

Respect

Inspire

Achieve

Stoke High School–Ormiston Academy



NEWSLETTER



Principal’s Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we move towards the summer term, it has been lovely to see the sun finally beginning to make an appearance. After such a windy and rainy winter, that brighter weather lifts everyone’s spirits, and it certainly brings a renewed sense of energy across the school.

As always, this term has been a busy one. Our migration from SIMS and Class Charts has naturally brought a few teething problems, but we are making strong progress. We are hopeful that we will soon be in a position to release the Arbor parent app, enabling parents and carers to engage even more easily with their child’s school day.

Our Year 11 students are now in the final stages of their Stoke journey. With their last set of PPEs complete, their next steps will be the real examinations. We wish them every success—they have worked incredibly hard, and the end is now firmly in sight.

There have been many highlights this term. Most notably, we have completed two new science labs and refurbished the reception area. It is so important that both staff and students feel proud of their school, and improving the environment in which we work and study is a key part of this commitment.

Our school production of *Annie* was another standout moment. The cast and backstage crew were simply fantastic, and these productions are always a joy to

Key Dates and Events—Summer 2026

Monday 12th April	Return to School
Friday 24th April	Inset Day
May-June	GCSE Exam Season
Monday 4th May	Bank Holiday
Thursday 7th May	Year 8 Parents’ Evening
Monday 24th— Friday 28th May	Half Term
Monday 21st June— Friday 3rd July	Year 10 PPEs
Wednesday 1st July	Summer Festival
Friday 3rd July	Prom
Friday 17th July	Last day of Term

watch. A huge thank you to everyone involved for their time, talent, and dedication.

Students have also enjoyed a wide range of trips this term—from France, to Bletchley Park, to OAT tournaments and various sports fixtures. Our young people continue to demonstrate our school values and virtues wherever they go, and we regularly receive positive comments about their conduct, attitude, and teamwork.

We have also had both a film crew and a photographer in school this half term, capturing the spirit of our community. We look forward to hosting a film premiere—with a real red carpet—for our student stars.



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Principal's Message continued...

The Trust has completed its review of our school provision and, as usual, has been highly celebratory of the work we do to support our young people. They continue to recognise the positive, caring culture and climate that our staff and students work so hard to uphold.

My sincere thanks go to everyone—staff, students, governors, and parents/carers—for your continued support. The saying that *it takes a village to raise a child* is so very true, and together we are that village.

Wishing you all a wonderful Easter break, and I hope our staff and young people heading off on the ski trip and boat trip have a fantastic time.

Message from the Head Boy and Head Girl

This term has been productive and hard-working as we had our final set of PPEs, and we will soon be receiving our results. Although it has been a busy time, it will give us an overall view on what we need to improve on and challenge us for better results. We now have less than two months until our official GCSEs and we have received our final exam timetable.

There is a build-up of excitement as we build up to the Easter holidays as it will give Year 11s a chance to reflect on their time at Stoke High School. We as Head Boy and Head Girl have been here for 5 years and have seen this school change significantly over the years. Our journey has been one of the best moments in our lives, which will always be remembered in our hearts.

As we head towards exams we advise all our young peers to know how important every lesson is and that everyday counts, even from the start of Year 7. We wish all the best for the future Head Boy and Head Girl.

Have a safe and enjoyable Easter and Eid Mubarak.

Harry, Head Boy and Solaf, Head Girl

Message from Parliament

Since the last time we wrote, great changes have happened at Stoke:

- We met with the staff at the canteen, and they have introduced a Taco Tuesday and installed a screen displaying menus and meal deals
- We met with the Principal, and the voice of the pupils has been passed on. This meeting helped to raise the whiteboards in the new Science classes.
- We held two more Parliament meetings, and we solidified an action plan and are taking steps to complete our major goals.
- This meeting meant that the Enrichment Team are now pricing up equipment, and a chess club with coaching and tournaments at other schools is on the way!
- We introduced a girls support group course, which we hope will go very well and assist the young women of our school in feeling empowered and supported.

- We also plan on trying to fix the scoreboard in the Sports Hall at some point in the future.

Oscar, Prime Minister and Zofia, 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.

All this leads us to the dreaded topic of 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!

For our Year 10 and Year 11 students, this break offers them the opportunity to revise ahead of their upcoming exams.

