



Onehouse Road, Stowmarket, Suffolk, IP14
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Web: www.stowhigh.com



· ACHIEVING SUCCESS TOGETHER ·

Headteacher's Newsletter

An Introduction from Ms Hernandez

4 April 2025

Work Hard, Be Kind



Happy End of Term Families!

This term has seen many exciting opportunities arise for your children both inside and outside of school. This term we have had trips galore, namely, The Duke of Edinburgh, Disneyland, Twickenham rugby tour, Imperial War Museum and the Wicked west end show, to one that is almost upon us which is the sports Malaga visit.

Students, parents and the local community have embraced the school performance 'We will rock you' with 4 sell out shows. The performances were truly incredible, and it was lovely to see so many performers and the mix of year groups involved from Year 7 to Year 11.

We are very excited to hear about the School Expansion progress and are now in the final stages to agree to the construction site set up. This gives us an understanding of any disruption the school may encounter, and we can plan to adjust accordingly. The athletics track is also set to be completed in the summer term, which means the school will be able to benefit from access during the school day in the near future. Whilst we accept these works will come at a significant cost to the school in the short term, the long-term gain of improved sports facilities, together with a new building to cater for the growing number of students wanting to join us will far outweigh this.

Drop day has just taken place and again was a rave success, a special thank you to Mrs Utteridge and Mrs Mylrea and all the other teachers that set up and lead an event or visit. There was a vast range of events that supported students' personal development and time was devoted in the school day to important topics that are not as prevalent in the usual core curriculum. Events included workshops such as 'food bite back', Maths, Careers, as well as external performances and guest speakers to name a few...

Year 11 interventions are well underway with students benefiting from bespoke and targeted morning booster sessions and selected students being invited to Easter workshops. It now is the last stretch for



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our Year 11's and we hope that they are all going to make the most of every lesson and intervention upon them to give the best chance of success when they open their envelopes in August.

I am also incredibly pleased and proud to say that for another year running the school is oversubscribed and that we have a high number of students on the waiting list, who are desperate to join us in September.

Happy Easter from me and reminder our return date is Tuesday 22 April 2025 due to the Monday bank holiday.

Lucie Hernandez
Headteacher

Attendance

The Department for Education recently issued reports on attendance and they showed just how closely attendance and attainment are linked.

At secondary school, the research shows Year 11 pupils with near-perfect attendance are almost twice as likely to achieve grade 5 in English and Maths GCSE, compared to similar pupils attending 90-95% of the time, and 3 times more likely than persistently absent pupils who only attend 85-90% of the time. In other words, missing just 10 extra days a year reduces the likelihood of achieving these grades by around 50%.

Missing school doesn't just affect exam results and a child's time in education – it can impact future earnings too. Persistently absent pupils in secondary school (those with less than 90% attendance) could earn £10,000 less at age 28 compared to pupils with near-perfect attendance. For each additional day of absence between Years 7 to 11, the typical pupil could miss out on an average of £750 in future lifetime earnings.

We are proud of our attendance figures at Stowmarket High School, with our overall attendance standing at nearly 0.5% higher than the national average for secondary schools. But we know must continue to make improvements to achieve the best outcomes for our students.

With that in mind, we will continue to:

- contact families via comms and phone on any day they do not report their child's absence from school
- undertake home visits to families where any child has three or more consecutive days of absence
- write to families where their child has declining absence and/or is persistently absent (this may mean we refuse to authorise a child's absence without medical evidence);
- refer families to the Education Welfare Service where their child's absence contains unauthorised absences and the child is persistently absent



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- consider issuing a family with a Fixed Penalty Notice, where a child has missed 10 or more sessions (5 days) for unauthorised reasons, including where a family has taken a planned absence such as a holiday

We appreciate your ongoing support with your child(ren)'s attendance as we seek to ensure they achieve the best possible GCSE results when they reach Year 11.

Stefan Stoneman - Assistant Headteacher

Examinations - GCSE's 2025

Yr11 GCSE's will begin after the Easter Break, with the first written exam starting on the 8 May 2025. All students will receive their final exam timetables by Monday 28 April 2025, along with a candidate handbook explaining the rules and procedures of the written exams.

