

Switch on

SWCHS Parent Newsletter



From the Associate Headteacher:

We have had a wonderful December, packed full of events involving hundreds of students such as our Dance Show, Year 9 Drama performances and our Christmas Concert, as well as the annual Senior Citizens' party hosted by the Sixth Form students.

This has culminated in Charites Week. Every year our Sixth Form students organise 3 days of fantastic entertainment for the whole school and raise thousands of pounds for charities and good causes in the process. Their organisation and dedication underpins this brilliant end to the term and I am grateful to all of the Sixth Form involved, led by our Sixth Form Committee and Dan Crittenden, for the huge amount of work that they have put in to this week.

This year we are raising money for:

Act4Addenbrookes, Cancer Research UK, Accuro, Ben Kinsella Trust and Papyrus—Prevention of Young Suicide.

On Tuesday 17th December we welcomed our former Year 13 students back to school to pick up their A Level certificates and meet up with staff and old friends. It was lovely to welcome them back and hear about what they have been doing.

I wish you all a very Happy Christmas!

Polly Lankester.



ASU Christmas Fair:

Visitors enjoyed lots of Christmassy fun and festive cheer at the Agricultural Science Unit's annual Christmas open day on Sunday 1st December.

The lucky visitors were able to meet and interact with all of the animals, including the piglets recently born at the unit. Local authors and the school community united with a 'Books in the Barn' stall where the authors were busy chatting, signing and selling their books. Student librarians were also there, selling second hand books to raise funds for our school library. A fantastic start to December!



Photo from The Walden Local



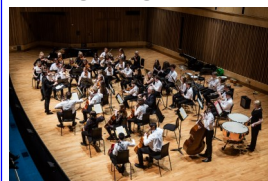
Step In Time Dance Show:

The annual dance production 'Step In Time' took place on Tuesday 3rd December. The production explored a variety of dance styles through time, such as The Charleston, Rock & Roll and Hip Hop. The 200 dance students were joined this year, for the first time, by two classes of Year 7 boys performing a Hip Hop routine — which was an exciting addition to the show. It was a joyous and successful evening, which the packed house in Saffron Hall certainly appreciated. A fantastic production, congratulations to all staff and students involved.



SWCHS Music Concerts:

SWCHS Music department have enjoyed two concerts this term; the first being the Michaelmas concert which traditionally provides a platform for the Intermediate Ensembles to showcase their hard work. The Christmas Concert was a choral feast with all five school choirs performing, alongside a range of Senior Ensembles and we also welcomed Ashdon primary school choir. Students in our Chamber Choir, Orchestra, Concert Band and Jazz Band performed a sophisticated repertoire, with Senior Strings performing Corelli's Christmas Concerto. The choirs embraced a Christmas theme and festive favourites were dispersed throughout the evening along with chamber ensembles. We look forward to an equally busy spring term!



Senior Citizens' Party:

Festive cheer arrived at SWCHS with the annual Senior Citizens' Christmas Party on Wednesday 11th December and, as always, it was the highlight of the Sixth Form social calendar! Students from the Sixth Form Student Union, led by Toby Spaxman and Verity Sweeting, worked together over the last few months planning the evening for our guests.

This year was the busiest to date with 160 guests all enjoying the party atmosphere and delicious refreshments, prepared and served by staff and students. The evening included a variety of entertainment, from bingo and a raffle (prizes all donated from local businesses) to music and dancing with lots of chat and carol singing. The guests each received a box of gingerbread kindly baked by Mrs Catherine Kelly, the mother of one of our students. Thank you to all students and members of staff who helped to make it such a memorable evening.



Sports News:

Hockey:

Congratulations to the Year 7 Hockey team on a great first term. They recently won the District Hockey Tournament, beating Hockerill 6-0, JFAN 9-0, Herts and Essex 3-1 and Bishop's Stortford College 4-1. They then went through to represent Cambridgeshire at the Regional Hockey finals, coming a very respectable 7th in the East of England.

Amazing last match for the Year 11 Girls' Hockey team against Hockerill last week. Their fantastic attacking play won the match 6-1.

Rugby:



Year 8 Boys played two great games against a very strong Robert Clack side. Their hard work and resilience paid off with two wins!



Football:

The Year 11 boys fought their way back from 2-0 down during an away game against Riverside last weekend to win 3-2. Great comeback boys and good luck for the quarter finals.



The Year 11 Girls' played in a great match against Linton recently with some amazing goals, winning the match 10-2.

Year 9 Drama Performance:

Year 9 Drama students put on a brilliant performance of their class work themed around 'Holidays' in Saffron Hall this month. The audience were entertained by an array of comedic characters and scenes which showed off the talent of our students.



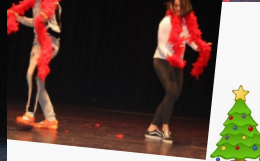
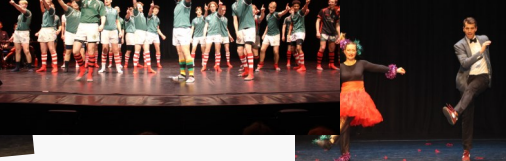
Students meet Benjamin Zephaniah:

A group of SWCHS Diversity allies had the joy of meeting poet and performer Benjamin Zephaniah last month when he performed in Saffron Hall. The students had the opportunity to ask Benjamin questions on topics ranging from Veganism to the background to his book Refugee Boy. Benjamin Zephaniah was a really inspiring and engaging speaker - we hope he comes back again soon!



Charities Week:

Another absolutely fantastic Charities Week! Here are just a few photos of the events and activities. Full details will follow in January 2020. Thank you to the Sixth Form team of students for organising the events this week and thank you to all the students for coming along and supporting the events.



Have your contact details changed?

It is extremely important that you inform us of any changes to your contact details. Please email office@swchs.net to advise us if you have recently moved house or changed any of your contact telephone numbers.

SWCHS Term Dates 2019/20:

Spring Term 2020

6th January 2020 - 3rd April 2020

Half Term 17th February 2020 - 21st February 2020

Summer Term 2020

20th April 2020 - 22nd July 2020

School Closed for Bank Holiday - 8th May 2020

Half Term 25th May 2020 - 29th May 2020

School Training Days: (no pupils in school)

1st June 2020