

Switch on

SWCHS Parent Newsletter



From the Associate Headteacher:

I am delighted to announce that we have appointed a Director of our Teaching School Hub. As mentioned earlier in the year, we were one of only six schools to be asked to lead this national trial of Teaching School Hubs and we are delighted to now be leading school-to-school support regionally. Our new Director, Doug Brechin, is a hugely experienced and talented senior leader and we are delighted that he will be joining us after Easter to take on this new role and also join the County High Senior Leadership team as a Deputy Head.

There is a lot to look forward to in March. We have Science Week, Year 9 Politics Week, the annual Music Festival, World Book Day and our School Spring Concert, as well as the excitement of County High being in the national finals of the Bar Mock Trial competition which will take place at The Old Bailey in London on the 21st March. The Spring term is also a crucial month for recruiting staff for September 2020 and I would like to share with you the positive feedback we receive from candidates about our students and community. Teachers want to work here as it is an outward facing and supportive school, but, most importantly, they want to work with the wonderful young people who come to this school. This kind of positive feedback has also come back from the recent ski trip. Families who were sharing the hotel with around 150 SWCHS students made the effort to come and find our staff to say how well-mannered and respectful our students were.

I would like to thank parents for their support of County High - all research shows that, where school and home work closely together and reinforce key messages, students are more likely to thrive and to make progress.

Best wishes,

Polly Lankester

Fantastic Mr Fox:

A cast and crew of over 50 upper school students presented a hugely entertaining and inventive production of Roald Dahl's *Fantastic Mr Fox*, skilfully directed by Mrs Moorhouse.

There were some fantastic performances - the Eponymous Mr Fox impressed, ably supported by his long-suffering wife. Mr and Mrs Badger led the ensemble of Moles, Weasels, Rabbits, Badgers and Rats, all with their own distinctive physical motif and voices, with the unruly King Rat, a drunken Glaswegian, bringing up the tail. The villains of the piece were undoubtedly the fearsome and, at times, foolish Farmers.

Special mention must go to Mrs Monk for her intricate masks which were so effective in communicating the characters. The matinee performance to over 400 local primary school children was one of the highlights for the cast and crew. A memorable evening was had by all who saw the show, with many adults and children alike chanting "Digger Dig Dig!" as they left the auditorium!



SWCHS PRIDE DAY:

The 5th annual SWCHS PRIDE event took place on Thursday 13th February. Our LGBTQ+ Allies organised events to run during break and lunch time. Students enjoyed the competitions, music, prizes and information available over the course of the day. All funds raised have been donated to The Kite Trust; a Cambridge based charity that supports LGBTQ+ young people.

Students also had the opportunity to listen to inspirational speakers, Rabbi Irit Shillor (Stonewall inspirational speaker)



and ex-student and SWCHS Allies founder, Molly Govus. Irit and Molly spoke about various topics but underpinning their message was how we can celebrate diversity and nurture the ability to work with difference.

A spokesperson for the Allies said, "It was a wonderful day where the whole school community came together to create a friendly and supportive atmosphere in which our students can thrive and truly enjoy being themselves".



Diversity Champions:

Since September, we have been working hard to raise the visual profile of our BAME students, and are pleased to have been awarded a Stonewall Silver Award. We have been working with Pastor Andrew Jackson, a regular visitor to the school, who has kindly offered a variety of focused interventions for students; have been working with Uttlesford District Council and now have 20 trained Hate Incident Ambassadors in Years 11-13 who not only offer after-care for students who have experienced hate incidents but also run restorative justice sessions. SWCHS now has a group of Allies whose first main task has been to create a new page for the student planner as well as providing input in the new PSHE programme and preparing a celebrative assembly for Ramadan. An ex-SWCHS student came in to run a very successful academic enrichment lecture for Sixth Form on the use of racist language and banter and our Allies were so inspired by a private meet and greet with Benjamin Zephaniah earlier in the academic year they are now working on an exciting multi-cultural Arts project with Saffron Hall.



Sports News:

Netball:

Year 7 Girls' have played extremely well this month winning all their games so far. Keep up the good work girls!



The Year 10 teams have made a great start to their fixtures and the Year 11s have won their matches against Freeman College, Hills Road Sixth Form team and Herts & Essex.

Cross Country:

Congratulations to the Year 7 and 8 athletes who ran in the Essex Cross County Championships on 5th February. Well done to Kiera who has qualified to represent Essex at the Inter-Counties Competition.



Dance:



The Uttlesford School Sport partnership held their annual gym and dance show at Saffron Hall on Thursday 27th February. Year 7 and 8 dance club performed a fantastic dance piece.



Football:

Well done to the Year 8 Boys' who competed in the District 6 a side tournament - 2 wins, 1 draw and 1 loss.

Basketball:



Year 7 & 8 Boys recently competed in their District Basketball Competition. Both teams worked hard, winning both their games 12 - 10 and 29 - 12 respectively.

Music:

Music Academy students enjoyed a full day of workshops with acclaimed Jazz Funk Band Resolution 88. Founded in Cambridge, Resolution 88 are one of the UK's leading jazz ensembles; headlining Ronnie Scott's Jazz Club, London Jazz Festival, Pizza Express Jazz, Soho and touring internationally.



Our students were fortunate to collaborate with the band for a spectacular evening performance during the Academy Recital. Members of the Music Academy performed for the Saffron Hall audience which was then followed by a performance from the SWCHS Jazz Band. The collaboration focussed on improvisation and members of the Senior Jazz Band stepped up to perform with confidence and expertise.



Saffron Hall really looked the part for the event and thanks go to Saffron Hall for what was a very visual experience as well as an auditory treat for all. We look forward to Resolution 88's next visit!



Paris Trip 2020:

A group of 22 students from Years 9 to 13 spent a weekend on a cultural visit to Paris. A native French speaker accompanied the group as their 'animateur' and guide to provide local knowledge and encourage French to be spoken at every opportunity. The group spent a tiring but very fulfilling weekend traversing Paris by



foot and Metro to take in the sights, including a visit to the Louvre museum, the palace of Versailles, and the artist quarter of Montmartre. They also benefited from a visit to the Museum of Liberation, with the opportunity to see artefacts from when Paris was occupied in the Second World War, linking closely to the A Level French curriculum. This was the first year that SWCHS has run this trip to Paris, and we look forward to offering this opportunity again for the upper school students studying French next year!

Weduc App:

Have you downloaded the Weduc App? We will soon be using this app as our main communication tool.

If you have not yet downloaded Weduc then please do so as soon as possible. If you have any queries or have not received your enrolment email, please contact Mrs Sims - JSims2@swchs.net.



Important dates for the month ahead:

- Thur 12th March - Music Concert in Saffron Hall
- Fri 13th March - Year 9 Politics Day
- Wed 18th March - Andre Young Lecture in Q6 (Boatman Centre)
- Thur 19th March - Year 8 'S' side Parents' Evening
- Tue 24th March - SWCHS Variety Show in Saffron Hall
- Thur 26th March - Year 8 'W' side Parents' Evening
- Sun 29th March - ASU Easter Fair
- Thur 2nd April - Year 12 Parents' Evening
- Fri 3rd April - School Closes for Easter Holiday

SWCHS Term Dates 2019/20:
Spring Term 2020
6th January 2020 - 3rd April 2020

Summer Term 2020
20th April 2020 - 22nd July 2020

School Closed for Bank Holiday - 8th May 2020

Half Term 25th May 2020- 29th May 2020

School Training Days:
(no pupils in school)

1st June 2020

Have your contact details changed?

It is extremely important that you inform us of any changes to your contact details. Please email office@swchs.net to advise us if you have recently moved house or changed any of your contact telephone numbers.