



STOWMARKET HIGH SCHOOL

22 October 2026



HEAD OF SCHOOL'S MESSAGE

Dear Families

We have had a wonderful start to the new academic, with students across the school showing real energy and enthusiasm. We are also incredibly proud at how easily our students have managed the ongoing change in and around school. Students walk through our gates consistently demonstrating the strong standards that support R.I.S.E (Respect, Integrity, Success & Empathy.)

Having mentioned change, I would also like to congratulate and welcome our new Year 7s who have become accustomed to our Stowmarket ways very quickly. In line with our expansion, we have increased our intake of students to 210 students, with our current Year 7s being the first year group to benefit from this growth. Additionally, both the new Year 7s and all stakeholders across our community will notice how quickly our building works are forging forward. As an update, the internal building works, converting our main hall into further canteen space and a drama studio has been completed, as has the conversion of a new Science room on the 2nd floor. For those that have visited the school you will see both the AGP (artificial grass pitch) and the running track are being used, inside and outside of school. Finally, our old 6th Form block will be completed by Christmas, having been converted into new Music rooms. The main new build is on schedule to be completed by February 2027.

Our students have set the tone for a successful year ahead. Uniforms are smart, punctuality is excellent, and classroom behaviour has been consistently strong. Staff have commented on the respectful atmosphere and the eagerness to learn that's evident in every lesson. I must add that we cannot do this without your continued support; the triangular dialogue between parent, student and school is one that is an ongoing dialogue to support the progress of all students. Again, we thank you all.

We've seen a fantastic uptake in extra-curricular activities this term with students benefiting from the wide range of clubs held during lunch time and after school. If your child hasn't joined a club yet, please do encourage them to do so - we have a wonderfully wide array of clubs and activities for all to enjoy. We also must celebrate the wonderful achievement of our parent group, Friends of Stowmarket High School, winning the annual Stowmarket Carnival award for best float (pictures are in this newsletter). Such a community group, which supports a significant number of students, is an invaluable asset to our school community."

Again, our students have also enjoyed some brilliant off-site experiences from various visits including the annual Battlefields visit, Business Studies visits to the range, Duke of Edinburgh, Geography field trips, not to mention all the sporting fixtures that have been completed.

Just a reminder you will shortly be receiving a link for our annual Edurio survey, which gives you the chance to share your views on how we're doing and where we can improve. Your feedback is invaluable in shaping the future of our school. Please look out for the link in your inbox later this month. Also, a gentle reminder that if you have something specific of concern, please do reach out to us via enquiries@stowhigh.com so that we can address as soon as possible to support you and your child.

And finally, ultimately, we as a school are here to give your child a rounded, progressive and enjoyable education. In all areas of school, we want to ensure all students are not only reaching their potential but achieving beyond that potential. It is our duty to ensure, in whatever measure we can, that students can access the universal offer to aid such progression. Please do continue to contact us regarding any area of your child's education - we do understand that our young people all learn at different rates and face different challenges throughout their time at school.

Mr A Pickering – Head of School

LOGAN AT WIMBLEDON

In May, Logan won the first round of the Play Your Way to Wimbledon U14 Singles, qualifying him for the county final. He competed in that final at Felixstowe on the grass courts. He stayed calm, kept his composure, worked his way through the knockout draw, and won! This victory secured him a place at the national finals on 2nd August, where he played against other county winners at Vodafone's 'Play your way to Wimbledon'.

Logan had an amazing time and played some tough matches. After the first two days of matches he managed to come second in his box, which qualified him for the top 24 knockout the following day. He unfortunately lost that match, but it was a fantastic achievement to win matches at Wimbledon and reach the top 24!



For his efforts, Wimbledon made Logan's experience truly memorable with free gifts, an allowance to spend on food in the players' restaurant, use of the players' changing rooms, plus a tour of Centre Courts, the broadcasting box and grounds.



A big well done Logan, these are truly amazing memories to treasure!





SOUTHWOLD SCIENCE WEEK



It's All Done with Mirrors

An entertaining science magic show revealing the science and engineering behind spectacular magic tricks, with demonstrations that encourage curiosity, observation and experimentation. Suitable for all ages, with under-14s accompanied by a ticketed adult.

