

Respect

Inspire

Achieve

Stoke High School–Ormiston Academy



NEWSLETTER



Principal’s Message

Welcome to our first Stoke newsletter. We are hoping to publish three a year as we want to share and celebrate with you the amazing achievements of the school and its students.

As I am writing this, we have contractors in to start the development of our canteen so that it can be a space where more of the students and staff can have lunch together. It is really important that we continue to develop the school building and its grounds so that Stoke can continue its journey into excellence in every aspect of school life.

We started this year on a high. Our examination results 2023 were the best they have ever been. There are many reasons why we are now one of the best performing schools in the local area: curriculum leaders designing a well-structured and sequenced curriculum; teachers planning and delivering fantastic lessons; students actively engaged in their learning; parents/carers supporting the work of the school and who are interested in their child’s learning. We are stronger when we work collaboratively and I appreciate your continued support.

Key Dates and Events—Spring 2024

Wednesday 3rd January	Year 7 and 11 Return
Thursday 4th January	Whole School Return
Monday 8th January—Friday 19th January	Year 7-10 Assessment Week
Thursday 15th and Friday 16th February	School Production
Monday 19th—Friday 23rd February	Half Term
Monday 26th February—Friday 8th March	Year 11 PPEs
Thursday 7th March	Year 10 Parents’ Evening
Thursday 21st March	Year 9 Options Evening
Thursday 29th March	Year 7 London Trip
Friday 29th March—Thursday 11th April	Easter Holidays
Friday 12th April	Inset Day

Life this term has been incredibly busy and the following articles will give just a taster of the hard work and commitment that both students and staff show every day.

We hope that you have a restful break and enjoy the festivities.

Ms. K Baldwin, Principal



Message from the Head Boy and Head Girl

Whilst acting as Head Boy of our esteemed school, my experience has been nothing short of extraordinary. Leading by example, I have embraced the responsibilities with enthusiasm, creating a sense of unity and building strong bonds with the new Year 7 students, ensuring they feel welcomed and excited to be part of such a remarkable community. Whether discussing opportunities with the senior staff or addressing student concerns, each day has brought exciting challenges and triumphs with it. The outstanding support from my peers and faculty has made my tenure immensely gratifying, serving as Head Boy has not only allowed me to leave an everlasting mark on the school community, but allowed me to make unforgettable memories and create friendships that will endure beyond my time here at Stoke High.

Dylan, Head Boy

As you all know, Year 11 is a challenging year for most of us, one that is filled with study, revision and planning for our futures beyond Stoke High School. Just to think, it was only 5 years ago when we were preparing for our SATS! Although the franticness of study has taken a precedent over the term, we have had opportunities to celebrate and reward hard work. The Prefect Team had a pizza evening and the Year 11 students were able to take part in Hide and Seek for good attendance. We will continue to work hard over the next coming months as we prepare for our next set of PPEs in February.

Dareen, Head Girl

Message from Parliament

It is a real pleasure to serve as Stoke High School's Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister for the academic year 2023-24. We officially launched our Parliament on the 8th November at the University of Suffolk. We were given a short presentation by the lecturer of Politics Scott Huntly, who shared with us the importance of democracy and making a change within a community. This led nicely into a discussion where we came up with three main targets we wish to achieve by the end of the year. Our targets are:



- To implement a Prayer Room within the school allowing all students to feel safe and comfortable.
- To provide more fixtures across a variety of sports.
- To host more events and trips to support learning.

The launch ended with two speeches: one from the Student Voice Manager Ancha who provided an insight into her role, and another speech from the Mayor of Ipswich, Lynne Mortimer. These talks were very influential and provided us with the motivation to provide successful change within our school. We are planning to collate feedback from all the form groups and then meet as a Parliament shortly after the holidays.

Edward, Prime Minister and Jake, Deputy Prime Minister

English Faculty

Everybody remembers their English lessons. It is a subject that, like Marmite, is one that is either loved or hated. Despite the feelings that the subject can evoke, everyone can remember some of the texts they studied, perhaps some of the teachers that they had, and even some of the quotations that had to be committed to memory!

English at Stoke High School is all about understanding the one thing that brings the subject to life: storytelling.

We are natural storytellers. Every day we tell stories in a manner of different ways. We tell stories about our day, we tell stories about our memories, we tell stories to bring comfort, and we tell stories to demonstrate our understanding of the world around us.

This ability to tell stories is, perhaps, our greatest gift. Yet, as soon as we think about English as a subject, it can still fill us with dread.

Our curriculum in English is about the way literature shapes our understanding of the world. From the Greek Myths through to contemporary poetry and non-fiction, we want students to be able to understand that even the most complex of texts can easily be broken down into a series of key ideas: can be broken down into the story the writer is wishing to tell us.



Not only are we natural storytellers, but we also use a variety of tools each day that are studied in English: the art of persuasion, the ability to express an opinion, the nature of argument, and comparison. All of these skills we use without ever having to think about them. They are complex concepts, and yet they come naturally to us.

Our students already understand some of the more complex ideas, ones that will be of great help as they progress through their academic career in school. Concepts such as patriarchy, hamartia, subversion, and allegory are all studied from the beginning of Year 7, and they filter through our curriculum all the way to Year 11, when these ideas will be invaluable in helping students to achieve the best possible outcomes in their exams.

Ask your child about some of the concepts that they have studied, you may be surprised at just how much they now understand about some quite complex aspects of the world!

Our wish, as a department, is for every student to be able to appreciate the nature of literature, and not be fearful of it. This is because, when all is said and done, we're storytellers. Every single one of us.

