

# Switch on lite

SWCHS Parent Newsletter



**From the Head**

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are now nearing the final weeks of a tremendously successful year at the school. Although our staff and students look forward to a rest, the end of term is always tinged with some sadness as we say goodbye to colleagues that we have enjoyed working with. This summer, for example, both Gillian Smith and Lindsey Green are taking a very well-earned retirement and we thank them for the years of exceptional service that they have given to the students at SWCHS, both in the classroom and in their extensive extra-curricular work.

The full list of leavers is below and we will introduce our new colleagues to you in September but I would particularly like to pay tribute to my Senior Leadership Team colleague, Mark Vaughan-Shaw, who has made an excellent contribution to the pastoral work of the school as Assistant Headteacher. Mark began his work here as a Languages teacher and then rose up the ranks to the position of Year Achievement Co-ordinator, and more recently to Assistant Headteacher. In August he moves to Brussels to get married and to start a new life with his Belgian wife. We will miss him very much and wish him every happiness. A new Assistant Headteacher, Matt Blaney, comes to us in September from the Parkside Federation in Cambridge.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy summer holiday.

Best wishes,

**Caroline Derbyshire**

**Teaching Staff Changes:**

**Staff who will be leaving us at the end of the summer term to take up new roles, start new careers, move to a different country or travel the world – we wish them all well.**

Nicola Auger	Learning Support
Anna Bunte	Languages
Jon Duddy	Technology
Paul Gitsham	Science
Lindsey Green	PE
Robin Griffiths	Science
Vicky Perrotton	Drama
Andy Scott	Technology
Gillian Smith	Music
James Smith	Science
Rob Smith	PE
Mark Vaughan-Shaw	Assistant Headteacher/Languages

**SWCHS Awarded Coachmark Gold:**

Coachmark is a prestigious award which contributes to a culture of learning in school and supports broad-based leadership and high levels of professional quality in staff. The award recognises, celebrates and develops excellent coaching practice.

In order to become a Coachmark school, a portfolio of evidence was submitted and an accredited Coachmark partner visited the school. SWCHS are proud to be one of the first secondary schools in the country and the only school in Essex to receive the Gold award for coaching in education. The Coachmark Panel made the following comments:

*‘SWCHS has a high level of integration of coaching practice throughout the school and exceptional commitment to the quality of coaching for Continued Professional Development. The early work of peer coaching with students is also exceptional.’*



**Battlefields:**

“They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:  
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun and in the morning  
We will remember them.” Laurence Binyon (published in 1914)

In June, 44 GCSE History students travelled to France and Belgium to visit the battlefields and memorials of the First World War (1914-1918). They visited the British and Commonwealth memorials at Tyne Cot, Thiepval, Vimy Ridge and Essex Farm as well as French and German memorials. Students were able to get a sense of life in the trenches and tunnels at Wellington Quarry, Vimy Ridge, Hill 62 and the ‘Flanders Fields’ museum. Based in sunny Ypres, the group enjoyed European culture whilst developing their understanding of the Great War.

The most poignant moment on the trip was the ‘Last Post’ ceremony at the Menin Gate. Lily Bishop and Zac Cairns laid a wreath on behalf of SWCHS in front of hundreds of people. All students conducted themselves brilliantly on the trip and were not only outstanding ambassadors of our school but also informed, intelligent and considerate citizens of the United Kingdom. Thank you to all students and teachers involved in the trip.



**Harry Potter Day:**

Harry Potter is twenty years old! Can you believe it? At SWCHS, the librarians regularly replace copies that have been loved to bits, as they are amongst our most popular titles! So Monday 26<sup>th</sup> June could not pass unmarked and, helped by an enchanting team of volunteers, Harry Potter’s Anniversary was well and truly celebrated.

The depth of Potter trivia knowledge on show was mind-boggling, as the break time quiz attracted many entrants. Amy Dunn was the deserving winner of a beautifully illustrated version of ‘The Philosopher’s Stone’, signed by the artist, Jim Kay. A lunchtime Potions class beguiled an array of eager would-be witches and wizards; Ron’s Love Potion went down a storm with a thunderous bang. All this, plus ‘Pin the Scar on Harry’, Potter Bingo, Prisoner of Azkaban Photo Booth for muggleshots and many more. Congratulations to Ellie Wilson, the winner of the Horcrux Hunt, which led students on a merry dance around the school following fiendish clues. Congratulations to our other competition winners, Rafferty Ockwell-Smith and Ashley Reid. It was, as Ron Weasley would say, ‘Wicked!’



