



Switch on - Spring 2023

SWCHS Parent/Carer Newsletter - Issue 52



From the Headteacher:



Yesterday, we waved off 130 students to go skiing. This trip was first arranged for February 2021 and I was, therefore, delighted that they have finally been able to go and also to hear that they will have good snow conditions. We also have a trip going to Paris that leaves tomorrow and I am so pleased that we are able to have these opportunities for our students and I am grateful to all of the teachers and support staff who have given part of their holiday to lead these visits.

This half term has also been a very creative one. A Level, CTEC, and GCSE coursework portfolios are taking shape in Art and Technology and the quality of the work is, as usual, very impressive. We have also had a number of performance opportunities such as the Academy Music Concert for our Sixth Form Musicians. I greatly enjoyed the Upper School Play *Around the World in 80 Days*, directed by Miss Bretton and just this week around 200 dancers performed to a packed house for the *Feel the Magic* dance show and the upbeat music and strong performances made it an uplifting night for us all.

As always, there has been much sporting success to celebrate with teams and individuals achieving some fantastic results – you will find a round up in this newsletter.

I would like to pass on my congratulations to Year 11 who showed a great attitude to their mock exams. They are a lovely Year group and Mr Wheeler and Miss Thacker are rightly very proud of them. I hope they all have a restful break after an important term of hard work.

During this half term we have said goodbye to Mrs Banks, from the Year 11 team, and Mrs Boyd, from the Reception team. We wish them both a very happy retirement.

Polly Lankester, Headteacher

Key Dates:

Mon 13th Feb – Fri 17th Feb	Half Term
Mon 20 th Feb 2023	School Opens – Timetable week 1
Fri 31 st Mar 2023	School Closes for holidays
Mon 3rd Apr – Fri 14th Apr 2023	School Holidays
Mon 17 th Apr 2023	School Opens for the Summer Term – Timetable week 1
Mon 1st May 2023	Bank Holiday – School Closed
Mon 8th May 2023	Bank Holiday – School Closed
Fri 26 th May 2023	School Closes for Half Term
Mon 29th May – Fri 2nd June 2023	Half Term
Mon 5th June 2023	School Closed – Training Day
Tue 6 th June 2023	School Opens – Timetable week 2
Fri 30 th June 2023	Hampers & Champers Fundraising Evening
Mon 17 th - Thu 20 th July 2023	Year 10 Work Experience
Fri 21 st July 2023	Early Finish @ 1.15pm - School Closes for the Summer Holidays

Poetry Competition

In October 2022 the English Department launched their second SWCHS Poet Laureate competition. This year, the theme was the Environment and students were encouraged to write poems that reflected what this theme made them think of. From activist poems to personal connections, we had a full range of wonderful entries.

We are pleased to announce the winners of the competition are: Alexa Reynolds, Mathilda Starr, Esther Haynes, Emma Hopton, Louis Grotchen and Lily Davis. Congratulations to these successful entrants and to everyone who entered - you were all marvellous!

Stay tuned for more poems from these students and don't forget to find us on Twitter (@SWCHS_Poetry) for more poetry content!





School Production



Last week our school production 'Around the World in 80 Days' had over 40 students, drawn from Years 9 to 13, playing a huge number of characters from all over the world. All performed with great energy and infectious enthusiasm in a lively production directed by *Alice Bretton* from SWCHS Drama Department. Special mention should be made for the full-sized Elephant, an inventive creation, using Amazon Packaging, by *Sarah Monk*, the Department's Curriculum Assistant.









Dance Show

SWCHS held its annual dance production in Saffron Hall on Tuesday 7th February. This celebration of dance, which involved students from all year groups within the school, had a theme of Disney. This explored the songs and characters from the popular films.

The show was fully inclusive, giving over 200 pupils the opportunity to perform, dancing in various acts, from class pieces, GCSE work, solos, and duos, as well as pieces created by external dance practitioners.









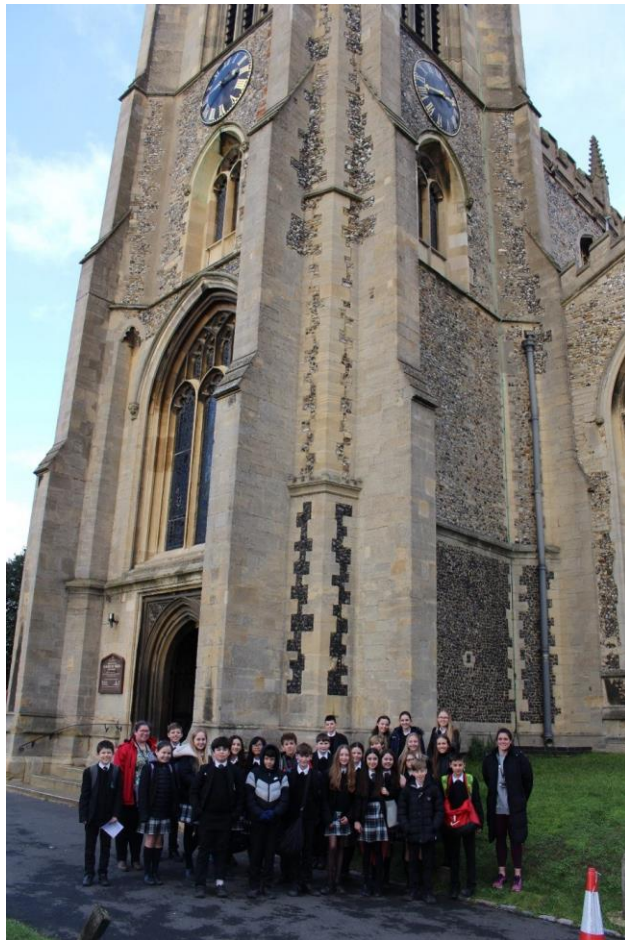




Holocaust Memorial Service

On Friday the Chamber Choir sang at the Holocaust Memorial Day service in St Mary's Church, Saffron Walden. This is a hugely important service and a privilege to be a part of.





