



Photo: Year 13 leavers

6 News—Summer edition

Head of Sixth Form's message:

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Welcome to our Summer update. We have also used this as an opportunity to revisit some of this year's 6th form highlights!

In what seems an incredibly short space of time, our Year 13 students are now boldly undertaking their final compulsory education exams and we wish them all the very best with these. They have certainly been working hard toward this goal and are fantastic role-models for our Year 12 students.

Throughout the year, all of our students have been introduced to the many careers options and pathways provided by the sixth form. We have a Level 5 qualified Careers Advisor who has been working both with students who have decided on an alternative pathway to university and those who have applied and are already thinking about their next steps. We believe in opening our students eyes to the career possibilities on offer in the modern world and support them by our strong careers, advice and guidance programme.

Personal development is also a strong feature of the sixth form and we are pleased to share the number of activities, clubs, sporting and mentoring successes the Year 12s and Year 13s have been involved with this year. Inclusivity and creativity are central to these opportunities and we are always open to new ideas.....

We are looking forward to running the 2023 induction sessions for our new cohort of Year 12 students on 29th and 30th June (see page 6) and will catch up with everyone on the August results days.

In the meantime, good luck to everyone for the rest of the exam season.

A. Hailstone



**The John Milton
Sixth Form**

AT STOWUPLAND HIGH SCHOOL

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- UpLearn
- Suffolk Apprenticeships
- UCAS Trip to UoS
- Careers trips and visits
- Gardening club



SIXTH FORM LIFE

Being a sixth former at Stowupland is a fantastic opportunity to feel part of a caring, diverse and wider community that supports one another to achieve their goals. Students are at the heart of what we do and take an active role in shaping the activities, causes and events through the many clubs on offer. The Sixth Form Committee is the student hub of decision making and organisation that give students a voice in how their sixth form experience is shaped.

Recently, “Formal Friday” was introduced where students dress up for the day or come dressed as their dream profession to inspire others to achieve.

There are a wide variety of social and fitness activities to choose from also— with full access to the school’s gym and sports facilities now available to all students when booked in advance. We hope you enjoy reading about all the things we do and hope to see you soon!

“Being a Sixth Form mentor has been an amazing experience that has allowed me to give back to younger students and developed my confidence skills”

GARDENING CLUB



One of our newest and most popular clubs in sixth form to emerge this year is the Horticultural Club. The club is chaired by student Harry Dring, he and his team oversee the land around our sixth form building to keep the environment thriving, lush and bountiful.

The students have dug four new vegetable patches and planted crops, vegetables and fruit bushes to be carefully grown over this summer season to create sustainable local produce. As part of this club the students learn about nature, sustainable development and environmental protection which are all important and topical issues in today’s world.

SIXTH FORM COUNTY CUP FOOTBALL

The U18 boys football team travelled to Thurston on Monday 7 November. This was the team’s first competitive fixture and the boys did not disappoint. They were superb from start to finish. The boys deservedly won the match 1-0 but could have had more.

A special mention must go to Luke Kelly for volunteering to go in goal for the team!

Player of the match: Harry Steed

This year the boys drew a strong team in Northgate and on the day they proved a little too strong for us overall. We lost 4-1, but notable performances from Oakley, who stepped in at the last minute to go in goal and also from some of our more experienced players, Harvey, Charlie, Harry and Alfie. Worth noting that our 1 goal was a speculative effort from just inside their half by Harry Steed which bounced over the goalkeeper. A great moment for him and the boys despite a disappointing result. Effort was superb and thanks again to those boys that stepped in at the last minute.





Sixth Form Food Bank appeal organized by Ellen Davies

SIXTH FORM FOODBANK SUPPORT

To support the local community during difficult times, our students will always jump at the chance to make a difference and help those in need. Ellen Davies helped to coordinate one such effort with Stowmarket Food Bank—a whole school competition for each and every form group to fill a large crate with food items. Over 30 crates were delivered to form groups across the school for donations to be received. The response was overwhelming and our students were struggling at times to source new crates to fill up!

Students from across the school gathered as much food and provisions as they could spare to win the prize of the biggest donating form group. Ellen and other sixth form volunteers helped carry and organise each of the form's donations into giant crates which were kindly collected by members of Stowmarket Food Bank.

Volunteering and kindness are hallmarks of our students in sixth form and we are proud to support them in supporting our wider community for the greater good. Well done and thank you 6th Form Team!