For English Literature revision, the best tools to achieve success are those which allow students to recall key moments in the plots of the stories, keystone quotations from each text, and core ideas that explain the purpose of the narrative. In other words: WHAT do you know, HOW can you prove this from the text, and WHY is this significant to your answer. There are lots of resources available to help in this endeavour.

English Language is harder to revise for, but it is still achievable. However, reading is the key to success in this area. Read both fiction and non-fiction. I would strongly advise reading a newspaper article, or online thread, and then asking what it is about. Read a short story, and try to explain the structure: what happens in the beginning, the middle, then the end... Again, there are lots of resources that can help with this too.



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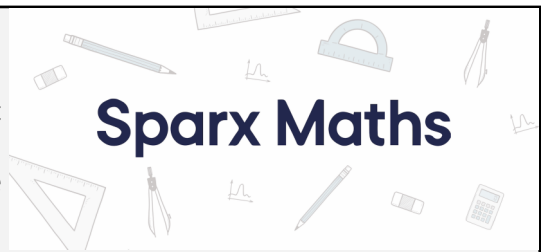
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Maths Faculty

This term in Maths, Sparx has once again been a key part of students learning. Students have worked hard to complete almost 900,000 questions! That's 50% more than compared to this time last year!



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

Our Year 11s are working hard to do achieve all that they can for their exams, remember that Period 6 is on Monday week B. All are welcome to attend.

Finally, a big well done to the students who took part in the Intermediate Maths Challenge, it was fantastic to see your efforts and see such fantastic mathematicians attempt some really challenging maths and giving it their all!

Mr. J Abbott, Curriculum Leader of Maths

Science Faculty

Year 7 are concluding their study of 'The Breathing System' and will be moving on to the chemistry topic, 'Chemical Reactions'. This is a really engaging topic where students will practise skills such as measuring and graph work as well completing practical activities in lesson.



Year 8 have completed their study of 'Waves' and will be progressing to a new Biology topic looking at 'Plant Cells'. This includes using microscopes and producing slides to view and measure.

Year 9 are in the middle of their first module of GCSE Biology, and we are eagerly anticipating a full transition to GCSE after Easter. Students are focused and working hard and there has been lots of interest in the Triple Science course for next year.

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. Just a reminder to make use of www.senecaleraning.co.uk and freesciencelessons.co.uk on YouTube as well as their class teams page.

Year 11 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 a topic plan to support their revision over the Easter break. As always, all 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

Humanities Faculty

History

The History Department has had a busy and exciting term, with students across the school exploring a wide range of important historical themes. Our Key Stage 3 classes have been learning about medieval history, gaining insight into life in the Middle Ages and the key events that shaped the period, while also studying the American Civil Rights Movement and discussing how significant figures and protests contributed to the fight for equality. They have continued their work on World War Two, developing their understanding of the conflict's global impact and the experiences of people at the time. Meanwhile, our Year 11 students have been completing their final GCSE topic on the Cold War, examining the tensions between the superpowers and the major crises of the era as they move into the revision phase for their upcoming exams.

A great Easter reading recommendation for students is "Black and British: A Short, Essential History" by David Olusoga. It's written in an engaging and accessible way for young readers, offering a clear and powerful overview of Black British history from Roman Britain to the present.



Miss K Griffiths, Head of History

Geography

In Humanities and Geography it has been a busy and productive term, with students speaking about their engagement with the topics we have been studying across KS3 and KS4. With Easter coming up, it has been a great opportunity to reward students across Humanities with the Easter Egg Competition. Each week, all teachers in Humanities have been giving a student who has demonstrated excellent effort and attitude with an Easter egg. It has been great to see the positive work and attitude students have demonstrated through this term.

Year 7 have been learning about development and the reasons behind varying quality of life between the worlds richest and poorest countries. This has fed into the next topic of India, which has given students the opportunity to discuss why India is a land of contrast with significant differences between those on high and low incomes. After Easter, Year 7 will move onto the topic of food inequality and the causes of malnutrition around the world.

In Year 8, students have been learning about the topic of migration. There has been a lot of opportunity for discussion and debate, weighing up both the positives and negatives on the host and source countries. After half-term, we moved onto the topic of Hot Environments, with students looking at the challenges and opportunities in deserts and rainforests. We have also offered the opportunity for students to take their learning on ecosystems further, with a trip letter sent out for students to have the chance to go to Colchester Zoo in the summer.

