



Onehouse Road, Stowmarket, Suffolk, IP14 1QR

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· ACHIEVING SUCCESS TOGETHER ·

Headteachers' Newsletter



28 November 2024

Dear Families

As we approach the festive period, we have been really impressed with how students continue to engage in learning and extracurricular opportunities at Stowmarket High. November has seen a number of events such as the well-attended Year 10 Tripod evening, a successful Green Skills Summit at Ipswich High School for Year 9 pupils and the recent BAE Systems and RAF and Navy roadshow for our enthusiastic Year 7s. In addition to this, pupils in both Year 9 and 10 were involved in significant workshops in Drama and Music with visits from leading performers Juliet Price Thomas and Charlotte Arnold. Our first 'Enrichment' day takes place today on the 28 of November where pupils will have the exciting opportunity to engage in a variety of tasks and activities not normally offered in the standard curriculum.

Teaching and Learning

'Teaching and Learning' at Stowmarket High is at the heart of what we do. We recognise that the whole school culture should be embodied in the school's values and replicated in every teacher's individual classroom creating a culture of alignment where all teachers are pulling in the same direction. This supports our collective efficacy and as a result improving outcomes are much more likely.

We have openly talked about 'The Stowmarket Way' in our training days and school assemblies, communicating our shared vision for implementing our broad and balanced curriculums (you can track your child's departmental Learning Journeys on the school website). Your children will be well aware of teaching strategies such as Do Nows, where every lesson starts with a series of well-focused retrieval questions. This is then supported by key adaptive teaching strategies such as Cold Calling, Think-Pair-Share and Mini Whiteboards where staff will regularly check for understanding live in the classroom. As a result, teachers can check for misconceptions and misunderstandings and adapt their approach. We have worked hard this year on the concept of modelling in the classroom, with teachers using the 'I do, We do, You do' approach to guided practice so that pupils are confident in engaging in their own individual deliberate practice. This is finally supported by 'Whole Class Feedback' sheets where teachers are regularly modelling how to specially improve their work as well as celebrating and showcasing great examples from the pupils themselves.

As always if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. I finally wanted to take the opportunity to highlight our upcoming communications on homework where I will write to you in more detail about the importance of this to support retrieval of that knowledge for pupil's medium- and longer-term memories. Until then, thank you for all your support and care.

Kind regards

Steve Smith – Assistant Headteacher

School Office

Just another reminder that school will be closed to students for a PD Day on Friday 29 November 2024.

Kingfisher Schools Trust

Registered address: Prospect House, Little Money Road, Loddon Business Park, Loddon, Norfolk. NR14 6JD

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RESPECT

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INTEGRITY



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Christmas Hamper Competition

During December form groups are participating in this competition to fill hampers which will be donated to the Stowmarket Food Bank in time for Christmas. Our school Christmas hamper project is now our thirteenth year!

Your generous gifts of food and presents would be greatly appreciated, at a time in which more vulnerable people are particularly in need. Items should be non-perishable and could include something from this list:

- Christmas Pudding
- Tinned Ham/Corned Beef/Salmon
- Jars of Jam/Pickle
- Carton of Custard
- Biscuits for Cheese
- Packets of Jelly/Angel Delight
- Tinned rice pudding/fruit
- Cartons of fruit juice
- Christmas Selection Boxes
- Children's snacks (biscuits, raisins, cereal bars)
- Trifle Mix
- Savoury snacks
- Hot Chocolate
- Gravy Granules/Stuffing Mix
- Pringles/Crisps
- Box of Mince Pies
- Stollen/Christmas Cake
- Variety Pack of Cereals

Stowmarket High students debate climate issues at local schools' summit



As global leaders gathered for the global climate change conference in Azerbaijan, five students from Stowmarket High School joined nearly 100 students from other schools last Friday at a local COP-29 styled event.

The summit was hosted by Ipswich High School and organised by Mid Suffolk District Council to put a spotlight on the challenges of climate breakdown and showcase some of the solutions and opportunities available in low carbon and sustainable industries.

The event opened with a debate that emulated the real-life negotiations that world leaders are currently engaging in at COP-29. During the debate, our students Ellie Pollard, Georgina Durrant, Isabel Obianyo, Lucy Brett and Teya Reed made compelling arguments for countries to do more to reduce their carbon emissions. Ellie, who was interviewed by local media commented that "all countries have to do their part to help combat the problems present by climate change".

The event concluded with a careers fair focusing on the growing opportunities in the green energy, housing, transport and manufacturing sectors. Students were also encouraged to think about ways they could take action locally to reduce our environmental footprint. One suggestion was to provide more opportunities for students to recycle more at the school.

