

Stowupland High School

"Outstanding Progress for All"

Rights Responsibilities Respect



Learning Village

29 March 2024

Message from the Headteacher

28 March 2024

In my 24 years of experience working in education both as a Senior Leader and a Trust advisor I am not sure I have ever experienced such a rapid change in a school over a short amount of time.

This term we have seen the impact of our ongoing work on the School's Culture and Ethos. Our CEO has remarked on how much more welcoming and friendly the school is now. I met with the student council this week to get some student feedback on the changes we have made. They could all see the positive difference in how the school is working. They felt safer and they were liking the quieter more focused lesson time along with the newly introduced rewards system. We all agree that the facilities available at wet weather times need further enhancing which we will work towards before next Autumn.

It is not only how the school operates that has changed. Our school site continues to develop and recover from the RAAC issue. Our Learning village, a centre for 7 standard classrooms, 2 large indoor spaces and 7 fully equipped Science Labs will be fully open for the summer term. The 2 small areas of RAAC have been removed from the school building and these areas are currently being finished to enable them to be handed back to the school. Unfortunately, the RAAC in main Science and Humanities block will take a lot longer to resolved. However, we are now on the Dfe list for rebuilding or refurbishment which will ensure this will happen.

As always at these points of the year we need to say goodbye to some colleagues, Dr Bouche and Mr Cullum are moving on to new posts. Mr Cullum will continue to teach Maths but is moving to be closer to his family. He was a key person in re-establishing our D of E programme which I am grateful for. I hope he continues with this passion when he is in his new role.

Mrs Cranfield is also moving on, to work closer to home. She has been an amazing support for so many students and staff during her time at Stowupland. I am sure the Progress team will miss her. Mrs McLauchlan who has worked at the school for 8 years as our reprographics technician is leaving to retire. Despite all our best intentions of allowing plenty of notice for work to be completed Mrs McLauchlan has become an expert at juggling and fulfilling those last minute copying jobs. I am sure she will enjoy her retirement

I would like to thank you for your support and understanding this term as we have changed various systems and procedures. We know as a school we have further work to do and we will continue to communicate any further changes in the new term. Our staff training day on the 12th is planned to ensure we are consistent with our application of SLANT, SHAPE and STEPS across the school. We will continue to model and teach the students, so they are meeting our expectations and receiving lots of Merits and Golden Tickets.

The school gate will continue to be opened at 8:35. I am often the person who meet students. It is a great way to start the day as most students greet me with a good, clear "good morning sir". I will have the opportunity to meet even more of them after Easter as the back gate will remain locked in the morning. As I have written previously, this is to maximise the security of the school site.

Mr Brewster

Message from the Headteacher

The School council raised concerns over the number of cyclists who currently use the back gate, so we will monitor their arrival using the front gate and ensure they can still easily access the cycle storage facilities.

With all the changes and building work that has been completed it still surprises me on how many fixtures, trips and visits we have fitted in over the term. We regularly have 3 or 4 sports fixtures a week, our first bi-annual ski trip was a success despite the huge amount of snow that fell on the last night. We have had theatre trips, D of E Silver expedition, a maths trip, along with our 6th form students heading to Beyton to use their science labs on a regular basis.

Although our lunchtime clubs were temporarily suspended during this term, we now have lots of proposals for clubs and activities at lunchtime which Mr Tanswell will be emailing the details out separately. The aim will be to get these up and running in the new term but there will be a google form shared as a sign up system.

All of this would not be possible without all the brilliant staff in our school. They go above and beyond every day to ensure the students can study in a community where they feel safe and give them opportunities that enrich their curriculum outside the normal school day. I would like to thank them all for everything they do for our school community, both supporting the students and each other.

I wish you all a Happy Easter and a restful holiday.

David Brewster

Mr Brewster

ELSA Programme



Over the past two terms we have started to roll out the ELSA programme for students. ELSA stands for emotional literacy support assistant and we are lucky to have 2 practicing ELSA's within the school - Mrs Mildinhall and Ms Whitelegg. The ELSA programme helps students to develop their understanding of their feelings and behaviours, social communication skills and tools, re-

lationship building, helpful school friendly strategies, building self esteem and confidence. The summer term will see more students being able to access this 6 week programme and benefit from this form of therapeutic intervention.

