

# Stowupland High School

“Outstanding Progress for All”



02/02/24

Dear Parents and Carers

As you may have seen, there have been a number of stories published in the local media about the school and the steps we are taking to improve the behaviour and culture at Stowupland following our last Ofsted report.

I would like to stress there have been no changes to the school's policies surrounding behaviour. What we are trying to achieve is better implementation of the current school rules, with the aim of creating a polite and welcoming environment for learning where students can thrive.

There has been some negative press around Barry Smith, who has been brought in as part of a wider programme of improvement at the school to advise staff on how to implement rules on behaviour.

You may have also been concerned by stories in the national press about his previous work. We would like to make clear he is here to support us in the school's improvement purely in a coaching capacity. He does not have the authority to implement any changes to our policies or issue any form of detention. These responsibilities remain solely with teaching staff and senior leaders.

## Year 9 and 10 February half-term course

The Routes into STEM Virtual course allows students Yr9 & 10 and S3 & S4 to recognise the variety of opportunities available to them after taking their GCSEs or Nat 5 and Highers, it will provide them access to key information on different pathways; college, university and STEM career. Diverse live interactive sessions will take place throughout the duration of the course, these will be available during school holidays and after school. Students will be able to listen and ask questions to a variety of STEM professionals and student ambassadors. Students will also choose from a range of exciting projects, developed by our University and Industry partners, to work on during the course.

Click [HERE](#) for more information.



## Important information regarding Household Support Fund discretionary grant

Suffolk County Council (SCC) is pleased to confirm a further discretionary grant is available to support low-income families over the February half term and Easter holiday 2024. The grant will be issued as a £45 supermarket voucher for each eligible child from our provider Pluxee to cover both the February half term (£15) and Easter holidays (£30) and is designed to help families with their essential living costs during the holiday. To ensure that SCC meets the reporting requirements of the Household Support Fund, you will need to redeem all vouchers by Friday 12 April 2024. Voucher redemption after this date will not be possible as the fund for 2023/24 will be closed. SCC aim to have all vouchers sent to recipients by Thursday 15 February 2024. If you have not received the vouchers by this date or in the event of any queries regarding the vouchers, then please contact our team at [freeschoolmeals@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:freeschoolmeals@suffolk.gov.uk), rather than speaking to the school directly.

Mr Smith is a hugely experienced school leader, who has had great success in improving the behaviour at schools across the country and we too are already seeing improvements in our school environment.

I am of course happy to speak with any parent or carer who has concerns.

I am pleased to confirm that our Year 9 Options evening has now been rescheduled for after half term. I will be writing to Year 9 parents separately but the date for your diary is the 28th February. Students will be provided with the options booklet before half term and the final deadline will be the 20th March.

We have also enhanced our outside space this week, with the area between our temporary classroom village and the school no longer being used for car parking. We have moved some benches into this area and our students are using this space to gather in the morning before school.

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind you of the change of arrangements at the end of the Easter break. The school will be closed for students on the 12th April and will be fully open as usual on Monday the 15th. This extra day will give families a full 2 week break and will also allow us to run an additional Professional Development Day.

Have a good weekend

Mr David Brewster

## Tackling Hate Speech Online

Visit the Internet Matters website by following this [LINK](#)

FOR PARENTS & CARERS  
Empowering young people with additional learning needs to connect safely online

### Tackling hate speech online

Although governments and organisations are working hard to remove hate speech online, with so many people sharing their views online, it can be hard to stop it altogether.  
Get right on how to help your child tackle online extremism and hate speech.

**What makes young people more vulnerable to extremist views?**  
Children and young people are especially vulnerable to online hate. If your child is:

- Struggling with a **sense of identity**
- **Becoming distanced** from their cultural or religious background
- **Questioning** their place in society
- Experiencing **family problems**
- Experiencing a **traumatic event or bereavement**
- **Experiencing racism or discrimination** to do with disabilities or difficulties
- Having difficulty in **interacting socially**
- **Having difficulty feeling empathy** or understanding the consequences of their actions
- Struggling with **mental health issues**
- Going through a period of **low self-esteem**

They may encounter hate speech or extreme views and become drawn in by a sense of belonging to a group. Our research shows that young people who are vulnerable offline are also vulnerable online. They're more susceptible to people who want to influence them, and also more likely to try to be like the others to be accepted as a friend.

