

Switch on

SWCHS Parent Newsletter



From the Associate Headteacher:

This half term has seen a number of County High firsts, including being crowned regional winners for Under 18 Girls' Hockey and also winning the regional finals of the Bar Mock Trial competition. We also had a wonderful residency from *SO Percussion* for Year 9.

An exciting piece of news for teaching staff is that we have been chosen to feature in a new book by Tom Sherrington. Tom has a national profile in the world of education and writes widely on education issues and he wants to celebrate the fantastic teaching, learning and assessment here at County High. Tom has spent time looking around the school visiting lessons and he has commented on the exceptional quality of education and opportunities on offer here, as well as the intelligent assessment systems and the depth of professional expertise. A view we hope parents and carers share!

As this edition of the newsletter outlines, there is also a lot to look forward to in December. Not only will we have our usual programme of Charities' Week daytime events, but in the evenings we have our Music Concert, Dance Show, Senior Citizens Party and the Variety Show, all of which give further opportunities to showcase the wonderful talents of our students. Everyone has been busy rehearsing and so it should be a great end to term.

Polly Lankester

Remembrance Sunday:

On Sunday 11th November 2018 two students from SWCHS, accompanied by Miss Lankester and Mr Blayney, laid a poppy wreath during Saffron Walden's Service of Remembrance.

The students laid the wreath on behalf of all the pupils and staff at the County High and represented the school admirably during the service. This was the first time that SWCHS has been directly involved in the Service of Remembrance and hopefully this will continue for many more years to come.



Bar Mock Trial – The verdict is in: SWCHS are the winners!

Students from Years 10-13 were declared the winners of the Region Bar Mock Trial competition at Ipswich Crown Court on Saturday, 10th November. Every year, students from secondary schools across the UK compete for months to claim the title, under the mentorship and assessment of 90 judges and 300 barristers and advocates.

The competition, which is a Citizenship Foundation (Young Citizens) initiative and is principally sponsored by the Bar Council of England and Wales, has, since 1991, enabled 53,000 students from state schools across the country to compete in mock criminal trials, in real courts. Students are presented with written cases based on real trials and assume various roles involved in a criminal trial. The Mock Trials are performed before real judges who assess student performances and their knowledge of the judicial process.

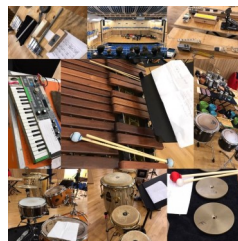
The winning team, led by Year 13 students as prosecuting barristers, performed superbly in the region's final to win the school a place at the national finals in Edinburgh in March 2019. If you are interested in supporting the team (particularly in terms of sponsorship to help with the costs of the Edinburgh final), please get in touch with Mrs Boggis at school.



Music:

What an incredibly busy month for our Music Department! SWCHS Voices and Music Academy students performed alongside The English Touring Opera and Granta Chorale in Saffron Hall at the beginning of the month. Music Academy students then participated in an all day Masterclass which encompassed ensemble playing, improvisation, a focus on technique and an industry related talk. The day culminated in a fantastic concert in Saffron Hall.

A group of Year 9 students were absorbed in a world of rhythm with the riveting group *So Percussion*, from New York, for three full days last



week. Their final group performance, to the whole of Year 9, of *Amid the Noise* was a tremendous achievement for the students as they captured the mood of this moving yet stimulating commissioned work. This was quite simply an incomparable education opportunity, musically inspiring for both the students involved and the audience alike.

This is just snapshot of all of the fantastic events the Music Department has been involved with this month. Please keep a look out on our website for the full story over the next few weeks.

Student news:

Congratulations to Abigail Weersing who recently competed in the World Chess Championships. Abigail scored 6 points out of a possible 11, placing her in the top 50 players in the world!

Anna Middleton and Maddie Goatman have been awarded a place on the National Youth Orchestra Inspire Brass ensembles course. A fantastic achievement, congratulations girls.

Sports News:

Rugby:



Year 9 SWCHS Rugby squad
41-17 win over Coopers



U16 Rugby B side fought back from a losing position against the Leys to win 26-14. A special game as some players have not represented SWCHS before or have returned back to the team after a long absence.

Hockey:



U18 Hockey team were 3rd in the Cambs U18 comp



U16 girls won their Essex Cup match against Bancroft's Sch.



Fantastic play by our Year 7 teams. A team District winners and the B team were runners up.



Our U18 Girls' Hockey team competed in the East Regional Finals last week. They played against Hockerill 4-0, Bancroft's 2-2 and Sevenoaks 3-0. We are extremely proud to tell you that they are U18 East of England Hockey Champions! Congratulations to the team on such a fantastic achievement.



Congratulations to both Year 8 Hockey teams who were crowned District Champions this month.



