
Stowupland High School

SCHOOL SUMMER NEWSLETTER

17 JULY 2026



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Dear Parents/Carers

The Summer Term has been full of memorable experiences at Stowupland High School. Not only have there been a wide range of activities and trips, but also we have celebrated the achievements of our students in our end of year Celebration assemblies. These are always wonderfully warm events - a great opportunity to praise the achievement of our students throughout the year, as well as their contributions to school life.

Year 11 students marked the completion of their exams and their time at the school with a wonderful Prom at Fynn Valley Golf Club. They were resplendent in their attire and proved once again what a very special year group they have been. We look forward to seeing them as they collect their GCSE results on Thursday 20th August.

Our annual Sports Day saw several long-standing records broken in both track and field events across multiple age groups. The resilience, teamwork and skill of our talented athletes and competitors shone through and the event was a super celebration of sporting effort and excellence.

Trips and visits have taken place this term to a range of venues home and abroad. Year 9 students visited the First World War battlefields in Belgium, including sites around Ypres and the Somme, to study the history of the conflict. Other excursions included a trip to Wimbledon and a visit to Bawdsey Manor, where Mulberry Centre students worked on building their confidence and social skills. Year 10 Geography students travelled to Felixstowe to complete fieldwork required for their GCSE course. More than 100 students attended a Food and Farming event at Hollow Trees Farm in Semer. Organised by the Suffolk Agricultural Association, the day allowed students to learn about various careers in the agricultural industry. Our Duke of Edinburgh staff and students have been on a number of expeditions working towards Bronze and Silver awards.

No Summer Term would be complete without the annual Summer Showcase. This year so many students took part we stretched the event over an unprecedented two nights. It was a joyful exhibition of Stowupland High School creativity, talent and community, with a cast of over 100 students in a myriad of different roles.



Our work with Unifrog, the Careers platform for all students, has continued at pace this term, with Year 10 students completing over 160 work experience placements across the county and beyond. It was terrific to read the comments from employers, giving a unanimous thumbs up to the effort and motivation of our young people. Congratulations to Year 10 for completing such an important milestone in their educational career.

In the Art and Technology departments, 25 Year 9 students worked with a professional artist on the Jubilant project, creating a piece for a Youth Arts Festival in Stowmarket.

As ever at the end of the school year we say goodbye to a number of colleagues who are leaving us to take up new and exciting ventures elsewhere:

Miss Brownsell - PE/Progress Leader
Mrs Chittock-Nash - SLT
Mr Faliveno - Science
Mrs Shaw - Librarian

Miss Curtis - English
Miss Green - English
Mrs Peirson - English
Miss Woodruff - Computing

In addition, we have three members of staff retiring this year from the Art and Technology departments following many years of distinguished service and support for generations of students at Stowupland High School:

Mrs Lander - Art Technician
Mrs Turner - Art
Mr Erhorn - Design Technology

I would like to thank all of these colleagues for their commitment to the school - in some cases over many years - and send them my very best wishes for the future. It was lovely to hear about their memories of the school over the years at our staff celebration last Monday.

To all of our students and wider families - thank you for your enthusiasm, support and commitment to ensuring we are 'Always Striving For Success'

Rewards Afternoon





As we reach the end of a fantastic year, I would like to take the opportunity to thank all of our Year 7 parents and carers for your continued support throughout your child's first year at Stowupland High School.

It has been a pleasure to watch our Year 7 students grow in confidence, independence and maturity over the past year. They have embraced the challenges of secondary school brilliantly, and we are incredibly proud of everything they have achieved.

It was also wonderful to see so many families at our recent Parents' Evening. Thank you for taking the time to attend and work with us to support your child's progress. If you have any feedback about the evening that you would like to share, please email enquiries@stowuplandhighschool.co.uk. If you have any Year 7-specific queries, please contact the Year 7 team via year7@stowuplandhighschool.co.uk.

As we look ahead to Year 8, our focus will be on maintaining the outstanding standards of behaviour that our students have demonstrated this year, while continuing to ensure that attendance remains well above the national average. These two factors play a vital role in helping every student achieve their full potential

Tutor Awards:

7KCU - Max L

7SWA - Ruby W

7TTA - Advika S

7SGO - Alfie W

7SBR - Jasmine B

7NFA - James B

Highest number of merits this year:

Maisy R, Tommy R and Luke C.

