

Headteachers' Fortnightly Newsletter

Monday 8 January – Friday 26 January 2024



Dear Families

What a week it has been as you may have read the DFE have issued a Termination Notice to the Kingfisher Trust (formerly Waveney Valley Trust). We have reassured students and staff that this does not effect the day to day running of the school.

We have enjoyed welcoming parents into the school in Year 11 and 9 to talk about their progress and next steps.

You will shortly be learning lots about the Options process for any Year 9 children and we look forward to seeing you on Thursday 29th February.

As a result of our Food Champion's representation to Edwards & Blake our caterers. Stowmarket will soon see a series of themed days chosen by the students, kicking off with a Pizza Day on 6 February.

Ms Hernandez

School Attendance

Being around teachers and friends in a school environment is the best way for young people to learn and reach their potential. Time in school also keeps children safe and provides access to extra-curricular opportunities and pastoral care. That's why school attendance is so important and why at Stowmarket High School we are committed to tackling the issues and difficulties that might cause some children to be absent from school. To support school attendance, we have revised our procedures around home visits. All home visits will be completed by staff and they will be authorised by the Designated Safeguarding Lead. In addition, wherever possible families will be informed of the home visit prior to the arrival of staff. There will sometimes be an exception to this, for example a visit to confirm that an absent child is at home when families are not responding to telephone calls/text messages or in an emergency safeguarding situation.

Further information related to home visits will be made available on the school website. Thank you for your continued support.

Andy McLellan



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Year 11 Update

It was an exceptionally busy first term for Year 11 students, starting with the Next Steps evening in September and culminating in the Core PRE results assembly in December. In between there were parent information evenings, success sessions, walking talking mocks, exam stress workshops, the opening of the GCSE Zone and tutor time interventions. Staff were hugely impressed with their attitude and application in what we appreciate can be a very stressful period.

At the start of this term students received their Option PRE results, which means they have a full picture of how they performed across all their subjects. I have spoken to students in recent assembly's about how they must now prioritise their revision based on these results and feedback from class teachers. Not only will this benefit them academically but just as importantly it will help them manage their wellbeing.

On that note, if any student is struggling with the pressures of Year 11, please reach out to Mrs Rudling and we can look to arrange some support through the Oasis team.

PRE 2 - Monday 26th February to Wednesday 6th March.

The second set of PREs will take place after half term. The main focus will be on the core subjects but some options have also asked for a second PRE. Please see the timetable below:

	Monday 26th Feb	Tuesday 27th Feb	Wednesday 28th Feb	Thursday 29th Feb	Friday 1st March	Monday 4th March	Tuesday 5th March	Wednesday 6th March
P1+2	Maths Paper 1 1hr30mins	Biology Paper 1 T:1hr45mins CS:1hr15mins	Chemistry Paper 1 T:1hr45min CS:1hr15mins	Maths Paper 3 1hr30mins	Biology Paper 2 T:1hr45min CS:1hr15mins	Business 1hr30mins	Physics Paper 2 T:1hr45mins CS:1hr15mins	French Listening P1:Higher P2:Foundation
P3+4	English Paper 1 1hr45mins	Maths Paper 2 1hr30mins	English Paper 2 2hr15mins	Physics Paper 1 T:1hr45mins CS:1hr15mins	History 1hr55mins	Chemistry Paper 2 T:1hr45mins CS:1hr15mins	Computing 1hr30mins	German Listening P1:Higher P2:Foundation

To help students to prioritise their studies individual letters will be going home next week to highlight the subjects which staff feel they should be focussing on. They can then target these through the daily success sessions and GCSE Pod. If any student is unclear on how to organise or prioritise their revision, please ask them to come and speak with me and I will help them put a timetable together.

As mentioned it has been a hugely impressive start to the year, and credit must go to both the students and support they receive at home. We are convinced that with this continued effort, combined with the dedicated support of their teachers, this year group can achieve great things and get the results they need to make those important next steps.





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Personal Development Update

We are now delivering Citizenship lessons within the taught programme of Philosophy and Ethics. We have renamed this lesson as Religious Studies and Citizenship. It is important that we teach Citizenship and we have been unable to do so effectively across PSHE lessons alone. This change will allow us to develop students understanding of what it is to be a good citizen as well as developing their understanding of worth religions.

This year is an important election year and so we have been busy helping our students to understand the importance of democracy and voting. Helping them to understand British Values and how are country is lead. We have had an assembly detailing British Values and our year 7-10 students have been learning in the RS and Citizenship lessons all about Human rights, rule of law and the meaning of a democratic process.



We have finally managed to secure a place to visit Parliament for a tour and a workshop. 15 of our students union will be attending so they will be able to experience what it is like in UK government.

In a few weeks' time we will be creating a mock polling station so our students in all year groups can vote for the Suffolk Youth Parliament candidates. We aim to create the real feel of a polling station so they can understand how it works, whilst they cast an actual vote for their Youth representative and the initiative of their choice.

Our Character and Community student leads team are now working with the Salvation Army and the Life church to establish a volunteering scheme in school. Their aim is to try to impact on the Stowmarket Community to help develop their resilience, kindness, empathy.



We now have a team of qualified mental health peer mentors in year 10 and 11. This team of wonderful students have been giving up their lunch breaks every week to study. They are now putting the finishing touches to their portfolios and will be able to support Oasis.

the Lily Jo project



Kingfisher Schools Trust

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Year 10 – Work Experience. Our big push this half term is to support you all through this process. They must be proactive in finding their own places but we are here to help and have some contacts if needed. If you are struggling with parent permission side of the software, please do get in touch.



Speak Out and Be Heard are joining us on the 16th February. We are looking forward to running this with our year 10's to develop their communication skills and confidence.

CHARACTER
AND
COMMUNITY

Agenda: 12:15-1:00pm
1:00-1:15pm
1:15-1:30pm
1:30-1:45pm
1:45-2:00pm

Useful Contact Information:

Head of Year 7	Miss R Harrigan	r.harrigan@stowhigh.com
Head of Year 8	Mrs T Goodman	t.goodman@stowhigh.com
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