



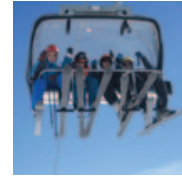
Art
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Music
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ARTS & SPORT JUNE 2015
ISSUE 5

Switch on



Saffron Walden
County High School





Abbie Perring
Year 13



Flora Birkbeck
Year 13



David Roberts
Year 13

From the Headteacher



COUNTY HIGH'S EXTRA-CURRICULAR PROGRAMME IS A HUGE PART OF WHAT WE OFFER OUR STUDENTS. I AM DELIGHTED THEREFORE THAT THIS EDITION OF SWITCH ON FEATURES AN EXTENSIVE AND DIVERSE RANGE OF EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES THAT THE SCHOOL PROVIDES.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AT SWCHS

When adults reflect on their schooldays it is often their participation in clubs and visits, sports teams and drama productions, school concerts and The Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme (and many more similar activities) which feature most strongly in their memories. I believe students' regular involvement in these, and similar activities, is vital in helping them to develop a range of personal skills and attributes which will not naturally be acquired from work in the classroom.

SAFFRON AWARD

One way in which we recognise and celebrate Key Stage 4 students' involvement in extra-curricular activities is through the Saffron Award. Students in Years 9-11 gain Saffron Award points through participating in clubs and activities, demonstrating a commitment

to their wider community by, for example, fundraising for local charities and taking part in community groups, and through showing high levels of commitment to their academic work (measured by the standard of their learner scores in each progress check).

Particularly pleasing is the very large number of Saffron Award points which the current Year 11 cohort has amassed. Collectively they have broken all records and have shown themselves to be young people who have not only worked hard in class, but also recognised the importance of developing a wide portfolio of personal skills and contributing to the wider needs of our school and the local community.

COUNTY HIGH SPORT

After a very busy autumn and winter, with our pupils enjoying much success in the seasonal sports, the summer activities are now well underway. Again, the students' enthusiasm and commitment have been tremendous with, for example, over 100 attending Athletics Club after school on Wednesdays. Approximately 25 students have, based on their current performance, been invited to attend the Essex Games to be held at Chelmsford in June. We are also looking forward to a successful cricket, rounders and tennis season.

ART SHOW

The summer weather had not arrived, but the County High summer Art Exhibition opened in the week before half-term. I and everyone who came to view the exhibition were absolutely thrilled by the quality of the work on show. The levels of creativity, imagination, and technical expertise were very high and it should be no surprise that we are confidently forecasting a set of excellent Art and Photography A level examination results. Also interesting to note is the significant number of A level Art students who are planning to pursue an Art related subject at university. Much credit for this must go to my colleagues in the Art department for the way in which they motivate and inspire our students to excel in their Art studies.

OLIVER

It was obvious from the response of each night's audience to last term's production of Oliver that they had tremendously enjoyed and appreciated everything about the performance: the singing, acting, dancing, set design and costumes, and the convincing and moving way in which the cast presented the story. Everyone watching felt really drawn in to the drama. I was delighted that so many students from Years 7-13 were involved and worked so well together. I am sure Switch On readers will be very interested in the interview with Connor Gardiner (who played Oliver) on page 6.

THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD SCHEME

I have always been very keen to promote and support the Duke of Edinburgh scheme. In spring each year the next group of Year 9 students begin their journey towards The Duke of Edinburgh Bronze award. On a recent Sunday, 120 students (40% of the year group) came into school for a training afternoon on the school field to learn the basic skills needed on the forthcoming practice expedition. These included learning how to cook on a Trangia (a very primitive stove), putting up and packing away a tent, first aid, and other important skills needed on a weekend walking trip. I am very grateful indeed to the staff who gave up a considerable amount of their free time to lead the training – without their enthusiasm, energy, and commitment outside school hours we would not be able to run Duke of Edinburgh as an in-school scheme. I have always considered that there are fewer, if any, youth award schemes which are more beneficial in terms of developing personal skills than The Duke of Edinburgh programme. I am very pleased therefore that it features so prominently in our school.