The summer term will also see the piloting of a new psychoeducation programme designed to grown and enhance resilience for education. The programme is 12 weeks and is delivered by a trained RESTA (resilience for education support teaching assistant) on a 121 basis with students referred by their progress and pastoral team. This intervention focusses on building resilience through exploring relationships, motivation for change, barriers and how to over come them and increasing psychological empowerment and flexibility.

Both these programmes support the students' wellbeing both for school but also every day life and we are excited to support students this way.

For more information on these programmes, please contact your child's progress team.

Tuesday after school clubs - summer term

We will be offering tennis, athletics, fitness and striking and fielding on a Tuesday after school. These activities will run for summer terms 1 and 2. The clubs start at 3.45pm and finish at 4.40pm.

Frozen Trip

On Thursday 29th Feb we took 41 students to London to watch the west end performance of Frozen. This was a truly spectacular performance. The students got to witness first hand a high quality musical which inspired and motivated them. All students were a credit to them.



Visiting Cambridge Professor Conference

Stowupland High School was proud to welcome and play host to a visiting Professor from Cambridge University. On Friday 9th February Professor Emeritus Colin Taylor kindly gave his time to discuss with students from year 11 to 13 his research and career. This gave students a real insight into how research is conducted and what a degree course in a science could lead to. The Professor was happy to take candid questions from our students and has offered to further enhance our enrichment offer to students.

We were releasing some first year 'mini-lectures' on Cell biology for students to watch and then ask follow-up questions when he attended our support sessions after school on Thursdays.

We are very much looking forward to working with our guest going forwards.

Mulberry students have put a 'spring in their step' this term by counting their steps as part of a 'Step into March' initiative. SENDAT schools and their families have been uploading their step count in an attempt to be named the most active provision. KS3 also enjoyed participating in a Tchoukball tournament at Priory School in Bury St Edmunds and they are frequently involved in table tennis matches. This sport has become a hugely popular in Mulberry and there is fierce competition amongst the students.

KS4 have had regular visits to The Mix in Stowmarket, where colleagues from the wider community have supported the students in thinking about their futures beyond school. College applications and interviews are well under way for the Year 11s as they prepare for their next steps.

We have been delighted to receive support from the Stowupland Biodiversity Project, which has included wild flower seeds and the construction of two large planters. We look forward to growing some of our own produce and benefitting from the health and well-being benefits of gardening.

Finally, we celebrated all things Spanish during another of our cultural days, which included making Gaudi-esque mosaics and a Spanish themed drumming led by Joe from WeDrum. Parents, carers and visitors were entertained by a performance full of Spanish passion and flare.



I hope that this newsletter finds you and your families safe and well. The last few weeks seem to have flown by and it is hard to believe that Year 7 students are half way through their first year at high school! They have, once again, coped with so much going on and proven to be prepared for the many challenges presented to them in a new school setting. In no time, they will be the ones showing the next generation of Year 7s how to do it!

It is a pleasure to share recent successes of our students in the following areas.
Stowupland way points top 10

Hannah C - 569!!!
Elodie G - 550
Imogen RW - 540
Texas W - 540
Maisy L - 522
Isabelle P - 506
Adel K - 494
Izzy S - 492
Isabella H - 488
Sam T 484

Well done to all of the students who have been awarded positive points this half term.

Tutor group

7DJO have gained the most points as a tutor group since starting in September - an amazing 12,595 as a group total. In second place is 7KST with 12,041 points and third place goes to 7LSA with 12,004 points in total. Thanks to all of the Year 7 tutors for all of their hard work with their groups.

Attendance

Year 7 have managed to maintain an average attendance of 94.4% since the start of the school year in September and above the current national average of 91.1% to date. This is an increase on last year as well so well done everyone: this is a wonderful achievement and we thank everyone for their efforts and hard work in following the guidance regarding attendance at school.

