



Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2022 – Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2022

## Headteachers' Blog

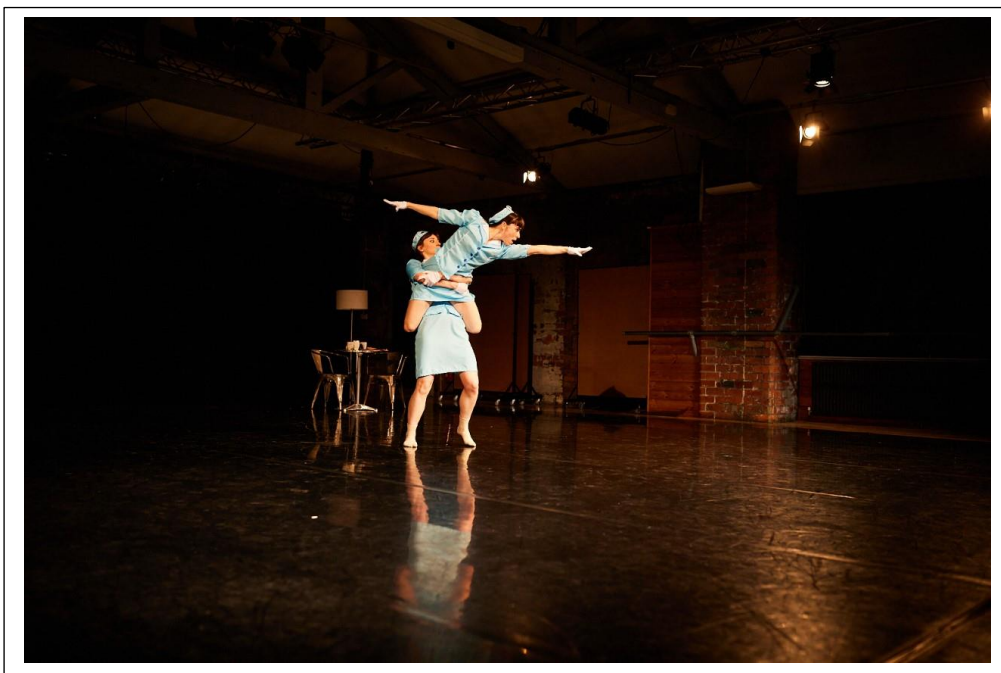
So, luck did not go England's way in Qatar, but they left the field in honour, having given every effort to the cause. Whilst we absorb another national disappointment on the football field, I for one am filled with hope at the potential of young men such as Jude Bellingham. What an example he sets with his skill, maturity and determination. I feel an assembly coming on...

Last week we did have reason to celebrate - every morning in fact, with our Celebration Breakfasts. An absolute delight as ever to share a croissant and a cup of tea with families as we celebrate their son or daughter who has excelled, shown effort and determination, and been a good egg. Even better that we get to celebrate with parents, whose support has been critical in providing a base from which that young person can thrive.

You may have heard that Ofsted called – they did! For a number of reasons, the inspections was deferred to some point in the future. We look forward to that!

### **This week – a busy one**

Monday - students from Years 9-11 get the chance to watch and then workshop dance drama ideas with Leeds based dance/theatre group ACCA. A great opportunity to those keen to explore creativity, and as ACCA have gained a grant to work in schools, the sessions are absolutely free. It's a win win.



## **Year 11**

Their last Pre examination run this week, with PE practicals on Tuesday and Wednesday. We have been universally pleased with the effort and focus they have applied to the process. We will now get on with the marking and moderation process, which in turn will provide great information on what areas of knowledge are lacking and those that look secure. Following that comes the interventions, both within the lessons and beyond, in our drive to secure as many students as possible the golden tickets to secure their chosen future path.

ACCA follow this up with an Advice and Slice on careers in the performing arts. A third win!

Tuesday – GCSE PE practicals

Wednesday - More PE practicals, Christmas dinner for Years 7-9, and the BTEC Music students work to set up the hall ready for the Christmas concert

Thursday – Christmas Dinner for Years 8,10 and 11. Also a Year 7 Christmas Disco? (Oh goodness me) Christmas Concert – 6.30pm

Friday – Christmas jumper – hamper competition, A Christmas Carol theatrical production for Year 11, whole school online assembly. Then a general collapse!

## **Staffing**

On Friday we wish Dr Taylor the very best as she heads off on maternity leave. Dr Taylor has shown such resilience as she has battled to stay in front of her classes despite obvious discomfort at times. She has been a star. As her husband has been given a new posting down toward the New Forest, we may not see Dr Taylor again – so this will be a sad goodbye, but she goes with our very best wishes and gratitude to all she has given Stowmarket High. I am very fortunate to be able to report that Mrs Fisher, previously a Head of Maths at King Eds in Bury St Edmunds will take over the Directorship of Maths from January – a real piece of luck for us.

