



**STALHAM HIGH SCHOOL**

**PROSPECTUS**

  
**Ofsted**  
Good  
Provider

INSPIRE EDUCATE EMPOWER





*“The atmosphere in  
the school is calm  
and purposeful”*

OFSTED 2024



# WELCOME

I am really proud to be Head of School at Stalham High School and work alongside such a caring, professional and dedicated team of staff. Our students are kind, polite and courteous.

*'There is a real sense of community within the school' OFSTED 2024*

Our core purpose at Stalham High School is to **Inspire, Educate** and **Empower** each other in all we do. Inspiring children to enjoy learning, reading, to work hard as a team and as individuals. We provide a holistic education that helps young people develop their knowledge, understanding, beliefs and character as they enter adulthood and we empower them to be more independent, confident, and positive members of their community, wherever that may be.

We are a rapidly growing school with an increasing number of children joining us from outside our catchment area. We provide an excellent range of subjects and qualifications, a wide range of extra-curricular activities and other opportunities including trips and visits across the UK and abroad. We also have high expectations of every student in line with our school values.

At Stalham High School, we firmly believe in staff, students and parents **working together** to support the safe development and academic progress of every child.

We have established a **respectful** learning culture here in school using 'The Stalham Way' which is a set of routines that reinforce to students and staff the norms and behaviours we expect to see from everyone. From arriving at school, moving around school, starting and ending lessons, to presenting our work with pride and remembering to get the basics right.



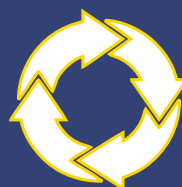
Mr Lee McMahon  
Head of School



**THE  
STALHAM  
WAY**

RESPONSIBILITY

WORKING TOGETHER



AMBITION

RESPECT





# YOUR CHILD'S FUTURE STARTS HERE

Students settle into Stalham quickly, they benefit from the outstanding care and support given to them by the Student Management Team based in the Learning Support Unit, our experienced team of Form Tutors and our specialised SRB known fondly as The PAD, or supplemented by specialist external agencies, where needed. Our Student Leadership Team and the wider school community play an integral role in helping everyone feel part of the school.

Our Transition Lead works closely with our primary schools to visit everyone who is joining our community in Year 7 to provide support and advice on making the transition to Stalham High School. New students joining us in Year 7 enjoy a structured programme of transition days to allow them to become familiar with our school, our routines and meet other students.

We have high expectations of our students within our school community and are continually striving to ensure that all students can achieve academic success. We also believe that it is important for all students to meet new people and build new relationships. Our students become members of one of our four Houses, giving them an opportunity to meet and work with students of all ages and abilities throughout their school journey.

Safeguarding procedures are integral to the school's daily running, and all staff members play a vital role in ensuring that every student has the right level of care to meet their individual needs.

Admissions to Stalham are managed by Norfolk County Council and details of our Admissions Policy can be found on our website.



*“There is a real sense of community within the school”*

OFSTED 2024

Stalham High School is nestled in the heart of the Norfolk Broads, a rural school close to the coast with a wide catchment area. Whether your child is coming to us from Year 6 in a local primary school, or going into their GCSEs in Year 10, we ensure that the transition is as smooth as possible. Visitors and prospective new students find that Stalham has a warm and welcoming environment with a strong sense of community, frequently commenting on the calm and purposeful atmosphere around the school both inside and outside of lessons.



# OUR CURRICULUM AIMS

We educate, guide, and support our students to lead enriching, healthy and successful lives. We do this by adhering to the 5 principles of our curriculum, known as the **Stalham 5!**



The design of our curriculum is such that in following the five principles, we aim to produce lifelong learners who:

- Are not disadvantaged by the social context in which they live
- Have the confidence, resilience, and knowledge to stay mentally healthy
- Have high expectations of themselves and an ambitious vision of their future
- Have the work ethic to allow them to achieve and exceed their academic potential
- Are happy and have a desire to pursue a health active lifestyle
- Are respectful, tolerant, and empathetic towards the values and beliefs of others
- Are self-aware and know their own strengths through reviewing and evaluating their progress
- Can make informed decisions and are aware of their rights and responsibilities



*“Pupils talk very positively about the relationships between themselves and staff. They feel listened to and respected”* OFSTED 2024