Mon 26 Oct | 11am & 1.30pm



Halloween Science Experiments Workshop

Join the Mad Nutty Professor for a hands-on Halloween science adventure featuring plasma balls, electrical experiments, dry ice, fizzing sweets, glowing surprises and more. A fun, interactive workshop designed to spark curiosity and excitement about science.

Tue 27 Oct | 11am



The Little Witch Halloween Story Show

Follow the Little Witch on a magical journey around the world as she collects ingredients for a Halloween potion, meeting fascinating animals along the way. A fun mix of storytelling, magic, adventure and animal facts, ending with a special Halloween treat.

Tue 27 Oct | 1:30pm



An annual festival of Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths, filled with workshops, talks and experiences for all ages. With thanks to; The Paisley Charitable Trust, Mr RE Early's Charitable Settlement and The Tudwick Foundation for their financial support.

Children under the age of 14 must be accompanied by a ticketed adult. Content of workshops and end times may vary.

DAYTIME WORKSHOPS: £3
EVENING TALKS: £5



Colour Music



Explore the connection between music and colour in this practical session led by lighting designer Jim Laws, using theatrical lighting techniques to visually express the emotions of music. Participants will work together to create their own Colour Music.

Ages 14+
Tue 27 Oct | 7.30pm



Chemical Reactions: Acids and Alkalis

A hands-on workshop for ages 6-10 exploring acids, alkalis and chemical reactions through colourful experiments using everyday substances. Children will investigate indicators, electricity, forces, rockets and slime while developing scientific enquiry skills.

Wed 28 Oct | 11am & 1:30pm



Mobile Planetarium

Step inside the award-winning Auriga Star Dome for an immersive, presenter-led journey through planets, stars, galaxies and the wider Universe. Suitable for all ages and designed to combine science, discovery and inspiration in an accessible experience.

Wed 28 Oct 11am & 1:30pm | Thu 29 Oct | 11am & 1pm



Cocoons around Stars, Black Holes, Sun and Earth

Astrophysicist Michael Rowan-Robinson explores the role of dust and molecular cocoons surrounding stars, the Sun and Earth, from the 1815 Tambora eruption to nuclear winter and climate change. The talk connects discoveries in astronomy with the urgent challenge of reaching net zero.

Ages 14+ Thu 29 Oct | 7:30pm



Space Workshop

Fun, hands-on STEM workshop exploring space science through gesture-controlled robots, water tornadoes and glow-in-the-dark constellation building. Children will develop scientific enquiry, creativity and problem-solving skills while learning about forces, motion and our solar system.

Friday 30 October | 11am and 1:30pm

BOOK NOW AT [SOUTHWOLDARTSCENTRE.CO.UK](https://southwoldartscentre.co.uk)
01502 722572 | info@southwoldartscentre.co.uk

DUKE OF EDINBURGH – BRONZE AWARD

The year 11's have finally finished their Bronze Award Expedition, having had to rearrange from the summer heatwave.

They all did a brilliant job navigating their way from Ipswich to Bucklesham, where they camped overnight, before walking onto Felixstowe on the Sunday. They all remained positive throughout and showed great resilience and teamwork despite the sore shoulders and feet!

For many of them, this was their last section to complete so will now be awarded their full Bronze Award. For this group we have seen volunteering at the food museum, local charity shops, brownies, coaching sports as well as learning new languages, building bikes, clay pigeon shooting amongst others. A fantastic group, well done all.

A big shout out also goes to the members of staff that gave up their time to help Mrs Page, Mrs Flockton, Miss Hart, Mrs Thompson, Mr Peckford and Dr Pratt.

We now have our new Bronze group from year 10 starting their adventures, so watch this space!



