



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

## Headteachers' Blog

Let's start with some great news, which gave me my 'moment of the week' last week. A couple of weeks ago Mr. Wise contacted me to let me know he had entered our school into a competition set by the Rugby Football Union, with the prize being the amazing opportunity for a team of students to play a 'curtain raiser' game on the pitch at Twickenham, ahead of the Autumn Nations international between England and New Zealand.

I will let Mr. Wise take over,

*"We have been chosen to participate in the 'curtain raiser' at Twickenham on the 19th of November. This will involve me taking 13 students there for the day who will then get to play a game of rugby on the Twickenham pitch just before the England vs New Zealand game. The students will also get a tour of some areas of the stadium before then watching the England match. They will also get their names and photo in the match day programme. Quite an experience for the students.*

*We were nominated for the prize based on the sporting opportunities which we have been providing to our students, especially regarding rugby. I then had to write and submit an application justifying why I thought Stowmarket should win. The judges particularly liked that, alongside my words, I got some students from varying backgrounds to write what playing rugby at school had done for them."*

Congratulations to Vinnie Goddard, Alfie Aldis, Evie McKane, Noah Meads, Oliver Deal, Malick Sonko, Layla Peckford, Ava Chapman, Harry Older, Bobby Sheppard, Finlay Morgan, Sophie Verebelyi, Rich Calabio.

So, my moment of the week was watching in the background as Mr. Wise told the 13 lucky students that they had been selected. To see their faces! How exciting – and to get to see the Haka too! I am deeply disappointed that Mr. Wise has not found space for me on the trip, and I will be having words with him, of that you can be sure.



## Remembrance Day

Much like Miguel Almiron at Newcastle United, Mr. Wise is on fine form at the moment, as he joins our Remembrance Day traditions by fundraising for the British Legion, by training to run the London Marathon. We sent a letter last week about the activities he is organising, but just as a reminder here is his Just Giving page if you would like to contribute.

<https://2023tcslondonmarathon.enthuse.com/pf/david-wise-502ad>



Mr. Wise has been telling his personal story regarding his father and the support the British Legion has given his family, to students in Remembrance assemblies. These have been supported by our Head students, **Evelyn Castle, Grace Davis and Olivia Castle**, who have reflected how Remembrance Day is marked across the Commonwealth.

This year the clever Technology and Art teams have constructed soldier silhouettes for each of the young men who left Stowmarket to fight and ultimately die in both world wars. These will be placed out the front of the school, with each one named, as a reminder to us all of the cost of war.

***If your child is a member of Boys Brigade, Scouts, Girl Guides or a similar organisation could you please encourage them to come to school in their club uniform on Friday.***

Poppies are available for staff and students to purchase, Year 7 students will be selling them during break or lunchtimes, please send in a minimum of 20p as a donation.



## Matilda Auditions

Auditions have begun for our school production of Matilda. We are so excited to see how many students are eager to get involved. Once auditions are complete we will announce the cast and begin auditions.

## Education Funding

The School Committee have written the following letter to our local MP to highlight the impact of rising costs and insufficient funding on our budget and what this means for our pupils. We have asked our MP to press the government for an urgently needed improved financial settlement for schools and colleges. Rising costs and insufficiency of government funding are causing a crisis that threatens educational provision. It affects us all and we would be very grateful if you would show your support by also writing to your MP and highlighting the issue as a concerned parent, before 17 November when the government is due to deliver its Autumn Statement. You can find your MP's contact details [here](#).

*Dear Jo Churchill MP*

*We the School Committee of Stowmarket High School wish to bring to your attention the increasing difficulties we are experiencing in balancing our budget without having to make cuts that will limit our curriculum, teaching support and risk a decline in educational standards. We are requesting your support in pressing the government for an improved financial settlement as a matter of urgency.*

*You are no doubt aware of the growing financial hardship many schools across the country face because of steeply rising costs and the lack of government funding to meet those costs. Analysis by the Institute for Fiscal Studies shows that, on current government spending plans, schools will be receiving 3% less funding per pupil in real terms by the end of this parliament in 2024/25 than they were 15 years previously in 2010. Colleges will be receiving 11% less funding, and funding for school sixth forms will be 27% lower than in 2010. A survey conducted by the Association of School and College Leaders shows that:*

- Nearly all respondents (98%) said their school or college would have to make financial savings either in the current academic year 2022/23 or future years, or both, compared to last year, as a result of cost pressures. Alarmingly, 60% said they will have to make financial savings both in the current academic year and in future years.*
- In the absence of additional funding, 58% said they were considering or likely to reduce teaching staff and increase class sizes, while 43% are considering reducing curriculum options, and 55% are considering reducing the number of teaching assistants.*

*Our school is one of those affected. We are gravely concerned for our future financial sustainability, the potential impact this will have on the life chances of children and young people, and the long-term damage that lack of educational investment will cause to national economic growth and stability. As such, we appeal to you to impress upon the government the importance of improving the funding for schools and colleges in the Autumn Statement on 17 November.*

*Yours sincerely*

*Jon Brighton, Chair*

Thank you for your continued support – Mr Lee-Allan

## Lost Property

In lost property we have several coats, school blazers, 4 pairs of glasses, a cycle helmet and football boots, these are in Student Services for collection.

