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Stowupland High School

# SCHOOL WINTER NEWSLETTER

19TH DECEMBER 2025



# Principal's Report



Dear Parents/Carers

As the Autumn Term draws to a close, we are delighted to reflect on the many successes and achievements our students and community have celebrated since September.

Our daily routine continues to foster a strong sense of community. Each day begins with the whole school gathering together for a daily reflection, which may be about a news item, a school event, or a celebration of our students' achievements. Two assemblies each week allow year groups to celebrate success and consider topics that affect all of us. Our attendance has improved significantly this term, and we have seen a pleasing increase in merits and golden tickets.

We also came together for our traditional Remembrance Service (including Last Post, Reveille, and readings) at the eleventh hour of the eleventh month. We also successfully completed a necessary lockdown practice. We continue to celebrate and praise our students each day –our truly Stowuptastic community members.

The Computer Science department took part in the Bebras Challenge in November. This competition introduces computational thinking to students worldwide and it takes place over a two-week period every November. Over half a million students in the UK took part this year. Each participant has 45 minutes to tackle a series of interactive tasks, designed to encourage logical thinking and problem-solving skills appropriate for their age group.

The results are as follows:

Best in Mulberry - Kian B

Best in Year 7 - Isaac P (7NFA)

Best in Year 8 - Charlie M (8VHO)

Best in Year 10 and Best in Age Category (Y10/11) - Samuel E (10NBR)

Best in Year 11 - Karol B (11GCO)

Best in Year 9 and Best in Age Category (Y8/9) and Best in School - Max C (9RW0)



# Principal's Report



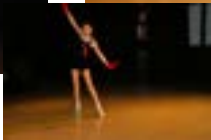
The educational visit to Lille in mid-October enabled over 60 students to visit numerous sites in the city and the surrounding area. Highlights included watching a French baker at work, shopping (in French) at a traditional French market, and experiences at the Palais des Beaux-Arts, the Lille football stadium, a snail farm, and a traditional fromagerie. Students had lots of opportunities to practise their French and learn about an entirely new culture and rich social history.



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The stand-out event in this final week of term has to be the Performing Arts Winter Showcase. This was a scintillating evening, with 25 different acts encompassing song, dance, drama and two large ensemble numbers from Fame - The Musical. To a sell-out crowd, over 80 performers showcased their skill for 2 hours. It was a pleasure to watch individuals and groups performing with such confidence and sparkle. Congratulations to the whole cast and crew, and my thanks to Mr Tanswell, Miss Stevens, Mrs Brand and Mrs Knights for all their hard work in bringing the performance to the stage.



# Principal's Report



Our students are currently taking part in the Stowmarket Christmas Tree Festival, and we have launched a new Alumni Outreach Programme to build a lasting network with former students.

Our Year 7 students have been making paper angels for the St. Mary's Church in Combs. Thank you to Mrs Blake for taking a lead on this, they look wonderful hanging in the church during this festive period.



Our sports teams have also had a fantastic term, with strong wins for our football, futsal, netball, and swimming teams, demonstrating the commitment and competitive spirit of our students and staff. Our careers and further education fair in November saw employers, university, and Sixth Form staff from across the local area gather to present to Year 10 and 11 students and inspire their ambitions for the future.

Holiday homework for Parents - explore Unifrog with Your Child!! Unifrog is an online platform where students can explore their interests, search and compare every available post-school opportunity (including universities, apprenticeships, and further education courses), and draft all necessary application materials like CVs and their personal statement. Each child has their unique log in for Unifrog - we would be grateful if you could sit down with your child over the break to explore the platform together.

As the term ends, we say a fond farewell to two valued members of staff, Mrs Land and Miss Stevens. We thank them both for their tremendous contributions to the school and wish them every success in their new challenges.

Above all else, we have enjoyed working together to strengthen our team and ensure that we are warm, welcoming, and friendly each and every school day.

We wish all our families a restful and happy holiday break. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in the New Year!



It has been a fantastic start to the year for our Year 7, and I am incredibly proud of every student. Their enthusiasm, kindness and positive attitude have made these first months a real pleasure, and it has been wonderful to see them growing in confidence as they settle into secondary school life.

### **Most Merits**

Tommy P, Maisie R, Holly C, Toby S, Luke C, Leyton F, Ralph G-S, Mallory W, Alfie W, Taylor S

### **Golden Tickets Top 3**

Maisie R, Luke C and Alfie W.

