

Newsletter – September 2025



Dear parents and carers,

Welcome to the start of a new academic year. The staff team are all pleased to see students back and we have 39 new students to the school. An extra special welcome to them.

After time away from Stone Lodge Academy, Claire Brickley officially left the school over the summer to pursue new opportunities.

I will continue in my role as Interim Head of School while we begin the recruitment process to appoint a permanent replacement. During this time, I remain committed to building on the positive progress the school has made since the recent Ofsted inspection.

I will be working closely with senior leaders from the Trust, to maintain this momentum and ensure that Stone Lodge Academy continues to deliver the high standards of education and care seen across our other institutions, Abbeygate Sixth Form College, One Sixth Form College, and West Suffolk College. The Trust has extensive experience in special education, and all of our colleges have been rated Outstanding by Ofsted.

On behalf of the Trust, I would like to thank Claire for her contribution to Stone Lodge Academy and wish her every success in the future.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this matter further, please speak to a member of staff at drop-off or collection, or contact the school to arrange an appointment.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "L Chapman".

Lawrence Chapman Interim Head of School – Regional Director SEND and Outdoor learning.

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Consultation

We are launching a consultation about the possibility of a two-week ½ term in either November or June. This is to allow families a holiday in term time when the holidays are cheaper.

We are holding a session for Parents and carers on Thursday 18th September 5-6pm to find out more about the proposed ideas. The Survey runs until November, and you can give us your views on this online form. At the same time, we are interested to hear your views to the idea of students finishing at 1pm on Fridays so that the staff can more training.

<https://forms.office.com/e/V6yqXZvQ2C>

Consultation: Two-Week Half-Term
Break & Early Friday Finish
Proposal



The Trust will consider all responses and make a decision in January 2026 and if a change is approved it will be from September 2026

Coffee and chat with Senior Leaders

Each half term we will have a session when a small group of Parents/Carers can have an informal chat with the head of school and one of two of the other senior leaders,

24 September 9-10.30 this session will be with the head and Mr Stevens Assistant Head for Key Stage 3 (Years 7,8 and 9).

There are 10 spaces for this session, no more than one per family please. Use this link to book one of the spaces

<https://buytickets.at/eegsend/1843122>

Parent / Carer Forum

We would like to form a small group of parents that can attend a meeting at school, during the school day, about once per half term.

To meet with the head of school so that ideas for improvements and changes can be discussed and some parent views gathered. We would like those on the forum to have children at the school from across all Key stages. We are probably looking for about 6 people, 2 with children in Primary, 2 from years 7,8,9 and 2 from years 10 or 11.

These roles are not governors but parents/carers who we can discuss things like what should good communication with school and home look like, what would be useful in reports home, how easy is website to use etc. The first meeting will be 2nd October 10-11am. If you are interested in joining this, please complete this form.

Stone Lodge Parent Forum



Uniform

We do have quite an amount of “pre-loved” school uniform. If you are missing some uniform, please contact the school and we will see if we have anything to help.

A reminder of dates for your diary

18th September 5-6pm consultation event

29th September 6-7pm Moving into adulthood evening. Open to all parents/carers and especially years 9,10 and 11.

22nd October 9.30 to 10.30 come and meet the family support team

Half term starts Friday 24th October, students return Tuesday 4th November.