Here is a reminder of the set texts we study at Key Stage 4:

- A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens
- Romeo and Juliet by William Shakespeare
- An Inspector Calls by J. B. Priestley
- Power and Conflict Poetry by Various Poets

Mr. S Rosser, Lead Teacher for Curriculum Support



**R
E
S
P
E
C
T

I
N
S
P
I
R
E

A
C
H
I
E
V
E**

[OAT]
ACHIEVING MORE TOGETHER



**R
E
S
P
E
C
T**

**I
N
S
P
I
R
E**

**A
C
H
I
E
V
E**

[OAT]
ACHIEVING MORE TOGETHER

Maths Faculty

Mathswatch is the online resource and homework platform used in Maths at Stoke High School. Every pupil has one lesson a fortnight to complete tasks which supports learning and prepares the pupils for assessments. These pupils, not only have completed the tasks in lessons, but also spent many hours completing tasks at home too!

- Ellie—Year 7
- Zyrene—Year 8
- Aiste—Year 9
- Leigh—Year 10
- Brooke—Year 11

Well Done Mathswatch Champions!

Mr. R Page, Head of Maths Faculty

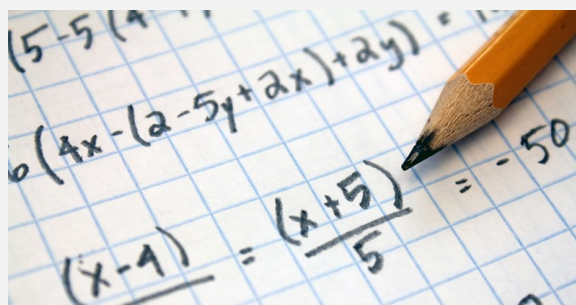
The Maths Faculty have selected students who have shown great courage and resilience in their Maths work. A well done to the following students:

- Tejasvi from Ms. Adetu's Year 8 class.
- Connor from Mr. Bowen's Year 8 class.
- Derrion from Mr. Page's Year 7 class.
- Nuha from Mrs. Garrard's Year 10 class.
- Dareen from Mr. Hart's Year 11 class.

This current term in Maths, the faculty have taught the following to our students:

- Year 7: Fractions, Decimals and Percentages.
- Year 8: Representing Data or Tables and Probability.
- Year 9: Constructions and Congruency.
- Year 10: Simultaneous Equations.
- Year 11: PPE Feedback and Functions.

Mr. M Hart, Teacher of Maths



Science Faculty

Year 11 updates!

We can all breathe a sigh of relief: the Department of Education have announced that students will be provided additional support with their equations for the physics examination in 2024. Currently, how this looks is still under consultation, but students will not be required to learn the equations for physics. Further updates will be sent out once we have more information.

#period6 has had a relaunch and is now open to all students in Year 11. Come along if you fancy a hot chocolate and snack alongside your revision material - we're running every Tuesday till 4pm. And don't forget – if you complete your stamp card, you'll be entered into a draw to win one of many £10 love2shop vouchers!

What have we been learning about?

A warm welcome to our Year 7 students! This term has seen our students get familiar with working in a science lab and learning how to think like a scientist in the 'How Science Works' topic. Students have also been studying cells and microscopy in biology, and atoms in chemistry.

Year 8s started the year by studying reproduction, a topic that can come with some challenges but which our students tackled with maturity and respect. In chemistry, students studied the particle model of matter.

Year 9s have been busy this half term covering topics ranging from photosynthesis in biology, energy changes in chemistry, and sound in physics.

Finally, Year 10 have continued their GCSE course looking at organisation in animals and plants, bonding, and atomic structure and radioactivity.

A reminder that Years 7 to 10 have assessment week when we come back after the holidays which will cover the above topics – please speak to your science teacher for revision materials!

If you have any queries or would like to get in touch, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Miss S Bryson, Head of Science Faculty

Group→	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
↓Period																		
1	1 H																	2 He
2	3 Li	4 Be											5 B	6 C	7 N	8 O	9 F	10 Ne
3	11 Na	12 Mg											13 Al	14 Si	15 P	16 S	17 Cl	18 Ar
4	19 K	20 Ca	21 Sc	22 Ti	23 V	24 Cr	25 Mn	26 Fe	27 Co	28 Ni	29 Cu	30 Zn	31 Ga	32 Ge	33 As	34 Se	35 Br	36 Kr
5	37 Rb	38 Sr	39 Y	40 Zr	41 Nb	42 Mo	43 Tc	44 Ru	45 Rh	46 Pd	47 Ag	48 Cd	49 In	50 Sn	51 Sb	52 Te	53 I	54 Xe
6	55 Cs	56 Ba	57 La	72 Hf	73 Ta	74 W	75 Re	76 Os	77 Ir	78 Pt	79 Au	80 Hg	81 Tl	82 Pb	83 Bi	84 Po	85 At	86 Rn
7	87 Fr	88 Ra	89 Ac	** 104 Rf	** 105 Db	** 106 Sg	** 107 Bh	** 108 Hs	** 109 Mt	** 110 Ds	** 111 Rg	** 112 Cn	** 113 Nh	** 114 Fl	** 115 Mc	** 116 Lv	** 117 Ts	** 118 Og
				* 58 Ce	* 59 Pr	* 60 Nd	* 61 Pm	* 62 Sm	* 63 Eu	* 64 Gd	* 65 Tb	* 66 Dy	* 67 Ho	* 68 Er	* 69 Tm	* 70 Yb	* 71 Lu	
				** 90 Th	** 91 Pa	** 92 U	** 93 Np	** 94 Pu	** 95 Am	** 96 Cm	** 97 Bk	** 98 Cf	** 99 Es	** 100 Fm	** 101 Md	** 102 No	** 103 Lr	



**R
E
S
P
E
C
T

I
N
S
P
I
R
E

A
C
H
I
E
V
E**





Humanities Faculty

PSHE

PSHE at Stoke High School is an important space in the timetable for students to discuss topical issues about health, wellbeing, relationships, careers, and futures. Students can develop the skills, knowledge, and attitudes to make informed choices and keep themselves and others safe. All PSHE lessons are now in the timetable and students are currently exploring a range of important issues which allow students to develop to be ready for their futures.