J Hartley

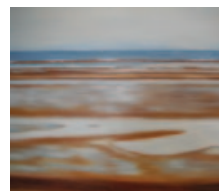
Front cover image by
Emer McMurrough, Year 13
Back cover image by
Lauren Munday, Year 13



Hannah Mulvey
Year 13



Kim Stuart
Year 13



Lauren Munday
Year 13

Art Exhibition Showcase

SAFFRON WALDEN ART SHOW 2015

The wealth of Art courses offered to students at Key Stage 5 has resulted in a superb body of work from all of our students. In April, we were able to celebrate their creativity by showcasing our Year 13 students' finest achievements at the annual Art Show at the Town Hall.

A LEVEL ART AND DESIGN

The diversity of projects seen within students' 'personal investigation work' reflects their interests in diverse subject matters, traditional and contemporary artists, and media. Many of our students have chosen to explore starting points that evolve from the study of natural forms, landscape, local environment, landscape and portraiture.

A LEVEL TEXTILE ART

Starting points for A2 Textiles this year include Indian decorative techniques, forest floors, religious iconography in art, water, rainforests and floral decoration. Students have explored print making, fabric manipulation and fusing materials, as well as designing highly decorative pieces. Our students continue to successfully secure places on popular degree courses, including innovation in textile design, fashion buying and Art history.

A LEVEL PHOTOGRAPHY

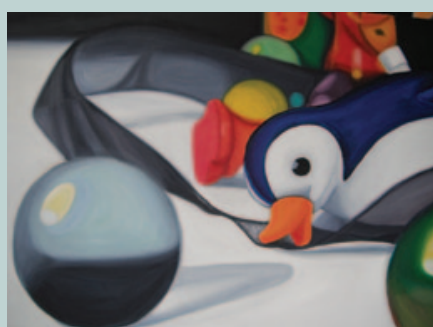
The A Level Photography students work in both chemical and digital media and embrace both of these technical disciplines to produce a diverse portfolio of techniques and ideas. Three of our students are moving on to work with photography in higher education.

A LEVEL APPLIED ART AND DESIGN

The students on the A level Applied Art and Design course began the year working on the theme of 'Structures', within a fine Art discipline. Students explored a wide range of media and workshops included intaglio printmaking, oil painting, felt making and silk paper. The students produced large scale paintings which were all displayed at The Exchange Gallery in Saffron Walden Library in February.



Olivia Burnage, Year 13



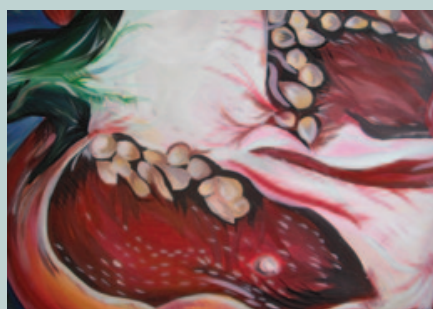
Catherine Taylor, Year 13



Victoria Gray, Year 13



Rory Turtle, Year 13



Ella Williamson, Year 13



Charlotte Ansell, Year 13



Saffron Ward
Year 13

Dates for the diary...

Wednesday 24th June - Summer Concert - Saffron Hall

Music

SWCHS MUSIC ACADEMY

The SWCHS Music Academy programme is now coming to the end of its first year and has offered a range of exciting opportunities for our young musicians that are probably unique. Each student has benefitted from a series of masterclasses focusing on performance technique and interpretation. These have been delivered in Saffron Hall by some major figures in the British music scene and have proved inspirational, informative and entertaining in equal measure! It is telling that our Year 13 musicians have had great success in their University and Conservatoire applications this year. We remain very grateful indeed for the support of Saffron Hall and a local benefactor, without which the Academy programme would be much reduced in range and ambition!



Academy students meet Nicola Benedetti after her sell out concert

MUSIC AMBASSADORS

The other main element this year has been of an ambassadorial nature. Our students have worked alongside a professional animator to develop music-making in our feeder primary schools. This work culminated in two presentations in Saffron Hall before Christmas and helped SWCHS students to develop their leadership roles in preparation for the Gold Arts Award qualification.

'Ambassadors are awesome' (Junior School student)



MUSIC TECHNOLOGY

The Music Technology A level is now in its 2nd year and the students have been working really hard on their extensive portfolio submissions while enjoying the very high quality of equipment and facilities available at SWCHS.

'THE COURSE IS CHALLENGING BUT I REALLY ENJOYED IT. YOU GET A LOT OUT OF IT!'

SAM WINFIELD, YEAR 12

'THIS COURSE IS A MUST FOR MUSICIANS WHO WANT TO WORK IN THE MUSIC INDUSTRY...'

