



Dear Parents & Carers,

We have been delighted with the way all of our students have approached their exam period this year. This year's Year 11 and Year 13 have been incredibly hard-working and positive in their approach and the Year 11 prize giving celebration on June 18th was a joyous occasion, with a wide range of students receiving awards for progress and excellence. We are looking forward to celebrating with all of our GCSE and A Level students in August.

At the end of term we will be saying a fond farewell to departing colleagues. A full list of staff leaving us is included below. We are grateful to them for the excellent contribution they have made to the life and work of the school during their time with us.

There are two colleagues, Mark Sanders and Jen Priest, who are retiring after a number of years of service and so deserve a particular mention at this time. Mark has taught Maths at County High for 21 Years. He has always been an incredibly calm and engaging teacher who has supported generations of students to feel confident and make progress with their Maths. Mark's genuine warmth and great sense of humour have made him a very popular member of staff, as demonstrated by the fact that a former pupil asked him to feature in a national teacher recruitment advert last year. Mark has always wanted his students to enjoy his lessons and to make great progress and the fact that Mark joined an expedition to Everest Base Camp last year was inspirational to us all!

Jen Priest joined the Vocational department teaching team 11 years ago and has been incredibly supportive of the school; Jen has always been willing to step-up and take on more when other staff have been ill or when we have needed to put on an extra class. Jen's commitment to the Business team and to making Sixth Form Business lessons very relevant and engaging has always been clear. Jen has supported many students to make excellent progress and helped them to achieve the grades and skills they need to move to their chosen destination after Sixth Form.

Jen and Mark will be much missed by staff and students and we wish them both a very exciting and happy retirement.

Two other colleagues worthy of a special mention as they are leaving us after long and outstanding careers here at County High are Will Taylor and Beth Bourne. They have both been extremely skilled classroom teachers, dedicated to the progress and wider education of every child and they have both also made a huge contribution in their respective leadership roles and also to the extra-curricular life of the school. We wish them both well in their new schools. We will introduce our new starters to you in September, but you may be interested to note that a number of existing members of staff have successfully applied to take on leadership roles from September. We pride ourselves on the excellent leadership development we provide and we aim for County High to be the best school for career development in the region. This ensures we attract and retain outstanding staff and so can deliver the highest quality of education for your children. Internal promotions include:

Mrs A Kennedy	Co-Director of Sixth Form	Mr D Crittenden	Sixth Form Collegiate
Mrs K Vanderpere-Brown	Assistant Headteacher	Mrs B Fox	PPG Support and Achievement Co-ordinator
Miss S Gilbert	YAC Year 9	Miss S Lock	PSHEE Co-ordinator and Diversity Champion
Miss C McColl	YAC Year 7	Ms T Brobbey	Diversity Champion
Mrs A Bendall	Deputy Director of Sixth Form	Mrs V Kennedy	Careers Education Co-ordinator
Miss E Routledge	Deputy Director of Maths	Mrs C Prentice	Careers Education Co-ordinator
Miss K Holden	Sixth Form Collegiate	Mrs A Stokes	PE Collegiate
Mr D Bennett	Deputy AC - Technology		

Mrs Moorhouse and Miss Makepeace will be taking on the leadership of the Drama and Geography departments for 2019-2020.

Polly Lankester, Associate Headteacher

Teaching Staff Changes:

Staff who will be leaving us at the end of the summer term – we wish them all well.

Mr M Sanders	Maths Department
Dr P Gitsham	Science Department
Mr A Ardin	YAC
Miss B Bourne	YAC
Mr W Taylor	Maths Department
Mr C Miller	Science Department
Ms J Priest	Vocational Department
Mrs J Matthews	LSA

Dr L Tarassenko	RPE Department
Miss R Green	Science Department
Mrs C Mellor	English Department
Mrs E Borgeson	LSA
Miss F Case	History Department
Dr P James	Latin Department
Miss L Nelson	ICT Department
Mr R Smith	PE Department
Miss M Cairns	Science Department

Art Show:

The official opening of the Sixth Form Art Exhibition took place this month. Relatives and friends had an exclusive first look at the work on display. Deputy Mayor, Richard Freeman, attended the private view and officiated the opening of the show. The exhibition was then open to the public on Saturday 8th June. Feedback from the visitors was extremely positive, they commented on the high standard of work and the progress each student had made.