Year 9 students have been learning about a range of places, initially through the topic of dangerous destinations. As part of the dangerous destinations topic, students learnt about a range of conflict zones and the impact this has on local people, including Russia, Afghanistan and Somalia. Following



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Geography continued...

this, we then moved on to look at the destruction of our planet through oil, plastics and deforestation. Students have had the chance to discuss potential options through these lessons, with classes learning about the AQA GCSE course.

Our GCSE students have continued to make great progress over the last term. Our Year 10 students have been learning about Urban Issues and Challenges, focusing on the

challenges and opportunities in a range of places including Rio and Birmingham. Year 11 have been preparing for their exams, with some fantastic results and progress made from the previous set of PPEs. We have now finished the course with the water topic and will have the time to revise after Easter for the exams.

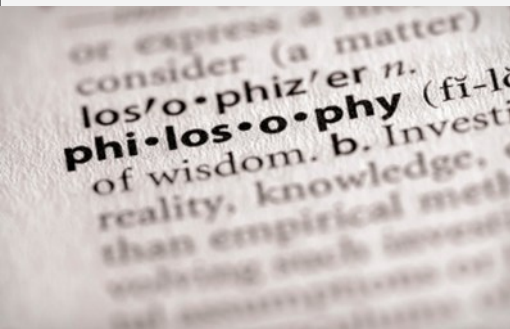


Mr. A Knuckey, Curriculum Leader of Humanities

Religious Studies

Our RS curriculum in the spring term has explored Christianity in Year 7. Students have been learning about the key beliefs and practices within this faith. They have explored what the Bible is, how it is used and why it is important for many Christians. Students have been comparing the different types of baptism and debating the rights and wrongs of an infant baptism versus a believer's baptism.

Year 8 have been studying the key beliefs and practices within Judaism. They have spent time exploring the covenants that God made with Abraham and Moses. They have also looked at the key features of the synagogue and why this is an important part of the Jewish faith.



Year 9 have been investigating the rights and wrongs of whether it is acceptable to go to war. They have explored what conflict is, the reasons why some people choose to go to war and the impact that war has on society. This has provided our students with a solid basis for future study in the subject across the remainder of Key Stage Three and for many into GCSE.

Finally, 25 of our students in Year 7 have been taking part in a bespoke project every fortnight where they have been exploring what philosophy is, why it is important to study this and how it can impact people's views of the world around them. This exciting initiative is in its infancy, and it will be interesting to see how our students find this as it continues throughout the remainder of this academic year. We are hopeful of offering further exciting opportunities in the Religious Studies department in the future.

Watch this space!

Mr. J Clarke, Lead Teacher for Religious Studies and Raising Attainment Progress Leader

Performing Arts Faculty

Drama

Every September one of the key questions that I am asked is 'what is the show this year?', and of course this year was no different. After numerous discussions we settled on 'Annie' and started the audition process. So much talent turned out to be part of the show both on stage and off stage. This made the casting process difficult, but also so rewarding knowing that so many students wanted to be part of the production.

Rehearsals then began in October, and students committed to 6 hours a week of acting, singing and dancing – this is on top of the line learning at home, the gathering of costumes and the support that they provided for each other during lunch and other after school time. It is a massive commitment to ask the students, many of whom also balanced this commitment with other clubs, additional revision or consolidation lessons after school and a general attitude of being the best they can be showing great resilience, courage and perseverance.

It was with a proud feeling, and a massive smile, that I sat with the crew during the shows as each and every student performed their heart out, singing to an impressive quality and capturing the characterisation of the heartwarming story that is 'Annie'. The crew worked tirelessly to make sure that the mics worked, when at times they didn't, that the lighting reflected the mood and atmosphere of the scene and that the music was cued for the right moment.

Being part of the school production is one of the highlights of my role and I feel privileged to work with such a dedicated team of students and staff.

So, when the audience left smiling and spellbound after each performance, I smiled bigger and failed to express just how amazing the cast and crew were – thank-you for your dedication and thank-you to those who came and watched.

See you next year!