With still half a year to go and so much to look forward to in the coming months, Mrs Rolfe and I would like to say how much we are looking forward to working with you all. If we can be of any help to you or you need to get in touch, the email address that will get you straight to the Year 7 Progress Team is: year7@stowuplandhighschool.co.uk

Take care of each other, stay safe and have a relaxing, well deserved half term break.

Mrs Brand, Progress Leader and Mrs Rolfe, Assistant Progress Leader

Over the Spring term Year 8 have again shown enthusiasm and dedication to their studies. They have worked hard across academic subjects whilst also showing their creativity through Art, Design and Music and have shown success in a range of sporting competitions. Year 8 have worked hard showing determination and commitment in order to achieve their best which was reflected in the Autumn Term Rewards assembly.

Autumn Term Celebration Assembly

As part of the end of term celebration assembly students are awarded certificates of commendation in subjects where they have consistently shown hard work and dedication to their learning. A number of students have received awards in more than 1 subject which include:

Students who were nominated for 4 awards: Aimee C, Conor B, Evie A, Finn T, Jess S, Sam E,

Students who were nominated for 5 awards: Aimee B, Dylan F,

Students who were nominated for 6 awards: Amelia J, Ruben P

A large number of students also received 1, 2 or 3 awards; a total of 159 subject certificates have been awarded this term. A very well done to them all.

Behaviour Points

At the time of compiling results the students who were in the top 3 positions in Year 8 were:

1st – Georgiana P, 2nd – Aimee B, 3rd – Dylan F

Well done to all, you should be very proud of yourselves, you have clearly shown a consistent approach to lessons.

Tutor Award

Each term, tutors nominate a tutee who they feel represents the form well and deserve recognition for their effort and the value they add to their form class. The students who received the tutor nomination this term were:

8CBO – Finn T, 8KBL – Mark O, 8KKN – Jess S, 8LBL – Aimee B, 8ADA – Ruby W, 8TPA – George W, 8KTO – Amelia J.

Progress Leader Award

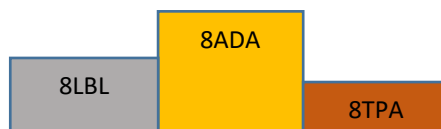
As well as the above each term myself and Mrs Cranfield, Assistant Progress Leader, choose 1 student to give the Progress Leader Award to and for the Spring Term we chose to give it to Georgiana P. We chose Georgiana because she always has a positive attitude and will do anything to help and support others both in lessons and in social times. She is enthusiastic and hardworking in lessons and always tries her best whilst maintaining a positive approach both in and out of lessons and we are proud of the way in which she conducts herself and the example she sets to others.

Well done Georgiana, keep up the good work.

Progress Leader: Mrs Morley

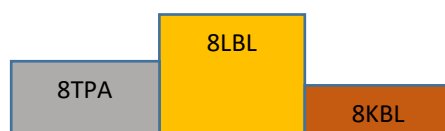
Tutor Group Attendance Award

Well done to 8ADA for winning the best tutor group attendance in Year 8 so far.



Tutor Group Positive Points Award

Congratulations to 8LBL for winning the most positive points award in Spring term!



Mrs Cranfield has been an Assistant Progress Leader, and previously the Attendance Officer at Stowupland High School for the last 4 years. She has worked tirelessly over the years to ensure that our students have received the best care, attention and support when required. Her enthusiastic approach has been loved by all and she never fails to raise a smile; even from those who are reluctant. Unfortunately Mrs Cranfield is moving on to pastures new and, while she will be greatly missed, we wish her all the best for the future.

From Mrs Cranfield

Wow! I cannot believe my journey at Stowupland High School has come to an end. I have loved working with all the students, their families and the staff. I will miss you all. Follow your dreams and I hope to see my year 8 group at their prom! Be good to Mrs Morley.

Thanks to everyone, I miss you.

Mrs Cranfield

We are all looking forward to seeing what the new term will bring for year 8 and we wish you all a restful spring holiday.