The show served as a culmination of two years of hard work from the students, and for many it was their first experience exhibiting their work. It is a genuine pleasure to celebrate the wonderful achievements of our students. The exhibition showed some exciting, creative and highly accomplished work. The talent and dedication of our young artists is a pleasure to experience and the Art Department were proud to share this with parents/carers, students, staff and the community.



Sports News:

Rounders:

Well done to the Year 7 teams who competed in the District Rounders Competition this month. The A and B teams both made it through to the semi-finals but unfortunately they had to play against each other. The A team were successful and went on to win the final against Herts and Essex.



Huge congratulations to the Year 9 team who battled through a tough semi-final match against Herts and Essex to then win the final match against The College. After two years of finishing runners-up in this competition the team finally got their well deserved win in the final! Well done girls you have made Miss Gilbert very proud.



Cricket:

Well done to the Year 8 and Year 9 Cricket squads for reaching the Essex cup quarter finals.

Athletics:



A fantastic performance from all our athletes at the recent NWE District Athletics Competition. The impressive results from the day are below:
Year 7 Boys & Girls – winners
Year 8 & 9 Boys – joint winners - Year 8 & 9 Girls – 2nd place
Year 10 Boys – winners - Year 10 Girls – 3rd place
SWCHS Overall winners



Dance:

A group of 20 Year 9 & 10 Dance students travelled to the Southbank Centre in London to perform in the StepLIVE festival of dance on Monday 24th June. SWCHS were the only school in Essex to be selected to perform in the Clore Ballroom alongside 60 other schools.



Our 20 students performed a group piece choreographed by our 'StepintoDance' teacher Emily Lewis, they performed exceptionally well in front of a crowded audience.

Sponsored Walk:

On Wednesday 19th June, students from Years 7, 8, and 9 and their teachers went on our annual sponsored walk. It was a great afternoon and a lovely opportunity for staff and students to walk and talk to each other in such beautiful surroundings. English Heritage kindly opened up their site to us so we could walk through their grounds at Audley End. The event has raised some much needed funds for the school and we are very grateful for your support.



A Midsummer Night's Dream:

A Midsummer Night's Dream was performed over three nights by SWCHS students from Years 7 - 9 this week. Directed by Drama teacher, Alice Bretton, 30 lower school students created an enchanting, polished performance, which demonstrated an excellent command of Shakespeare's complex language. All of the students have worked incredibly hard this term, attending rehearsals twice a week in order to prepare for the performance.



I really enjoyed pushing myself out of my comfort zone, as I wouldn't usually perform Shakespeare!"
Polly Dye playing Snout

"It has been a lot of fun during rehearsals. I have really enjoyed working with new people in different year groups."
Bronwyn Ingham who plays Snug

Photos Roger King— www.saffronphoto.co.uk

"I have found learning the Shakespearian lines really difficult, but it has been an excellent challenge for me as I am doing GCSE Drama."
Ellie Tomlin playing Hermia



Battlefields:

The History department took 44 Year 9 GCSE History students on the annual four-day residential trip to France and Belgium to the battlefields and memorials of the First World War (1914-1918). We visited British Commonwealth, French and German cemeteries and memorials to pay our respects to the fallen soldiers and to reflect more deeply on how and why we commemorate the Great War. As part of our visit, we studied the battlefields of the Somme, Artois and Passchendaele and learned about the broad developments of the conflict. On the last night of our visit, we laid a wreath at the Last Post ceremony at the Menin Gate and at sundown students took part in a series of reflection and remembrance activities which culminated in a very poignant visit to the Lille Gate cemetery on the ramparts of Ypres. The students' conduct throughout the trip was impeccable and they were truly a credit to the school and our community.



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 or email address.

SWCHS Term Dates 2018/19:

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