

Switch on lite



SWCHS Parent Newsletter

From the Head

Dear Parents and Carers,

Miss Sims has officially declared that summer is upon us by announcing that it is time to remove blazers. Years 11, 12 and 13 are ensconced in Saffron Hall tackling their examinations, classroom windows are open, the sunshine is pouring in and the three Dexter calves at the top of the school field are providing a melodious soundtrack to these balmy May days.



Last week we held our final Year 11 assembly. As a year group, the class of 2017 has given us much to be proud of and their behaviour in their final days before study leave was typical of them.....exemplary.

On Friday we say goodbye to our Year 13 leavers with a celebration meal. We will really miss this special year group who are destined for great things, and we wish them every success in their A levels.

At the end of this half-term we say farewell to Ellie Colton who is leaving to take up a post as Assistant Headteacher at a school in Devon. We are delighted that Ellie, who is a real high-flyer, is going on to such an exciting new post and we thank her for her excellent leadership of our English team during her three and a half years at SWCHS. A new Area Co-ordinator for English, Rebecca Jermy, joins us in June. She has been Head of English at The Farlingaye School in Suffolk.

Best wishes,
Caroline Derbyshire
Headteacher

Year 11:

The Year 11s saw what was to be their last week of structured lessons at SWCHS. Even though the end was in sight, they did not start to relax but actually stepped up a gear! What a fantastic set of students.

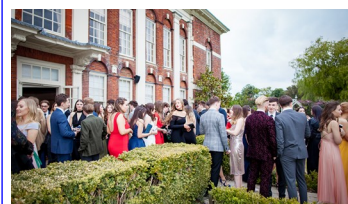
Wednesday's celebration event started with some delicious muffins and drinks in the canteen and then moved to the Boatman centre for the main event.

The proceedings began with an inspirational speech from our Headteacher, Ms Derbyshire, to a very well dressed and attentive Year 11. This was closely followed by the Sportsmen and Women of the year awards, together with awards for Maths, and Excellence and Progress in all subjects. The event culminated in a short speech by Mr Ardin who then joined the Sixth Formers on Saxophone to play the aptly chosen 'Work Song'.



Sixth Form Ball - Starry Starry Night:

The Sixth Form Ball took place on May 5th at Parklands and a wonderful time was had by all. The Sixth Form Committee laid on a fabulous feast, we all danced until we dropped and there was even a chocolate fountain! Here are a just a few pictures of that special evening....



Amie Willingale:

Amie Willingale joined SWCHS in the Olympic year 2012 and her achievements rival any Olympian! Amie has benefitted from the school's commitment to ASDAN - an organisation who provides courses and qualifications that develop skills for learning and for life.

LSA Nicola Auger has supported Amie in completing her ASDAN in Expressive Arts: "Amie should be very proud of what she has achieved in Drama and Dance. She has thoroughly immersed herself in these subjects and I am extremely proud of Amie and feel honoured to be part of that journey".



Amie's ASDAN achievements don't end there however. She will soon complete courses in History, RE, Food and Living Independently, with Horse Riding already among her successes. Thanks to the LSA team who have dedicated themselves to helping Amie to become so successful.

Economics:

The Economics Department's annual Awards Evening was held in early May to celebrate the success of our students reaching the end of their course.



The evening kicked off with a presentation by Professor Anna Vignoles of Cambridge University, entitled 'The Economic Value of Education'. She explored the benefits of education in poorer countries, and then looked closer to home at the value of a degree in the UK, both by subject and by University.

Awards were then given to individual students for outstanding progress or achievement. The prizes were generously donated by Saffron Building Society, and presented by their Chief Executive, Colin Field. Some of the prize winners are pictured.

Sports News

Essex Cup Cricket:

The Year 7 boys got off to a fine start beating Barking Abbey School in their first round match. The Year 8 team have won their first two fixtures against The Mayfield and St Martins School, with key performances from Henry Withers, Joseph Gaffan, Khai Schmidt and Henry Huxter. Year 10 travelled to Lister School in London and won their opening game with Harry Ball scoring 54 not out and Harry Cooke 45. They both batted extremely well in difficult conditions. Sixth Form U19 boys were also successful in their opening match against George Monoux Academy.

