

Respect**Inspire****Achieve****Stoke High School–Ormiston Academy**

NEWSLETTER

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 Ormiston Academies Trust
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Principal's Message

We are approaching the end of another busy year. As always, the year at Stoke has been full of adventures and I would like to celebrate a few of our achievements:

- Student absence continues to fall and we have improved our overall school attendance by 1.2% in one year. This doesn't seem much but it is an impressive achievement. There are 72 more students in the top attendance bracket than at this time last year.
- Our Year 11s conducted themselves brilliantly during their final exams and we are hopeful that they will achieve the grades which reflect their hard work. We enjoyed celebrating their time at Stoke with them at Prom, which was a lovely event.
- Performing Arts at Stoke continues to flourish. The school production this year was outstanding but it didn't end there. Students have performed at Snape Maltings, the Wolsey Theatre and entered the OAT East dance competition.
- The girls' football teams continued to grow and thrive. We narrowly missed out on a couple of tournaments but the girls showed courage, determination and resilience and enjoyed their experience. I am sure that we will grow from strength to strength.
- In Year 9, 12 students took part in a Physics Olympics. We came second overall but we came first out of all the Ipswich schools. This is incredibly impressive and put our name on the map.

Key Dates and Events—Autumn 2025

Tuesday 2nd September	Year 7 and 11 Return to School
Wednesday 3rd September	Year 8-10 Return to School
Wednesday 24th September	Stoke Open Evening
Wednesday 8th October	Post-16 Evening
Friday 17th October	Inset Day
Monday 27th October —Friday 31st October	Half Term
Monday 3rd November—Friday 14th November	Year 11 PPEs
Friday 28th November	Inset Day (apart from Year 11)
Thursday 4th December	Year 11 Parent's Evening
Friday 5th December	Inset Day
Wednesday 10th December	Winter Concert
Friday 19th December	Last Day of Term

- Our students are fantastic ambassadors to our school and whenever they attend an event they demonstrate the Stoke values and virtues in abundance. We are proud of our students and I am very grateful to all the members of staff which go above and beyond to ensure that these extra curricular enrichment activities take place. GCSE Art, Photography and Sports Science have all been highlighted by external moderators as being examples of excellent practice and students' work has been used as exemplar material.

This has been a quiet year in terms of developing the school site, but over the summer months work restarts: stage 2 of the canteen, stage 1 of the PE



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Principal's Message continued...

block, stage 1 of the technology block, stage 1 of the science rooms. I want all members of our Stoke community to feel proud of the school they attend and see that the school environment is being improved to support their learning. I hope that you will take the opportunity on Open Evening to come and see the changes that have happened.

Stoke celebrates 125 years of being part of the education system in Ipswich and I hope that you are free to help celebrate. We are proud of our heritage and the journey that we are on. Change in a massive organisation like Stoke takes time, but we are beginning to see clear dividends. This is down to the collaboration and trust which exists between students, parents, staff, governors and the Trust. I would like to take this opportunity to express my thanks to you all for the support that you give your children, the school and me. As Steve Jobs said, "Great things in business are never done by one person. They're done by a team of people."

I hope that you all have a safe and restful break and I look forward to welcoming Year 7 and 11 on September 2nd, Years 8, 9, 10 on September 3rd and all staff on September 1st.

Ms. K Baldwin, Principal

Message from the Head Boy and Head Girl

This term we appointed our new Head Boy and Girl for 2025/26. I know Harry and Solaf will do us proud. Please see below the introductions they have written about themselves.

Hello, my name is Harry and I was recently appointed as the Head Boy. It is a privilege to hold that title for the school and it is my job to ensure that all the new students entering Stoke feel welcomed and confident for change. So far, I have created different ways to help the prefects become rewarded for their hard work and I would like to encourage them to continue keeping the corridors closed at break and lunch and ensuring they are following their Auntie and Uncle roles.

Hello everyone! My name is Solaf, and I'm truly honored to be serving as Head Girl this year. I'm incredibly grateful for the trust placed in me, and I'm excited to represent our student body with integrity, enthusiasm, and dedication. My goal is to be a voice for all students, to support and inspire others, and to help create an environment where everyone feels seen, heard, and valued. I look forward to working closely with staff and students to make this school year one to remember!

