

Stowupland High School Bulletin

Friday 14th November 2025



From Mr Walker, Principal of Stowupland High School

Remembrance

The whole school gathered at 11am on Tuesday for our Remembrance service, two minute silence and last post. I want to thank all students for their impeccable observation of this - it was a deeply moving and poignant experience. I shared a message of peace and hope as well as focusing on the sacrifices made on our behalf in the two world wars and more recent conflicts. My thanks to Mr Leech for playing the Last Post.

Fame - the Musical

It was a real pleasure to drop in on the rehearsal of the opening number in Fame yesterday after school. Already the cast are brimming with confidence and have learnt some brilliant moves! When tickets go on sale I would advise very early booking as this will surely be a sell-out.

Dates for your diary - Wednesday 25th - Friday 27th March (with a primary school matinee on the Wednesday).

Year 11 Mocks

These are well underway and students are focused on success. Year 11 break and lunchtime is taken up with flashcards, revision guides, last minute preparation and (mutual) calming of nerves. The students have been a credit to you, and I know you are rooting for them. The week 2 timetable is below, and the results will be available for students (and families) on Tuesday 16th December.

	AM - 9.15 start	PM - 13.45 start
Monday 17th November		Biology 2
Tuesday 18th November	11C Options - BTEC Sport, Engineering, French writing, History, Hospitality (Block C)	Chemistry 2
Wednesday 19th November	Maths Paper 3 (calculator)	Physics 2
Thursday 20th November	French listening/reading	Computing 2
Friday 21st November		

The following week (w/b 24th November) has practical exams in Art, Textiles and Hospitality & Catering.

Year 10 Examinations

Year 10 have an English Language (Component 1) exam on the morning of Monday 17th November. Please ensure they have all of their usual stationery on the day in a clear pencil case or clear plastic bag.

For those taking Statistics, there is an examination on Wednesday 19th November in the morning session.

Punctuality

Being on time is crucial so that students can maximise their learning, hear the information at the start of the lesson and develop an essential habit for the rest of their lives. To this end, we have introduced a system of 2 demerits for each lesson if they are late (arrive at least 3 minutes after the class). You can help us with this by ensuring they have a copy of their timetable with them, on paper, each day. This should be stored in a particular place in their bag so they never forget it. This will mean that they always know where they are going and do not need to rely on others.



Principal's Address

Visit our [Facebook page](#) to watch a video summary of this week.

Community engagement

On Thursday 13th November, Stowmarket Police visited our school to deliver key topics across 3 main themes - 'Relationships' 'Keeping safe' and 'Understanding the law'.

In Stowupland High School we are passionate about working with members of our local community to keep our students safe. We will continue to educate, inform and communicate with parents, carers, & students around any prominent and contextual themes which would help support our students to be confident, happy and safe in the local community.

A big thank you to CPT officer PC 663 GEDNEY & Stowmarket Police for supporting our students.



Curriculum Review

Professor Becky Francis CBE recently produced the results of a national curriculum review. The report can be [found here](#). The key recommendations are:

- Shorter Exams: GCSE exam time will be reduced by 10%.
- Curriculum Changes: The English Baccalaureate (EBacc) will be scrapped, and subjects like Religious Education and Citizenship will become mandatory.
- More Subject Choice: All students will have the chance to study triple science at GCSE.
- Focus on Life Skills: There will be a greater emphasis on practical skills like financial education, digital literacy, and climate sustainability.
- New Student Checks: New diagnostic tests in English and maths will be introduced in Year 8 to identify learning gaps early.
- Inclusivity: The curriculum will be updated to better reflect social diversity

Implementation is expected to be from September 2028.

SHAPE answers

I was very pleased to see in this review that there will be a greater focus on oracy in the school curriculum. This fits well with our approach to how students speak in school - our focus on SHAPE responses. We ask for students to use full sentences to help them speak clearly, with more articulation and emphasis. You can really help us in this by asking them to use full sentences in dialogue at home. It will make a difference!

