



GCSE
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A LEVEL
SUCCESS
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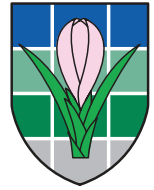
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ACHIEVEMENT
AUTUMN 2017
ISSUE 12

Switch on



Saffron Walden
County High School

IN THIS ISSUE OF SWITCH ON WE CELEBRATE OUR EXAMINATION RESULTS, ACHIEVEMENTS AND THE FANTASTIC PROGRESS OF ALL OUR STUDENTS WITHIN THE SCHOOL.





From the Headteacher



IN THE FINAL WEEK OF SEPTEMBER, COUNTY HIGH HELD ITS ANNUAL AWARDS EVENING AND THE OCCASION AFFORDED ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO REFLECT ON THE ACHIEVEMENTS THAT WE VALUE SO HIGHLY HERE.

We award prizes for three different kinds of achievement. Firstly, they are awarded for sheer excellence and we make no apologies for this. Our future depends upon young people mastering skills and acquiring deep specialist knowledge. Not only are we not 'tired of experts' (to quote a former Secretary of State for Education), but we strive to encourage intellectual rigour and expertise. It was a pleasure to hear from our guest speaker and SWCHS alumnus, Laurie Churchman, that he developed his passion for his subject and his desire to become an academic researcher when he was at this school.

Secondly, we celebrate the progress that learners make. We cannot all achieve mastery and become the best perhaps but we can all keep working really hard and, as a consequence, improving. As a school we actively notice and reward the students whose dedication to self-betterment results in marked improvement.

These resilient and conscientious learners are often the ones who go on to achieve most highly in the longer term. Of course, schools are now measured and ranked on the progress that students make during their time at school and in relation to their starting points. This is represented in the Progress 8 score.

Thirdly, we award prizes for strong contributions to extra-curricular activities such as sport, music and drama because we know that achievement comes in very many forms and that they all contribute to an outstanding educational experience.

Excellence and Progress

Academic excellence is very much on our minds when we download the 'A' Level and GCSE results in August. This year the experience was tinged with some additional anxiety because we could not predict, with any great certainty, the level of success that our students would enjoy. There were so many 'unknowns'. Thirteen 'A' Level subjects were being examined for the first time in new linear exam courses and the grading systems and styles of questions in both Maths and English were markedly different to papers in previous years. Maths and English would now be graded 1 to 9, with grade 9 representing higher achievement than an A* had done. A grade 4 was the new 'C' grade equivalent, although in future years a good pass will be a grade 5. Styles of questions in these exams were deliberately designed to limit the opportunity for teachers to 'teach to the test' and so it was very much the case that student performance, rather than the quality of their teacher, was being assessed. On Results Day, therefore, it came as a great relief and pleasure to see that our students had performed exceptionally well. Our 'A' Level results matched those of our best ever with 93% of grades awarded at A* to C and student progress was amongst the top 10% of schools nationally. An impressive number of candidates achieved the maximum they could by gaining 3 or more A* grades and a record number (12) secured places at

Oxbridge colleges. You can read more detail about the performance of individuals in the articles that follow.

Our GCSE results were also reassuringly strong with 79% achieving grade 4 or above in English and Maths, which is a figure that places us amongst the highest achieving schools in Essex once more. Given the fact that such a high proportion of our learners come to us with above average Year 6 attainment, it is a real testament to the hard work of our students that they continue to add further value to their achievement during their years at SWCHS: on average County High students make between a quarter and a third of a grade more progress at school than their peers do nationally. The school gives them that extra uplift and will have achieved a positive Progress 8 score for three years in a row now.

Achievements in Sport, Music, Dance and Drama

It is the breadth of achievement that marks SWCHS out as an outstanding school. Examination success needs to be matched by a vibrant experience of music, dance, drama and sport. On pages 8 and 9 you can read about some exceptionally talented individuals who are competing at regional and national levels in a rich variety of sports. You will also find out about new dance and singing activities that have happened in Saffron Hall in recent weeks. Our Sixth Form is thriving with the number of students now close to 650 and our team of Head Students have taken up their roles just in time to help with the preparation for our Open Evenings and to run the pre-Christmas Charities Week fun.

