



From the Associate Headteacher

Dear Parents/Carers,

It seems a long time ago now, but I would just like to take a moment to reflect on the two extremely happy results days that we had in August. It was so lovely to be in school on those days and to see our students celebrate the outcome of their hard work. Our A Level results were exceptionally strong, even better than those of 2018, despite this being one of the biggest cohorts we have ever had in Year 13. 40% of entries were graded A or A* and 90% were graded A* - C. These results also indicated that this cohort had made outstanding progress and they confirm, yet again, that we have one of the best Sixth Forms in the country. Year 11 then achieved our best ever set of GCSE results. Their results showed our attainment to be the highest of all the non-selective schools in the county, and the progress of our students was also outstanding. Last year's Year 11 can be justifiably proud of their achievements and we are delighted to welcome so many of them back to Year 12.

We are very lucky to have such a fantastic team of teachers here at County High and I am delighted with the appointments we have made for 2019 - 2020. We are fully staffed with subject specialists of the highest quality and our new staff are introduced to you below.

We are always looking for ways in which we can enrich your child's time with us and provide the opportunities that make for a truly outstanding education and you can read about some of the things Year 7 have been up to in this newsletter. As always in this regard, we benefit hugely from our collaboration with the team at Saffron Hall and I am looking forward to the exciting projects they have planned for our Year 8 and 9 students later on this year.

Wishing everyone a very happy and successful Autumn term.

Polly Lankester

Teaching Staff Changes:

Welcome to the staff who have joined us this term.

Miss L Ashmore	Technology	Miss E James	History
Miss L Bailey	English	Mr S Lane	Science
Mrs A Bezdal	Learning Support	Mrs N McAuley	Maths
Mr K Colston	Science	Mrs A McIlwaine	Drama
Mrs E Cozens	Science	Ms N Nash	Catering
Mr J Dunning	Deputy Director Maths	Miss M Simpkin	LSA
Mr P Gaynord	Computing	Ms G Smith	Catering
Mr S Hawley	PE	Mrs J Smith	Maths (Numeracy Co-ordinator)
		Mr N Weersing	Business/Economics

The Big Sing:

Year 7 kicked off their first full week at SWCHS with a song! Voice coach and conductor, Tori Longdon, spent time with each form group, to help us launch our year of singing at SWCHS. We are having lots of fun learning new songs and techniques in class, which every form will be sharing to the whole year group on our celebration day on 14th October.



Archaeology Information Day:

We were pleased to host Professor Carenza Lewis, the former presenter of *Time Team*, Fellow to the University of Cambridge and Chair of public research at the University of Lincoln. This was a fantastic opportunity for our Year 7 and Sixth Form pupils to engage with an expert in their field. Year 7 engaged with many questions, including 'What is Archaeology?' and 'How has Archaeology informed us about Saffron Walden's history?', before navigating through a number of resources to find out more for themselves.

Sixth Form pupils dug deeper to explore 'What is the role of Archaeology in the 21st Century?' before discussing possibilities of further studies and careers in archaeology with Professor Carenza Lewis herself. We hope the day has raised the awareness and profile of Archaeology amongst our pupils, particularly in relation to the history of their local community.

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Climate Change Petition:

SWCHS were keen to support the drive against climate change in line with the global strike action taken by school students on Friday 22nd October. Our Youth Leadership Team organised petitions which were signed by over 500 students and staff. The team are looking to consolidate this work in our school environment throughout the coming year so watch this space!



Sports News:

Hockey:

The Year 11 Hockey team recently competed in the Cambridgeshire County Cup tournament. The girls worked hard, and after one win, one draw and one loss are now through to the second round of the National Hockey Cup!



Congratulations to the Senior Girls' team who are Hockey District Champions for the third year running!



Netball:

On the same day as the Year 11 Hockey team competed, the Year 11 Netball team played in the first round of National Netball Cup in Felsted. After some outstanding Netball the girls won the competition and will now move forward to the Essex finals of this National Competition.

Rugby:

Super 12 Rugby at SWCHS.

A fantastic morning of Rugby with 180 boys competing from four different schools. Well done to SWCHS Year 10 boys, one win against Birchwood and one loss to Robert Clack. A fantastic effort from the team!

Football:

SWCHS Year 10 Essex Cup first round win against Passmores.



Student Fundraiser for The Hartley Learning Centre:

The Learning Centre has just taken delivery of some fantastic new beanbags thanks to the fundraising efforts of a group of Year 8 students. In June, the students organised and ran a fundraising event to promote reading for pleasure and relaxation. The team's efforts raised an amazing £130 which went towards the cost of the beanbags, made by local businesswoman Rachel Walker. All materials used to make the beanbags were sourced locally from the market in Saffron Walden



We now have four large comfortable, durable, locally sourced and produced beanbags that are used every day by our students.



Music Tour 2019:

In July, students enjoyed a fantastic Music Tour to Lake Garda in Italy. Five different music ensembles performed three evening concerts during the trip - Chamber Choir, Jazz Band, Orchestra, Guitar Ensemble and Concert Band. It was certainly fantastic to have Chamber Choir taking part for the first time. *The concert in the beautiful church of Santi Zenone & Martino in Lazise* was a real highlight.

We enjoyed it so much we think we'll do it all again next year! Prague 2020 here we come...



Dates for your Diary:

Parents' Evenings:

Year 7 (S) Side	Thursday 14th November 2019
Year 7 (W) Side	Thursday 21st November 2019
Year 13	Thursday 12th December 2019
Year 11	Thursday 13th February 2020
Year 8 (S)	Thursday 19th March 2020
Year 8(W)	Thursday 26th March 2020
Year 12	Thursday 2nd April 2020
Year 10	Thursday 4th June 2020
Year 9	Thursday 25th June 2020



Saffron Walden
County High School

Sixth Form Open Evening

Thursday 7th November 2019
6.00pm - 9.00pm
Presentations 6.15pm and 7.15pm



"Joining the Sixth Form was one of the best decisions I ever made. It brought out the best in me."
"Coming from another school, I found SWCHS Sixth Form not only offered me a remarkable academic experience, but one that enhanced my extra-curricular activities and social life too!"

Tickets for the Presentations available at Reception on the night. The Sixth Form Prospectus can be viewed via the school website www.swchs.net or requested by email at sixthformadmissions@swchs.net



SWCHS Sixth Form, Audley End Road,
Saffron Walden, Essex CB11 4UH
01799 513030

You can follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) click on the symbol and follow the link. Please note that many of our subject areas also have their own Twitter account. Reporting Absences: Please call 01799 513030 when reporting your child's absence, do not use the email address info@swchs.net. Sixth Form students - email 6formabsence@swchs.net before 8.40am. Please email each of your subject teachers for that day.

SWCHS Term Dates 2019/20

Autumn Term 2019

4th September 2019 - 18th December 2019

Half Term 28th October - 1st November 2019

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 Closed for Training Days: (no pupils in school)

24th October 2019

25th October 2019

1st June 2020