Cast

Freya	Rio	Marianne	Maddie	Dylan
Olamide	Alfie	Louie	Rubie	Lily
Willow	Maddie	Nadia	Delilah	Raluca
	Amelia	Ivana	Jessica	

Crew

Harry	Will	Rafael
Charlie	Lyla	Paige
Evie	Jasmine	Anna
Alani	Ferenc	Jaden



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Mrs. T Beacham, Curriculum Leader of Performing Arts



PE

Netball

Last Wednesday marked the end of the Ipswich and South Suffolk Netball tournaments, held locally for all schools. Our Year 7, 8 and 9 ladies have competed in all four tournaments this year. The Year 10 girls have competed in a round robin league playing full matches against their opposition. The ladies have shown huge grit and determination, often playing out of position (due to injury or absence), and against some very challenging teams. They have been a credit to the school.

Training will start again next September. In the mean time we are hosting an Inter-team Stoke tournament on Tuesday 17th March. All squad players are being invited to attend and play in the tournament where the teams will consist of pupils from each squad year group.

Watch this space for the results!

Mrs. D Simmons, Teacher of PE

Technology Faculty

3-D



This term in 3D, KS3 students finished their outcome for their rotation. Year 7 have made Buzzwire Games, Year 8 have made Sweet Dispensers and Year 9 have made Automata Toys.

Students have worked hard to refine their skills on the machines and the hand tools to bring their initial designs to life. They started their projects by looking at a relevant designer and analysing their work to then inform their own designs.

Students across the key stage have been incredibly creative with their designs- all products are very unique and personal.

Students have explored machines such as the pillar drills, the disc sanders and the fret saws. The students have used a range of hand tools including the coping saws and the soldering irons.

All students were invited to take their products home to share with parents and carers. Well done Year 7, 8 and 9.

Art

This term in Art, Year 8 students have continued to make excellent progress in developing their observational drawing skills as part of their still life topic. Their current focus is on studying and drawing glass bottles, which provides a valuable opportunity to carefully observe form, proportion, light and reflection. Students have been encouraged to apply directional shading techniques to help create the illusion of three-dimensional form, while also using a rubber effectively to introduce highlights and reflective details typical of glass surfaces. It has been very encouraging to see the level of concentration, effort and pride students are demonstrating as they refine these important skills.



Art continued...

Alongside their practical work, students have also been exploring the work of artists such as Andy Warhol, Kate Brinkworth and Janet Fish. By studying these artists, students are gaining a deeper understanding of how still life can be approached in different ways, particularly through colour, composition and the depiction of reflective surfaces such as glass.

Students have also experimented with a range of media including tonal pencil, watercolour, poly block printing and chalk. This exploration allows them to develop confidence with different techniques and broaden their creative approaches.

Food

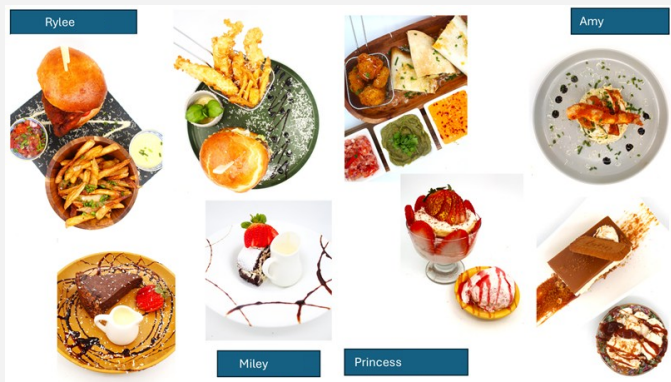
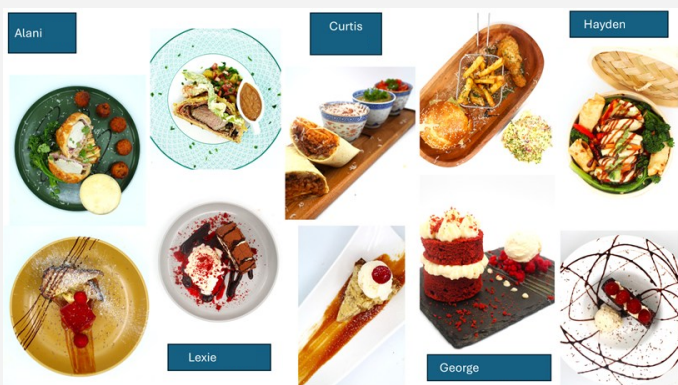
The Year 11 Chefs have had their practical exams this half term.

