

Respect

Inspire

Achieve

Stoke High School–Ormiston Academy



NEWSLETTER



Principal’s Message

Welcome to our second newsletter. We hope that you enjoy reading about the many exciting and memorable things that have happened at Stoke over the last term.

I will start with some frustrating news - our new canteen will not be open until after May half term. This is a huge disappointment. However, I would like to take this opportunity to thank my core year 11 advisors who have been instrumental in the design of the interior, from chairs to paint colours. Thank you.

Year 11 are fast approaching their public exams and getting ready for their next steps. It is always sad to see a year group leave but we wish them all success in their exams and hope that all their hard work will pay off. Good luck year 11!

Life at Stoke is never dull and we never stand still. We are always seeking ways to improve our communication with home, to improve the learning and recreational environment and to improve the opportunities that we give students to engage in learning both inside and outside of the classroom. Hopefully you get the sense of this from our newsletters and by talking to your children. But we would love more parents to be involved in our parents’ group. This group meets half termly and is

Key Dates and Events—Summer 2024

Monday 15th April	Term Starts
Thursday 18th April	Year 9 Parents’ Evening
Monday 6th May	Bank Holiday
Thursday 9th May	Year 8 Parents’ Evening
Thursday 23rd May	Year 7 Parents’ Evening
Monday 27th May—Friday 31st May	Half Term
Wednesday 19th June	Sports Day
Wednesday 26th June	Summer Festival
Thursday 27th June	Year 6 Transition Day
Friday 5th July	Year 11 Prom
Monday 22nd July	Summer Holiday

an opportunity to suggest ideas, give feedback and help to plan and make events happen. Please contact Cwelsby@stokehigh.co.uk for more information.

We would like to take this opportunity to say thank you for your continued support and we wish you all a lovely Easter break.

Ms. K Baldwin, Principal



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Message from the Head Boy and Head Girl

Welcome to the second Stoke High School Newsletter. This term has been rather busy for us as we have had our final set of PPEs. Results are being released soon, and although nervous, it will really help us find ways to improve and challenge ourselves across the last hurdle. Reality has kicked in a little more for all of us in Year 11 as we have now received our official exam timetables.

But there has been so much more going on around the school beyond Year 11. There has been a real celebration of culture as many of our students are observing Ramadan and a sense of excitement as we build up to the Easter holidays. This has been a good opportunity for us to reflect on our time at Stoke High School. We have both been here for five years and started in Year 7 back in 2019. The journey has been one of the best times in our lives and one which we shall always treasure.

However, if we are to impart some advice for our younger peers in preparation for their exams, it would be this: every lesson is important, even from the start of Year 7. Without the core knowledge and fundamentals, revision will become more of a struggle. See Year 7 as the start of the learning journey on the pathway to success.

We wish you all a safe and enjoyable Easter holiday!

Dylan, Head Boy and Dareen, Head Girl

Message from Parliament

This has been a productive term in which members of school parliament met with students across all year groups. We were able to gauge their interests and concerns regarding the future of Stoke High School. We took the ideas back to our Parliament meeting and narrowed these suggestions to present to the Senior Leadership Team. We wanted to implement a Prayer Room which we can successfully announce is up and running. We also requested more seating for students outside the school which is currently under development.

Parliament has had a positive impact on the school community. As both Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister, we have been privileged to speak to students and they have had the confidence to speak to us. This has further demonstrated the importance of democratic approaches in regards to leadership and improving life at Stoke High School. We look forward to continuing this as we head into our final term as leaders of Stoke High School Parliament. We wish you all a wonderful Easter.

Edward, Prime Minister and Jake, Deputy Prime Minister



English Faculty

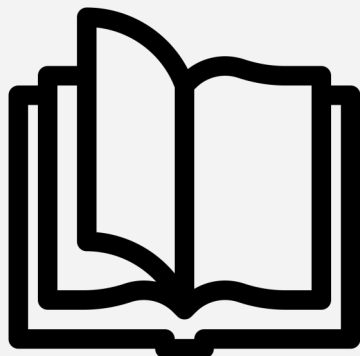
The Art of Revision and Homework

One of the surprising things that can be observed as a teacher is the number of times the same questions ring out in the classroom: “Why do I have to do homework?”

One of the main reasons that we ask students to complete homework is to ensure that students can become independent learners, a skill that will be vital once they have left Stoke High School. Homework can reinforce key knowledge, which in turn means that exams become a little bit less stressful.

A good example of this can be seen across our year groups. In Year 7, for example, students learn about the concept of patriarchy at the beginning of their first unit of study. This is emphasised and built on each year, so that when the students start their GCSE in English, they can discuss this without any difficulty. It becomes a part of their everyday analytical thought process. It creates a sense of success for students, and this diet of rich vocabulary can lead to higher grades in the exam.

Homework in English also allows students to be tested on core knowledge. It allows them to build up a vocabulary of key words, or key terms, which are vital for students to be able to achieve success across their exams.



Getting into good homework habits is also excellent for thinking about revision, particularly before Year 11. By completing the homework set, it encourages students to be independent, and to apply the knowledge learned in the classroom to the tasks that have been assigned.

This half-term, we have organised a homework competition for Year 10, and many of the students have taken this very seriously. Each class has the opportunity to win a £15 Amazon Voucher, and there has been a strong improvement in students completing their homework. If we can get into good habits, it becomes easier to do the work as it is assigned.

All this leads us to the dreaded revision...

