



Stowmarket Sixth Form

a guide for
prospective students

The Application Process

It's not always about the grades. Here's what you will need:

Two year A level study

- 5 GCSE A* - C / 4 - 9 across your subjects including English and Maths
- Subject specific requirements - see Entry Criteria

Key Dates

Friday 24th March 2017

Initial Options form closing date (please complete this even if you are unsure if you are staying here or if you don't think you can study what you want to here), an annotated form will guide us on your preferences.

Wednesday 29th March 2017

Interview dates - this will give us and you an opportunity to discuss your choices and give you advice on what to do going forward.

18th April 2017

Final date for return of conditional offer slips

24th August 2017

GCSE Results published

24th/25th August 2017

Interviews for those not achieving expected grades

25th August 2017

Final date for return of Confirmation of acceptance slips.

5th September 2017

Term Starts

Your Future

This should be an exciting time for you and provides you with an opportunity to decide where you wish to continue with the next steps of your education, a big decision that will affect you professionally and personally

and set you on your path to a successful and fulfilling future.

September 2017 will see the final stages of changes to the structure of A levels. These changes mean that A levels will no longer be modular but will be assessed at the end of a two year course; they will all have linear

assessments. In order to maintain breadth of choice we offer a suite of STEM, Humanities, Social Science, English and Creative Arts A levels, as well as 3 Level 3 vocational qualifications.



Why Choose Us?

High Quality

- We have an excellent track record of success over the past three years, with 100% of our students achieving a university place of their choice.
- The students in our Ready4work Group have also been highly successful in securing Higher Level Apprenticeships with top companies such as British Telecom, Marshall Aerospace and Tower Willis Watson.
- Specialist staff – students are only taught by teachers who are specialists in their field.

Advice, Support and the wider Sixth Form

- A supportive pastoral system.
- Supportive staff.

- High quality guidance and careers advice during their time in the sixth form.
- Students also have the opportunity to explore many areas of life and not just those tailored to their studies; finance, enterprise, international visits, university visits, mentoring programmes, health and fitness, volunteer work and charity work, Duke of Edinburgh and Ski Trip.

Your options

Two Year Advanced Course

These are the courses that lead to degrees and diplomas at university; they can open doors to professional, managerial and commercial careers after initial training.

Students studying at Stowmarket High School will choose in the majority three subjects, with a minority taking four after discussion with a senior member of staff. Therefore you will leave at the end of Year 13 with

three A Level qualifications. For example, some of our students who are aiming to read Medicine or STEM related courses at degree level take Further Mathematics to support Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry A Levels. Some students choose to study a combination of A levels and Level 3 courses (such as Technical or Extended Diplomas. Students are also given the opportunity to apply to take the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) but only alongside three A Levels.

What to Expect

Your own space

Sixth Form students have a bespoke wing of the school, where they have exclusive access to computers, a space to relax, eat and catch up with friends that is away from the main school and lower school students – giving you a more adult and grown up feel to your day.

Communication

Co-operation between students, parents and the Sixth Form is essential if students are to maximise their learning experience. We therefore arrange for parents to meet form tutors early in the Autumn Term and for subsequent meetings with subject teachers in Years 12 and 13. Parents/carers are also welcome to write to or telephone the form tutor or a member of the Sixth Form office team at other times to discuss student progress or other matters of concern.

Other Advice

Careers advice is provided throughout your time in the Sixth Form. Sessions are delivered by Universities, Employers and specialist careers agencies that will help you with UCAS, CV writing, applications for jobs and higher level apprenticeships. We run bespoke sessions on Russell Group entry as well as trips and visits to Universities and places of employment.

“ I am applying to study Geography at university. I went on a week’s work experience visit to Denmark in Year 12. Stowmarket High School is the only Sixth Form in Suffolk to offer this opportunity. A week’s placement was also organised with the Meteorological Office at RAF Wattisham to see how they produce twenty four hour weather reporting systems. I have helped with a Year 8 Geography class which has taught me a lot about the communication

of complex ideas in a style which can be understood. I have also attended financial planning and budgeting training organised by the TSB Bank. This was useful guidance for the start of my early professional life after A Levels. I am also part of the Sixth Form Student Investor team which has managed a Stocks and Shares Portfolio. We are among the top three schools in the country in 2017.

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Owen Subjects studied: A Levels in History, Geography and Psychology.



