

# Switch on

## SWCHS Parent Newsletter



### From the Associate Headteacher:

Happy New Year! The Spring Term is always a very busy one for our GCSE and A Level students with revision starting in earnest and lots of Mock exams; it was great to receive further confirmation that all that hard work leads to our students making excellent progress at County High, as you can see from our Sixth Form progress thermometer.

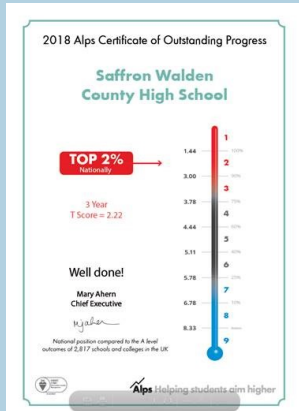
This week, Saffron Hall has been a hive of activity with the set being built for our Upper School play, *The 39 Steps*. This promises to be an excellent production and I do hope you will be able to join us (5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> of February).



In this issue of Switch On we have chosen to highlight some of the achievements of students outside of school – we are very proud of them all.

Best Wishes,

Polly Lankester



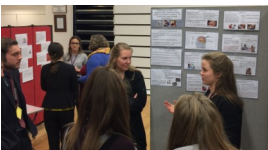
### Charities Week - A Fantastic Total Raised For Charity:

Our Sixth Form students organised a fun packed three days for the whole school for Charities Week. The highlights of the week included Xmas Factor, where six very brave acts performed to the panel of judges and a full house of fellow students in Saffron Hall. The show comprised of solo singers, a duet and the band Twisted Funk who were lucky, or perhaps unlucky, enough to be joined by Mr Crittenden. Other events held over the three days included Carpool Karaoke, Teachers Got Talent, Gogglebox and a Lower School Christmas Bazaar. The week finished on a high with four staff couples performing their dances in SWCHS Strictly Come Dancing. This is always an incredibly popular event and this year was no exception.

Charities week is an amazing opportunity for all year groups to come together and raise money for both national and local charities. We are incredibly proud to be supporting a local charity, Sophie's Fund, which was started by one of our SWCHS students. We will also be donating money to: The Brain Charity, The Addie Brady Foundation, Refuge, Cystic Fibrosis, Make a Wish Foundation, Brainbow and The British Heart Foundation.



### Sixth Form Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) Evening:



From an app to control panic attacks to interpretations of Cleopatra, this year's EPQ exhibition was as varied and interesting as ever! The EPQ is an independent research project undertaken by Year 13 students. They are responsible for the research and completion of either an artefact or essay along with the presentation itself. Universities are particularly fond of the qualification and students are introduced to all the necessary

skills required for undergraduate studies and beyond. Libby Warr commented that the EPQ has taught her 'the importance of academic referencing, self-management of deadlines and the project has encouraged her to be more reflective in her processes of study'.



### SWCHS students showcasing their talents for charity:

We were extremely proud to see our SWCHS students recognised by the local newspaper for their busking and fundraising efforts this month. Over the last two years Elisha, Year 8, has been busking for many charities, including RunRonnieRun and The Laughter Specialists. Elisha began playing the guitar when she was eight years old and continues to have weekly lessons.

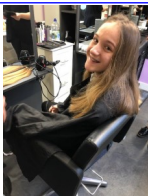
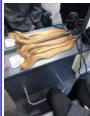


Alfie, Year 10, was also fundraising for the Laughter Specialists in Saffron Walden this month. Alfie started playing the guitar aged 7 and enjoys busking with his electric guitar and amp. He is enjoying Music at SWCHS and looks forward to studying music production and/or music tech in Sixth Form.



### Little Princes Trust Donation:

Sophia, Year 8, has also been raising money for charity. Sophia decided that she wanted to cut and donate her hair to the Little Princess Trust Charity so that wigs can be made for children who have lost their hair through cancer and other illnesses. She donated 18"/46cm and has raised £170 for the Little Princess Trust so far. Please follow the link if you would like to donate to Sophia's just giving page [www.justgiving.com/Caroline-Edmundson](http://www.justgiving.com/Caroline-Edmundson).



*We would like to recognise and celebrate our students' achievements and charity work so please email [twoods@swchs.net](mailto:twoods@swchs.net) if you would like to tell us about your child's charity work.*

### Duke of Edinburgh Award (DofE):

Congratulations to Miss Holden, Head of Geography, who has been awarded a DofE long service award for 12 years leading and assessing DofE expeditions. Miss Holden was presented with this award at Chelmsford Cathedral earlier this month.