BERLIN MARATHON 2026

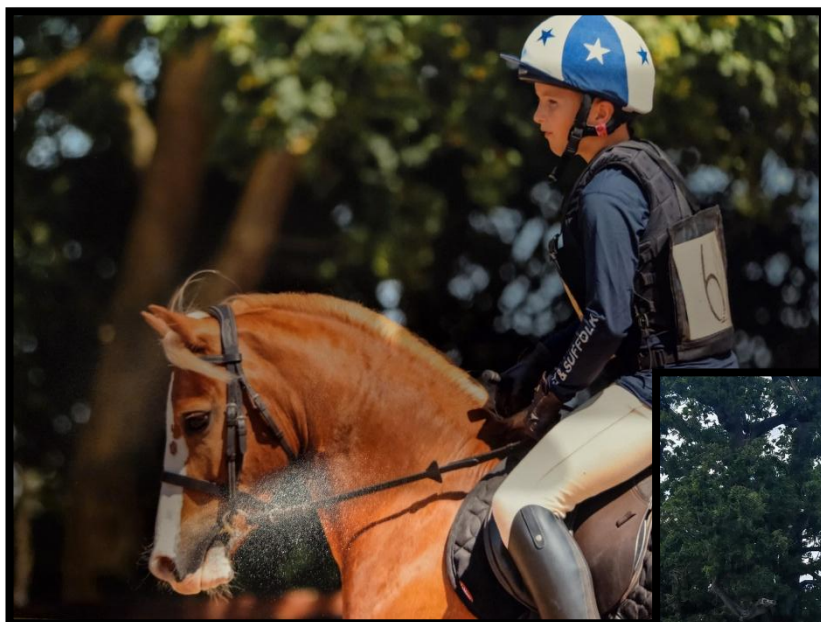


Huge congratulations to Mrs Whitng for participating and completing the Berlin Marathon. "To all those who followed me all the way to the finish line, so I wanted to say thank you for being there with me. I loved the entire race, I can't believe how the miles just went by, but at around mile 18 I had to slow as my calf muscles just seized and every step felt like they were going to tear, and all I remember thinking was please don't rip, please don't rip! So, I kept on going and the sight of the Brandenburg Gate was worth it.

A photographer caught me just as I was going under The Gate - here I was just about to go through the middle 2 pillars from East to West - the section of the gate that I wanted! My calves were in shreds, but my heart was screaming louder!"



HORSE RIDING QUALIFICATION



Introducing Our New School Horse Riding Team

We are delighted to announce the launch of our School Horse Riding Team, giving our pupils the exciting opportunity to represent the school at equestrian competitions against other schools.

We are particularly proud to have three pupils representing the school as part of the NSEA (National Schools Equestrian Association) riding team: Matilda C, Charlie P and Eden T. Matilda, Charlie and Eden will compete in a range of inter-school equestrian competitions, representing our school at events both locally and further afield. The NSEA provides young riders with the opportunity to take part in prestigious competitions throughout the country, from local events through to the annual National Championships.



Competitions can include a fantastic variety of disciplines, including Dressage, Show Jumping, Arena Eventing ('Jumping with Style'), One Day Events, Hunter Trials, Eventer's Challenge and Grass Roots competitions.

There is also the exciting opportunity to qualify for the NSEA National Championships, where riders can compete alongside around a thousand other young equestrians, all hoping to achieve the honour of becoming a 'NSEA National Schools Champion'.

We are incredibly excited to support Matilda, Charlie, and Eden as they embark on this new adventure. We wish them the very best of luck for the season ahead and look forward to following their progress and celebrating their achievements along the way!

If any other pupils in the school have their own horse or pony and would like to join our riding team, please speak to Mrs West

ATTENDANCE

Every School Day Matters

Excellent attendance makes a real difference to your child's learning and progress. **Missing just one day every fortnight adds up to nearly five weeks of learning lost over the course of a school year. That is equivalent to 76 lessons!**

With this in mind, we expect full, punctual attendance from every student, every day the school is open. By attending each day, it helps our students keep up with their learning, build confidence from routines, maintain friendships, participate in clubs regularly, and make the most of every opportunity school has to offer.

We know that sometimes absence is unavoidable, particularly due to illness, but every day in school really does count. If you are not sure whether your child is well enough for school, please look at our 'Supporting School Attendance' poster for a helpful guide. This is included at the end of the newsletter for you.

If you need support for your child to attend school regularly, please contact your child's Head of Year or attendance@stowhigh.com as soon as possible.

Thank you to all our families for working with us to support excellent attendance and giving our students the very best chance to succeed. We hope they have a great 2026/27!

Stefan Stoneman - Assistant Headteacher

LOST PROPERTY

Please can we ask that water bottles are named with a sharpie. So many each week find their way to lost property but are never claimed by their owners and must be thrown away.

Other items in lost property now are:

- Small Nike bag containing a very nice pair of size 5 ½ black Air zoom slip on football boots with a pale blue stripe on side.
- Tu men's medium grey zip up fleece with hood, Cream fur textured inside.
- Black Nike zip up Thermo fit zip up hooded jacket, size medium
- George thin black waterproof hooded jacket, age 9-10
- 4 x assorted water bottles



If you feel that any of the above items belong to your child, please ask them to come to Student Services to check.

