

Respect

Inspire

Achieve

Stoke High School–Ormiston Academy



NEWSLETTER



Principal’s Message

Welcome to our second newsletter of the year. We hope that you enjoy reading the news and the information in this edition. We always try to give you a taster of the great wealth of learning and extra curricular activities which happen at Stoke. These would

not be possible without the huge support of our staff and I would like to take this opportunity to say a massive thank you to them for giving up their time. Life at Stoke is always a team effort and it was really pleasing to read the article in the East Anglian Daily Times where we were listed as being the 4th happiest school in Suffolk.

Time always moves so quickly in schools and we are fast approaching the summer exam series for Year 11. They have approached their recent mock exams brilliantly and we hope that this, as well as all their attendance to #p6, completion of homework and the additional revision at home will help them to secure the grades that they deserve. We are looking forward to celebrating their time at Stoke at their Prom which will take place on Friday 4th July.

The impact of mobile phones and social media on our young people is constantly in the news – from Sir Gareth Southgate’s Richard Dimpleby lecture, to Channel 4’s School Swap to the CEO of a prestigious London Academy. The message is really clear – we need to protect our young people. We recently confiscated a phone and monitored it throughout the day. During learning hours, it received 2 calls and over 22 notifications. Had this phone not been confiscated, it would have been a constant source of distraction to the young person concerned. Schools are a place of learning and this has to be our priority. We have started to invite students to

Key Dates and Events—Summer 2025

Tuesday 22nd April	Return to School
Monday 5th May	Bank Holiday
Thursday 8th May	Year 10 Parents’ Evening
Wednesday 12th May	GCSE Exams begin
Thursday 15th May	Year 8 Parents’ Evening
Monday 26th May —Friday 30th May	Half Term
Thursday 26th June	Year 6 Induction Day and Evening
Friday 4th July	Year 11 Prom
Friday 18th July	Last Day of Term

trial the pouches for a day and we have sought feedback from both students and parents. We hope to introduce these pouches and become a mobile free school in the Summer term. I would like to take this opportunity to thank those parents who have replied to questionnaires and have expressed their support. We genuinely believe that this will make a huge impact on the concentration, learning and the mental health of our young people.

The weather is starting to change, and it is much nicer travelling to and from school in the light. We hope that you all have a lovely break and we look forward to seeing the safe return of our young people on Tuesday 22nd April.

Best wishes from all of us to Miss Holden and Mrs Yuen, who are moving on to new opportunities elsewhere.

As always, have a safe and happy break.

Ms. K Baldwin, Principal



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Message from the Head Boy and Head Girl

This has been a busy term, and we realise that our leadership roles are coming to an end. Being Head Boy and Girl has been a great opportunity, and the role has helped us connect with our peers. We have learnt how to mediate opinions from both staff and students, and we have developed both our communication and leadership skills. We hope that the next Head Boy and Girl continue to do the same and realise the positive impact that they have on the school.

It feels quite thrilling that our GCSEs are coming up. The Year 11s are really trying their best and the school is behind us every step of the way ensuring we reach our full potential. The Year 10s will have this to look forward to and our advice would be to try your best in all of your lessons and enjoy the time you have left here. Our Key Stage 3 students are eager to get to lessons and learn. The Year 7s have really settled and follow our Stoke values with pride. Year 9 students are now in the tricky position in which they select their chosen options. We wish them the best of luck and understand the pressure they are going through.

It has been a pleasure being Head Boy and Girl and we wish all of the students the best of luck in their futures.

Olivier, Head Boy and Alishba, Head Girl

Message from Parliament

We believe that this term has had a positive impact to the start of 2025. The whole of Parliament are working tirelessly to support students and staff. In our most recent meeting, we have been working alongside Mr. Rosser on 125 years of Stoke, and Mr. Bulmuo on celebrating our diverse community. We have encouraged all faculties to display stars of the week within their areas to promote the positive work some of our peers produce.

As we reach our final term we look to make further positive change and leave our mark on the school together as a team. As Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister we wish to continue promoting our diverse community and celebrate those from across the world, from the East to the West. We are proud of our school and the community we work with and we will continue to grow as one.

Sherif, Prime Minister and William, Deputy Prime Minister



English Faculty

The Art of Revision and Homework

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

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

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

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

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

But homework has another purpose, it leads us to that most dreaded of words: revision...