Assistant Progress Leader Award went to Jensen Tavaréz and Progress Leader Award to William Kinsey.

A big well done to the 17 students in Year 7 who have achieved 100% attendance this year, keep up the hard work!



Thank you once again for your partnership and support. We wish all of our Year 7 families a safe, relaxing and enjoyable summer break, and we look forward to welcoming our students back in September as confident and successful Year 8 students. Remember, when we move into year 8 the new contact email address will be year8@stowuplandhighschool.co.uk for any pastoral queries.

Mr Holden

In Year 7 Art we have looked at Patterns from other cultures.

Layla from 7SWA has chosen bright African colours for her clay plate, she has included mark making and indenting to create a lovely continued pattern both inside and around the edging. Well done Layla.



Weronika from 7SBR chose to design and paint her plate using influences and colours from Greece which uses lots of blue and white. Her design and proportion skills have been used well.

Angel from 7SGO created a lovely plate with influences from Indian culture. She mixed her paints to create 5 differing shades of pink and made her plate unique in both form and colour. Outstanding, Angel!





At the end of another great year it is nice to look back at some of the wonderful things we have done but first some big numbers:

5 students have achieved over 1000 Merits
35 students have achieved over 750 Merits
80 students have achieved over 500 Merits
96 students have 95% attendance or better
16 students have 100% attendance
60 students have less than 10 Demerits for the year
23 students have zero Demerits for the year
12 students have still to receive a Demerit since starting at Stowupland

I am so proud of all the students in these groups and we have spent the last weeks of term celebrating these students. On the 9th July all those with less than 10 Demerits met for a lolly with myself so I could personally thank them. Those with over 750 merits have also met with Mr Walker.

Farming Industry trip

In June most of the year group attended a farming day at Hollow Trees Farm. The event was a huge success and students came back discussing what they had learnt. Thank you to Mrs Walden for organising this day.



Primary events

It has been wonderful to see the year group supporting local primary events over the last few weeks, the feedback from the schools has been fantastic. Giving up time support younger students helps to develop skills classrooms don't always. Well done to those involved.



For the Boys

During the last term 6 Year 8 boys have been involved with a project to support students with their confidence. The programme finished at The Mix where the students met the ex One Direction base guitarist Sandy Beales. Sandy talked about his successes and the difficulties involved before playing some amazing tracks. The hope is to repeat this in Year 9.



As we enter Year 9 students will be looking to make decisions about their Options for Key Stage 4 so please look out for information on support that will be provided for parents. The events we put on will be vital for everyone making the correct decisions.

Thank you for all your support this year, have a great summer and I will see you all in September.

Mr Terry

Year 8's final task of the Building Project took on the form of a 3 part task of creating a piece of artwork which had :

1. a landscaped background section
2. an important iconic building or statue in the middle section
3. a detailed and complex foreground drawing or painting





This was a busy year for year 9 with key events and big decisions being made. This year it has been great to see students working hard in their lessons demonstrating their focus and commitment to learning. This has fed into their choices about next steps ready for Year 10. All students have chosen their preferred subjects ready for GCSEs in September and I was impressed with the maturity shown by so many in making their decisions. Many were even planning for the steps beyond GCSEs and mapping out how to achieve their goals.

A highlight from this year was the Battlefields trip that took place in June. 84 students represented our school by laying a wreath at Menin Gate, exploring trenches and learning more about the World War One experience. They were a credit to the year group and the school.

This Summer saw our first set of exams take place in the formal exam hall. Students did an exceptional job and many faced this challenge boldly and worked to overcome their nerves- well done to everyone! It was fantastic to get such positive feedback from the invigilators as to how mature the year group were.

Only last week, Sports Day was full of energy and school spirit. Congratulations to all participants - your teamwork and sportsmanship was inspiring. We have also had some standout sports successes outside of school. Well done to Blake B, Rory F and Elana K- to name just a few.

Our top 3 tutor groups for merits are:

3rd place: 9LSA

2nd place: 9RWO

1st place: 9CCL

Many year 9s have already achieved exceptionally high merits. Well done to the following students for being recognised for their consistent efforts in school and achieving over 1000 merits this year:

Maisy L: 1154

Laila- Mai B: 1043

Hannah C: 1038



Year 9 Jubilant! Project



Top 3 tutor groups in Year 9 for attendance this year are:

3rd place: 9GER

2nd place: 9RWO

1st place: 9SDO

A big well done to the 14 students in Year 9 who have achieved 100% attendance this year, keep up the hard work!