Happy Easter from the Year 8 Progress Team!
Mrs Morley & Mrs Cranfield

Progress Leader: Mrs Morley

We hope this newsletter finds you well and you are excited for the upcoming Easter Holidays. At the moment in Year 9, there is a real buzz around GCSE option choices and lots of students are excited to find out if they have got their preferred options. To support with this process, we held an Options Evening and we hope that you found this useful. We also held our first face-to-face parents evening in February, and it was lovely to have the opportunity to meet many of you and welcome you into the school.

Spring Term Celebration Assembly

As ever, we held our end of term assembly and a number of students have received recognition for demonstrating an excellent attitude to learning, making fantastic progress and representing the Stowupland Way in lessons. Students who received this nomination will have been given a certificate to represent this recognition, so we hope those students have proudly shown these off at home.

Behaviour Points Award

The students who were in the top 3 positions for behaviour points in the year group at the end of Spring Term are:

1st – Chloe F (859 points), 2nd – Chloe F (845 points), 3rd – Jasmine W (835 points)

Tutor Award

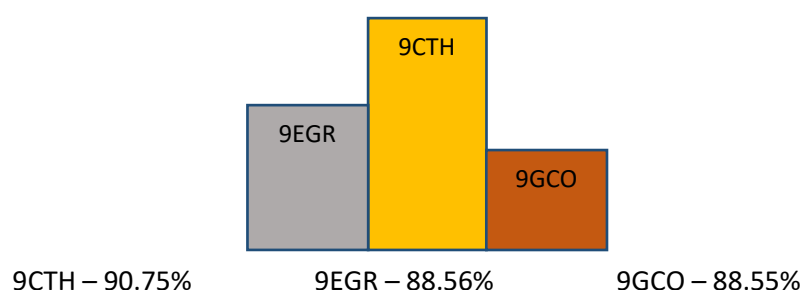
The students who were nominated to receive recognition for their contributions to their form class are:

9CTH – Oakley S, 9EGR – Olivia S, 9GCO – Ethan B, 9JGA – Vince W, 9RTR – Albert C, 9TAJ – Gabby B

Progress Leader Award

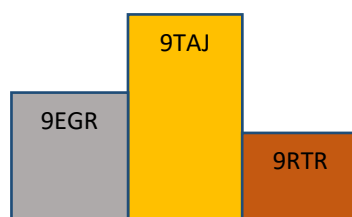
This term I have decided to give the Progress Leader Award to Aakash T. He is a lovely young man who is proactive and enthusiastic about his studies. Aakash will always greet staff and students with a smile on his face and is warm, welcoming and friendly. He is incredibly polite and a very caring young man and is great support to his friends. He is kind and polite and really cares about doing well. I am so proud of the young man you are, Aakash, I am confident you will go far with your fantastic attitude. Well done.

Tutor Group Attendance Award



Progress Leader: Miss Brownsell

Tutor Group Positive Points Award



9TAJ – 15,886

9EGR – 15,638

9RTR – 15,595

As we look forward to the summer term, some exciting dates in the diary are the Year 9 Battlefields trip which is taking place on 26th April, Sports Day on 10th July and the Year 9 Rewards Trip on 11th July.

Wishing you a lovely Easter Break and we look forward to welcoming students back on Monday 15th April, 2024.

Miss Brownsell

Progress Leader: Miss Brownsell

This term students have been busy arranging placements for work experience at the end of the year and I'm thankful to all the parents that I know will have been supporting our students in getting placements sorted.

As we look forward to the summer term, in one of my recent assemblies I asked students just to reflect on the year we are having. Huge changes to the school site, improvements to daily routines and procedures, the increased focus on being polite and respectful to staff at all times, alongside the most important part of all....preparing for our GCSE exams!

It's not been an easy start to year 10, but I'm not surprised at all that most of the year group is adapting well to the current changes in school. It highlights just how many of our community already have these skills we want all our students to display on a daily basis. This is also reflected by how many students have made it onto the reward trip this year and I hope that with an improved offer of trips, more students are able to choose something they like. That being said, the current changes are not easy for everyone of course and you haven't already reached out for support for anyone struggling for any reason, please do contact your child's form tutor to arrange a discussion about how we can support.