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

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

Mr. S Rosser, Lead Teacher for Curriculum Support



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Maths Faculty

This term in Maths, Sparx has been a key part of students learning. We have had over 2600 hours of learning completed with 11 students achieving over 10,000xp already. In Year 8, Amy has achieved over 50,000xp which is incredible! The following students were the top xp in their year groups: Year 7—Nancy, Year 8—Amy, Year 9—Abhiram, Year 10—Vedika and Year 11—Lucian.

Year 11s are preparing hard for their exams. Useful websites include: ·

<http://sparxmaths.uk> where homework is set

<https://www.mathsgenie.co.uk/> a website with a breakdown of topics and exam papers

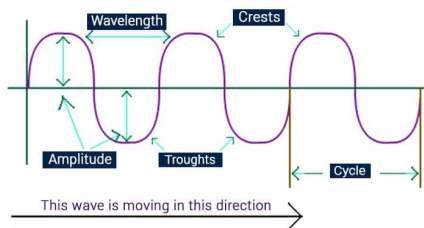
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/z9p3mnb> Maths on BBC bitesize

We recently celebrated World Maths Day and students had the opportunity to earn prizes in class for completing challenges. We're looking forward to celebrating again next year!

Mr. J Abbott, Teacher of Maths

Science Faculty

Year 7 are concluding their study of The Human Body and will be moving on to the to the Chemistry topic, "Purity." This is a really engaging topic where students will practise skills such as measuring and graph work.



Year 8 have completed their study of "Circuits" and will also be progressing to a new Physics topic on "Waves". Year 9 have completed their first module in all three Science subjects, and we are eagerly anticipating a full transition to GCSE after Easter.

The pressure is building for Year 10 who are well into their GCSE. We will be focusing on specific revision strategies in preparation for the PPEs in June, leading onto their final year of GCSEs. A reminder to make use of www.senecaleraning.co.uk and freesciencelessons.co.uk on YouTube.

Year 11s are working hard on specific targeted revision sessions in class. These are based on topics where nationally students need to improve. All Year 11s will be provided with questions to complete during the Easter break. As always, students are welcome to attend Week A Tuesday revision sessions and there are past papers and revision sheets available to all in room 113.

Please encourage students to log on to The Pod and make use of specific written tasks and strategies. Their class Teams page also has revision PowerPoints and links to revision videos on YouTube.

Ramping up to the final push with just a few teaching weeks left before their first Science exam.

Have a restful but productive Easter holiday.

Mrs. J Tankard, Second in Science Faculty

Sparx Maths

Humanities Faculty

History

As we end the spring term, we wanted to take the opportunity to share with you the exciting topics your children have been studying in History. Across all year groups, students have been engaging in fascinating historical inquiries, developing their analytical skills, and making connections between the past and the present.



Year 7 – Medieval History

Our Year 7 students have been delving into the world of medieval history, exploring key questions such as ‘How did William become the conqueror?’ and ‘Was the medieval period all muck and misery?’. Through studying the Norman Conquest, life in medieval towns, and the impact of the Black Death, students have gained insight into the challenges and transformations of the medieval era.

Year 8 – The Transatlantic Slave Trade

Year 8 students have been investigating the history of the transatlantic slave trade. They have examined the origins of slavery, the horrific conditions on the Middle Passage, and the impact of slavery on individuals and societies. Discussions around abolition and the legacy of slavery have encouraged critical thinking about how the past shapes our world today.

Year 9 – World War Two

This term, Year 9 students have been studying the key events and turning points of World War Two. From the Battle of Britain to the D-Day landings, they have been exploring the experiences of those who lived through the conflict, both on the front lines and on the home front.

Year 10 – Early Elizabethan England

Year 10 have been transported back to the 16th century, studying Elizabeth I’s reign. They have explored how she managed religious divisions, the threats she faced both at home and abroad, and the significance of key events such as the Spanish Armada.

Year 11 – Preparing for GCSE Exams

With exams fast approaching, our Year 11 students are in full revision mode. They have been revisiting key topics from Paper 1 (Crime and Punishment), Paper 2 (The Cold War & Early Elizabethans), and Paper 3 (Weimar and Nazi Germany). We encourage students to make use of the revision booklets provided and attend any extra sessions available to help them prepare effectively. Parental support in maintaining a structured revision routine at home will be invaluable in the coming weeks.