Rounders:

A round up of the Year 8 rounders so far:....

The Year 8 A team started the season with a tough match against Haileybury, losing by half a rounder on the last ball. Since then they have successfully beaten JFAN and Forest Hall School with some slick fielding and excellent batting. The B team have had an excellent start to the season winning all three matches against Haileybury, Bishops Stortford College and Forest Hall School. Della Wing, Martha Cain and Olivia Harris have been on fire with their batting and the team's fielding has been solid and organised. Well done girls!

Duke of Edinburgh Gold:

The Gold Duke of Edinburgh practice walk took us to the Brecon Beacons in Wales for 3 days of walking and camping. We started the first day with some tricky navigation exercises led by Revd Hardingham and split into two groups for a beautiful long walk back to camp over the Beacons way.



The Year 12 group left camp early Saturday morning for a long slog up Picws Du and battled some seriously strong wind all the way along the ridge, a really tiring first day with full packs! Coming into camp late that night, they did a brilliant job of

cooking cheerfully in the dark and getting themselves organised for another long day. Meanwhile, the Year 13 group had a great day in the beautiful hills and got up early the next morning for a long ascent across boggy country to the top of Fan Fawr. Not easy with a full pack. Both groups showed amazing team spirit, and despite some rain the weather held up wonderfully!

Special thanks to Mr Holman, Mervyn and Mrs Hulland for driving the minibuses, to Revd Hardingham and Miss Stammeijer for great leadership and wonderful meals and to Mr Crittenden and Mr Laight for additional support.



Duke of Edinburgh Silver:

A changeable weekend of weather in May saw 24 eager Year10 students take their first steps on the Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award. The 25km walk on the Saturday posed a real challenge, however, there were some very satisfied faces as they walked into camp during the evening.

Sunday posed a new challenge in the sunshine, but all groups took it in their stride and completed a wonderful weekend of walking, learning and improving navigational and camping skills.



We would like to congratulate all students who took part in this weekend and wish them the very best for their final assessed weekend in July.

Upcoming Events to look forward to at SWCHS:

Saffron Walden County High School's

Agricultural Science Unit

Presents...

The ASU Summer Fair

- Dog Scurry
- Face Painting
- Heavy Horses
- Gun Dogs
- Food
- Cocktail bar
- Homemade Cakes
- Farm produce
- Craft Stalls
- Animal Handling
- Goat milking
- ...and much more!

Xena Photo Booth!

Companion dog show!

10th June 12pm - 4pm

Adults: £5 Children: £2

GOODNIGHT MISTER TOM

This amateur production of "Goodnight Mister Tom" presented by special arrangement with SAMUEL FRENCH, LTD.

Author credits: Goodnight Mister Tom Adapted by David Wood From the novel by Michelle Magorian

LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL SCHOOL NUMBER 253

SAFFRON HALL

Performance dates: 04/07/2017 - 06/07/2017

Tickets: £8 adult £4 concessions - Available on the Saffron Hall website.

12TH JULY 2017 SUMMER CONCERT

7.00pm

A typically trained evening's musical entertainment from the County High's Music Department. As one senior groups prepare for a tour to Switzerland, the Summer Concert at SWCHS traditionally focuses on our younger ensembles along with solos from some of our students.

SAFFRON HALL
Audley End Road
Saffron Walden
CB11 4JH
Box Office:
01845 5481654
www.saffronhall.com

Dates for your Diary 2017:

Friday 26th May
Monday 29th May - Friday 2nd June
Monday 5th June
Tuesday 4th -Thursday 6th July
Friday 7th July
Wednesday 12th July
Friday 21st July

- School Closes for Half Term
- Half Term Holiday
- School Reopens
- 'Goodnight Mr Tom' in Saffron Hall
- Year 11 Ball
- Summer Concert in Saffron Hall
- School Closes for the Summer Break

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