



A note from the head

Another packed term of events, recalled here in our latest newsletter. It is nearly two years since I arrived at the school and the progress we have made, and the range of activities that the staff at Stowmarket put on constantly amazes me.

Of course, the real hard work takes place in the classroom, and our Year 11 and Year 13 students are fast approaching their examinations. We are all working so hard to ensure they achieve the very best grades, and I would like to take this opportunity to wish them all the very best in their summer exams.

As always there is lots to read in this month's edition, so please enjoy, and I would like to wish you all a lovely Easter break and I look forward to welcoming you all back on Wednesday 19th April 2017.

Mr Lee-Allan
Headteacher

Ski Trip 2017

On Friday, 10th February we set off for Austria on our annual school ski trip. I must admit I was a little apprehensive, as we were taking Year 8 and Year 9 students for the very first time. I needn't have concerned myself - they were all Stowmarket High School students and conducted themselves admirably throughout the entirety of the trip.

We had an absolutely fantastic time; for all but one of the days we were treated to clear blue skies and lots of sunshine. The snow was good in all three of the resorts that we visited and skiers and snowboarders all made excellent progress.

Our après ski activities included a quiz, bowling, ice-skating, karaoke and best of all a 3km night-toboggan run down the resort's blue run – an experience not to be missed!

Something else that was different this year was the enterprising nature of some of our students – one young man forgot to pack his jeans and so placed an Amazon order for a new pair, which arrived the following day.

groups competing to see who was the best in their group. This year Lewis Rees, who hadn't put on a pair of ski boots until we arrived in Austria, not only won his group, but managed a time of 38.23 seconds, which placed him 5th overall, beating some very good skiers, who have been doing it for quite some time – a future Dave Riding perhaps!

The highlight of the trip is obviously the progress that the students made, not only as skiers but as individuals – it was once again a pleasure to spend the week with them on the slopes.

Mr Wright

On our last day we had a slalom race with each of the various



Breheny Visit

Two Breheny representatives visited our Year 10 Construction and the Built Environment Group on Friday 24th February to talk about their company and the professions within Civil Engineering.

They explained to the students some of the projects the company had undertaken, including some of the infrastructure development on the Olympic Park and talked about the various stages involved and the importance of the different roles.

The students also experienced some problem solving exercises, which required them to build bridges after considering particular constraints. The students found it very interesting and had a great time. Our thanks go to the Breheny representatives Stephen and Daniel, for giving up their time and making the effort to talk to our students.



maths



Pi Day

This year, Stowmarket High School joined in with the international celebrations of the

mathematical constant π . Pi Day has been around since 1988 when physicist Larry Shaw organised a celebration involving walking in a circle eating fruit pies. In 2009, the United States House of Representatives designated the 14th March (3.14) as Pi Day. It has grown in popularity since.

The Maths Department were promoting all of the uses of pi and some other subjects joined

in too! Year 7 students investigated cylindrical objects to see how closely they could measure pi. Year 8 students displayed the digits of pi using frequency diagrams and Year 9 students tested an 18th century theory with a probability experiment. The music department composed and sang a song for pi and in ICT students searched for their birth date in the digits of pi. The Pi Day competition was won by Raydon Grimwood in Year 8 by reciting an amazing 60 decimal places of pi!

Mrs Holt
Maths Teacher



Having just received the results of this year's intermediate challenge I thought it worth mentioning some excellent performances within Year 10.

Robert Billingham received a Gold award and progresses to the next round (called the Pink Kangaroo)

Ben Mills received a Silver award, whilst Bronze

certification was received by Marina Miranda-Flack, Harry Nigeon, Joseph McKane and Manfred Battle.

Thanks also to Mrs Holt for organising and invigilating the challenges again.

Mr Jacobs
Director of Curriculum,
Mathematics



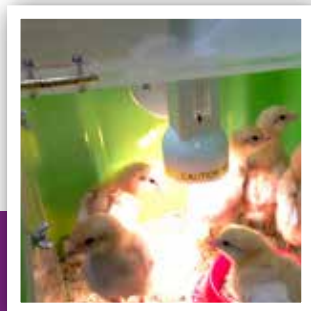


Poultry Patrol

This term saw our group of 5 chickens lay their first eggs. It was lovely to watch the full life circle from our incubated eggs, through to our hatching chicks to an egg on our plate!

Thank you to all of the teaching staff for allowing the students to leave their lessons and be involved with the chickens, to some it has been an excellent experience that they will remember forever and the story is still continuing.

Mr Parker
Inclusion Base Manager



LIBRARY NEWS

Book Mastermind Competition.

Book Mastermind is a county-wide reading competition which takes place every year. It consists of three rounds: the school round, area final and county final.