In 2018 we have so much to look forward to in drama as well, including a production of 'The Wizard of Oz' due in the spring.

It is always inspiring to be part of this high-achieving school.

Caroline Derbyshire
Headteacher



SWCHS AWARDS EVENING 2017 RECOGNISING HARD WORK, DETERMINATION, AND EXCELLENCE

ON THURSDAY 28TH SEPTEMBER 2017 SAFFRON WALDEN COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL CAME TOGETHER TO CELEBRATE THE ACHIEVEMENTS AND SUCCESSES OF THE PREVIOUS ACADEMIC YEAR. 250 PUPILS FROM YEARS 8 – 11 HAD WORKED HARD, ALONGSIDE THEIR YEAR ACHIEVEMENT CO-ORDINATORS AND STUDENT SUPPORT OFFICERS, TO PREPARE A REVIEW OF THEIR YEAR – REFLECTING UPON THE HIGH POINTS, COMEDIC MOMENTS, AND THE EXTRA-CURRICULAR, ACADEMIC AND SPORTING SUCCESSES.

The evening began with the arrival of the award winners and their parents/carers who were greeted with a fine selection of canapés and drinks in the Boatman Centre provided by the SWCHS canteen staff. To accompany this greeting, the fantastically professional SWCHS Jazz Band, led by Mr Reed, created a celebratory atmosphere for everyone to enjoy and Mr Ions created a 'pop up' photo studio to record the evening's achievements. The awards ceremony

began with an introduction from the Sixth Form hosts followed by presentations from each year group, ranging from accounts of academic successes, sporting triumphs and disappointments, sports tours, the Jack Petchey speak out competition, trips to the battlefields of the Great War and the endurance required for the Duke of Edinburgh Award, to mention a select few.

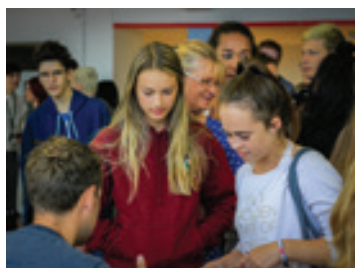
After each year group had entertained the assembled group of parents, family and fellow pupils, Ms Derbyshire presented every award winner with a certificate of achievement followed by a sought after SWCHS pen, presented by our guest speaker and SWCHS alumnus Laurie Churchman.

Laurie Churchman delivered the keynote speech designed to inspire the pupils at SWCHS to aim high both academically but also when they encounter different people and circumstances within their lives. Laurie, having achieved a double first class degree in English at Queen's College, Oxford, followed by his current MA at Queen Mary University of London, took the opportunity to remind pupils that with a passion for their subject they can achieve great things. Laurie also shared stories of his year living in India with a particularly interesting snapshot of life in Meghalaya and the famous living

root bridges. He concluded by speaking powerfully about his time at SWCHS and the opportunities he had, encouraging every pupil present to make the most of their time at secondary school and the inspiration that teachers can provide if you have a passion for a particular subject.

The evening was concluded with a short closing address from Ms Derbyshire, echoing the words of Laurie and encouraging all pupils to make the most of the opportunities on offer whilst at SWCHS. Ms Derbyshire also thanked all pupils for representing the very best of our school community through their hard work, determination and passion which had been displayed over the course of the past academic year. Here's to another successful Awards Evening in 2018!





Students waiting to collect their results

GCSE Success

THE HEADLINES SAY THAT EXAMINATIONS ARE BECOMING MORE CHALLENGING AND WITH THE NEW NUMERICAL SYSTEM INTRODUCED FOR ENGLISH AND MATHS, THIS YEAR'S RESULTS DAY REALLY WAS ONE OF GREAT ANTICIPATION AND EXCITEMENT.