SIXTH FORM MENTORS

As part of our volunteering programme, we offer training to all sixth form students to become mentors for the younger years in the main secondary school. These mentors can provide academic, emotional and personal support to students who may benefit from an older role model to help them navigate school life. This scheme is managed successfully by Mrs Canfer, our Equality and Relationship Group leader who carefully places mentors with mentees from Years 7+8 to enhance their provision in school. All mentors are safeguarding trained at the beginning of the year and help flag any issues our students face. Some memorable quotes from our young mentees this year include:

"I'm so happy to have been mentored this year as I was quite nervous about not getting things in lessons. My mentor has really helped go through things with me"

"I look forward to seeing my mentor every week—it's just a good opportunity to talk about any problems. Sometimes we play games as we talk so there isn't any pressure which helps"

Bake Sale for the United Nations World Food Programme

The sixth form bake sale raised money for the United Nations World Food Programme. Every day, 690 million people around the world go to bed on an empty stomach, including over 150 million children, with roughly 10,000 children dying from hunger every day.

The World Food Programme aims to end world hunger by providing millions of meals to people in need, such as flood victims in Pakistan, Ukrainian refugees, children in Africa, and war victims in Afghanistan to name a few. They also help to provide advice and equipment to small-scale farmers, particularly in Africa, to help them build up resilience to droughts and other natural hazards, allowing them to rely less on emergency meals.

Their work is vital, especially in developing countries, war-torn regions, and areas that are most at risk from climate change to help build resilience for the future. Thank you to Holly Fear for organising such a wonderful and worthwhile bake sale—the cakes were delicious!



UCAS KEY DATES

- 2 May 2023 – 2024 entry courses will be shown in the UCAS search tool.
- 16 May 2023 – you can start your undergraduate application for 2024 entry courses, but you cannot submit it to UCAS until 5 September 2023.
- 13th June—Stowupland UCAS Trip to the University of Suffolk to meet university and higher education providers
- 16 October 2023 for 2024 entry at 18:00 (UK time) – deadline for any course at the universities of Oxford and Cambridge, or for most courses in **medicine, veterinary medicine/science, and dentistry**. You can add choices with a different deadline later, but don't forget you can only have five choices in total.
- 31 January 2024 for 2024 entry at 18:00 (UK time) – deadline for the majority of courses.
- 5th July—Clearing for students currently in Year 13

What is UCAS?

UCAS is an independent charity, and the UK's shared admissions service for higher education. We support 1.5 million students every year to explore entering higher education, employment and apprenticeships. And we manage almost three million applications, from around 700,000 people each year, for full-time undergraduate courses at approximately 350 universities and colleges across the UK.

UCAS supports schools and parents to help their students make informed choices, by guiding them through all their options and the entire higher education application process.

All students are able to make an application supported by our tutor team to university as well as support in exploring alternative options for life after sixth form.

YOUR MISSION
DON'T KNOW
WHAT YOU WANT
TO DO NEXT?

THE BIG
Q&A

UCAS DISCOVERY UK TOUR

QUESTIONS TO GET YOU STARTED AT UCAS/DISCOVERY:

- What skills/grades do I need to go to university?
- What subjects can I study?
- Do you offer any apprenticeships? If so, what type?
- Who makes a great apprentice?
- How can I research my options?



DISCOVER MORE
[UCAS.COM/MISSION-DONT-KNOW](https://ucas.com/mission-dont-know)

Write your own questions here:

PARENT'S GUIDE TO UCAS 2024

As a parent, guardian, or someone with caring responsibilities, you're likely to be one of the most important and trusted sources of information and advice to your child. With that in mind, UCAS has produced a guide just for you. It's designed to give you the tools to guide and support a young person applying to study at university or college in 2024, through their decision-making and the UCAS application process. You can find the guide attached to [this link here](#).

Alternatively you can visit the UCAS website and explore courses with your child using the UCAS Discovery Tool. This contains a variety of features to help explore students' interests, strengths and preferences for university, apprenticeships and employment. Good luck!

Clearing Key Dates

Know when to start research, when to apply and how long you have.



TOP 10 UCAS TIPS

- Start research early – there are a lot of higher education options to choose from!
- Register in the UCAS Hub and browse through courses– so you can work out what you would enjoy or be interested in.
- Know the deadlines – for some courses, the application deadline is almost a year in advance of when the course starts.
- Go to UCAS events and course provider open days – speak to us and higher education staff to get answers to their questions.
- Check entry requirements – make sure you can get the grades they need to get a place on a course.
- Redraft their personal statement – get plenty of feedback and refine it until you are happy.
- Understand student finance – so you can make the best arrangements to fund your studies.
- Be prepared for results day – make sure you are prepared for all the possible outcomes.
- Understand how Extra and Clearing work – different ways to apply for more courses.
- Visit the UCAS Facebook and Twitter pages regularly to get advice and ask questions.

