



# Switch on - End of Summer Term 2023

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*SWCHS Parent/Carer Newsletter - Issue 55*

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## From the Headteacher:



We have had a fantastic end to this busy term. I know all who were able to join us will agree that the performances in the two July Music concerts were exceptional, and it was lovely to welcome back two alumni students, George Cass and Josh Lucas. Many of our senior musicians then left us to go to perform in four very successful concerts in and around Strasbourg (as well as having time to visit a chocolate museum and a theme park). It has been a busy term for trips, as we have also had a successful Year 9 Battlefields tour, the Rhineland trip for Year 8, a range of field trips and Duke of Edinburgh expeditions.

I really enjoyed watching our annual Sports Day. There were some impressive individual performances, but there is also such a strong sense of community and camaraderie with students cheering on all competitors, with those bravely fighting over the line at the back of the field most of all. Sports Day was a fitting celebration at the end of a very strong year for extra-curricular PE with regional and national success for teams and individuals.

This week I have also been watching Years 7, 8 and 9 taking part in in-school workshops in Maths, Computing, Tech, Languages, Drama, Music, and Art. There is such a variety of experiences going on around the school - quiet focus of students learning oil painting or etching, high energy in the Drama, Music and Dance studios, excitement in the Maths escape room, and delicious flavours in Food Tech to name just a few. I have also enjoyed talking to students returning from the various trips that have been

organised. Activities Week gives us a lovely end to the year – much deserved after all the hard work that has gone in.

I hope you all have a good summer.

**Polly Lankester, Headteacher**

## Key Dates:

[Click here to see term dates for 2023-24](#)[Click here to see term dates for 2023-24](#)

Fri 21 <sup>st</sup> July 2023	School Closes for the Summer Holidays Early Finish @ 1.15pm
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> August	A Level Results Day
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> August	GCSE Results Day

## Staff Leavers

Staff who will be leaving us at the end of the summer term – we thank them for their hard work at SWCHS and wish them all well for the future.

**Helen Cox** *Social Sciences*

**Hilary Curtis** *Maths*

**Jason Ions** *Art*

**Millie Wilde** *Social Sciences*

**Hannah Copley** *Social Sciences*

**Sarah Boggis** *English*

**Brea Warren** *Art/Sixth Form/tech*

**Phillipa Evans** *Science*

**Mair Thomas** *Science*

**Rachel Adams** *Science*

**Tobias Wilson** *MFL*

**Jane Swiecichowski** *Finance*

**Kari Edwards** *LSA*

## Year 11 Prom

We had a wonderful Year 11 Prom in July, celebrating the end of five years of lower school.

A beautiful marquee, food vans, great music and lots of dancing, made for a great night enjoyed by staff and students alike.

Year 11s all wanted to send a huge THANK YOU to Stacey Ridgewell, our Year 11 Student Support Officer, for all her work organising this event.

We are looking forward to celebrating exam results (and all the hard work that went into them) in August.











## Activities Week

### **Bhaktivedanta Manor Hindu temple**

Year 8 really enjoyed a visit to Bhaktivedanta Manor Hindu temple in Watford to learn more about the Hindu Faith, Highlights included facepainting, an oxen cart ride and feeding calves in the cow sanctuary. We were also treated to a delicious meal. Back in school, students took part in a cross arts day, inspired by French cuisine and German art. Some made brilliant Bauhaus themed pencil boxes and stylish tote bags whilst others baked magnificent mille feuille.





Colchester Zoo





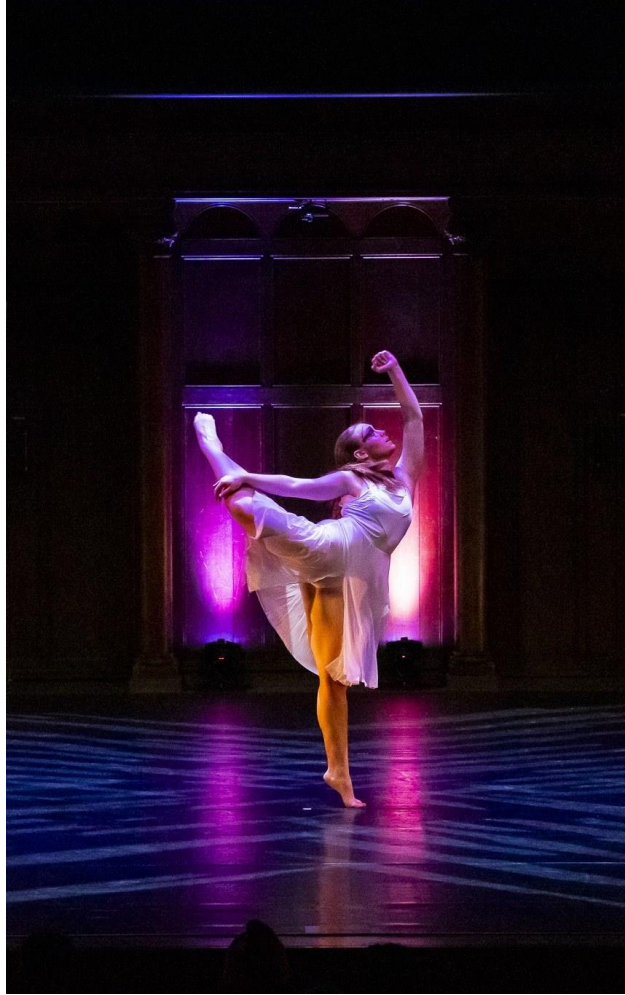
## Step into Dance

Students from yr 9,10 & 11 who attend the Step into Dance club on a Tuesday evening were selected from over a hundred schools in Essex and London to perform in the annual dance performance StepLive 23. The students have been taught by Marie Deane all year and have worked enthusiastically to perform at Cadogan Hall theatre in London. The students gained so much from this prestigious production.

Congratulations to all students.







## Normandy Trip

In June 2023 we took 40 year 8 students to Normandy on a linguistic immersion and activities trip. After a day of travel, brightened by our entertaining coach driver Greg, we arrived at La Grande Ferme in time for dinner and a scavenger hunt in French.



During the trip students benefitted from immersion in French, with each activity skillfully introduced by our native 'animateurs'. Activities included a visit to a typical French market, sand-yachting, climbing, archery, aeroball, volleyball, pétanque, breadmaking and a visit to a mini-farm. The highlight of the trip for many was a three hour barefoot crossing of the Bay of Mont Saint-Michel followed by the chance to explore the quintessential Medieval town itself. We were delighted to receive many compliments from the general public about how polite and lovely our students were. Well done year 8!















## Battlefields Trip

In June, 56 students travelled to France and Belgium on a four-day residential trip. They visited learned in depth about the First World War, visiting battlefields, museums and memorials. They paid their respects to the fallen soldiers at Commonwealth and German cemeteries. On the last evening, they attended the Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate and laid a wreath on behalf of our school community. It was a brilliant and enjoyable trip that we hope the students will remember forever.

*"All students were brilliant. Their attitude and conduct throughout was impeccable.*

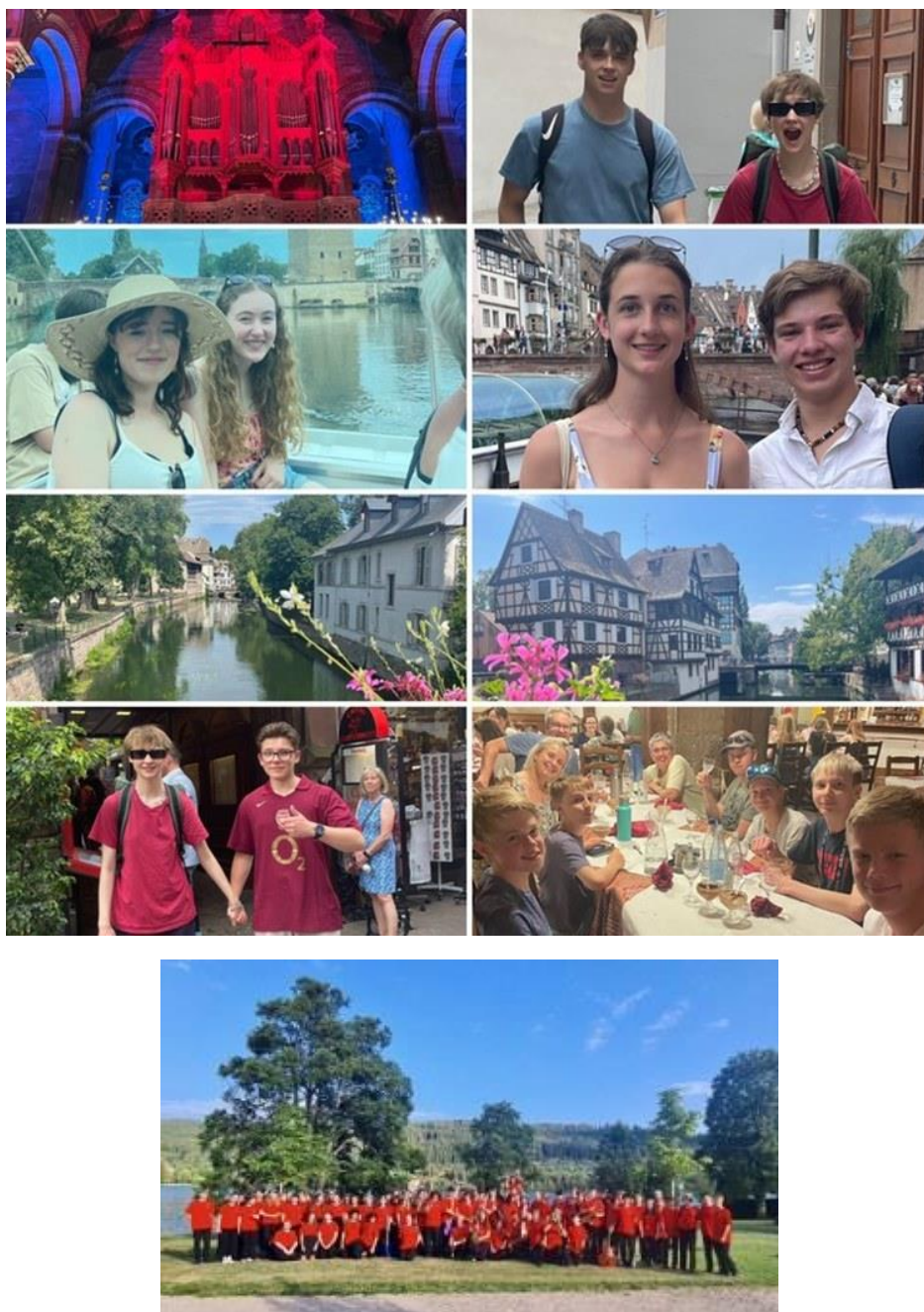
*They were a credit to themselves, their families and the school. They learnt so much and enjoyed themselves too"*