Over a third of all grades were at A*, A or equivalent, with 43 students achieving 9 or more grades at this level. We are particularly proud that almost half the students gained grades 7, 8 or 9 (equivalent to A or A*) in the tougher English Language and English Literature qualifications. Competition for places at top universities is high. It is imperative that students get the best grades they possibly can. Our Year 11 students applied a combination of hard work, dedication, resilience and organisation. They practised revision techniques and shared tips during lessons and form time. Using these skills our students were asked to get their revision well underway and set up over the Easter holidays. This methodical approach meant that the students were able to manage the pressure of examinations and allow themselves time to unwind. The results speak for themselves!



“Doing GCSEs is an intense challenge, and one that I couldn't have managed without having a good balance between my school work and hobbies. This was something that County High really encouraged. That allowed me to have some head space and stopped me from feeling overwhelmed by it all, which I found essential during my exams. I've gone on to study English Literature, History, Psychology and Government and Politics at A Level, and hope this may lead to university and a possible career in law.

Julie Fliri Year 12

“I am extremely happy with my GCSE results which prove that a lot of hard work can pay off in the end, although during exam season you may not realise this due to constant stress and exhaustion. These grades, which were not predicted by my teachers, have enabled me to study Economics, Business, Geography and German. After Sixth Form, I would like to go to a Russell Group university. For current Year 11s, my best advice would be to start doing a little bit of revision from now, so you don't have a huge chunk to revise in May.

Rebecca Hayn Year 12



"For me, keeping on top of my work throughout the GCSE courses made the final revision period in Year 11 relatively stress-free. I also found that having a balance between work and social life was very important during the exam season. I have now gone on to study: Maths, Biology, Chemistry and History at A-Level and aspire to go to Oxbridge after Sixth Form."

Alice Featherstone Year 12

Some of our top performers amongst the Class of 2017 included Billy Bromell, who achieved an impressive 8 A*s and 9s in both English Literature and Maths; Phoebe Dowson, who achieved 8 A*s, 9 in English Literature and an 8 in Maths; Alice Featherstone, who achieved 7 A*s and 9s in English Literature and Maths. Libby Warr achieved 8 A*s, 9 in English Literature and 7 in Maths; Grace Adam achieved 7 A*s, 9 in English Literature and an 8 in Maths; and Callum Parris achieved 6 A*s, 9s in both English Language and English Literature and a 7 in Maths. Other high achievers, who all achieved at least 11 A* or As (or grades 9-7), were Adam Whitehead, Grace Kidd, Julie Fliri, Lauren McAuley, Georgia Irving, Benjamin Littlewood, Joshua Kimber, Michael Griffiths, Zuzanna Rabczak, Megan Horner and Matilda Kakengi.



In the competitive world of education, our performance is monitored constantly. Performance is measured in terms of progress, which is where a student is given a target to achieve and whether they are above or below that target will indicate how good their progress is. In terms of progress we have had some very exceptional results this year. One student who stands out as excellent is Rebecca Hayn, who achieved on average two grades above her targets. George Collins, Emily Purkiss and Jakub Kulpecki all achieved at least a grade and a half above their targets. A fantastic achievement! Teachers and

“

I was very pleased with my exam results but understand that I was only successful because of the hard work of my teachers and myself. I found motivating myself to revise for exams difficult. However, once I realised the importance of regular revision and accessed the support of my teachers I was able to establish a routine that worked well for me. During the exams I sometimes found the stress a little difficult to manage but balancing my work schedule with spending time with friends helped to stop me worrying. In Sixth Form I have gone on to study History, Government and Politics, Philosophy and Latin. I hope to study either History or Politics at Oxford or Cambridge and perhaps go on to pursue a career in Politics.

Callum Parris Year 12

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I was delighted with my GCSE results, the key to achieving the best you can is by working hard and putting your studies first over the exam period. GCSE exams were a tough process and different to any challenge I had previously faced in life. I have gone on to study Chemistry, Geography, History and Economics at A Level and hope to progress to university in the future.

