

# Stowupland High School

*"Outstanding Progress for All"*



15.9.2023

Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you for your patience over the delayed start to term as we re-roomed our timetable. The discovery of RAAC was extremely disappointing and frustrating given how much work had been undertaken in the school over the summer. Although there are certain areas of the school that we currently cannot use, the school has been repainted and new flooring has been installed in the gym. We will need to wait a little longer to benefit from the air conditioning and renewed heating which has been installed in D and E block.

I am very pleased that we have safely opened for all students after the summer break. Both students and staff have been very resilient and accepting of the changes. With students being reminded of how important The Stowupland Way is, especially as we uphold these values as we move around the school. Currently a substantial amount of work is being done on planning and sourcing temporary accommodation for the school. I will share more information about these arrangements as plans are confirmed. We also have a range of contractors on site to enable detailed surveying and engineering work to be carried out safely in the affected buildings.

We completed a full fire evacuation on Wednesday, which went very well with the students and

## Supporting Young People's Mental Health

Between September and December 2023 there is a number of free virtual workshops (Zoom) for parents/carers to help to support young people's mental health. Those workshops are designed to provide up to date advice and guidance on how parents and carers can support the young people in their life. Click [HERE](#) for more information.



## Whole School Clubs



At Stowupland High School we are offering a range of activities and clubs. Amongst those there are sports clubs like football, netball or fitness; performing arts clubs like choir, dance or musical theatre; a bit quieter clubs like board games club,

art club or friendship club. [Please check what's on offer during this term!](#)



## Lockers

Due to recent works taking place at school unfortunately we are unable to offer lockers to new students. We will communicate as soon as the lockers become available.

staff all be accounted for in a short amount of time, meeting our requirements. We will be having regular evacuation practices as the school site changes over the next few months.

Following the success of our summer exam series, Mr Terry has already started the preparation for next year. This week on Wednesday we hosted our Year 11 Information Evening. It was very well attended with standing room only. Students and their families heard lots of ideas about revision, next steps and the plan for their final year of compulsory education. There was also an opportunity at the end of the presentation to discuss the students' next steps. Our Director of 6th Form was there, along with a range of local colleges.

Today we have launched the booking site for our 2024 intake. All the details are on the website, along with a link to book onto our Tea and Tour mornings and the presentations held during year 6 information evening. Please share this information with any friends or relatives who have child starting year 6.

I would like to thank you all for your support with the schools drive to improve uniform and attendance. This is an important element of confirming the school's culture and ethos, our uniform gives students a sense of belonging and shared identity. We have been completing daily line ups for students, allowing checks to be made but also important daily messages to be shared. The students have responded well to these and it allows them to be focused ready for their learning to start. We will continue with this but I am pleased to report that students are looking a lot smarter.

Wishing you a restful weekend

Kind regards

David Brewster

Headteacher

### **Is my child too ill for school?**

It can be tricky deciding whether or not to keep your child off school, nursery or playgroup when they're unwell. Please see the NHS guidance by following the [LINK](#).

### **Reading tests**

We are currently in the process of conducting reading tests on students from years 7 to 11. Low reading skills are a common barrier to accessing the curriculum across all schools, and we of course want to foster a love of reading among our pupils. In the coming weeks you will receive notification of your child's reading age, but in the meantime here are some strategies we would ask you to adopt to encourage your child to read:

- Allow your child to choose what they want to read. Getting practice with an accessible text is better than giving up on a traditional book that is geared for more advanced readers.
- If you do find yourself offering suggestions, choose series rather than standalone books: the familiarity of a series can make it easier to understand the text and can reduce the negative feelings associated with starting a new reading task.
- Reading doesn't have to be from books. If your circumstances allow, buy your child magazines focused on areas that interest them, such as football or fashion. Allow them to choose comics or cookbooks if those are particular interests.
- Audiobooks can be a great way to engage your child in stories and storytelling. There is good evidence that even just listening to well-read stories can improve reading cadence and fluency.
- Model reading yourself: read as visibly and often as you can. Read the same book as your child so that you can discuss it!



### **Open Evening and Tea and Tours**

We are delighted to be able to invite Year 6 students and their families to our school for an open evening on 28th September. We are also offering 'Tea & Tours' with the Headteacher or Deputy Head on various mornings starting on 21st September.

Please spread the word!

For more information or to book a visit, please visit [www.stowuplandhighschool.co.uk](http://www.stowuplandhighschool.co.uk)



<b>Contact Details:</b>	
<b>Main School:</b>	01449 674827 (08.30am - 4.00pm)
<b>Pastoral emails:</b>	<a href="mailto:year7@stowuplandhighschool.co.uk">year7@stowuplandhighschool.co.uk</a>
	<a href="mailto:year8@stowuplandhighschool.co.uk">year8@stowuplandhighschool.co.uk</a>
	<a href="mailto:year9@stowuplandhighschool.co.uk">year9@stowuplandhighschool.co.uk</a>
	<a href="mailto:year10@stowuplandhighschool.co.uk">year10@stowuplandhighschool.co.uk</a>
	<a href="mailto:year11@stowuplandhighschool.co.uk">year11@stowuplandhighschool.co.uk</a>
	<a href="mailto:sixthform@stowuplandhighschool.co.uk">sixthform@stowuplandhighschool.co.uk</a>
<b>General:</b>	<a href="mailto:enquiries@stowuplandhighschool.co.uk">enquiries@stowuplandhighschool.co.uk</a>
<b>Cashless catering:</b>	<a href="mailto:accounts@stowuplandhighschool.co.uk">accounts@stowuplandhighschool.co.uk</a>
<b>Library:</b>	<a href="mailto:library@stowuplandhighschool.co.uk">library@stowuplandhighschool.co.uk</a>
<b>Attendance:</b>	<a href="mailto:attendance@stowuplandhighschool.co.uk">attendance@stowuplandhighschool.co.uk</a>
<b>Absence Line:</b>	01449 742428
<b>Website:</b>	<a href="http://www.stowuplandhighschool.co.uk">www.stowuplandhighschool.co.uk</a>

Term Dates 2023-24		Half Term	Non Student Days
<b>Autumn Term 2023</b>	4th September - 20th December	23rd - 27th Oct	4th September
<b>Spring Term 2024</b>	3rd January - 28th March	19th—23rd Feb	5th September 24th November
<b>Summer Term 2024</b>	12th April - 19th July	27th May - 31st May	3rd January 19th July

Church Road Stowupland Stowmarket IP14 4BQ

Headteacher: Mr David Brewster

Chair of Local Board: Mr Andrew Fell