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SWCHS Parent Newsletter



From the Head

Dear Parents & Carers,

What an energetic and exciting half-term it has been at County High once more, but for the next few weeks we are keeping things very calm and focused for the exam season.

Very best wishes to all of our Year 11, 12 and 13 students who have exams at the moment and many thanks to all of our parents and carers who are supporting them. We really appreciate the work you put into keeping them well-fed, well-rested and organised about their revision! It's a great partnership.

Have a lovely half-term—the weather looks promising.

Caroline Derbyshire
Headteacher

Sixth Form Ball:

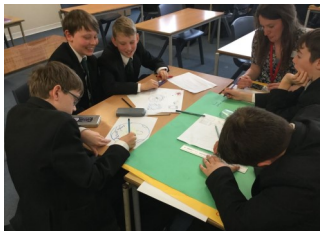
On Friday 27th April the annual Sixth Form Ball took place at Parklands, Quendon. The venue looked beautiful thanks to the Sixth Form Committee. All students arrived at school looking elegant, happy and wonderful. The evening was filled with music, dancing, candy floss and a delicious hog roast. We won't mention too much about the Macarena performance by the Sixth Form collegiate!



Year 8 Enterprise Day:

SWCHS recently collaborated with Cambridge-based organisation, Form the Future, to run our first 'Enterprise Day' for Year 8 students. Form the Future specialise in promoting links between schools and businesses, and provided 15 volunteer business 'dragons' to work with our students.

Working throughout the day, students were allocated to teams and were challenged to work productively together to develop a business plan to launch a new product or service. The teams came up with an amazing variety of business ideas, including a treadmill for dogs, an online GP surgery and a clothing brand for teenagers, which won the award for the 'Most Innovative Business Idea'. Mr Oxborrow, Senior Assistant Headteacher, and Miss Gilbert, Careers/PSHE Lead, who co-ordinated the event commented, "We were blown away by the range of ideas that the students generated. There was a real buzz in the classrooms and we were proud to see the support they showed for each other".



Year 9 Politics Day:

Year 9 recently enjoyed a day completely devoted to politics where they explored the Suffragette struggle and considered gender equality today. They also discussed and voted on whether to give 16 year olds the vote and examined the American political system and the power of the US President. This year we hosted two external speakers. Peter Kellner, political commentator and



former president of YouGov, discussed his choice of the five most influential people in the development of British democracy. Dr Andrew Moran, (Associate Professor of Politics and International Relations at London Metropolitan University) considered the lead up to the Trump presidency and where it might be going. Students joined in with all sessions, voting and asking interesting and thoughtful questions.



Economics Celebration Evening:

The Economics annual Awards Evening was held last week to celebrate the success of this year's SWCHS Economics students. The evening, attended by over 100 students and their families, kicked off with a lively presentation given by local commentator, Liam Halligan, based around his recent book 'Clean Brexit'. Awards were then presented to individual students for outstanding progress or achievement. The prizes, generously donated by Saffron Building Society, were presented by the Chief Executive Colin Field.



Dragons Apprentice:

Students from the Agricultural Science Unit (ASU) recently took part in the first Uttlesford 'Dragons Apprentice Challenge', a school fund-raising competition organised by the Council for Voluntary Services Uttlesford (CVSU). This challenge offers Year 12 students the opportunity to work with a local charity, gaining essential work related skills. The team called themselves Xena's Warriors and chose 'The Buffy Playbus' as their charity.

Xena's Warriors planned a variety of events based around the ASU facilities at the school, including sheep racing, a tombola and a well-attended Open Day. Xena's Warriors raised an outstanding £732 and were awarded the CVSU 'best charity partnership' award.



Sports News:

Rounders:

Year 8 girls have made an excellent start to the rounders season.

The Year 9 girls have also had a great start to the season with both the A & B teams beating Kimbolton 16-12 & 18-10 respectively. Players of the match were awarded to Maybelle Townsend & Olivia Harris.

Two more wins for Year 9 in their most recent matches against Chigwell school for both the A & B teams. The fielding was incredibly slick with the A team getting the whole of the Chigwell team out in 16 balls! POTM: Charlotte Cutler & Olivia Harris.

Congratulations to the Year 10 Girls who beat Herts & Essex last week.