If you have any queries concerning the exams, please contact me at E.Smith@stowhigh.com.

Emily Smith - Examinations Officer

Rugby Visit to Twickenham

On Sunday 9 March we took fourteen exam PE students to a sunny Twickenham to watch England take on Italy in the Six Nations. The students were treated to a great game with scores very close at half time before England went on to win with several second half tries scored right in front of us. A great day was had by all with students representing the school impeccably.

Mr Wise - Teacher of PE



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MFL

Year 11 Speaking Exams are taking place the week commencing 29 April.

Monday 29 April - French with Mrs Kent and Mrs Cockman

Wednesday 30 April - French with Mrs Kent and Mrs Cockman

Thursday 1 May - French with Mrs Cockman and German with Mrs Whiting

The times and dates are already on display in the MFL corridor and students will also receive their time and date on a slip after the Easter holidays.

This exam is 25% of their final grade, so should any issues arise with the dates please contact us as a matter of urgency.

Miss Pawsey - Curriculum Leader MFL

Young Carers

A very successful event for our young carers. Their cake sale raised an awesome £101.00!



Hayley Langley – Family Engagement Officer



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RESPECT

KINDNESS

SUCCESS

INTEGRITY



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Prestigious Joinery Award Received by Our Student!



We are thrilled to announce that one of our talented ex-students, James Buckle, has been honoured with the prestigious City and Guilds Livery Joinery Award! This remarkable achievement was celebrated at Mansion House in London, where our student received the award from the Lord Mayor.

This award is a significant recognition, given to only one individual across the entire UK, highlighting the exceptional skills and dedication of our student in their field of joinery.

Our heartfelt congratulations go out to our award-winning student. We are incredibly proud of their hard work and accomplishments. Your success is a testament to your talent and perseverance, and we are honoured to have supported you on this journey.

Thank you for making our school proud!

Mr Jim Hawkins - Curriculum Lead Resistant Materials



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Disneyland Paris Visit

Over February Half Term 39 students from years 7-10 went to Disneyland Paris. The students had a wonderful time exploring both parks, testing their nerve on some of Disney's biggest rides and also braving the cold to watch the nighttime firework display.

The students behaved impeccably, and their confidence grew throughout the week. They represented Stowmarket High School so well and fully embraced the experience.

An amazing time had by all!

Ms Hewitt – Curriculum Leader
History



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Health & Social Care and Child Development

Congratulations to several Year 11 students that have successfully certificated and passed their GCSE option in Health & Social Care and Child Development early. They have all achieved and beat their target grades, with some even getting full marks in their external written exam. A fantastic achievement! A great show of hard work and resilience which allows them time to work hard on their other subjects in this time.



Well done all, we are very proud of you!

Ms Whitfield – Curriculum Leader Health & Social Care, Child Development and PE

School Office

We have several unclaimed items in reception, including jewellery, ear pods, coats and school uniforms. If your child has lost anything, please ask them to come to student services to claim their belongings.



Drop Down Day Two



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Thursday saw all of our students, teachers and LSAs involved in a range of different learning, wellbeing, personal development and widening horizons. Here's what each year group has been doing:

Year 7: Adding value to the science curriculum through a specialist day on forensics