The school round took place on Wednesday, 8th February. Thirteen students took part from Years 7 to 9. The winner of the school round was Grace Clancy (8H). Grace answered questions on 'Girl Online' by Zoe Sugg and general knowledge questions. She then represented the school at the area final in Bury St Edmunds on 15th March with her chosen book 'Looking Glass Girl' by Cathy Cassidy. She had an excellent round, but was just pipped to the post and missed out on the final selection.

World Book Day

The library hosted a Harry Potter quiz. Six student teams of four took part. Prizes were awarded for first, second and third places.

Along with the Harry Potter Quiz, every student in Years 7 to 11 were given a World Book Day token which can be used in participating bookshops.

WORLD
**BOOK
DAY**

2 MARCH 2017



An Inspector Calls Trip

ENGLISH

On Thursday, 2nd February, a group of 52 Year 11 Stowmarket High School students and teachers saw the West End production of J B Priestley's 'An Inspector Calls' at the Playhouse Theatre, London.

The trip started with a little drama when the hired coach's suspension collapsed before it had even reached the A14! However, we were soon on the road again driven expertly by former student, Dan Trent. For once the road conditions were in our favour even allowing for a little free time for sightseeing, shopping and an impromptu birthday party – Happy 16th Josh!

The performance was thought-provoking with many students discussing the symbolism of the 'doll's house' set which dramatically crashes to the ground as the Inspector departs representing the collapse of the Birling family's pre-war capitalism principles. Many discussions were also to be heard about brief deviations from Priestley's original script, unexpected

laughter and the strong Scottish accent of Liam Brennan, who played Inspector Goole, and whether it enhanced or distracted from Priestley's original message. Being a key GCSE English Literature text these discussions are sweet music to the teacher's ears as they show the value for students of seeing a play studied in class come alive in a theatre situation – the setting for which it was actually written.

The students' behaviour, focus and timing throughout the day were faultless (well almost Corporal Langford... perhaps a compass and a watch next time)! They were a joy to take out and a real credit both to themselves and the School.

Mrs J. Arnold
English Teacher





U15 Handball County Champions

Following their successful qualification from the West Suffolk handball competition the U15 team attended the County finals in Lowestoft. They won both of their group games against Hartismere and East Bergholt to qualify for the semi-finals. They faced a strong Copleston team but managed to win 9-5 to put them through to the final against Thurston. This was a very close match with SHS trailing 3-1 at half time but the whole team showed great character and managed to turn the game round and went on to win 5-3. As champions of Suffolk the team now progress to the regional finals next month. A number of staff from the other schools commented on the excellent attitude and discipline of the whole team.

U16 Trampoline Success

We took four students to represent the school at the Western Area U16 trampolining competition. All of the students performed both their routines exceptionally well which led to them winning the competition. They will now go on to represent all the schools in the Western Area at the county finals in March. In the team were Niamh Hedges-Quinn, Holly Rookyard, Rachel Ball and Nicole Cason.

U15 Tchoukball

On Thursday, 2nd February we hosted the Gipping Valley Tchoukball competition in which our two teams comfortably finished 1st and 2nd. The hard work that the students had put in during their lessons and at lunchtimes was evident as they dominated all the games in which they played.

Sixth

Thank you to the students who have co-operated with the testimonial descriptions which are now on our website. They are all a credit to the school and have done an impressive range of activities to boost their Personal Development Profiles. It is a good advert for the opportunities which we are constantly putting in front of our students. Head over to our website to check them out.

A Big Thank You to Professor Agnew for coming in to school to host a university taster on Criminology for Year 12 students considering their UCAS choices later this summer. His question and answer session was excellent and really tested their perceptions on crime rates, offending and the justice system. Interestingly their impression of crime in the UK was far worse than the actual figures show – students guessed that 3000 youth offenders might be in some form of custody whereas the actual figure is about 800. A really interesting taster session from one of the parents of a student in Year 12 of the Sixth Form.

SAFER INTERNET DAY 2017

On Tuesday, February 7th (Safer Internet Day) there were a variety of events being held in school. There was an assembly for each year group detailing the dangers of meeting up with people that you had only encountered online. Ms Ferguson gave a talk to each year group and showed them a very distressing video about Kayleigh Haywood, which was then followed up by an extended registration on Wednesday, during which staff went through a powerpoint presentation prepared by Mr Wellham.

I was invited once again to collaborate with Chilton Primary School on their Safer Internet Day. I accompanied 20 of our Year 9 and 10 students to the school.

We were first given a tour of the school by Ms Thorpe and then the students were split into groups to work with Reception, Year 1, 2, 3 and 4 pupils.

The pupils worked on various projects all centred around the concept of using images safely online. Using their knowledge our students were able to offer help and guidance to the younger years and enable them to produce some very good work.

All of the students were impeccably well behaved and very willing to immerse themselves in the activity, making many valuable contributions to the event.