## Tripod Evenings

During the Covid pandemic, we responded to the restrictions imposed on us by setting up virtual Tripod Evenings. This meant that teachers were able to meet parents and discuss the progress being made by their children. As it turned out, these virtual evenings provided us with a number of advantages over the conventional in-person meetings. They have proven to be particularly useful to parents with childcare difficulties, as well as to those who might struggle to attend face-to-face meetings. The strict time limits imposed by the virtual system also means that meetings cannot overrun and parents are not left queuing for what can be some considerable time - this often happens in the face-to-face parents evenings. Of course, whilst there are advantages of virtual evenings, communication is always more effective when we are live and face-to-face, and there is always the possibility of IT snags on the evening.

I am sending you this survey to find out if our families would like us to stick with virtual Tripod Evenings or switch back to face-to-face evenings. Please take the time to complete this questionnaire - it will take less than 30 seconds and the more responses we get, then the more accurate the picture that we get.

Please [CLICK HERE](#) to complete.

Thanks

K Rourke-Beasley  
Deputy Headteacher





## Inspirational Futures What's Coming Up?

### November 2022

- 1st Advice & Slice – LRC – Open to All Years  
Sign up with Mrs Mylrea in the Inspirational Futures Centre  
Joshua Ward, SHS Student Alumni – Archaeology
- 7<sup>th</sup> Years 9 to 11 - Let's Talk About Nursing Session with Allied Health – Virtual  
4.00pm  
To book for session, students should email [andrea.chambers@nhs.net](mailto:andrea.chambers@nhs.net)
- 8<sup>th</sup> Year 10 & 11 Travel Training Workshop  
P3 – LRC  
Mrs Mylrea
- 12<sup>th</sup> Year 10 & 11 - Get into Dentistry Conference – The Medic Family  
10.00am – 3.00pm (Saturday)  
<https://airtable.com/shr7JL0vaCAzEYUo1>
- 15<sup>th</sup> Advice & Slice – LRC – Open to All Years  
Sign up with Mrs Mylrea in the Inspirational Futures Centre  
Mr David White, Environment Agency - Environmental Careers
- 15<sup>th</sup> Year 7 BAE Systems, RAF & Royal Navy Education Programme STEM Theatre Roadshow  
Period 5 – Main Hall
- 17<sup>th</sup> Years 9 to 11 – Let's Talk About Allied Health – Virtual  
4.00pm  
To book for session, students should email [andrea.chambers@nhs.net](mailto:andrea.chambers@nhs.net)
- 24<sup>th</sup> Year 10 Work Experience Parents Information Evening  
6.30pm – 7.30pm – Main Hall
- 26<sup>th</sup> Year 10 & 11 Get into Veterinary Medicine Conference – The Medic Mentor  
10.00am – 3.00pm (Saturday)  
<https://airtable.com/shrs1hEiPfdSSgnl2>
- 29<sup>th</sup> Advice & Slice – LRC – Open to All Years  
Sign up with Mrs Mylrea in the Inspirational Futures Centre  
Mr Chris Perry - Timberwolf - Local Careers Available and Apprenticeships
- Ongoing Year 9 - The Mix Career Mentoring Service

December 2022

6<sup>th</sup> Advice & Slice – LRC – Open to All Years  
Sign up with Mrs Mylrea in the Inspirational Futures Centre  
Ms Annabel Orton, University of Suffolk - Creative Careers Workshop

### On The Horizon



The Mix Career Mentoring Service  
4<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> July 2023 – Year 10 Work Experience  
TBC - Business Work Experience Networking Breakfast  
7.30am – 9.00am – Main Hall  
11.5.23 – Year 10 Parent Post 16 Presentation (6.30pm Main Hall)  
17.5.23 – Year 10 Post 16 Presentation Assembly (8.50am – 9.10am)

### Don't Forget!

If you take part in any extracurricular activities or clubs or attend any of our Virtual Work Experiences or online Conferences, make sure to log them on Unifrog as an interaction. See Mrs Mylrea in the Inspirational Futures Centre on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor for help with this.



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](mailto:m.mylrea@stowhigh.com) to secure your place.

A poster titled 'Sessions' for 'Advice & a slice'. It lists five Tuesday sessions from October to December 2022, each with a speaker and their affiliation. At the bottom, it provides contact information for Mrs. Mylrea and mentions a signup sheet location.

