

Monday 13th December to Friday 17th December 2021



Headteachers' Blog

Covid Implications

We continue to be blessed with relatively low numbers of infections at school, however the numbers are creeping up, and the knock-on effects of staff's children being sent home from their own schools is stretching us very thin at times. Last week three of the canteen staff were off and I had to turn my hand to dishing out chips, whilst other staff also pitched in on the tills. Considering we have just one week left, and the airwaves are full of tales of rapidly increasing Omicron infections, I have taken the difficult decisions to cancel a number of events in order to protect everyone's Christmas as best I can. Assemblies are now all online, the Year 7 cinema trips have been cancelled, sports fixtures held indoors have been postponed and the much anticipated staff karaoke event has also bitten the dust.

Watch this space, because somehow I feel that these are not going to be the only big decisions, I have to make this week.

If all goes to plan, the final day on Friday will finish at the usual time – don't forget it is a non-uniform day.

Sporting Brilliance

Last week we had over 60 students represent the school in fixtures – well done and thank you to all of them – great job.

Testing Return

As you should already know, we have worked a plan that will see us test all students (consent dependant) within two hours on Wednesday 5th January. This labour intensive plan will reduce the impact on lessons and disruption to families considerably. Students will return as normal, remain in tutor groups for two hours and then once tests have proved negative they can start their normal lessons period 3. More details later in the newsletter.

Below is some extraordinary news for an ex-student, Noah Sampson, a hopefully helpful health newsletter, news about our traditional Hamper competition and a request to house our tree!

Nearly there folks. If I don't see you before, I wish you all a safe and relaxing Christmas.

Very best wishes

Mr Lee-Allan

Congratulations to students both past and present

Our school Christmas Card this year was designed by two students Daisy Edmans in 7W and Lauren Wilson in 7S



Noah Samson Ex-Year 13 student wins joint first place in Young Furniture Makers Design Competition

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/>



Thank you very much to Mrs White (parent of Layla and Darci) who made these beautiful baubles for our tree, these are something we will use every year to brighten up our tree.



We would like to find a home for our 15ft Christmas Tree

When we break up on 17th December it would be lovely if we can find a home for our 15ft Christmas tree. If you know of any charity or group who could make use of it and are able to collect it, please can you get in touch with Ms Ferguson c.ferguson@stowhigh.com Unfortunately, we would not be able to donate decorations, it would just be the tree and the stand.



Oasis Well Being Newsletter Edition One

Attached along side this Parent Newsletter you will also see the first edition of the Oasis Well Being Newsletter. This will be sent out to you each term. In this newsletter we are introducing our Well Being team. We hope this newsletter offers something for everyone.



NSH Test and Trace: Covid testing for students on their return to school in January

We have been asked to test all students once on their return to school in January. For this round of testing, we have been provided with nasal only tests. All students should return to school on 5th January as normal and testing will be carried out that day.

Testing is voluntary; however, the government encourages everyone to participate in the asymptomatic testing programme to help break transmission links by identifying those who may be carrying the virus unknowingly.

We require a consent form to be completed by everyone regardless of previous consent. Please click [HERE](#) and complete the consent statement (one per student)

Results will be obtained once the test has been registered. This will be completed by the school, naming the parent /carer giving consent, as the notification contact. If a student has a positive result, we will contact you directly to advise you of the result and the next steps that will need to be taken.

Testing will be offered free of charge.

Dates for your Calendar

Wednesday 15th December – Christmas Lunch for all Year Groups

Friday 17th December – Christmas Hamper Competition and End of Term

Tuesday 4th January – PD Day

Wednesday 5th January – Students return to school and Covid Testing

Tuesday 11th January – Yr. 11 Science Tripod Evening 1

Thursday 13th January – Yr. 11 All Other Subjects Tripod Evening

Tuesday 18th January – Yr. 11 Science Tripod Evening 2



Christmas Hamper Competition- Our Tenth Year!

Your son/daughter's form group will be involved in a Christmas hamper competition during the month of December. Every tutor group has been tasked with making and filling a hamper which will be donated to the Stowmarket Food Bank once completed. Our school Christmas hamper project is now into its tenth year.

Your generous gifts of food and presents would be greatly appreciated, at a time in which more vulnerable people are particularly in need. Items should be non-perishable please and could include something from the list below. The food bank will come into school on the last day of term and judge the competition, they will then take the hampers and the contents to the foodbank.



Please choose from our shopping list & donate to the foodbank ~ thanks for your support.

Christmas cakes / Iced fruit bars

Tins of salmon

Tin/carton of custard

Christmas puddings

Boxes of chocolates

Packets of crisps, Twiglets, cheese savouries, etc

Packets of nuts, Pringles

Biscuits for cheese

Christmas chocolate logs

Cartons of fruit juice

Instant hot chocolate

Variety packs of cereals

Tinned ham



**Stowmarket Foodbank, Hillside Community Centre,
Stowmarket, IP14 2BD - 01449 774000**

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 T Shaw	t.shaw@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