YOUNESS ELHARRAK, YEAR 13





SAFFRON WALDEN MUSIC FESTIVAL

During the course of the first weekend in March, over 500 children were involved in some spectacular music making as part of the Saffron Walden Music Festival. On the Friday, SWCHS hosted a Primary Festival where nine local schools got the opportunity to perform in Saffron Hall. Over the following two days, over 100 local young people performed solos to one of five professional adjudicators. The five section winners were: George Withers, Frances Patterson, Eddie Curtis, Tom Horton, and Phoebe Tealby-Watson. The overall winner was Eddie Curtis who played brilliantly on the Bass Trombone. David Emberson, presented the Mullucks Wells Festival Cup in front of a very appreciative audience, and we remain very grateful to them for their generous sponsorship of this event.

MUSIC TOUR 2015

On the 15th July 2015, 92 musicians will tour to Lido di Jesolo in Italy. The Concert Band, Orchestra and Jazz Band will perform three concerts and we are expecting, as usual, to perform to large audiences. The party will also visit Venice on a day's excursion and will also spend a day relaxing at an aquapark. This will be the 18th tour that we have undertaken and we feel that every year the standard of our performance gets better; that impression is certainly backed up by the reaction of our audiences! As a further indication of this, we are to perform for the first time in Piazza Aurora, a professional venue! While the music tours are undoubtedly fun to be a part of, they also serve a vital role in developing the confidence of our young musicians and come as something of a reward for all the extra time these students devote over the course of the year in the pursuit of musical excellence.

Music School runs after normal school hours on a Thursday and is open to students aged 8 – 18 from all schools. It offers the opportunity to take part in ensembles, have individual tuition on an instrument and also take part in a theory/aural class. There are currently vacancies in some areas, please contact Mrs Ure, our peripatetic administrator, for more information.

DATES FOR THE DIARY:

13th June

Concert Band, Little Chesterford Fete

20th June

Jazz Band and Band Friday, Seward's End Fete

21st June

Jazz Band, Gt. Chishill Fete

24th June

Summer Concert, Saffron Hall

27th June

Jazz Band, Clavering Fete

2nd July

Music School Concert, Saffron Hall

11th July

Jazz Combo, RAB Anniversary Celebration

20th September

Jazz Band, Audley End Railway

Stop Press...

As usual our ABRSM exams went very well, with over half of our recent entries gaining a merit or distinction. Well done to all students!

Spring 2015

Distinction	Theory (Grade 5)	3 students
Merit	Theory (Grade 5)	1 student
Pass		

Practical	4 students
Practical	12 students
Practical	19 students

Dates for the diary...

Lower School play; 'Our Day Out' by Willy Russell - 9th, 10th, and 11th June, 2015

Barbican Box home performance; Thursday 2nd July, 2015

The Glass Knight; Wednesday 9th – Saturday 12th March, 2016

Drama

"WE KNOW FROM LONG EXPERIENCE THAT NO ONE CAN CLAIM TO BE TRULY EDUCATED WHO LACKS BASIC KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS IN THE ARTS."
NATIONAL STANDARDS FOR ARTS EDUCATION.



OLIVER!

Thank you to everyone who came to see our whole school production of 'Oliver' in March. With over 130 students from across all year groups involved in the show, it was a fantastic celebration of the commitment and talent we have at Saffron Walden County High School. Oliver was played by Connor Gardiner, a Year 7 student who was interviewed about his experience of being in the show.



What was it like being in Oliver?

It has to be the best thing I've ever done in acting. I found it really fun and made lots of new friends. It was hard to learn the script but once I had it was the most fun thing I've ever done.

What was it like working with sixth form students?

At first it was slightly scary, then you realise they are just as interested in it as you are and they were really nice. Also, you get to know people really well.

What was the most difficult thing to do in the show?

Probably just knowing where to be at the right time and your cues, and knowing when to go on and say the right lines.

What was your favourite part of the performance?

It was probably the part where I attack Noah and get put into the coffin. That had to be one of the funniest parts.

How did you feel about having to sing?

I love singing and it took some time to learn some of the words, but I think I did okay with it.

How did you feel on the opening night?

I felt really nervous but excited at the same time.

What sort of response did you get?

People came up to me saying well done and others saying they were coming to see the show. It's great to hear that, when you've been in something and worked so hard for it, people wanted to see it and loved it. I felt proud to be in it.