Sports News:

Rugby:

The U15 Rugby team played their National Vase 5<sup>th</sup> Round away tie against Samuel Whitbread Academy this month. It was always going to be a very difficult game, with all 20 of the opposition affiliated to Rugby clubs and a significant overall size difference. The team, however, did themselves and the school proud, narrowly losing 12-0. The boys can hold their heads high after an excellent cup run.

Hockey:

Congratulations to the U18 Boys' Hockey team who beat Wisbech Grammar School 5-1 this month to progress through to represent Cambridgeshire at the East Hockey tournament on 7<sup>th</sup> February.

Netball:

The Year 7 Netball team came second in their pool, winning 4 games and losing 1. They are now through to the last 16 of the Essex cup.

The U15 Netball team made a superb start to the season with a competitive match against JFAN. The first quarters were incredibly tight but SWCHS managed to pull away in the third quarter to give them the win.



Another wonderful netball result for the U16 Girls' against Tabor. Their speed, anticipation and hard work ensured a 32-10 victory. Congratulations to the girls who are now through to the Elite 8 draw.



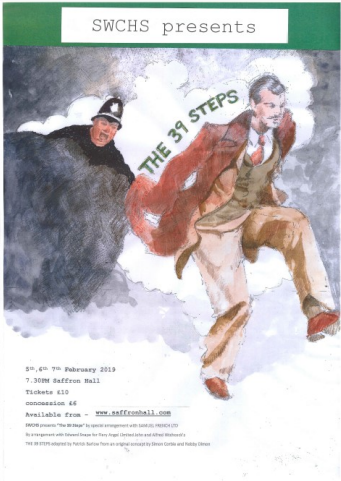
Other News:

Congratulations to Luca McGrath, Year 8, who came 4th in the recent Essex Schools Cross Country Championships in Southend. He was competing for NW Essex Schools in the Junior Boys Race (Years 8 & 9) and has qualified for the prestigious English Schools Championships in Leeds.

Isabelle, Year 9, has won a Bronze medal at the Eastern Region Youth Championships for the U16 Women Foil category. She fought hard for her medal as one of the youngest in her age category. Isabella has now qualified for entry to the British Youth Competition in Sheffield. Well done Isabelle!



The 39 Steps:



Staff and students from Years 10 -13 have been busy rehearsing for this year's school production of *The 39 Steps*.

This classic whodunit production contains dramatic scenes, love, and lots of laughs and is a must see for any GCSE or A Level Drama students.

Tickets are on sale from [www.saffronhall.com](http://www.saffronhall.com) for next week's performances on Tuesday 5th, Wednesday 6th and Thursday 7th February.

Don't miss out!

Reading Patron:

We are delighted to announce the appointment of our new Reading Patron, Rosemary Hayes.

Award winning author of teenage fiction, Rosemary is a locally based author who has written 39 books for young people, and is an active member of the Walden Writers. Rosemary introduced herself and some of her books to students during a weekly lunchtime book group this month. Throughout the year, she will spending time at school getting involved in our reading events and competitions, and will be working with some of our students to help support and inspire them in developing their reading and writing skills. As we welcome Rosemary into the role of Reading Patron, we would also like to thank Clare Mulley, our previous patron, for all the time she committed to supporting our students.

At SWCHS, we are committed to promoting reading across the school and supporting our young people in becoming life-long readers. We wish Rosemary Hayes all the very best in her new role in the school.



Parking/waiting in Copperfields:

We would like to take this opportunity to issue a polite reminder to parents that they should **not** park in Copperfields to wait for students at the end of the school day. There is a 'No Parking' restriction in place from 8:30-10am and from 2:30-4pm, Monday - Friday, making it a traffic offence to either park or wait in the road between those times (please see picture). We have received complaints from residents recently as parents/carers have been waiting in their cars, sometimes blocking the pavement and/or driveways, with their engines running, causing significant inconvenience. We try very hard to maintain good relations with our neighbours and would ask for your support in this matter. Thank you.



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](mailto:office@swchs.net) to advise us if you have recently moved house or changed any of your contact telephone numbers or email address.

SWCHS Term Dates 2018/19:

Spring Term 2019  
Thursday 3rd January 2019 - Friday 5th April 2019  
*Half Term: 18th February - 22nd February 2019*

Summer Term 2019  
Tuesday 23rd April 2019 - Friday 19th July 2019

School Training Days:  
(no pupils in school)

Monday 22nd July 2019

Tuesday 23rd July 2019