Harry, Head Boy and Solaf, Head Girl

Message from Parliament

It has been an amazing experience to lead student voice this year in Parliament. On a reflective note, we have been able to implement and suggest changes to help the school. Some of these include the new signage at the front to showcase our school's heritage, an increase in sport fixtures and helping create some questions for our student survey.

We are proud and privileged to have had this opportunity and help make the school a better place for all of our students. As our time in Parliament comes to end, we would like to impart some advice for those thinking of taking on this role. Be determined, work well in a team and have pride in your approach to leadership.

We wish you all a safe and restful Summer holiday and best of luck to the new Parliament team.

Sherif, Prime Minister and William, Deputy Prime Minister



Stoke High School
PARLIAMENT

English Faculty

Summer and the joy of reading

As the six-week summer break approaches, it is very easy to forget how quickly the routines and expectations of school fade into the background.

We live in a world that is full of distractions. Some of them are positive, some of them are negative, but all of them can make us forget some of life's simple pleasures.

Reading is one of the simple, great pleasures in life. To become immersed in a story, to discover the wonders of the world around us, to learn about those who came before us. Reading can be therapeutic, fun and insightful.

Here are some useful tips for reading in the summer:

- Short and frequent
Try 2-3 hours a week to prevent learning loss.
Attempting to break this demanding target down into fewer, shorter periods is more likely to foster successful retention of reading skills. Long, tiring periods of reading increase the potential for future reluctance. Make sure to make these short sessions frequent to keep these skills fresh in the child's mind. Why not ask your child to read to younger siblings, if they have any, or to read to you.
- Read the things that are of interest.
Allowing the freedom to choose a preferred subject or topic to read around heightens a child's enthusiasm for reading. Free from the restrictions of formal teaching, enabling the ability to pursue an interest increases the likelihood and enthusiasm for reading. Reading around something the child is interested in will make sure the skills they have gained at school are consolidated.
- Explore together
Aim to expand reading outside traditional settings and resources, even where there may not be an abundance of reading to be done. Exhibitions, museums and galleries, are a great way to maintain literacy skills and are also a lovely day out activity.

Ultimately, any attempt to do extra reading work over the long break is great. Efforts may not always seem to be immediately be rewarding, but the more reading done over the summer, the better placed and more ready your child will be for their next year of study at Stoke High School!

So, on behalf of the English Department at Stoke High School we would like to wish you a lovely summer break. We look forward to seeing everyone back in school in September!

Mr. S Rosser, Lead Teacher for Curriculum Support



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Maths Faculty

This term in Maths Sparx has once again been a key part of students learning. Students have worked hard to complete almost 600,000 questions! Overall students have completed 6000 hours of learning (that's an increase of 3400 hours since the last newsletter!).

Well done to the following students for achieving the most XP in their year group this term!

- Year 7: Dillan
- Year 8: Angel
- Year 9: Ella
- Year 10: Samuel

Well done to all completing their homework and supporting their own learning. If you need support with your homework, come along on a Wednesday or Thursday to 209 where the Maths team can support you with any questions you might have.

Well done to all Year 11s for completing their Maths GCSEs. They have worked really hard and we can't wait to see them in August to celebrate their results – good luck with everything that you do in the future!

Mr. J Abbott, Head of Maths

Science Faculty

As the summer term draws to a close, we are excited to share some of the highlights and achievements from the Science Department. It has been a vibrant and productive term filled with hands-on learning, exciting experiments, and student success across all year groups.

At KS3 we have completed end of year assessments with students working hard on revision strategies tailored to scientific concepts. Students have shown their dedication to proactive revision and we are spending the last few lessons identifying areas where improvement is needed.

In Year 9, Mr Rolland took a group of students to a Physics competition over at Ormiston Endeavour. The group did really well, coming 2nd overall and winning the most individual task medals. It was a really engaging day that stretched students and allowed them to explore unfamiliar situations within Physics.

By the end of term students will have completed their first 3 GCSE modules and are living up to expectations required for a successful Key Stage 4.

Year 10 have completed their first set of PPEs and are eagerly anticipating results on Wednesday. Summer revision material will be available for Year 10 students on "The Pod" for them to access over the summer break.