What advice would you give to students thinking about auditioning?

Do it – just have a go, even if you're not the best at singing or acting or dancing. At first it is a bit overwhelming but it's encouraging that even though you've just started at the school you can have the opportunity to do these things.

Will you be auditioning for the next whole school production?

Yes, definitely!



NATIONAL THEATRE CONNECTIONS COMPETITION

On 1st May 2015, our sixth form Elective Drama group performed 'Drama, Baby' written by Jamie Brittain (the writer of Skins) at The Norwich Playhouse as part of the National Theatre Connections Competition. We had a brilliant day and the students gave a fantastic performance, which was highly praised by the audience and representatives from the National Theatre.

DRAMA SCHOOL NEWS

Congratulations to David Roberts in Year 13 who has been accepted onto a three year Acting course at East 15 Acting School and to Ethan Moorhouse in Year 12 who has just got into the National Youth Theatre.



WHAT'S NEXT?

Our next production is Willy Russell's 'Our Day Out' which tells the story of a group of underprivileged children who go on a school trip and the antics they get up to. It is a funny and touching play, which explores the ups and downs of growing up. The cast are all lower school students who have been rehearsing since January and will perform the play in D3 from Tuesday 9th to Thursday 11th June 2015.

In July our Year 11 Enrichment groups will perform their final devised performances at the Barbican Theatre as part of the Barbican Box project. This has been an incredible opportunity for our students to work with Complicite practitioners, visit The Barbican Theatre to see 'Boy Blue', and to perform at this prestigious venue.



NEW COMMISSION

In March 2016 our school production will be a spectacular joint venture with Saffron Hall. Local conductor and composer Philip Sunderland and librettist Gareth Prior are writing a Youth Opera called 'The Glass Knight', a story based on an old Saffron Walden mythological creature and how it was finally defeated by the Glass Knight. An incredible experience for up to 100 students across all years at SWCHS, as well as 200 local primary school children, this will definitely be a production you can't miss.



Working on physical fitness in the gym



Embracing the competitive spirit

Sport



SKI TRIP 2015

A return trip to Falcade in the Italian Dolomites at February half term was the end product of a year of planning and organisation. 128 students from Years 8 – 13 enjoyed a classic week of skiing. The first day saw 30cm of snow falling on an already solid base of packed snow. Day two through to day six were 'ski brochure' days of unbroken sunshine and gloriously prepared pistes. As a result, the group enjoyed excellent skiing opportunities every day and all made fantastic progress by the end of the week.

Instruction was excellent; food - plentiful and varied; behaviour – outstanding. Evenings saw the local ice rink getting good use and a regular evening briefing included individual awards and much humour. There was a genuine feeling of goodwill running amongst all on the trip. Six students celebrated birthdays with cakes and a sing song - including one 18th birthday! The hotel and resort once again provided a superb week of learning, group interaction and an experience that many will remember for a long time.

Another successful trip – roll on 2016!

YEAR 8 GIRLS' ATHLETICS

The Year 8 girls' indoor sports hall athletics team competed at Garons Park, Southend. The students worked extremely hard with some outstanding results. The team finished second place in Essex. A fantastic result.



YEAR 7 GIRLS' NETBALL

The Year 7 girls finished top of their group in the netball Essex cup, beating Joyce Frankland Academy, Hockerill, Chigwell and Colchester schools. They went on to beat Westcliff High School for Girls in the first round of the knock outs. Next, they played St Martin's School in the quarter finals, which they won convincingly. The girls then played and beat Bancroft's School in the semi final. On Thursday 19th March, the Year 7 girls faced Southend High School for Girls in the Essex cup final. The game was extremely close but unfortunately they lost by one goal. A big well done to all the players on an excellent season.



U18 GIRLS' HOCKEY TEAM

The U18 Hockey team won the U18 Cambridgeshire Indoor tournament, drawing with The Perse School 2:2, with goals from Millie Bushnell and Ellen Butler. The second game against Hills Road Sixth Form College was end to end, but again Millie used her skill to make it 1:0. Anna Curran got player of the match for some superb tackling at the back. The game against Kimbolton School was definitely the hardest. Millie put us 1:0 up, but literally a few seconds later Kimbolton were awarded a penalty flick. Tia Caviel, Player of the Match, stepped up beautifully and made an excellent save to keep us in the lead. The whistle went but 15 seconds of extra time were added – a tense 15 seconds followed but we remained in possession and finished 1:0 up. The final match was against Joyce Frankland Academy. Caitlin Phillips put us ahead within a few minutes, followed by another goal from Emily Dan and then Millie cemented our win. Player of the Tournament was Millie Bushnell, but it was a superb team effort.