**Autumn Term Tutor Award Winners:** Toby M 7SWA, Tommy P 7KCU, Isabel T 7NFA, Holly T 7SBR, Alfie W 7SGO, Stanley W 7TTA

**Autumn Term Assistant Progress Leader Award:** Jackson J

**Autumn Term Progress Leader Award:** Alex R

Across the curriculum, students have been engaging brilliantly with their learning. In History, they have explored the Romans, discovering how armour was used and how invasions shaped the ancient world. Design lessons have been full of creativity, with students constructing different types of bridges and designing ergonomic handles for cutlery. Geography has seen them mastering map skills, including grid references, while in Art they have been experimenting with complementary colours and bold, imaginative patterns. In English, students have been studying the atmospheric novel *Gaslight*, developing thoughtful responses and strong analytical skills. My learning walks this term have been especially enjoyable. It has been lovely to see Year 7 so settled, focused and eager to learn in every classroom I visit. Their teachers speak highly of them, and their efforts are clear in every lesson.

Well done, Year 7—you should be very proud of yourselves.





## Targets for the Spring Term

As we look ahead to the spring term, we want to share a few clear and achievable targets that will help our Year 7 students continue their strong start to secondary school. These goals are designed to support every child in building good habits, growing in confidence and making the most of every learning opportunity.

### 1. Continue to strive for excellent attendance.

Even if attendance has been a challenge this term, a new term brings a fresh start. Every lesson matters, and being in school consistently is one of the biggest factors in long-term success. We will continue to support students and families to make daily attendance a priority.

### 2. The settling-in period is now over.

Year 7 have already shown great maturity, and staff have noticed that many of the early reminders about routines are no longer needed. Our expectations remain high. We ask all students to keep being warm, welcoming and friendly in every interaction with staff. Adults on site are the team captains—students are expected to follow instructions calmly and positively so that our community remains safe, respectful and focused on learning.

### 3. Maintain our excellent punctuality.

Punctuality in Year 7 is already a strength. Please remind your child to move with their class between lessons and avoid unnecessary delays. Being late usually means a choice was made to stop, chat or stray off-route. Breaks and social time happen at the right moments—not during lesson transitions. Arriving promptly shows respect and allows learning to begin straight away.

Thank you for your ongoing support. Together, we can make the spring term a successful and fulfilling one for every student.

Mr Holden and Year 7 Team





## **Presentation of work**

The Year 8 Team has introduced two new initiatives to reinforce the high standards we expect in lessons:

When walking lessons I have been stamping work where the presentation is to a very high standard for the individual. The aim is for students to see I am proud of their work and how well they are doing.

Once a fortnight during Tutor time students have the opportunity to bring work they are proud of to me. This gives me the opportunity to look at books but also to praise the work of the students. Where work is to a high standard I have placed a “Work I am proud of” sticker in the books.

Please ask your child if they have received any of the stickers/stamps from me and ask to see the work. If they haven't received one yet please ask them to bring me work as I want to celebrate every student's hard work.

## **Most Merits**

Nieve F, Poppy W, Victor K, Alenka G, Imogen C, Maddison H, Charlie F, Herbie O  
Finley S, Jessica S

## **Most Golden Tickets**

Victor K, Finley S, Charlie F, Heidi B, Poppy W, Jessica S, Alfie A, Alenka G, Harry F, Isla R

Year 8 has seen students developing their curriculum studies including Food and Spanish. It is always fantastic to see students learning new skills and so watching lessons in Food Technology has been a real joy.





In DT the students have been completing more and more practical tasks, when visiting lessons it has been lovely to see students using Coping Saws.

Charlie pictured was starting his first lesson and learning the importance of making sure the wood is positioned correctly.



I had the pleasure of sitting in with an Art lesson recently where students were using clay, some of the work in an hours lesson was outstanding.

Mr Terry and Year 8 Team





Happy Christmas to all families in Year 9.

What a great start we have had this year. I have been very impressed when dropping in to lessons and seeing the hard work that the students have been putting into their studies.

After Christmas we look forward to beginning the option process. We will be talking to all students about their choices and what their next steps are going to be. This will be launched in assemblies and will be supported with the upcoming Options and Parents' evenings. I look forward to seeing you all there.

Our top **3 tutor groups for merits** are:

1 st place: 9RWO

2 nd place: 9CCL

3 rd place: 9YEL

Many year 9s have already achieved their first and second merit milestones, well done to all of those students. Well done to the following students for being recognised for their consistent efforts in school:

Aria J: 363

Kaitlyn S: 364

Hannah C: 390

Maisy L: 410

Laila- Mai B 447

Top **3 tutor groups in Year 9 for attendance** are:

1 st place: 9SDO

2 nd place: 9GER

3 rd place: 9RWO

A big well done to the 38 students in Year 9 who have achieved 100% attendance this term, keep up the hard work!