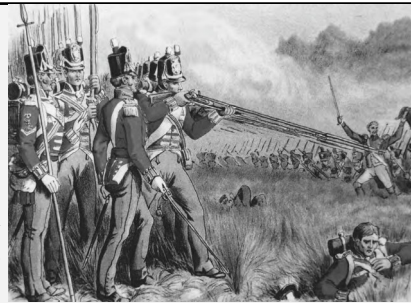
Wishing all students and their families a restful summer.

Mrs. J Tankard, Second in Science Faculty

Humanities Faculty

History

As we approach the end of another fantastic term, we wanted to take a moment to share some of the brilliant work happening in History lessons this summer and celebrate our students' learning across Key Stage 3 and 4.



Year 7 have been learning about the fascinating Tudor dynasty! From the reign of Henry VIII to the impact of his many marriages, students have been exploring key questions such as: 'Was Henry VIII a terrible tyrant?' and 'How much did life change under Tudor rule?' There have been fantastic class discussions around power, religion, and the lives of ordinary people during this period.

Year 8 have been studying some of history's most revolutionary moments! From the American War for independence to the French and Russian Revolutions, students have been thinking critically about what causes revolution and how societies change.

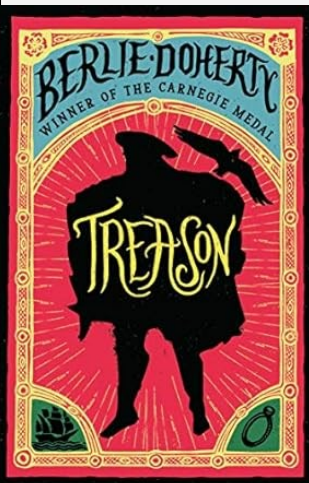
Year 9 have approached one of the most important and challenging topics in history: the Holocaust. Through careful and respectful study, students have learned about the causes and consequences of Nazi persecution, the experiences of Jewish people and other victims, and the importance of remembering and learning from the past. We are incredibly proud of the mature and thoughtful way they have engaged with this topic.

Year 10 have recently completed their PPEs and showed great focus and resilience throughout. They are now turning their attention to our next GCSE topic: Weimar and Nazi Germany. Students are exploring how Hitler rose to power, how the Nazi regime-controlled Germany, and what life was like for different groups under Nazi rule. This is a crucial part of their GCSE course, and we're impressed with the maturity they are bringing to such a significant topic.

Recommend Summer Reads

Treason by Berlie Doherty: (Suitable for Year 7+) Set during the reign of Henry VIII, this gripping historical novel follows a boy drawn into the dangerous politics of the Tudor court. A brilliant companion to our Year 7 topic on the Tudors.

Revolution by Jennifer Donnelly: (Suitable for Year 8+) A powerful story that blends modern-day grief with the drama of the French Revolution. Ideal for Year 8 students who've enjoyed learning about revolutions through time.



Once by Morris Gleitzman: (Suitable for Year 9+) Told through the eyes of a young Jewish boy, this moving and accessible novel introduces the Holocaust in a deeply human way. A poignant read for those who want to reflect further on our Year 9 studies.

Miss K Griffiths, Head of History



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Geography

This term in Geography Year 7 have been studying Settlements and looking at Conflict in the Middle East through a Geography perspective. Year 8 have been finishing their topic on Rivers and Flooding and are moving onto look at Glaciation towards the end of the term. Year 9 have completed their unit on Sustainability in the 21st Century and are enjoying looking at the continent of Africa in more detail. For GCSE students in Year 10, now their PPEs are finished, we are beginning to prepare them for the fieldwork on Qualitative Surveys and Cycles and Flows which we will undertake in September in Dedham.



Mrs. K Huggins, Teacher of Geography

RE

Our RE curriculum in the summer term has encouraged Year 7 to try and answer the big philosophical questions such as 'What is right and wrong?'. Students have been learning about key philosophers such as Plato and Aristotle, exploring their views and if these are still relevant today. Using philosophy to help answer questions is a great skill to use for future when making any ethical decisions.

Year 8 have been studying the Sikh faith and exploring the beliefs that are distinctive to the Sikh faith and considering links concepts and ideas in other religions studies such as Christianity, and the Jewish faith. While year 9 have been utilising all their knowledge, skills and understanding built up in RE to consider what gives life worth. Students have been applying this learning to moral issues including organ donation and euthanasia – topics which have been in the news.

Students can look forward to many religions and philosophical ideas being explored and a change of department name to Religious Studies!