Adam Whitehead Year 12

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Reflecting back on my GCSE experience, the thing that helped me the most throughout my revision and the exams themselves was staying motivated. I was able to recognise the importance of staying positive and instead of worrying about an exam I had just done, I looked towards the next exam and how I could best prepare myself for that. I'm relieved that all my hard work paid off and currently I'm enjoying studying English Literature, History, Biology and Psychology in Sixth Form and am thinking about becoming a Child Psychologist in the future.

Libby Warr Year 12

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I'm really glad my hard work paid off! It wasn't easy, I had to be pretty motivated, avoid distractions and work to a schedule in the time leading up to the exams - with regular breaks to help me stay focussed. I wasn't expecting all my results to be as good as they turned out to be, and I think most people were pleasantly surprised. I'm now studying English Literature, Classics, History, and Latin at SWCHS Sixth Form and hope to study English at university”.

Georgia Irving

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A-Level Success

THERE IS SO MUCH TO BE PROUD OF THIS SUMMER.

WITH 13 A-LEVEL SUBJECTS CHANGING TO THE NEW LINEAR MODEL, IT WAS CLEAR THAT COMPARISONS BETWEEN OUR LEGACY RESULTS AND THIS YEAR'S RESULTS WERE NOT APPROPRIATE. HOWEVER, DESPITE SUCH CHANGES, OUR STUDENTS MORE THAN MATCHED THE CHALLENGES POSED TO THEM. 40% OF GRADES WERE OF A* AND A GRADE AND 93% OF GRADES WERE AT LEAST A-C (WHICH IS EVEN BETTER THAN LAST YEAR'S BEST EVER RESULTS). 63 STUDENTS ACHIEVED AT LEAST 3 A GRADES AND 11 STUDENTS ACHIEVED 3A*S OR HIGHER – A TREMENDOUS ACHIEVEMENT.

Most importantly to us though, beyond these headline numbers are the students and what these grades mean to them. 12 students achieved Oxbridge places - equalling our best ever figure. Daniel Lee and Liam Goddard are both heading to Cambridge to study Maths – an extremely competitive course and the first time SWCHS has had two successful mathematicians in the same cohort.



The successful students studying at Oxbridge next year are:

| | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------|-----------|
| Edward Benfold | PHILOSOPHY AND PSYCHOLOGY | Oxford |
| James Burns | HISTORY | Oxford |
| Sam Clements | HISTORY | Cambridge |
| Owen Eddershaw | ECONOMICS and MANAGEMENT | Oxford |
| Liam Goddard | MATHS | Cambridge |
| Nina Haket | LINGUISTICS | Cambridge |
| Daniel Lee | MATHS | Cambridge |
| Caitriona Quigley | CLASSICS | Oxford |
| Phoebe Tealby-Watson | CLASSICS | Oxford |
| Alex Williams | ENGINEERING | Cambridge |
| Ben Willstead | CLASSICS | Cambridge |
| Beth Wiseman | BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES | Oxford |