Dance:

There have been some exciting opportunities for our GCSE Dance students: we have visited Sadler's Wells to see the vibrant performance of 'A Linha Curva' and we met with choreographer James Cousins, to discuss his work and watch his beautiful duo piece 'Within Her Eyes'.

Athletics:

SWCHS recently took part in the first round of the National Track and Field Athletics Cup at Melbourne Park in Chelmsford. All athletes participated in two events and performed incredibly well. The standard of competition was excellent. All SWCHS students worked hard throughout and there were lots of PBs on the day. Results: Junior Girls- 3rd, Inter Girls 4th, Junior Boys- 5th, Inter Boys- 4th.

Congratulations to the 22 SWCHS athletes who have been selected for the NW Essex athletics squad competing in the Essex Schools Games on Saturday 9th June.

Cricket:

The Year 7 Cricket team got off to a good start in the Essex County U12 competition by beating Great Baddow. SWCHS batted first and scored 150-2 off 20 overs. Rob Gaffan, the pick of the batsmen, with 33 not out. Great Baddow could only manage 116-7 with Noah Vintiner getting two wickets. SWCHS play Campion School on Thursday 7th June.

The Year 8 boys have had a tough half term of cricket with narrow losses against The Perse, New Hall and Kings School, Cambridge and an Essex Cup win against Passmores, Harlow. Taegan Chapman Ko, George Huxter and Johnny Wiseman have been the most consistent players. Well done to George Huxter, Taegan Chapman Ko, Johnny Wiseman and Tom Mannion who have all been asked to play and train with North West Essex cricket teams this season.

Macbeth Performance:

We were lucky enough to receive a visit from Box Clever Theatre Company who performed a modern, interactive version of Macbeth to our Year 10s. The performance included lots of physical theatre and even audience participation, whilst staying true to the characters' motivations and the original plot. The students said they had enjoyed being part of live theatre and were thoroughly entertained!

AS Geologists Visit The River Thames - in Dunmow:

In late April, SWCHS AS Geologists visited Highwood Quarry, near Great Dunmow, for the first of their compulsory fieldwork activities. The quarry produces 0.5 million tonnes of sand and aggregate for the construction market every year and, by digging a large hole in the ground, a succession of rocks dating as far back as 55 million years have been revealed. The fieldwork visit therefore allowed students to study sedimentary rocks deposited by ancient seas, rivers and ice sheets! Of particular interest were the sands and gravels which were deposited around 1.5 million years ago when a much larger version of what is now the River Thames flowed all the way from North Wales through the Great Dunmow area! This was a great opportunity to practice fieldwork skills and to apply text book theory in a real geological environment. The quarry management commented on the excellent behaviour and enthusiastic attitude of our students.

Duke of Edinburgh:

46 Year 10 students recently embarked on their practice Silver DofE expedition to Thetford. Braving the high temperatures and carrying all their kit, the students walked for three days practising their navigation and teamwork skills in preparation for their final expedition in July. The weekend was a good test of stamina as the Saturday walk was just short of 30km! A sunny and successful weekend for our Year 10 DofE group!

The Gold DofE team also led an incredibly successful weekend to the Brecon Beacons with 17 Year 12 students. The group spent Friday learning key navigation techniques with an early start the next day at 7.00am for a 26km cross country walk and a substantial climb for some groups across Fan Llia. The last group to get back were unfortunately caught in the rain for the last hour of their walk and got a taste of what Wales is really like!

Important Dates for your Diary:

Monday 4th June 2018 - School Closed for staff training day.

6th & 7th June 2018 - Art Show

10th June 2018 - ASU @ SWCHS Summer Fair

29th June 2018 - Year 11 Ball

5th July 2018 - Summer Music Concert

2nd - 5th July 2018 - Sixth Form Induction Week (this is for new Year 12 students)

Term Dates:

AUTUMN TERM
Wednesday 5th September 2018 - Wednesday 19th December 2018

SPRING TERM
Thursday 3rd January 2019 - Friday 5th April 2019

SUMMER TERM
Tuesday 23rd April 2019 - Friday 19th July 2019

SCHOOL TRAINING DAYS - no pupils in school
Monday 3rd & Tuesday 4th September 2018
Friday 30th November 2018
Monday 22nd & Tuesday 23rd July 2019