Thank you for your continued support in fostering a love of history in our students. If you have any questions or would like further resources to support your child’s learning, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Miss K Griffiths, Head of History



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Citizenship

As we reach the end of the spring term, we are excited to share the fantastic work our Citizenship GCSE students have been doing. This term has been packed with hands-on learning experiences, allowing students to put their knowledge into action and engage with real-world issues in meaningful ways.

Year 11: Making a Difference in the Community

Our Year 11 students have been busy planning and running their Citizenship Action Project, where they chose to support a local food bank. Through their bake sale, held earlier this term, they raised an impressive amount of money, which will go towards providing essential food and supplies for those in need. Not only did this project develop their teamwork and organizational skills, but it also highlighted the power of active citizenship and giving back to the community. A huge well done to all involved!

Year 10: Democracy in Action

This term, our Year 10 students have had the opportunity to engage with two exciting activities that brought their learning to life:

- Mock Trial Experience: Students stepped into the roles of barristers, witnesses, and jurors in a mock courtroom scenario. This hands-on experience allowed them to explore how the legal system operates and sharpen their debating and critical thinking skills.
- Election Vote Counting Simulation: With an eye on democracy, students practiced counting election votes, mimicking the process used in real elections. This exercise gave them insight into the electoral system and reinforced the importance of fair and transparent elections.

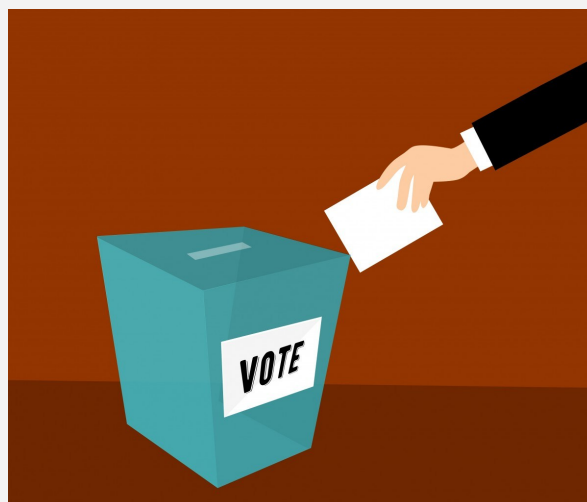
Both activities provided students with invaluable insights into the justice and democratic systems, preparing them to be informed and active citizens.

Looking Ahead

As we move into the summer term, Year 11 will be focusing on their final preparations for the GCSE exams. We encourage them to make use of all available revision resources and to reach out for any extra support they may need. Year 10 will continue to explore key topics in Citizenship, building on their practical experiences this term.

Thank you for your continued support. We wish you all a restful and enjoyable break!

Miss K Griffiths, Head of History



Geography

Over the last term, students at Stoke High School have been enthusiastically engaging with their geographical learning. The latest global events including the war in Ukraine, America's presidency, an oil spill in the North Sea and questions surrounding the UK's place on the global stage have created many thought-provoking discussions relating to our learning in Geography. It is essential that our students understand the dynamic world they live in and the geo-political landscape moving into the future. This has been evident in year 8 lessons when discussing the implications of deforestation in the Amazon rainforest and the range of organisations fighting to reduce the number of trees lost each day. Year 7 students have been pondering the importance of national governmental policy when exploring the impact of informal employment within India's emerging economy. Many students made links between our society in Ipswich and the economic inequality seen in the megacity of Mumbai. Year 9 have been investigating ways the physical environment can create socio-economic problems for settlements located on one of Europe's quickest eroding coastlines. The population of Happisburgh is disappearing into the North Sea which has poised the question for students of "what does this mean for all coastal communities of the Suffolk and Norfolk coastline?" and "what does it mean for us?". The development of our world is something we all have in common and developing our community is something we all share. Moving into the Summer we will have more opportunities for students to think critically about the sustainability of their actions in an ever-changing geographical world.

Miss F Holden, Head of Geography

RE

Our exciting RE curriculum has been focusing on Christianity in Year 7 and using their knowledge, skills and understanding to evaluate Christian beliefs about who Jesus is, the importance of baptism for Christians and interpretations of different Christian groups on these issues and linking this to the Christian festival of Easter. Next term year 7 will be focusing on philosophy and trying to answer some big questions about key thinkers such as Plato and considering if philosophy helps us to understand what is right and wrong.