Dr D Pratt - Teacher of Science

MFL

MFL Student of the month for November:

KS4 German: **Julija Moisejenko 11I**

KS4 French: **Bailey Whitehall 11H**

KS3 French: **Brenda Ayokanm 7W**

A big well done to these fantastic students, who are working really hard in their MFL lessons!

The European Bake Off takes place this Monday 2 December 2024

We would love as many cakes as possible to be entered.

The theme is Christmas, so we are looking for cakes that are Christmas related with a European twist, or European with a Christmas twist!

There will be a prize for the best cake, these will be judged period 1 on Monday 2 December. We can't wait to see and taste your entries.

If you don't want to enter the competition, you can of course bake a cake to be sold at the bake sale.

Bring cakes down to the atrium before 8:45am.

Cakes will be on sale at breaktime, 50p per cake.

Please bring cash - all proceeds will go to the Year 11 Prom Committee.



Miss Pawsey – Teacher of MFL

FOSH

A big thank you to everyone that attended our **Secret Postcard Sale** in The Mix on Sunday! It was great to see so many visitors and lots of people buying and donating to FOSH, we raised nearly £450! Another thank you goes out to everyone that donated amazing artworks, any unsold postcards will be available to buy directly from us - look out for our Facebook posts very soon! <https://www.facebook.com/FriendsofStowmarketHigh>

Tuesday saw us getting Christmassy with our **Wreath Making Evening** taking place in Lilies at school, and it felt like a big Santa's workshop! Thank you to Amanda from Wreaths & Ribbons for running the event: <https://www.facebook.com/saleswreathsandribbons> Stunning wreaths were created and everyone had a great time.

Spot the High School Christmas Tree! Once again, we have a tree in the **Stowmarket Christmas Tree Festival**, it has beautifully decorated with decorations made by students and parents. You can visit the festival at St Peter & St Mary's church in Stowmarket until 24 December.

Paul Bearman

paul@paulbearman.com



SECRET POSTCARD SALE



CHRISTMAS WREATH MAKING



CHRISTMAS TREE DECORATING





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Stowmarket High School Rewards

We are delighted to announce the revisions to our rewards policy!

We award merits in three different areas – Attendance, Attitude to Learning and Representation. These merits all count towards the Stowmarket High School Excellence Award, for which your child will be awarded a certificate for each tier reached as part of the award. Each certificate is accompanied by an acknowledgement from one of our staff and an accompanying reward/prize. More details can be seen below:

Merits required	Details of Award
<p>300</p> <p>PLATINUM</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A4 certificate handed out by Deputy/Assistant Headteacher in Celebration assembly. • Phone call home from the Deputy/Assistant Headteacher. • Prize: Special Excursion & Meal with the Headteacher
<p>225</p> <p>GOLD</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A4 certificate handed out by Head of Year in Celebration assembly. • Phone call home from your Head of Year. • Prize: Non-Uniform & Movie Day
<p>150</p> <p>SILVER</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A4 certificate handed out by Tutor in Celebration assembly. • Email home from your Head of Year. • Prize: Treats with the Year Team & Entry to a Prize Draw.
<p>75</p> <p>BRONZE</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A4 certificate handed out by Tutor during tutor time. • Email home from your Tutor. • Prize: Lunch Queue Jump Pass.

We are also holding celebration breakfasts at the end of Autumn and Spring term, recognising students who fulfil one of the four key values in a particular department area. We know that positive relationships need to be at the centre of everything we do and students need to be able to demonstrate that they can be respectful, show integrity, be successful and show empathy in their behaviour choices and in their attitudes to learning. Nominations will be made by each department for two of the values in Autumn and again for the other two values in Spring. Alongside this, we are issuing termly awards from both Heads of Year and the Headteacher.

Finally, we plan to hold an annual celebration evening at the start of each Autumn term, recognizing standout students who were regularly recognized by our awards detailed above and/or made an outstanding contribution to the school. We will also use the opportunity to celebrate the achievements of some of our outstanding Year 11 students in their GCSE exams. Details of this event will follow in due course.

We ask you regularly review your child's Go4Schools profile and celebrate them in reaching each tier of the Stowmarket High School Excellence Award! Thank you for your continued support.

Stefan Stoneman - Assistant Headteacher

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Upcoming Events

Friday 29 November 2024	PD Day
Monday 16 December 2024	Years 10 & 11 Celebration Breakfasts
Tuesday 17 December 2024	Christmas Jumper Day, Christmas Lunch, Christmas Hamper Judging
Wednesday 18 December 2024	Year 7 Celebration Breakfast
Thursday 19 December 2024	Years 8 & 9 Celebration Breakfasts
Thursday 19 December 2024	Bookings go live for Year 9 Tripod Evening at 10am
Friday 20 December 2024	Last Day of term – early finish 1pm

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		finance@stowhigh.com
General Enquiries		enquiries@stowhigh.com
Attendance/Student Absence		attendance@stowhigh.com

