

Dear parents and carers

At this point in the school year, we would normally send out a half-termly newsletter, but we are working in very different times at the moment. Please accept my apologies for the fact that we are posting a more routine home bulletin, which contains, nevertheless, a lot of important updates.

### **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**

You'll be interested to know that we have donated a large quantity of PPE to the Ipswich and Colchester hospitals. Thank you to the science and DT departments for their cooperation with this, and thank you to Mr Dick who delivered this. This is something of which we can all feel proud, I think.



### **Public examinations**

Following the Government's decision that no public examinations will take place this summer, students and parents are understandably anxious about what this will mean in determining grades. We expect to receive definitive guidance from the Government's examinations regulator, [Ofqual](#), on Friday.

Ahead of this though, I would like to reassure you that everyone involved will work with fairness and sensitivity to ensure that the process **works in the best interest of students**. No student should be disadvantaged, for example, because they have been unable to complete an assignment or piece of coursework. We will do all we can to ensure that students receive the grades that they deserve, so that their own lives are as unaffected as possible. Students affected deserve nothing less.

### **Free school meals update**

Following my Parentmail on Tuesday, we have received official confirmation from the Department for Education and are now in the process of distributing vouchers. If you are eligible and do not receive your voucher, please contact [enquiries@stowuplandhighschool.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@stowuplandhighschool.co.uk)

### **Easter**

We have a skeleton staff rota to keep the school running during the current lockdown arrangements. The school is open over the Easter holidays, but in line with the Government's advice, this is only for the children of key workers and some vulnerable students. Parents and carers concerned have already been contacted.

I have reminded my colleagues that there is no requirement to set work over the Easter period. If work has been set, and there may be some, there is no expectation that this is completed. Please let your children know this, tell them to take time away from their books/screens and to enjoy what would have been their holiday. It's really important that families can maintain their relationship during what is an exceptionally difficult time.

### **Public Health England**

I have attached some simple but useful guidance from [Public Health England](#) entitled *Looking after your feelings and your body*.

### **Is your Year 11 child thinking about finding a job?**

I have been asked to clarify the law around students seeking employment. This [gov.uk](#) link explains the legal position. In brief, children can only work a **maximum of 12 hours** a week **during term time**. The summer term will start on Tuesday 21 April.

During **school holidays** 15 to 16-year-olds can only work a **maximum of 35 hours a week** which includes:

- a maximum of 8 hours on weekdays and Saturdays
- a maximum of 2 hours on Sunday

Year 11 students are still on roll and therefore remain subject to this legislation. They can leave school on the last Friday in June if they will be 16 by the end of the summer holidays. They then have a range of options up until they're 18 including full-time education; an apprenticeship or traineeship; or spending 20 hours or more a week working or volunteering, while in part-time education or training. Please click [here](#) for more information.

### **An update on progress with the Sixth Form**

The site is still open and working. Indeed, it is one of few in the area to be open. The project manager has told us that the project is currently on programme, although this may change at short notice depending on the national picture.

Work we had planned to replace some of the student toilets has been temporarily put on hold.

### **Farewells and welcomes**

It is commonplace at the end of term to bid farewell to existing staff and to welcome new members to our school community.

Miss Mansfield is leaving to take up a new teaching post in Ipswich, and Mrs Howlett-Mitchell is moving on to take up fresh opportunities elsewhere. I should like to acknowledge the role they have performed in supporting their respective year groups as Progress Leaders. I know that parents and student have greatly appreciated the support they have given. They will be greatly missed and leave with our very best wishes for the future.

Miss Payne has decided to leave Stowupland High School and will not be returning after the Easter break. I would like to thank her for her contribution to the School and wish her every success in the future.

After Easter, we welcome Miss Coe to teach food technology, Mrs Leeks to teach science and Mr Rapley who will teach ICT and business studies, alongside his role as Progress Leader for Year 8. I am sure they will be made to feel very welcome. Mrs Main who has been teaching in the mathematics department this term, now joins us permanently.

### **And finally...**

I am sure you will be joining the rest of the country at 8pm this evening with a round of applause to thank the remarkable staff working within the NHS and other key workers who are in the front line in fighting COVID-19. #clapforourcarers.

My best wishes to you all

Peter Whear  
Headteacher