Year 8 have been working hard in RE to learn more about philosophy building on their knowledge of philosophy from last year. This term they have focused on issues around justice and fairness, the beliefs that Christian, Humanists and Buddhist have on these issues and considering how important justice is; considering is prison the right form of punishment and how important forgiveness is as a concept. Next term students will explore the role of women in the Sikh community – the key beliefs and teachings and the importance of equality in the faith.

Islam has been the focus for Year 9 this term – a module that links well with Ramadan which is being observed this term. Student study of key Muslim beliefs which are helping students to understand more about the role of the five pillars, religious practices and considering the importance of the practices. Next term students will be thinking hard in philosophy and looking at medical ethics, rights and religious views on the Holocaust.

At Key Stage 4 both Year 10 and 11 are looking at philosophy with Year 10 considering the big questions about life after death and Year 11 looking at the role of religions in family life. Year 10 will continue their philosophical studies considering 'is violence ever justified' and the role of war and peace as well as religion and human rights.

Our spiritual space is open every lunch time for all students, a space in the school day to observe prayer and focus.

Miss J Iles, Director of Humanities and Assistant Principal



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Performing Arts Faculty

School Production

We are immensely proud of the cast and crew of Little Shop of Horrors; to dedicate up to 6 hours a week for almost 20 weeks just goes to show the commitment that the students at Stoke High School have, not to mention the resilience too. Students really blossomed (get it?) during this show and the friendships that are forged we see carry on throughout their time here. The ever growing confidence and talents of our performers continues to grow more and more each year and we continue to build on our success – watch out for next year’s show! (and no, I don’t know what it is ... yet!)



Audience Reactions

Fantastic production!



Well done to all the cast and backstage crew. They were amazing! You must be so proud.

I'm not sure I should comment on individual performances because it's a team effort. However, Poppy's rendition of 'Somewhere that's Green' was faultless. Rio's 'I am a dentist' was word perfect and hilarious. Eddie was commanding as Mushnik and Ethan didn't miss a beat as Seymour!



The Ronettes had just the right amount of "attitude" and the ensemble were so well rehearsed.

Harry and the crew were as organised as ever.

I went to the Little Shop of Horrors on Friday 14th February, 2025. Everyone was very well organised, the students did an excellent job with performance. Regarding my son James, I wasn't expecting him to play the voice of Audrey 2 which he did very well, as did all the cast and crew.

Once again, congratulations on a great show to all of you.

Well what can I say, you should all be extremely proud of yourselves and the fantastic cast of this years show. I didn't think anything could beat Grease but I think you did it!

Each and every cast member shone in their own way exhuming their talents (hidden ones at that for some).

Just want to say the show was amazing and I'm very glad I came to watch!!!



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New Wolsey Youth Perform Festival

I am delighted to announce that we will once again be performing at the NWT Youth Perform Festival. Through Drama Club we will devise an original performance based on this year's theme which is 'Taking Liberties' and is based on celebrations across Ipswich as part of the Ipswich Carter Festival 825. We have just started work on this exciting project and further details will be released as we get them.

Stoke High School Choir Music for Youth Festival

On Friday 14th March I had the absolute pleasure of accompanying the Stoke High School Choir to Snape Maltings to perform in the Music for Youth Festival. This is the first time that we have been able to do this and it was an amazing event. Snape Maltings has a rich history for music, and throughout the year, hosts many concerts and musical events. This one was for schools and educational establishments from Suffolk and Norfolk. At the end of the evening we were treated to some feedback from a music mentor and they could not praise us enough. Energy, harmony, vigour and a special mention for our soloist Daniela who carried the song 'American Boy' and made it her own, ably accompanied by Eddie, Poppy, Emily, Myah and Zoe. With an original arrangement from our guitar and singing teacher Miss Love, the students performed their heart out and really impressed the mentor and the audience. I felt pride, and of course almost cried, in seeing our students on stage, the same stage that saw chamber choirs, jazz bands and strings quartets performing classical repertoire having been formed and rehearsing for many years. We will go back next year even stronger and with even more songs.



Festival News!

Coming soon - Stoke High School Summer Festival - see Mrs Beacham for details.

Mrs. T Beacham, Head of Performing Arts

Year 11 Drama Component 2 Performance Exams

The Year 11 Drama students had their Component 2 performance exams on Wednesday 26th March. An external examiner came in to watch and mark the performances. I am incredibly proud of all of the students who performed and designed their pieces. Our visitor was extremely impressed with our students and school. The Year 11s did themselves and the school proud. I look forward to seeing their results this Summer!

