



Monday 14th November 2022 – Friday 18th November 2022

Headteachers' Blog

Remembrance

The way we respond to the call for remembrance gets stronger every year. The quality of the resources provided by Mrs Fisher, the assemblies run by Mrs Relf, supported with the student leaders and with the deeply personal story from Mr Wise; The impact of the big screen, the added visual reminder of the connection to Stowmarket's school, with named soldier silhouettes provided by Technology and Art and the powerful music supplied by Mrs Blakey Stoppard and Fiona Jones (cornet), Harriet Carr (horn) and Abigail Brett (horn).

We also benefitted from seeing the students from our school who represent, Guides, Scouts, Brownies, Cadets, and Emergency Services, in their uniform, proudly front and centre in the atrium. Our connection to Wattisham is the final touch, and this year we welcomed Warrant Officer Stuart Meacher as their representative. Thank you to all those mentioned above, and to the students from each tutor group who were chosen to represent their form in the atrium. The silence we held was strong. We do this well, and so we should.



Staff Training Day

Please don't forget that tomorrow Wednesday 16th November, is staff training day – my apologies for any disruption this causes.

Tripod Evenings

Please make sure your voice is heard – Tripod evenings online or face to face? The questionnaire for this closes at 8.30 am on Thursday. To complete this short survey please [CLICK HERE](#)

Vaping

A week or so ago we wrote about the impact of vaping – well low and behold, we then have students vaping in school, setting off the smoke alarms, resulting in a whole school evacuation, and exclusions for the culprits. Nearly a thousand students time disrupted, and every member of staff stopped from doing their jobs – the cost of just half an hour disruption is incalculable. We will continue to take a firm stance against the use of such items in school, for health reasons, and for the security and safety of us all.

Data Protection

A vigilant parent has pointed out that we are not complying with GDPR regulations by sending our newsletter to parents. Basically, we should seek permission first, then allow recipients the opportunity to unsubscribe at any point. The technical issue for us has been that we use the database that we use for all letters and reports for newsletters. So, we will create a new database and switch to that one going forward. In the meantime, we will just post the newsletter on our website so you can choose to read it or not.

Year 11 Pre-Exams and changes to lunch timings

These start this week and are incredibly important in giving students an opportunity to practise in exam settings, to provide accurate evidence of where learning has been secured and where it hasn't, and to build confidence for the summer exams.

On Thursday and Friday due to the length of the examinations, **lunch will be early** – at 12.30. Other times are not affected. I am highlighting this for those students that either find change difficult to cope with, or to those that have to medicate at key times in the day.

Thank you for your support

Mr Lee-Allan

Reporting Student Absence

When reporting your child's absence please call our main school number 01449 613541 and chose option 1 to leave a message. Could we please ask that you state your child's name, form class and reason for absence (for example do not just state ill), could we also request that you speak slowly and clearly.

Year 10 & 11 PSHE – Bereavement

During weeks commencing 21st and 28th November, students in Year 10 will be looking at Loss and Bereavement during their PSHE lessons. Whilst this is an important part of the curriculum and delivered with much sensitivity, we know that this may be a difficult subject for some students. If your child is in Year 10 and may find this a difficult lesson, please ask them to see their PSHE teacher in advance so that we can put appropriate support into place.

SIMILARLY - in w/c 5th and 12th December, we are covering the same topic with Year 11.

Dates for your Diary

14th November 2022 – Friends of Stowmarket High School Meeting

15th November 2022 – Advice & Slice David White – Environment Agency

16th November 2022 – **PD Day – School Closed for Staff Training**

16th November 2022 – Suffolk Ski Centre for Ski Trip Students

23rd November – Suffolk Ski Centre for Ski Trip Students

24th November – Year 10 Work Experience Parents' Evening

24th November – Pupil Passport Evening for Year 11 SEND Students

25th November – Year 8 HPV Immunisations

7th December – Lion King Trip

15th December – Christmas Concert



Useful Contact Information:

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