1 - Students from Saffron Walden County High attended the Memorial Service at St Mary's Church

PE

Wishing all our skiers a great week of skiing next week in the Austrian Alps



2 - Passing through Germany on way to Austria

Rugby

Awesome play from the U18 boys hockey winning the Cambs Tournament today beating Kings Ely 3-0 and Wisbech 2-0. Goals from Michael x2, Taegan x2 & Stan. The boys are now through to represent Cambs at the regional tournament at Redbridge in February.





Huge congratulations to Grace who has been scouted by Saracens Centre of Excellence for rugby.



Football

SWCHS Year 8 football. Well done to the Year 8 boys for their 3-1 victory over Leventhorpe.



Cross Country

Congratulations to our Year 10 girls who raced as part of the North West Essex Team at the Essex Schools Cross Country this Saturday. Kate came 33rd (despite being sent the wrong way), Isobel came 15th and has qualified for inter counties and Keira came 2nd qualifying for nationals.



Cricket

Year 7 & 8 girls played in the U13 Essex Indoor Cricket tournament today. They finished a very presentable 3rd.



Hockey

U15 girls hockey against St George's today (Argentinian school).

A fabulous fixture giving the girls opportunity to play together before they go on tour in March. The U15 girls won 3-1.





Senior Mixed Hockey Team

A super 1st game for the Senior Mixed Hockey Team winning 6-0 away to Hockerill. As soon as we started passing the ball around we looked unstoppable.





Year 8 Hockey boys Cambs Hockey Tournament.

Played 6, lost 4 won 2. Good wins over Stephen Perse and St John.



Netball

Many congratulations to Megan who has been selected for the U15 Mavericks Performance Netball Team that will train together in preparation for the National School Games in September.



Congratulations

Well done to Lewis Buchallet who won the British Nordic Ski Championship in Germany.

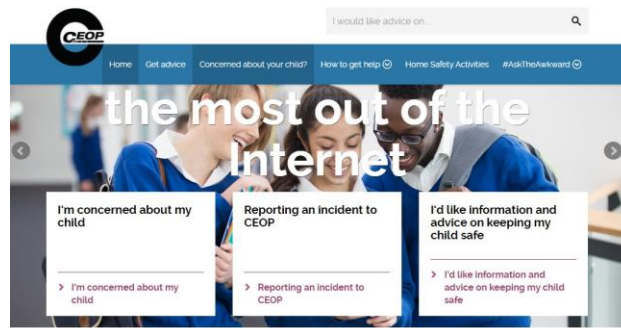


Safeguarding Update:



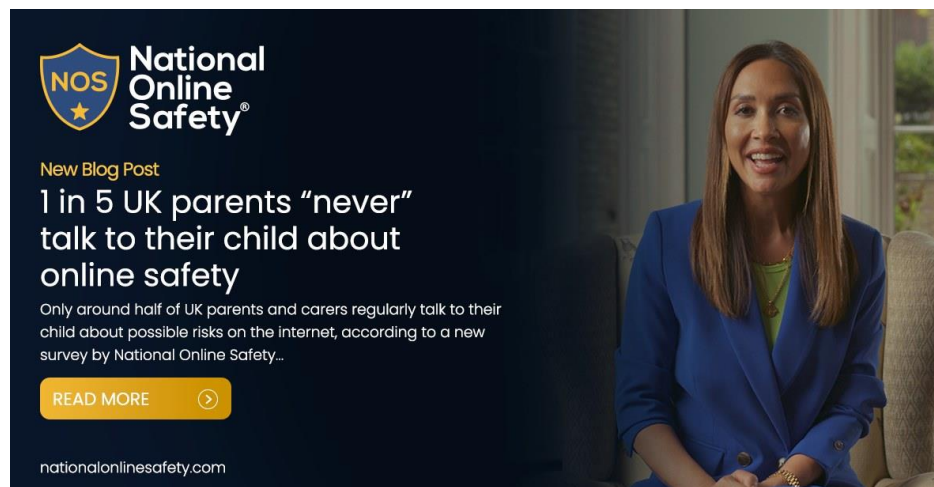
Cyber security A guide for parents and carers

[Cyber security A guide for parents and carers - YouTube](#)



[Parents and carers | CEOP Education \(thinkuknow.co.uk\)](#)

[Click on this link for further information from the National Online Safety](#)



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If you have any safeguarding concerns, visit our website for the Safeguarding Team contact details and further information.

[Click here to visit our website](#)

Change of Contact Details:

It is extremely important that you inform us of any changes to your contact details. In case of emergency we may need to contact you urgently.

Please advise us of any changes to your contact details either via Weduc by selecting **The Hub** and clicking on **Contact the School** or via email to **office@swchs.net**.