Thank you for your support.



Thank you!

We had a fantastic day celebrating our school and local community at Stowmarket Carnival on 18 July 2026! We were delighted that our Wicked themed float won first prize.

Thank you to all the students, volunteers, staff and local businesses who helped us bring our creative vision to life – we could not have done it without you!

Annual General Meeting- We Need You!:

As a Friends of School, we play a vital role in supporting our young people and helping to create memorable experiences throughout the academic year. From funding extra resources to organising carnival floats, our small team makes an incredible difference.

We would like to invite all parents and carers to our upcoming Annual General Meeting which is to be held at Stowmarket High School on Monday 16 November 2026 at 3.20pm. The AGM is a great opportunity to hear about our achievements, share ideas, and help shape our plans for the year ahead.

We are also looking for new volunteers to join the Friends of School committee. You don't need any special experience, just a willingness to help and a passion for supporting our school community. Whether you can spare a little time or would like to take on a more active role, every contribution makes a massive difference.

Please find the attached the AGM paperwork including the agenda and a nomination form if you would like to be considered for a named role on the committee. Roles available include Chairperson, Treasurer and Secretary.

Carnival Float Volunteers Needed:

Looking ahead to next year's carnival, we are hoping to build on the fantastic support we've received in previous years. To make our school float a success, we are looking for volunteers to help with planning, decorating and building the float and people to be part of the procession on the day.

The carnival is always a highlight of the year and a wonderful way to showcase our school within the local community. Please contact us by email (fosh@stowhigh.com<<mailto:fosh@stowhigh.com>>) if you would like to be involved.

Friends of Stowmarket High School

Friends of Stowmarket High School

Nomination for election to an officer role AGM November 2026

Name of person nominated: _____

Status (Parent/Staff): _____

Role nominated for: _____

Signed: _____

Nominated by _____

1st _____

Name: _____

Signature: _____

2nd _____

Name: _____

Signature: _____

FRIENDS OF STOWMARKET HIGH SCHOOL

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Monday 16 November 2026 at 3.20pm

To be held in-person

AGENDA

Ordinary Business

- 1] Apologies for absence
- 2] Minutes of previous Annual General Meeting
- 3] Matters arising from the Minutes
- 4] Reports for the period 1st September 2025 to 31st August 2026
 - 4a) Chairperson
 - 4b) Treasurer
- 5] Election of Officers and Trustees of the Committee
 - 5a) Chair
 - 5b) Secretary
 - 5c) Treasurer
 - 5d) Ordinary Committee members

Special Business

- 6] Other items

Any Other Business

- 7] Other business



MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES



Year 7 French

Since joining SHS, Year 7 students have begun their French lessons, with three lessons each fortnight. They have been consolidating their learning from primary school while developing their pronunciation and confidence in speaking the language.

Students will study French until the end of Year 9, after which they will have the opportunity to continue studying French at GCSE.

Duolingo Leaderboard

We have hit the ground running with our Duolingo Leaderboard! Students from all year groups, along with a number of staff members, are regularly taking part in online language learning.

Every Sunday evening, the top three students on the leaderboard will be entered into an end-of-term prize draw.

Why not challenge yourself to learn a new language or practise the one you are studying at school? To join, please see the noticeboard outside Room 1.01 for the access code.

Year 10 & Year 11 Active Hub Homework

We have recently launched a new online platform for GCSE students to complete their homework. Active Hub will support classroom learning by allowing students to revisit key vocabulary and grammar from previous topics and terms.

The platform also provides opportunities to practise exam-style listening tasks, a skill that can often be difficult to develop independently at home.

All Year 10 French and Year 11 German students have been provided with an account and can log in using their school email address. If you experience any issues accessing the platform, please contact your child's language teacher.

European Day of Languages – 26 September 2026

Last week, we celebrated European Day of Languages by exploring the importance of language learning and the exciting travel opportunities that speaking another language can provide.

We were also delighted to celebrate several students who speak another language fluently at home. We welcomed four fantastic guest speakers from Years 10 and 11: Vesi, Nadin, Anna and Anna, who introduced themselves in Malayalam, Bulgarian and Hungarian.