As we finish the year, we say goodbye to two of our tutor team: Mr Erhorn and Miss Woodruff. Thank you both for all of your support and hard work with your tutor groups, we wish you all the best with your next adventure.

I look forward to beginning our GCSE journey strong. As we start Year 10, regular attendance and punctuality are more important than ever. Please look out for information about subject revision resources at the start of the new term.

Have a lovely summer,

Miss Bird

Year 9 have been looking at the Mexican festival of the day of the dead.

They each created a colourful 3D clay character and once fired they used vibrant colours to create their own version of a skull figurine.





Well that's it, Year 10 is complete! And what a year it's been!

Year 10 have so much to be proud of this year: Fame Junior where many of the year had leading and supporting roles, The SpeakOut Challenge for a selected number with Poppy K representing Stowupland at the final in Ipswich, various school events where we had the pleasure of seeing Brooke S and Farrah J sing to their fellow students and staff. Not to mention a number of year 10's taking part in the Duke of Edinburgh awards as well as a number of sporting events both inside and outside of school, including Maisy M in dressage, Toby G in Karate and Florin B in football.

As if this isn't enough, Year 10 have had a week-long set of mock exams in preparation for next year; they were exceptional and handled the process with maturity and resilience. They are working extremely hard throughout their lessons which I do not doubt will be reflected when the time comes.

This term also saw the annual School Sports Day that, as always, students approached with enthusiasm and vigour. Congratulations to all participants - your teamwork and sportsmanship was inspiring.

Now for some statistics:

Our top 3 tutor groups for merits are:

3rd place: 10JCO

2nd place: 10NBR

1st place: 10LBL

Many year 10s have already achieved exceptionally high merits. Well done to the following students for receiving the most in the year group:

3rd place: Amy N

2nd place: Farrah J

1st place: Poppy K

Top 3 tutor groups in Year 10 for attendance this year are:

3rd place: 10LBL

2nd place: 10BTA

1st place: 10Mulberry

A big well done to the 8 students in Year 10 who have achieved 100% attendance this year, keep up the hard work:

Aimee C, Emily C, Bethel E, Reuben E, Samuel E, Amy N, Lottie W, George W.



Special mentions also to Lottie W who has 100% attendance for years 9&10 and Samuel E who has 100% attendance for years 8-10 - they should be as proud of themselves as we are of them.

As always our tutors have acknowledge students in their tutor groups with the following awards being presented at the end of year Celebration Assembly:

10BTA – Sian D

10JCO – Caitlin O

10KBL – Finley G

10LBL – Eloise S

10NBR – Jess J

10TPA – Maisy M

10Mulberry – Logan H

To round off the year the majority of Year 10 students were able to celebrate their success at our in school awards event before we broke up for the Summer; it was an enjoyable afternoon for all.

Finally in the celebration assembly I had to give out 2 Progress Leader Awards as I could not give 1 without the other. This year saw 1 of our year group go through a traumatic medical emergency that meant he was absent from school for some time. His resilience and determination to bounce back and take life by the horns has been an inspiration. In conjunction with this his friends rallied together to raise a staggering £3000 for 3 chosen charities by organising a netball tournament. Their courage, determination, resilience and confidence are to be admired which is why my awards went to Dylan F and Jess J.

Onto the next phase

As always attendance and punctuality are key, even more so next year with GCSE's, Next year will also see a number of changes for Year 10 as they move into Year 11 and prepare for their GCSE's next summer. Along with the hard work we also have so much to look forward to including a Prom to organise and celebrate in style.

Wishing all students, parents and careers a relaxing and enjoyable summer break.
Mrs Morley - Year 10 Progress Leader



Sports Day - School Spirit in Motion





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Wimbledon trip

Arriving at the Championships at 10am, we were very lucky to see Arthur Fery warming up on one of the practice courts. We were very close to the action and watched Arthur practising his ground strokes and serve in readiness for his semi-final match against Zverev in the afternoon. David gave him a good luck fist bump as he left the court!

