



Switch on - late Spring 2023

SWCHS Parent/Carer Newsletter - Issue 53



From the Headteacher:



I hope you enjoy reading this edition of the Newsletter. We have decided to include spotlights on different subjects so that we can celebrate the work that they do, below you can see some of the wonderful work from our A Level Textiles students. You can also see a roundup of school activities, including the fantastic evening events such as the Spring Concert, The Musical Theatre event, and our Variety Show. We had great audiences supporting our students at these events and I would like to thank all who attended - I hope you enjoyed them as much as I did! You can also catch up with the successes of our Sports Teams. We have had some exciting trips this half term, including Sixth Formers going to Rome.

A very special event in the school calendar is the Tim Hardingham Memorial Lecture, celebrating the life of our friend and colleague and in particular his commitment to inspiring Science Education. This year we welcomed Scientists from the British Antarctic Survey who talked to all of our Year 10 students, had lunch with our Sixth Formers and then a large audience from the school and community in the evening. This was the final event of our Science Week, which also included all of our Year 9 students visiting the Space Centre.

This half term, we have been working on our Improvement Plan for the next 3 years. This includes planning for further improvements in our facilities, resources, interventions, recruitment, and student support, so that we can ensure all students are in an inspiring school, taught by great teachers and able to progress. Thank you to all the parents who completed the survey asking for your input. I know

parents will also be pleased to hear that, responding to feedback, we will be further enhancing our food offer at lunchtime and, with immediate effect after Easter, lengthening lunchtime on Wednesdays by 15 minutes, without losing any vital lesson time and without changing the start or end of the day. We are achieving this by trialling students going straight from lunch to period 5, without having tutor time on that day.

I hope that we will enjoy some sunny warm weather over the next two weeks, and I wish you and your family a very happy holiday.

Polly Lankester, Headteacher

Key Dates:

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
Mon 24th July – Tues 5th Sep 2023	School Holidays
Wed 6 th Sep 2023	Year 7s Start
Thurs 7 th Sep 2023	All Students in School

Pre-Loved Uniform Shop



We opened our Pre-Loved Uniform shop last month to help families with the cost of living and to raise money towards the pastoral budget which helps those students in need of support. Miss Haywood SSO for Year 8 has taken over this role.

We would like to thank all parents who have donated uniforms and helped to make this happen.

Amy (Miss Haywood) had been taking email orders since September 2022 and now with the shop open will run regular open evening for parents along side the online orders.

The next opening date will be Monday 24th April, 3.20-5.00pm in the PE block.

The shop space is limited so please be aware you may have to queue for a short while. You are welcome to bring your child with you for sizing but unfortunately we have no area to try uniform on.

Please do not arrive before 3.30pm as we need to make sure students have left the PE block first and the car park has cleared.

We can only accept cash currently.

Events

Science Fortnight

Science Fortnight 2023 involved many exciting activities taking place through all key stages involving trips and external visitors. This ran from March 13th-March 24th.

We were delighted to welcome Cambridge Science Centre back into SWCHS to deliver an interactive show to Year 7 and 8 students. Students were taken on a journey through the universe to explore how light is used to make exciting discoveries.

All of Year 9 enjoyed a day at the National Space Centre in Leicester. A highlight of the day was a live show in the 3D dome-shaped planetarium where fantastic narration by the Space Centre team along with incredible visual effects transported Year 9 into deep outer space to visit other galaxies. Students visited the Rocket Tower, in which they got to see the scale of a space rocket as well as many artefacts,

including real moon rock. They also got to take themselves back in time to experience how it was in 1969 when the world was watching the first lunar landing. Space Centre staff delivered an interactive show about combusting fuels to launch rockets which, as well as containing fun demonstrations, was directly linked to work they are doing in their current chemistry topic. Students also had time to explore the many interactive galleries and exhibits throughout the centre.