**advice & a slice**

## Sessions

**Tuesday 18th October 2022**  
James Kimpton, SHS Student Alumni - BT Software Engineering Apprenticeships & Career Path

**Tuesday 1st November 2022**  
Joshua Ward, SHS Student Alumni - Archaeology

**Tuesday 15th November 2022**  
Mr David White, Environment Agency - Environmental Careers

**Tuesday 29th November 2022**  
Mr Chris Perry - Timberwolf - Local Careers Available and Apprenticeships

**Tuesday 6th December 2022**  
Ms Annabel Orton, University of Suffolk - Creative Careers Workshop

All in the LRC at lunchtime please let Mrs. Mylrea know via email on [m.mylrea@stowhigh.com](mailto: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.

## U.Dance East 2023 – Applications Now Open

DanceEast and the University of Bedfordshire are hosting two regional platforms in March 2023 to celebrate local youth dance.

U.Dance is a national festival coordinated by One Dance UK in partnership with regional dance companies and theatres. The platform is a wonderful celebration of young talent, and provides a chance for young dancers to connect, to take part in workshops, to learn more about the dance sector and above all to showcase their love of dance. We are working hard behind the scenes to put together the most exciting regional platform yet!

U.Dance East offers groups a unique chance to perform on a professional stage to a public audience and display their incredible talent and skill.

This year, DanceEast and the University of Bedfordshire will be hosting a showcase of dance from youth dance groups, companies and schools from across the region across two weekends. These weekends of activities, workshops and evening performance will provide an opportunity for the region's finest dance groups to come together and celebrate dance.

U.Dance East will take place at **DanceEast on Saturday 18 March** and at the **University of Bedfordshire on Saturday 25 March**.

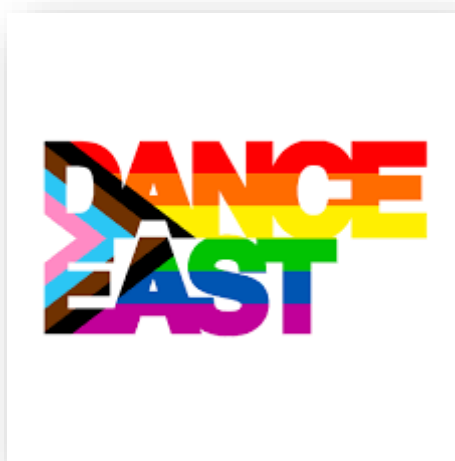
Applications are open right now! As part of your application, you can select which platform you wish to attend and perform at. You have until **Monday 28 November** at 5pm to apply for U.Dance East 2023. Groups will be informed of the outcome of their application before the end of the year.

Following the regional platform, the National U.Dance festival will be hosted in July. As part of your application, you can indicate if you wish to be considered for U.Dance National and perform at a world class arts venue alongside other youth groups from across the UK. Watch this space for more information about the National platform!

U.Dance is open to any dance group with members aged 11-19 years, or up to 25 if the dancers have additional needs. This platform is open to any and all dance styles, and we would love to see another year of diverse and creative performances. A group can have up to 30 members and must be from the East of England region.

More information about U.Dance can be found on our website [here](#). You can apply for U.Dance using the following link: [U.Dance East 2023 Application form](#)

If you have any questions or you want to find out more about U.Dance, please feel free to get in touch by emailing [u.dance@danceeast.co.uk](mailto:u.dance@danceeast.co.uk) or by calling 01473 295245. We look forward to receiving your application.



## Reminder of Non-Pupil Day Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2022

On Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> of November, the school will be closed for pupils to enable all staff to take part in an essential training day.

### Dates for your Diary

9<sup>th</sup> November 2022 – Trip: Noughts & Crosses New Wolsey Theatre

9<sup>th</sup> November 2022 – Suffolk Ski Centre for Ski Trip Students

11<sup>th</sup> November 2022 – Remembrance Day Assembly

14<sup>th</sup> November 2022 – Friends of Stowmarket High School Meeting

15<sup>th</sup> November 2022 – Advice & Slice David White – Environment Agency

16<sup>th</sup> November 2022 – **PD Day – School Closed for Staff Training**

16<sup>th</sup> November 2022 – Suffolk Ski Centre for Ski Trip Students

23<sup>rd</sup> November – Suffolk Ski Centre for Ski Trip Students

24<sup>th</sup> November – Year 10 Work Experience Parents' Evening

24<sup>th</sup> November – Pupil Passport Evening for Year 11 SEND Students

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### 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	Mrs N Goss	<a href="mailto:n.goss@stowhigh.com">n.goss@stowhigh.com</a>
Head of Year 9	Mrs A Hackett	<a href="mailto:a.hackett@stowhigh.com">a.hackett@stowhigh.com</a>
Head of Year 10	Ms Z Rudling	<a href="mailto:z.rudling@stowhigh.com">z.rudling@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>
Attendance/Student Absence		<a href="mailto:attendance@stowhigh.com">attendance@stowhigh.com</a>