The Year 11s were set their brief in September and they have been working hard on their controlled assessment to produce the supporting written work. Students planned their menu for their briefs and in January they were separated into groups of 5, to cook up with menus over the course of 5 hours. Staff at the end of the exam, tried and tested the presented dishes and offered the students feedback for them to use in their evaluations.

Every single student did an amazing job during their exam. It takes a huge amount of courage to plan a multiple course menu and then present those dishes to be sampled. I am so proud of every single Food student, I have never seen such a beautiful array of dishes and such a huge amount of determination and hard work.

Well done Year 11!

Miss Z Button, Curriculum Leader of Technology



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French

We are happy to say that the French trip to northern France was a great success.

Thankfully, the ferry crossing was very calm (no named storms) but we didn't go straight to the chateau. Instead, we stopped off at a delightful boulangerie in a nearby village where bread and patisserie was still being made using traditional techniques. We were shown how to prepare and bake bread in the one hundred year-old bread oven – all in French! The baker, Bruno, spoke slowly and clearly alongside a practical demonstration, and encouraged our students to work out what he was saying. They really engaged with this and it was a great start to our immersion in the French language.

At the chateau, we settled in and found the accommodation to be warm, clean and well-maintained and the staff extremely friendly and welcoming. Students were encouraged to speak as much French as they could and at the chateau we took part in activities such as cheese tasting, crepe making and snail tasting. Some students who had been very sceptical about the snails, completely changed their mind after trying them and finished off the whole plate. Apparently, this was a first!

The best immersion activity was 'On va faire les courses!'. This involved going to the lovely Saturday market in the main square of St Omer and buying ingredients for a side dish to go with the evening meal. The challenge was to make purchases entirely in French. So, students went off in their groups and did just that. They really made an effort and showed real courage, excited to tell staff how they had managed to converse in French and actually buy what they set out to buy! Once back at the chateau, students had to make their side dish, describing in French what was in it and how it was prepared. The dishes were judged against certain criteria and staff were really impressed with the quality of the dishes as well as the students' ability to describe them in French.

The silent disco was another first for the staff running the chateau. Our students were so enthusiastic, they spontaneously took their conga line outside into the grounds of the chateau so they could dance under the night sky. I think they would have continued all night if staff hadn't needed their sleep.

Music was definitely a feature of the trip, with regular singing on the coach, although Mr Rosser did start to lose patience at the 15th rendition of 'California Girls'. We also included a karaoke element to the following night's big quiz. Groups had to choose a joker round to double their points, but they could also elect to sing a karaoke song to increase their score. This was taken up with enthusiasm by a number of students, one of whom sang a whole song in French. There was also a memorable moment when two students stood up to sing 'The Real Slim Shady'.

We also visited the huge aquarium in Boulogne sur Mer, which was incredibly interesting although extremely busy. If anything, we needed more time there, as there was so much to take in. Also, this day was bitterly cold with torrential rain, so we made an emergency change of plan. Instead of a walking tour of the town we went to a museum called 'La Coupole'. This is a massive underground complex from which the V1 and V2 rockets were fired on London during the second world war. It was a sobering reminder of the impact of war on both the British and the French people.

All in all, the trip was fantastic and the students were a real credit to Stoke High School. The staff at the chateau complemented them on their level of French, politeness, friendliness and high levels of enthusiasm!

A big thank you to all staff and parents for making this trip possible and of course to all the students who took part.



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. Please encourage your child to attend lunch or after school clubs, we have a lot on offer and if there is anything that is not on the list, please encourage them to come and speak to me.

We are 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 – so far I have written over 100 certificates for the Student Character and Arts and Culture awards. Students are currently working towards their Discovery Award, so please speak to them about what they are doing in form time.

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

I am looking forward to this terms celebration event of Hide and Seek around the school. Students have been informed of the criteria they need to meet to attend, and I hope to see as many students as possible there.

Just a reminder that students need to complete their daily homework using Revision Toolkits and weekly using Sparx Maths and Languagenut.

Ms. Spasova 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, Assistant Principal and Head of Year 7

Year 8

As we come to the end of another busy and exciting term, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on the fantastic achievements of our Year 8 students. This Spring Term has been full of energy, enthusiasm and effort, both inside and outside the classroom, and I could not be prouder of what the year group has accomplished.

Our Year 8 girls have had great success in Basketball and Netball, gaining some important victories. The boys have participated in several basketball fixtures and again, gained some crucial wins. The Summer term is looking promising for our athletic events.

