



21 January 2022

Message from the Executive Headteacher

Dear parents and carers

As ever, I hope this newsletter finds you and your loved ones safe and well.

Year 11 interviews

Students in Year 11 received their GCSE “Mock” grades last Friday. This week, members of the Year 11 Progress Team and some of the senior leadership team have been interviewing them to discuss their Sixth Form options.

It has been an absolute pleasure talking to well-informed, ambitious young women and men about their career plans. In my meetings, I have spoken to future vets, teachers, politicians, actors, dancers, engineers, and police officers. Others are still to decide. But I have been struck by their sense of optimism and determination. This is greatly to their credit, following so much turmoil over the past two years. I know they will go far.

Year 9 Options Evening

Meanwhile, Year 9 are starting to plan their next steps as they consider the GCSE and BTEC options they will study in Key Stage 4 from September.

COVID-19

Mr Whear wrote yesterday to say that staff and students will no longer be required to wear face coverings in school from next Thursday, 27 January. Although the Government has announced that the Plan B restrictions will soon be lifted, none of us can afford to be complacent. The virus is still widespread, and the research strongly suggests that the dominant Omicron variant is highly contagious. Although we all hope dearly to see the virus recede, we cannot assume that infection rates will continue to fall.

In school, we continue to take all measures necessary to minimise the risk of transmission of the virus. We routinely report any new positive cases to the local public health team who have a clear overview of the infection rate across our region. They are well placed to provide schools with advice and guidance which we will continue to follow.

Y11 Parents' Evening

Parents and carers of Y11 students have been sent a separate communication regarding their Parents' Evening on Wednesday 2 February. Appointments will be held virtually, via *School Cloud*. Bookings open on Monday 24 January at 4.00pm.

Please note: separate appointments can be made with Mr Benson as Progress Leader to discuss pastoral issues, if required, as well as a teacher of History.

We held a very successful Options Evening on Wednesday. With the COVID restrictions in place at the time, we were unable to hold a face-to-face event. Since the start of the pandemic, we have used the *School Cloud* app to hold virtual parents' evenings. This was the case once again, and we were able to hold online consultations with parents, carers and their children, which proved very popular.

My thanks to the staff for their hard work and professionalism. It was a long day! And thank you to all the parents and carers for meeting their appointments, and for sharing their positive feedback.

School Council

Mr Brewster and Mr Holden met with the School Council on Wednesday. Students had the opportunity to express their opinions on a wide range of matters regarding school life. Among the issues they discussed were homework, our school values (Rights; Responsibilities; Respect), and new furniture for the con-course area.

The members of the School Council are strong advocates for their fellow students and powerful ambassadors for our school community. They were highly articulate and thoughtful in sharing their views. From speaking to Mr Brewster, I can see that they have given the school's leaders plenty to consider.

So you can see that it has been another busy week. The spring term is not yet three weeks old, and we have barely paused for breath!

My best wishes to you all for the week ahead.

Yours sincerely

Peter Wear
Executive Headteacher

EAST SCITT

We are proud to be supporting the next generation of trainee teachers in collaboration with EAST SCITT.

EAST SCITT is a local school centred teacher training provision covering the Suffolk area. If you are considering a career change, informal online informational sessions are scheduled for:

Wednesday 9 February, 4.00pm

Wednesday 16 March, 5.00pm

To register your interest or for further information visit: www.eastscitt.co.uk. Bursaries and scholarships are available, subject dependent.

SENDIASS sessions for parents and carers

Suffolk SENDIASS provides impartial and confidential information, advice and support to children and young people with SEND, and their parents and carers.

Please visit the Suffolk Learning website for further details. Booking is now open for online information sessions.

Battlefields Trip

Following the cancellation of the Battlefields trip, Mrs Wooldridge has started refunding monies paid to date.

Unfortunately, due to Parentmail's restrictions, there is a limit on how many refunds can be made at any one time.

It is hoped that all refunds will have been processed by the end of next week.

Please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Wooldridge via accounts@stowuplandhighschool.co.uk if you have any queries or concerns.

Attendance up to 14 January 2022

Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	Y11	Overall
91.9%	91.2%	90.3%	88.2%	91.2%	90.6%

Diary dates		Contact Details:	
January:		Main School:	01449 674827 (08.30am - 4.00pm)
Thursday 27th:	COVID-19 vaccination clinic		year7@stowuplandhighschool.co.uk
Friday 28th:	Y11 Reports shared with parents and carers		year8@stowuplandhighschool.co.uk
February:		Pastoral emails:	year9@stowuplandhighschool.co.uk
Wednesday 2nd:	GCSE Artist Workshop Y11 Parents' Evening		year10@stowuplandhighschool.co.uk
Friday 4th:	Y9 Reports shared with parents and carers		year11@stowuplandhighschool.co.uk
Wednesday 9th:	Y9 Parents' Evening	General:	sixthform@stowuplandhighschool.co.uk
Wednesday 16th:	6th Form Open Evening	Cashless catering:	enquiries@stowuplandhighschool.co.uk
		Library:	accounts@stowuplandhighschool.co.uk
		Attendance:	library@stowuplandhighschool.co.uk
		Absence Line:	attendance@stowuplandhighschool.co.uk
		Website:	01449 742428
			www.stowuplandhighschool.co.uk

Term Dates 2021- 2022		Half Term	Non Student Days
Autumn Term 2021	2nd September - 16th December	25th - 29th Oct	2nd September 3rd September
Spring Term 2022	4th January - 8th April	21st - 25th Feb	26th November 4th January
Summer Term 2022	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