

29 May 2020



Dear parents and carers

Contents

When will students be returning to school?
School visits – Battlefields; Black Forest; Paris
Praise and recognition
The Stephen Spender Prize 2020
Suffolk County Council funded school travel
Oak National Academy
Sixth form update
Finally ...

This has been a half term unlike any other, and I hope you and your children have been able to enjoy the time spent together. But I know it is not at all easy for everyone. Staff here are working closely to support those families struggling the most, and I am painfully aware that, for many families, the lockdown is creating tremendous hardship and distress. A priority for us as we plan for the future, is to provide more comprehensive support to meet the social emotional and mental health needs of our students.

When will students be returning to school?

On Thursday, the Prime Minister gave some sense of the lockdown easing, albeit very slowly. It is clear though that we must continue to be alert to the risks of infection. There is a real danger of a new spike in virus cases, as has been seen in South Korea, if we do exercise extreme caution.

In his announcement, Mr Johnson confirmed that primary schools will start to reopen from Monday 1 June for pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6. All schools in the John Milton Academy Trust, including Stowupland, have been planning carefully for this for about 3 weeks now.

We all want students to return to school as soon as possible, but it must be safe to do so, and some parents will still feel reluctant or unwilling to send their children back to school. We have conducted a thorough risk assessment ahead of any students returning to Stowupland. While it will never be possible to have a site where the risks are zero, I want to assure you that we will do absolutely everything we can to mitigate these risks and to keep your children safe. Only then can we provide an appropriate learning environment.

It is envisaged that students in Year 10 and Year 12 will start to experience some face-to-face contact with their teachers from the week beginning Monday 15 June. I shall be writing to the parents of these students separately with some initial information.

School visits - Battlefields; Black Forest; Paris

I would like to remind you that if you paid for your child to go on any of these trips, you will receive a full refund in due course. Thank you for your continued patience and understanding while we wait to be reimbursed by the tour operator and our insurers. If, however, you are experiencing financial hardship, please contact the school in confidence, and we will issue a refund now.

Praise and recognition

Congratulations to the following students who have been awarded Praise & Recognition certificates for the week ending 22 May:

Grace Allen (7OW); Grace Beckley (7MDH); Barney Hetherington (7OW)
Holly Cracknell (8MP); Megan Leader (8CH); Jonathon Scott (8GE)
Rhys Davis (9DT); Maisie Mills (9SB); Harvey Townend (9KF)
Emily Andrews (10JF); Aliyah Baker (10BY); Tara King (10JF); Ethan Schofield (10ST); Robbie Shaddick (10JF); Megan Shave (10PZ)
Sam Miles (11CG); Edward Whittaker (11FS)
Taren Griggs (6TT); Margot Ryan (6SJ); Lauren Stutchbury (6JS)

Certificates for the half term were awarded to:

Theo Cassidy (7MDH); Jake Hancock (7CK); Sophie Markham (7OW)
Regan Jaggard (8SZ *pictured below*); Holly Leivers (8MP); Joshua Mace (8SZ)
Chloe Geary (9KF); Connor Hynard (9LBL); Joseph Pugh (9DT)
Tara King (10JF); Ethan Schofield (10ST); Megan Shave (10ED)
Phoebe Gilbert (6TT); Lily Thurlow (6TT)



The Stephen Spender Prize 2020

The Stephen Spender Prize for poetry in translation, in association with *The Guardian*, is now open for entries. This annual competition, with a top prize of £1,000, is the ideal activity for remote learning, and this year, there are many virtual resources to make it fully accessible from home.

Categories are 18 and under, 16 and under, 14 and under, and Open (adult). All winning entries will be published in a booklet with a special 'Spotlight' prize for translation from Polish.

The closing date is 17 July 2020, and full details are available on the SST website [here](#).

Suffolk County Council funded school travel

We received the following reminder from SCC this week:

Is your child eligible for SCC funded school travel? If they are, you will need to opt-in by Sunday (31 May 2020) to receive travel for the start of the 2020/2021 school term. If your child already receives SCC funded travel you still need to opt in every year. [Find out more here](#).

Oak National Academy

I have written previously about Oak National Academy, a new collection of lessons and online resources created in response to the lockdown. Click on this link for more information:

<https://www.thenational.academy/online-classroom>

Sixth form update

The contractors have been busy all week. The building is starting to take shape with parts of the first floor now in place. Groundwork for the new car park has also moved on rapidly.

Finally ...

Work is scheduled to start next week to refurbish the student toilets in the English, science and maths corridors. This is a large project which will take several weeks to complete. The refurbishment is frankly long overdue. Once completed, students will benefit from dignified, high quality facilities.

Best wishes



Peter Whear
Headteacher