**Key dates for the diary:**

Options evening: Thursday 5 th February

Parents' evening: Wednesday 11 th February

Miss Bird and Year 9 Team





Saying farewell to 2025 gives us a chance to reflect on what has been a busy term and look forward to the new year ahead which will give students the opportunity to take part in a range of extra-curricular activities including the ski trip over the February half term. Over the Autumn term Year 10 embraced the year with enthusiasm and dedication to their studies. They have worked hard across academic subjects whilst also showing their talents by taking part in Fame while others have shown success in a range of sporting competitions. Year 10 have worked hard showing determination and commitment in order to achieve their best which was reflected in our end of term 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 with over 830 certificates issued. A number of students have received awards in more than 1 subject with some students being awarded a dozen certificates.

## **Merits**

Thousands of merits have been issued to Year 10 over the course of the term with the highest number going to :

1st – Amy N, 2nd – Poppy K, 3rd – Farrah J

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:

10JCO – Farrah J, 10KBL – Annie M, 10KKN – Rubi W-P, 10LBL – Ella I, 10NBR – Paighton L, 10TPA – Lainey L, Mulberry – Toby G

## **Assistant Progress Leader Award**

Mrs Fullman has given her Assistant Progress Leader award to Brooke S because she always has a positive attitude and she has grown in confidence over the last term. Well done Brooke, keep up the good work.

## **Progress Leader Award**

For my award I have chosen Felicity P who is an inspiration to us all with her hard working attitude and determination, both are to be admired. Well done Felicity!



## **Tutor Group Attendance Award**

Bronze - Year 10 Mulberry

Silver - 10LBL

Gold - 10KKN

## **Tutor Group Positive Points Award**

Bronze – 10TPA

Silver – 10LBL

Gold – 10JCO

## **Student Achievements**

Toby G has had some outstanding achievements this term in Karate which include winning a number of medals.



We are all looking forward to seeing what the new year will bring for year 10 and we wish you all a restful holiday season.

Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year from the Year 10 Progress Team!

Mrs Morley and Year 10 Team





As we wrap up another incredible term, I'm delighted to share some of the highlights, achievements, and celebrations from Year 11. It's been a busy few months full of hard work, resilience, and progress - and I couldn't be prouder of this year group!

## **Top Tutor Groups This Term**

Once again, your effort and engagement have shone through across the board. Congratulations to the top three tutor groups for merits and attendance this term:

### **Most Merits - Tutor Groups**

1st – 11JGA

2nd – 11RTR

3rd – 11CTH

### **Best Attendance - Tutor Groups**

1st – 11CTH

2nd – 11EGR

3rd – 11JGA

## **Top Students for Merits**

Massive congratulations to our merit champions this term - your dedication to positivity and progress truly stood out:

Chloe F, Felix T, Gabby B, Joshua W

## **Golden Ticket Winners**

These students have collected the most Golden Tickets this term:

Connie B, Chloe F, Joshua W

## **Progress Leader Award & Assistant Progress Leader Award**

A huge round of applause to Alex G for earning the Assistant Progress Leader Award and to Freya D for earning the Progress Leader Award this term - a well-deserved recognition of outstanding effort and commitment.

Each tutor group selected a student who has been exemplary this term:

11CTH – Evie Mae T

11EGR – Mollie L

11GCO – Isaac M

11JGA – Lewis H

11RTR – Connie B





It's been a dynamic term with plenty going on across Year 11:

## Mock Exams

Students have worked incredibly hard in their mock exams, demonstrating determination and resilience under pressure. Well done to everyone for giving it their best! The next set of mock exams will take place at the end of February 2026. Revision guides are available to purchase on Parentmail Shop, which I would strongly suggest investing in.

## College Success

We're delighted to celebrate Lottie C, who has been offered a place at Writtle College, Chelmsford, to study a Level 3 Extended Diploma in Agriculture. Fantastic achievement - congratulations, Lottie!

## National Cipher Competition

A special mention to Isaac M, Karol B, and George B, have been taking part in the National Cipher Competition run by the University of Southampton. Spending Friday lunchtimes decoding challenging encryptions. The codes have not been easy and have required using frequency analysis, Caesar ciphers and a range of other tools. These students showed real grit and intellectual curiosity - well done!

## Top 10 Sparx Achievers in Year 11

Huge congratulations to our top 10 Sparx contributors this term: Jasmine W, Ruby S, Chloe S, Oscar W, Joshua B, Isaac M, Hayden G, Chloe F, Alex G, Ella F. Your commitment to Sparx maths makes all the difference - excellent work!

## Parents Evening

Please note, Year 11 Parents Evening will be taking place on Wednesday 28 th January at the school. Please ensure you book your appointments! Bookings will be available from Friday 19 th December until Wednesday 21 st January. If you have any issues booking, please get in touch.

As we break up for the festive season, we hope all Year 11s enjoy a restful, joyful Christmas. Thank you for your hard work, resilience, and positivity this term - 2026 is going to be another amazing and really important year!

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

Miss Brownsell and Year 11 Team





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, badminton, futsal and swimming. 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.

Competitions/events planned for the spring term include; cross country, sportshall athletics, rugby, futsal, football and handball.