GO WEST YOUNG MEN

The Year 8 and Year 10 rugby squads spent the weekend of the 6th – 8th March in Bath on what could only be described as a rugby saturated weekend in the West Country.

Arriving in Bath at 3pm, the two squads immediately took to the field at the Bath 'Rec', the Recreation Ground - home of Bath Rugby. An 80 minute coaching session with Bath rugby coaches was followed by a Q & A session with, amongst others, David Wilson – current England international prop.

Quickly back to the youth hostel, change into a different set of kit and then back to the Rec where the boys were 'Guards of Honour' for the entrance of the two teams coming out for the premiership rugby game Bath v Sale. Seen by millions on BT sport as the game was shown live on TV, the SWCHS RFC t-shirts stood out boldly.

On Saturday morning the teams took on Beechen Cliff School in Bath and the U13

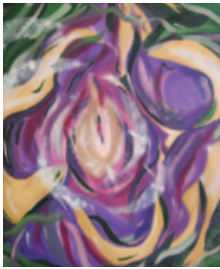
squad won the first game 56 – 22. SWCHS' Year 10 squad followed up by beating their counterparts 45 – 21 in the second game.

A coach trip to Gloucester for the titanic clash between Gloucester and Northampton Saints saw the squad witness one of the best games of the season, open running rugby and exciting team play in evidence throughout. Saturday evening entertainment took the form of tenpin bowling in Bristol.

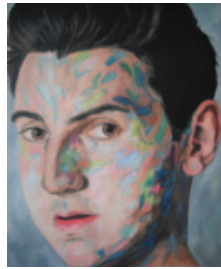
Sunday morning involved another short trip to Bristol where both teams played against Whitehall Rugby Club. County High were too strong for their hosts in both age groups and won both games comfortably, despite some dogged defence from the home teams.

The coach was reasonably quiet on the way back along the M4 as the lads contemplated an excellent weekend of rugby from coaching, playing and spectating perspectives. A great success in every respect thanks to Messrs Edwards, Sindell, Smith and Absolute Travel based in Stansted.





Ella Williamson
Year 13



Emily Dan
Year 13

SWCHS News

ONE WORLD GROUP



On Monday 16th March, the students of One World Group were privileged to meet Miriam Mason-Sesay, founder of the very first free school set up in Sierra Leone by the EducAid charity, which now has a network of these schools across the country providing education to those who would otherwise be unable to receive it. During the recent Ebola outbreak, the One World Group organised a non-uniform day to help raise both awareness and money for this charity. The day raised over £2000, which is to be used to set up specialised care units to help protect young Sierra Leoneans.

This just goes to show how even a small group of young students can make a great difference to the lives of children less fortunate than themselves. Small things really can make a big difference.

Charlotte Williams, Year 10

JACK PETCHY ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Congratulations to the following students for gaining a Jack Petchey Achievement Award: Daisy Foster in Year 7 has been a great support to her family following the traumatic passing of a close relative to Motor Neurone Disease. In addition to this, Daisy went on to organise a charity concert in aid of MND and raised over £3000; Grace Turner in Year 8 grew and donated her own ponytail to 'The Little Princess Trust' who make wigs for children who have lost their hair due to cancer treatments. She also asked for donations to the trust instead of birthday presents this year; Paige Bashford in Year 11 overcame her fear of heights to organise and take part in a tandem skydive. She raised over £3500 for a charity that specialises in supporting families affected by cancer.

YEAR 10 JACK PETCHY SPEAK OUT CHALLENGE

On Friday 13th March, Fiona Whytehead from the Jack Petchey Speak Out Foundation, visited SWCHS to lead a public speaking workshop to 25 of our Year 10 students. Through a series of activities and workshops, students were able to confidently produce and deliver a two minute speech based on a subject that they felt passionate about. All of the students rose to the challenge and worked enthusiastically throughout the day. Lily Webber and Molly Govus (Year 10) were selected to represent the school at the Jack Petchey 'Speak Out' Regional Final on 13th May 2015. It was an entertaining evening that saw 20 young people of North Essex bravely take to the stage to voice their thoughts and opinions on matters close to their hearts. Lily Webber brought home the 2nd place trophy for SWCHS with a speech entitled 'Self doubt is a bad thing...isn't it?' Both Lily and Molly were excellent ambassadors for the school and were highly commended for their performances and conduct throughout the evening.