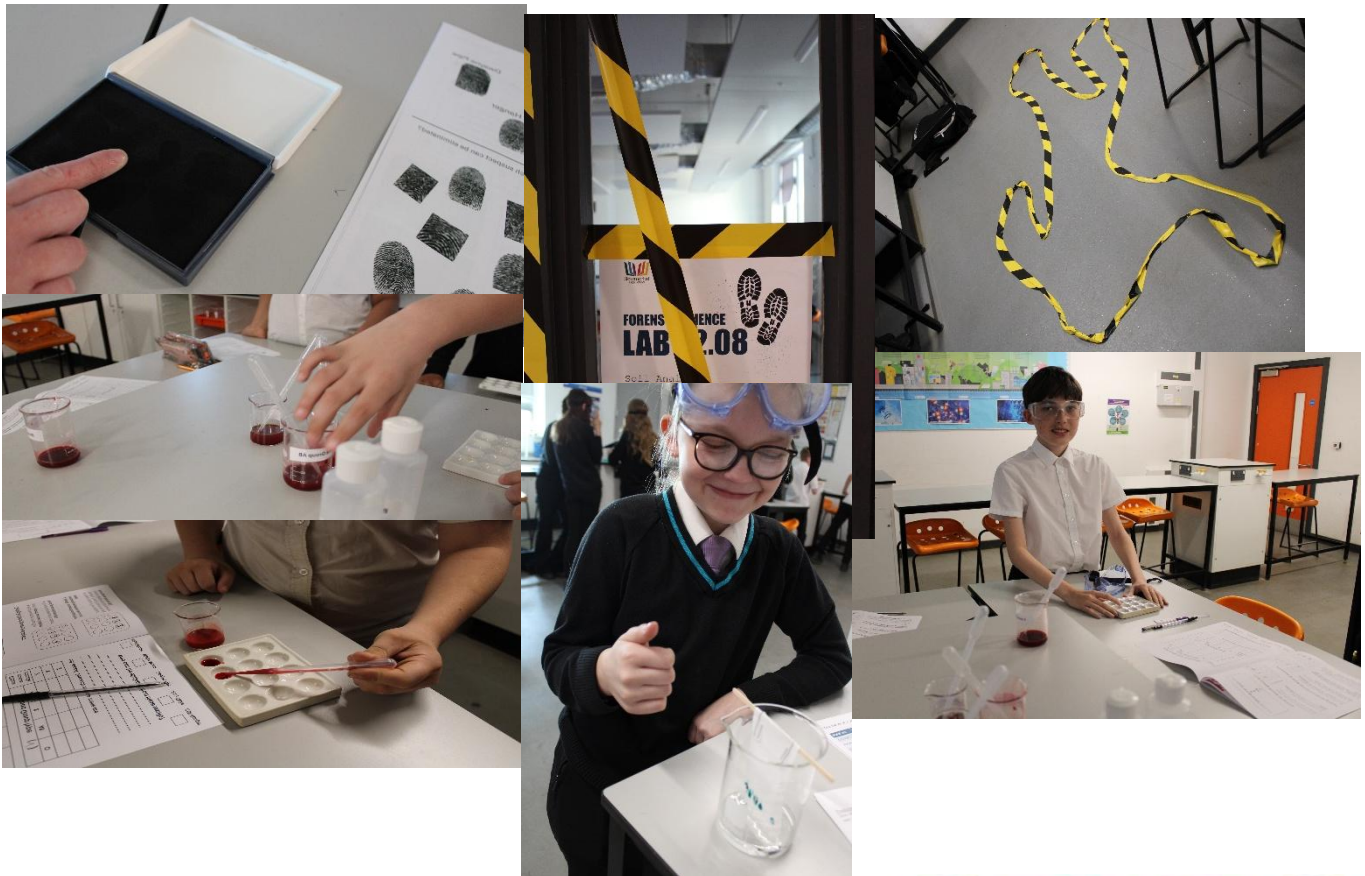
Year 8: Learning a new skill (year 8) which is the 5th element of the PSHE curriculum well-being. Including origami, cooking, life skills of orienteering and erecting a tent

Year 9: with a focus on employability skills of teamwork, co-operation, time-keeping and communication delivered through the TV programme - The Traitors (year 9)

Year 10: focussing on oracy skills (year 10) involving a mock interview and public speaking skills tied into the development of the English language spoken element of the GCSE

Year 11: mental health in preparing for exam period and next steps in life (year 11)

Year 9 & 11: Developing independence (year 11 and year 9) though awareness raising and skills in managing finances, understanding pay slips, taxation and credit and debit cards



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Widening horizons - a trip to a London theatre, the British History Museum and a day dedicated to learning a new teamwork skills - Cheerleading (cross year group)

Helen Utteridge - Subject Co-ordinator for Business Studies

FOSH News

Big thanks to everyone that supported the games and refreshments stalls at the recent 'We Will Rock You' performances, buy donating cakes, helping on the stall or buying from us! The games were created by students of FOSH student club and we raised nearly £700 over the 4 nights - a fantastic achievement that will all be spent on the extras needed within school.

