

Open Evening: 2020 Frequently Asked Questions

As parents and carers, you may want answers to the following questions.

Question	Response/Information
<p>How do you communicate with parents and carers?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school website is the first port of call for school information. • We currently use Parentmail to email home any updates, reminders or emergency notices e.g. school closure, letters etc. but will soon be switching to a new management information system called Arbor. • You will also receive our Home Bulletin electronically each Friday. This has dates and notices for the following 2 weeks. • We publish mini-newsletters every half-term. • You can write messages to form tutors in your child's student planner. • Each year group has its own designated Progress Leader and Assistant Progress Leader who are responsible for monitoring progress, behaviour and attendance. • We arrange for parents and carers to meet Form Tutors during the autumn term of Year 7 to discuss how students are settling in. • There is also an annual parents' evening with teachers and form tutors.
<p>How do you arrange form groups and teaching groups?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our staff visit primary schools and interview all students who are going to join the school. Students are then organised into mixed-ability tutor groups with their own form tutor. • Form tutors play an important role in supporting our students and are often best placed to deal with queries or concerns. • We do our utmost to maintain positive friendship groups. • Students are placed in ability groups for English and Maths. We timetable these subjects so that we can make adjustments throughout the year if necessary. • In other subjects including Science, Humanities, Computing, Art, Music, Drama, French and German, students are taught in their tutor groups. • In practical subjects such as Technology and PE, students are taught in mixed groups.
<p>What subjects will my child study?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Year 7 and 8, students study English, Maths, Science, History, Geography, Music, Art, Drama, Dance, PE, French or German, Computing and Design Technology (DT) including Food Technology. • We have an extensive suite of dedicated DT classrooms, a large drama studio, and a modern dance studio. • All of our teachers are fully-qualified subject specialists.
<p>How do you assess students?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the start of Year 7, students take an initial assessment in most subjects. This identifies their starting point at Stowupland. • Teachers then assess and mark students' work regularly. • We provide you with an annual Full Report and termly Progress Checks.
<p>How does the timetable work?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students have four 75-minute lessons each day with an afternoon registration and tutor period. There are weekly assemblies. • We run a 2-week timetable; week 1 and week 2 are different. Students need to be organised and remember which 'week' it is.
<p>How well do students behave?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We focus on a simple motto: <i>Rights, Responsibilities, and Respect</i>. Students' behaviour is good. They conduct themselves in a calm and orderly fashion. • Our clear expectations of students and their conduct are displayed in classrooms. The Behaviour Policy is on the website. • We have clear systems to respond to any conduct that falls below our high expectations. • We reward students for good conduct and hard work and acknowledge what they have achieved in termly Achievement Assemblies.
<p>What do you do about bullying?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bullying is unacceptable here. We are committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all our students.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If bullying occurs, students report the problem to any member of staff and know that incidents will be dealt with promptly and effectively.
Will my child be safe at break and lunchtime?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We enjoy spacious grounds with various 'enclosed' areas where students are supervised during social times. We do not allow students to leave the site at break or lunchtime.
Is there anywhere just for Year 7?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yes, the courtyard area which provides a space away from older students at social times.
What are the canteen arrangements?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The school canteen serves a wide range of hot and cold dishes. We have now moved to a cashless catering system so students do not need to bring money into school. You can top up your child's account online. Students may also bring in a packed lunch.
Is there a school uniform?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students wear a smart and practical uniform. Details are on our website https://www.stowuplandhighschool.co.uk/essentials/uniform/
And attendance?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students' attendance is above the national average. We have a dedicated Attendance Officer who phones home on the first day of any absence and we work closely with the Educational Welfare Team. Every teacher takes a register at the beginning of each lesson. Time off for holidays or other activities is not granted unless there are exceptional circumstances: employment in the armed services or exceptional family circumstances (supported by an external agency).
What about clubs and other opportunities?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We run a daily friendship group for students in Year 7. COVID restrictions mean that we are currently unable to run our usual clubs and societies. We hope to be in a position to return to our extensive programme of lunchtime and after school activities next year.
What about GCSE results?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Across the country, no students sat GCSE examinations this summer. Historically, our GCSE results have been broadly in line with those of other schools nationally. We pay particular attention to students in specific groups: students with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND), High Achievers, and Pupil Premium. We provide additional support and intervention to ensure that all students make the required progress.
What is the sixth form like?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Our wonderful new sixth form building opens later this term. It comprises 6 classrooms, a common room and performance space which is also designed for community use. A level results are broadly in line with national average. Level 3 BTEC courses are significantly above national average. On average, 60% of students go on to University including Oxbridge and Russell Group. Other students secure apprenticeships in a wide range of professions including telecommunications, education and hospitality. We expect our students to engage enthusiastically in volunteering. This helps them to build confidence and self-esteem, as well as enabling them to give back to our wider community.
Will my child get a locker?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yes, there are lockers available for all students so that books and equipment can be left at school. We will provide full details in the summer term.
What is your policy on mobile phones?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students may bring phones to school but they are to be used only in emergency. Students are not allowed to use their phones during the school day.
I live out of catchment area. What can I do to try to get a place?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Admissions into Year 7 are over seen by Suffolk County Council (SCC). Details are published on their website. The deadline for applications is 31 October 2020.
How do I arrange transport to school by bus?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SCC introduced a new school travel policy, effective from September 2019. Full details about school travel can be found on their website: https://www.suffolkonboard.com/school-travel/