SWCHS FARM AND FARM CLUB



Twelve lambs were born on the farm in March and April to our Ryeland ewes in time for our Easter Saturday event on April 4th. As usual this event was a great success and attracted a large number of visitors. Our next fundraising event is our Summer Open Day on Sunday 7th June from 11.00am-4.00pm. Our Dexter cattle are well and we are rearing a batch of Rhode Rock chicks which should be in lay in September. The eggs from our two ducks are also in great demand. Our two pygmy goats should be kidding in late June, and along with Rosie and our other small livestock are very popular with all members and visitors. Pupils also have the opportunity to grow their own vegetables in our plots and greenhouses and to be involved in basic horticultural and ecological skills. These activities, as well as developing

basic handling skills and knowledge, make a very positive impact on their learning and social development. They are skills for life.

SCIENCE WEEK MARCH 2015

The Science department celebrated 'Science Week' with a diverse range of fun engaging workshops, talks and trips for all year groups. The highlight of the week was experiencing the amazing 'Solar Eclipse.' The week provided an excellent opportunity to celebrate all aspects of Science as highlighted by one Year 7 student, 'Science Week was amazing! I didn't realise Science could be so fun.'

6TH FORM PHYSICISTS VISIT CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY

March saw five of our A-level physicists at the Cavendish laboratory in Cambridge. Home to some 29 Nobel prize-winners since its foundation, the Cavendish is a world-leading centre of physics research, and hosts the annual Particle Physics Masterclass. Our 6th form students took part in a wide variety of activities, lectures and seminars on all aspects of particle physics, one of the most groundbreaking and exciting fields in modern science.

MATHEMATICAL OLYMPIAD

Two students from Year 11, Liam Goddard and Daniel Lee, have demonstrated exceptional mathematical talent by performing brilliantly in the Intermediate Mathematical Olympiad. Students are invited to participate in this event if they score very highly in the UK Maths challenge. Both boys achieved certificates. Daniel achieved a merit and Liam was awarded a distinction. These certificates mean that if you chose 1,600 students at random from amongst the 200,000 elite students who took part in the UK Maths challenge both boys would be in the top four, with Liam being number 1! Congratulations to both boys.

SWCHS' YEAR 8 TRIP TO FRANCE

In February, 24 students went on the very first trip to the Chateau de la Baudonniere in Normandy, France. The students took part in a wide range of activities including fencing, climbing, a very muddy assault course and much more. The students were immersed in French and this really helped to develop their self-confidence.



Emma Peal
Year 13



Lucy Gibson
Year 13

SWCHS' FIRST SPANISH EXCHANGE

In February, a few Year 10 and 11 students travelled to Aguilar de Campo in northern Spain as part of the inaugural Spanish exchange. The students visited various cities and enjoyed the friendliness of their Spanish families and the opportunity to experience the culture at first hand.

SWCHS' FIRST GERMAN EXCHANGE WITH WARBURG

The Languages department recently hosted a group from a school in Warburg, Germany, as part of the German exchange for Years 9 and 10. The German students attended lessons and also went on day trips to Cambridge and London. The trip proved extremely successful and the return leg is planned in May.

THE GENERAL ELECTION

In April, election fever struck County High. It began with assemblies delivered by George Horan and Ellen Paterson in Year 13, who shared their thoughts on the importance of voting. Politics Club members hosted a lunchtime Q & A session and reception was transformed by displays examining the policies of five national parties. On 30th April a steady stream of students cast their vote. The result? A Conservative majority, with Labour in second place.

STUDENTS REDESIGN SAFFRON BUILDING SOCIETY

Six Year 13 Economics and Business students spent a day helping Saffron Building Society completely redesign the layout and appearance of their branches. Many of their ideas have been put into practice and they have been invited as guests of honour to the opening ceremony of the first branch to be refurbished, in Colchester on May 16th. Congratulations to Charlie Carter, John Clark, Ellie Deamer, Anna Eden, Dan Rust and Ella Williamson.

KEEP IT CLEAN

Thank you to all the sixth form students who work hard to keep the school clean, tidy and a pleasant environment for all staff to work in. They get just two hours a day to keep the school to the standard that we have come to expect. No mean task.

