



Monday 6th March to Friday 10th of March 2023

Headteachers' Blog

Ofsted

The big news is that the Ofsted report is now available to us and will be published on the Ofsted website in the next few days. It is available on our website now: [FOLLOW THIS LINK](#)

Headline – I am disappointed with the result. Those of you who know me well will know my opinion of Ofsted, and this inspection has done nothing to change my opinion, however, they are who they are and their judgment matters to some.

I think the scores are harsh, and although there is much in the text of the report that is complimentary, it is the numbers that matter and we fell short of where we expected to be. I have to own the judgement, and demonstrate to my staff, students, and parents that I can immediately get on with making changes that will continue to improve the school. So that is what I am doing – working with all my staff, School Committee and Trust.

We missed out by a narrow margin, and the application of an Ofsted framework written before the pandemic was used very bluntly. I must factor the judgements into the development plan for the school. That is what I am doing, and looking at the resources at my disposal, timeframes and skill sets to make the improvements that Ofsted has asked for. The hardest of those is probably attendance – across the country attendance has fallen since Covid and whilst we are at the national average, Ofsted has to set improving that as a target. I understand that need – I just don't accept that schools deserve the blame for it.

I put the snapshot into context amidst the swathe of improvements we have made, the improvements in our student numbers, the significantly improved curriculum, our continued work on improving SEND provision, our work on student mental health, our ambitious plans for the future and the support the vast majority of our school community give us. For that support, my heartfelt thanks.

If you would like to book an appointment to come in and talk to me about the report, please contact the main office and I will do my best to meet you as soon as I can.

Strike Action 15th and 16th March 2023

We will be discussing the NEU strikes planned for next week at a meeting after school today. Further information on this will follow tomorrow.

Mr Lee-Allan

Celebration Breakfast – another group selected by staff for their attitude and effort - some were camera shy!



World Book Day

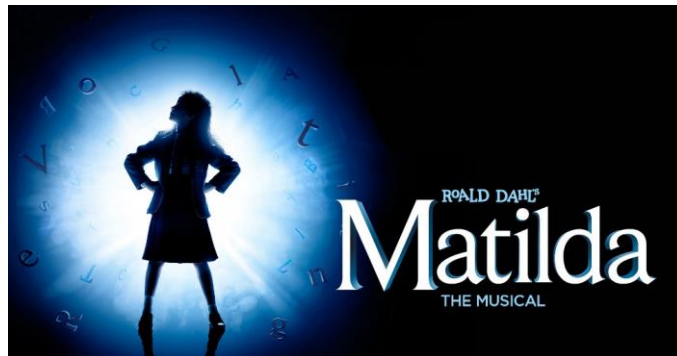
Wednesday 2nd of March was World Book Day and we celebrated this with a book sale at breaktime in the atrium. Students were given a token which they could exchange for a free book. We would like to thank 'Get Suffolk Reading' for donating 350 books to the school. Some of these books are located in the Atrium on a bookcase and we will be encouraging students to use this as a book swap area.



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](#)



FOSH (Friends of Stowmarket High School)

The Friends of Stowmarket High School will be offering refreshments at our Matilda performance, please bring along some change with you.

As this event is over 3 days they would also appreciate any donations of homemade or shop bought cakes which will be sold during the interval. All proceeds will go towards purchasing things from the School 'Wish Lists'. There will be a competition to guess the weight of a chocolate fudge cake and also how many newts are there in the jar?

FOSH are always look for new members and there next general meeting is on 29th March starting at 6.45 pm. Their next event on the calendar is Wednesday, 10th of May a Family Quiz Night. If you would like to be involved please email: FOSH@stowhigh.com



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

10th March – Year 11 Practical Food Exams

13th March – Parent Information Evening French Trip Opal Coast

14th March – Matilda Evening Performance

15th March – Matilda Evening Performance

17th March – Matilda Evening Performance

20th March – Year 7 Celebration Breakfast

21st March – Year 8 Celebration Breakfast

21st March – Sports Tour Parent Information Evening

22nd March – Year 9 Celebration Breakfast

23rd March – Year 10 Celebration Breakfast

23rd March – Year 10 Tripod Evening

24th March – Year 11 Celebration Breakfast

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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enquiries@stowhigh.com