We will also welcome Mr Stoneman for a term as he works on a year long secondment from Thurston Community College. Mr Stoneman will join SLT and will focus his teaching on PSHE, his leadership on attendance and developing stronger English as an additional language provision.

## **Mrs Dickings**

Mrs Dickings joined us in 2014 and has taught mainly sociology at KS4 and 5 over her tenure, but most recently has worked within PSHE, and Child Development. Mrs Dickings has secured a KS5 post over in Colchester, something she has been keen to pursue since our Sixth Form provision stopped. I would like to thank her for her work and support over the past eight years and wish her well in her new post.

## **Miss Harrigan**

We are pleased to welcome our new Head of Year 11 Miss Rachel Harrigan. Miss Harrigan has joined Stowmarket High School following ten years working in education and prior to that, working for Victim Support and with young offenders and having previously been a Head of Year.

## **Mrs Short – Examinations Officer**

Mrs Short has worked at Stowmarket since 2005 and established herself as a key part of the school infrastructure. Her knowledge and experience have ensured that examinations have run successfully and efficiently even throughout the pandemic. Mrs Short has been snapped up by Holbrook Academy in Ipswich. I would like to thank her for her full and extensive contribution to Stowmarket High School and wish her every success in her new post.

Have a lovely holiday when it comes. I look forward to seeing students return on January 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Mr Lee-Allan

# Year 8 Celebration Breakfast







### **Christmas Concert Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December**

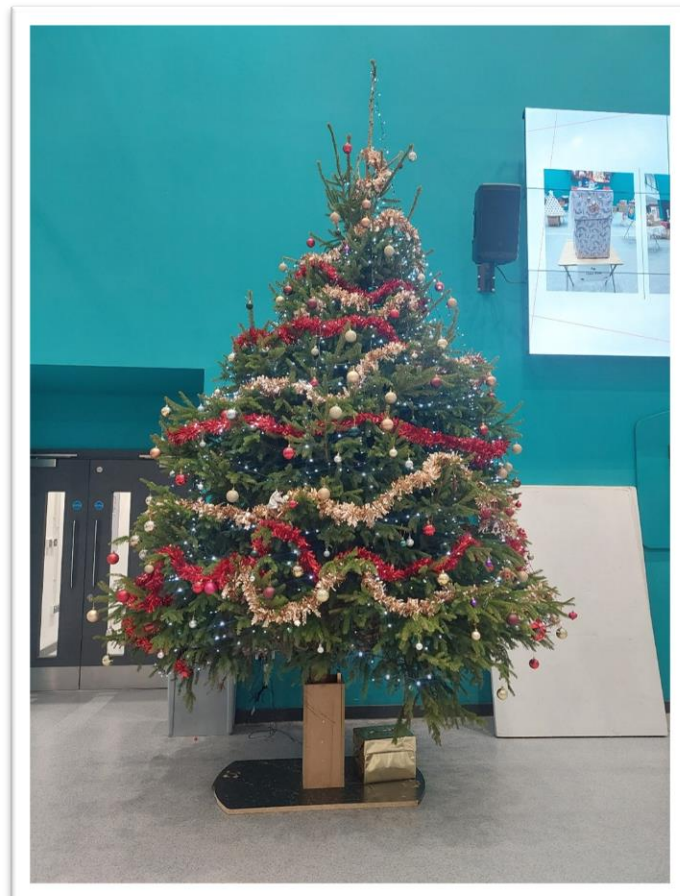
Please come along to support students this will be a lovely evening and FOSH (Friends of Stowmarket High School) will be here offering refreshments during the interval. There will be hot chocolate with marshmallows and tubs of ice cream, homemade cakes and gingerbread biscuits.

There will also be a raffle to guess the number of baubles on our 15ft tree in the atrium.

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

### **Would anyone like a Christmas Tree?**

If anyone would like our 15ft Christmas Tree, please email us [enquiries@stowhigh.com](mailto:enquiries@stowhigh.com). You would need to collect it on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December please between 2.10 pm and 4pm.



## Christmas Jumper Day Friday 16<sup>th</sup> 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 16<sup>th</sup> 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 & 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

14<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Lunch Years 7 & 9

15<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Lunch Years 8, 10 & 11

15<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Concert 18.30 – 20.30

16<sup>th</sup> December – Non-Uniform Day & Christmas Hamper Competition

16<sup>th</sup> December – End of Term

3<sup>rd</sup> January – Students return to school



### Useful Contact Information:

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