Revision is vital. Revision should also be ongoing. Revision allows us to access the information we need to successfully answer questions, or complete tasks.

In English, revision means the recall of information. From plots and key characters to important quotations and language devices used by writers, revision is about knowing the texts we study. For each student the best way for them to learn, and revise the subject, may be different. However, it is important that students are supported in this. I would strongly encourage you to ask your child what is in the exams and ask them questions that allow them to show you just how much they know. You may be surprised to find out the depth of their knowledge!



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Maths Faculty

Year 10 Advanced Mathematics Support Programme Maths Feast

Four of our specially selected Year 10s entered the Year 10 Maths Feast being held at Ipswich Academy. Fareed, Muees, Eddie and Aiden competed against other schools in the area. They worked brilliantly as a team, scoring highly on all rounds. We weren't told the winners but I am really proud of them.



Maths Challenge January 2024

The Intermediate Maths challenge was held on January 31st.

Pupils achieving results in each year were:

Lucy (Year 9) achieved Silver and Best in School.

Mubaraq (Year 9) achieved Bronze.

Muees (Year 10) achieved Bronze and Best in Year.

Ana-Maria (Year 11) achieved Bronze and Best in Year.

Alex (Year 11) achieved Bronze.

Ryan (Year 11) achieved Bronze.

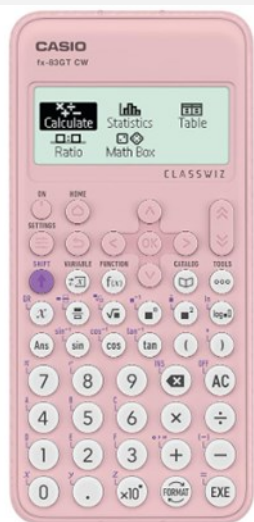
Olayemi (Year 11) achieved Bronze.

Shannon (Year 11) achieved Bronze.

Well done to all who took part. This award should be included in CV's as part of college and job applications.

New Calculators

Casio have upgraded the scientific calculators.



When purchasing a calculator can you please buy this version. They come in black, grey, blue and pink. The school has purchased grey for class use so you may wish to get a different colour so it doesn't get mixed up. Please label clearly with your child's name.

A quick search on Amazon gives the price as £12.29 but it varies on colour. Solar panel versions are more expensive.

Mrs. C Garrard, Second in Maths Faculty

Science Faculty

Year 11 updates!

PPEs are done and dusted and the final furlong has begun.

Results of the PPEs are being given to students and the final 26 Science lessons have been mapped and planned to maximise revision for GCSEs. All lessons will focus on exam technique around graphs, standard form and significant figures in the first part of the lesson moving on to a specific exam topic with past paper questions to support their understanding.

Just a reminder that all students will receive a copy of the Physics equations in their exam so no need to learn these. The few remaining Biology and Chemistry equations will need to be learnt.

Students have been made aware of the following revision platforms to support them this term. www.senecalearning.com, www.freesciencelessons.co.uk and the CGP app can also be downloaded. The exam board for Science is AQA Trilogy.

What have we been learning about?

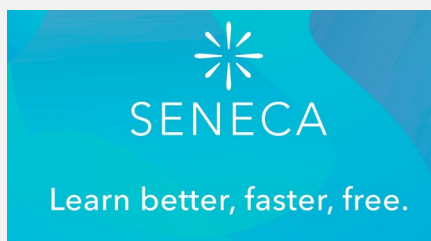
The Year 7 students have successfully transitioned from their settling in phase and are actively engaged in practical lessons. Currently, they are studying the respiratory system and the anatomy of the lungs, with plans to explore separating solutions in the upcoming weeks.

In Year 8, students have been engaging in valuable lessons on Acids and Alkalis. They have actively participated in practical activities involving the use of indicators to determine the pH of various household items. These lessons also encompassed important safety measures. Moving forward, the students will explore neutralizations and the process of creating salts.

The Year 9 students have commenced a fresh Biology unit focusing on cells and their structure, with a plethora of unfamiliar terms to grasp. Adjustments have been made for students who have switched groups to ensure targeted learning. An end-of-unit assessment is scheduled before the Easter break, with subsequent lessons dedicated to revision techniques.

Year 10 students have progressed in their GCSE course by studying more advanced Chemistry topics. They will now shift their focus to the biology topic of photosynthesis. These topics will be covered in the final paper one exams, which will take place before the end of the school year. Students who wish to prepare in advance can refer to the information provided in the year 11 section. The topics covered will include Biology 1-4, Chemistry 1-5, and Physics 1-4. Revision strategies will be discussed in class once again.

Mrs. J Tankard, Second in Science Faculty



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Humanities Faculty

History

Embarking on a captivating journey through time, our students at Stoke High School are delving into a rich and diverse history curriculum that not only educates but also sparks curiosity and critical thinking



In Year 7, our budding historians have been transported to the medieval period, where knights, castles, and the Magna Carta come to life. This foundational study introduces students to the medieval world, exploring the social, political, and cultural landscapes that shaped the course of history. Through engaging lessons and interactive activities, Year 7 students not only learn about key historical figures and events but also develop essential skills in historical analysis and interpretation.

Moving forward into Year 8, our students have been confronting a crucial and often



overlooked chapter in British history—the history of slavery. This term focuses on the impact of slavery on Britain, shedding light on the uncomfortable truths of the transatlantic slave trade. Through a sensitive and informative approach, students gain a deeper understanding of the historical roots of inequality and the importance of recognizing and learning from our shared past. The curriculum encourages empathy, critical thinking, and discussions about the ongoing fight against racism and injustice.