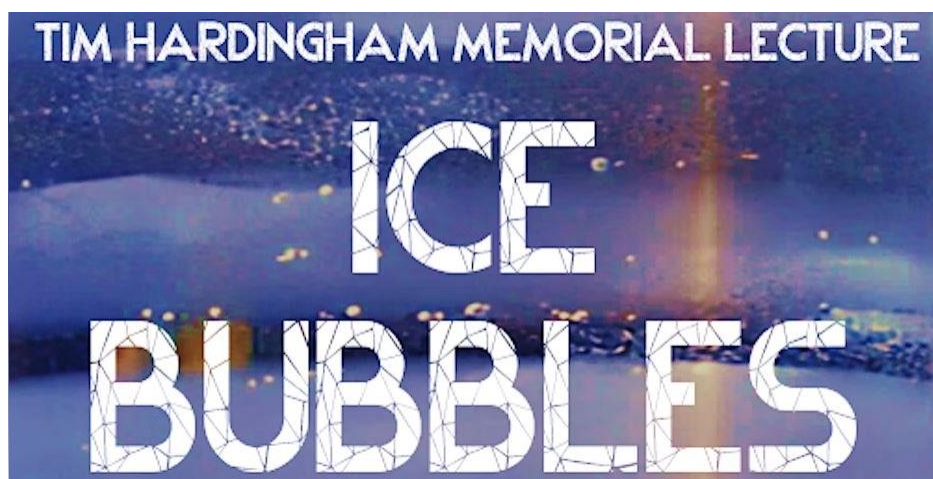
All Year 12 Science students visited the Science Museum in London. They all enjoyed a 3D Imax film to transport them to either outer Space or the Arctic, and had plenty of time to explore the many sections of the museum.

The second annual Tim Hardingham Memorial Lecture day was an exciting day for many. Two visitors from the British Antarctic Survey visited the school for the day. These scientists work in a team that collect samples of ice from Antarctica and analyse tiny bubbles within them in labs in Cambridge. Their research is at the forefront of climate change research. They had lunch with a number of Year 12 students interested in finding out about this type of career and the students involved were hugely inspired but their work and talked excitedly to the researchers. The whole of Year 10 then had a talk by the scientists about how their work encompasses biology, chemistry and physics and involves a huge range of activities and skill sets. Straight after this, they spent time with some Year 13 students who are planning to pursue a related course or career. In the evening, the researchers had a captivated audience of around 300, including students and their families and members of the public of all ages. Their lecture was inspiring to all - Saffron Hall was buzzing with excitement and questions. Being able to handle Antarctic Ice was a great highlight. It was particularly exciting that both researchers were young, female scientists who were so passionate about their subject and their careers that this will undoubtedly challenge any remaining gender stereotypes about who can be a scientist!

This was a fabulous week celebrating Science.....time to start planning for 2024!!

Tim Hardingham Memorial Lecture: Ice Bubbles

It was great to see so many students attend the Tim Hardingham Memorial Lecture, a topic we know Tim would have loved! Thanks to all who supported this event.



A Musical Mythology

We have just enjoyed the most wonderful concert A Musical Mythology. Students shared a beautifully intimate & charming performance, thank you for joining us this evening





SWCHS Variety Show

Following the success of Charities Week in December, the Sixth Form Student Committee worked hard to arrange the annual Variety Show, which took place at Saffron Hall on Tuesday 28th March. The show featured a range of fabulous musical, dance and cabaret talents across all year groups, including highlights from recent student Dance and Musical Theatre showcases. All ticket and raffle proceeds went to the seven charities supported in December, increasing our running total of £10,400. We are so proud of the work our students put in, both on stage and behind the scenes, to make events like this happen. A special thank you to Saskia Warren, Emily Woodcock and Shelley McNulty, who have expertly led the Committee. We look forward to seeing Year 12 stepping up into these leadership roles later in the year.



Spotlight on . . .

Ambitious Textiles

The Year 13 Textiles students have certainly risen to the challenge this year; Students have been really creative with media, materials and ideas. Their interest in decorative textiles and its application to costume and fashion design has been totally inspiring. The students have explored a wide variety of themes including human anatomy, butterflies, layers in rust and decay and natural forms within their highly personal projects. The celebration of their creativity and ambition was captured during a photoshoot earlier this month. The use of our wonderful photography studio, backdrops and lighting has really captured the beauty and skill within their creations. It was wonderful to see the students modelling each other's work, seeing the outfits worn really enhance their creations and capture the extensive work that has been undertaken during the designing and making process. These wonderful outfits and the photographs from the fashion shoot will be on display at the final CTEC and A Level exhibition later this year.



1 - Creation by Dominica Suchomlinow, modelled by Natalia Suchomlinow





2 - Creation by Emily Altree







3 - Creation by Poppy Montgomery



4 - Creation by Abigail Rusby, modelled by Suchomlinow



5 - Creation by Maddie Ridge

Trips

Geology Trip to Dorset

Year 13 had a wonderful trip to the Dorset coast earlier this month. Despite questionable weather, including flurries of snow, all persevered to make the most of their time. All enjoyed excellent geology from striking and plunging folds to calculating dinosaur footprints and fossil hunting at Kimmeridge Bay.

One trip highlight was the re-emergence of extinct species Graham Oxborrow who made an unexplained reappearance most notably evident through the influx of Twitter posts on the SWCHS Geology handle!

Accommodation and food were both excellent and students worked very hard, even well into the evenings. It's safe to say that all had a great time, proven by the fact that even the bus driver couldn't resist getting involved!