Netball:

Another win in the Essex Cup for our Year 7 Netball team against Mossbourne 33-6. The girls are looking stronger with every game!

The Year 11 Netball squad competed in the Essex county rounds last week. SWCHS played 7 matches against tough opposition (won 4, lost 2 and drew 1) finishing 3rd overall. Well done girls!



Cross Country:

A superb afternoon at the North West Essex Cross County event this month. Excellent effort from all of our competing students with plenty of medals and course records broken by our runners.



Events to look forward to in December:

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| Tue 4th December | - Movie Night for Years 7, 8 and 9 tickets £2 on sale in the Atrium. |
| Tue 4th December | - SWCHS Musicals & Mixers Dance show |
| Fri 7th December | - SWCHS Variety Show |
| Sun 9th December | - ASU Christmas Fair |
| Wed 12th December | - Senior Citizens' Party |
| Mon 17th - Wed 19th Dec | - Charities' Week |



Each year our Sixth Form students work extremely hard to plan the exciting three day fundraising bonanza that is Charities' Week. Last year's impressive £10,697 was shared between seven charities chosen by our students. This year we are aiming even higher!

Our Sixth Form committee have been busy planning next month's events. The Annual Variety Show will kick off the celebrations. The show promises to showcase a sparkling array of talent from across the whole school in an evening performance at Saffron Hall. This is followed by the Senior Citizens' party on Wednesday 12th December. All local Senior Citizens are invited. If you know of anyone who would like to attend then please ask them to contact us.

Our in school Charities' Week events will begin on Monday 17th December. There will be a varied programme of events taking place over the last three days of term during break and lunchtimes. Please note that tickets will be issued on a first come first served basis. Xmas Factor tickets must be purchased from the Year Office.



Costs: Break time events 50p, lunchtime events £1, Strictly Come Dancing £2.50, Xmas Factor £2.50

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 2018/19:

Autumn Term 2018
Wednesday 5th September 2018 – Wednesday 19th December 2018

Spring Term 2018
Thursday 3rd January 2019 – Friday 5th April 2019
Half Term: 18th February – 22nd February 2019

Summer Term 2018
Tuesday 23rd April 2019 – Friday 19th July 2019
Half Term: 27th May – 31st May 2019

School Training Days:
(no pupils in school)

Friday 30th November 2018

Monday 22nd July 2019

Tuesday 23rd July 2019

Charities' Week Information:






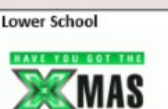
Uniform:

Monday 17th December – Christmas Jumper Day students can wear a Christmas Jumper with school uniform trousers or kilts.
Please send in £1

Tuesday 18th December – Non-Uniform Day non-uniform for Years 7 – 11.
Please send in £1 Sixth Form and Staff – fancy dress.

Wednesday 19th December – Full Uniform Years 7 – 11 full school uniform.

Charities' Week Timetable of events:

		Monday 17th	Tuesday 18th	Wednesday 19th
Break	Pit	Pit Gig	Pit Gig	
	Q6			
	Saffron Hall			
Lunch	Pit	Pit Gig	Pit Gig	
	Q6			
	Saffron Hall	Upper School 	Lower School 	
Tickets: Tickets for the Xmas Factor will be on pre-sale through YAC's for £2.50				

SWCHS
PRESENTS

Musicals
& Mixers

A DANCE PRODUCTION

TUESDAY 4TH DECEMBER 2018
SAFFRON HALL 7.30PM

THE VARIETY
SHOW

Friday 7th December 2018

Saffron Hall
Doors Open 7.00pm
Showtime 7.30pm
Tickets £5 - £10 - Available to purchase on Wisepay.

ALL PROCEEDS
FROM THIS EVENT
GO TO
CHARITY!

Tickets will also be on sale during Saffron Walden's Late Night Shopping evening on Friday 30th November and in Tesco's on Sunday 2nd December.

ASU

Christmas Fair

Sunday 9th December
12 – 4 PM
Saffron Walden County High School

Entry £3 per person
Under 5's free

Carols
Meet the Animals
Craft stall
Tea, Coffee, Cake



Saffron Walden
County High School

13TH DECEMBER 2018
MID WINTER
CONCERT

7.00pm

As festivities draw close, the choirs of County High will come together in a celebration of seasonal singing. This concert will showcase a term of school singing, with performances from whole school choir SWCHS Voices, the Chamber Choir, the Year Seven Choir and the Show Choir. We are pleased to welcome Ashdon Primary School and their Junior Choir. Additional performances during the evening will include the Music Academy pupils and the Senior Jazz Band.

Featuring:

Music Academy
SWCHS Voices
Chamber Choir
Show Choir
Year 7 Choir
Jazz Band
Ashdon Primary School Choir

SAFFRON HALL
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Saffron Walden
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