As our students progress to Year 9, they find themselves immersed in the harrowing and heroic narratives of World War Two. This pivotal period in global history is examined from various perspectives, providing students with a comprehensive understanding of the causes, events, and aftermath of the conflict. Through the study of primary sources, documentaries, and firsthand accounts, Year 9 students develop a nuanced appreciation for the complexities of war and its enduring impact on the world.

Our Year 10 GCSE students are on an exciting journey into the captivating world of Elizabeth I. As part of their studies, students will delve into the life, reign and legacy of one of England's most iconic monarchs.

As we embark on a new term filled with exploration and learning, we are thrilled to share with you the upcoming historical topics that will engage and challenge our students. In Year 7, our students will traverse the ancient and illustrious Silk Roads, the network of trade routes connecting the East and West. Through this exploration, they will uncover the vibrant exchange of goods, ideas, and cultures that occurred along these historic routes. In Year 8, our students will delve into the inspiring and tumultuous era of the Civil Rights Movement in the United States. They will examine the courageous individuals and collective efforts that challenged racial segregation and fought for equality and justice. From the landmark Supreme Court case of *Brown v. Board of Education* to the historic March on Washington led by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., students will analyze the strategies, sacrifices, and triumphs of the movement. In Year 9, our students will confront one of the darkest chapters in human history

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as they study the Holocaust. They will delve into the systematic persecution and genocide perpetrated by the Nazi regime during World War II, examining the stories of survivors, bystanders, and perpetrators. Through this study, students will grapple with questions of morality, empathy, and the dangers of prejudice and propaganda.

Our Key Stage 3 students will have the unique opportunity to embark on a fascinating trip to Sutton Hoo, a local history site steeped in mystery and wonder. Sutton Hoo is home to an ancient Anglo-Saxon burial ground, where an extraordinary treasure trove was unearthed, including the iconic Sutton Hoo helmet.



In addition to the Sutton Hoo trip, we are honoured to host a talk from a Holocaust survivor, whose firsthand account will provide our students with a powerful and poignant understanding of this tragic chapter in history. Through their testimony, students will have the opportunity to hear personal stories of survival, resilience, and hope, ensuring that the memory of the Holocaust is preserved for future generations.

We encourage you to discuss these opportunities with your child and support their participation in these enriching experiences.

Thank you for your continued support.

Miss. K Griffiths, Teacher of History

Geography

Over the past term the geographers at Stoke have been investigating the world around them through the topics of development, weather patterns, ecosystems and coastal environments. This has allowed them to understand locations and landscapes that contrast our own. The recent flooding events across Suffolk have been of great interest to many of our students. Allowing them to reflect upon the impacts to the environment and community that extreme weather events can cause. A number of year 7 students are looking forward to visiting Sutton Hoo over the Easter holidays. This opportunity will give students an understanding of how the landscape has been home to communities and settlements over thousands of years. Moving forward into the next term we are looking forward to working with the library to bring students high quality literature that relates to their geography learning and providing enrichment opportunities for students to use their geographical knowledge. In the summer term students will be focusing on settlements, rivers, sustainability and fieldwork skills. This is with the aim to provide more outdoor learning opportunities as the weather improves.



Miss F Holden, Second in Humanities Faculty



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Oxford Academy of Arts & Technology
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RE

Our RE curriculum reflects the important month for Muslims currently with year 9 learning more about the faith of Islam. This topic allows students to develop an understanding of the key practices within Islam, consider moral issues through the lens of the religion and think about the divergent views of the faith. After the Easter holidays, year 9 will study a philosophy module looking at 'What gives life worth?'. This will allow students to consider different points of view and debates on the right to life and death and consider some important moral issues in our society today.



Year 8 have been looking at Christianity and Buddhism and considering the ethical issues of crime, law and order. They have been utilising their analysis skills to understand if these two religions agree on issues around punishment and justice and where there are distinct views in the religions. Students will move on to Sikhism next and consider the place of women in the Sikh religion. Students will learn about the role of leaders in the religion, the key texts and how Sikhs apply them to life in twenty first century Britain.

Year 7 have been enthusiastic about learning Christianity and trying to answer some big philosophical questions on the role of reconciliation and sacrifice in the faith. The next topic will allow students to develop their philosophical thinking even more, and we are going to explore how philosophy can teach us what the right action is in any given situation. Watch out for the NATRE RE Spirited Arts competition coming up – I will be looking for lots of fantastic entries to send off for prizes!

Miss J Iles, Head of Humanities Faculty

French Faculty

Paris Trip

I am really happy to tell you all about our amazing trip to Paris over the last weekend of the February half term.

We were a large group, made up of 49 students from Year 10 and Year 11 and 5 members of staff. There were students of French, Art, Photography and Food Technology and the staff members were Mrs Howe, Miss Ashmore, Miss Roxburgh, Mr James and Mr Moxon.

We had a really early start on Saturday 24th February, with parents and students gathering in the school car park at 4:30 in the morning, bleary-eyed, handing in passports by torch light and saying our goodbyes. By 5:00 we were on our way to France.

As we were bowling down the motorway towards Dover, and I was checking the itinerary for the evening, our fantastic coach drivers noticed that our restaurant for that evening was not 10 minutes walk from the hotel as previously arranged, but 2 and a half hours away! Luckily I was able to obtain 54 metro tickets at short notice and our students were able to experience the Paris metro as well as have a nice buffet meal in a restaurant right next to the Arc de Triomphe, all lit up at night.



