



# Stoke High School Ormiston Academy



*Respect · Inspire · Achieve*

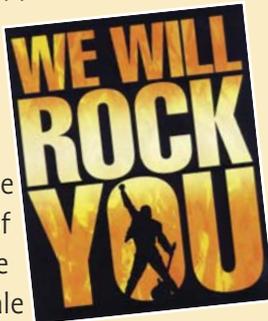
THE STOKE HIGH SCHOOL ORMISTON ACADEMY NEWSLETTER - JANUARY 2016

## Message from the Principal



Thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter where we take the opportunity to showcase some of the activities which have taken place recently.

We hope you will support the annual school production which this year is **"We Will Rock You"** and there are to be performances on the 10th, 11th and 12th of February. You will be notified about the sale of tickets and we hope to have sell-out audiences at each performance.



The school roof is now completely refurbished and we took the opportunity whilst the scaffolding was in place to install solar panels to reduce our energy bills.

As in previous years we will do everything possible to keep the Academy fully open in adverse weather conditions, when it is safe to do so. However, please can I remind you to tune in to Radio Suffolk and to check the Academy website for up to date information.

*Mrs J Dickson - Principal  
Stoke High School-Ormiston Academy*

# HAIR Raising!

Our inspirational student Ellie Speirs has raised hundreds of pounds for *'The Little Princess Trust'*.

Generous Ellie in Year 8 had her hair cut off in aid of the charity, which helps children who may have lost their own hair through having chemotherapy treatment for cancer. Ellie raised above what she had anticipated, and has therefore also donated £525 to teenager Kim Sales – *'You'll Never Walk Alone Campaign'*.

At the Academy we are extremely proud of Ellie for her generosity and kindness towards others, along with her mum and the charities that Ellie has donated to. **Ellie you are a superstar!!**

*"When I got my hair cut I was feeling very nervous, but I felt really proud of myself. I was shocked when I found out I had raised over £500 for charity and I had so much support. Thank you everyone who has donated"*

Ellie

*"Ellie has been wanting to fundraise for a while, so when she said she wanted to cut her hair and send it off, we were really proud of her decision, then when we realised how much Ellie had raised, Ellie decide to donate some of the funds to Kim Sale's You'll Never Walk Alone campaign who is a friend of a friend, around the same age as Ellie and local to us. I as Ellie's mum am very proud."*

Jo Speirs, Ellie's Mum





# NEWS from Stoke Interact Club!

Following on from the report in the last Newsletter about the Academy fete which the members of Stoke Interact Club organised in aid of the East Anglian Children's Hospice; representatives from the Hospice attended a school assembly to receive their cheque for £316.91 from Club President Louisa Gibbins.



The members have been busy again this term by supporting the Rotary Club of Ipswich with their food collection for FIND (Families in Need Ipswich) which took place recently at Tesco, Copdock.



Stoke Interact Club is the first school group in Suffolk for young people who wish to make a difference in their community. Following the success of the project, another school fete is planned for next June, with other events throughout the year. The Club is now looking to recruit new members so if any students would like to be involved in our fundraising activities please sign up at the Student Office.  
**All year groups are welcome!**

# Curriculum Day – Communications

## Stolen snowmen, treasure hunts and Sherlock Holmes?

**Year 9 Curriculum Day this term was based in the Communications Faculty, and aimed to develop students' group work and close analysis skills.**

Students worked in teams, completing a range of challenges based on the theme of Detection and Investigation, in the hopes of receiving the coveted Investigator's Prize. In one room, students arrived to some bad news, and a criminal investigation.



A snowman had been cruelly stolen from some small children, with clues left in the snow for investigators. The Year 9s inspected their evidence packs closely, using their language analysis and inference skills, and created a character profile for the criminal.

A second room explored language: the activity investigated the roots of words, and how language is created. Students worked together to create new words and understand where some words come from, with interesting results! The activity was adapted from an A level course on English Language, and so provided students with an idea of the detailed nature of word analysis in further education English study.

The third activity was certainly not based in a room. Students split into three sub teams, following a trail of clues, activities and riddles through the Academy, being directed from one location to another to collect the relevant information. On their return to the classroom, students put all three sub teams' riddle answers together in order to unscramble an anagram made up of their initial letters. This was a real test of thinking, team work and discussion, both within sub teams and as a whole group. I have included all riddles in this newsletter – see if you can work it out! Overall, students were a credit to their year group, starting to work together and develop the skills that they will need at GCSE in an active, unusual way.