Mr. L Eversley, Teacher of Drama and Seconded Assistant Principal





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PE

Year 11 Basketball

Well done to the Year 11 basketball squad who played away at Westbourne last Tuesday and won convincingly 49-11. All 11 players in the squad had court time and made a significant contribution and this is testament to both their commitment to training every Thursday after school at Basketball Club, but also, to the work they did with the specialist coach who came in to train them during the Autumn term. Well done boys.

Gym Club

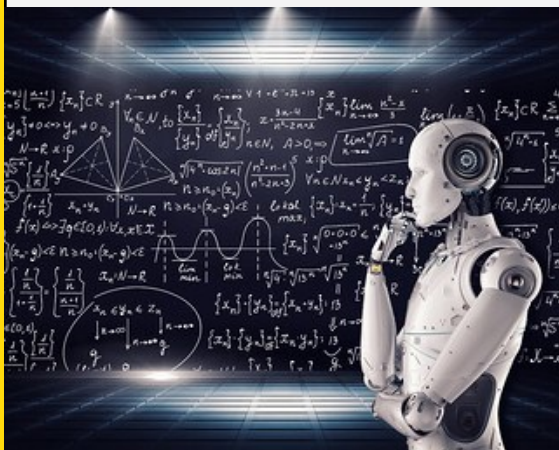
We have lots of students asking about when the Gym Club in the fitness suite is available after school. For clarification, the sessions which are open to all students, take place on Tuesdays till 4pm with Mr Tankard, Wednesdays till 4pm with Mrs Tankard and on Fridays with Mr Tankard and Mrs Tankard. When you do attend please ensure you are wearing full school PE kit or you will not be able to attend the club.

Mr. P Tankard, Teacher of PE

Technology Faculty

Computing

During the course of this term, students in Year 7 have learnt how the world's internet works. They have explored how the global networks are connected and consider how they connect with different data connections. We have looked at where data is stored and the difference between the internet and the world wide web. Students in the spring term will also hone their skills with spreadsheet modelling, learning new skills within handling and presenting data. We explore how businesses use this to help with decision-making.



In Year 8, students explored how a computer works, learning about all the components that make a computer and how they operate. They had the chance to build a custom gaming PC online - with an unlimited budget! Their current theme is working with graphics, developing skills in manipulating images, working with layers with the aim of creating a digital movie

During this term, Year 9 have explored the world of AI and machine learning. We have explored the ethical dilemma that face our world and the impact AI can have on individuals and businesses. Their current topic, website design, explores the extent of the importance of web design principles and how important it is to arrange web content so that it is appealing and accessible to the audience. I have been impressed with the design and creativity of our students.

Mr. J Oliver, Teacher of IT and Assistant Principal

Hospitality and Catering

At the beginning of March, the Year 11 chefs embarked upon their practical food exams, after months of planning, practising and completing the supporting coursework.

It was an intense day of cooking for all of the chefs, with 5 hours to cook 2 dishes of a restaurant standard, and then present them to staff to taste.

The comments from staff this year were incredibly positive, and it was the general consensus that this years dishes were the best that they have tasted yet!

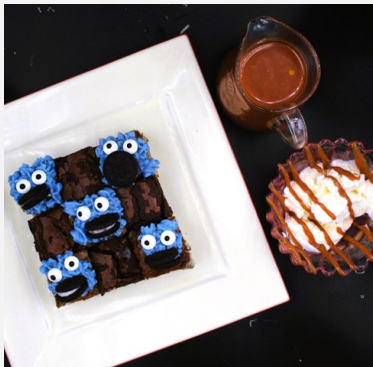
After hearing feedback from staff, they had to do a lot of clearing up and then to finish, write an evaluation.

We are incredibly proud of the Year 11 chefs who demonstrated dedication, hard work and gave the exam their all. They are a true credit to Stoke High School and I hope they know how amazing they all are.

The culinary institutes of Suffolk are very lucky to have a selection of our Year 11s embarking on careers within the Hospitality and Catering industry.

I am very proud of you Year 11!

Miss Z Button, Head of Technology



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French Faculty

What a nice weekend for a French Year 11 Residential!

We invited the Year 11 French students to attend a residential revision workshop, to help prepare them for their upcoming GCSEs. This was the third year we have run this workshop, which takes place on the Friday afternoon, overnight and all through Saturday morning. We work through the key skills of listening, reading, writing and speaking, using exam questions and past papers to build the students' exam technique. We also run a series of grammar exercises focusing on the key tenses and structures.