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Our hotel was really comfortable and everyone made the most of the continental breakfast, pancakes with Nutella being a very popular choice! We were then driven to the Louvre Museum, where we explored the incredible collection of artworks, including the Mona Lisa. This museum is so immense and labyrinthine that many students said they would like to have had more time there to find their way around!

We then visited the Musee d'Art Moderne, where Miss Roxburgh was very much in her element, providing context and background for many of the artworks. It was a beautiful, calm space right next to the river Seine and provided a much needed opportunity for some students to sit and relax and maybe even doze a little!

Then it was back in the coach to go the famous Montmartre district of Paris, where we climbed a lot steps to the beautiful Sacre Coeur basilica. Students had some free time and many courageously sat down in cafes and ordered a hot meal or wandered around buying souvenirs from Paris. The weather was really cold and wet, but it didn't seem to dampen spirits. The whole day came to a spectacular close when we arrived at a viewpoint for the Eiffel Tower just as it started to spectacularly twinkle with thousands of fairy lights. Fantastique!

The next day we took a super-fast lift to the 56th floor of the Montparnasse Tower for a 360-degree view the whole of Paris. We could pin-point a lot of the places we had already seen and then we went right to the terrace at the top and took a group photograph.

I and all the staff members would like to thank all the students who took part in the trip. They were all beautifully polite and enthusiastic and it was great to see everyone having a great time.

Who knows, we may run another trip next year!

Mrs. C Howe, Curriculum Lead of French





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Technology Faculty

Food

The Year 10 food groups have been delving into some more complex recipes of late. These recipes have included; carbonara, including making their own fresh pasta, crème brulee, which included using a blow torch to caramelize the top of their dish, choux pastry and crème patisserie, and cinnamon buns. Our Year 10 chefs have been working incredibly hard, and have produced some wonderful outcomes, which have spanned over two lessons, which can have its own difficulties. Miss Button and Mr Holmes would like to say a huge well done to the chefs, and to encourage them to continue on their journey to cooking excellence for the remainder of this term!



Photography



The Year 10 photographers headed off for a day in London on the 8th March. We took 30 students who all took numerous trains and tubes into London to enjoy a range of sightseeing and galleries, all the while taking lots of photos for their photography coursework portfolios. First of all, students headed to Hyde Park Station and took a walk to the Serpentine Gallery. At the gallery, the students enjoyed the Barbara Kruger Exhibition, which had elements of photography and videography. The students then headed off for a mixture of sightseeing including the London Eye, Buckingham Palace, Millenium Bridge, Knightsbridge, Westminster and Parliament Square. The students managed to rack up a lot of steps, but they were fantastic and a real credit to the school. Well done, Year 10, you showed the public of London what fantastic young people we have here at SHS.

Engineering

We would like to welcome Mr Overing who has joined the Technology Department as a full-time member of staff. You may have had Mr Overing take over your Engineering or STEM class, however he can also teach Food and is really enjoying working with us and teaching you all! Mr Overing knows his stuff and has been teaching Engineering a very long time. He has taken over room 302 and has been working on cleaning up the room and the machines that are in there. One thing that has been very important in his lessons so far, is ensuring that all of his engineering students have good knowledge of Health and Safety, especially when using large machines and lots of different tools. There has been lots of practical lessons taking place in the workshops, as Mr Overing has been teaching his students how to produce different joints and has been working on improving their knowledge of measuring materials! We wish Mr Overing the best of luck and a thank you for joining our team!

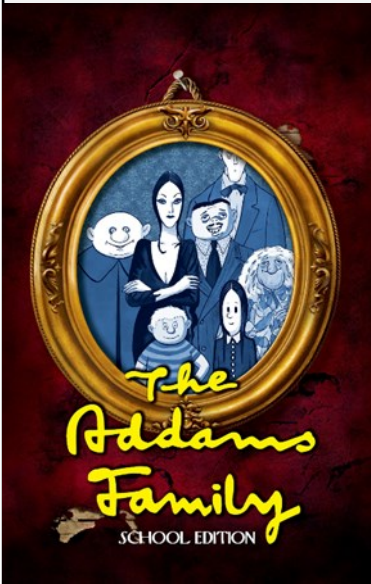


Miss Z Button, Head of Technology Faculty

Performing Arts Faculty

Drama

The Addams Family—2 Nights Sold Out!



Once again, this year's school production was an outstanding and amazing success. The cast and crew worked so hard to learn lines, songs, dances and cues and performed with a lot of heart and soul for both sold out nights. The day before we had a primary school visit us for a special matinee performance and as they left, they had nothing but positive and thoughtful comments saying things like "I actually enjoyed that!" and "Wow, that singing was amazing!". Those comments just sum up the hard work and dedication that the cast and crew put into the show. The cast described the process as a journey and commented that it had been a lot of fun and hard work, but they had the opportunity to work with and make friends with people that they never normally would have met.

We are so very proud of the achievements of the cast and crew and are now setting our minds to the next production.

Drama Club

Drama Club will devise a performance that will be performed at the New Wolsey Youth Perform Festival on Tuesday 25th June. Tickets for this event will be available via the New Wolsey Theatre. More information will be provided nearer the time. For further details please contact Mrs Beacham.