### Riddles:

- *What letter should go in the space? JFMAMJJA\_\_OND*
- *Take off my skin – I won't cry, but you will. What am I?*
- *I am nothingness, and the more you take from me, the bigger I get. What am I?*
- *No need for super strength: I can help you open the heaviest doors, the impenetrable safes and the securest chests with a simple twist of your hand. What am I?*
- *With four, a table is fine. With three, a table is fine. With two, a table would not stand. Yet we manage with two. What are they?*
- *I'm tall when I'm young and I'm short when I'm old. What am I? Hint: I am burning for you to find the answer to this riddle!*
- *We see it once in a year, twice in a week, and never in a day. What is it?*
- *What has a head but never weeps, has a bed but never sleeps, can run but never walks, and has a bank but no money?*



# The Science of SCIENCE!!

Since October, the faculty have offered the opportunity for Year 7 and Year 8 students to attend Science Club.

The aim of the club is to look at fun experiments that do not fall within the curriculum timetable. Some of the activities have included making square bubbles, hover discs, rainbow tubes and fingerprinting.

Science Club will continue in the New Year, any student from Year 7 and Year 8 is welcome. Science Club will be on a Wednesday after school in room 107.



# Sizing Up Sizewell

On the 4th December, four Year 10 students had a trip to Sizewell nuclear power station.

Outstanding Physics and Engineering Students got the opportunity to attend. Other schools were involved in the trip also, which meant the students who went - Daniel Doling, Krista Lineja, Hannah Bynoe and Ben Newman - had an opportunity to meet other students from other schools with similar abilities and goals.

The day comprised of a tour round the facility, including the main turbine hall. The students also had a tour to see the fish return system, which as the name implies, returns fish from the 3,000,000 litres of water taken in from the sea every second. Seeing fish is usually very rare but the students had a lucky day, and many fish were to be seen. The students also had tasks including wireless circuit building and being part of a team where the objective was to try and mass produce and improve upon paper bird models; this was useful because of the students' use of solving problems and the use of knowledge of aerodynamics to help the birds twirl mid-air. The students then had to present their products in front of the other student groups further developing their presentation skills.

The facts the students learnt on the visit could be used in lessons to help teach others about the advantages of uranium power. For instance a kilogram of coal could power a lightbulb for 4 days with a lot of pollution created, a kilogram of uranium could power a lightbulb for 196 years with very little pollution produced from its production.

*Daniel Doling and Krista Lineja - Year 10 Students*





# Dates for your Diary

- Friday 29 January – Year 10 Science Controlled Assessment
- Wednesday 3 February – Year 9 & 10 Presentation Evening
- Thursday 4 February – Intermediate Maths Challenge
- Thursday 4 February – Year 11 Parents’ Evening
- Monday 8 February – Production Week
- Wednesday 10 February – Breakfast with the Principal
- Friday 12 February – Outstanding Assembly
- Monday 15 - Friday 19 February - Half Term**
- Thursday 25 February – Curriculum Day 2
- Friday 26 February – Year 7 & 8 Reports Home
- Thursday 3 March – World Book Day
- Thursday 10 March – Year 8 Options
- Thursday 17 March – Years 8 Parents’ Evening
- Friday 18 March – Sports Relief 2016
- Friday 18 March – Year 9, 10 & 11 Reports Home
- Wednesday 23 March – Pizza with the Principal
- Thursday 24 March – Outstanding Assembly
- Thursday 24 March - End of Term**
- Monday 11 April – PD Day**
- Tuesday 12 April – School starts for pupils**

## Useful LINKS.....

- [www.stokehs.suffolk.sch.uk](http://www.stokehs.suffolk.sch.uk)
- [www.parentview.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.parentview.ofsted.gov.uk)
- [www.suffolklibraries.co.uk/branches/stoke-library](http://www.suffolklibraries.co.uk/branches/stoke-library)
- [www.ipswich.gov.uk/content/maidenhall-sports-centre](http://www.ipswich.gov.uk/content/maidenhall-sports-centre)
- [www.parentmail2.co.uk](http://www.parentmail2.co.uk)
- [www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals](http://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals)

# Year 11 Curriculum Day



**For Curriculum Day Year 11 took part in mock interviews and a Maximize seminar.**

With college interviews and mock exams on the horizon, students had the opportunity to practice their interview skills with local business people, and also learn about exam and revision techniques to help with their “mocks”. They also had the opportunity to create much needed CVs, with the help of an advisor from Barclays Lifeskills.

Every student had a one to one mock interview with a business professional who was able to give them useful feedback on their interview skills and some tips on how to improve their technique. Many thanks to all those business people who kindly took a day’s holiday from their busy jobs to come into the Academy and help give our students this valuable experience.

Students also took part in an interactive seminar where they learned about techniques to help them get better results from exams, such as: memory techniques, mapping, note-taking, stress management, time management, revision tips and exam preparation and many others. The two presenters from Maximize were dynamic, entertaining and informative and students found the experience enjoyable and extremely helpful, particularly with mock exams just two weeks away. All in all, a very busy but valuable day, leaving students better prepared for their forthcoming college interviews and mock exams.