During tutor time, students enjoyed a challenge in which they matched film songs to their correct languages. Congratulations to our winning tutor group, 9S, with 8H finishing in a very close second place.

Watch This Space...

Year 8 Cinema Trip

We are delighted to announce plans for a German cinema trip in Cambridge for a selected group of Year 8 students. This will be an invitation-only opportunity, and letters will be sent home after half-term.

Year 9 French Trip

Following the success of last year's overnight visit, we are currently planning another exciting trip to France for our Year 9 students.

This year's trip is planned as a two-night visit with a packed itinerary, offering students the opportunity to experience French language and culture first-hand. The trip is expected to take place around the Summer Drop Down Day on 15th July.

Priority will be given to students who choose both French and Hospitality & Catering as GCSE options.

SUFFOLK WILDLIFE TRUST



Thank you for your wonderful donation of £600.00 to Suffolk Wildlife Trust following your non-uniform day last term, this is very gratefully received.

Since 1961, Suffolk Wildlife Trust has been dedicated to protecting and restoring the county's wildlife and wild landscapes. At the heart of our purpose as a wildlife charity is our mission to 'Bring Nature Back' - in which we're championing the collective goal to secure at least 30% of Suffolk's land and sea for nature's recovery before 2030. Every pound donated will help restore habitats and secure a wilder future for people and wildlife in Suffolk across these four main areas:

- To secure a bigger, better and more connected landscape through managing our network of over 7,000 acres of reserves across Suffolk
- To work with Suffolk's farmers to make nature-positive choices, reconnecting habitats
- To defend nature by encouraging wildlife friendly planning and advocating for ambitious biodiversity targets across Suffolk
- To deliver our engagement programme to connect more people with nature.

Your support in helping us to achieve this by 2030 is very much appreciated 😊 a thank you certificate will be posted to you early next week.

With our thanks & very best wishes,

Laura

Laura Richardson - Philanthropy & Fundraising Officer, Suffolk Wildlife Trust



SHS GARDEN CLUB

Garden Club has started this term and we've got stuck into our first project, refreshing the memorial planters outside the front of the school. First we had to dig out some self-seeded trees that had been growing for a number of years judging by the size of the roots!

We are aiming to fill these planters this autumn with lots of bulbs for an **explosion of spring colour!**

If you would like to join Garden Club, please come along on Wednesday at lunchtime and after-school.

If any families and friends of the school would to donate any plants or garden tools to the club, please get in touch.

- Mrs Fouracre-Smith & Mrs Barfield

enquiries@stowhigh.com



CHRISTMAS IS COMING...



Please read the Calendar of Events section at the end of this Newsletter for event dates including Christmas Jumper Day, Christmas Lunch date and Christmas Hampers.

Tickets for the student Christmas Lunch this year will be available to purchase via My Child At School (MCAS). We will notify you when tickets are available for purchase on MCAS after October Half Term.

FOOD & NUTRITION



TUBS!!!

We welcome donations of plastic tubs - Christmas sweet tubs are the best! Many of our students take tubs home every week and we rarely have them returned, if you should have any in your cupboards at home, please could they be returned. Thank you.

Mrs Brewster – Curriculum Leader of Food & Nutrition

EDUCATIONAL VISIT TO THE RANGE

Year 11 business studies students visited the range distribution centre at Gateway 14, Stowmarket last week in three small groups.

The visit helped to bring to life and consolidate their in class learning on automation in warehousing, the importance of health and safety in a large warehouse, what influences a logistics business in how it chooses its location and finally how the range values recycling and reducing their carbon footprint with rain water capture, recycling of packaging and solar panels for energy.

Whilst the special hard capped shoes were not to their liking, the students were impressed by the canteen choices including the use of AI to scan selected food to know what to charge and the free fully kitted out gym.

A big thank you to The Range for accommodating the three groups.



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EXAMINATIONS

A reminder that the first set of Year 11 PRE Examinations will begin the **W/c 9 November 2026**. Students will receive their timetables upon their return to school after October half term.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Thursday 3 December	- Year 10 Parents' Evening
Tuesday 15 December	Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Lunch
Friday 18 December	- Christmas Hampers/Early Close 1pm
Monday 4 January	- PD Day

CONTACT INFORMATION (FROM SEPTEMBER 2026)

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