Year 7 have been learning about how to succeed at secondary school and building positive relationships with each other, including what to do if friendships go wrong and what to do if there are concerns about bullying including online safety. From January, Year 7 will look at healthy lifestyles including the importance of sleep, limiting screen time and the physical and emotional changes that happen during puberty.

Year 8 have been exploring the UK justice system, and about what happens after crimes occur. Pupils have been learning about how to keep themselves safe and what to do if they have concerns. Next term, they will be focusing on health and the importance of wellbeing and looking at the effects of vaping and energy drinks on health.

Year 9 have been studying at how to look after their health and wellbeing including issues with body image and self-esteem. Students have looked at the consequences of alcohol and drug taking and discussing laws around these. Next term, Year 9 will think more about their future careers and option choices to prepare them for their futures as they start to choose their GCSE and BTEC option choices.

This term, Year 10 have focused on mental health and strategies for coping with stress and anxiety that they might encounter in school and their future lives. Students will move onto looking at healthy relationships, consent, and boundaries and what to do if there are concerns about a relationship.

Year 11 have been focusing on post-16 options, considering the range of choices and decisions to make about their education when they leave secondary school. Next term, Year 11 will look at their health and consider how to maintain health including sleep, eating well, and exercise to reduce anxieties. Students will also look at what cancer is and what screening programmes are available to maintain health.

You can support at home by speaking to students about the topics and issues that they are exploring, and asking open questions. Support on difficult conversations can be found on the NSPCC website: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/talking-about-difficult-topics/>

As a school community, we are committed to working in partnership with parents, if you would like to find out more and would be interested in attending a parent/carer information workshop on PSHE then please contact me jiles@stokehigh.co.uk.

Miss J Iles, Head of Humanities Faculty

**R
E
S
P
E
C
T

I
N
S
P
I
R
E

A
C
H
I
E
V
E**

[OAT]
ACHIEVING MORE TOGETHER

Geography



Over the last term at Stoke High School students in Geography have been learning about the world around them. From human features in countries including Australia, Mexico, and Brazil, to physical features in countries including Iceland and Haiti. Year 8 students have been successfully practicing earthquake drills and assessing the risks of natural hazards in many different parts of the world. Year 7 students have become more familiar with Ipswich by practicing their map skills and locating features including our own school on OS maps. Climate change is one of the most talked about topics in today's society and our Year 9 students have been investigating the impacts of changes to our world by completing class discussions and producing some excellent extended writing. In January all students will have a chance to take part in the Geography Photograph Competition and the best photographs will win a prize. So, over the holiday have a look for some geographical features you could photograph!

Miss F Holden, Second in Humanities Faculty

RE

The students in RE have been working hard to learn about the six major world religions and look at moral and ethical issues which are important to understand the diversity of the people who live not only in our school, but the wider community. Year 7 are currently looking at Judaism and understanding the role of Jewish practice in everyday lives, as well as how a Jewish person will ensure that their faith is followed in the modern world. Students will move on to Christianity in January, focusing on the life and role of Jesus in the Christian faith, as well as the diversity of the faith. Year 8 started the year looking at Humanism and considering the question "How can you be good without God?", a core idea for Humanists to follow. They have contrasted this with the faith of Buddhism, the origins and practices that distinguish this religion from the other major world faiths. Next term they can look forward to focusing on crime, punishment and justice and the role of these concepts in Christianity. Year 9 have been looking at philosophy and asking the big, ultimate questions in life including about the existence of God. Next term students are focusing on Islam and considering the rules and practices that ensure a Muslim can follow the duties that their faith requires. Year 10 and 11 core RE students are looking at moral and ethical issues. While year 10 have studied issues of wealth, poverty and injustice, Year 11 have looked at when does life begin and ethical arguments about the beginning and end of life. Year 10 will move onto life after death and the significance of judgment, while Year 11 will consider faith and family life – lots of exciting ethical debates and opinions to be studied next term in all year groups.

Miss J Iles, Head of Humanities Faculty



**R
E
S
P
E
C
T**

**I
N
S
P
I
R
E**

**A
C
H
I
E
V
E**





History

We have had a busy term in History! Year 7 have joined us and immediately got to grips with a study on Ancient Greece, learning the skills to become historians such as cause and consequence as well as the all-important phrase chronology. After moving on to a study of the Normans and William the Conqueror, next term students will be continuing their studies on the medieval period, looking at the Black Death, and everyday life for people in this period through the reading of the book “The Time Traveller’s Guide to Medieval England” by Ian Mortimer. Year 7 will also shift their focus to the history of the Silk Roads, focusing on the history of this route between the East and the West and the significance of this in history. Year 8 started the year off focusing on Henry VIII considering the big question “was he a terrible tyrant or a great King?”. Students have looked at the society of the period, and the impact of his break with Rome on ordinary people living during this period. They have also studied early modern rulers including Elizabeth I, James I and Charles I to consider their rule and the historical significance of these rulers. Next term is a focus on the British Empire. Students will learn about the slave trade and the impact that this had on the lives of everyday people. This will be compared with America, the racial segregation laws, and the civil rights movement. Year 9 have been looking at the First World War and considering the importance of this event in history, particularly looking at the Suffolk experience of war, and what impacts were felt across Europe post-war. Work that has been produced has also looked at the suffrage movement for women and students will move on chronologically to look at the Weimar Republic and WWII and specifically life on the home front. Year 10 and 11 are busy with their GCSE studies. Year 10 focusing on the concept of crime and punishment across 1000 years and students have been looking at how crime and policing have changed over this time period including investigating the Jack the Ripper murders in the 1880s. Year 11 have just completed their PPE mock exams and worked really hard to reach their target grades. Now they are back to lessons and have been focusing on the historical significance of Weimar and Nazi Germany. We are hoping for some more excellent essay writing and historical analysis to prepare all students for success in their history exams.

Miss J Iles, Head of Humanities Faculty



French Faculty

This year has started with excellent results in French GCSE, with Stoke High School's French department amongst the top performers in Languages across the whole of Ormiston Academies Trust. Congratulations to last year's Year 11 students for working so hard.