# Welcome Year 7

**The last few weeks have been a very busy time for Year 7 with lots of extra-curricular activities and events taking place.**

Just before half term a small group of Year 7 students, led by Molly Shemming, decided to organise a charity bake sale. Well done to everyone who helped to organise this very successful sale, they raised a very impressive £50. During the first week back after half term we had a fantastic day out at the Science Museum in London. Although it ended up being a long day because of traffic, everyone had a great time and learnt a lot.

It was then time for Children in Need and what a mad day it was! It was great to see the whole year group get so behind the day - wearing their pyjamas, joining in activities at break and lunch and singing and dancing in assembly.

As we approached Christmas things didn't slow down for us, we finished the term with a visit from Sam Callahan who was an X Factor finalist in 2013. He came in to talk to the Year 7s about bullying on social media and what you can do to protect yourself from this. He was also kind enough to sing us a few songs which was a real treat. What a great few weeks it has been! Myself and the Year 7s are now looking forward to what 2016 holds for us.

**Mrs Crosby - Head of Year 7**



# Year 8 **Wow – what a fabulous year we are having so far!**

In October, the whole year group visited the Suffolk Skills Show at Trinity Park. We had a brilliant day; all of the students benefited from the trip and I know it is going to help them when they have to make those difficult decisions about GCSE choices next year. The behaviour of the whole group was impeccable; on the day lots of stall holders commented to me directly about how well behaved our students were and then we received a letter from a prestigious firm of surveyors who named six of our students as stand out well behaved, polite children – well done to all.

We now have a Year 8 Junior Council who meet regularly to make important decisions about Year 8 issues. To this we have added Charity Reps for each Form. During our successful Children in Need Day, Year 8 hosted a fabulous cake sale and raffle which raised over £100 toward the school total.

In a very exciting new charity project, Y8 are going to take part in the **“pigsgonewildinSuffolk”** exhibition that is taking place in the town next year. This will involve Year 8 raising nearly £600 to pay for a pig which will be decorated and displayed in Ipswich. We'll be hosting a competition in Year 8 to see whose design will be on the pig. We are all very much looking forward to this exciting project. Watch out for more information on events we will be hosting to raise the money.

**Mrs Huckfield**

# Year 9 **What a fantastic first term we have had.**

Year 9 are the first ever Year 9 group to start their options and I am so impressed with what they have been doing in their first term.

It has been a busy term and I am pleased to say we have had 64 students who have been outstanding for the entire term. I am incredibly proud of this and I will look to run a celebration evening next term. We have already had 3 celebration evenings so far, Sports, Domino's Pizza and Nandos. I will also rearrange the Goals trip next term. These evenings are always my favourite as I get the opportunity to laugh and smile and celebrate our children's success.

I would like to acknowledge Bartek Holtyn who has worked really hard this half term and has made a huge improvement.

I look forward to every success Year 9 will continue to make and to share this with you at the parents' evening coming up on Thursday 14th January. Once again thank you for your support.

**Mrs Lockett - Head of Year 9**





# 'Slam Dunking' SUCCESS!

Thursday 14th January saw the launch of the PE department's extra-curricular basketball club. Due to popular demand from a number of students Mr Jordan and the PE department were able to organise and secure the expertise of two qualified external basketball coaches to deliver the after school sessions. The first session was an absolute success with no less than 35 students across all year groups in attendance. The students were split between the two coaches and were put through their basketball paces throughout the session. The session was high energy and provided lots of opportunities for the students to develop their basketball skills, but above all the session was very enjoyable for all involved. The after school club will continue to run every Thursday, 3.10pm - 4:10pm, and is open to students of all abilities across all year groups. If students would like to find out additional information regarding extra-curricular PE clubs please do not hesitate to come see any member of the PE department.

**Mr Jordan**  
Head of Performing Arts Faculty



## Year 10

**Congratulations to Year 10** on a successful first term as GCSE students. Your reports will have given you a clear indication of the progress that you are making in each subject. I would encourage you to use this information as motivation in the months ahead.

Well done to the members of the attendance focus group who succeeded in improving their attendance. Being on time to school and your overall attendance have a massive impact on your level of achievement in school. I was pleased to see that these students understood the importance of improving their attendance, and responded positively to the challenge I set for them.

Good luck for this term. I hope you can continue to build upon the really positive start that you have made in your GCSE subjects.

**Mr Herbert - Head of Year 10**

## Year 11

**It has been a very busy time for Year 11 this term, lots of ups and downs.**

On curriculum day, we had Maximise come in to discuss revision and study techniques with the students, who also had mock interviews with business people from local industries. Year 11 made me very proud with how seriously they took this experience, dressing and behaving in a mature way. We had a lot of positive comments from the interviewers saying how mature and articulate our students were, so a very big well done to you all.

