

## Report to Stowupland Parish Council

May 2022

### Introduction

- It is my pleasure to be writing to you on behalf of Stowupland High School and in my role as Executive Headteacher with John Milton Academy Trust (JMAT).
- Firstly, I hope this report finds you and your loved ones safe and well. After the unprecedented challenges of the past two years, it looks like the worst of the pandemic is behind us. Although COVID has by no means gone away, we appear now to be moving towards a new sense of normality.
- This is the first report to the Annual General Meeting of Stowupland Parish Council from Stowupland High School since the start of the COVID pandemic early in 2020. During this period, time has not stood still; our school is a vibrant and lively community and we have accomplished so much.
- In my report, I have sought to highlight some very visible changes as well as herald the renaissance of creative endeavour and artistic participation that has been an intentional focus of ours.

### Trust and School estate

- Our first priority is to secure the safety and well-being of our students. Students have told us that the perimeter fencing installed around the school playing field, and at opposite ends of the school site, has provided them with a greater sense of security.
- With JMAT's financial and logistical support, major roofing, heating and window and door replacement projects have been completed. The Trust has refurbished the facilities in the sports centre for the benefit of the local community and we have built a new reception area at the front of the school. These projects have certainly enhanced the aesthetic outlook of the school and created a more comfortable environment for learning. More importantly however, they have made our site more secure; generated energy efficiencies and weather-proofed our building.
- Visitors to the site now benefit from the creation of enhanced parking facilities (including eight charging points for electric vehicles) and our new coach park.

### John Milton Sixth Form at Stowupland High School

- Our new, and long-awaited sixth form block was formally opened by MP Jo Churchill on **April 8 2022**. Local residents will be aware that discussions for the new sixth form block first took place in 2017, and work got underway on the project in December 2019. Students were able to start using the building from early 2021 but a combination of COVID-related issues and storms Dudley and Eunice, meant the official opening had to be delayed.

Photo:

L-R Abi Carlin, Ashley Hailstone (Director of Sixth Form), Jamal Mukunyadze. -  
Credit: Sarah Lucy Brown



- The new Sixth Form block demonstrates the Trust's civic responsibility and its commitment to the local area, its young people and their futures. Its construction was funded through the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and it has therefore been designed with the needs of local residents in mind as well as providing our students with state-of-the-art facilities.
- Mrs Churchill said: "I think this is a fantastic opportunity for our students in Mid Suffolk to access first-class education and allow them to achieve the potential we know they all have. It's a new building, a new beginning, and I look forward to great things being delivered by the John Milton Academy Trust and its teachers for the young people of Suffolk."

### School production - Matilda April 2022

- This was our first school production since February 2020. Students started rehearsing in September 2021 and over 60 students were involved with the production in some capacity. As well as four sold-out evening performances, students performed to pupils at Bacton, Mendlesham and Freeman Primary Schools. It was a delight to be able to stage school productions again, giving our students that invaluable opportunity of performing to an audience.
- They seized that opportunity, performing with evident joy and excitement, with truly stand-out performances from the leads. All involved, on stage and behind the scenes, were wonderful ambassadors for Team Stowupland. The audience loved it.



### Little Hoot Owl Trail

- Children and young people in all four schools across John Milton Academy Trust participated in the Little Hoot Trail owl. We asked Year 7 students at Stowupland High School to design the artwork for the school's charity owl on the theme 'Wonderful Suffolk', featuring their favourite places in Suffolk.
- The project really inspired the students, from initial designs to painting. Our design featured the pier at Felixstowe, scenes from Suffolk's beautiful countryside, the high school building with its surrounding fields and images of the county's everchanging weather.
- The Big Hoot Art Trail will see 40 'Big Hoots' decorated and sponsored by local businesses hidden around Ipswich for people to find, as well as a number of 'Little Hoot' owls designed by schools and local groups in the county. It kicks off on June 16, and follows *Elmer's Big Parade* in 2019 and *Pigs Gone Wild* in 2016, raising money for St Elizabeth Hospice.



### New Mulberry Centres to meet Special Education Needs and Disability

- Building work on the new Mulberry Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Centres at Stowupland High School and Mendlesham Primary School (also part of the John Milton Academy Trust) was completed over the summer of 2021. The centres opened to their first cohort of youngsters in the autumn. It is wonderful to see this project come to fruition.
- The new centres specialise in meeting students' cognition and learning needs, and will provide 18 school places at each school. This is split between key stage groups with the potential to increase to 24 places. The facilities comprise two large classrooms, break out areas and social facilities.
- Funding for the centres was provided by Suffolk County Council; part of a £45 million investment to create 870 new SEND places for children and young people across Suffolk. Teaching is delivered by specialist SEND provider SENDAT. This collaborative working, in line with the Trust's ethos of *Ambition, Aspiration and Excellence*, has enabled us to enrich the school communities at both Stowupland and Mendlesham. It helps to meet the learning needs of more children and young people in the area who will now have access to SEND schooling closer to home.



Peter Whear  
Executive Headteacher