



Monday 27th February to Friday 3rd of March 2023

Headteachers' Blog

Refugee

Last week we had a visit from a charity focussed on supporting child refugees. They gave a very powerful and informative presentation to Year 10 and 11 students, who are all studying the book Refugee Boy. The presentation clearly demonstrated the horrors faced by the most vulnerable young people in the world. The students I spoke to afterwards found the experience moving, informative and helpful in building their understanding of the issues raised in the book.

Uniform

I do not apologise for trying to maintain a strong uniform policy. Social media has been jumping up and down recently but the reality is that students have responded appropriately to our requests and the school looks better for it. We are fortunate to have a well insulated and warm building, so there is no reason why being asked to remove outdoor coats in the building is an insurmountable issue.

Break and Lunch

One of the issues staff have raised with me is that at break and lunchtime too many students are roving around the building, in some cases causing damage to unlocked rooms and disrupting staff who are entitled to a break. For two weeks we are clamping down on this, by clearing the top two floors of students at break and lunch. Students will be able to use the facilities at the start of the breaks, then they will be asked to moved downstairs. Unfortunately this will mean that some clubs and support sessions will not take place, however some staff are arranging to meet their students in the atrium and then walking them to the rooms and that is perfectly ok. SEND students will have a pass that will allow them to still access their quiet spaces.

This two week process will help us 're-set' expectations. Change always causes some waves, but as long as we are clear as to the intended outcome that will make the school better for everyone, those waves will land us on a new shore. See what I did there?

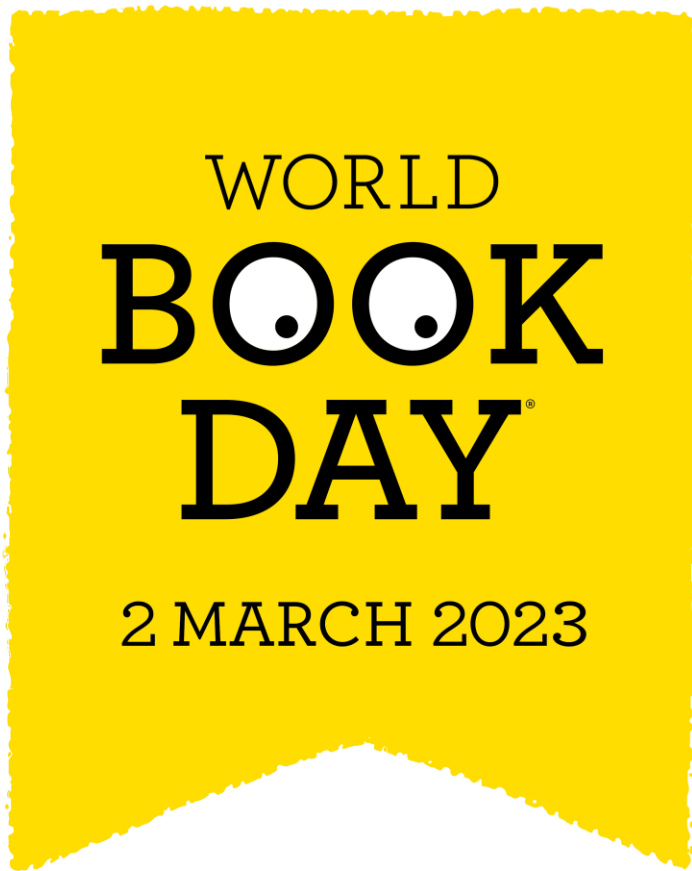
Passes

A third and final 'push' has been on the use of passes to allow students out of class to go to the toilet, or have 5 minutes out of lesson, or to leave the class 5 minutes early. The problem with the system as it is, is that it has got out of control. Historical passes that should have been rescinded are still in use, records of who has what are incomplete and unclear, and too many students are in the corridors during lessons, either for justifiable reasons or in too many cases without due course. So once again, a 're-set' is necessary. The intended outcome is that those 'fringe' students who should be building resilience and coping within the classroom should stay in, whilst those with genuine medical or SEND needs are given the flexibility they need. We are sorting the problem, and bit by bit working with families affected to get this right.

World Book Day (Thursday)

Here are the activities being shared with students.

- Check out the 'Reading with our Furry Friends' entries playing in the Atrium
- Book give away – in the atrium at break today
- Enjoy an extract from a story at the start of each lesson
- Download your World Book Day token – find this on ShowMyHomework.
- Enter our World Book Day quiz – your form tutor has copies of the quiz. Give your completed entry to your English teacher, making sure you print your name on the reverse.



Strike Day

Fingers crossed we can stay open for Year 11 periods 1-4 on Wednesday. I hope the government sweeps in and addresses the funding issues, and all this can be avoided.

Breakfast Stars

On Friday last week, a group of students who had been nominated by their Heads of Year as students the school is proud of because they work hard, build great relationships, support others – you get the idea. They are good eggs! So I gave them a free breakfast, (not eggs) and as a special treat – took them onto the roof for a sightseeing experience.