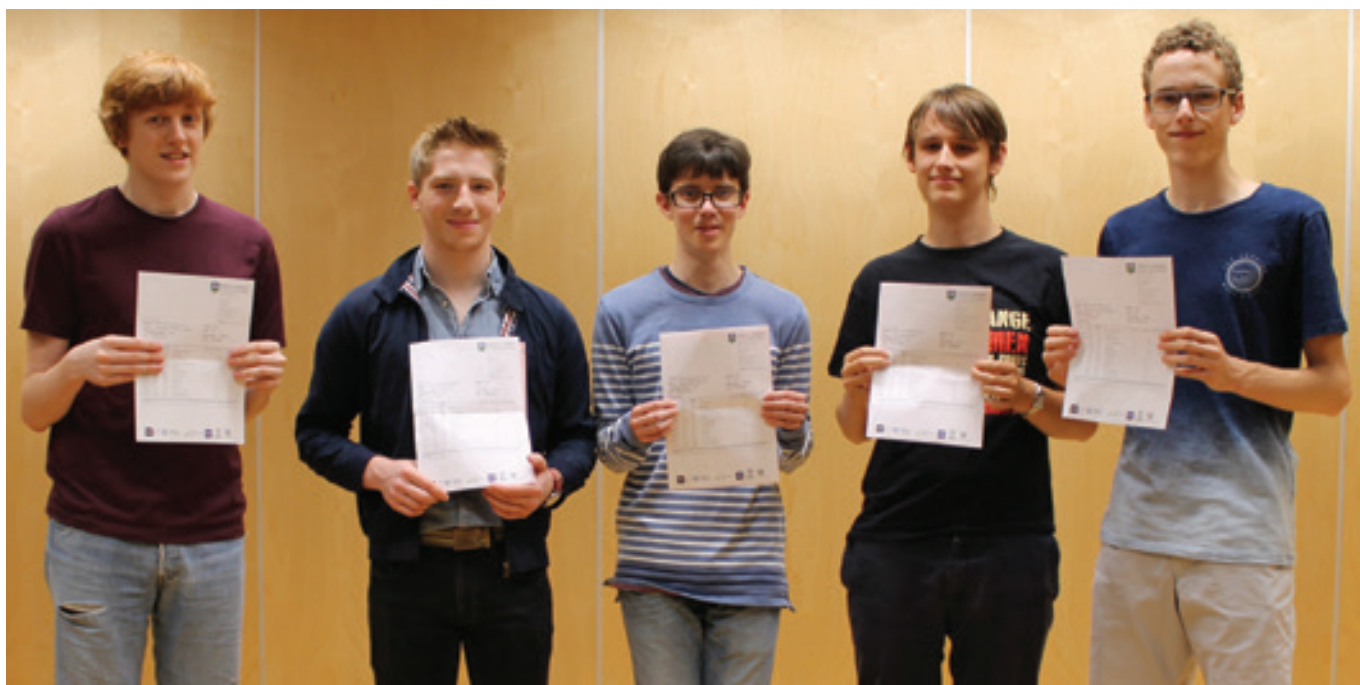
Pheobe Tealby-Watson and Liam Goddard have also both received choral scholarships at their colleges. We wish them all the very best of luck as they embark on their next steps.

45% of students are heading off to Russell Group universities – again a consistent figure for the last few years. Top destinations include Durham (11 students), Bristol (9 students) and Leeds (15 students). Nottingham Trent

is our most popular university overall with 17 students heading there this year.

The impact of the Music Academy is clear with five students achieving conservatoire places – again, our highest number to date. George Withers also achieved a conservatoire place earlier this year, taking the overall tally of this cohort to six, which is an incredible achievement.

| | | |
|---------------------|----------------|-------------|
| Aimee Lucas | Birmingham | Viola |
| Tommy Villiers | Royal Northern | Jazz guitar |
| Harry Pearce | Guildhall | Double bass |
| Albert Hills-Wright | Guildhall | Saxophone |
| Oscar Richards | Birmingham | Drums |



Marley Wright, joined us from Forest Hall School in Stansted Mountfitchet and always dreamed of going to a prestigious university. Having achieved Distinction* in his CTEC Double Business and a B grade in Psychology, Marley is now heading to Durham University – one of the most prestigious and competitive universities to study Business and Management.

Nathalie Wilson achieved 1 A* and 4 As at GCSE and always demonstrated potential. However, Nathalie's A-Level results of A*A*A, demonstrate to everyone the value

of hard work! Nathalie's progress throughout A-Levels was exceptional and she is the first recipient of the Rachael Wilson English prize. We are so incredibly proud of Nathalie and know that she will be a huge asset to Kings College London where she is studying English Language and Linguistics.

Josh Sturgeon had to wait until March before receiving his invitation to study Medicine at Leicester. Josh achieved A*AA in Psychology, Biology and Chemistry.

Nina Haket is our highest achieving student

this year with 5 A*s grades. Nina joined the Sixth Form and quickly became a huge asset. We are delighted that she has fulfilled her ambition of studying Linguistics at Cambridge University.