Stowmarket High School Entry Criteria

Students need to achieve a minimum of 5 GCSE A* - C / 4-9 across their subjects including English and Maths. They are also required to meet the entry criteria outlined below:

Subject Area	Subject	Course Type	Entry Criteria
STEM	Biology	2 yr A Level	Entry GCSE: BB in Core and Additional Science or B in Biology and one other Science as well as 4 in Maths.
	Chemistry	2 yr A Level	Entry GCSE: BB in Core and Additional Science or B in Chemistry and one other Science as well as 4 in Maths.
	Physics	2 yr A Level	Entry GCSE: BB in Core and Additional Science or B in Physics and one other Science as well as 4 in Maths.
	Maths	2 yr A Level	Entry GCSE: 6 in Maths Higher Tier.
	Further Maths	2 yr A Level	Entry GCSE: 7 in Maths Higher Tier.
	Design	2 yr A Level	Entry GCSE: C in Resistant Materials or Product Design or Physics or 5 in Maths.
Social Science	Applied Business	2 yr Level 3 Extended Certificate	Entry GCSE: C in Business or 4 in Maths.
	ICT	2 yr Cambridge National	Entry GCSE: C in ICT or Science or 4 in Maths.
	Psychology	2 yr A Level	Entry GCSE: 4 in English Language and Maths and a C in Science - at least one of these needs to be at level 5 or a B.
	Sociology	2 yr A Level	Entry GCSE: 5 in English Language.
	Physical Education	2 yr A Level	Entry GCSE: B in PE or Science or 5 in English Language Essential: Candidate must be an active and regular performer who is training and competing regularly in a recognised sport outside of school.
	Health and Social (single or double)	2 yr Level 3 Technical Diploma	Entry GCSE C in Science as well as 4 in English. If studying the diploma, GCSE Health and Social Care will count for 1 of your 5 GCSE requirements. If studying the Extended diploma GCSE Health and Social Care will count for 2 of your 5 GCSE requirements.

Subject Area	Subject	Course Type	Entry Criteria
Creative Arts	Art & Design	2 year A Level	Entry GCSE: B in Art and Design Essential: Portfolio of work and departmental interview.
	Drama	2 year A Level	Entry GCSE: C in Drama as well as 4 in either English Language or English Literature.
	Photography	2 year A level	Entry GCSE: B in Art and Design Essential: Portfolio of work and departmental interview.
	Music	2 year A Level	Entry GCSE: One of the following: Grade B in GCSE Music, a Merit in Music Performance and Production, or a Grade 5 standard in Music Performance.
	Textiles	2 year A Level	Entry GCSE: B in Art and Design or Textile Design Essential: Portfolio of work and departmental interview.
English	English Combined	2 year A Level	Entry GCSE: 5 in English .
Language	French	2 year A Level	Entry GCSE: B in French Higher Tier.
Humanities	Geography	2 year A Level	Entry GCSE: B in Geography or 5 in English Language or Maths.
	History	2 year A Level	Entry GCSE: B in History or 5 in English Language.
General	Extended Project	1 year AS Level	By application in September .

The Extended Project Level 3

As an additional qualification we offer the opportunity to study for the extended project. This is a recognised AS Level that will gain students valuable UCAS points. They can choose to research a subject of their choice as long as it is not on the curriculum for their other studies.

We recommend that the students take this alongside three A Levels to enhance their CV and to develop vital skill sets such as research, presentation, communication, analytical and organisation skills

Exam Board AQA (7993)

