



7 January 2022

## Message from Executive Headteacher

Dear parents and carers

A Happy New Year to you all.

It was a pleasure to welcome students back to school on Wednesday. I have been impressed to see our young people settle back quickly into their learning routines. We have supported this with our focus on being punctual to lessons, having the right equipment to learn and wearing the correct uniform. This is underpinned by our core values of *Rights; Responsibilities; Respect*.

### Staff training

The term started on Tuesday for staff with a training day. Students often ask me what we do on these “mysterious” days during term time when they are not in school! I thought it might interest you to know what we covered on Tuesday.

**Meeting the social, emotional and mental health needs of the whole community** - our students, our staff, our parents and carers - is a key priority for the Trust. Another focus is on developing sustainable practice; in our use of energy, in our use of resources and in our safeguarding of our environment. Staff from all four JMAT schools met together on Zoom to hear how we intend to meet these objectives.

## COVID-19

The news is dominated by Omicron at the moment. We watched the number of positive cases rise steeply over the holiday, and admired in turn the valiant response of our incredible NHS. The government has set out its Plan B which it intends to review on 26 January.

Schools have understandably been back in the spotlight at the start of the new term. The government published [revised guidance](#) over the holiday on how schools should respond. Our risk assessment has been updated in line with this. The government's guidance for parents and carers has been updated [here](#).

We will continue to follow the government's advice and operate within the framework set out by the local public health authorities. You may recall that Suffolk was designated an “Enhanced Response Area” towards the end of 2021, as cases rose sharply. Suffolk County Council set out three operating levels for all schools in the county. These are based on the proportion of positive cases among students and staff. All schools were reset to Level One at the start of term.

This means that:

- students (unless exempt) are now expected to wear face coverings in the school building at all times except when eating or drinking.
- we will continue to permit only essential visitors in school and by appointment only.
- we ask all students and staff to conduct lateral flow device (LFD) tests twice a week, to report their results on [the government website](#) and to follow [the guidance](#) on isolation should this be necessary.

To start with, we were left breathless by a passionate and moving talk from our keynote speaker Jaz Ampaw-Farr, entitled "Everyday Heroes". Some of you may remember Jaz from series 9 of *The Apprentice*. She provided us with an insight into her early years and how teachers literally saved her life. She reminded us of the transformative role schools play in shaping and informing young people's lives. A truly inspirational session.

We also received training in trauma informed practice. We were taught some of the strategies to address challenging behaviour, learning difficulties, and long-term mental ill-health that stem from adverse childhood experiences. Thank you to our colleagues from the Mulberry Centre for leading this.

Staff then worked in subject areas to fine-tune their curriculum and assessment plans with a particular focus on students with special educational needs and disabilities.

Over the past three days, we have also completed a programme of LFD testing for all students for whom we have consent. I am pleased to say that all test results were negative. All students have been provided with LFD test kits today and should continue with twice-weekly testing. Single use PCR kits will be sent home with students next Friday to perform a PCR test alongside their usual LFD test on Sunday 16 January.

Thank you so much for your continued support. It means so much to us in these incredibly challenging times. Please contact us if you have any questions or require further advice.

With my best wishes to you all for the week ahead,

Peter Wear  
Executive Headteacher

## PE Changing Rooms

We are delighted to confirm that the refurbished PE changing rooms are now in use.

## Year 9 Options

The Year 9 Options process will commence on Wednesday 12 January with a year group assembly. A separate communication will be sent to Year 9 parents and carers shortly.

## Cashless Catering

We apologise for any inconvenience caused as a result of the software update which took place over the Christmas break. Mrs Wooldridge is working closely with Biostore and we hope that the situation will be resolved next week.

## Menu Change

Thursday 20 January only:

Chicken Enchiladas & Southern Fried Quorn Burger will be replaced with *Pizza Day*.

Options will include:

- Margherita Pizza
- Pepperoni Pizza
- Vege Supreme Pizza

Served with:

- Potato Wedges
- Coleslaw
- Sweetcorn
- Salad

A variety of dessert options will be available.

## Home School Communication

Please direct any queries or concerns you may have via the dedicated email addresses shown overleaf. This will ensure that they are dealt with in a timely and effective manner.

A reminder that student information can be viewed and updated via the Arbor App. Please do not hesitate to contact the school if you have any difficulties accessing this facility.

## Attendance up to 7 January 2022

Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	Y11	Overall
91.6%	91.6%	89.6%	88.5%	91.2%	90.5%

Diary dates	Contact Details:
<b>January:</b>	<b>Main School:</b> 01449 674827 (08.30am - 4.00pm)
Wednesday 12th: Y13 Parents' Evening	<a href="mailto:year7@stowuplandhighschool.co.uk">year7@stowuplandhighschool.co.uk</a>
Friday 14th: Y11 Mock Results Day	<a href="mailto:year8@stowuplandhighschool.co.uk">year8@stowuplandhighschool.co.uk</a>
Wednesday 19th: Y9 Options Evening	<a href="mailto:year9@stowuplandhighschool.co.uk">year9@stowuplandhighschool.co.uk</a>
Friday 28th: Y11 Reports shared with parents and carers	<b>Pastoral emails:</b> <a href="mailto:year10@stowuplandhighschool.co.uk">year10@stowuplandhighschool.co.uk</a>
<b>February:</b>	<a href="mailto:year11@stowuplandhighschool.co.uk">year11@stowuplandhighschool.co.uk</a>
Wednesday 2nd: Y11 Parents' Evening	<a href="mailto:sixthform@stowuplandhighschool.co.uk">sixthform@stowuplandhighschool.co.uk</a>
Friday 4th: Y9 Reports shared with parents and carers	<b>General:</b> <a href="mailto:enquiries@stowuplandhighschool.co.uk">enquiries@stowuplandhighschool.co.uk</a>
Wednesday 9th: Y9 Parents' Evening	<b>Cashless catering:</b> <a href="mailto:accounts@stowuplandhighschool.co.uk">accounts@stowuplandhighschool.co.uk</a>
Wednesday 16th: 6th Form Open Evening	<b>Library:</b> <a href="mailto:library@stowuplandhighschool.co.uk">library@stowuplandhighschool.co.uk</a>
	<b>Attendance:</b> <a href="mailto:attendance@stowuplandhighschool.co.uk">attendance@stowuplandhighschool.co.uk</a>
	<b>Absence Line:</b> 01449 742428
	<b>Website:</b> <a href="http://www.stowuplandhighschool.co.uk">www.stowuplandhighschool.co.uk</a>

Term Dates 2021- 2022		Half Term	Non Student Days
<b>Autumn Term 2021</b>	2nd September - 16th December	25th - 29th Oct	2nd September 3rd September
<b>Spring Term 2022</b>	4th January - 8th April	21st - 25th Feb	26th November 4th January
<b>Summer Term 2022</b>	25th April - 22nd July	30th May - 3rd June	22nd July

Church Road Stowupland Stowmarket IP14 4BQ

Executive Headteacher: Mr Peter Whear; Head of School: Mr David Brewster

Chair of Local Board: Mrs Karen Hudson