Likewise, our FCSE results (Foundation Certificate of Secondary Education) have shown steady improvement, with more students achieving Merit and Distinction than the previous year. We are delighted with the effort our Year 9s put into these assessments each year, and with the 91% pass rate they have achieved. Students must complete 12 assessments in Listening, Reading, Writing and Speaking during the Autumn and Spring terms, so it is a testament to their hard work and determination that they are able to achieve such good grades.

Also keeping us very busy in the department at the moment, are preparations for the Paris Trip in February next year. An inspection visit was carried out during half term and the itinerary is looking great, with visits planned to the Louvre, the Eiffel Tower and Montmartre, as well as two meals in proper French restaurants. Everyone is really looking forward to it. We'll be able to report on the actual visit with photos in the next newsletter.

Mrs. C Howe, Curriculum Lead of French

Technology Faculty

All this term Year 11 Engineers have been working towards completing their practical exam which they have all totally smashed!! In September students were given their candidate packs from the examination board which contained a design brief and a range of complex engineering drawings. Students had to then independently plan and make a prototype using a range of materials and practical processes to make the product. Students worked tirelessly on completing this and there have been some amazing results! Well done Year 11 Engineers!!

Miss J Curtis, Head of Technology Faculty



**R
E
S
P
E
C
T**

**I
N
S
P
I
R
E**

**A
C
H
I
E
V
E**

[OAT]
Ormiston Academies Trust
ACHIEVING MORE TOGETHER



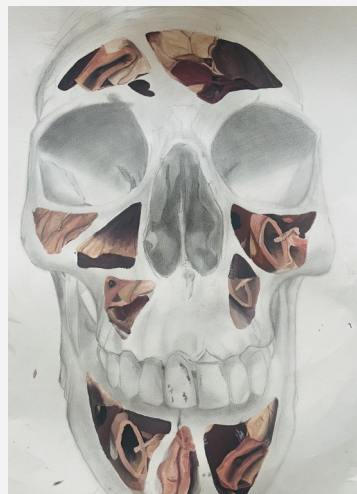
Art

Our Year 11 Art students have recently finished their final projects for this term, and we are incredibly proud of their impressive work. Congratulations to the Year 11 students on a job well done!

As for our Year 7 and 8 students, they participated in a special project brought to us by the Early Help Team, North and East Team at Landmark House. They were tasked with designing unique Christmas baubles that represented their own personal experiences and celebrated the diversity within our school. These baubles were then exhibited in the offices of Social Service and the Early Help Team, encouraging people to donate food parcels.

In addition, our Year 10 students embarked on a photoshoot for their coursework at our local church, St Mary at Stoke. Following this excursion, they will spend the next term exploring, experimenting, and creating magnificent works of art. Lastly, a group of our Year 7 students have been actively involved with St Mary at Stoke on a weekly basis, engaging in meaningful conversations about how they can make the world a better place with Reverend Sophie Cowan. Students have crafted various pieces of art aiming to promote kindness and combat racism.

Miss S Roxburgh, Curriculum Lead of Art



Performing Arts Faculty

The Addams Family School Production

We had an amazing response to the news that The Addams Family would be the school production this year. The buzz and excitement around this show was so positive that it confirmed we had made the right decision.

Being a member of The Addams Family isn't quite the same as a 'normal' family;

in their kooky, upside-down world suffering and pain are a must and joy and happiness are banned words. However, Wednesday Addams has grown up and fallen in love with a young man who is considered 'normal' and from an ordinary family. This causes all sorts of frustrations and issues for the two families involved but, in the end, it forces the families to take a look at themselves and change is ahead.



Casting this show was a very difficult task and we could quite easily have 3 different casts as the level of talent and effort was so high. We are really proud of how the students approached the audition process and the courage and resilience shown by those who attended and endured the process. Now, as we progress through the rehearsal process, the journey continues with hard work and excitement. At some of the first rehearsals students showed that they had already learnt lines and were off script and it was very clear that dance

moves and songs were being learnt and practised outside of the scheduled rehearsals.

We are very proud of the students in the cast and crew, they truly are amazing, and we look forward to the next stage of the rehearsal journey with them.

Tickets will be released in January 2024 for shows on Thursday 15th and Friday 16th February.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Mrs. T Beacham, Head of Performing Arts Faculty



R
E
S
P
E
C
T

I
N
S
P
I
R
E

A
C
H
I
E
V
E

[OAT]

ACHIEVING MORE TOGETHER



PE/Sports

There has already been a vast number of fixtures for football and netball throughout the autumn term, as well as a cross country event and other tournaments that our students have been taking part in.

At cross country, 30 students from Year 7-10 took part, and 3 of our students were in the top 50 out of 200 students meaning they will progress through to the next round.

Also making their way through the rounds of the Suffolk Girls Cup competition are our girls football team who continue to strive and beat most of the teams that they meet.

Our boys in the Year 8 team have also made progress and moved through the first round of the Suffolk Cup, whilst the newly formed Year 7 team held their own in a match against St. Albans.

We have also taken part in several futsal tournaments, both home and away. We are always so very proud of our students and how they represent the school, and themselves. We have had such positive feedback from other teams on how supportive, friendly and polite our students are.

Mrs. T Beacham, Head of Performing Arts Faculty

Year 7 Suffolk Netball Tournament - Wednesday 16th October, Kesgrave High School

Game 1, St. Joseph's: We were nervous at the beginning as it was a new experience and our first tournament as Year 7. The other team were intimidating to us as they have had more practice and they were a strong team. In this game we were finding our feet. We lost, 13-1.

Game 2, Kesgrave: In this game it was clear that we had improved loads. We tried really hard and were a little rougher with the other team. Our confidence went up and we were focusing more. We lost 1-0.

Game 3, East Bergholt: We were more evenly manned in this game, putting in more effort and being more competitive. We lost 3-1.

