

Switch on

SWCHS Parent Newsletter



From the Associate Headteacher:

We were delighted and hugely proud when Mark Hayes won the coveted Lifetime Achievement Award at the Annual Essex Teaching Awards. Mark has been involved with County High for 30 years, 13 of those as Chair of Governors, and from 2011 as Chair of Saffron Academy Trust. Mark has worked tirelessly to make SWCHS a local school of exceptional quality, at the forefront of developments in education and with the capacity to support other schools in less fortunate circumstances. He played a pivotal role in the development of Saffron Hall, which is the 'jewel in crown' for both the school and the town. Mark has had such a positive impact on the lives of young people in the Saffron Walden and Braintree areas through his work to ensure we provide an inspiring and high quality education and thoroughly deserves this public recognition of the vast amount of work he voluntarily undertakes on behalf of all SAT schools. We are hugely grateful to him for all he has done, and continues to do, for us.

In this newsletter there is a lot to celebrate, but I would particularly like to congratulate all of the students who have been taking part in extra-curricular sport this year. The up-coming holiday is a busy one, with lots of in-school revision sessions planned to support Year 11 at this crucial time. We also have exciting trips going out to China and Pompeii and Iceland and we hope all of the students have a great time.

I hope everyone has a good break and I would like to remind students in Year 11 and Year 13 to plan some rest days/holiday days as a part of their revision schedule!

Happy Easter

Polly Lankester

Science Week at SWCHS:



This year's 'Travel' themed Science Week was a great success, with a variety of activities on offer.

Year 7 students were challenged to create an egg mobile which could transport an egg without cracking it. There was the odd mishap but luckily staff were on hand with a mop and bucket.



Year 8 used their knowledge of energy transfers and speed calculations to build a wind up car powered by nothing more than paper. Students also learnt about the journey food takes through different animals' digestive systems at the Agricultural Science Unit.

Almost the whole of Year 9 travelled to 'The Big Bang UK Young Scientists and Engineers Fair'. A multitude of presentations and workshops were available including the greatest experiments of all time.

A Level Biology students visited 'Body Worlds' Exhibition where students could view organ systems and whole bodies that had undergone the process of plastination. This provided the opportunity to explore the human body like never before. A fantastic week for both staff and students. Bring on Science Week 2020!



Music Concert:

Students took their audience on a journey of music and light in the recent Spring Concert. Over 250 pupils performed to a packed Saffron Hall and the repertoire was further enhanced by innovative lighting and visual projections. Highlights this term have also included Masterclass visits from Jon Stokes, acclaimed trombone player, and a string quartet from the Guildhall School of Music. Please see our website for the full story.



Bar Mock Trial:

A group of 20 SWCHS students flew up to Edinburgh to participate in the National Final of the Bar Mock Trial. The competition is a unique opportunity for students aged 15-18 from all over the UK to gain an unparalleled insight into the justice system. It immerses students in all aspects of a criminal trial, as they take on the roles of barristers, witnesses, clerks, ushers and jury members. Students appear in real Crown Courts in front of real judges and are assisted in their preparations by professional barristers.

Our students performed brilliantly in the imposing Edinburgh High Court, under the watchful eye of Sir Brian Henry Leveson PC. They competed against 22 other schools from all over the country.

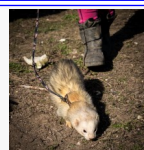
Although SWCHS didn't win the competition, every single student was inspired by their participation in the event and all are determined to compete again next year. Special praise must be given to the Year 13 students who, despite having their mock A-Levels, invested a great deal of time and energy into preparing their cases and mentoring the younger students.

We have been incredibly fortunate to have the fantastic support of local law firm Tees Law, who have not only made a significant financial contribution to the trip but also sent their staff into school to assist students with their preparation for the competition.



ASU Fair:

The Agricultural Science Unit (ASU) welcomed the local community on Sunday 24th March for their first public event of the year. Record numbers of visitors enjoyed the many activities on offer. Visitors were lucky enough to meet our Zwartbles lambs and even bottle feed the two orphan lambs. Other activities included face painting, ferret walking, egg collecting & small animal handling. Thank you to everyone who supported the event and hope to see you again on Sunday 9th June for the summer LEAF Open Farm Sunday.