One of our standout successes this year has been attendance. Since September, Year 8 has consistently led the school as the top year group for attendance – a remarkable achievement that speaks volumes about the commitment, resilience and positive attitude of our students. Thank you to all families for your continued support in helping students maintain such an excellent standard.

We recently had the pleasure of celebrating our highest 'positives' achievers with a movie afternoon in the sports hall. This reward recognises students who consistently uphold our school values, work hard every day and act as brilliant role models to their peers. A huge well done to all involved – your dedication does not go unnoticed.

Our Year 8 students heading off on the ski trip are in for an unforgettable adventure, we hope each of them embraces every moment, learns something new, and creates memories that will last a lifetime. Wishing all of our travellers a safe journey, plenty of laughter, and a truly wonderful experience from



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Year 8 continued...

start to finish.

As we head into the break, I encourage all students to rest, recharge and return ready for an exciting Summer Term ahead. Thank you again for your continued support and for helping to make Year 8 such a fantastic year group to lead.

Wishing you all a safe and enjoyable half term.

Mrs. J Stevens, Head of Year 8

Year 9

Year 9 Students' Exciting Educational Adventures

This term, our Year 9 students had the privilege of participating in two enriching trips to Woodbridge School, each offering unique learning experiences. The first trip was a dynamic Dance workshop, where students got to explore creative movement and expression. The second excursion was an enthralling Science show, which sparked curiosity and excitement about the wonders of the scientific world. Both trips provided our students with valuable opportunities to engage with educational activities outside the classroom.

Parents' Evening and Options Evening: Mapping the Future

On the 12th of March, we hosted a combined Parents' Evening and Options Evening. This event was designed to help students and parents navigate the critical decision of selecting GCSE subjects. It was a wonderful opportunity for students to begin shaping their academic paths as they explore future career and educational goals.

Supporting Students in Their Options Choices

In the weeks following the Options Evening, students have been diligently completing their Options choice forms during class time. Staff has been on hand to provide guidance and support, ensuring that each student makes informed decisions about their future subjects.

Looking Ahead: Options Offers

We are pleased to announce that by May, students will receive their Options offers. This will inform them of the subjects they will be studying in Years 10 and 11. We are excited to support our students as they embark on this new phase of their educational journey.

We look forward to more exciting events and developments in the upcoming weeks. Thank you for your continued support and involvement in our school community!

Mrs. V Spearman, Head of Year 9



Year 10

It seems like the beginning of Year 10 was only a short time ago, however, we are over halfway through and many options subjects have delivered nearly half the content of the GCSE course. The majority of Year 10 are working well in their subjects and have shown resilience and determination with practice papers in class, homework and their attitude to learning and should be commended for that.

After the Easter break, towards the end of April, all Year 10 students will have their first set of practice exams in the exam hall in exam conditions. These exams will be for English, Maths and Science only. We have practiced going into the exam hall during a registration so that all students know what to expect and Miss Iles was impressed with the maturity that all students showed.

Please see the key dates for the summer term included below.

Year 10 - Summer Term 2026	
Parents Evening	23 April 2026
PPE exams – Maths, English and Science	End April 2026
BTEC Component 1 Deadline Travel and Tourism/ Child Development (there will be set internal deadlines to meet this exam board deadline)	15 May 2026
Sport – Controlled Assessment window	1 June 2026
PPEs - Mock Exams – two weeks	From 17 June 2026
Visit to Suffolk One/ Suffolk New College	Wednesday 24 June* 2026 tbc

Mrs. K Huggins, Head of Year 10

Year 11

As the Summer term approaches, we are incredibly proud to celebrate the achievements of our remarkable Year 11 students at Stoke High School.

Having recently completed their Pre-Public Examinations (PPEs), our Year 11 cohort have demonstrated resilience, maturity and determination. These exams mark an important milestone in their academic journey, and the positive attitude shown throughout the examination period has been truly commendable. Students approached this challenge with focus and perseverance, supporting one another and rising to the occasion. They should feel extremely proud of what they have accomplished so far. I hope they have received the results they had worked hard for. Please note that Year 11 students can contact their prospective colleges with updates on their new predicted grades.

Students will have received their final Summer exam timetables. It is imperative that students know when these exams are and attend them all. We have spent the past two terms in form time exploring different revision techniques and Year 11s should be confident in using these to support them in their final exams. Should there be any concerns regarding these timetables, please see Miss Iles or Mr. Eversley.