Game 4, Felixstowe: In this match we both played evenly. This was a very lovely game. We tied 1-1.

We finished joint 4th.

Myah, Year 7



Year 7

I want to start my reflection on Year 7's first term at Stoke High School by saying how immensely proud I am of our students and how quickly they have settled into life here at Stoke.

Change is never easy, it's something many of us do not enjoy and starting high school is a massive change for children and their families, yet our Year 7s have navigated their first term amazingly well. They assisted one another, have been looked after by our fabulous aunts and uncles and have each established their own support networks within the school.



At our 3 Weeks in evening, I shared a slide show of photographs and some reflections by our students. In case you missed them, here are some of the comments made by students in their first few weeks here:

'It's scary in the first place but when you get used to it, it's fun.'

'The teachers are kind, the students are nice, everyone is really helpful especially my tutor and I love homework.'

'I like Stoke, the food is very good and the lessons are engaging.'

'I think that Stoke High School is a good school because they make you express yourself.'

This first term has been hard work at times, with adjustments to new lessons, timetables and homework. However, we have also had a lot of exciting opportunities which Year 7 have tackled with enthusiasm. They have helped raise money for Children In Need with face-painting and continuous cross-training. They have shown their resilience on the football pitch by representing the school at local matches. They have thrown themselves into the school production with zest. Our school is an embracing community and we're so lucky to have such a fantastic, talented group of Year 7s join this year.

Not only have Year 7 students shone in their extra curricular activities, they are proving to be excellent scholars in the classroom too. Mr Eversley and I recently had the pleasure of delivering V.I.Ps (very important pens!) to over 50 students who had achieved over 100 Stokies (positive points) since the start of the school year in September. There are also many other students who are hot on their heels and shall become the lucky recipients of their own rewards very soon!

We cannot wait to see what the next term holds for Year 7. As a year team (myself and the Form Tutors), we continue to work together in order to support our students as they navigate their high school journey and I would like to thank you, parents and carers, for your continued support too.



Mrs. V Spearman, Head of Year 7



**R
E
S
P
E
C
T**

**I
N
S
P
I
R
E**

**A
C
H
I
E
V
E**

[OAT]
ACHIEVING MORE TOGETHER



**R
E
S
P
E
C
T

I
N
S
P
I
R
E

A
C
H
I
E
V
E**

[OAT]
ACHIEVING MORE TOGETHER

Year 8

What a fantastic start to the school year. It has been an absolute pleasure this term to take over from Miss Lava while she is on maternity leave. I have felt so welcomed by Year 8 in this role and have been proud to see how much confidence they have shown this term. Throughout the term, we have been focusing on courage and resilience as our core character virtues and I have seen these in abundance across the year group. Students have shown these values by getting involved in being part of Stoke Parliament as junior ministers as well as taking on the challenge and commitment in the school play. I am also immensely proud to have some of the Year 8 girls playing in the Year 9 girls football team who came second in their recent competition. As we move towards the end of term we will be taking a series of fun challenges each day in form time in December to celebrate the end of term.

Mrs. K Huggins, Head of Year 8



Year 9

Thursday 14th December Year 9s have an exciting reward to attend at the Super Bowl! Students will be rewarded through their good behaviour and attendance by participating in the challenging Ninja Tag and Bowling. A special reward is up for grabs for those who can beat Mr Bullock!

A lovely way to end a busy year before the cohort begin to choose their GCSE options.

Mr. B Bullock, Head of Year 9

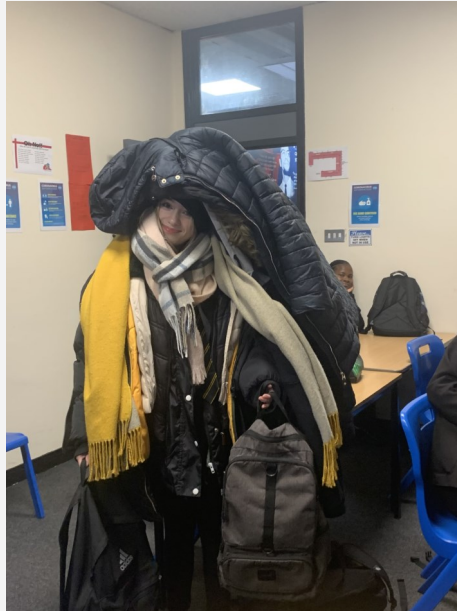


Year 10

The Year 10 family have spent the last few weeks partaking in the Year 10 Olympics! This has consisted of a series of challenges, including; The Quiz Challenge, Egg and Spoon Races, Wheel Barrow Races, Human Coat Rack Challenge, Musical Bumps and Pin the Tail on the Pig.

The tutor groups nominated form members for each challenge, and have competed to collect points for their form. We have had a lot of fun doing these challenges. It has created a sense of belonging amongst the Year 10 student community and given them the opportunity to show off their skills in areas they never knew they had! However, at times, some of the form groups have been very competitive. The first form to win a Dominos Lunch was 10SR for their impressive point scoring in the Quiz Week Challenges, however Jayden was very concerned about the other form groups 'throwing shade on his name'. The second and third forms to win a Dominos Lunch, were 10GR and 10BA. However, at times the races were incredibly close. This included Bradley picking up shards of egg from the floor to reach the finish line, and Lucian practically throwing Jermain as his wheelbarrow, over the finish line. We have had a lot of fun and we are continuing with the last set of challenges which will involve some Mario Kart competitions, and Mr. Rolland helping to set up some excellent gaming challenges. Well done Year 10, you are an incredible group of young people and I am so proud of you every day.