Sports News:

Rugby:

Year 11 Boys - Essex Cup Runners Up. SWCHS 7 - 17. A fantastic cup final. The boys showed real heart and determination and were an absolute credit to our school. They should be very proud of their achievements.



SWCHS U18 Rugby team won a fantastic game against a very spirited Birchwood team 28 - 22 last week. They are now the U18 Cambridgeshire Schools League winners! A great way for our Year 13s to end their SWCHS rugby careers.



Netball:



The U12 Netball A team won the Essex plate competition, beating Woodlands School 47 - 9. The B team also won their District Competition. Congratulations to both teams!

Congratulations to the U14B team who are District Champions for the 2nd year in a row. Superb Netball - unbeaten throughout the tournament.



The U15 team were runners up in their District Tournament beating four teams to face Herts & Essex in the final.

The U13 A & B teams were also runners up in the District Tournament.

The Year 11 Netball squad finished in the last 8 teams in the Essex Cup and finished second in the Bishop Stortford and District Cup. Year 11 have had a fantastic year in sport and have reached high levels in all sports.



Hockey: The U16 Girls played Bancrofts School in the Essex Cup Final. The game was absolutely awesome. SWCHS girls started fantastically having a great deal of the possession and keeping the ball in Bancroft's defending half. They were ahead at half time but in the second half the England player from Bancrofts showed her true skill and although goalkeeper Maisie saved a large number of goals the opposition put through 3 goals against us.



Football

The Year 9 Boys won the Bishop Stortford and District Football Competition this term. They won their group stage and then the semi-final saw a 2-0 win over Leventhorpe and a 1-0 over Bishop Stortford Boys High School in the final. Amazing fact: they did not concede a goal in all five games!

World Book Day:

SWCHS celebrated World Book Day with a variety of activities. At 10.30am staff and students from Years 7 - 9 took part in 'Drop Everything and Read', an activity designed to promote a love of reading.



In the Learning Centre, students were asked not to judge a book by its cover by exploring books that had the cover obscured.

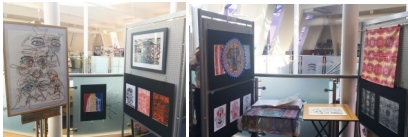
Rosemary Hayes, the school's Patron of Reading, judged the World Book Day Cake and Sculpture competition. The overall winner was Joshua from Year 10, who moulded recycled plastic and clay to create a replica steam train from his favourite childhood books 'Thomas the Tank Engine'. A special mention must go to Year 7 student Amelia, the youngest entrant, who created a 3D boat sculpture including ropes and sails based on a Michael Morpurgo book.



SWCHS Art Exhibition:

This month sees the return of the Diploma Art and Design Exchange Gallery exhibition at the Saffron Walden Library.

The work on display from the nine students has various themes and disciplines such as drawing, painting, print making and mixed media. The small gallery can be found upstairs within the Saffron Walden Library and is open during library opening hours.



The full display of our students' work will be on display at the end of year Art Show which will be held in the SWCHS Art Department on Saturday 8th June from 10.00am - 4.00pm. This will be open to the public.

Upcoming events and Fundraising for SWCHS Trust:

We are pleased to announce that tickets for our new 'Hampers & Champers 2019' event are now on sale. Please visit our website by [clicking on this link](#) for more information. We look forward to welcoming you to our first Hampers and Champers event.



Thank you to those parents and carers who have helped us to raise £600 so far this academic year through Easy fundraising.

Easy fundraising is an easy way you can support us by raising free donations for the SWCHS Trust when you shop online. There are over 3,300 retailers including Amazon, John Lewis, Sainsbury's, ready to give us a free donation every time you shop online. It's really simple, and doesn't cost you anything. All you have to do is:

Go to: <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/invite/4LKJW/> -

Enter 'SWCHS Trust' in the search box, click 'Join Us', enter your details and click on Create My Account. You can now choose from over 3,300 retailers and shop online as usual. SWCHS Trust will receive a free donation at no extra cost to you for every purchase you make.

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
Half Term: 27th May - 31st May 2019

School Training Days:
(no pupils in school)

Monday 22nd July 2019
Tuesday 23rd July 2019