The Primary school sent an email to say "The children really enjoyed their day and the teachers have told me that your students were fantastic. The children would like to make your students something to say thank you."

Mr Wright
IT Teacher



Many thanks to all the students and Natasha Waller from Career Ready for leading the Apprenticeship

training session on Tuesday with the Year 12 students who are considering this route, alongside university applications. This week we focused on interview technique and communication issues in the work place to which students contributed really well.

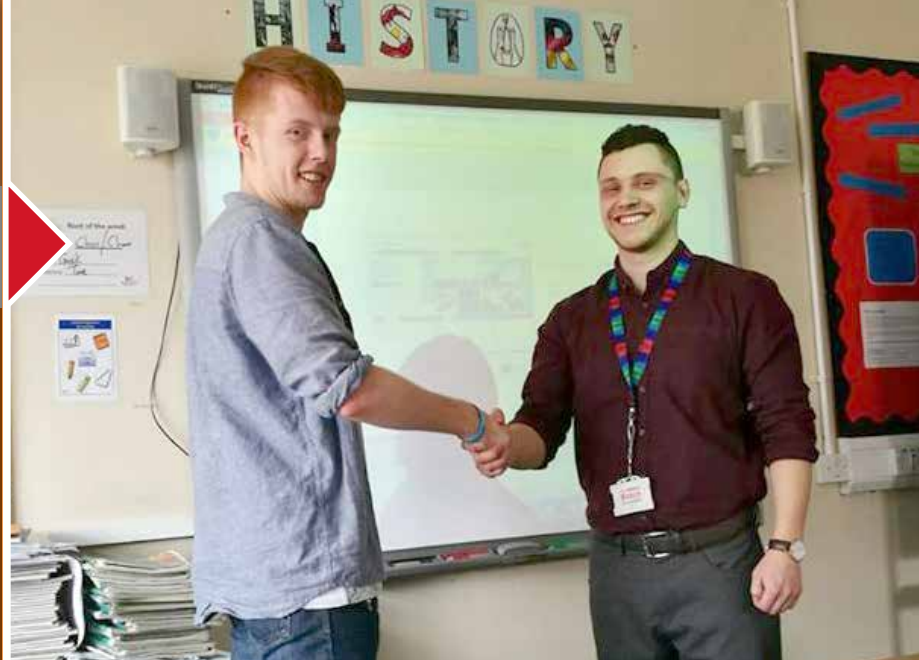
The Year 10 High Achieving first cohort attended the St Catherine's College, Cambridge outreach day which introduced students to a wide array of options for study at the University of Cambridge and Russell Group universities. They were also given advice on A Level choices and other extension activities. The debate section of the day really demonstrated the ability of our top students with outstanding contributions from Grace Allen, Joseph Turner and Ryan Swinton in particular. We have also been offered participation in the Cambridge Independent Project which gives 25 students the opportunity to do a presentation at St Catherine's and meet the professors in their area of expertise.

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BOSCH HIGHER LEVEL APPRENTICESHIPS

We were lucky to have Nathan Atkins from BOSCH come in this term to speak to students about Higher Level Apprenticeships and opportunities with this local/ big international company.

Nathan is a mechanical engineering apprentice and he was able to give the students an insight into the operations and kind of work they do in Stowmarket. Interestingly the design of lawn mowers and garden machinery from concept to prototype and then final production is actually based here and not in Germany! The Stowmarket factory is not just an assembly plant. He also brought in application materials and his own CV as an example for the students to see. Great questions from our students who are keen to pursue the opportunities and IMeche initiative demonstrated. Thank you also to Mr Coussins for helping with the arrangements for the visit.



FIVE-A-SIDE WIN

Well done to the victorious Five-a-Side team who received their medals in assembly.

The team 4G1S beat the favourites Tabby Alonso in a shock result final. These league matches have been played on most Thursdays since the season started last September. It was a Leicester/Lincoln City experience for 4G1S with a comprehensive 5-0 victory!



UNIVERSITY OF SUFFOLK SOCIAL SCIENCES DAY

A big well done to all the students who attended the University of Suffolk Social Sciences Day this term.

It was a multi-disciplinary day including tasters in Psychology, Social Work, Law, Early Years Child Development, Sociology and Primary Education Studies. The students were able to attend lectures and events relevant to those areas and seek advice on these Higher Education courses. They were also able to access the campus tour for the new university blocks during the lunchtime. One of the students said "It was really interesting and I was not sure about applying for university, but now I definitely am!"



CAMEO NETWORK SOLUTIONS

This term saw Cameo Network Solutions come in to talk to our ICT students about the new Digital ICT Apprenticeships being launched.

There are a number of our Ready4Work students who are keen to pursue opportunities in this industry.