The online space can be anonymous and users cannot see the effect of what they have said on the recipient. This can mean people act without the restraints they would normally have face to face. Being behind the screen can take away people's usual inhibitions. For some who are easily swayed, this can mean they adopt the attitudes and beliefs of a group they join online. Often young people are more vulnerable to radicalisation as they are more trusting and susceptible to this type of grooming.

There have also been cases where through 'mate crime' vulnerable people have been targeted with the intention of taking advantage of their isolation to exploit them.

Social media's big names can have unpleasant views or promote unhealthy fitness products and diets

**Some young people follow their idols, stars, vloggers and other social media influencers.** They feel they know and adore this person who has 'let them into their life'. However, it is possible that some of these people will hold unacceptable views, or promote unproven diets or unsuitable products.

**How will I know whether my child's favourite social media channel is safe?**  
**You won't be able to watch everything that is said 24/7** so you might consider reading about this social media star on other websites, interviews, and reviews. Ask your child what they like about this person, watch a few videos together and keep talking to your child about staying safe, values, and wellbeing

**What should I do if my child is exposed to hate speech by other young people?**  
**EducateAgainstHate.com** - provides advice for parents if their child encounters extreme views. You can also see [Tackling online hate and trolling: parent guide for more advice](#).

If the hate speech is from other students at your child's school, keep the evidence and report it to the school in a written form, email or letter. Ask for a meeting, and at the meeting ask how the school will act in line with The Equality Act 2010 and your child's right to be safe.

If the hate speech is from someone known to your child who is not at the same school, it may be a matter for the police if it is persistent.

**Keep the evidence. Block or restrict the sender and report it to the social media platform.**

**educate.against.hate**

[www.internetmatters.org/connecting-safely-online](http://www.internetmatters.org/connecting-safely-online)  
InternetMatters | @internetmatters | @im\_org

Internet matters.org  
Supported by FACEBOOK

For more information and support please also visit:

<https://www.educateagainsthate.com/> and <https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/tackling-online-hate-and-trolling/>

# SPORT NEWS

Fixture	Date	Report
U13 Girls' Cup	30/01	We agreed to play 2 x 25 minute halves. In the 1st half Freya L-J managed to score from a tight angle, 1-0. But, the opposition (Bungay High School) were quick to react, 1-1. At half-time I/we voiced our areas for improvement such as proximity, decisiveness, drive, defending, chances, positioning, desire, responsiveness and work rate. In the 2nd half they continued to score despite relentlessness demonstrated by Emily C, 1-2 and 1-3. Faye N also made some important clearances, well done. It was quite a difficult game, both physically and mentally. I would like to thank our match official (Barney H) and his assistant (Jack B) as well as the supporters.

## Upcoming fixtures

Date	Who	Sport	Vs.
5/02	Year 11 Girls	Football (H)	
7/02	Year 10 Boys	Rugby (A)	Ipswich High School
7/02	U13 Girls	Football (H)	ESFA Schools' Cup
8/02	Year 9 Boys	Rugby (A)	Stowmarket Rugby Club

**IMPORTANT: If your child is taking part in any sports fixtures, please look out for an email to give consent for student to take part. These can be announced very last minute so we would appreciate your prompt action. You will find the consent box within Arbor under Activities/Trips.**

# Contact and Dates

## DATES FOR THE DIARY

### February

12 Feb—Year 9 vaccinations (MenACWY / DTP)

12 Feb—Year 11 Doctors' Show, history trip

14 Feb—Year 9 Parents' Evening

14 Feb—Mulberry - Suffolk Schools Lego Education

16 Feb-25 Feb—Ski Trip

17 Feb-25 Feb—Half Term

28 Feb—Year 9 Options Evening

29 Feb—Frozen - Winter Arts Showcase Reward Trip

### Contact Details:

<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 5th September
<b>Spring Term 2024</b>	3rd January - 28th March	19th—23rd Feb	24th November 3rd January
<b>Summer Term 2024</b>	12th April - 19th July	27th May - 31st May	<b>12th April</b> 19th July

Church Road Stowupland Stowmarket IP14 4BQ

Headteacher: Mr David Brewster

Chair of Local Board: Mr Andrew Fell