There are so many individual achievements this year that is very difficult to pick out only a few. We at SWCHS are so very proud of the class of 2017 – they were a pleasure to work with and their results demonstrate just what can be achieved with hard work. We look forward to seeing them all again at our alumni event in December.



Under 18 Girls' Hockey team, unbeaten in a recent District Hockey Tournament.

Sporting Achievements

We are lucky to have so many talented sports students at SWCHS and wish that we could tell you about each and every one of them. Unfortunately, our space is limited so we would like to introduce you to a selection of SWCHS students who have achieved great things in their chosen area of sport outside of the boundaries of SWCHS.

HOCKEY – TALIA KIMBER

Talia has recently taken part in several two-hour trial sessions for the Cambridge Junior Academy Under 15 Hockey squad. She was required to demonstrate skill, game play and resilience alongside several hundred other children. We are proud to say that Talia has been accepted into the squad and will now be playing matches across the region.



KARATE – LUKE SABEY

Luke is a member of the Saffron Walden Kyokushinkai club. The training is physically challenging and requires concentration and discipline to succeed. In 2010 Luke began competing locally and then nationally. In 2015 he began training with the England Junior squad and was selected to represent England at an International tournament in Switzerland. He returned to represent England again in 2017 and secured 3rd place in Junior 150cm+ clicker tournament (non-contact).



Luke has been selected to represent England in an International taking place in Belgium in November. He continues to train with dedication and purpose, committed to succeeding in representing his country.

JUDO AND RUGBY – JOSEPH GAFFAN



HOCKEY AND CRICKET – MAISIE SOUTHGATE

Maisie plays cricket for Saffron Walden Cricket Club, both for the women's team and her own age group. She was recently awarded the Fiona Harris Girl Cricketer Award for 2017 by the club.

Maisie also plays Hockey. Last season she was selected by Cambridge County squad and England Hockey to join their performance squad. This season, she continues to play for Cambridge County alongside Saffron Walden Hockey Club.

Joseph is a very keen sportsman and enjoys playing and training in many sports. He is currently in the Northampton Saints EPG (Elite Player Group) for U14s. Due to his excellent ability and understanding of the game there is a possibility that he may play for the U15 EPG.

In Judo, Joseph is currently sitting in the top 10 UK Pre-Cadet (U13-U16 age band)

having scored enough ranking points from his few contests this year. Joseph has ranked as high as number 3 in Britain this year and if he can continue into the top 5 by early next year he will be offered automatic inclusion to the GB Team and the Olympic Pathway for future Olympics.



MARTIAL ARTS – ALEXANDRA SHEPHERD

Alexandra is a member of the Yong Gi Do Martial Arts Organisation holding the rank of Chodan Bo. This year she has competed in the European Youth Championships in Belgium, achieving two bronze medals. Alexandra has also recently competed in the British Championships in Inverness and came away with two silver and one bronze medal. Alexandra is currently training for her Black Belt and will be competing in the World Championships next year.



KARATE – KAAAN YILDIRIM

Kaan began practising Kyokushin Karate, a full-contact style of Karate, when he was 5 years old. He progressed through

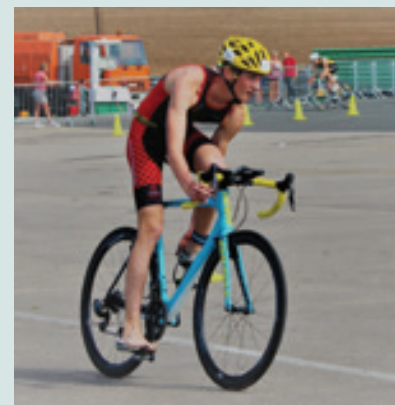


the belts taking part in many national competitions and was first selected to represent England at the age of 13. More recently Kaan has represented England at the 41st British Open in his first full-contact competition as a cadet fighter. This was attended by 21 countries from across the world.