Miss J Iles, Director of Humanities

French Faculty

We are in the early stages of planning another trip to France next year, but this time, with a difference! Instead of going to Paris, which is now an extremely expensive option and quite a long way to go for a short period of time, we are planning to stay in a chateau in Northern



France, where we can focus on immersing ourselves in the French language and culture, both through activities in the chateau and its grounds, and outside on visits to cities and sites in the area. This will be offered to all students in Years 9, 10 and 11 and a letter will available soon!

Mrs. C Howe, Curriculum Leader for French

Performing Arts Faculty

New Wolsey Theatre Youth Perform Festival

This years theme was taking liberties based around the Ipswich Charter Festival 825, which celebrates Ipswich's first charter by King John in 1200AD. As Drama Club we decided that this also linked with Stoke High School's 125 years celebration and set about devising a piece themed around the past, present and the future, and the ways that charters and various political movements are designed for change. After a devising workshop lead by NWT practitioners, we then developed our piece thinking about how things might not necessarily change as we expect them when there are different rulers and different governments. What we ended up with was a powerful performance, devised completely by the students, questioning what actually changes in the end. Our key words were discrimination, freedom and equality.



We then had the pleasure of performing alongside a few other schools from Suffolk, at the NWT festival and the evening was just amazing! The students from Drama Club certainly did the school proud, not only with the way that they performed on stage, but with their conduct and behaviour throughout. Once again, I was very proud with what we achieved.

Beatboxing Workshop

With our partnership with Norfolk and Suffolk Music Hub, we were able to welcome Beatboxer Mide Naïke to school to conduct a workshop with selected students. Despite the traffic chaos invading the daily commute, Mide was able to deliver the workshop to the students that ranged from Years 8 – 9 that gave them some background into the genre, tips and hints in how to perform the various parts of a drum and vocals.

The workshop was a real insight into the different musical talents and abilities that our students have themselves, and have an interest in.

I was delighted to be able to have this opportunity and look forward to further opportunities as part of the Music Hub.

Summer Festival

Wow! What a night! It has been said to me many times that if I don't cry at least once during a performance or festival then it is a miracle, and tonight's performance was no exception.

Students chose their own songs and rehearsed relentlessly to perfect tone, volume, pitch and phrasing to bring an amazing selection of music and performances to Stoke that blew us all away. Songs ranged from slow ballads to upbeat dance tracks, classic songs from musicals and a finale of a sing-along that sent the



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Performing Arts Faculty continued...

audience, performance and staff away. Students broke down their personal barriers to get out on stage and perform, some performing for this first time whilst others performed for the last.

The Rubik's cube challenge never ceased to amaze us whilst the second oldest magic trick in the book was met with gasps and whispers of 'how' – all this just going to prove what an amazing group of students we have.

I would like to say a massive thank you to all the performers, supporters and volunteers; a true embodiment of the Stoke Team.



PE Kit Reminder

Compulsory girls

Stoke High School branded PE t shirt.

Stoke High School branded PE shorts or skirt OR plain black shorts, skirt, sports leggings or tracksuit bottoms (please note cycling shorts or Nike Pro style shorts are not permitted)

Compulsory boys

Stoke High School branded PE t shirt.

Stoke High School branded PE shorts OR plain black shorts or tracksuit bottoms

Optional girls and boys

Plain black hoody or sweatshirt.

Any kit that is NOT Stoke High branded kit MUST BE PLAIN BLACK, with no logos or patterns in any other colour.

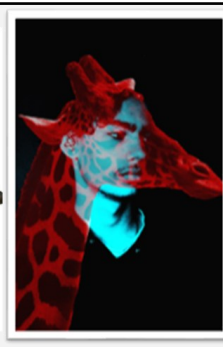
Mrs. T Beacham, Head of Performing Arts



Technology Faculty

It's been that time of year for us, down in Technology, where we have the exhibitions running for the practical subjects, including Photography and Art.

All of the Year 11s taking these 2 subjects had their work displayed, their marks checked by an external moderator, and the whole school were invited to come down and see their achievements from their 2 years studying these subjects at GCSE.



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We want to say a well done to all of these students. They have worked incredibly hard and achieved amazing outcomes. Our external moderator for Photography, was so impressed by the standard of work and schemes of study that photographs of the students' work were taken.