We have an another fun painting evening coming up on 1st May, with expert tuition from Sarah at Sunflower Artistry. You'll create a fantastic piece of artwork to take home, it's just £29pp including all materials and refreshments. We were over subscribed last time so get your tickets now! All welcome, email fosh@stowhigh.com <<mailto:fosh@stowhigh.com>> to book your place.

Don't forget you can now play the school lottery! Signup here for your change to win every week: <https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/stowmarket-high-school>

Over the last month we've donated money for requested items to various areas and departments in school and have recently funded:

- A skeleton for Science
- 2 Microwaves for Food Tech
- Sports shirts to be worn by student and staff teams when playing for Stow High
- Footballs for heads of year to lend to students at lunch time
- Language Gym subscription for Modern Foreign Languages dept
- Chess sets

Also, to be purchased soon some SEND sensory and educational equipment, a badge making machine for a lunch time club and a contribution towards some bookshelves for English!



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Thank you for your continued support!

Paul Bearman – FOSH Chairman

Easter Activities at The Mix

LASER TAG

Come along to the Easter Drop Ins below to get involved in our Laser Tag games!

Open to anyone of high school age
(Even if you don't attend a high school!)

WEDNESDAY 9TH APRIL
11AM TO 3PM (THE MIX STOWMARKET)

FRIDAY 11TH APRIL
11AM TO 3PM (NEEDHAM MARKET)

Easter Drop Ins At The Mix

Open to anyone of high school age
(Even if you don't attend a high school!)

STOWMARKET
WEDNESDAY 9TH APRIL
11AM TO 3PM

WEDNESDAY 16TH APRIL
11AM TO 3PM

NEEDHAM MARKET
FRIDAY 11TH APRIL
11AM TO 3PM



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Painting Evening

Join us for a fun and relaxing evening of painting

At the end of the event you will have created an amazing piece of artwork to take home and treasure!

With expert tuition from Sarah from Sunflower Artistry

Includes refreshments on arrival and all art materials

£29 per person

**Stowmarket High School
1st May 2025 • 6.30-8.30pm**

BOOK YOUR PLACE NOW!

Please contact us via fosh@stowhigh.com if you would like to book onto this event.

We will then send BACS details to enable payment.
ALL BOOKINGS MUST BE PAID FOR IN ADVANCE



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Upcoming Events/Examinations

Friday 4 April 2025	- Early Close 1:15
Sunday 6 – Thursday 10 April 2025	- Sports Tour, Malaga
Tuesday 22 April 2025	- Start of Summer Term
Monday 24 April 2025	- Year 6 Welcome Event
Monday 28 April 2025	- Year 11 students to receive final examination timetables
Tuesday 29 April 2025	- Art & Photography GCSE Examination
Wednesday 30 April 2025	- Art & Photography GCSE Examination
Thursday 1 May 2025	- Art & Photography GCSE Examination
Friday 2 May 2025	- Art & Photography GCSE Examination
Saturday 3 May – Sunday 4 May 2025	- Duke of Edinburgh Practice Expedition
Tuesday 6 May 2025	- Art & Photography GCSE Examination
Wednesday 7 May 2025	- Art & Photography GCSE Examination
Friday 23 May 2025	- Leavers Assembly
Thursday 8 May 2025	- Summer GCSE Examinations begin
Thursday 8 May 2025	- Alternate Year 11 Timetable begins
Friday 13 June 2025	- Year 11 Official Last Day Year
Wednesday 18 June 2025	- Examinations End
Saturday 21 – Sunday 22 June 2025	- Duke of Edinburgh Assessment
Thursday 26 June 2025	- Year 11 Prom

Useful Contact Information

Head of Year 7	Miss S Durrant	s.durrant@stowhigh.com
Head of Year 8	Miss R Harrigan	r.harrigan@stowhigh.com
Head of Year 9	Miss O Hart	o.hart@stowhigh.com
Head of Year 10	Mrs N Goss	n.goss@stowhigh.com
Head of Year 11	Ms L Baker	l.baker@stowhigh.com
Finance		enquiries@stowhigh.com
General Enquiries		enquiries@stowhigh.com
Attendance/Student Absence		attendance@stowhigh.com



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