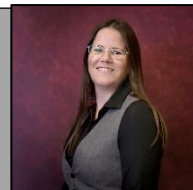


## Headteachers' Fortnightly Newsletter

Monday 30 October 2023 – Friday 10 November 2023



Good Afternoon All,

So, the start to term brought us some stormy weather similar to the last day of term! I want to thank you for your cooperation and understanding. As you can imagine closing a school is the last decision we want to make. As we are sadly very reliant on the transport systems that serve us, including buses and local roads, these conditions guide us in most cases, meaning it is then out of our hands.

Whilst many students live locally to Stowmarket, we at times must make decisions due to staffing levels. The paramount responsibility of mine is always the safety of both the students and the staff travelling into and out of school as the weather becomes more unpredictable.

Last term saw several highlights, such as pumpkin carving, non-uniform day, a marvellous trip to Holland, Annie auditions and casting, amongst many sporting fixtures and visitors. I am sure you will agree with me that these opportunities and adventures the staff at Stowmarket High School offer your children, is second to none and really helps form strong bonds between staff and students alongside memories that will last forever.

Communication is vital to ensure a strong relationship exists between home and school, if there are any ways we as a school can improve this, please do reach out. We as a school look forward to meeting you in person as your child's parent events come up over the year. If you require a meeting before this date, please do reach out to your child's Head of Year or tutor in the first instance.

A gentle reminder that if you are in doubt that we may not have the most up to date contact details for you please email [enquiries@stowhigh.com](mailto:enquiries@stowhigh.com). I know there were some hiccups with our texting notification for the recent closure, but we are working really hard to rectify these as they come up so please do make us aware so that we can address them.

Over this term you will also be hearing from members of the Senior Leadership Team about their key priorities and highlights, I hope you look forward to hearing from them. Please see below our full team of SLT.

Ms L Hernandez

*Headteacher*

Mr A Pickering

*Deputy Headteacher*

Mrs C Broxton

*Assistant Headteacher*

Mr A McLellan

*Assistant Headteacher*



Mr S Stoneman

*Assistant Headteacher*



Mr S Smith

*Assistant Headteacher*



Mr T West

*Assistant Headteacher*



Mrs M Miall

*Headteachers PA*



### Anti-Bullying – Odd socks week!

At Stowmarket High School we treat people with respect and dignity in an environment where any form of discrimination, prejudice and bullying will be addressed quickly. We value the contributions that our students and members of staff make to school life including people of different genders, ages, religions, ethnicities, and those people that may have a disability. As a school we are working hard to maintain and enhance a culture that is respectful, kind and understanding where everybody is treated with dignity and respect. To support this philosophy, we are working very closely with the anti-bullying alliance to address issues related to bullying and harassment that may arise in school and the local community.



During the course of next week, students will be taught about the effects and impact bullying has on the emotional and mental health of children and young people. Alongside this we will remind and teach students how we approach and tackle issues of discrimination and bullying.

At Stowmarket High School we define bullying as the **repetitive, intentional hurting** of one person or group by another person or group, where the relationship involves an **imbalance of power**. Bullying can be physical, verbal, or psychological.

If your son/daughter has been affected by bullying in any way, please reach out to the Head of Year who will support you in dealing with the concern.

In our continued communication with students, we will be asking them to:

1. Say something without being a bystander. We believe that students need to support each other to make sure discrimination or bullying is not left unattended.
2. Help someone that you know may be affected by bullying. When you see someone being bullied, let them know they aren't alone. Ask if they're ok, ask if they'd like your help with dealing with it, or simply say hi!

3. Finally, and most importantly please let an adult in school know what's going on. Tell them what you've seen or heard. We're here to help!

To support our work in addressing a culture that is free from discrimination and bullying please encourage your son / daughter to wear odd socks to school for the whole of next **week starting on Monday 13 November 2023**. Staff have been asked to use this to talk to children about bullying and its effects and the impact it has on the social, emotional and mental health of those affected.

We welcome your feedback and would be grateful if you could click [here](#) and complete a very short survey regarding our work around anti-bullying.

#### Useful Contact Information:

Head of Year 7	Miss R Harrigan	<a href="mailto:r.harrigan@stowhigh.com">r.harrigan@stowhigh.com</a>
Head of Year 8	Mrs T Goodman	<a href="mailto:t.goodman@stowhigh.com">t.goodman@stowhigh.com</a>
Head of Year 9	Mrs N Goss	<a href="mailto:n.goss@stowhigh.com">n.goss@stowhigh.com</a>
Head of Year 10	Mrs L McLoughlin	<a href="mailto:l.mcloughlin@stowhigh.com">l.mcloughlin@stowhigh.com</a>
Head of Year 11	Ms Z Rudling	<a href="mailto:z.rudling@stowhigh.com">z.rudling@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>