COUNTY HIGH ECONOMISTS ADVISE THE BANK OF ENGLAND

Saffron Walden County High Economics students won the first round of a prestigious competition run by the Bank of England, and were well placed in the Regional Finals. Each school makes a presentation to a panel of economists from the Bank of England recommending a policy decision to be implemented at the next meeting of the Monetary Policy Committee.

The judges were impressed with the quality of their presentation and the team's understanding of the balance of risks for the UK economy. The team, Louis Flood, Sean Colliety, George Horan and Tom Moran, were praised for their fluent presentation, comprehensive economic knowledge and competent answers to challenging questions.

DUKE OF EDINBURGH



For the Gold DofE this year we have, as usual, completed our first two training expeditions to the Peak district and Brecon. Both groups have gained the necessary skills to get them through their final four day expedition in the Lake District this summer. The students will have to complete a 50 mile trip while being fully self-sufficient throughout.

In April we took 79 students from Year 10 to Shropshire for their Bronze DofE assessment. It was a very successful and sunny weekend with all students showing a big improvement in their navigation and camp craft skills. The presentations of their aims were very imaginative too. Congratulations to all who took part!

SWCHS CHESS STUDENTS GET TO ESSEX MEGAFINAL

SWCHS students are participating in the 20th Delancey UK Schools Chess Challenge. The first round of the competition was a Swiss tournament involving all members of the Chess Club (from Years 7 to 11) competing against each other. Whilst the highest scorer was a Year 11 student, competition from the lower school was fierce, with three out of the top four scorers being in either Year 7 or 8.

Club members achieving a high points score or finishing top of their age group have qualified for the Essex Megafinal in mid-May, where they will compete with winners from Chess clubs across Essex for an opportunity to play in the Southern Gigafinal and then potentially the national Terafinal. They are Sarah Weersing, Aidan Mcerlain, Joe Stanley, Toby Spaxman, James Burns and Callum Hewett – good luck with the next round!

WORLD KYOKUSHINKAI KARATE TOURNAMENT

Sixth former Arin Yildirim recently travelled to Greece to represent Great Britain at the World Kyokushinkai Karate Tournament. Arin's karate is a full contact style, known as the 'strongest karate'. After selection, Arin had to engage in a heavy training schedule, training five or six times a week at his Saffron Walden Dojo and in Dunmow. He also attended some intense team sessions which included some extremely hard training in the Welsh sand dunes. Arin was only one of two cadets selected in his weight category from across Great Britain and has already represented England and Great Britain overseas; a fantastic achievement.

MARATHON MAN

As an A-Level student, one would expect you don't have time to run a marathon – well I took on the challenge on the 26th April this year when I took part in the Virgin Money London marathon as one of this year's youngest participants, just weeks after turning 18. I eventually finished the marathon in a time of 4 hours and 57 minutes and have donated over £4,000 to Farleigh Hospice.

Connor McRae, Year 13

Exam results date;

GCSE - 20th August 2015

A Level - 13th August 2015



2015-2016 TERM DATES

AUTUMN TERM:

Tuesday 1st September 2015 –
Friday 18th December 2015

Monday 30th November:

SWCHS day (school is closed)

Half Term: 26th October – 30th October

SPRING TERM:

Monday 4th January 2016 –
Thursday 24th March 2016

Half Term: 15th February – 19th February

SUMMER TERM:

Monday 11th April 2016 –
Thursday 21st July 2016

*Half Term: 30th May – 3rd June, and
May Bank Holiday: 2nd May*

TRAINING DAYS:

Tuesday 1st September 2015

Friday 2nd October 2015

Friday 29th January 2016

Monday 11th April 2016

Monday 6th June 2016

Term dates can also be found
on the school's website;
www.swchs.net

YEAR 10 'WORLD OF WORK' AND 'RAISING ASPIRATIONS' WEEK

Year 10 will be off timetable during week commencing 28th June to undertake a wide range of activities designed to help students prepare for progression beyond Year 11. In-school activities will include talks from employers, colleges and universities, and a personal finance project. All students will also have the opportunity to visit two universities, colleges or apprenticeship providers during the week. More details will follow soon in an email via SIMS InTouch.



PHOTOGRAPHS SUPPLIED BY

Elliott Hingston, Josh Preston, Sam Rice,
Dan Reavey, Royal Opera House photographer

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