

Stowupland High School

December 2024



Wishing you a Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year!

From all at Stowupland High School



Oxlip

LEARNING
PARTNERSHIP



Message from the Principal

School Performance Tables

We discovered last week that in the latest school performance tables, Stowupland High School has moved from its previous (2023) category of 'Below Average' to 'Average' in 2024. Our Progress 8 score (which compares the expected results of students based on their Key Stage 2 scores with their actual results across 8 qualifications including English and Maths) has moved from -0.23 to -0.13. This means that when comparing all of the schools in England we have average results, rather than below average.

Whilst we would obviously like to be above average in terms of the progress our students make, we feel this is very much a step in the right direction this year.

You can see our entry in the Performance Tables [here](#).

And for the scores for all secondary schools in Suffolk, please click [here](#).

Sporting successes

I am very grateful to our superb PE team who have prepared our students to compete in such a range of sports this term. You can read more about these elsewhere in this newsletter but some victories of note were:

U12 Girls Football (West Suffolk Cup): The year 7 girls team won 8-2 against Thurston Community College.

U14 Girls Football (County Cup): The girls achieved a convincing 4-1 win against Thurston High School.

U16 Boys Football: The Year 11 boys team achieved an outstanding 3-1 victory against Northgate in the 3rd round of the National Cup. The team also delivered an impressive 7-2 win against Sybil Andrews in the County Cup.

U13 Boys Football: The team secured a resounding 8-1 win against Thomas Gainsborough in the West Suffolk Cup.

U14 Girls Football: The team achieved a strong 7-2 victory against County Upper in the Suffolk Schools Cup, progressing to the 3rd round.



Message from the Principal

Winter Showcase

This was a wonderful evening, and a superb way to celebrate the festive season. I am constantly impressed by the talents of our students, and it was terrific to see so many of them involved in singing, dancing, acting and musical performance in our Winter Showcase. My sincere thanks to all of the staff who gave up their time and expertise to produce such a wonderful set of performances.



Student Leadership

This term has seen the election of student leaders and the interviewing and selection of Year 10 and 11 Prefects. The student leadership team have supported the school in a range of events, and they have helped to organise and distribute hot chocolate and for staff on the final day of term.



Thinking about the future

Students have had opportunities to reflect on their future progression this half term. Year 9 students visited the Suffolk Skills Show, where they met a wide range of employers and developed their skills in an array of sectors. Our Futures Fair took place at the start of December, and enabled Year 10 and 11 students to talk to staff from different industries, colleges and universities and find out about future opportunities

Duke of Edinburgh

Well done to the 19 students from Year 10 undertook a Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award expedition in Thetford Forest, braving the November cold!

Celebrating results

We welcomed back last year's Year 11 students for a wonderful evening to celebrate their successes, distribute achievement certificates and awards and find out how they have been getting on since they left us in July.



Thank you all for your support and encouragement this term. I hope you have a wonderful Christmas break.



Upcoming Events & Reminders

Clubs Spring term

Please see our clubs schedule for the Spring term by visiting our [website](#). Clubs will start immediately on the first week back (w/c Tuesday 7th January). Please ensure you sign up to take part in a club via the Arbor app by 09:00 Monday 6th January 2025. Students who were participating in a club last term who would like to continue next term, must sign up again to participate during the Spring term.

Mock Trial

Exciting Opportunity for Year 8 and 9 students: Join the Magistrates' Court Mock Trial Competition!

We are excited to announce that our school will be taking part in the Magistrates' Court Mock Trial Competition, organised by Young Citizens. This event offers students aged 12 to 14 a chance to explore the legal world, understand the justice system, and develop invaluable skills.

What is the Competition?

Students take on courtroom roles—magistrates, lawyers, witnesses, and court staff—to prepare and present a criminal case. Teams compete against other schools, with winners advancing to regional rounds.

Why Take Part?

Learn About Law: Gain insight into how the justice system works.

Develop Key Skills: Build confidence, teamwork, and public speaking skills.

Make Memories: Take part in a fun and rewarding experience.

How to Get Involved

No legal knowledge is needed—just enthusiasm! Come to A03 on Wednesday lunchtimes to find out more and start preparing.

Don't miss this fantastic opportunity to develop your skills and be part of something special!



Book Fair

Thank you very much for supporting our Book Fair this half term. Most students in the school were able to visit and showed great interest in the new books. Thanks to your generosity, we gained nearly £230 of rewards to buy books for the school library. During the fair, I asked the students which books they would like, and some of these will soon be on the shelves. Students who were unable to buy the books will be able to borrow them from the library.