Entry by application in September

Course Information

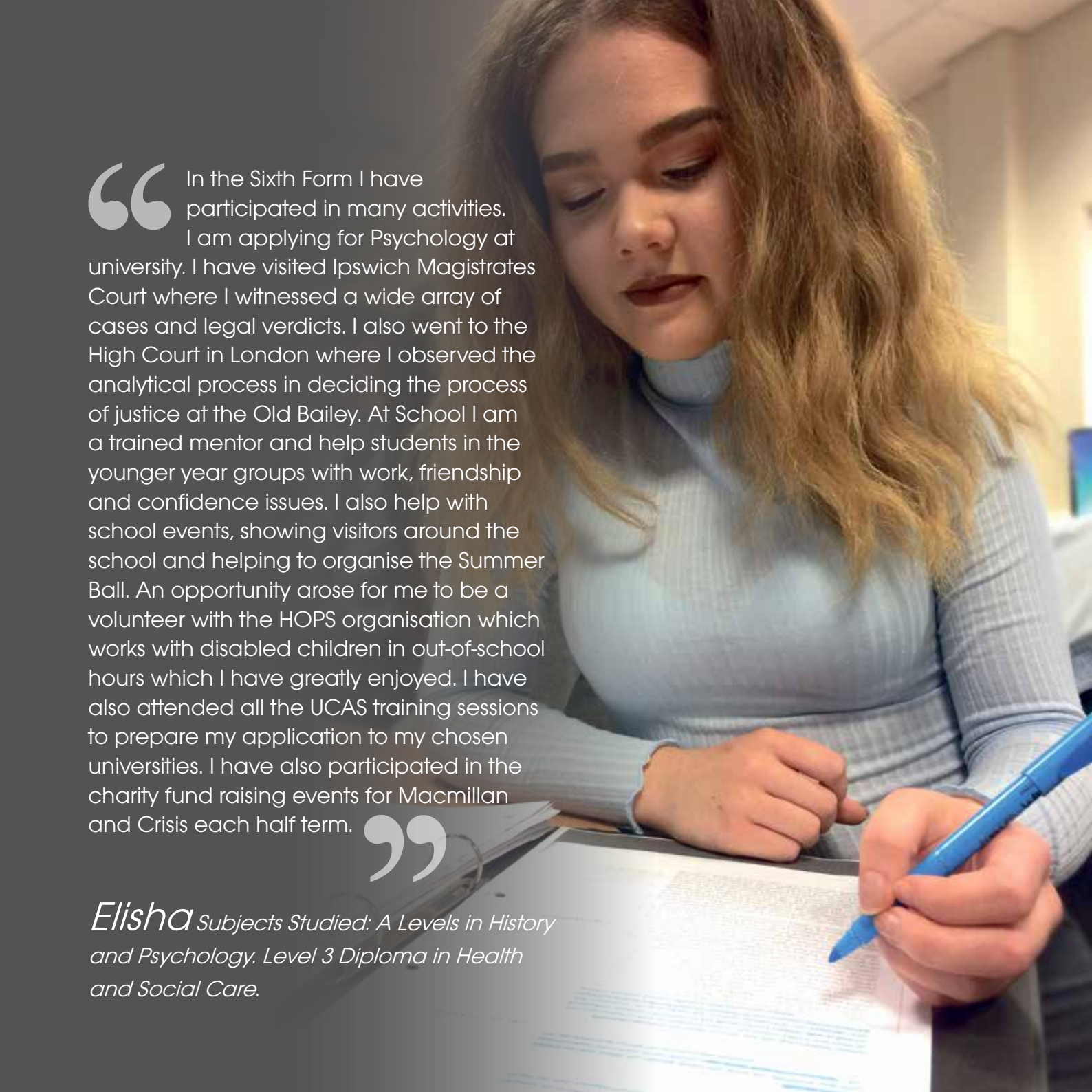
The Extended Project is an independent research project. The student chooses a subject of their own choice to investigate. It must be separate from their A Level course content. The project involves a five thousand word essay, with a completed log book which details their research methods. All Extended Project students do a presentation of their findings to other extended project students once their essay is complete. Each student will be assigned a mentor who they will meet on a weekly basis to give them guidance and support.

Method of Assessment

The five thousand word essay is assessed for its analytical strength, the range of sources and evidence used, and the level of research conducted. All essays must be word processed, with full footnoting and a comprehensive bibliography. It is a high level piece of research of undergraduate quality. Students have a year to complete this project.

What Can Be Gained From Doing This Course?