Alongside their written examinations, many students have also been excelling in practical and coursework elements of their subjects. Several students have successfully completed their practical exams in Drama, showcasing not only performance skills but confidence, creativity and teamwork. In addition, many have been diligently finalising coursework in Technology and a range of other subjects, dedicating extra time and effort to ensure their projects reflect their very best work. The commitment and professionalism shown during these assessments have been outstanding, and we are immensely proud of the determination they have displayed across all areas of their learning.

Beyond the academic rigor of school life, we also celebrate the achievements of work beyond the classroom. This year's school production of Annie was a great success, and we had Year 11 students on and off stage making it truly memorable. We have also had some sporting fixtures where Year 11 boys



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Year 11 continued...

played football against Manningtree. We held our final year group assembly on Friday 20th March where many students received awards for 100% attendance and outstanding work and behaviour from both the Form Tutors and the Head of Year.

With their final term now about to begin, there is a real sense of anticipation and excitement across the year group. The countdown to Prom has officially begun — a much-anticipated evening that will celebrate not only the end of exams, but five memorable years at Stoke High School. Prom promises to be a wonderful occasion filled with laughter, friendship and well-deserved celebration. Families are kindly reminded that any outstanding Prom payments should now be made to secure tickets and ensure that every student can take part in this special event.



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

In Other News...

A Sporting Champion!

It is with great pleasure that we proudly announce that Ilaria in Year 9 is not only a hardworking Stoke High School student, but also a karate champion! In March, Ilaria competed in Bucharest, Romania in the 2026 National Shito-Ryu Karate Championships. She took part in two kumite categories and won 1st place in both! Her determination, resilience and perseverance is a testament to her character and sporting prowess. We are incredibly proud to have Ilaria as part of our school community and wish her all the best in her future of karate.



Message from the Governors

“Come and join us at our Christmas lunch” was the invitation at our Governors meeting in December. Katie Stammers and I were the only Governors who were free to attend so arrived at school looking forward to sitting down with the students and staff for Christmas lunch. “Could you just help serve some deserts please” we were asked as we entered the canteen, which was a sea of excited children and noise. On closer inspection, it was all quite orderly and that was the start of a wonderful Christmas event where we helped to serve every student and staff member with a turkey Christmas lunch or vegetarian/dietary equivalent. It was a privilege to help at such a joyous, exuberant Christmas celebration. The students were very polite and their enjoyment of the whole event was clearly evident. Credit must go to the canteen staff who produced such a lovely meal and in such quantity. The organization of serving over eight hundred meals and have them eaten during our usual lunch period cannot be underestimated. Katie and I were so pleased that we were a small part of that team, rather than just sitting, eating, and chatting to the students.

The Governors have held two meetings this term: the first in February was our annual informal meeting followed by our usual formal termly meeting in March. We use our informal meeting in February to agree which areas of Governance and the Academy Development Plan each Governor links to for the coming year. We were also fortunate to have Miss Baldwin deliver training before some of us moved to the Drama Studio and enjoyed the school production of Annie.

Annie did not disappoint and the cast were amazing. The hours of rehearsing and dedication of cast, staff, backstage and technical crews were evident in the quality of the show. We are lucky to have such a talented crop of students and staff at Stoke.

Today, I was fortunate to accompany a group of Year 7 and 8 students on a visit to the Wolsey Theatre. For some students, it was their first theatre visit and they all enjoyed the production of ‘Noughts and Crosses’. Although there were other schools at the show, Stoke was the only school that remained behind for the Q and A session afterwards. The questions from our students were very inciteful and they listened intently to the answers from the cast.

I am always so proud of our students and the manner in which they represent the school when out in the community. However, this is just a reflection of how they conduct themselves in school. At a time when we hear so many negative stories about young people, we, whether parents, carers, staff or governors, should be rightly proud of our students.

Elizabeth Combes, Chair of Governors

Where to go for help:

 <p>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.</p>	 <p>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.</p>
 <p>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).</p>	 <p>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.</p>
 <p>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.</p>	 <p>YoungMinds Crisis Messenger provides free crisis support and links to a range of support options.</p>
 <p>All local NHS 24/7 urgent mental health lines can be found on nhs.uk/urgentmentalhealth.</p>	



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