It was really lovely to be able to show the new space to the students who have not yet had a chance to visit. I look forward to seeing them more often for the clubs and browsing sessions.

Mrs Shaw,
Librarian

Year 10 Design

I would like to pass on some praise for my Year 10 Design students for the recent project they have just completed.

This was a set task to make a small, wooden jewellery box, using a variety of hand and power tools. The focus was on accuracy and precision and all students achieved some impressive results. Particular goes to Chloe F, Nieve K, Daisy H, Lewis H, Ollie M, Levi B, Lewis B, Jack L and Connor F.

Mr Garrett

Fundraising

We have been actively fundraising in support of the Diabetic Paediatric Units at Bury St Edmunds and Colchester Hospitals. We are underway with fundraising efforts to support the specialist teams who provide their services to our young people living alongside T1 diabetes, having raised £302 already through bake sales and raffle tickets. Thank you for all of your support.

Mrs D'Arcy-Hulusi





PE and School Sport Newsletter 'An autumn term of success and celebration'

It has been an extremely busy term with lots of fixtures and events going on for our students to participate and compete in. We have entered competitions in football, netball, cross country, rugby, swimming and futsal. There have been a total of 50 fixtures over the last 15 weeks. Our students have been outstanding in representing our school and it has been an absolute pleasure for the PE department to be able to offer so many opportunities for our students. Please see below a summary of our students' successes this term:

Boys Football

We have had some excellent results this term in all of the cup competitions, including the West Suffolk Cup, County Cup and National Schools Cup. Our Year 11 boys football team reached the fourth round of the National Schools Cup

Our U13 and U16 football teams are through to the 3rd round of the County Cup. These cup fixtures will be played at the start of the spring term.

Netball

The netball teams have all competed in the developments tournaments this term. Ms Walton has taken our teams over to Thomas Gainsborough, Castle Manor and Thurston. All of our teams have competed extremely well and there have been some impressive performances across all of the age groups. Congratulations to all those students involved this term.

Girls Football

The girls football teams have had some very impressive results this term. The Year 7 girls are through to the semi final of the West Suffolk Cup. They also won the indoor Futsal competition and are now through to the County Finals. The Year 8 girls are through to the semi-final of the West Suffolk Cup.

Our Year 9 girls football team are through to the quarter final of the County Cup.

Rugby

Our Year 10 rugby team participated in the first round of the West Suffolk Rugby tournament in November. The second round will be a Suffolk Schools Rugby tournament at Ipswich High School in February 2025.

Our Year 7, 8, 9, 11 rugby teams will compete in the first and second rounds when we return in the spring term.



Swimming

The U14 swimming team competed in the Suffolk Schools swimming competition earlier this term. The team competed well and gained valuable experience.

Fixtures/events scheduled for the spring term include: Sportshall athletics, handball, basketball, rugby and football.

Cross Country

We took approximately 40 students to the Cross Country back in October. We had students compete across all of the age groups and there were some outstanding performances. We had 8 students that have successfully made it through to the second round. The second round will be hosted by Woodbridge High School on the 16th January 2025.

Finally, congratulations to the following students for being awarded a Sports Direct voucher for their outstanding contribution towards PE and School Sport this term:

Year 7 - Scarlet B and Harry F

Year 8 - Jess L and Frankie K

Year 9 - Amelia J and Nathan D

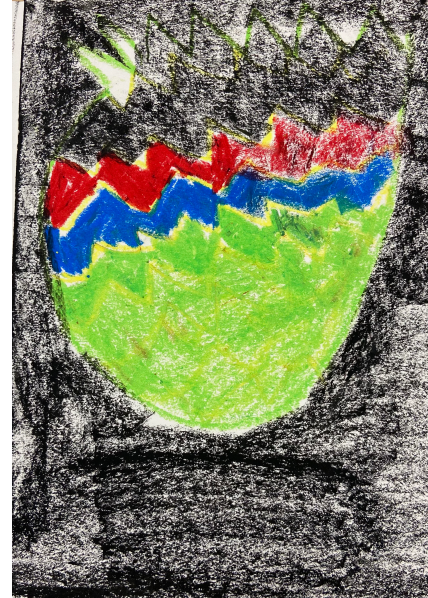
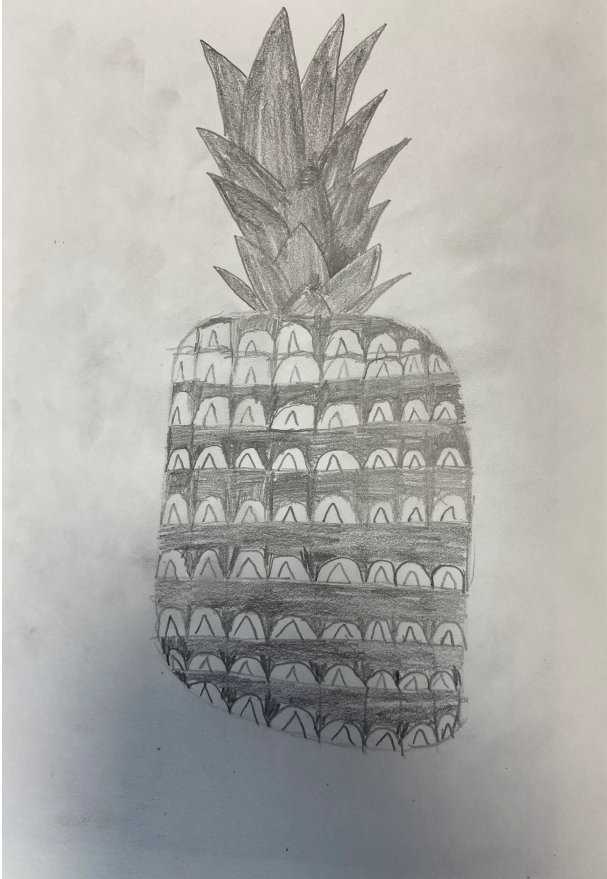
Year 10 - Poppy Ann J and Ethan B

Year 11 - Elena K and Isaac S-G

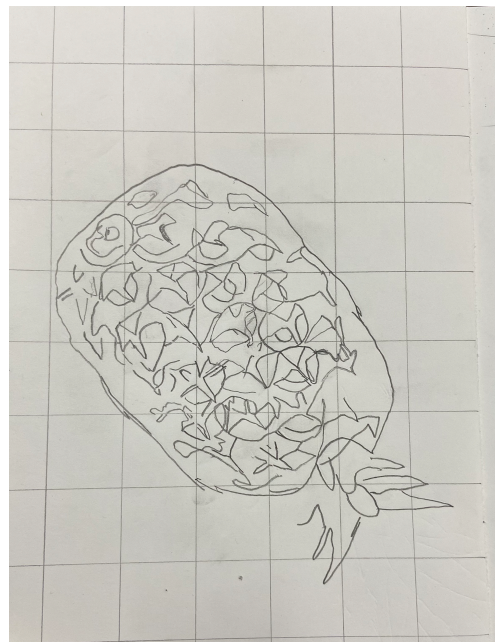
Year 13 - Ben T and Thomas A

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Mr.Broom and the PE Department



Peppers and Pineapples - A study of detail in pencil and oil pastel by Mulberry students.





AUTUMN TERM ROUNDUP

Supporting young people
across the school



Activities for young people in
local area

Road Safety assemblies
delivered to Yr 7 & 8



Student survey lunch time
drop-in

LOOKING FORWARD TO 2025



We want to connect with more young people in 2025, to hear their views and opinions and to work with them to develop a support network they want.

If there are any activities or groups your young person is interested in trying in the new year, please contact emma@themixstowmarket.co.uk

Thank you for your support



SAFEGUARDING

Young People

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Online wellbeing support for students

Kooth is free to access via any internet-connected tablet, computer or smartphone. There are no waiting lists or thresholds to meet and a referral from a medical professional is not needed. Your child can join Kooth anonymously simply by visiting www.kooth.com

Kooth offers young people a range and choice of support options under one digital roof.

It has services that are accessible 7 days a week, 365 days a year. This includes one to one text based sessions with experienced counsellors and wellbeing practitioners run from midday to 10pm on weekdays, and from 6 –10pm on the weekend. Appointments can be booked in advance or accessed via a drop-in text-based chat.

Kooth also provides a fully safeguarded and pre-moderated community with a library of peer and professional created articles. And there are discussion forums too. All content is pre-moderated and age appropriate.

More info will be shared in the new year about what Kooth.com can offer, in the meantime please see the Parent/Carer video they created. <https://vimeo.com/915913103?share=copy>

General Safeguarding Concerns

If you feel that the young person is at immediate risk of harm please use the information below:

Call 999

Or

Customer First on 0808 800 4005.

Other useful websites:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/>

<https://www.childline.org.uk/>