Sports News

Rounders

Bishop’s Stortford and District Rounders:  
Year 8



After a successful run in the early rounds for the A team this tough pool ended in a three way tie. SWCHS just lost out as the winners and runners up were decided on the number of rounders scored.

It was a fantastic tournament for the B team, they won both their games against Joyce Frankland Academy and Bishop’s Stortford to be crowned District Champions. Players of the tournament were Talia Kimber and Anna Thatcher Crespo.

Year 9

After an amazing performance in the semi-finals against Herts and Essex the Year 9 team unfortunately lost to a very strong Bishop’s Stortford College in the final. Players of the tournament were Maisie Southgate & Megan Redmayne.

Year 10



The determination to continue their winning success from last year was clear to see from our Year 10 team. SWCHS comfortably went through as winners of their group and, following success in the semi-final against Birchwood, faced Bishop’s Stortford College in the final. Strong bowling and batting with sharp fielding resulted in a victory for SWCHS. Players of the tournament were Galia Goddard, Scarlett Hughes and Grace Mellor.



**Essex School Games**—SWCHS teams were also extremely successful in the Essex School Games. The Year 8 team won the competition and have now qualified for the Nationals. Both the Year 9 mixed team and Year 10 girls finished 2nd. Big congratulations to all of our competing teams.

Cricket:

The under 13 girls’ Cricket team has been developing their skills during indoor practice sessions at SWCHS and have played two 20/20 cup matches this season. Some of our older SWCHS girls also play for both local and county teams.



The Year 8 boys Cricket team have had a great season to date, winning 4 games with just 1 loss, reaching the Essex Cup quarter finals in the process. We have seen some excellent individual displays, including; Henry Huxter making two unbeaten half centuries and bowling a double wicket maiden in the first over of the quarter final; Joseph Gaffan making telling contributions with bat (still not out) and ball; Henry Withers bowling very economically and Tom Hopkins making an incredible debut, taking 5 wickets.

Athletics:

The athletics’ programme is in full swing with over 100 students regularly attending Wednesday night’s athletics club. The first district event, the North West Essex meet; took place in June and SWCHS ran out winners in each of the age categories. The school will compete in other major events during the summer term taking approximately 75 athletes to each of the competitions.

Year 7 RPE Trail:

Year 7 RPE classes undertook fieldwork in Saffron Walden looking for evidence of ‘faith in the community’. Each class spent two hours in town following a RPE Trail where they took note of the variety of Christian places of worship and their locations.



This year each group also spent time at St Mary’s Church and the Baptist Church, comparing styles and forms of worship, architecture and links with the wider community. The purpose of these visits is to stimulate a questioning interest in the faith communities of the town.

Agricultural Science Unit Summer Fair 2017:

SWCHS Agricultural Science Unit (ASU) held its first Summer Fair this month offering a variety of activities and demonstrations. Visitors were able to sample the ASU produce and local catering stalls, explore the many craft stalls and have their photo taken with Xena our famous orphan lamb. Year 7 SWCHS student and ASU member Oliver White, organised and ran a fantastic dog show which proved to be extremely popular.



**Esther Blakey, ASU Manager said** “*There was a great atmosphere at the Summer Fair which offered the opportunity for members of the public to learn about and interact with our animals. I am extremely proud of the Animal Care*

*Level 2 students and the younger ASU members who ran the day, special thanks to Oliver for driving forward the dog show and thanks to all of our supporters and helpers.”*

MUN:

Congratulations to the 10 students from Years 7 and 8 who recently participated in the Model United Nations day at Felsted school. They took part in a number of workshops, which culminated in a debate on a resolution about Humanitarian Aid. All delegates were extremely well prepared and performed with confidence.

Dates for your Diary 2017:

- |                                |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Tuesday 4th -Thursday 6th July | - ‘Goodnight Mr Tom’ in Saffron Hall          |
| Friday 7th July                | - Year 11 Ball                                |
| Wednesday 12th July            | - Summer Concert in Saffron Hall              |
| Friday 21st July               | - School Closes for the Summer Break @ 1.15pm |

SWCHS Term Dates 2017/18:

**Autumn Term 2017**  
Tuesday 5th September 2017—Wednesday 20th December 2017  
*Half Term Monday 23rd—Friday 27th October 2017*

**Spring Term 2018**  
Thursday 4th January 2018—Thursday 29th March 2018  
*Half Term 12th February—16th February*

**Summer Term 2018**  
Monday 16th April 2018—Friday 20th July 2018  
*Half Term 28th May—1st June 2018*

**School Training Days:**  
(no pupils in school)  
Monday 4th September 2017  
  
Friday 1st December 2017  
  
Tuesday 2nd January 2018  
  
Wednesday 3rd January 2018  
  
Monday 4th June 2018