

Monday 23rd May to Friday 27th May 2022



Headteachers' Blog

I will let you all into a small secret. I really don't like this time of year. It's not the weather – I love that. It's not the school calendar – far from it - Year 11's putting all they have learned to the test, sports days, meeting the new Year 7 – no the calendar is not the problem.

It is the transfer market – it's so stressful. As we near half term, some teachers apply for new jobs. Promotion opportunities, schools closer to home, better Headteachers, possibly a sixth form – the reasons are numerous. The problem is that as all schools hurtle toward the end of term, we all hope to be able to appoint to our vacancies, meaning that as we do so, we create a hole for some other poor Headteacher, and the teaching contract rules mean that half term is the cut off point for resignations. Pass this point, and any vacancies can only be filled by agency staff (not always a bad thing, but always expensive), brand new teachers (who require lightened teaching loads and mentoring) or teachers out of contract.

I gently growl to myself when I speak to other Heads who say, 'Fully staffed for September.' Of course, there have been years when that is me, and I walk about like the proverbial cat with the cream.

No cream on these whiskers unfortunately. This year is proving to be a bit of a challenge. No cause for panic – in fact it is our success as a school that leads to some of our recruitment issues – we are growing bigger, and we need more teachers to meet the demand. However, throw in a national shortage of teachers, and a reduction in the numbers of people training to become teachers, the extra issues for all rural schools of attracting staff, the cost of living crisis meaning that staff want to reduce transport costs, and we have a problem.

That is why I don't like this time of year! It also means why I spend much of my time in my office interviewing candidates or reading their application forms.

Exams last week seemed to go ok – and I am pleased that this week the weather is predicted to be a bit cooler, as that makes sitting in the examination hall that much more comfortable. We continue to offer Year 11 all the support we can, and have our fingers crossed for everyone of them.

Have a great week everyone. Thank you for your support.

Mr Lee-Allan

Dylan's 2023 Jamboree Adventure 2023

Dylan Foreman of 11T is raising money to travel to Korea with the Scouts he would appreciate any donations towards his adventure if you were able to help?

The link to his GoFundMe page is: <https://gofund.me/a7050038>



Non-Uniform Day Friday 27th of May

Friday 27th of May will be non-uniform day. To help celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee we would like students and staff to dress in red, white and blue. **Year 11 students need to be in school uniform if they have exams, please.** Also, we will be holding a bake off for pupils and staff. Students remember to bring in some change to purchase the cakes breaktime.

		
		
	<p>To celebrate the Jubilee there will be a bake off for pupils and staff.</p> <p>Be as creative as you wish and bring a bake on 27th May. Remember NO NUTS</p> <p>Drop them into the atrium first thing, then return at break to see the winner and to buy a treat for charity.</p>	

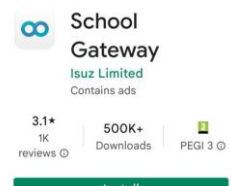
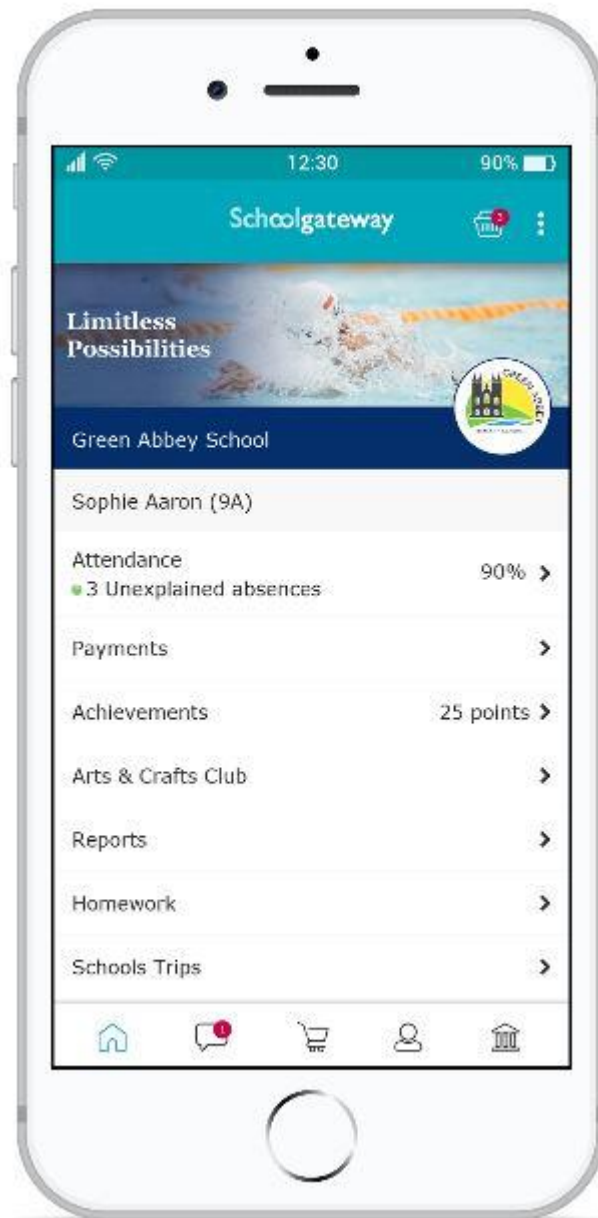
School Gateway App

We have recently changed our communication portal and how we send communication to parents. We are pleased to announce you will be able to download an app on your phone which will be the central hub of information for our parents. This will include emails, messages, newsletters etc. Please make sure you **download the app for free** just search *School Gateway* in your App store and download.

Apple iPhone users, download the app here: schoolgateway.co.uk/iosdownload

Android phone users, download the app here: schoolgateway.co.uk/androiddownload

When you open to the app please scroll to the bottom where it asks "Don't have an account? Sign Up" please click here and enter your email address and telephone number that we have registered at the school.



Designated Safeguarding Leads

We have been busy at work over the last few months expanding the size and scale of our safeguarding team.

At Stowmarket High School we take the safety and well-being of everyone very seriously. If you are concerned about your son or daughter or a young person in our school community, please get in touch. We are always here, ready to help, advise and support you and your family.

If you are worried or concerned about somebody at school talk to us.

Your Designated Safeguarding Leads are:

Mr McLellan	a.mclellan@stowhigh.com
Mrs Fisher	s.fisher@stowhigh.com
Mr Lee-Allan	d.lee-allan@stowhigh.com
Mrs Millerchip	l.millerchip@stowhigh.com
Mrs Hawes	j.hawes@stowhigh.com
Mrs Miall	m.miall@stowhigh.com

Best Wishes

Andy McLellan
Assistant Headteacher and Designated Safeguarding Lead

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	Mr J Margetson	j.margetson@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

Dates for your Calendar

Wednesday 25th May – Sports Tour Information Evening Via Teams

Wednesday 25th May – Trip 7T to Stowmarket Library

Thursday 26th May – Year 7 Tripod Evening

Friday 27th May – Non-Uniform Day – Theme Red, White & Blue

Friday 27th May - Bake Off Competition

Monday 30th May Bank Holiday & Half Term

Wednesday 8th June – Trip 7O to Stowmarket Library

Friday 10th June – Trip 7W to Stowmarket Library