Congratulations to Harvey Steel, Poppy Martin, Lily, Nola Levesley, Fiona Jones, Jess Phillips, Isabel Manning, Daisy Abbott



Have a great week everyone, thank you for your support.

Mr Lee-Allan

Intermediate Maths Challenge 2023

Well done to some of our amazing Year 9 and 10 Top Mathematicians who took part in this year's Intermediate Maths Challenge. This is a 60 minute, multiple choice competition that encourages mathematical reasoning, precision of thought and fluency in techniques to solve interesting problems. The questions are designed to challenge and make students think! We had some fantastic results, and we are extremely proud of you all! Everyone who participated will receive a certificate, and the following pupils will receive extra recognition for their results.

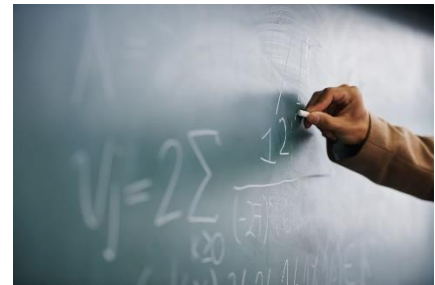
Thomas Maxfield **BEST IN SCHOOL AND SILVER**

Olyvia Beck **BEST IN YEAR (9)**

SILVER AWARDS Abigail Brett, Joseph Clarke, Cadyn O'Connor, Peter Wells Dolsky

BRONZE AWARDS Noah Lambert, Isabel Manning, Marissa Page, Jago Page, Bobby Clancy, Harry Waters, Freddy Parsons, Ewan Tuck, Maeryhn Bishop

Maths Department



Jo Schofield speaks to students about Refugees

Mrs. Jo Schofield, who works for a private social work company in Ipswich, came to SHS to give a presentation on the vital work she does with unaccompanied child refugees. She spoke to Year 10 and 11 students as they are currently studying *Refugee Boy* - the adapted play by Lemn Sissay which is one of their GCSE English Literature texts. She included in her presentation, emotive evidence, shocking statistics, and real-life revelations of children who have had to seek asylum on British soil.

What Jo Schofield shared on Thursday 23rd February completely exemplified what is meant by what the first Young Poet Laureate for London, Warsan Shire, stated in the opening line of her poem, '*Home*' when she powerfully declared, '*No one leaves home unless home is the mouth of a shark.*' Hopefully, the students will never forget such a powerful presentation and the hope is that not only will it prove beneficial in their upcoming exams, but also help them to be more empathetic citizens of society in the future.

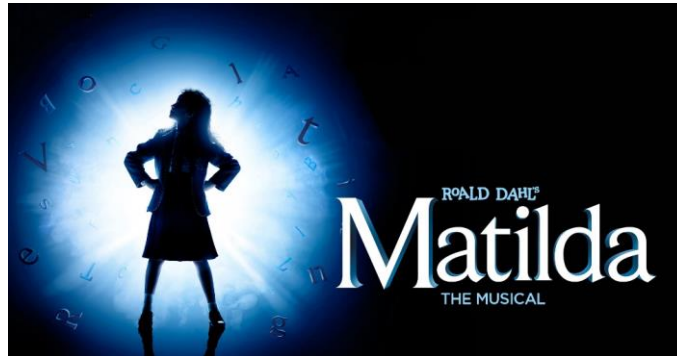
D Lee

Teacher of English
10H Tutor

Matilda Tickets Now Available to Purchase

We are pleased to announce that the tickets are now on sale for the school performance of Matilda. The performances are on Tuesday 14th, Wednesday 15th and Friday 17th of March. Friends of Stowmarket High School will be there offering refreshments during the interval (please bring some change) and there will be a competition to win a chocolate Fudge Cake.

[Click here to purchase tickets](#)



Strike Day March 1st

Unless there is a last minute government intervention, the planned NEU strike on the 1st March will go ahead. The same rules as before apply – in that I am given very little notification of who will intend to strike or not. This of course makes planning difficult. I have one advantage, in that the strike falls on a Week B this time, so that has allowed us to propose a programme for Year 11, periods one to four, as follows:

- P1 Normal lessons
- P2 Maths (normal lessons)
- P3 Science (normal lessons)
- P4 Revision skills

The school will be closed for all other year groups unfortunately. The cast of Matilda are invited in to rehearse the upcoming production – separate communication will go to those affected.

Reporting a student absence

When reporting a student absence please call us on 01449 613541 and select option 1. Could you please also clarify the reason for their absence, we are receiving some messages that just say, "will not be in". You can also email us using: attendance@stowhigh.com

Dates for your Diary

27th February to 6th March – Year 11 Core Exams

1st March – Year 11 Students Only in School

6th – 10th March – Matilda Rehearsals

6th March – Year 11 Hospitality & Catering Exam

7th March – Trip to Cambridge University Year 11 MAP Group

7th March - Year 11 Practical Food Exams

10th March – Year 11 Practical Food Exams

13th March – Parent Information Evening French Trip

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	Miss R Harrigan	r.harrigan@stowhigh.com
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General Enquiries		enquiries@stowhigh.com
Attendance/Student Absence		attendance@stowhigh.com

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enquiries@stowhigh.com