

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March – Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2022



## Headteacher's Blog

### Ukraine

Throughout every assembly I ran last week students listened intently as I outlined the history, politics and personalities that have led to this terrible invasion of Ukraine. The student body was clearly knowledgeable, but equally full of uncertainties. I am acutely conscious of the anxiety the global news now stokes up, and I encourage my staff to go that one extra step to providing a warm, welcoming, friendly and positive school environment.

I also press that in times of such uncertainty, a school can be a place of calming consistency – the regimes of the bells, the rules, the uniforms, lining up, seating plans etc, all are strangely comforting for us all, so whilst Ukrainian lives are thrown into chaos, we must celebrate the normality of our own, and give thanks, whilst doing whatever we can to show support for those in need.

One key message last week was to every student from Eastern European heritage, and those from Russia too. The level of concern for these members of our community must be very high, and I urged all students to show support, kindness and care to these individuals. I also offered the school's support for any student or family more personally affected by what is going on. Please do come forward if this relates to you.

### Year 11 Pre-Examinations

Another set of practice examinations for Year 11 starts on Monday. It is a difficult balance to, on one hand, devote school hours to the business of teaching the necessary subject content, and on the other give students time to practice the art of examination sitting. We have repeatedly emphasised to the students that a key outcome of these examinations will be a clearer picture for staff about what information each student 'gets' and what content needs re-teaching.

### Bad Luck

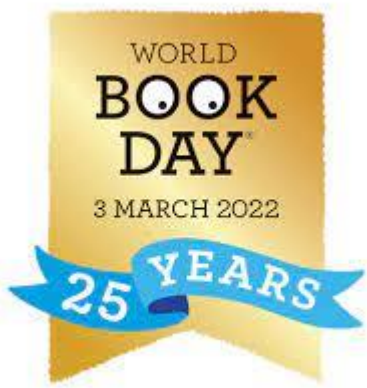
In the weeks before half term staff absence, largely due to Covid, increased considerably. I was hoping that after the break numbers would decline, and to some extent they have. Unfortunately, two key members of my team have had bizarrely similar injuries caused by sport, resulting in a lot of pain and significant time off work. Both Miss Howland and Mrs Kerlake are being cocooned in cotton wool (with a requirement being written into their contracts that they only engage in recreational tiddly winks from now on) and will be for the rest of this half term at least. I have been very fortunate to find supply replacements for both ladies, and so disruption to classes should be minimal.

## **Non-Uniform Day**

Storm Eunice closed the school when we were going to running a non-uniform day, so we have moved this to the 25<sup>th</sup> of March. The money raised from this has already been allocated to CRY, so with the excellent leadership of Year 11 Headteacher Ambassador Louis Blanchard, we are going to run some other activities such as staff Karaoke to help raise funds for Ukrainian refugees.

Time to go – thank you for your continued support.

Mr Lee-Allan



Last Thursday was World Book Day. It was really heartening to see the joy on the faces of many of our young people as they received one of the 'World Book Day' books (Year 7), found a hidden book or discovered a new read on our community bookshelf. There was also a book related quiz in form and all students received a £1 World Book Day token.

It is hard to underestimate the benefits for students of reading for pleasure for their mental wellbeing, for academic success and for their knowledge of the world. This is one of the reasons we launched our tutor reading programme at the beginning of the Autumn term.

When asked, many students wanted access to a wider range of books. It is hoped that our new 'School Bookshelf' in the atrium will help students discover a wider choice of books. The idea is a simple one. Unwanted books from home are brought into school and left on the bookshelf for other students to take home and enjoy. We launched a similar shelf 9 months ago for staff which has proved popular. I probably deposit 15 books to everyone I take out, but that fine. I'm most certainly a bookaholic so that one gem is I find is priceless especially if it introduces me to new author or even genre.

Please, encourage your young people to use and contribute to the Schoolbook Shelf, if you can.







**Unifrog Next Steps Fair - Tuesday 8th March at 5.00 pm**

**Joe Wicks MBE joins Unifrog's Next Steps Fair**



**On Tuesday 8 March at 5.00 pm**, students will have the chance to hear from Joe Wicks MBE live on how he got to where he is today.

At their virtual Next Steps Fair, they'll also get the chance to meet employers, university representatives, and apprenticeship providers in live sessions, and drop by their virtual booths to chat with them directly.

[Sign Up Here](#)

You will need your unifrog log in please see Mrs Mylrea in the LRC office if you do not have one for any reason or cannot log in – [m.mylrea@stowhigh.com](mailto:m.mylrea@stowhigh.com)





## Lost Property

Again, we have a huge amount of lost property in Student Services. It is cleared at the end of every term, but very quickly we accumulate more. None of it is named so we cannot return it to the owner.

We have blazers, outdoor coats and jackets, PE kits, pencil cases, trousers, trainers and lunch boxes. If you think that your child has lost anything, please ask them to come to Student Services and have a look. When we break up for Easter it will be donated to a charity shop.



### Dates for your Calendar

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> March – Trip – The Bone Sparrow in Bury St Edmunds – Year 9

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> March – Trip – The Bone Sparrow in Bury St Edmunds – Year 10

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> March – Year 10 Tripod Evening

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March – 100 Years of Our BBC Event

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> March – Macbeth Performance

Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> March – Year 11 Tripod Evening

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April – HPV Immunisations

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> May – DTP/Men ACWY Immunisations



### Useful Contact Information:

Head of Year 7	Mrs T Goodman	<a href="mailto:t.goodman@stowhigh.com">t.goodman@stowhigh.com</a>
Head of Year 8	Mr S Peckford	<a href="mailto:s.peckford@stowhigh.com">s.peckford@stowhigh.com</a>
Assistant HOY 8 & 9	Mrs T Shaw	<a href="mailto:t.shaw@stowhigh.com">t.shaw@stowhigh.com</a>
Head of Year 9	Mr M Blewitt	<a href="mailto:m.blewitt@stowhigh.com">m.blewitt@stowhigh.com</a>
Head of Year 10	Mrs L Wellham	<a href="mailto:l.wellham@stowhigh.com">l.wellham@stowhigh.com</a>
Head of Year 11	Mrs R Dolby	<a href="mailto:r.dolby@stowhigh.com">r.dolby@stowhigh.com</a>
Finance		<a href="mailto:finance@stowhigh.com">finance@stowhigh.com</a>
General Enquiries		<a href="mailto:enquiries@stowhigh.com">enquiries@stowhigh.com</a>

### Reporting Student Absence

To report a student absence for any reason, *including positive Covid test results* - please call **01449 613541** and select option: 1

We will NOT authorise holidays as a matter of course. Our default position is NOT to authorise requests for holidays.

Should you have a request for your child to be absent from school please request a Leave of Absence Request Form.

### What to do if you are late?

If you arrive during registration, you should go to your tutor room where you will be marked late. If you arrive after registration, you should report to the Attendance office to sign in.