VISIT BY SUFFOLK MIND

The mental health charity Suffolk Mind attended Stowupland High School's Sixth Form to provide 130 teenagers with tips and advice on understanding their emotional needs and how to meet them.

The charity delivered its Life Hacks for the Teenage Brain session to 100 students, which aims to teach young people how to manage their mental health and keep them on the wellbeing side of the mental health continuum. The sessions were delivered by Louise Harris, children, families and young people lead at Suffolk Mind.

She said: "It's incredibly important we learn from a young age how to manage our mental health and meet our emotional needs."

"Teenagers' brains experience significant changes as they grow older. And to ensure they are equipped to support their mental health into adulthood, awareness is key."

"These sessions are aimed at teaching young people to recognise the emotional needs they should meet to maintain positive wellbeing. By doing so, not only can they look after themselves, but they can also look out for their peers."



"It was good to see how the real design process happens and how links to other parts of the business" —Max Adderson

YEAR 12 BUSINESS AND DESIGN VISIT TO TEX

Year 12 Business and Product Design students visited Tex Group, a British Manufacturing Group with headquarters in Claydon. Students were welcomed by Greg Brown, CEO and Anna Palmer, HR Officer. Students were given an overview of the businesses in the group including Air Traffic Control Towers, plastic injection moulding, lightweight panels and piling hammers.

Students had a tour around the businesses based at Claydon, including watching the testing of a piling hammer with new remote control technology developed by BSP Tex and in the testing bays for marine generators at G&M Tex.

The business students were then hosted by the Head Office team, staff gave presentations on business finance, marketing and human resources including what employers look for in CV's.

The design students were hosted by members of the design team who explained the design process and how this fits in with other departments in the business. They looked at types of glass for air traffic control towers and the design of piling hammers.

Before returning to school Tex Group provided lunch for the students in the board room and provided a detailed Q+A session for students.

Year 12 said of the trip:

"It was a very informative experience; it was interesting to see what happens behind the scenes of a business."

— Harry Dring

"We were warmly welcomed by Tex Group staff and treated like adults."

— Max Hillier

"It was great to see how our learning applies in a real business."

— Will Brown

"I enjoyed seeing the designs in the office through to the actual end product and all processes in-between." — Max Durrant





INDUCTION DAYS 29-30TH JUNE 2023

Induction for all internal and external current Year 11 students for our Sixth Form year starting in September 2023 will commence on **the 29th—30th June**. We are looking forward to welcoming over a hundred applicants over the two days for a series of taster lessons and activities designed to introduce you to our sixth form.

Every lesson will be available for you to “hot seat” —meaning you can choose as many lessons as you like to visit on the day to get a feel for your choices. We will also be providing lunch and a series of games and activities that will give you the chance to get to know your potential classmates over the two years. We mix Year 12 and 13 together for lots of the activities so you can meet as many people as possible and also have a supportive, experienced student on hand to answer any questions.

We will send out a reminder in due course, but please arrive by **8.50am on both days** and we will meet you in the 6th Form Hall for a welcome and briefing. See you soon!!

WHAT IS UPLEARN?

You'll be pleased to hear that we have purchased an Up Learn licence for every student taking courses in Science and Mathematics subjects. Up Learn is a revolutionary online learning and revision platform for A Level with a big promise – top grades are guaranteed!

You now have access to hundreds of online video lessons and exam preparation materials covering your A Level course. Available any time on a computer, tablet or phone, you can use Up Learn to complement your learning in the classroom. For example:

- Use the introductory video lessons and practice questions to ease into new topics, break down complex material, and come to class ready to stretch your knowledge beyond the basics

- Reinforce what you're learning in lessons or catch up on any missed classes

- Challenge yourself with a topic quiz to make sure you're retaining course content, or refresh your knowledge over the holidays

- Start preparing for exams with how-to guides and practice papers, created exclusively for UpLearn by official examiners



KEY DATES

UCAS Trip 13th June

- Year 12 students will be attending the University of Suffolk for the national UCAS exhibition fair. They will get to meet a huge range of further education providers and apprenticeships to help them research options Post-18.

Year 12 Exams 19th June

- Year 12 will be on study leave this week for their final Year 12 exams.

YOUR MISSION
WANT TO KNOW
HOW TO START
APPLYING?



QUESTIONS TO GET YOU
STARTED AT **UCAS/DISCOVERY:**

- How do I apply for a university or college course?
- How do I apply for an apprenticeship?
- How many universities should I apply to?
- When do I need to apply by?
- How can I make my application stand out?



DISCOVER MORE
[UCAS.COM/MISSION-APPLY](https://ucas.com/mission-apply)

Write your own questions here:
