

Switch on lite



SWCHS Parent Newsletter

From the Head

Dear Parents and Carers

It's hard to believe that we are now well into November and already planning the Christmas Charities Week activities!

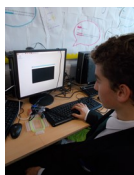
The last few weeks have been very busy ones at SWCHS. At the beginning of the month we held a ceremony to officially open the Hartley Learning Centre. Clare Mulley, our reading champion, acclaimed local author and County High parent, said a few inspirational words regarding the importance of thinking quietly and deeply about things in a world full of instant opinions and visual stimuli, and how pleasant a space the Learning Centre is for such reflection. She also spoke of her love of reading and how, in its best form, it can transport you to another world. John Hartley then formally opened the library itself and spoke of his pride in having it named after him. Students and staff are all thrilled with the new facility which looks and feels interesting, contemporary and of high quality. It befits the emphasis we place on the pursuit of excellence in learning at SWCHS.



Last week we held our Sixth Form open evening. With our excellent results and appealing four A level offer, the SWCHS Sixth Form has become more popular than ever and the school was teeming with people from far and wide wanting to find out more. We were particularly proud of our Sixth Form tour guides and speakers during the event – they were superb ambassadors for their school.

I hope you find this edition of Switch On Lite informative and a useful way to keep in touch with what is going on at the school.

Caroline Derbyshire - Headteacher



Raspberry Pi Club

Students have been taking advantage of our wonderful new computing rooms out of school hours. Raspberry Pi Club, for Year 8 students, has been running since June and pupils have been developing their programming and problem solving skills whilst learning in a fun environment. Year 7s watch this space for your turn next year!

SWCHS hosts Uttlesford Careers Fair

The Careers Fair, hosted by SWCHS on 13th October, saw an impressive turnout with around 2000 students and parents from Uttlesford keen to learn about the world of work and the types of employment and other progression opportunities available in the local area and further afield.

Over 80 organisations were represented at the event with more than 150 exhibitors who willingly gave up their time to speak to young people and their parents about their businesses, and to give advice about jobs in their sector.



Students attending the event were impressed by the range of high quality opportunities that are available to them, and particularly the growing number of Higher Level and Degree Level Apprenticeships. They discovered that a wide range of companies want to attract young people with good A Levels to train with them to degree level – so-called 'learning while earning'.

Headteacher, Caroline Derbyshire, said 'We were delighted by the level of support for this event, both from the employers who gave up their valuable time and were vital to the success of the evening, and from

the huge number of students and their parents who came along to find out more information about the opportunities and choices that lie ahead of them.'

Life Drawing at SWCHS

On Thursday 17th November the Royal Academy of Arts visited the Art department to deliver an all-day life drawing session. The 25 students that attended are currently studying AS or A2 art based courses. Students produced a number of large scale drawings of the model using a variety of drawing approaches. This was an invaluable experience for those 6th form students that are continuing their Art studies at college and university. These drawings will be a welcome addition to their Art portfolio.

Olivia Culley studying AS Art said 'It was interesting and because it was so fast paced you had to learn quicker and then as the day went on I became more confident in the decisions I was making when recording and making marks.'

Ellie Pointer studying AS Art said 'At first I found it quite challenging as I am used to being really precise in my drawings, I think it opened up a new view on sketching, starting with bold textures and mark making and working outwards rather than starting with the outline.'



Sports News

Rugby:

County High Rugby Tour

45 students from Years 9 and 10 spent 4 days on tour in Cardiff recently. The SWCHS squads played at Rendcomb College in Cirencester en-route winning both games by comfortable margins.

On to Cardiff where the teams had a coaching session with the Cardiff Blues having spent the Friday morning underground at the Blaenarvan Mine, ‘Big Pit’ giving the lads a history lesson ‘live’.

The party spectated at the Cardiff Blues vs Ospreys match on Friday night before playing Glamorgan Wanderers Youth section on Saturday morning. Game won again. A highlight of the tour was the Wales vs Japan Autumn rugby International. A full house and a convincing win by Wales!

The boys conducted themselves superbly throughout and thanks to some fund raising efforts and significant support from Gray Palmer the tour party looked the part throughout as well. 6 games; 4 wins, 1 draw, 1 loss

Year 8 Rugby



The Year 8 boys have also been excelling on the sports field this year. The Rugby team have gone from strength to strength winning their last 10 matches in a row. Within this run there have notable victories against Coopers (65-5), Bancrofts (60-0), and Robert Clack (45-5).



Netball:

The Year 9 girls were runners up at the County Schools Tournament last weekend. They have now progressed to the Regional round which is the furthest stage any SWCHS netball team has reached to date. Fantastic achievement girls and good luck in the next round.

Hockey:

Year 8 girls’ hockey teams have had a great season so far with wins for the A and B team against Chigwell and Felsted. The Felsted coach also commented on how well they worked as a team, their ball speed and their commitment.

In the District Hockey Tournament the A team won it again for the second year in a row and the B team were runners up. Well done girls!

Cross Country:

The Cross Country team won the Bishops Stortford & District Cross Country Championships with individual wins for Years 7, 8, 10 and senior girls and Year 8 boys. A fantastic performance!

Christmas Variety Show— Monday 19th December 2016, Saffron Hall @7.15pm.



Preparations are under way for a superb show in Saffron Hall. Performers are now polishing their acts and at only £5 a ticket this is an excellent night out for the whole family. There will be music, dancing, acting and magic with refreshments available during the interval. All money raised will support two local charities; XL Mentoring, which supports students in Years 10 and 11, and Open Door a confidential counselling service supporting Sixth Form students.

One World Group Christmas Appeal

This year we are collecting for.....



Uttlesford Food Bank

Sugar
Powdered Milk
Shampoo
Tinned fruit

Jimmy’s Homeless Shelter

Adult hats, scarves, gloves
Dog treats and leads
Toiletries

Please send items to Mrs Goddard, in the English office or the Year 7 office.

Reporting Student Absence

Please remember that when notifying us that a student will not be in school due to illness call 01799 513030. If the call is not answered then please leave a message. The info@ email is not regularly monitored and should not be used for absence reporting. Similarly, medical appointments, late arrival at school, early departure from school etc, should be written in the Student Planner to be shown on arrival/departure to Reception. This will also allow the Form Tutor to amend student attendance records accurately.

Dates for your Diary:

NOVEMBER

Sunday 27th: ASU (Farm Club) Christmas & Craft Fayre 12.00pm—4.00pm

Monday 28th: TRAINING DAY—SCHOOL CLOSED

DECEMBER

Thurs 1st: Deadline for Sixth Form applications

Thurs 8th: Year 10 Parents Evening

Wed 14th: Christmas Concert

Tues 15th: AS Parents Evening

Mon 19th:: Christmas Variety Show 7.15pm

Tues 20th: Year 13 Certificates Evening

Wed 21st: SCHOOL CLOSSES at 1.15PM