Mrs. T Beacham, Head of Performing Arts Faculty

Year 10 'Romeo and Juliet' Workshop

The Year 10 Drama class went to watch 'Romeo and Juliet' at the New Wolsey Theatre. They were given the opportunity to not only watch the play, but also have a discussion with the cast and crew. As well as this, the class took part in a 'Romeo and Juliet' workshop provided by Annie Eddington from the New Wolsey. The class were fantastic and really enjoyed being taught by an experienced and creative visitor. The students were able to explore the themes of the play through performance work and were given practical tips to learn key quotes, all of which will support them in their English exam. Annie was very impressed with the quality of work and sense of belonging that was emitted from the class and the wider school community.



Mr. L Eversley, Teacher of Drama



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Music

In the music department, we are celebrating our students who have taken part in the Ormiston's got talent competition. We have had lots of submissions from students which we have sent on to the Ormiston trust judges. It was lovely to receive so many submissions, a massive thank you to all that took part. We are incredibly proud to say that Vedika (Year 9) has managed to get through to the regional finals for the whole trust. Well done Vedika!

Mr. I James, Teacher of Music

PE/Sports

We continue to compete in the South Suffolk \School netball league for Years 7, 8 and 9. All teams completed their 3rd netball tournament during the first part of this term.

The Year 7 tournament took place at Kesgrave High School. Following the previous tournament the girls were given a target of moving onto the ball and driving forward to receive the pass. They rose to the challenge well and there were clear improvements shown by every player. Overall the team finished in 6th place.

The Year 8 tournament took place at Chantry high school. with only 7 players available on the day, there were no substitutions, meaning all players competed in the 6 matches held. Despite being tired, they worked their socks off and showed great determination against some very strong opposition. Overall they finished in joint 6th position.

The Year 9 team played their tournament at Copleston against some very capable teams. They played some superb netball responding positively to advice between each match. The team are showing great maturity having moved into Year 9 and are now taking responsibility for organising the team and substitutions, which is brilliant to see. They finished an impressive 2nd in the tournament, missing out on 1st to the team who narrowly beat them in the round robin stage.

Training continues to be on a Tuesday night after school.

Dates for the final tournaments are: Year 7 – Tuesday 19th March, Year 8 – Wednesday 6th March, Year 9 – Wednesday 13th March

Mrs. D Simmons, Teacher of PE

South Suffolk 7-a-side Football Tournament

On Tuesday 12th March the under 13 girls travelled to Portman Road Ipswich to take part in the South Suffolk 7 a side football tournament. There were 12 teams in the tournament and 3 leagues



and we were in a group with Hadleigh, Kesgrave and Northgate. After losing our opener 2-0 to Hadleigh the girls showed great determination to beat Kesgrave 2-0 and Northgate 1-0 to take second place in the group. Unfortunately this was not quite enough to make the semi finals as the best runner up in the group stage. The girls were fantastic throughout and special mention goes to Izzy in goal, Lexi in the heart of midfield and Ellexa who battled hard up front. All the girls were a real credit to the school and I couldn't be more proud of them.

Mrs. T Beacham, Head of Performing Arts Faculty

Year 7

The last term has flown by and Year 7 have truly thrown themselves into life here at Stoke. Our students have continued to make great progress in their school work and have settled into their school routines.

Five of our students represented the school in Tenpin Bowling as part of the Panathlon Challenge. Each student received a medal and certificate in our year group assembly with a huge round of applause from their peers who were excited to share in their success.

As part of the school's World Book Day celebrations, Year 7 had a visit from author Lisa Thompson. Lisa's books have been published across the world and it was a brilliant opportunity for students to learn from a guest speaker.

This term, Year 7 have been working on creating their own form pledges. Each form group has decided on three goals they will strive towards to make their learning environment a better place for everyone. The first comment often made by visitors to our school is how polite and courteous Stoke students are; Year 7 have immersed themselves fully into this culture and I believe their form pledges truly show this too.

Mrs Huggins (Head of Year 8) and I are very excited to be hosting our first joint Year 7 and 8 reward. On the 27th March, students with exemplary behaviour and attendance are going to be rewarded with an invitation to our egg hunt.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank parents and carers for their continued support and wish everyone a relaxing break.

Mrs. V Spearman, Head of Year 7

7FA

OUR FORM COMMUNITY PLEDGE:

1. I will always do my best and won't be afraid to make mistakes.
2. I will be kind to people and not bully people I don't like.
3. Show respect to everyone at Stoke High School.

7IJ

OUR FORM COMMUNITY PLEDGE:

1. We shall keep the classroom tidy, tidy up for ourselves.
2. We will greet teachers/staff with good morning or afternoon.
3. We will hold the door open for others.

7TB

OUR FORM COMMUNITY PLEDGE:

1. Work smart, think hard.
2. Try new and challenging things each lesson.
3. Be kind and supportive of each other.

7BE

OUR FORM COMMUNITY PLEDGE:

1. Clean up after ourselves and 2 people to collect + hand out books in lesson.
2. Respect each other's equipment and personal property.
3. One voice! Don't interrupt each other or the teacher.

7AB

OUR FORM COMMUNITY PLEDGE:

1. Be polite to the teacher and each other.
2. Answer at least 1 question per lesson.
3. Try our best in lesson.

7SR

OUR FORM COMMUNITY PLEDGE:

1. Be kind to each other, smile and say good morning.
2. Be respectful to each other and listen to each other. Respect personal space.
3. Don't leave anyone out, include everyone.



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Year 8

I continue to be very proud of Year 8. As a year group they show support to one another in several situations; the support for one another in teams games such as futsal, football and netball as well as in lessons. I have had praise for the whole year group from PE, English, Music and Humanities where students in Year 8 have shone with the work they have produced.

Our character virtue that we have looked at this half term is compassion, the ability to imagine ourselves in the position of others and reflect on how we would feel in that situation. Students have shown this in their History lessons looking at the abolition of the slave trade as well as showing compassion towards one another.

I am so proud of the Year 8 students who spoke in front of staff and parents at our recent Romanian evening. They were so nervous but used courage and resilience to overcome those nerves, well done to all of those involved.

As we approach Easter, Years 7 and 8 have been invited to join an Easter Egg hunt if they have excellent attendance and behaviour as a celebration of the hard work this term. Wishing everyone a restful holiday, Happy Easter and Eid Mubarak.

Mrs. K Huggins, Head of Year 8

Year 9

It is an exciting part of the year for Year 9s as they embark on the options process. It was great to see a huge turnout for options evening where students had the opportunity to seek further information from staff regarding their favoured subjects.

Unfortunately, Year 9 are however saying goodbye to their Head of Year, Mr Bullock, who is moving on to another school closer to home. Message from Mr Bullock: "Whilst I am excited for my new challenge, it is with a heavy heart that I say goodbye to Stoke and my year group. I have thoroughly enjoyed leading this cohort of students and I have no doubts they will all go on to achieve amazing things. I wish them nothing but the best and I hope we catch up soon"

Mr. B Bullock, Head of Year 9

Year 10 and Year 11

As I reflect on the Spring Term, I have had time to comprehend on the short amount of time that our Year 11 students have at Stoke High School. Throughout the start of March, they have completed an intense set of PPEs over a two-week period. These are their final set of mock exams before they reach their final GCSEs. Students would have received their PPE results and have time to analyse the data. They need to use these results as a starting point for reflection and revision. The Year 11 students have access to a range of revision materials which are updated weekly on our school social media pages. They have also been provided a variety of methods to support their revision which can also be found on our school social media pages. There are also several after school revision sessions (#Period6) which students are encouraged to attend. This has proven to be very successful for academic outcomes as shown in previous results.

Beyond the classroom, the Year 11s will be looking forward to their Prom. A reminder that the second payment deadline for the Prom is the 29th March. Students should have also applied for colleges in preparation for next year. If your child has not applied, they must do so and seek support from our Careers Officer Mr. Krasonis as soon as possible. And throughout the school, Year 11s have been wearing their leavers hoodies to celebrate their final academic year, bringing vibrancy and colour across the community.

I am also pleased to write this article as the new Head of Year 10. It is an absolute privilege to lead this fantastic year group as they begin their Key Stage 4 journey. Mrs. Welsby is joining me in leading the year group offering further support and guidance.

The Year 10s need to prepare for their Work Experience placements. All students have access to Unifrog which is a platform to support them with this process. Work experience will commence from 8th July until 10th July. Should students wish to complete a full week, we will need notification from the provider. Students should make arrangements for their own work experience by directly communicating with companies or speaking to a family member and friends. Should this prove difficult, students need to see Mr Krasonis to organise a place. Students will then log on to Unifrog and complete the 'Placement Tool'. This is an exciting opportunity for Year 10s as it will provide them an insight into the world of work and inform them of potential avenues into further education.

I look forward to the final term ahead by supporting the Year 11s in their exams and celebrating their successes as well as guiding the Year 10s into their first set of PPEs.



Mr. L Eversley, Head of Year 10 and Year 11



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Literacy

We have had a short, yet hugely busy half term!

This half term has seen reading tests being completed and some outstanding results from students in Years 7-10, all conducting themselves in an exemplary manner and trying their absolute best.

A selected cohort of students have been on our Lexonik and Reading Scholars programmes, which has been brilliant when I have popped into sessions. Students are focused, engaged, working and thinking hard.

We have also had World Book Week. This has been filled with school-wide activities and has also included various authors visiting, as well as our local primary schools joining in with the fun!

On the Monday, we had Lisa Thompson visit and deliver a session to Year 7. Lisa talked about her journey as an author, and about her work and what inspired it. Hillside and Halifax also joined us for a session with Lisa, and left with huge smiles on their faces. Nick Butterworth



visited the students of Gusford Primary on Tuesday – which was thoroughly enjoyed by all! On Wednesday, the Library ran a 'bedtime reading' session, which attracted both our students and some children from the local community to share their favourite stories with each other. Thursday was World Book Day. We gave away over 500 books for free to our students during break and lunch time. This was alongside book vouchers, and activities going on throughout

the day in the library. On Friday, we were lucky enough to have Julian Sedgwick visit Year 8 and 9. He delivered a session based upon the inspiration behind his books, which are set in Japan. He taught us all about Japanese culture and some of their native ghost stories. Julian went on to deliver a workshop with some Year 8 students, surrounding storytelling and how to construct a narrative. All sessions were hugely enjoyed and our students showed passion, focus and engagement in each one. They should be extremely proud. Finally, we held a session in the library on Saturday which shared both English and Romanian books, and we also had a visit from the author James Campbell. Some of students brought along siblings, and it was great to see them all so engaged in the book and learning from James.



This half term has not only shown the dedication of which our students have, but also their exemplary work ethic and dedication to improving their Literacy skills. I am very excited to see what the Summer Term brings.