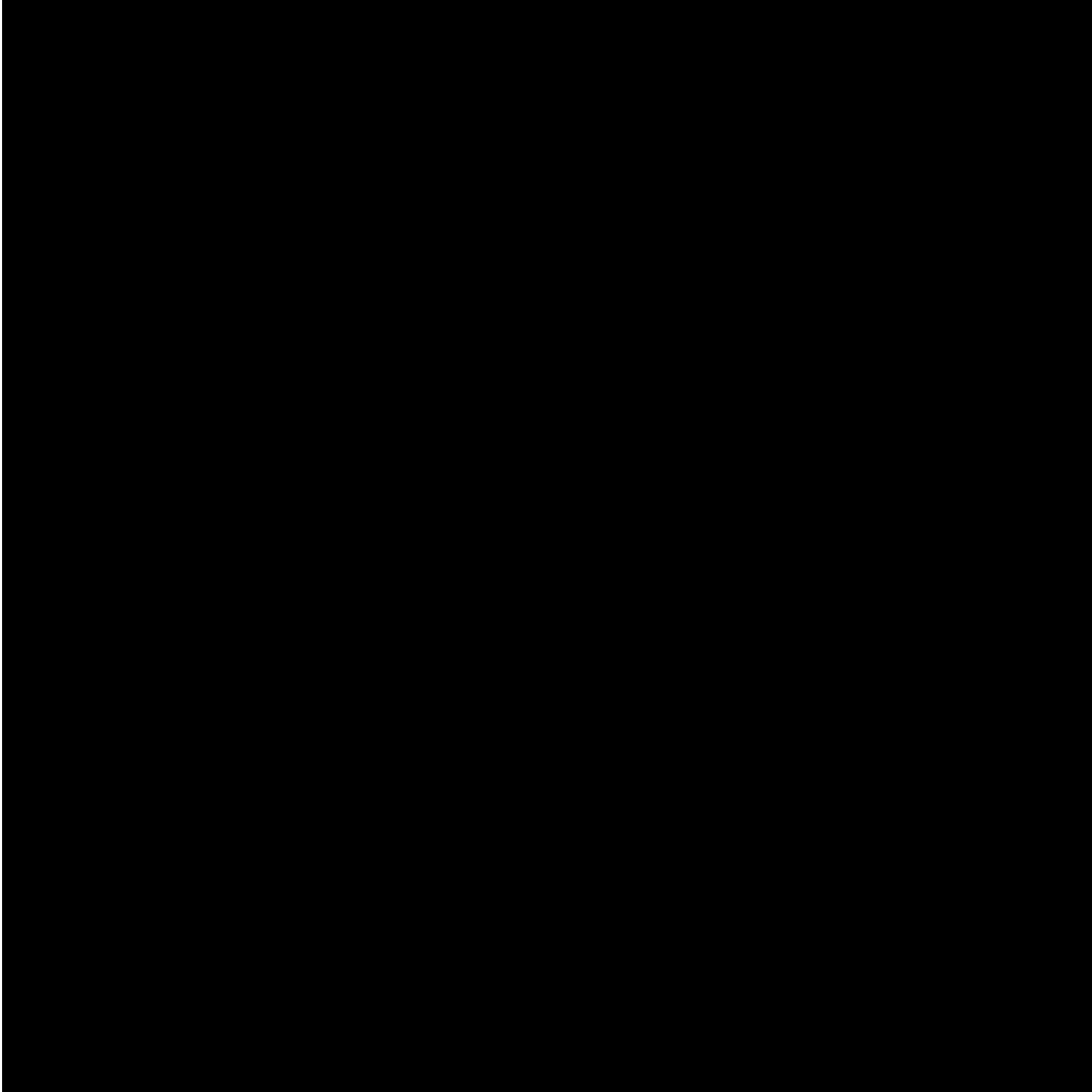
The Extended Project is a discriminator for High Achieving students when they apply for universities and Higher Level apprenticeships. Application officers who look at student applications for UCAS, universities and apprenticeships will prioritise students who are likely to achieve good A Level grades and also have an Extended Project on their qualifications profile. Students intending to apply for Russell Group universities and high level companies are recommended to take this AS Level qualification. Our Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) has proved to be popular with students and teachers alike. It provides an opportunity for students to extend their abilities beyond the A-level syllabus, stand out and prepare for university or their future career. It can also be used to earn extra UCAS points.



“ In the Sixth Form I have participated in many activities. I am applying for Psychology at university. I have visited Ipswich Magistrates Court where I witnessed a wide array of cases and legal verdicts. I also went to the High Court in London where I observed the analytical process in deciding the process of justice at the Old Bailey. At School I am a trained mentor and help students in the younger year groups with work, friendship and confidence issues. I also help with school events, showing visitors around the school and helping to organise the Summer Ball. An opportunity arose for me to be a volunteer with the HOPS organisation which works with disabled children in out-of-school hours which I have greatly enjoyed. I have also attended all the UCAS training sessions to prepare my application to my chosen universities. I have also participated in the charity fund raising events for Macmillan and Crisis each half term.

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Elisha Subjects Studied: A Levels in History and Psychology, Level 3 Diploma in Health and Social Care.



Contact us

**Stowmarket
High School**

Onehouse Road
Stowmarket
Suffolk IP14 1QR

☎ 01449 613 541

✉ enquiries@stowmarkethigh.suffolk.sch.uk

🌐 www.stowmarkethigh.suffolk.sch.uk

🐦 @stowmarketHigh

📷 stowmarket_high_school