Fortunately, our Court One seats were up in the shade. We were able to watch both of the ladies doubles semi-finals, seeing the eventual winning pair, Guo and Mladenovic. We also watched GB's Alfie Hewett in an exciting wheelchair semi-final against Gustavo Fernandez. Between matches students watched Djokovic warming up - David again managed to get himself a selfie with the Wimbledon legend!

From Henman Hill, strawberries and cream, future junior Wimbledon stars, and the magnificent Wimbledon setting with the flowers and atmosphere - we all had plenty to see and do.

Congratulations to Leyton, Maisie, Willis, Rory, Felix, Conor, Caitlin and David - you were a credit to the school and yourselves.

Ms Walton



West Suffolk Angling Competition

A huge WELL DONE to Charlie, Kye, Archie, Blake, Joe, Sam, Samuel, George and Alfie for taking part in the West Suffolk Angling Competition at Stonham Barns Fishing Lakes on Wednesday 15th July. A special mention to:

- Joe: 1st place on the Old Lake with a weight of 25lb 9oz
- Charlie: 1st place on the New Lake with a weight of 25lb 15oz





Traditional Dance Workshop

Last Friday 15 pupils took part in a Traditional Dance Workshop that was put on by the East Anglian Traditional Music Trust. Pupils had a go at Maypole dancing and learnt how to dance a Circassian circle. They had great fun and learnt the dances well and despite a few tangled ribbons they are hopefully now ready to perform in public at the Traditional Music Day being held all around Stowmarket on Saturday 19th September. For more information on the event please visit <https://www.eatmt.org.uk>
Thank you to Mr Bartholomew for organising and Mrs Brand for all the help. If your child is interested in joining, please ask them to speak to Mr Bartholomew or Mrs Brand on their return to school in September.



East Anglian Traditional Music Trust

Promoting events, research and participation in the folk music traditions of East Anglia





STOWUPLAND HIGH SCHOOL REMEMBERS 1914-18 YEAR 9 BATTLEFIELDS 2026

After a term of intensive classroom training on the First World War and much eager anticipation it was finally time to put all the theory to the test as 84 Year 9 students & 8 staff embarked bleary eyed at dawn 04:15 (code name zero hour) for the long trek to front line duties across the Channel in Belgium & France.

We were immediately introduced to the reality of WWI behind the lines, inspecting the immaculately tended graves of the fallen at Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery, before experiencing the front line first hand at Essex Farm where the famous In Flanders Fields WWI poem was written by John McCrae. The day progressed with a visit to the superb Hooze Crater Museum & back garden trench tour before exploring the German trenches further at Bayernwald. After settling into our billets with a hearty meal there was time for some much needed rest with a quiz to end a long day.

Saturday took us to the impressive Vimy Canadian Memorial with its rewarding views of some unexpected pyramids, before taking another turn to tread the tunnels & trenches, expertly guided by Canadian volunteer interns. We then headed further south along the western front to the Somme where the awesome Lochnagar mine crater brought home the horrors of the 1st July 1916 along with the monumental Thiepval Memorial, where students were able to see the names of local soldiers and even relatives inscribed, which proved a very moving experience indeed.





After dinner we smartened up for the Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate where supreme respect was shown by fully uniformed Stowupland students, and our three magnificent wreath bearers, undaunted by the crowd, did us all proud - we certainly all deserved the visit to the chocolate shop to round off another long and rewarding day! Sunday saw us explore the Ypres Salient with visits to Tyne Cot, the world's largest Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery, and the sombre Langemarck German Military Cemetery to contrast remembrance on different sides



In between there was another opportunity to see, smell and even try on some of the many artefacts of war first hand at the excellent Passchendaele Museum, complete with its recreated atmospheric bunker system which certainly tested the nerves, as well as a final chance to walk the duckboards and glimpse over the parapet into a no man's land adorned with iconic poppies. This was a fitting way to round off a superb long weekend in which students learnt so much more, not only about war but about vital life-skills in general. Our huge thanks go to the staff who volunteered to give up their weekend to help provide such a valuable experience, and to the students for their superb conduct throughout – they certainly all did themselves, young people, the school and the country proud, well done!