Miss Z Button, Head of Year 10



**R
E
S
P
E
C
T

I
N
S
P
I
R
E

A
C
H
I
E
V
E**

[OAT]
ACHIEVING MORE TOGETHER



**R
E
S
P
E
C
T**

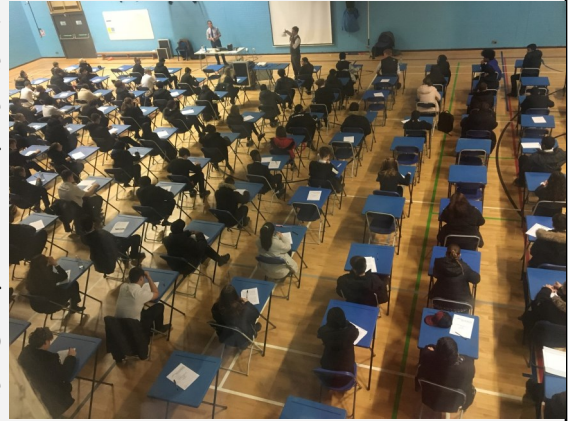
**I
N
S
P
I
R
E**

**A
C
H
I
E
V
E**

[OAT]
ACHIEVING MORE TOGETHER

Year 11

The final year has approached for our Year 11 students, and the hard work has really begun. The year group started the academic year as the role models of the school; the elders who our younger students look up to. This has been led and managed by our Prefect Team and Aunts and Uncles, who have been excellent in supporting our Year 7 students. The year group were also introduced to their new tutor team who we are delighted to have on board. Their specialised form time programme supports the Year 11s in their English and Maths, as well as developing necessary methods and techniques to support revision and reading.



We have also encouraged and supported our students as they have applied to colleges. We have had numerous colleges come in to school to advertise their courses and open events. I have spoken to several students about the open evenings and the options they want to choose. It excites me to hear what our Year 11s aspire to and the paths they are choosing to follow. If your child has not applied to a college or apprenticeship, they must do so as soon as possible. Please visit the college websites to gain further information and deadlines for applications.

The Year 11s also completed their second set of PPEs immediately after half term. Throughout the intense two weeks, our students were able to conduct themselves with pride. The results were given to the pupils as they attended the Year 11 Parents' Evening on Thursday 30th November. This gave students, parents and teachers an opportunity to discuss the grades awarded and enabled productive dialogue in providing supportive feedback as well as celebrating some amazing outcomes. It was a pleasure to see so many parents and students attend.

Prior to the results, all Year 11 students were invited to take part in Maximize on Thursday 16th November. Maximize is an external agency who provide students with the knowledge, understanding and resources to build motivation, resilience and positivity. Our students were focused and engaged in their two hour session, and I am sure they will put what they have learnt to good use in preparation for their final examinations.

And the excitement doesn't stop there. Year 11 students who had 100% attendance for the first three weeks after half term were invited to take part in a Hide and Seek competition. This was a great afternoon and led to much laughter and fun. Students are also in the process of ordering their leavers hoodies and I look forward to handing them out at the end of term.

After the Christmas holidays, the Year 11s will have their final few months left at Stoke High School and only two more terms. We will continue to provide interventions to support all of our students in the lead up to their final exams. But in the meantime, I wish the whole year group a restful Christmas break and a very successful 2024.

Mr. L Eversley, Head of Year 11

Enrichment

Ploughing on down at the Farm

Throughout this term some of our students have been working exceptionally hard to develop the farm at school. Learning and practising different skills including building teamwork and using a multitude of different tools.



The main projects they have been working on include:

- Building a large shed out of recycled pallets.
- Making a new dog run for Kallie and planting up the flower beds with new plants.
- Clearing the low hanging branches and overgrown floor to develop a bee apiary and chicken 'flock down' run.
- Mowing all the long grass to allow us to start creating new raised beds out of the old paving slabs from the front of the school.



- Planting the first 25, of 420 tree saplings. We will be looking to get all Key Stage 3 students to plant a tree each before the Spring half term.

Watch this space, as by the time the next newsletter comes out there will hopefully be a lot more going on down at the farm.

Bletchley Park Visit

Some of the Year 8s that have been studying encryption during their STEM tech lessons had the opportunity to visit Bletchley Park to find out more about how the Enigma code was broken.

As we toured the site, we discovered more about the impact breaking the Enigma code had on the war. The immersive video highlighted the way in which the use of encrypted messaging misled and deceived the opposition forces.

The students found the fact that Alan Turing chained his mug to the radiator in his office so it didn't go missing very amusing and the fact it is still chained up there resulted in lots of photos being taken.



There were many interactive displays along the way ranging from letting you try the different code breaking systems to dressing up in the uniforms of the time. The different stories about individuals who had risked everything really engaged the students beyond just furthering their encryption knowledge.



R
E
S
P
E
C
T

I
N
S
P
I
R
E

A
C
H
I
E
V
E

[OAT]
ACHIEVING MORE TOGETHER



R
E
S
P
E
C
T

I
N
S
P
I
R
E

A
C
H
I
E
V
E

[OAT]
ACHIEVING MORE TOGETHER

Year 7 OAT Football Tournament

The Year 7 boys and girls football teams took part in an OAT wide tournament at the University of East Anglia earlier in the year. The girls showed incredible resilience and determination throughout their tournament coming up against schools with academy players and regular coaching from the Norwich City Scholars programme. The scholar who was coaching the girls, Harrison Thompson, was brilliant with them and was very impressed with their attitude and commitment throughout the tournament. We will hopefully be looking to set up a similar coaching arrangement with the Ipswich Town Scholars programme in the near future.

Mr. J Holmes, Enrichment Lead

OAT Football Tournament Review

We met at school at 7.30am, got on the minibus and set off. It was a 7-a-side tournament and we took 9 boys.

It was a football tournament with all the OAT schools taking part and we were the only school from Ipswich there.

We didn't have a recognised goalkeeper so I put myself forward to go in goal. We all had a Norwich scholar who was our coach and ours was Caleb Andean. He was impressed with how well I played and asked if I would stay in goal for the remainder of the tournament.

We made it to the Semi Finals and that ended in a penalty shoot out which I pulled off three saves and helped put us through to the final!