Miss. S McMurtry, Literacy Lead

Character Education

Last half term our virtue was perseverance – an appropriate virtue while across the school students were completing coursework, preparing for PPEs and trying hard in all their lessons across the curriculum. Years 7 and 8 have been exploring these themes in their form time programme called ‘Stoke Spirit’. Year 7 have been working towards the Arts and Culture award, and have been looking at art, music and poetry and how it links to our identities. Year 8 have been completing the Careers award and starting to think about their futures. In years 9 and 10, work on their leadership programme will help them to embody our core values and develop their character ready for their future options after Stoke High School.

Next term our virtue will be around leadership, developing these qualities to lead others, put themselves forward and show enthusiasm for their learning. Keep your eye out for postcards and Stokies awarded for ‘virtue’ as these show that our character values are being lived in the classroom through lessons.

Miss J Iles, Seconded Assistant Principal for Culture & Ethos

Message from the Governors

Spring seems to have arrived early this year and although it feels as if the Easter break is earlier this year, the actual holiday dates are not particularly different to 2023. It’s just the Easter weekend itself that’s earlier!

We have seen changes in the Governing Body this term with the departures of Clare Tyler and Jill Barton. Both ladies have served as Governors for several years and made a significant contribution to the Academy. I should like to thank them both for all their hard work and wish them well as they move on to pastures new.

The good news is that since the start of the academic year, we have welcomed five new members to the Governing Body—Mr. Eversley is the new Staff Governor, Lavita Smith is the new Parent Governor and Charlotte Imlach, Katie Stammers and David Wright have joined us as Community Governors. All five have made a head start with the OAT Governors Induction programme and have attended both our meetings this term. We look forward to benefitting from the variety of experiences that they are able to bring.

Among the highlights of this term, I must mention the production of ‘The Addams Family’. It is an absolute personal joy for me to witness the progression of our productions over the last few years. Having been involved with amateur dramatics for several years with my own family, and helping and supporting Stoke productions in the past, I fully appreciate the time and dedication required to be able to put on such a high-quality performance. Thanks must go to the staff involved, the students and also to you, the parents and carers, for your commitment and support over quite a long period of time.

Let’s hope the weather is kind to us over the Easter holiday and that we can all enjoy the break.

Elizabeth Combes, Chair of Governors



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In Other News...

Spiritual Space

The month of Ramadan started on Monday 11th March, and to support our students the new Spiritual Space was opened and available for prayer and reflection during this sacred month for Muslim students. This new space will be available after Ramadan and looks to incorporate the celebration of major religious festivals, including a Lent reflection for Christians. This will be a space for all to consider, and reflect for those who are religious or not. Thank you to Didar and Nuha in year 10 who advised on the space to make sure it works for all students at Stoke. We have plans for some events to be held so watch this space!

Miss. J Iles, Seconded Assistant Principal for Culture & Ethos

The Stoke Exchange

This term we welcomed the launch of The Stoke Exchange. This is a new reward system that will run several times throughout the academic year. Students can exchange their achievement points for rewards such as notebooks, sweet treats, footballs and much more. For our first exchange, we gave away over 190 rewards! So many of our students worked hard to gain as many achievement points as possible so they could collect their rewards. We will launch this event again next term!

Mr. L Eversley, Seconded Assistant Principal for Culture & Ethos

Claydon Girls FC

Francesca, Lillie, Chloe, Sofia and Lexie (all Year 9) are all part of The Claydon FC Girls team and we are proud to announce that the team have secured a spot at this years Aces nationals tournament.

Over 15,000 players, managers and spectators are expected to attend the Riverside Sports Complex in Nottingham for the four weekends of the festival of football over June.

Teams from all over the country enter on an invitation basis only with each team selected will represent their nearest town or city.

Due to the high level of local talent on the pitch, scouts from professional clubs across the premier, WSL and football league will be scattered around the event on the lookout for potential stars.

This is a massive opportunity for the girls and should be an experience they remember.

The girls will be playing on 22nd June and whilst we can cover some of the costs we are fundraising for help towards accommodation (due to the 8.30am start of the event).

Therefore we have set up a funding page and any donations would be greatly appreciated by us all. We would also welcome any sponsorship from local businesses, please get in contact if this would be something your business would be open to supporting.

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/claydonunder14s>

Rachel Martin, Claydon FC Girls

Martin Luther King Day

To celebrate Martin Luther King Day, the whole school attended an assembly exploring the life of Martin Luther King Jr. As well as this, some of our students took to the stage to speak to the whole school sharing what Martin Luther King day meant to them and the experiences that they encountered themselves. At lunchtime, students were provided an opportunity to take part in Stoke's first ever speaker's corner. A range of students took part in this event to share their views, emphasising the importance of democracy.

Mr. L Eversley, Seconded Assistant Principal for Culture & Ethos

Brilliant Club

We are thrilled to shine a spotlight on one of our school's outstanding programs– The Brilliant Club. This innovative initiative has been instrumental in preparing our students for the challenges and opportunities that await them at the university level.

The Brilliant Club is not just a club; it's a transformative experience designed to stretch the intellectual boundaries of our students and nurture their potential as future leaders. Comprising of a group of dedicated educators and passionate students, the club seeks to bridge the gap between school and university by providing a rigorous and intellectually stimulating curriculum.

One of the key highlights of The Brilliant Club is its commitment to preparing students for the academic rigors of university life. Through a series of specially crafted courses, students are exposed to advanced topics, critical thinking exercises, and independent research projects. This not only enhances their subject-specific knowledge but also cultivates essential skills such as analytical thinking, research proficiency, and effective communication.

