



Monday 12th September 2022 – Friday 16th September 2022

Headteachers' Blog

Welcome to my new readers, and welcome back to the families well used to my newsletters. Only one place to start;

The Queen

In such momentous times, there is a balance to be struck within school between sharing thoughts and feelings, answering questions and reflecting the national mood, against continuing with the normal diet of lessons.

I hope that we found that balance last week. As students arrived on Friday we played Benjamin Britten, Elgar and Ralph Vaughan Williams on the atrium sound system, whilst showing a single slide acknowledging the Queen's passing. We were able to send out respectful and informative information for all tutor groups for registration, and we held a minute silence, superbly respected at 12 noon.

Staff were told to push on with lessons, but to use their own judgement if students wanted to ask questions about the Queen, and what her passing means to the country, including those who do not believe in the concept of monarchy.

Over the next week we will keep school life as normal as possible, but we will use the atrium screen to publicise the official events and Personal Development sessions will focus on the life and achievements of the Queen. I will of course be closing the school on Monday 19th following the announcement of the official bank holiday.

New Staff and Students

Our new Year 7's brought their excited energy to school and I was delighted to welcome them. With another year group of 190 students replacing the 130 who left last year, the school feels busier than ever. Alongside the mass of new students, I also welcomed new staff;

Miss Smith	Assistant Director of Curriculum – Science
Mrs Gates	Art & Photography
Ms Lockett	Trauma Informed Intervention Practitioner
Mrs Langley	Family Engagement Officer
Mr Aysakov	Mathematics
Mrs Doherty	Trauma Informed Intervention Practitioner
Ms Rudling	Head of Year 10
Mrs Hackett	Head of Year 9
Mr Boyle	Business Studies and Inspirational Futures
Mrs Milne	Science
Mrs Leavy	Business Support Administration

Expectations

As we start the year, a couple of reminders about our expectations here at Stowmarket High. Students should be punctual – building good habits that will support them throughout their life. They should be smart, wearing the full uniform, and be prepared by having the correct equipment and resources for learning.

The Summer

As well as various internal building works, IT improvements and repairs, the summer of course saw the Year 11 students collect their examination results. Over recent years, primarily due to Covid many Suffolk schools have pulled back from publicly releasing official figures. I was always in favour of this, because the league table obsession creates an unfair competition between schools, providing frankly unhelpful single statistics that hide the very complicated factors of every different cohort. The real losers in this process were the schools at the bottom of the table and having been there with the various schools I have worked in that are often described as being some of the more 'challenging', I have continued the policy of not pushing forward simple statistics. This is a position adopted across the Waveney Trust. In fact, all three High schools were very pleased with their results this year, which was great news for all the young people concerned.

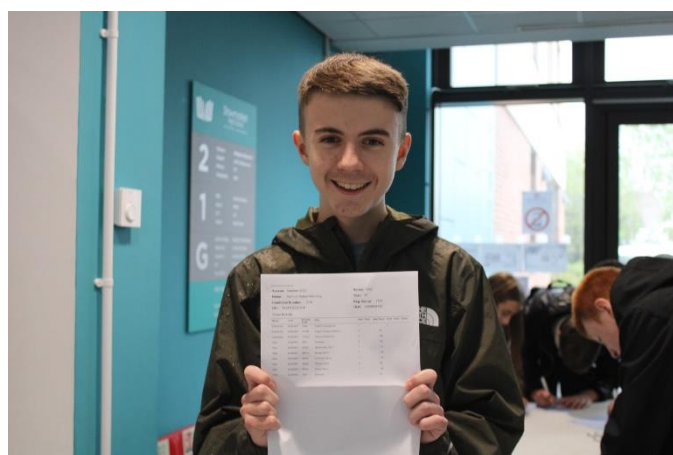
What we did do, was attract significant media interest, which was great, because we were able to share individual stories of success. Results day is always bittersweet however, as amongst the delight there was the disappointment for those who didn't achieve the grade or grades they wanted. Within school we analyse the results in great detail and constantly evaluate our own performance and practices to minimise those disappointments as much as possible, and we of course start the year by emphasising to Year 11 in particular how the GCSE examination rewards consistent hard work. Mr West and Mr Rourke-Beasley, supported by Mrs Fisher are the team that will work with Year 11 this year to help them achieve their goals, and they will be leaning hard on 'the tripod' because when all three legs work effectively together, we have a significant upturn in success rates. This process kicks off on Thursday with our SEND focussed 'Next Steps' event, which will be repeated the following week for the families of the rest of Year 11.

The term has started very well, with staff having safeguarding and fire safety training on top of the usual updates and refreshers about teaching and learning. Students have all had their photographs retaken, and Year 7 have been smoothly inducted as well as undertaking their Cognitive Ability Tests. Long may this smooth start continue!

Here is to a new term, new staff and students, and a new monarch.

Mr Lee-Allan

RESULTS DAY 2022



School Photographs

Individual school photographs will be released by Carmel Jane Photographers tomorrow at 12 noon. If you haven't already registered, please do so to get easy access to your child's photo.

Registration only takes a minute. Please visit www.carmeljaneshop.co.uk and enter the following code: **JRBGM46**

You will then be asked to pre-register with your child's full school register name.