The trip was brilliantly led and coordinated by the newly evolved species, Mr McConnaughie.









Rome Trip

At the end of March, the Sixth Form Latin and Classics students spent a weekend in Rome. They visited the Pantheon, the Forum and the Colosseum, as well as seeing artefacts they had been studying in museums. The trip included a day in Ostia, recognising the remains of the Roman settlement and admiring the stunning mosaics. Students enjoyed being able to experience first hand the sites they have been learning about (and the beautiful Italian weather!).









PE

Curling

SWCHS came third in the Essex Final for Kurling today. Well done to everyone who took part - outstanding effort.





Hockey

Hockey Tour to Valkenburg Holland

The girl's hockey teams from Year 8, 9, 10 and 12 went on a 4 day tour to Valkenburg, Holland. The girls took part in a 2 hour coaching session with local coaches and all played 2 games per team against different clubs over the weekend.

On the Saturday the girls got the chance to sample the local sights and activities.

It was a fabulous tour with great progression from all teams.

The girls were an absolute credit to the school.







Congratulations to the Senior boys' hockey team for reaching the National Hockey Finals, finishing 5th overall. A tremendous achievement - we are very proud of you!



Through to the finals v Norwich in the U18 boys hockey regional finals - great game v Gresham winning 2-0 goals from Taegan & Michael



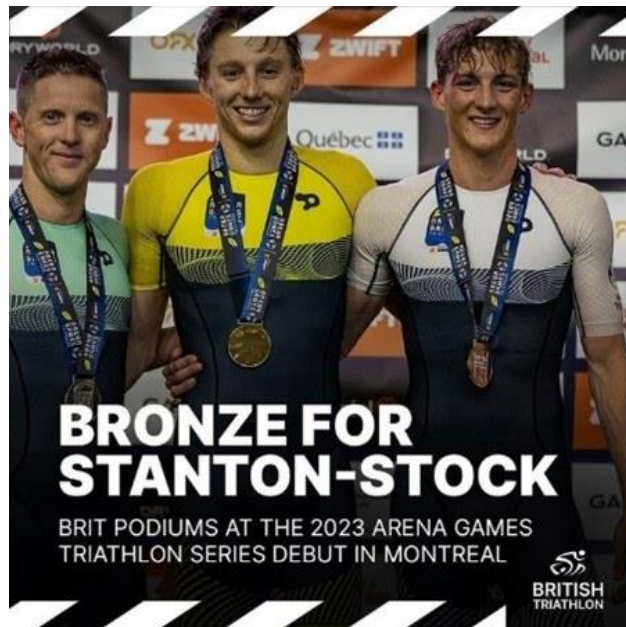
Great 2-0 win against Aldenham to put us 5th in the Senior Boys National Hockey Finals. Disappointed not to get a medal but that is the joys of tournament play. A great standard of hockey





Congratulations

Alumni student, Jack Stanton-Stock won a bronze medal in the recent Arena Games triathlon series. Congratulations!



Sixth Form UN Quiz



A wonderful UN quiz tonight and two great teams! Congratulations to Euan, Jean, Fin and Adam for winning the Strachan trophy!

Coming Up

We are excited to announce tickets are now available for our annual Hampers & Champers fundraising Event

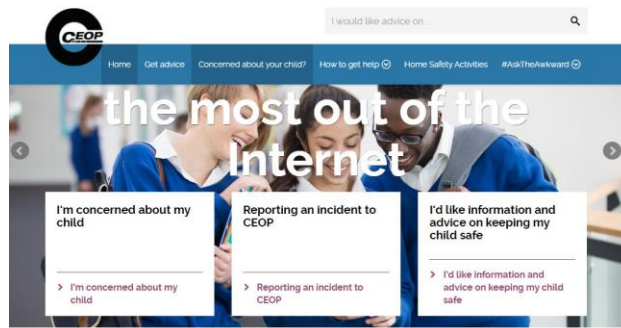


Safeguarding Update:



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](#)

A banner for National Online Safety. On the left, the NOS logo is displayed above a snippet of a blog post titled '1 in 5 UK parents "never" talk to their child about online safety'. The snippet includes a sub-headline 'New Blog Post' and a paragraph stating 'Only around half of UK parents and carers regularly talk to their child about possible risks on the internet, according to a new survey by National Online Safety...'. Below the text is a yellow 'READ MORE' button with a right-pointing arrow. On the right side of the banner is a photograph of a woman with long brown hair, wearing a blue blazer, sitting and smiling. The website address 'nationalonlinesafety.com' is at the bottom left.

We have a legal duty to protect children from maltreatment; prevent impairment of children's health or development; ensure that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care; and take action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.

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**.