Kaan trains up to 4 times a week, with extra training needed for competitions. He trains at Saffron Walden Kyokushin Karate club where he is also an instructor, together with his brother and Dad, teaching other students from the age of 5 upwards. He completed his Black Belt grading in Greece earlier this year.

TRIATHLON – JACK STANTON-STOCK

After a podium place last year at the Nationals, Jack has moved into the Youth age group in triathlon this year at the lower end of the age group. Jack has been competing in the 'Super Series' League, (6 races: 5 triathlons and a duathlon) and finished 9th overall, and 3rd within his age category, having had quite a mixed season. His goals for winter training are to concentrate on his swim and run. It will be an interesting juggling act with GCSEs next year but Jack will want to do well before moving into Juniors (a 3 year age group).



TRIATHLON – HELENA DYCE

Helena has spent the last five months competing in triathlon's "Super Series" of events around England. These six events bring together the very best young triathletes aged between 15 and 19 in the country. Helena is in the lower year of the Youth category and has been racing over the 400m swim, 10km bike and 2.5km run distance. She has consistently placed in the top 20 in the events with a best finish of 10th at the event in Hetton Lakes in Durham. At the end of the season Helena was finally ranked 17th in the country and will hope to improve to a top 10 placing in 2018.



CRICKET – SCARLETT HUGHES

Scarlett is currently playing in the Essex Women's County Championship and for Bishop's Stortford CC. She is in the Essex U16 performance squad and has recently been selected for the Eastern Region Girls Academy for winter training. Scarlett made her full county debut as wicket keeper last summer and also plays in the T20 competition.





SWCHS News



BOYS CAN DANCE!

This year, SWCHS is collaborating with Saffron Hall to launch an exciting new Boys' Dance Company. During September, 600 boys in Years 7 and 8 took part in workshops with professional dance choreographers Tom Hobden and Jack Stinton in which they devised their own contemporary dance routines. All students in Years 7 and 8 also watched a performance given by Tom Hobden's dance company. Tom and Jack were incredibly impressed by the talent of SWCHS students.

This is what the students thought of the day
 "A hundred thumbs up, that was amazing!"
 "It was such good fun!"
 "Really good dancers!" "It was fun"
 "It's really good, it was fun and you get to exercise"
 "It's a good experience, not everybody gets the chance to dance"



YEAR 7 SINGING COMPETITION

Building on the success of last year's Inter-form competition, all students in Year 7 took part in a singing day launched this year's competition. The day was led by local vocal animateur Nick Shaw who leads the SWCHS Voices choir. On the day, students were introduced to the form

song they would rehearse in Music lessons and enter into the final competition. The standard last year was incredibly high but this Year 7 were a force to be reckoned with! On the competition day, Year 7 forms sang with real gusto and demonstrated how effectively they have learnt to work

together as a form choir. Performances ranged from the humorous to moving. Ultimately, there could only be one winner and first place was awarded to 7CXH and 7SWM who performed their song 'Laura' with passion and energy.





SCIENCE NEWS



Year 10 students sat an externally marked GCSE mock exam earlier in the year to prepare for the new linear GCSE. This month, the students received their results. Congratulations for notable performances goes to: Harry Dorrian, Ciara Broomfield, Jessica Hancock, Rory Nicholas and Finbar Tilley. A special mention to Katherine Wilcox and Aisling Quigley who significantly exceeded their targets and Bradley Gilbertson who performed particularly well in his Physics exam.

In other news, the Year 8 Science Club launched this term to a selected group of Year 8s and their families. Everyone was able to try out some Science Club style activities: making gunpowder, DIY kazoo's, eyeball dissections and solid fluids. The evening was a real success, students and parents left enthused by Science.

MUSIC TOUR 2017

Music Tour 2017 was an unforgettable experience, with a combination of the beautiful scenery of Switzerland and the extraordinary musical opportunities it presented.