We would also like to say a huge thank you to all staff and students who have come down to see the work and cheer on our Photographers and Artists. Your support is incredible!

The Technology Department would like to take this opportunity to celebrate the successes of our Year 10 students!

The Year 10s have had a busy few weeks with various visits to colleges and of course 2 weeks of PPEs. We think they are doing an incredible job, working hard and putting in the maximum effort.

The Photography students have recently finished their Unit 2 and have started their next project. This has meant they had a 10 hour exam, but their final pieces produced were stunning!

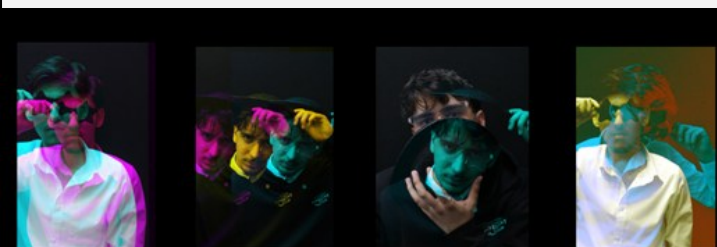
The Art students have also had a 10 hour exam recently. But they have committed themselves to their final pieces and have finished them to an exceptionally high standard.

The 3D students have begun a new scheme of work titled, Storage. They have recently been model making and responding to a Designer called The Memphis Group.



Well done Year 10. Keep up the dedication. You are flying high!

Miss Z Button, Head of Technology



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Year 7

I can not believe that we are rapidly coming to the end of year 7. Just one year ago, I was welcoming students for the first time, supporting them to navigate the massive change of moving to high school.

This term has been a busy one. I was lucky enough to be able to join our year group at the Inter School Athletics competition. As always, I was incredibly proud of the resilience and camaraderie shown by the students.

A large number of students have supported me this term, coming on Primary visits or speaking to new Year 6 students on Induction Day. I was really proud of how confident they have become, and I know that the new students appreciated being able to hear about their experiences.

We had our final Big Breakfast of the term on a perfect way to celebrate the end of the year.

As the summer term draws to a close, I am proud of all that Year 7 have achieved this year. Year 8 is just around the corner; I am excited to hand over the baton to Mr. Stevens. He has been an integral part of the Year 7 team, already having built relationships with the year group. I will continue to have a vested interest in this amazing group of students and cannot wait to see them thrive in the coming years. As always, I would like to thank you all, parents, friends and family for your continued support.

Mrs. C Welsby, Head of Year 7 and Assistant Principal

Year 8

Year 8 have once again had an excellent term. Students have applied themselves both in lessons and within a wide range of extra-curricular activities.

Some of our year group highlights this term include...

Athletics Achievements: A huge congratulations to all our students who participated in athletics against other local high schools. Your hard work and dedication truly shone through, and we are incredibly proud of each one of you!

Special Visits: A big shout-out to those who had the opportunity to represent our year group at the recent author visit and the trip to the Houses of Parliament. Your representation was exemplary, and you made us proud!

Big Breakfast: We had a fantastic time coming together for our Big Breakfast. It was a wonderful opportunity for students and staff to connect and enjoy a delightful morning meal together.

Phone Free School Initiative: Thank you to all our students for actively participating in our journey to become a Phone Free School. Your cooperation and enthusiasm towards this initiative makes our school environment more focused and engaging.

Team Spirit on Sports Day: Our sports day was a tremendous success, showcasing outstanding teamwork and sportsmanship. Thank you to everyone who participated and cheered on their peers.

Year 8 continued...

Local Competitions: Congratulations to those who represented our school in local football tournaments and the dance competition. Your talent and commitment have brought great admiration from our school community.

We look forward to more exciting events and achievements in the next year. As we move towards Year 9, I want to thank you, students, parents, carers and our Year 8 tutor team, for your continuous support and involvement in making our year group so successful in all we do.

Have a lovely summer break and stay safe.

See you on the 3rd September!

Mrs. V Spearman, Head of Year 8

Year 9

The summer term has been a busy one and Year 9 have taken part in so many different events and activities this year from trips to Parliament through to making their options choices.

There are many things that have made me proud as their Head of Year this term especially the way that Year 9 have embraced Stoke becoming a phone free school in such a mature and respectful way. This has been a positive impact for Year 9 and has helped them to engage in the classroom without distraction.