But it was not all work! We went for walks in the Spring sunshine, encouraging students to speak French with us, we had fish'n'chips for our evening meal and croissants and baguettes for breakfast and watched the football on a big screen.

Students really did us proud, being polite and courteous – and also working very hard! We wish them all the best in their exams.

Mrs. C Howe, Curriculum Leader of French

Year 7

I have continued to be incredibly impressed by the resilience and determination shown by the Year 7s. They continue to throw themselves into daily life at Stoke, taking advantage of all the opportunities that we offer. We have been lucky enough to have been joined by Ms Spazova this term as Transition Manager. Together we work as a team to ensure that your child receives the support that they need to succeed.

This term, we have had a number of students complete in a project funded by NEACO where they developed their study skills. Feedback from those delivering the project was extremely positive and I was really impressed by their final presentation, demonstrating just how far they had come in terms of their confidence. We have also enrolled fifteen Year 7 students in the Brilliant Club Scholars Programme where they complete a university style project. I look forward to seeing what they produce.

We were lucky enough to host a Careers Fair in March. This was an excellent opportunity for students to see what opportunities are out there in the world of work and begin thinking about their futures.

Students continue to work towards their Stoke Spirit Awards – I was great to award over 100 Arts and Culture badges and certificates last half term. I am expecting a similar number for the Discovery Award this half term.

We continue to have Interform competitions – this term including badminton, homework and attendance. It is currently very close between all form groups, and I look forward to announcing the winner!

Just a reminder that students need to complete their daily homework using Knowledge Organisers and weekly using Sparx Maths and Languagegenut.

Ms Spazova and I look forward to working with you in the Summer Term and I have lots of ideas for how we can celebrate what has been a positive first year at Stoke High School.

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



Year 8

Year 8 students have truly excelled this term, showcasing their talents and dedication across various activities. A group of students participated in a fantastic workshop headed by Ipswich Town Foundation and Suffolk Police, where they explored how making positive choices can shape futures.

Meanwhile, a select number of students have been honoured with an invitation to join Brilliant Club, a prestigious programme celebrating academic achievements. This reflects their hard work and commitment to their studies, setting a high standard for everyone. This initiative has inspired many students, past and present, to aim for success.

In sports, our Year 8 students have shown incredible resilience. Whether it's their strategic plays in netball or their batting skills in cricket, their teamwork and determination are commendable. It's wonderful to see such enthusiasm and spirit on the field.

A highlight of the term was the Big Breakfast, where the entire year group came together to enjoy a morning meal. It was an excellent opportunity for students to bond and share experiences, further strengthening their sense of community.

Additionally, students had the chance to explore future opportunities at our Careers Fair. This event provided invaluable insights into various professions, encouraging our students to think ambitiously about their futures.

Well done to all Year 8 students for making this term so successful!

Mrs. V Spearman, Head of Year 8

Year 9



This term has been an exciting and productive one for our Year 9 students!

Firstly, several students participated in the NEACO group, significantly enhancing their oracy skills. As part of this, they had the wonderful opportunity to visit Cambridge University, which inspired many.

In sports, both the netball and football teams have achieved some successes. The dedication and teamwork shown by our athletes are truly commendable, especially for students who are new to the school and have recently joined the teams.

Additionally, a group of students visited Ipswich to learn and practice their debate skills. One standout moment was when one of our own won the overall debate, a proud achievement for our school.

Meanwhile, our annual Careers Fair provided all students with valuable insights into various professions, helping them explore future possibilities. With GCSE options now being chosen, these experiences are vital in guiding informed decisions.

Lastly, we wrapped up the term with a Big Breakfast event for all students, fostering a sense of community and celebration. Kudos to all for such an amazing term!

Mrs. K Huggins, Head of Year 9



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Year 10

It's been a great term for Year 10. The students have really got stuck into their GCSE option choices and have been completing excellent coursework for some of these subjects. It was also amazing to see some Year 10s putting their all into this year's school production. It made me so proud to be part of the year group.

This term the students were challenged to improve their behaviour and attendance. They have really engaged with this and improved these figures. Behaviour negatives have decreased by 24%, and over 110 of our students have been gained 100% attendance this term.

This term our assemblies have continued to focus on the theme of tolerance and have looked at diversity within the community.