In the final we conceded a late goal which meant we had the dreaded penalty shootout. We had lots of encouragement but, it was just not our day. We lost to a strong team.

On the way home, Mr Holmes stopped off at McDonalds. We were very happy to get a reward of food!

It was a great day and experience.

Lucas, Year 7



Literacy

We have had a wonderful start to 2023/24 surrounding Literacy at Stoke High School.

As we reach the Christmas holidays, we will have 80 students who have completed the Lexonik Advanced programme since September, along with 80 students who have also worked with Ms. Riches in the Library on the Reading Scholar programme.

40 more students will partake on each of these programmes at the start of Spring term.

We look forward to celebrating with our Reading Scholar graduates their amazing achievements.

121 Reading

From January, we are lucky enough to be receiving support from our local Rotary Club. Some members will be coming to Stoke on a weekly basis, to read with students and encourage a love for reading. This will be supported by Ms. Riches and held in the Library.

New Library

The Spring term is posing a very exciting time for us, as we move the library and refurnish the area.

The new Library will be located in what is now known as 'The Community Café'. The space will be re-branded and refreshed, and filled with all the wonderful books which you can find in our current space, and more!

We are working closely with Suffolk Libraries and the contractors who are undertaking the work to ensure the move is as smooth as possible and causes minimal disruption.

Form Time

There have been many examples of excellence demonstrated within form time this term. 8SB have been engrossed in their novel whilst the Access Room have been enjoying the narrative of Ghost Boys by Jewell Parker Rhodes. 9SM are reading The Hate U Give and are learning about discrimination within America through the novel. 7FA are reading Barnaby Rooker by John Boyne and are excited to see where Barnaby's adventure ends up!

All students within Year 7-10 have been reading non-fiction articles weekly as a part of the Register and Read programme. All of these articles link to the Character Education focus of that week. Students have focused on our values of Courage and Resilience, and exploring where we can see these values in the wider world.

Visits

We are lucky enough to have Hillside choir coming to visit us and get us feeling festive in the library!

We also have visits from Halifax and Hillside with some of their students, to complete some arts and crafts and have some Christmas stories read to them by our amazing childcare students.

Miss S McMurtry, Literacy Lead



**R
E
S
P
E
C
T

I
N
S
P
I
R
E

A
C
H
I
E
V
E**





In Other News...

Pastoral Care Survey

Many thanks to those of you who completed the survey on pastoral care earlier in the term. We have taken your comments seriously and here are some of the actions we have taken to date.

Canteen

We spoke to the caterers - there are always meat/vegetarian/vegan options available. We have increased the options on offer during breakfast club to give students a choice. The main canteen has been split to allow students to separate depending on whether they want hot or cold food. The menu board is clearly displayed so they can choose before queuing.

We have plans in place to extend the canteen in the future.

A member of staff is on duty every break and lunchtime to manage the students queuing.

Year 7 Information

We provide a Year 7 information evening after the taster day in July. We have taken feedback on board and will include more information during the Year 7 '3 weeks in' evening at the beginning of the Autumn term.

Positive Messages Home

We have reviewed our rewards and will be rolling out a reward programme in the Spring. Postcards are continuing to be sent by staff in recognition of positive contributions and when students demonstrate our key virtues.

Mrs. C Welsby, Assistant Principal

Romania Day

Romania Day is celebrated on the 1st of December every year. At Stoke High School, we celebrated this event with all of our students. During registration, students were able to watch a video exploring key landmarks of Romania which promoted much discussion in class. At lunchtime, we celebrated outside with Romanian music and dancing. Traditional Romanian cuisine was shared with those in attendance. I would like to thank all the students and families who contributed traditional food for the event. We were overwhelmed with the amount of sweets and savouries on offer. Celebrations like these prove that our diverse community is one that embraces all of our students and recognises that identity is important in shaping our culture and future. A special mention to Ms. Teodorescu for her support and shared organisation. A very happy Romania Day to all! O zi a României foarte fericită tuturor!

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



Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club is open for all students at Stoke High School.

This is held at the canteen from 8am every day and is entirely free!

Emirates Stadium Tour

A group of Year 11 boys were taken to the Emirates Stadium on Friday 1st December. Although the journey back was a nightmare, the boys were well behaved and polite. The tour explored a range of areas including the BT Sports Studio where some of the students practised their interviewing technique. This will certainly prepare them for their role in the premiership! A special thank you goes to Miss Smith who was a big support on the trip and missed out on her birthday meal due to traffic! An excellent day had by all.



Mr. B Bullock, Head of Year 9

Remembrance Day 2023

It was a bright but cold November morning when Miss Iles met Viana (Year 10) in Christchurch Park to represent Stoke High School and lay a wreath of remembrance at the war memorial. The Ipswich War Memorial was unveiled in 1924 to remember the Ipswich men who had died in the Great War, and it has become a Stoke tradition for us to lay a wreath on behalf of the school community.



Once we had registered, we joined the parade of current service people to the memorial where, with thousands of people, we had the chance to mark those who have fallen in conflicts. The main theme this year was the 80th anniversary of the Battle of the Atlantic, which was the wartime struggle to keep Britain supplied with goods and food during this period.

The two-minute silence at 11am was broken by the sound of a pair of Apache helicopters from Wattisham Air Station which flew over the park. The Mayor of Ipswich, Lynne Mortimer led the laying of wreaths at the memorial and Vianna waited patiently with students from Chantry Academy to respectfully lay the wreath together. We spotted many former students who are in the armed services and we met Councillor Nathan Wilson, a former Stoke student at the end who spoke about his fond memories of the school.

For more information about the history of Christchurch Park and the memorial have a look at Ipswich council website: [History of the park | Ipswich Borough Council](https://www.ipswich.gov.uk/history-of-the-park).