## RESILIENT READING

At Stalham High School, fostering a love of reading is central to literacy and personal development. Our refurbished Library provides a bright, welcoming space, stocked with a wide range of fiction and non-fiction books, as well as access to computers and iPads. It is a place where students can read for pleasure, study independently, or participate in literacy-based lessons. In Years 7, 8 and 9, students enjoy whole-class reading each week, sharing a novel to cultivate a love of reading, and attend a dedicated Library Lesson every fortnight as part of their English curriculum, offering regular opportunities for personal reading and literacy activities. For students who need extra support, the Read Write Inc intervention provides tailored phonics, decoding, and fluency teaching, enabling all learners to access the full curriculum with confidence. Beyond lessons, the library remains a hub of activity—open at break and lunchtimes—and enriched through author visits, book fairs, and special events that bring reading to life.





# PROMOTING CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT AND ENRICHMENT

At Stalham High School, character development and enrichment are central to creating rounded, resilient young people who are ready to face life with confidence. The school fosters independence and perseverance by embedding challenge into all areas of learning and school life. Staff engage with current educational research to design lessons that are not only academically rigorous but also inspire students to think more deeply. Through Personal Development Days, enrichment activities, leadership opportunities, and a strong behaviour and rewards system, students are supported to grow in moral awareness, social responsibility, and self-esteem. The school's vision and values, alongside its curriculum aims, ensure that student wellbeing, ethical values and a commitment to community are integral, helping pupils to develop not just academically but as thoughtful, compassionate, and active members of society.



## DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

Stalham High School places diversity and inclusion at the core of its values, seeking to ensure every pupil feels supported, respected and able to thrive, regardless of background or need. The school's curriculum is "consciously inclusive," ensuring that students of all protected characteristics and experiences can access and enjoy ambitious learning. The Specialist Resource Base "The PAD"—for autistic students exemplifies this commitment by providing tailored support, celebrating neurodiversity, and facilitating as much integration into mainstream lessons as possible. Likewise, the SEND provision works to meet individual needs with flexibility, specialist support, adaptations and collaborative planning with families so that no student is disadvantaged. Through policies, environment and everyday practice, Stalham High aims to build a school culture where differences are acknowledged, students' voices are heard, and every learner can belong and succeed.



## KNOWLEDGE RICH

At Stalham High School, ensuring the curriculum is knowledge-rich is a core principle which shapes both what is taught and how it is delivered. The school's curriculum design enables students to make strong progress in each discipline through the explicit teaching of key concepts and domain-specific knowledge, with vocabulary deliberately selected and integrated throughout to deepen understanding. Learning is carefully sequenced: new knowledge builds on what has come before so that students gradually accumulate both breadth and depth. Assessments revisit earlier material, so knowledge is not just introduced but embedded and reinforced over time. Together, this approach ensures that students at Stalham High not only acquire essential facts and skills but also develop the frameworks and confidence to think like experts in each subject.



## HIGH AMBITION

High ambition at Stalham High School means raising aspirations for every student and pushing for excellence in outcomes, not settling for the status quo. Teachers hold high expectations for all students and design the curriculum and support structures so that every young person can access the full breadth of learning opportunities—not just what's easiest. More Able and Skilled and Talented (MAST) students are identified by the school and their progress is carefully monitored, with targeted intervention taking place where necessary. We believe in quality first teaching where every student is stretched and challenged, and our MAST policy ensures that good practice in providing for more able, skilled and talented students is shared, monitored and improved, alongside the additional extracurricular support offered. Students are also given clear guidance about their future pathways, including careers advice, and the school ensures scaffolding and interventions are in place where needed to avoid anyone being left behind. Ambition is built into the school's values and is celebrated through rewards and recognition, helping students to believe in their potential and strive to exceed expectations.





# TRANSITION

At Stalham High School, we prioritise a supportive and structured transition from primary to secondary education, ensuring that students feel confident and well-prepared for the next stage of their learning journey. Our dedicated Transition Coordinator and Head of Key Stage 3 work closely with local primary schools to gather insights into each student's strengths, needs, and interests. This collaboration allows us to tailor our approach and provide personalised support. In the summer term, we host a series of events, including a Year 6 Transition Evening and dedicated SEN Transition Days, to familiarise students with the school environment and staff. These initiatives are designed to ease any anxieties and foster a sense of belonging. Additionally, our comprehensive induction programme includes buddy systems, guided tours, and introductory sessions to help students acclimate to their new surroundings. By maintaining open communication with parents and carers, we ensure a seamless and positive transition experience for all students.



