



Monday 28th November 2022 – Friday 2nd December 2022

Headteachers' Blog

In my last Newsletter I said I was meeting County officials to discuss the expansion of the school, and that I would update your good selves when I knew more. Well, nothing is finalised, but the basic picture is that the school is projected to grow considerably over the next decade. There is some classic irony here – the old school was built to hold 1,400 – the new one 1,125. County tell me we will be at least at 1,400 - largely due to the expansion of the town – not including the effect of a successful school on parental decisions. We all ask the same question - 'If they knew the town was growing so quickly, why would they reduce the capacity of the school?' That is short termism for you.

County have now assessed our site and will start to work on a plan that will see us grow – the difficulty lies around our specialist rooms – food, design, drama, music etc. They are all going to need to be added, without splitting up our existing departments - many beard scratching moments on the way.

Trauma Informed

We have committed to become an accredited 'Trauma Informed' school by September 2024. Our recent training day was focussed on this, and there is, and has been, numerous individual training programmes contributing to our development. I thought at this stage it might be useful to clarify a couple of key points -

Trauma Informed does not mean that all our staff will be qualified to counsel the most affected students.

It does mean we will collectively offer a more supportive environment for all students

It does not mean that we will stop using sanctions against students who misbehave. All students most know that poor behaviour will have consequences.

Trauma is caused by not just the most horrible of events – it can be any event or sequence of events that significantly impacted an individual, and which remain unresolved.

With many experts citing a post pandemic spike in mental health challenges for young people, it seems sensible to me that we try to respond proactively.

This Week

Languages Speaking exams Mon and Tue, Advice and A Slice - Timberwolf – apprenticeships available! Ski Trip Parent Meeting and FOSH both on Wednesday after school, Mr Wise's Sponsored Run on Friday.

As ever, busy, busy. Have a good week everyone

Mr Lee-Allan

Winner of our school Christmas Card Competition

Scarlett Maceachen in Year 7 was the winner of our school Christmas Card Competition this year.



Well done Scarlett

Christmas Concert Thursday 15th December

Please come along to support students this will be a lovely evening and FOSH (Friends of Stowmarket High School) will be here offering refreshments during the interval. There will be hot chocolate with marshmallows and tubs of ice cream.

We are asking for a donation of £3 per ticket and the funds raised will go towards our performance of Matilda.

Christmas Jumper Day Friday 16th December

Non-Uniform day on Friday the 16th will be Christmas jumper day, with the donations going to the charity Save the Children.

Christmas Hampers Friday 16th December

The foodbank will be coming in to judge the hamper competition during Period 1, they have asked for the following donations: Christmas cakes, tins of Salmon, gravy, and packets of stuffing. Tins or cartons of custard & Birds trifle mix. Tubs of chocolates, crisps, nuts & biscuits for cheese. Cartons of fruit juice, hot chocolate, boxes of cereal. Tins of ham and corned beef & packets of jelly and angel delight.



Dates for your Diary

5th – 9th December Celebration Breakfasts

7th December – Lion King Trip

15th December – Christmas Concert 18.30 – 20.30

14th December – Christmas Lunch

16th December – Non Uniform Day & Christmas Hamper Competition

16th December – End of Term

3rd January – Students return to 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		attendance@stowhigh.com