With better weather, comes more social space, brighter mornings and hopefully sunnier walks home. Alongside work experience, the Year 10 summer core subject assessments lie ahead, so look out for more information on those so we can help our young people prepare well and go into year 11 with a head start.

Top Behaviour Points/Merits for Spring Term:

1. Daisy-May M
2. Brooke S
3. Fenix L

Tutor Awards for being totally excellent (Spring Term):

Alex M	MBN
Alfie A	TWA
Alfie W	TTA/SGO
Daisy P	NFA
Ellie C	NAL
Isaac S-G	SBR
Mia W	DTU

Enjoy your break!

The momentum of Year 11 has been increasing since Christmas and students are really are rising to the challenge. During the mocks before Christmas a few students discussed their concerns about revision and exams skills. As a result of this we commissioned a company i have had experience of before to run a two hour workshop for the students. This focussed on how to revise, quick wins in exams and methods to control stress levels, please ask your child to discuss some of these to help remind them especially the “polo” strategy.



As we finish for Easter students will be receiving their latest results for English, maths and Science. I am hoping that these results and papers will start to show students where they need to focus their efforts.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate students on just how well they did moving into and out of exams as well as obviously throughout the exams, the feedback from the exams team has been fantastic. The only area we need to work on is students making sure they have enough stationary for the exam they are sitting and where needed a calculator.

Revision planners

Last week students were given a revision booklet with planners for each week up to the end of the exam period. Students should be completing these as per the example so they can ensure planning is appropriate, Tutors should see these once a week to allow them to support students.

Please ask your child to share these with you so you can help support or challenge where appropriate. You will notice the revision timetable finishes at 8-9pm as we want students to rest and relax before bed.

Video casts

As we start the Easter break we have created a series of videocasts to support you over the next 3 months. The focus of each video is to provide a different focus with each lasting approximately 10 minutes. You would have received a separate email with details on the last day of term.

End of year arrangements

As we get closer to the exams I just wanted to confirm to you that a final date for study leave will be confirmed after Easter. In the run up to half term students will be expected to attend all lessons as per their timetable, the school is not able to facilitate any students out of lessons. Between exams students will return to lessons where staff will support revision.

I suspect your Prom preparation is in full flow with dress and suit shopping starting, I would just like to take this opportunity to remind all parents that places will be removed for uniform and behaviour violations. The last thing the pastoral team want is to remove invites so please support us in the last few weeks.

Have a great Easter

Mr Terry

Sixth Form Gardening Club

Over the past year, Gardening Club has made a great deal of progress. With help from generous external volunteers we have managed to build a shed and 4 raised beds. This means that this year we will be able to grow a lot more produce. We have a large team of Sixth Formers who assist every week and we will be beginning to plant new crops soon



We are held back by a lack of equipment with many volunteers being unable to help as there aren't enough tools to go around.

We would be very grateful to anyone who wishes to donate old or unwanted tools, seeds or money to support our activities.

Please take any donations to the main reception.

Gardening Club President—Mr Harry Dring



PE and School Sport Newsletter

‘A spring term full of activities’

It has been another extremely busy term with lots of fixtures and events going on for our students to participate and compete in. Please see below a summary of our students' successes this term:

Cross Country – round 2 of the Suffolk Schools Cross Country at Woodbridge School (11th January 2024).

10 competitors from Stowupland successfully qualified for round 2 of the Suffolk Schools Cross Country championships hosted at Woodbridge School. The course was extremely tough going and competitors were also faced with some very cold conditions. Despite this, our students applied themselves brilliantly and gained valuable experience.

Minor Girls: Isabelle P 53rd, Charlotte H 66th
Minor Boys: Adison C 61st, Ollie J 59th

Junior Boys: Florin B 91st, Harvey G 95th,
Noah G 98th

Inter Girls: May R 47th, Alicia B 75th
Inter Boys: Sydney W 39th

Football

Our boys football teams have ALL had impressive cup runs this year. As I write this section our Year 10 football team are now through to the semi-final of the County Cup. They are scheduled to play Kesgrave High School on Monday 15th April at Kesgrave for a 2.30pm kick-off.

