

Monday 17th January to Friday 21st January 2022



Headteachers' Blog

Monday morning started with a reassuring sight as the big silver chimney strapped to the side of the building released its plume into the cold air, signalling that the boilers were working! Hurrah – one less thing to have to deal with.

Last week could have been worse. We were fortunate that the wind chill factor was nearly zero, and that the sun was out, helping to provide significant solar gain to the school. The vast majority of classes remained around 20 degrees even into the second day of no heating. I was determined to keep the school open if I could, because Covid has robbed students of too much time with their teachers as it is, and I know the enormous disruption to families closing the school would cause.

I have to say, student behaviour was excellent despite the inconvenience.

So, we are back to normal today. So that means our temporary permitting of non-school uniform jumpers and hoodies now stops.

Walking Talking Mocks

The Year Tens begin their Walking Talking Mocks this week – this where instead of a silent 'mock' exam, students and teachers walk through an exam paper with the teacher guiding and advising on each question. This builds experience and confidence ahead of their Pre-public examinations.

FOSH and Parent Voice

I have had a couple of replies to my request for parental engagement with fundraising and also policy development but could do with some more – my original post is on our website so please respond if you can – I would be most grateful. In terms of Parent Voice, I am keen to hear parent views about a hope of mine to introduce one to one computer devices for every student, to discuss aspects of our curriculum offer, but most importantly to hear from parents about your experiences good and bad being part of Stowmarket High School.

Year 11 Tripod Evening

The online parent evening last week seemed to be largely free of technical issues, however if for any reason you didn't have the meeting you had booked, please contact us to rearrange. Attendance was only around 50% and as this is such an important year for these students, we must pull out all stops to work the Tripod effectively to provide the best support we can. Tomorrow evening we are hosting our second Science focussed Tripod evenings, please do sign up.

Young carers drop in Monday lunchtimes in room 1.08

We have some wonderful young carers who are offering a social club. As young carers themselves they would like to offer a chance for other young carers the opportunity to have a place to meet and chat once a week. Students can bring their lunch.

Suffolk Youth Parliament

Another shout out for Courtney Cunningham in Year 10 who is campaigning to be elected to the Suffolk Youth Parliament. In assemblies this week Mrs Farrow will be explaining how and when students can vote for Courtney, and also how they can vote to have topics important to them included in the national youth parliament. Courtney has been supported by Julija Cuprina this week by producing a Stowtalk podcast about her campaign – well done Julija.

Time to sign off – stay safe everyone and stay connected.

Best wishes

Mr Lee-Allan

Bank of Inspirational Futures

In their Inspirational Futures lesson with Mr Duszynski, the students were assigned fictitious jobs and provided with a payslip with their monthly earnings. They were then set the challenge of budgeting their income, working out the cost of their rent, household bills, vehicle costs, gym memberships and nights out, as well as calculating weekly food shopping budgets.

The students found the whole exercise thoroughly engaging and left more prepared about how budgeting equips them with the knowledge and skills they need to manage their finances effectively now and in the future.



Sandwell Charter Mark

Just before Christmas we sent out our first edition Wellbeing Newsletter, within this edition we shared with you our plans to work towards the Sandwell Charter Mark. We as a school really want to continue to drive forward to ensure mental health is at the forefront of what we do at school and want to do so with the feedback and input of all our stakeholders, parents, staff, and pupils alike.

This would involve us working with a team of psychologists to assess the great things we as a school are doing to support young people and staff in their daily journey with mental health. It will also enable us to generate a complete picture of what we need to do to improve, to ensure all members of the school tripod feel heard and supported.

So that we can get a complete picture of both our successes and the areas we need to develop, we would like to canvas opinion from our parents.

This is totally anonymous questionnaire that will not take up much of your time. Simply click on the link [Questionnaire](#) and be as honest as possible. The form will work on all devices and if there are any technical issues, please do let us know.

Finally, we will be inviting you to attend some online focus groups next month to express your thoughts directly to the psychologists, more information on this will be sent in the coming weeks.



Parent Voice and FOSH

FOSH (Friends of Stowmarket High) formed nearly four years ago and have been instrumental in helping fundraise for the benefit of all students – devices such as visualisers in classrooms have largely been funded by FOSH, for example. The team that has been so successful are tending to move on, so I am really keen to recruit a new team of parents who can build on this good work. If this is something you might be interested in, please contact me via email: d.lee-allan@stowhigh.com with the heading 'FOSH' and I will get straight back to you.

If you would like to contribute in a smaller way, on a shorter-term project, I would be keen to work with some parents gauging their responses to some key developments I am keen to pursue over the next few years. If this is something you might be interested in, email me with the title 'PV'.

Neither of these initiatives are heavy on time, but so useful for the school. Thank you in advance.





WE NEED YOU!