After a gruelling 12 hour coach journey the band arrived at a peak near Lake Geneva, ready to fill the hills with the sound of music. Unfortunately, we were beaten by the weather on the first night so we were unable to play at both of our planned venues. The second night, we played at a small village fete near the town of Chamonix. As we played, dark clouds loomed over the peaks of the mountains. This time we would not be defeated. We squeezed into a nearby marquee and continued the set. In the last venue, we played in a beautiful hall and the performance was a resounding success. We bid an emotional goodbye to Mrs Smith after a rewarding and impactful teaching career at SWCHS. All in all the trip was an outstanding experience that I would greatly recommend for any musician.

Thomas H Smith – Year 13



SIXTH FORM - HEAD STUDENTS

The Sixth Form have appointed new Head Students for 2017/18 and we thought that you would like to know more about their role in the school.

The Head Students are the Heads of the three main student bodies in the Sixth Form. They act as student ambassadors for the Sixth Form and the school. They have already been hard at work this term during the Open Evening and lower school Awards Evening as well as welcoming newcomers to the school.

In addition to their whole school role, Head Students also run a specific student body in the Sixth Form.

Sixth Form Committee are a fund raising group who are responsible for running Charities Week, the Senior Citizens Party and Sixth Form Ball. They also get involved in managing key social events in the Sixth Form calendar. Heads: Ned White/ Anna Ross. Staff link: Miss Gilbert



Sixth Form Union are responsible for sharing student ideas and information to improve the Sixth Form experience.

This is a student body concerned with well-being and involving students in the content of briefings and assemblies as well as promoting the Sixth Form. Heads: Ethan Webb/ Patsy Attwood. Staff link: Mr Fowler

Sixth Form Council are involved in researching learning in the Sixth Form. They provide student feedback for KS5 staff leaders and share learning resources with students. They also run learner forums, are involved in Year reviews and help with mentoring students. Heads: Adrian Ramirez-Valdez/ Cara Poulter. Staff link: Mrs Smith



LGBTQ+
Allies



Some of our students wore yellow ribbons on Tuesday 10th October to support World Mental Health Day

WELLBEING – ‘THRIVE SWCHS LAUNCH’

This academic year has seen the appointment of Mrs Moorhouse as Wellbeing Co-ordinator and the launch of 'THRIVE SWCHS' for students from Years 7-13. Mrs Moorhouse launched 'THRIVE SWCHS' in assemblies to all year groups providing details of what is on offer to support student wellbeing and who students can talk to in school. Places on courses will be allocated based on YAC recommendation and student self-referral.



AUTUMN AND SPRING TERM DATES:

AUTUMN TERM

Monday 30th October –
Wednesday 20th December

School closed Friday 1st December –
Training Day

SPRING TERM

Thursday 4th January – Thursday 29th March

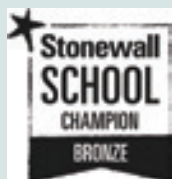
Half Term: Monday 12th February –
Friday 16th February

School closed – Staff Training Days
Tuesday 2nd January, Wednesday 3rd January

PHOTOGRAPHY

Supplied by Saffron Hall, Kristi Magiroos, Tracy Woods and Flora Olney.
Our thanks to the families who have kindly contributed to this edition.
Front Cover Photo: Thanks to Celia Bartlett/
Archant www.celiabartlettphotography.co.uk

We are thrilled to announce that we have been awarded Bronze Stonewall School Champion status. SWCHS LGBTQ+ and Allies were awarded Bronze status in recognition of their work tackling homophobic and transphobic bullying and celebrating diversity within the school community. The Allies, led by Sam Lock and Beth Robertson, have worked tirelessly over the past two years raising awareness of LGBTQ+ issues and supporting events, lectures and fundraising for the year ahead. A third SWCHS Pride event is planned for the new year alongside a visiting Stonewall inspirational speaker who will speak to staff and students as part of the Pride celebrations. The SWCHS Allies have their sights firmly set on progressing to the Stonewall Silver.



Saffron Walden County High School
Audley End Road, Saffron Walden, Essex CB11 4UH
Tel: 01799 513030 Fax: 01799 513031 E-mail: info@swchs.net
www.swchs.net