Our girls football teams have equally had impressive cup runs this year. The Year 7 girls have qualified for the West Suffolk cup final and the Year 8 girls were unlucky not to progress further in this competition, narrowly losing out on penalties against OSA.

Rugby

This term we have had a number of rugby teams that have had the opportunity to compete in both the West Suffolk and Suffolk Schools competitions. All of our teams have made an excellent account of themselves. Well done to all of those students that have been involved in representing our rugby teams this term.

Sports hall athletics

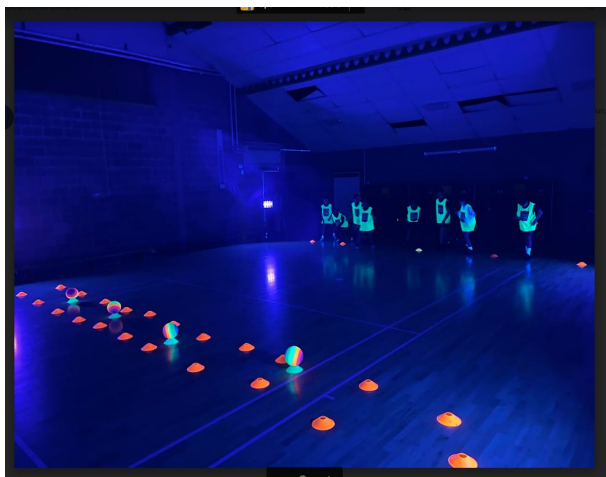
We have also had students represent the school at the local indoor athletic competitions. All of our teams have competed well at these events and gained valuable experience.

Futsal

The futsal teams have had some good results this term and some of our teams came agonisingly close to qualifying for the county finals.

UV Sports

The School Sports Partnership coordinated by Mr Hopkin-Jones came in on Wednesday 14th February to run some taster sessions in glow in the dark dodgeball. KS3 and KS4 PE groups had a great time taking part in these games. We are hoping to hire this equipment again next term.

**All England Badminton Trip**

On Thursday 14th March we took 98 students to Birmingham to watch the All England Badminton championships. Students were able to watch a number of singles, doubles and mixed doubles matches. A great time was had by all and our students were all absolute pleasure to take.



Finally, congratulations to all of the following students for being awarded a sports direct voucher for their outstanding contribution towards either PE and School Sport and/or dance this term:

Year 7 – Michael W and Hazel A

Year 8 – Dylan F and Jessica S

Year 9 – Douglas W and Marcy B

Year 10 – Luke J and Mia W

Year 11 – Sydney W and Ellie S

Mulberry – Felix T and Frankie M

Wishing you all a lovely Easter holiday.

Mr Broom and the PE Department



Austria Ski Trip 2024

February Half Term saw “Stowupland on Tour” to Salzburg, Austria. 41 students accompanied by Mr Sim, Miss Brownsell, Mr Garrett, Mr Walters & Miss Tapscott started their 24-hour journey to the Austrian mountains. After our mammoth journey we made it to our destination and settled into our rooms. After a good sleep we donned a lot of ski wear, made our way to the cable cars and up we went, watching the green fields disappear and entering snow territory. We were met with crisp white snow and the excitement of stepping out of our comfort zone and trying something new.

Despite some spectacular falls (some even caught on video), we had a fantastic week, learning how to handle the ski's, manoeuvre in the snow, pick

up speed, snow plough, turn corners and most importantly how to stop. We had first time skiers all the way up to our experienced group, all of which made huge progress and it was brilliant to see them whizzing around on the slopes. Our evening entertainment included things like a pizza night and a big quiz run by Mr Walters, as well as a lot of Uno games.



The trip was a huge success, we are very proud of all the young people who came with us, they were a pleasure to spend time with and did Stowupland High School proud. We really look forward to running this trip again in the future.