There have been opportunities this term for students to see inside the world of work, following on from the careers fair last term. A select group of students interested in pursuing careers in hairdressing and beauty were given the opportunity to visit salons in Ipswich. These trips provided invaluable hands-on experience and a glimpse into the professional world, inspiring our students to explore vocational pathways.

15 of our year 9 students participated in the Physics Olympics coming second place overall and top out of all the schools in Ipswich. Every student in the year was awarded a medal for their fantastic achievement. This is an amazing accolade for them and the school and we are very proud of them.

Our termly Big Breakfast for all students in the year group was an opportunity for them to socialise and reinforced our school's commitment to nurturing a supportive and inclusive environment.

Year 9 showed great sportsmanship supporting one another in Sports day and it was a great opportunity for interform competition and fun. Adding to this a group of our athletics students showcased their skills at the athletics competition held at Northgate. The girls' team



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Year 9 continued...

finished in 7th place, while the boys' team secured 5th position. We commend their hard work and determination.

Some of students who have taken on roles in our Stoke Parliament were invited to visit the Houses of Parliament, gaining firsthand insight into the workings of our government. This trip aimed to inspire civic engagement and deepen students' understanding of parliamentary processes.

As we look forward to the next academic year, we are excited to support our students as they transition into Year 10 and begin their GCSEs. Our dedicated staff are committed to providing the guidance and resources needed for students to succeed in their studies and beyond.

We wish you a restful and enjoyable break and look forward to welcoming Year 10 back on the 3rd September.

Mrs. K Huggins, Head of Year 9

Year 10

WOW!! What an action-packed year it has been for Year 10s which has culminated, this term, in them working exceptionally hard in their Pre-Public Exams. I have also witnessed them working intently on their coursework subjects, with lots of positive feedback from teachers. I am optimistic that they will receive good grades at the end of the term.

Other achievements have been seen in sports with the Girls Football team involved in many matches, they had amazing cup runs managing to reach both of the Suffolk Cup finals. A few of the Year 10s also have been involved in the GCSE athletics tournament. An amazing experience for them all, particularly as they were up against some of the best in Suffolk. A Special mention to Kyle, who took on the best and absolutely flew around the track, taking an amazing 2nd place.

Congratulations also must go to the students who have been involved in the brilliant Summer Festival and the schools' version of Little Shop of Horrors.



This term the Year 10s have taken on the roles of Prefects within the school. They are taking this role very responsibly. It has been a privilege to see them at work. We also have the Deputy Prime Minister in our year group, and have just appointed a Head Boy and Head Girl for next year. Special congratulations must go to Harry and Solaf. We have all recently visited both Suffolk New and Suffolk One. An amazing experience for them all in preparation for making their choices of further education establishments.

On a personal note, it has been a privilege to be their Head of Year since April 2024. I have enjoyed getting to know each and every student and trying to help them to be the best version of themselves. It is with great sadness that I will be



Year 10 continued...

leaving the school at the end of term. I am moving away from Suffolk, due to becoming a grandparent for the first time, which is an amazing opportunity to be nearer my new granddaughter. As the students progress into Year 11 they will be in the excellent hands of Mr. Eversley. I wish the year group all the best for the future.

Mr. S Jones, Head of Year 10

Year 11

What an incredible year and journey our Year 11 students have been on. They have worked extremely hard during their final exams and have certainly made the school proud. It has been an honour and privilege to



have led the students in their final year, and I know they will leave to achieve great things.

Our final assembly was one of reflection and reminiscence. I'd like to thank all the parents and carers who were able to email me some of the embarrassing photos and messages. These were a hit. We also awarded some of the students with some prizes, and this year, our Pride of Stoke award went to Cole. This was certainly well deserved. I'd like to also thank all the staff who were present at the leavers' assembly and for the tutors who have been by your child's side every day.

A final thank you goes to Miss Button. She has been a pillar of this year group's community and someone all the students looked up to. I know the Year 11s were extremely thankful of all the work she has done over the years, and they wouldn't be the incredible people they are if it wasn't for her.

It feels odd writing this without Year 11s in the school. Their energy, enthusiasm and willingness to succeed is a true testament to themselves as individuals. The next step in their education will be one of many successes and I know the colleges and training sites will be very lucky to have them.

