Exams by working in their classes on Walking Talking Mocks – a process designed to guide students step by step through an exam paper. On Thursday we will be sending their progress checks home, so keep an eye out for them.

On Wednesday we will running the Flu vaccination programme – or we hope to, as last half term they were cancelled at the last minute. Let's hope the School's Immunisation Service are all ready to go, as providing space for such events in our new facilities is not very easy!

Have a great week everyone –

Mr Lee-Allan

Young Furniture Makers Awards 2021

We are extremely pleased to announce that an ex-year 13 student Noah Samson has been judged joint-first place in The Young Furniture Makers design competition in the 'A Level' category. Noah designed and made a teak Side Unit that incorporated a complex sliding tambour door system. The judges were impressed with the high levels of craftsmanship and professional level of finish. This is an exceptional achievement considering the competition is open to all A Level students across the country. Noah attended the awards ceremony in London, where he received his certificate and £200 cash prize.

You can find more info at:

<https://www.furnituremakers.org.uk/news/young-furniture-makers-awards-2021-winners-announced/>



Dates for your Calendar

Tuesday 2nd November – Year 7 Parents Tour - **Cancelled**

Wednesday 3rd of November – Flu Immunisations

Monday 15th November – Covid Vaccinations

Tuesday 23rd November – Catch Up Flu Immunisations



Useful Contact Information:

Head of Year 7	Mrs T Goodman	t.goodman@stowhigh.com
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To report a student absence please call **01449 613541** and select option: 1