Mr. S Jones, Head of Year 10

Year 11

The Year 11s have had yet another busy term. Their final exams are fast approaching, and we are ensuring that every opportunity is filled with interventions.

Students have completed their final set of PPEs. Their results have either been handed over to them in an assembly or posted. We have informed all Year 11 students with what they need to do next. Reflecting on recent results is an important thing to plan ahead and ensure that effective intervention is taking place. Students will need to track the trend of all of their PPE results and analyse the trajectory they are on for each subject. Consider what subjects need more focus, which subjects are close to a grade 4, 5 or 7 and which subjects have a specific impact on college courses. I ask that students contact their proposed colleges with an update on their predicted grades. At Stoke High School, we will provide a variety of resources and interventions to support all of our students, especially in this final stretch.



One of our interventions, The B.A.R (Breakfast and Revision), has proven to be a hit over the PPE period and we have decided to continue with this. Year 11s are able to access the canteen through the school doors, and help themselves to free refreshments. This is a privilege for Year 11 students only and allows students to meet and work with others on homework and further studies. This will also run during the Summer exams as a morning revision session.

The Hub is open every day after school for students to complete further revision. There are a variety of revision resources which students can use and take home to help them prepare for their studies and upcoming exams. We are lucky to have this area managed by Mr. Cashmore who is one of our academic mentors.

Our teachers are also running #Period6, an extra lesson after school. Some of these are targeted and some are open to all students. We encourage students to attend this to gain further knowledge and information led by a subject specialist, and to boost their exam results. Previous academic years have shown that attendance to #Period6 does have a positive impact

on final outcomes.

The Prom venue is now booked, and final arrangements are being made. A gentle reminder that students are invited to attend the Prom, and poor behaviour which persistently goes against our school policy will result in the invite being revoked. Further information will be sent out in due course, and if your child wishes to attend, please ensure payments have been made.

The next term is the Year 11s final term at Stoke High School. It will be a tough journey, but one which will be rewarding and exciting. I will be with the Year 11s every step of the way during their final exams and ensure they are looked after and supported. Should any Year 11 student feel overwhelmed or concerned about their exams, please do contact me. There is an excellent free mental health website called Kooth which is also accessible if necessary.

Here's to the final term and the very best of luck!

Mr. L Eversley, Head of Year 11 and Seconded Assistant Principal

Message from the Governors

What a difference sunshine and warmer weather makes to our lives. The nights are lighter, the days are warmer, and we can all begin to say goodbye to Winter. However, the busy life of Stoke continues whatever the weather.

Earlier this term, the Governors had their annual, informal meeting, where only reminder notes of the meeting are taken instead of the usual minutes. This meeting is really valuable to our work as it gives us the space and time to reflect on our work over the past year, what is required for the coming year and also rotate our roles in the different areas of school life. We shall still have our usual termly formal meeting when we receive the termly Report which provides us with updates on how our students are performing, our successes, areas which we are looking to improve and of course, the challenges we, in common with all other schools, are facing.

We do try to attend events in school whenever possible and several of us were able to enjoy the performance of Little Shop of Horrors. How talented are our young people? Not just the performers, but the level of expertise in the technical and back stage crews is also so deserving of our praise.

I hope that this good weather continues over the Easter Holidays and that you are all able to enjoy the short break from the usual routine.

Elizabeth Combes, Chair of Governors



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ACHIEVING MORE TOGETHER



In Other News...

Attainment and Outcomes

Our focus on attainment and outcomes is important for all students across the school right from Year 7, in order that everybody can maximise their learning opportunities so that they can gain the best grades and experience enabling them to thrive after school.

Our Year 11 students have worked hard in the exam PPE period with over 20 exams being run in this period; all students have embodied our virtues of perseverance and resilience to do their best as they know this is their last mock period before their formal exams begin Friday 2nd May 2025.

The B.A.R (Breakfast and Revision) is running every morning where Year 11 can access breakfast club and refreshments. The Hub is running every evening (Canteen) to provide a study space, and #6 sessions are being run and targeted for students to help focus revision. These sessions are open to any student to access after school until 4pm. Attendance to school is really important at all times and especially in this period as well as utilising the support available which will ensure success for every student. Exam timetables and information will be out shortly so watch this space. I look forward to working with Year 11 to ensure every success for their upcoming exams.

Safeguarding

Where to go for help:

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.

YOUNGMINDS
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.