Miss J Iles, Seconded Assistant Principal for Culture & Ethos



**R
E
S
P
E
C
T

I
N
S
P
I
R
E

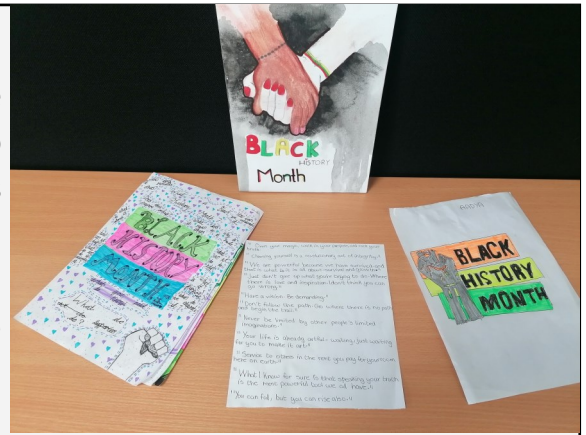
A
C
H
I
E
V
E**

[OAT]
ACHIEVING MORE TOGETHER



Black History Month Competition

To celebrate Black History Month in October, we asked students to take part in a competition to create informative pieces of work. The pieces should reflect an understanding of Black History in a creative format. We had several pieces entered and there were three winners. The winners were Aayshia, Aadya and Yaasha. A massive well done!



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

Charity Events

Over the past term, we have celebrated a variety of charity events. On Tuesday 10th October, we hosted the Hello Yellow event in which we encouraged students to wear items of yellow clothing. This was to promote the importance of mental health and well-being. On Friday 17th November we celebrated Odd Socks Day and Children in Need. Odd Socks Day is an event which promotes the importance of anti-bullying. In response to this, all of our students signed an anti-bullying behaviour contract in line with our school values. Children in Need was celebrated with donations and the cross-trainer being used throughout the whole day by staff and students as a team. We raised over £120. A thank you to all those who were involved and for those who donated.

Ms. K Baldwin, Principal



Christmas Market

Our first ever Stoke High School Christmas Market was held on Saturday 9th of December. It was an excellent event which many people from the local community visited to purchase items from an array of stalls. It was so popular, we even had a visit from Santa himself! The event raised over £300 for the school. We would like to thank all those who attended and supported.



*Mrs. C Welsby,
Assistant Principal*

Character Education

Character education was launched this autumn term with me talking in assembly about our core values of respect, inspire and achieve. Character education is seen through our curriculum, form time programme, assemblies, and our enrichment opportunities. The aim of our character education is to develop all students so they can thrive and be successful in their futures. Through the character programme students are exploring virtues. We started the year looking at the concept of courage, from the Latin “cor” meaning heart, this virtue is about having the strength and will to know what you should do even though you may be afraid, or it may be difficult. Many students at Stoke have been practising this virtue through their lessons and extracurricular opportunities. Over 200 postcards have been given as rewards for showing this virtue, and Stokies given out nearly every lesson. Well done to Yaasha in Year 7, who entered the competition “What does courage mean to you?”. Her painting shows the lion inside, representing the lion of courage that is in us all – great work! Our current virtue, resilience, is about coping with change and challenges and being able to bounce back when times are tough, particularly important for GCSE and BTEC students who are completing their mock exams and controlled assessment work. We are looking forward to launching the next virtue in the next half term which is... perseverance. There will be an assembly, lots of opportunities to practise this skill across school and postcards to be awarded – watch out for the next character education competition too!

Miss J Iles, Seconded Assistant Principal for Culture & Ethos

Message from Governors

The Autumn Term is always a very busy one in the Academy and it’s been much the same for the Governors. No sooner had we celebrated the excellent exam results of our “old” Year 11, then we were back in the Sports Hall for the first Inset Day with Ms. Baldwin welcoming everyone back and introducing our new members of staff. When possible, Governors try to attend some of the training sessions on Inset Days, as it gives us a better understanding of what is being planned for the coming year.

By the end of September, it felt as if the Year 7s had been with us for much longer than three weeks, we had all fallen back into our school routines and the long days of the summer holidays felt as if they were months ago rather than just twenty five days.

We’ve had two meetings of the Governing Body this term and at our December meeting, we had the pleasure of welcoming Charlotte Imlach for her initial meeting. Charlotte will bring a different skill set to those we already have on the Governing Body and is already familiar with Stoke from working with us last year on behalf of the University of Suffolk.

At the September Governors’ meeting, we nominate the areas of the school that we would like to be linked with for the coming year. I’m linked with literature this year and have met twice with Miss McMurtry who is leading on this. Together with the Vice Chair, I meet fairly regularly with Ms. Baldwin which gives a better insight into what’s happening at Stoke.

Overall, it has been a most encouraging term and on behalf of the Governors, I should like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a wonderful New Year.

Elizabeth Combes, Chair of Governors



**R
E
S
P
E
C
T**

**I
N
S
P
I
R
E**

**A
C
H
I
E
V
E**

[OAT]
ACHIEVING MORE TOGETHER



Safeguarding

R
E
S
P
E
C
T

I
N
S
P
I
R
E

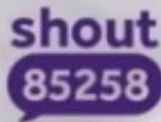
A
C
H
I
E
V
E

COPING AT CHRISTMAS

Christmas can be tough. That's why it's important to know there's always someone you can talk to.



☎ 0300 123 3393
📍 Helpline
🌐 mind.org.uk



☎ Text SHOUT to 85258
📍 24/7 text service
🌐 giveusashout.org



☎ 116 123
📍 24/7 helpline
🌐 samaritans.org



☎ Text YM to 85258
📍 24/7 text service
🌐 youngminds.org.uk



☎ 0800 58 58 58
📍 Helpline for men
🌐 thecalmzone.net



☎ 0800 068 4141
📍 Under 35s Helpline
🌐 papyrus-uk.org

Follow us on:

Facebook: Stoke High School—Ormiston Academy

Instagram: [stokehigh_oa](https://www.instagram.com/stokehigh_oa)

X: [@stokehigh](https://twitter.com/stokehigh)