NFL Flag Football is also a planned competition for next term and we will be looking to introduce this new sport across all year groups.

Please see below the curriculum map for the spring term where students will follow a net/wall rotation of badminton, table tennis, pickleball.

[Spring 2026 Week A](#)

[Spring 2026 Week B](#)

Please see Spring term sports clubs below.

PE clubs and activities 2025  
Lunchtime programme (12.30 - 1.20pm)

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
Football (Netball)	Football (Netball)	Football (Netball)	Football (Netball)	Football (Netball)
Football (Netball)	Football (Netball)	Football (Netball)	Football (Netball)	Football (Netball)
Football (Netball)	Football (Netball)	Football (Netball)	Football (Netball)	Football (Netball)
Football (Netball)	Football (Netball)	Football (Netball)	Football (Netball)	Football (Netball)

Finally, a massive congratulations to the following students who were nominated as the PE winners for this term. All students received a sports direct voucher for their contributions with PE and School Sport.

Liam W, Euan S, Madeleine H, Alfie A, Ella B, Ethan L, Summer P, Florin B, Amelia J, Sienna S, George K and Poppy J

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



The term started with a new move into the Sixth Form building. This went very smoothly and lessons were soon started for years 7, 8 and 9. The students come once a fortnight to read. They have the choice of any book in the library and it is wonderful to see students engaging with reading. Break and lunch times have been busy with up to 60 students engaged in activities. These include Expertise – we have had presentations on Peanut Butter, Scouts and Manga. Strategy club saw lots of groups of students enjoying battles of chess, Battleship, Uno and Cluedo. We learnt to sign a Christmas song and understand the importance of speaking clearly so deaf people can read lip patterns. In addition to those activities the Year 7 boys have been devouring the Manga section and there has been lots of reading going on. Jess, Year 10 said excitedly “You can learn a lot from reading and improve your vocabulary.” Jake and Dexter, Year 7, invented a game called Dictaclue where you find a word in the large dictionary and give your friend clues to help them guess the word. From January to be able to concentrate on one particular activity I am running the clubs as follows:

### **Expertise Club - January 6 th to January 23 rd 2026**

Come and find some information about something that interests you. Make a poster or presentation to share with the group.

### **Strategy Club – January 26 th to February 13 th 2026**

Come and challenge your friends to a board game tournament or set up and complete a puzzle.

### **Escapism club – February 23 rd to March 13 th 2026**

Come and read in silence and go on an adventure. Prizes for reading categories.

### **Word Adventures – March 16 th to March 27 th 2026**

Do a wordsearch, crossword or challenge your friends to Dictaclue.

Students will need to sign up on Arbor and the expectation is that they read in silence or join in the activity. The Yard is the place to chat with their friends. Books can be exchanged at break times.

I look forward to seeing what presentations and posters the students can come up with.

Mrs Shaw  
Librarian



## Mr Walker's last video message of the year

Please click [HERE](#) to watch



## Poetry Writing Competition

This term we have had a number of year 8 students who entered The Young Writers' Poetry competition and a number have been successful and are going to have their work published in the new year.

The students are:

Charlie F, Lily C, Heidi B, Alenka G, Emmy B, Alice M, George L, Oliver P, Mason G, Dylan S, Maddison H, Jessica-Lilly B, Logan T, Harrison M, Alfred A, Taran G, Devon F-P, Herbie O

Well done to all!

Mrs Morley

## Sparx Stars of the week





## SAFEGUARDING



IF YOU'RE WORRIED THAT A CHILD OR YOUNG PERSON YOU SEE THIS SCHOOL HOLIDAY IS AT RISK OF HARM, ABUSE, OR NEGLECT,  
PHONE CUSTOMER FIRST ON 0800 800 4005 OR 999 IN AN EMERGENCY

REPORT ABUSE TO NSPCC

[HTTPS://WWW.NSPCC.ORG.UK/KEEPING-CHILDREN-SAFE/REPORTING-ABUSE/REPORT/](https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/reporting-abuse/report/)

OR YOU CAN CONTACT THEIR HELPLINE BY CALLING 0800 800 5000 OR EMAILING [HELP@NSPCC.ORG.UK](mailto:HELP@NSPCC.ORG.UK)



## WELLBEING



### KOOTH.COM

ONLINE MENTAL WELLBEING COMMUNITY - IF YOU'RE 11-25 AND YOU CAN GET ADVICE AND HELP ON THE GO, 7 DAYS A WEEK UNTIL 10 PM.

KOOTH OFFERS ONLINE COUNSELLING, ADVICE AND EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING SUPPORT.

### NHS Mental Health Support

Call 111, option 2 - uk.mental.health  
call helpline 24/7

116 123 - Samaritans, call helpline 24/7

80258 - Young Minds, text helpline 24/7

80250 - SHOUT, text helpline 24/7