Our school Prom was on Friday 4th July 2025. It was an exciting event and an opportunity to see our students celebrate in style! There will be some photos printed in our next edition of the newsletter next academic year.

A final reminder that the GCSE results day is on Thursday 21st August. Year 11 students can come and collect their results from 9am-11am via the canteen doors.

Well done Year 11. You did yourselves extremely proud!

Mr. L Eversley, Head of Year 11



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In Other News...

Houses of Parliament Trip

Some of our students were invited to come and take part in a trip to the Houses of Parliament. This was led by the Wolsey 550 project. Thanks to this team, this was a free event and one which was incredibly fun and enlightening. This is what Maddie from Year 9 had to say about the trip:



On Monday the 23rd of June, 9 pupils went to the Houses of Parliament which is also known as the Palace of Westminster. When we were there, we went on a tour. This tour told us the history of the Houses of Parliament and what happens there. We learnt that on the last day of the Blitz (11th May 1941) the Houses of Parliament got bombed but one archway remained standing. Winston Churchill decided to keep this, and it is now a symbol of hope and perseverance. Also, there was a piece of art which was made up with all the petitions for women's rights. This then glows up depending on the River Thames' tides. While on the tour we went into the House of Commons and House of Lords and learnt how they pass bills and how they vote on them. We also saw a bill move from the House of Commons to the House of Lords. The

House of Commons is decorated in green, whereas the House of Lords is decorated in red. After the tour, we had a Q&A with Jack Abbott who is the MP for Ipswich. It was very interesting to hear what his responses were and his plans for the future of Ipswich. The day ended with two workshops after lunch. The first was where you had to guess from a panel of employees who had what job. The second workshop explored skills needed to access specific jobs and what barriers we had to overcome to achieve these roles. I had a fantastic time at the Houses of Parliament. I would say that if you have a chance to go there, then go. It's a once in a lifetime experience to visit the site and having the opportunity to experience British history at its best.



Mr. L Eversley, Seconded Assistant Principal

Year 10 Prefect Rewards

This term we appointed our new Prefects. I am extremely delighted to announce that our Head Boy and Girl are Harry and Solaf. They are supported by their deputies Will and Alina. The whole Prefect team have made an incredible start. They have been superb in their duties



and always willing to help staff, students and events. When we had the Year 6 Induction day, the Prefects showed great leadership and teamwork. To celebrate this, the Prefects had a reward of pizza which was eaten (rather quickly) after school. Some were also invited to a trip to the Lakeside shopping centre. It was a great evening and I look forward to hosting more rewards!

Mr. L Eversley, Seconded Assistant Principal

Memorial Garden

Some of our students have been busy completing work on a new memorial garden next to our school farm space. Students, along with Mr Holmes, have worked hard to plan out then plant a variety of trees together with seating to remember those we have lost as a school community.



For those parents and carers who remember Mrs Huckfield who passed away in 2021, her memorial tree has now been moved to the new memorial space along with a seating area provided as a quiet reflection space. There are plans to have brass plaques engraved in remembrance. This is a lovely addition for all staff and students to allow a space to take a time out from the busy word of teaching and learning.

Miss J Iles, Assistant Principal

Message from the Governors

As I write this, I am still buzzing after yesterday's 125 Year Celebrations. I must take this opportunity to congratulate everyone involved in making it such an enjoyable occasion and thank them for allowing so many former students to re-visit and see how much we have evolved and improved since their time with us.

I accompanied our Headteacher from 1983 to 2003, Martin Liddle, around the school as he took in the changes over the years since his retirement. His obvious enjoyment of being back at Stoke was tangible and it was so heartwarming to see so many former students walk up to him with the question "Mr Liddle?" Martin remembered most of them and enjoyed reminiscing with them. His pride in leading Stoke at such an important time in its development was there for all to see, as indeed was his pleasure in seeing how the school has grown to where we are now.

I felt privileged to view the school through Martin's eyes as it's so easy to forget just how much has changed since 2003 and yet, we still retain that special Stoke ethos. Staff and students come and go, but that special relationship between them makes Stoke the special place it is. Martin said to me at one point "You must be so proud to be Chair here" and to which I replied, "that's an understatement."