Next on the calendar was the dress up day for Children in Need, and what a brilliant effort you made with your costumes - we raised a lot of money for the charity and had a great day.

Mocks came next, wow, a tough two weeks, but we made it through! We had our results assembly on Wednesday 16th when the students received their grades, and that was a roller coaster of emotions: happy students with positive results alongside some who did not achieve what they had hoped for.

**Mrs LeMarrec - Head of Year 11**





# Taking CARE!

## Suffolk Young Carers at Stoke High School- Ormiston Academy

It's been a busy year for the Young Carers at Stoke High School. All of the students have met and completed questionnaires.

We have a 'cake n chat' lunch on the second Monday of every month, where Young Carers can meet and chat to other students in a similar situation. We have a new notice board outside the Staffroom on the main corridor where YCs can see which members of staff they can talk to and get news of any Suffolk Young Carers events happening in our area. Much more excitingly, the Academy has been awarded the Bronze Award from Suffolk Young Carers; this was presented at an Assembly which was shared by Year 7 and Year 8. As a school, we are now well on our way to achieving the Silver Award.

**Mrs Huckfield**



# Year 7 Visit to the Science Museum...

For our Curriculum Day on the 4th of November the whole of Year 7 went to the Science Museum in London.

On the morning of the trip we arrived at school at 7.45am. The coaches were already there and we set off to London. It took us about 3 hours to get there, the teachers didn't expect it to take so long. We sang songs and ate our lunch on the coach so that we wouldn't waste a second of our time in the Museum.



As soon as we arrived we went straight up to the 3rd floor, we looked at huge planes and engines that were high up on the ceiling. When we visited the electricity and energy section, there was a big pole that gave us electric shocks. It was called "Do not touch this!" but that tempted everyone to touch it!

We took lots of pictures so that we wouldn't forget anything. On the way out we stopped in the gift shop to buy some gifts. Everyone had a little alien that might have an alien baby! It was a really long journey home, a lot longer than expected but we really enjoyed our day.

**Anisha Islam, 7WB**

# PRIMARY Liaison

Friday 11th December the Year 10 childcare students spent the morning at Halifax primary school, helping the reception children in singing Christmas songs, reading them Christmas stories and making reindeer crowns.

The Year 10 Btec Drama students had a busy final week of term completing their first assessment piece. They have been working for weeks on creating a 30 minute piece of drama. They have had to create the storyline themselves, organise props, costumes, and rehearse the piece ready to take to 3 different primary schools. The storyline follows Santa's evil sister who is a witch who plans to ruin Christmas for all the children in Ipswich. Santa, Mrs Claus and the elves go to Ipswich and get some children to help save Christmas.

The Year 10's were also presented with the challenge of arriving at each school 30 minutes before and adapting their performance to suit the school hall and the different audience sizes. The children at the primary schools loved the performances and clapped, cheered and booed in all the right places. The performances were a success and the Year 10s are looking forward to their next performance project starting in the new year.

**Ms Lewis**





# Stoke Library Newsletter

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2016 from the staff at Stoke Library

## Free Wi-Fi in the library?

We also have three computers with internet access. Please let us know if you would like some help using the internet.



## Weekend Children's Crafts

**Every Saturday and Sunday  
10am – 12pm**

Come along and join in with a free craft session for children, held every Saturday and Sunday 10am – 12pm.

Free Activities during January and February!

- *Dinosaur Footprints*
- *Build your own Dinosaur*
- *Chinese New Year*
- *Valentine's Day*

## Public Opening Hours:

<b>Tuesday</b>	9.30am – 12.30pm 2.00pm – 5.00pm
<b>Wednesday</b>	2.00pm – 5.00pm
<b>Thursday</b>	2.00pm – 5.00pm
<b>Friday</b>	9.30am – 12.30pm
<b>Saturday</b>	9.30am – 12.30pm
<b>Sunday</b>	10.00am – 1.00pm

## Make the most of our . . .

**Free Wi-Fi** in the library! We also have free internet access, ask a member of staff for help.

## FREE Bookstart Activities



every Tuesday morning - 10-10.30am

Please come and join in with Nursery Rhymes and Story time.

You are welcome to join the library and stay and play with other pre-school families.

## Library News

Year 7 have been reading new books for their reading passports and four students have collected lapel badges from Head of Year, Mrs Crosby.

Congratulations to Tia, Alanna, Panna-ji and Finn!!

**Remember Monday break time is for Year 7 only.**

Stoke Community Library - 01473 681751

Jane Riches - School Librarian



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