A new year, a new challenge? Maybe you're looking to find some purpose, gain some experience of working with young people, add volunteering to your CV, or would like to meet some like-minded volunteers in your community?

With the emphasis on new, The Mix are introducing an additional youth club session for over 16's from 7-9pm on Thursdays. Our popular Drop-In's for high school years, already welcome around 25 young people every Thursday 4pm until 6pm. Hanging out in a safe, inclusive and welcoming space - playing pool, table tennis, gaming, ball games, using our music studio, as well as arts, crafts, and board games always on offer. Without our wonderful volunteers it would be difficult to offer consistent & varied fun activities so the bigger the team, the bigger the fun!

Are you available for a minimum of 2 hours between 3.30pm and 9.30pm on a Thursday?

We are looking to expand our volunteer team and maybe you could give us a few hours a week, a fortnight, or a month? The beauty of our volunteering is it can be flexible to allow it to fit in with your life. Do you have some spare time, can listen, smile and would like to support opportunities for local young people? We will provide you with training and process your DBS check.

With our under 16's Drop-In already up and running, and our new Drop-In for 16yrs+ due to start in February, it would be great to hear from you soon to chat about how you can get involved. For more information give us a call on 01449 745130, email volunteering@themixstowmarket.co.uk or check out our website

- www.themixstowmarket.org.

Gert Gladden – Volunteer Co-ordinator

Year 11 GCSE Success Sessions

Please see below the amended Success Sessions timetable:



GCSE Success Sessions – Year 11 Pre-2 Preparation					
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Lunch	Res Mats - Project Catch up (JHA) Engineering – Unit 1 & 2 Catch Up (ADU) Graphic Design – Unit 1 & 2 Catch up / PRE-Prep (ADU) Business – Week A ART – Component 1: Coursework (GPA) Week B – Chemistry 2.06 (BLE) Week A – Physics 2.05 (CLU)	GCSE PE DWI Res Mats - Project Catch up (JHA) Engineering – Unit 1 & 2 Catch Up (ADU) Graphic Design – Unit 1 & 2 Catch up / PRE-Prep (ADU) Music coursework (MBS) Week A – Biology 2.03 (ADE) ART – Component 1: Coursework (GPA)	Res Mats - Project Catch up (JHA) Engineering – Unit 1 & 2 Catch Up (ADU) Graphic Design – Unit 1 & 2 Catch up / PRE-Prep (ADU) Drama – Comp 2 Exam Prep (NRE) ART – Component 1: Coursework (GPA) Week B – Biology 2.02 (DPR) Week A – Business (MDI)	GCSE PE DWI Res Mats - Project Catch up (JHA) Engineering – Unit 1 & 2 Catch Up (ADU) Graphic Design – Unit 1 & 2 Catch up / PRE-Prep (ADU) Music coursework (MBS) ART – Component 1: Coursework (GPA)	Res Mats - Project Catch up (JHA) Engineering – Unit 1 & 2 Catch Up (ADU) Graphic Design – Unit 1 & 2 Catch up / PRE-Prep (ADU) Week B – Business (MDI) ART – Component 1: Coursework (GPA) Week A – Chemistry 2.07 (CMU) Week B – Physics 2.04 (RYF)

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
After School	ART – Component 1: Coursework (GPA) Hospitality and Catering – Unit 2 and revision for Jan Exam (LBR)	SCIENCE - Past paper practice 2.06 Engineering – Unit 1 & 2 Catch Up (ADU) Graphic Design – Unit 1 & 2 Catch up / PRE-Prep (ADU) ART – Component 1: Coursework (GPA) Geography (JTH)	Res Mats - Project Catch up (JHA) Engineering – Unit 1 & 2 Catch Up (ADU) Graphic Design – Unit 1 & 2 Catch up / PRE-Prep (ADU) IT – Coursework Catchup (AVW) Computer Science (ACO) Drama – Comp 2 Exam Prep (NRE) ART – Component 1: Coursework (GPA) GERMAN (JST) History (AHE)	MATHS Res Mats - Project Catch up (JHA) Engineering – Unit 1 & 2 Catch Up (ADU) Graphic Design – Unit 1 & 2 Catch up / PRE-Prep (ADU) History – Skills/Knowledge - Week A = AHE Week B = SSM ART – Component 1: Coursework (GPA) History (SSM)	HSC 1-1 and group coursework catch up Week B only (LWE) ART – Component 1: Coursework (GPA)

Dates for your Calendar

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

Thursday 3rd February – Yr. 7 Frankenstein – Theatre Trip, B.S.E.

Thursday 10th February – GCSE Options Evening – Details to follow shortly

Monday 14th February – Yr. 11 Pre's Start

Friday 18th February – Non-uniform Day

Monday 21st February – 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 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 for any reason, **including positive Covid test results** - please call **01449 613541** and select option: 1