Our celebrations were enjoyed by former staff and students alike alongside our current staff and students. Many of those who joined are parents of children in the school or children who will be joining us over the next few years; some have parents or even grandparents who had either been at the school or our predecessor, Tower Ramparts. However, many of our students have no prior family links with Stoke at all. The one thing that united us yesterday and unites us today, is the pride and belonging that comes with being a Stokie, even an adopted one like myself who attended a different high school!

I should like to take this opportunity to thank our departing Year 11s for their contribution to Stoke during their time with us and wish them well in their future endeavours. Never forget the building blocks that Stoke has given you for the future and remember, once a Stokie, always a Stokie.

As the summer holidays rapidly approach, a huge thank you to staff and students for all their hard work this past year and to parents for their continued supported. I hope that you are all able to make some time to enjoy the break from the school routine before coming back refreshed and ready for the year ahead.

Liz Combes, Chair of Governors



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ACHIEVING MORE TOGETHER

New Wolsey Theatre Opportunities

NW NEW WOLSEY THEATRE

ACTIVITIES UNLIMITED

Join the
New Wolsey Youth Theatre Plus & Squared



Applications now open for September 2025

Youth Theatre Plus & Squared provides disabled and neurodivergent young people (ages 11-25) with a creative space to explore theatre, grow in confidence, and develop their theatre-making skills.

Led by professional practitioners, sessions foster confidence, self-expression and more - all within a fun, welcoming, and supportive environment.

Youth Theatre Plus Ages 11-16
Youth Theatre Squared Ages 16-25

To find out more and apply:
Visit our [webpage](#) or contact our Creative Communities team:
creativecommunities@wolseytheatre.co.uk | 01473 295930

Scan me for more!



NW NEW WOLSEY THEATRE

Join the
New Wolsey Youth Theatre



Applications now open for September 2025

Closing Thursday 17 July

Sessions enable participants to explore the world around them, build their confidence and develop their theatre making skills all through fun and creatively engaging activity in a supportive environment. Each group is led by professional theatre practitioners with experience in making inclusive theatre.

Youth Theatre One Ages 7-9
Youth Theatre Two Ages 9-11
Youth Theatre Three Ages 11-13
Youth Theatre Four Ages 13-16

Youth Theatre Plus & Squared Neurodivergent and disabled people from ages 11-25
Young Company Ages 11-25 (entry via audition)

To find out more and apply:
Visit our [webpage](#) or contact our Creative Communities team:
creativecommunities@wolseytheatre.co.uk | 01473 295930

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shout
85258

SHOUT provides free, confidential, 24/7 text message support in the UK for anyone who is struggling to cope and anyone in crisis. Text SHOUT to 85258. This service is free on all major mobile networks.

PAPYRUS
PREVENTION OF YOUNG SUICIDE

Papyrus (Prevention of Young Suicide) provides advice and support for young people who feel like they want to take their own life, and all their advice is confidential. Call their HOPELineUK on: 0800 068 41 41 or text: 07786 209687 (lines are open every day from 9am to midnight).

childline
ONLINE, ON THE PHONE, ANYTIME

Childline offers support to young people under 19, and they confidentially call, email, or chat online about any problem, big or small. Their freephone 24-hour helpline is 0800 1111 or students can have a one-to-one chat with an [online advisor](#).

SAMARITANS

Samaritans are available 24/7 and offer a free anonymous non-judgemental listening service. They can be reached by phone on 116 123 or via email at jo@samaritans.org.

THE MIX

The Mix offers a free helpline for young people under 25 between 4pm – 11pm. Call 0808 808 4994 or you can email or text the Crisis Messenger service 24/7.

YOUNG MINDS
fighting for young people's mental health

YoungMinds Crisis Messenger provides free crisis support and links to a range of support options.

NHS

All local NHS 24/7 urgent mental health lines can be found on nhs.uk/urgentmentalhealth.

Digital resources:

[Calm zone | Childline](#)
Activities and tools, wellbeing exercises and interactive games for under 19s.

[Mental Health - The Mix](#)
Online articles and discussion forums for 11 – 25 year olds.

[Home – Kooth](#)
Online mental wellbeing community for 10 – 25 year olds.

[Self-care tips videos for young people - Every Mind Matters - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](#)
Online self-care video library.

We wish you all a safe and enjoyable Summer Holiday!

Return to School Dates:

Year 7 and 11: Tuesday 2nd September 2025

All years: Wednesday 3rd September 2025