Year 10 Felixstowe GCSE Geography Fieldwork

80 Year 10 students headed to Felixstowe to complete their GCSE Geography Fieldwork in preparation for their Paper 3 examination. Working together in small teams and racing against the tide, the morning activities focused on physical geography on the coastline with an assessment of the impact of coastal processes. Students initially completed a brief field sketch of their environment and noted the different coastal management strategies in evidence. Then using a high visibility and fully biodegradable orange the teams calculated the direction of longshore drift. They then assessed the impact of this on the beach by measuring the depth of sediment at three points along either side of five different groynes, carefully recording their findings for further analysis on their return to school.

For their afternoon activities students collected data to assess the impact of regeneration in Felixstowe. Centred on two different seafront locations, around the pier and Beach Street, students carried out timed pedestrian footfall and traffic flow samples, as well as conducting environmental quality assessments using a 1:6 scale to evaluate their surroundings. They also plucked up courage to interview members of the public to ascertain views of the impact of Felixstowe's regeneration, having sampled some of the leisure facilities for themselves in their lunchbreak, all in the pursuit of research of course!

Undertaking primary data research is an essential element of being a successful GCSE geographer, and students will need to analyse the techniques used as part of their final examination. They also benefitted from seeing for themselves 'in the field' the issues they have studied in the classroom. Students are to be commended on their conduct in representing their school with members of the public commenting on how warm, welcoming and friendly the Stowupland students were.

Well done Year 10 Geographers!



Safeguarding and wellbeing



ROYAL
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Enjoy Water Safely

Teenagers and young adults often take risks around rivers, lakes, canals, reservoirs, quarries and other inland and coastal waters, especially in groups. Most teenagers - especially males - don't fully recognise the risks they're taking. Please visit <https://www.rlss.org.uk/water-safety-for-teenagers> for more information and support.



Young Writers

"Young Writers" is a popular UK-based organisation that runs regular creative writing and poetry contests for children and teens aged 4 to 18. Winning entries are frequently published in a regional anthology. This years topic was @I have a Dream'. Winners will be chosen from published pieces once all the books in the series have been published which is by 5th October 2026. The winners will be announced on 31st October 2026. Stowupland High School submitted 164 entries and 127 of our students' poems are being published in two editions - Words with Purpose and Words of Belief. Parents of students whose poem is published - will have received an email from Young Writers. Well done to all our young writers at Stowupland!



Collaborating with Biodiversity Group

Some Mulberry students are keen gardeners and particularly proud of their pumpkins. The frame was build with the help of the Stowupland Biodiversity Group who also donated the seeds



Lost property clearance

Monday 20th July, 10 am - 3pm - all the unclaimed items will be available in the Reception area to be collected or purchased and all donations are welcome. Cash only please.

Spelling Bee

This week students have taken part in a whole school Spelling Bee. The students did brilliantly with some very tricky vocabulary
The tutor groups winners were:

7SGO - Alfred A	8KLE - Victor K	9SDO - Oliver G	10LBL - Eloise S
7SWA - Toby M	8NPE - Nieve F	9LSA - Amelia R	10BTA - Elodie W
7NFA - Jake H	8CKR - Patrick F	9YEL - Josh A	10TPA - Dylan C
7TTA – Mallory W	8VHO - Finley S	9RWO – Jacob C	10KBL - Nathan D
	8BMA - Carmen W		10NBR - Lily C

After a dramatic final between Oliver G in year 9 and Victor K in Year 8 Victor K was crowned the overall Spelling Bee Stowupland champion of 25/26 - Congratulations Victor.



Free activities

There is a great selection of free activities for children and families entitled to Free School Meals during the coming Summer Holidays! To book any of the above activities please follow the link below: <https://eequ.org/suffolkhaf>

Local Events



Stowupland Sports Centre



Our Sports Centre Gym at Stowupland High School is open to the public - and it's fully air-conditioned!!

PSHE and RSE Consultation

It is a statutory requirement that all schools in England and Wales teach relationships, sex (RSE) and health education as a fundamental part of the curriculum. You may also be aware that there will be some changes to the statutory guidance which will take effect from September 2026. As

part of the implementation of this updated curriculum, schools must consult with children, parents, staff and governors to ensure there is a consensus on our approaches to policy and curriculum content.

Stowupland High School started this consultation process on 8th July 2026 and the consultation will close on 5th August 2026 at 5pm.

For more information, the policy and consultation form please visit our website by following this [LINK](#).