By participating in The Brilliant Club, students gain a deeper understanding of their chosen subjects and develop a sense of intellectual curiosity that goes beyond the confines of traditional classroom learning. The club encourages students to think independently, ask thought-provoking questions, and engage in meaningful discussions with their peers.

The impact of The Brilliant Club extends far beyond the classroom. As students delve into university-level content, they are better equipped to navigate the challenges of higher education. The skills they acquire through this program – including time management, critical analysis, and effective communication – serve as invaluable tools for success in university and beyond.

Congratulations to the following students who took part in the programme across Year 9 and Year 10:

<u>Year 9</u>	<u>Year 10</u>
Lanya	Stuart
Erin	Olivier
Leia	Mia
Stevi	Fareed
Annindaya	Philip
Lucy	Maddison
Emilijia	Vyom

Miss. K Griffiths, Brilliant Club Lead



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RESPECT INSPIRE ACHIEVE

Safeguarding

Well-being Apps DISCLAIMER – These applications are not intended to be a replacement for treatment nor any sort of medical intervention.


HeadSpace

Headspace is an app that provides guided meditation sessions and mindfulness training in areas such as stress, anxiety and sleep. It also has sessions to cover varying emotions. Free to use the trial parts of the app.




Smiling Mind

Smiling Mind offers a free app-based tool developed by psychologists and educators to assist people in dealing with the pressure, stress and challenges of daily life. Programs are offered for: 7-9 years old, 10-12 years old, 13-15 years old, 16-18 years old, adults, sport, mindfulness in education & mindfulness in the workplace




Cove

Cove is an app that was designed for individuals who find it hard to express themselves verbally. In this app, young people can capture their mood or express how they feel by making music and storing it in a personal journal. Entire app is free.



Self-Help Anxiety Management

SAM has been developed by a university team of psychologists, computer scientists & student users. The app lets users self-monitor anxiety and graph this. Users are encouraged to build their own Anxiety Toolkit of SAM resources and to draw on this for regular practice in managing anxious situations. The app is not text-heavy and highly visual.




Worry Float

A free app for younger users. Children type their worry in a balloon, rate whether it is a small, medium or large worry and then tap the balloon. The worry then floats away, until it disappears.



Stop, Breathe and Think Kids

Users select how they feel upon opening the app. Depending on their choices, they are then given a 'mission' to launch. Each mission is a few minutes long and missions range from watching mindful cartoons, to being guided through relaxation exercises in the form of cartoons. Free app with options to purchase more.




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Think Ninja

ThinkNinja is an app specifically designed to educate 10-18 year olds about mental health, emotional wellbeing and to provide skills young people can use to build resilience and stay well. ThinkNinja addresses a range of issues including stress, anxiety, low mood, or having unhelpful thoughts. All of which can be triggered by the pressures of modern life, such as exams, struggling to make friends or social situations. The user is coached by the WiseNinja, powered by artificial intelligence and the skills of a clinical psychologist.



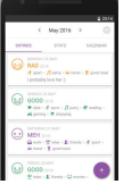
Mood Tools

Mood Tools allows users to input their mood, watch helpful videos, keep a thought diary, choose activities to do and make safety plans




Daylio

Allows users to keep a free private diary and capture their mood and day without having to write anything. All responses are made by clicking visual icons.



Relax Melodies

An app designed to aid sleep. Users can create their own soundscape, add meditations or listen to a bedtime story




KOOTH

Kooth is a free, online, anonymous well-being support community for young people. The app allows you to access magazines for information, join a discussion, chat with a member of the team and keep a daily journal



Catch It

Catch It was a joint app project between the University of Liverpool and University of Manchester. It is designed to help people capture their mood and create a diary. The idea behind the app is to turn your negative emotions into positive experiences.




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Calm

Calm is the perfect meditation app for beginners, but also includes hundreds of programs for intermediate and advanced users. Guided meditation sessions are available in various lengths between 5-25 minutes. The app also includes sleep stories to support sleep and breathing exercises.



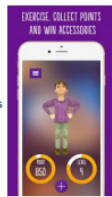
DreamyKid

The DreamyKid meditation app offers meditation, guided visualisation and affirmations curated just for children & teens. It uses proven techniques that teach users mindfulness methods. It offers a body scan meditation and a self-esteem booster program for free. All other programs need to be purchased.




Living Buddy

Living Buddy is an online exercise app. An onscreen buddy asks the young person to select the type of exercise they want to do. For a cycle ride or run, a timer will start and log their activity time and distance. Once the activity stops, the Buddy high fives them and gives lots of praise. There is also guided exercise from the Buddy who demonstrates exercises first and challenges to race against various animals. The young person can repeat activities and progress through levels.




Super-Stretch Yoga

Users have fun & get fit learning yoga poses from animated superhero characters. Go from start to finish or pick a pose, from up to 60 combinations. The app aims to teach breathing, play and mindfulness to children through yoga fitness.



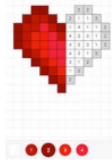
Plazma

A free app that acts as a virtual lava lamp to provide a visual, calming sensory stimuli. Users can simply watch the lava float or swipe their finger over the screen to manually move the lava around.



Sandbox Coloring

An app for virtual colouring by numbers to promote mindfulness. Being 'in the moment' through any colouring app, provides users with a distraction from their worries. The app contains enough free colouring pages so that you won't have to purchase any paid ones. Zoom in to colour by numbers and once a picture is finished, users watch a video of their colouring.



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