"I love the schools learning support unit. There are lots of friendly adults who are here to support you. They help students if ever they are feeling anxious."



"I really like the food in the canteen. I have made lots of new friends in my form that have come from different schools. My form tutor is really kind and helps me if I need anything.."



"I think the school has some great after school clubs. I enjoy playing football after school and am looking forward to the Warhammer club. "



"I felt happy coming to this school - even though I didn't know anyone in the beginning I have made lots of friends through the transition days and I was given a buddy on my first day to help me around the school."



"The science lessons at Stalham are so much fun. We got to light our first Bunsen burner in the first week!"



# EMPOWERING BRIGHT FUTURES

At Stalham High School, we proudly stand as a beacon of inspiration for inclusion and equality. Our commitment is unwavering; offering the very best in terms of flexibility and support that sets us apart.

We aim to create a learning environment which is flexible to meet the diverse needs of all members of our school community. We achieve this through high-quality, adaptive teaching and strategic collaboration with external partners. Ensuring support for our SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) students, both in the classroom and with supplementary interventions as needed.

Central to our commitment to inclusion is The PAD, Stalham's Autistic Spectrum Condition Base, where we provide dedicated support for autistic students, enabling their active participation in mainstream lessons and events, as much as their individual needs allow. Admission to The PAD is facilitated through specialist referrals to Norfolk County Council.



We strategically promote inclusion and celebrate our differences through our tutor programme, our Self and Society curriculum and events and inclusion-promoting events such as the Colour Run and student diversity workshops. Every year, we celebrate our neurodiverse community by gifting carefully selected reading books to our new Year 6s.

We take immense pride in the strong, positive relationships we foster with our students. Our staff possesses a deep understanding of individual student needs and challenges, ensuring they receive the personalised support needed to become confident, independent learners. Through our holistic approach, we empower our students to be fully prepared for the next phase of their education, training, or employment, equipping them for a bright future ahead.





# A WORLD OF OPPORTUNITY

Welcome to Stalham High School, where every student embarks on a journey of discovery, growth, and achievement. At Stalham High School we are committed to providing a rich tapestry of experiences that extend beyond the classroom, preparing our students for a dynamic and fulfilling future.

## Personal Development at the Core

Personal development is at the heart of our educational philosophy. Through dedicated Personal Development Days, students engage in activities that promote self-awareness, resilience, and social responsibility. These days complement our curriculum, ensuring that students grow not only academically but also as individuals, ready to contribute positively to society.

## Developing Leadership Skills

We are committed to nurturing leadership qualities in all our students. Through roles such as Form Ambassadors, Autism Ambassadors, and our Year 11 Leadership Team, students develop confidence, responsibility, and the ability to make a positive impact on school life. We also celebrate those who represent the school with commitment and honour through the prestigious School Colours awards, recognising outstanding achievement, service, and dedication to our community.

## Extracurricular Excellence

We believe in the power of extracurricular activities to enrich student life. Our extensive range of clubs and activities, offered both at lunchtime and after school, cater to a variety of interests—from sports and music to drama and technology. These opportunities allow students to explore new passions, develop talents, and build lasting friendships.

## Real-World Experience

Understanding the importance of practical experience, we offer all Year 8 students the opportunity to join their families in an exciting Year 9 'Take Your Child to Work day.' Year 10 students have the chance to participate in Work Experience Week. This initiative encourages students to seek placements that align with their interests and career aspirations, providing invaluable insights into the world of work.

## Exploring the Wider World

At Stalham High School, learning extends far beyond the classroom. Students have the chance to broaden their horizons through exciting trips to iconic destinations, including London, Belgium, Paris, and even skiing adventures in Italy. These experiences inspire cultural understanding, independence, and lifelong memories. Additionally, students will have the opportunity to participate in the Duke of Edinburgh Award.

## A Gateway to the Future

As students approach the end of their time with us, we provide comprehensive guidance on post-16 options, including further education, apprenticeships, and training. Our goal is to empower students to make informed decisions about their futures, equipping them with the confidence and skills to embark on the next chapter of their lives.





# STALHAM HIGH SCHOOL

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