

Switch on lite



SWCHS Parent Newsletter

From the Head

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the 2017-18 academic year at SWCHS and it is my great pleasure to introduce a list of new teaching colleagues to you. We made many excellent appointments last year so that we begin September fully staffed with subject specialists of the highest quality.



The summer brought considerable examination success to the school once more. Our A Level results were exceptionally strong; 93% of all grades were A* - C (compared to last year's 92%) and an impressive number of students achieved 3 A grades or higher: 63 to be exact. These results secure the school's place as one of the highest performing schools nationally and a 'best ever' for us.

County High students also rose to the challenge of the new more difficult GCSEs with 79% of students achieving Grade 4 (the equivalent of 'C') in both English and Maths. This attainment is amongst the best in Essex.



So we begin the new year in great shape, excited about the challenges and opportunities ahead and determined to provide your children with an exceptional education.

Caroline Derbyshire

Teaching Staff Changes:

Welcome to the teaching staff who have joined us this term.

Justine Bath	Social Sciences
Matthew Blayney	Assistant Headteacher, History
Alice Bretton	Drama
Matthew Brown	French
Lauren Coates	History
Lucy Colwill	Music
Thomas Cox	Maths
Sarah Craddock	German
Lucy Doddrell	English
Gemma Frisenda	English
Rebecca Green	Science
Steve Green	D & T, Engineering
Mark Hansard	Deputy Director of Sixth Form

Natalie Hayes	Science
Joel Ison	PE
Rebecca Jermy	Director of English
Charlotte McColl	Science
Catriona McKnight	Science
Gillian Ragsdale	Psychology
Elizabeth Routledge	Maths
James Sanger	RPE
James Sleightholm	Head of French
Shu Tan	Maths
Sophie Ward	D & T (Food)
Katherine Watson	English

Saffron Academy Trust (SAT) News:

Alec Hunter Academy, one of the Trust's secondary schools, has been awarded the grading of 'good' by Ofsted following an inspection in July. The outcome is just reward for the hard work which has been invested over many years to improve the school and the close partnership between Saffron Academy Trust and Alec Hunter Academy.



This announcement comes very soon after R A Butler Infant and Junior Schools joined the Trust in September. This further strengthens SAT's aim to create a family of local state schools which provide an excellent standard of education to children in its community.



Jazz Band:



On Tuesday afternoon the County High Jazz Band had the honour of providing musical entertainment in Jubilee Gardens. This was part of celebrations inaugurating the newly refurbished Bandstand. The band thoroughly enjoyed entertaining passers-by and parents as well as the mayor and local dignitaries. They performed superbly and were very well received by the public and mayor alike.

Year 7:

What a wonderful start Year 7 have made! With a new school layout and a two-week timetable to learn, you would expect the students to be confused. They have, however, taken it all in their stride and are showing great independence.

We have also seen an excellent start to the 'can do' ethos of the year group and have seen them fully partaking in singing and, for the boys, dancing. The extra-curricular timetable is now nearing completion and we do hope to see many more Year 7s making full use of the excellent opportunities here at SWCHS.



Sports News

Hockey:

The Under 14 Girls' Hockey Team had a fantastic start to the season winning their first match against Chigwell 3-0. *Players of the match Martha Cain, Kate Page and Rosie Chen.*
The team gained another win this week beating Brentwood 2-1. *Players of the match, Rosie Chen and Lucy Gilbert.*



The Under 16 Girls' Hockey team enjoyed a comfortable win against Hockerill 3-0.

The Under 18 Girls' Hockey team started the season with a bang beating Hockerill 5-0. A superb start to the season. Their 2nd game against Chigwell was slightly tougher with some members of the team away but they worked hard to secure a win over Chigwell 4-3.

On Saturday 23rd September Year 8 took part in the St Edmund's Hockey Festival. The team played 7 matches against some excellent opponents, demonstrating excellent skills and great determination. They drew 3 and were unlucky to lose 4 matches.



Netball:

The Under 14 Girls' Netball team stormed into the 2nd round of the Essex Cup with a 25-8 win against Nottley High School. *Players of the match Charlotte Cutler and Martha Cain.*

Football:

SWCHS v ST Ives College. A great first outing for the Sixth Form football team. The game swung back and forth from 2-0 to 3-2 down before SWCHS pulled away in the last quarter. Great result and performance. Final score 6-3 to SWCHS.

Rugby:

SWCHS visited Brentwood this month for some competitive matches with a victory for SWCHS Under 14 and Under 15 A & B teams. A great morning of rugby. #SWCHSRugby

SWCHS Staff join National Cycle to Work Day:

This month, 20 members of staff switched from their cars and cycled to work as part of Cycle to Work Day 2017. The cycle-based commuters converged on County High from destinations as far afield as Much Hadham, Histon, Haverhill and Bishop's Stortford to enjoy a convivial bacon roll on arrival! Graham Oxborrow, Assistant Head and event organiser was delighted with the turnout: "I was really pleased that so many of our staff took part to highlight the health and environmental benefits of cycling. Many of the cyclists were able to use the cycle route between Audley End and Saffron Walden but for others their journey highlighted the difficulty of cycling safely to the school from Saffron Walden itself".



Wizard of OZ:

Rehearsals are underway for this year's whole school production of 'The Wizard of Oz'. We have cast over 100 students from Years 7-13 and are so excited to be working with such a talented and enthusiastic group of students.



'The Wizard of Oz' will be performed in Saffron Hall from 5th - 8th February 2018. Tickets will be available from Saffron Hall box office early next year.

Upcoming Events to look forward to at SWCHS:

Uttlesford Schools Apprenticeship Evening - Wednesday 11th October:

Following the success of the Uttlesford Careers Fair in 2016, we are delighted to announce that a further event is being organised this term focussing on Apprenticeships. The evening aims to provide information about Apprenticeships at Intermediate, Advanced, Higher and Degree level and will include the opportunity to talk to companies who recruit apprentices, as well as colleagues from Colleges and Universities involved in apprenticeship delivery. This event is being held at SWCHS between 7.00pm—9.00pm.

National Youth Jazz Orchestra (NYJO) - Friday 13th October:

The NYJO are coming to Saffron Hall! They will play a public concert on the evening of the 11th October with our own Senior Jazz Band performing alongside them. They will also be performing during the day in an hour-long programme aimed at schools. The cost to attend the daytime concert for SWCHS students is £7.50 and tickets can be purchased through Wisepay. This will be of huge interest to members of both our jazz band and also to anyone following the GCSE and A Level Music course.

You can follow us on Twitter and Facebook   click on the symbol and follow the link. Please note that many of our subject areas also have their own Twitter account.

Reporting Absences: Please call 01799 513030 when reporting your child's absence, do not use the email address info@swchs.net. Sixth Form students - email 6formabsence@swchs.net before 8.40am and please copy the email to each of your subject teachers for that day.

Other Dates for your Diary:

Thursday 5th October	Year 11 Ahead Evening @ Saffron Hall
Thursday 19th October	Open Evening for students joining Year 7 in 2018
Thursday 9th November	Open Evening for students joining Sixth Form in 2018
<u>School will finish at 1.15 pm for both the Open Evenings</u>	
Thursday 16th November	Music concert @ Saffron Hall

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

School Training Days:
(no pupils in school)

Friday 1st December 2017

Tuesday 2nd January 2018

Wednesday 3rd January 2018

Monday 4th June 2018