Once registered, as soon as the photos are available you will receive an automatic email notification to inform you that your child's photos are now ready to be viewed and can be purchased.

Don't miss out pre-register today!

Everyone Active



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**EVERYONE
WELCOME TO
SWEATEMBER**

Junior membership available for 11-15 year olds
Call us on 01449 674980 option 1 or email
midsuffolkma@everyoneactive.com for
more information!

*Offer valid until 16/10/2022. UK bank account holders only, 16+. Direct Debit membership. Must pay 1 month in advance, this will be used to cover your final month. Participating centres only. Must cancel by 20th of month in order for the DD payment to stop on the 1st of the following month. A joining fee of £1 applies. See www.everyoneactive.com/1-pound-joining-fee-terms/ for full terms

**everyone
ACTIVE**

Inspirational Futures News

Inspirational Futures What's Coming Up?

September 2022

- 13th Advice & Slice – LRC – Open to All Years
Sign up with Mrs Mylrea in the Inspirational Futures Centre
J M Hewitt – Crime Author
- 20th Advice & Slice – LRC - Open to All Years
Sign up with Mrs Mylrea in the Inspirational Futures Centre
Charlotte Reason, Solicitor – The World of Law
- 22nd Year 11 Next Steps Evening
6.00pm – 8.00pm Main School Hall
- 21st Year 10 SME Enterprise Day Trip (10 Students)
- 26th Year 10 & Year 11 Virtual Insight in BT Evening
5.00pm – 6.00pm
<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/BT-Group>
- 28th Suffolk Expo Gateway 14

October 2022

- 24th – 28th Year 11 - Words for Work Virtual Internship with international law firm, Cleary Gottlieb
<https://wordsforlife.org.uk/zone-in/activities/virtual-internship-with-cleary-gottlieb/>





Don't forget to encourage your children to sign up for Advice & Slice sessions which are held on Tuesday in the LRC at lunchtime.

The signup sheet is inside Mrs Mylrea's office in the Inspirational Futures Centre, or email m.mylrea@stowhigh.com to secure your place.

The poster features the 'Advice & a slice' logo in the top left corner. A purple banner with the word 'Sessions' in white text is positioned at the top. Below this, the dates and speakers are listed: 'Tuesday 13th September' with 'J M Hewitt - Crime Author', and 'Tuesday 20th September' with 'Charlotte Reason, Solicitor - The World of Law'. A purple box at the bottom contains the text: 'All in the LRC at lunchtime please let Mrs. Mylrea know via email on m.mylrea@stowhigh.com to make sure that we have enough Dominos Pizza. Sign up sheet can also be found on the door of the Inspirational Futures Centre.'

Job of the Week

CLICK HERE



Pre-worn, loved school uniform

As a school we are trying to improve our environmental footprint and want to do all we can to support sustainability. We are also conscious of the need to reduce the overall cost of our uniform, the pressure this can put on families at hot spot times of the year is apparent.

Considering both these factors we have decided to launch a school uniform shop that is based around pre-loved and cared for uniform. The shop will sell the more expensive or bespoke/branded items on our uniform list:

- Blazers
- Ties
- (PE) Hoodies
- Jumpers
- PE tops and shorts/skorts

We would very much appreciate it if you have any pre - worn, loved uniform from the list above that your child could bring into school.

Useful Contact Information:

Head of Year 7	Mrs T Goodman	t.goodman@stowhigh.com
Head of Year 8	Mrs N Goss	n.goss@stowhigh.com
Head of Year 9	Mrs A Hackett	a.hackett@stowhigh.com
Head of Year 10	Ms Z Rudling	z.rudling@stowhigh.com
Head of Year 11	Mrs R Dolby	r.dolby@stowhigh.com
Finance		finance@stowhigh.com
General Enquiries		enquiries@stowhigh.com
Attendance/Student Absence		j.perry@stowhigh.com

Food Allergy

We do not claim to be a 'nut-free' school as The Anaphylaxis Campaign advises that this is not a pragmatic approach. But as a reminder, we ask that you or your child do not bring any products containing nuts in to school as we have a number of students that have severe allergies to nuts and products containing nuts. Some examples are:

- Fruit and cereal bars that contain nuts
- Chocolate bars or sweets that contain nuts
- Nutella
- Peanut butter
- Cakes made with nuts
- Muesli bars
- Baklava
- Any loose nuts



Dates for your Diary

- | | |
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| 19th September 2022 | Bank Holiday – Her Majesty the Queen’s Funeral |
| 22nd September 2022 | Year 9 Pupil Passport Tripod Afternoon 3.30 pm – 6.00 pm |
| 22nd September 2022 | Year 11 Next Steps Evening 6.00 pm – 8.00 pm |
| 29th September 2022 | Year 11 Success and Support Evening 6.00 pm – 7.00 pm |
| 4th October 2022 | Year 6 Open Evening 5.30 pm – 7.15 pm – Further Information to Follow |
| 5th October 2022 | Year 6 Open Evening 5.30 pm – 7.15 pm Further Information to Follow |
| 6th October 2022 | Year 6 SEND Open Evening 5.30 pm – 7.15 pm Further Information to Follow |