**Music Tour**

Our musicians have just returned from a fantastic trip to Strasbourg and the Black Forest for their annual music tour.





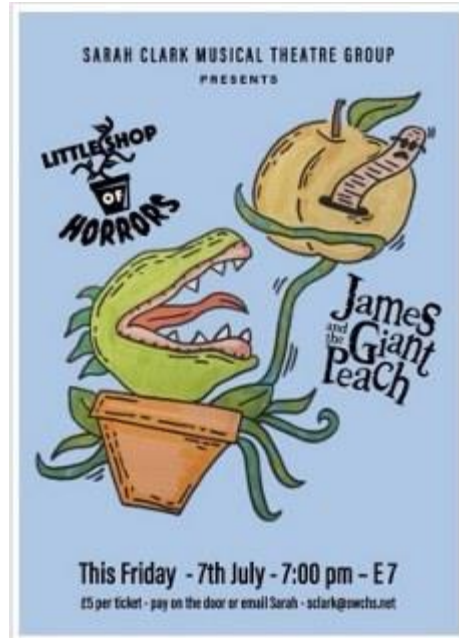
## Music Academy Recital and Summer Concert

It was lovely to see our alumni return for the annual Music Academy recital. We welcomed back Josh Lucas, who has just finished his first year at Guildhall Conservatoire, and George Cass, who is currently studying at Durham University. It was a pleasure to listen to them once more, along with our own talented musicians. In addition, students also enjoyed performing at the annual Summer Concert in Saffron Hall. A busy time for the Music department, but a wonderful showcase of talent!



## Musical Theatre Production

Well done to all students who performed in the SWCHS Musical Theatre production 'James and the Giant Peach' and 'Little Shop of Horrors'. Very impressive performances all round and perhaps unsurprisingly, all SWCHS students who sat the LCM exams achieved Distinctions. Congratulations!



## Year 7 Disco

The Student Leadership Committee were informed through their Student Voice tutor sessions that students wanted more after school events. This year we started with a Year 7 disco! Lots of fun was had by all with some great dance moves, a photo booth and it was a really lovely way to end the students first year at SWCHS. Thanks to the Sixth Form Student Union and Mrs Ward for organising the event.

























## Sports

### Year 7 Girls

Year 7 girls were district champions in Hockey, Cross Country, Cricket, Rounders and Athletics this year. They came 2nd in the district Football and 3rd in the Netball. They also went to the regional Hockey where they finished 3rd which is a great achievement. Lots of girls have also been coming to other extra-curricular clubs including Trampolining, Tennis and Fitness. Year 7's have made a great start to SWCHS, we have some very talented sports people.

### Year 7 Boys

The Year 7 boys have had an excellent year reaching the semi-finals of both the rugby and football district tournaments narrowly beaten by the eventual winners.

In athletics, the boys produced some excellent individual performances to win the first round of the national athletics competition and finish an excellent 2nd place at the district meeting.

Extra-curricular sports clubs have also been very well attended with a large number of the boys selected to represent the school in a range of sports throughout the year.

### Year 8 Girls

Year 8 girls participation at extra-curricular clubs has continued to be outstanding this year with each club having 30-40 students attending, hockey, netball and rounders. The girls have also participated in football, cricket and tennis, and trampolining clubs after school throughout the year. Lots of year 8 girls went on the Hockey tour to Holland which was a huge success. Particular highlights were both A&B Hockey teams became District champions. In netball, rounders and cricket students made semi-finals and finals across district competitions.

### Year 8 Boys

Boys sporting successes have again been plentiful in year 8.

A successful rugby tour to Cardiff and Bristol with the boys learning lots!

The football and hockey squads both had great season with the footballers making it to the semi-final of the Bishop Stortford Districts.

The summer has seen the cricket team get into the 3rd Round of the Essex cup and the athletic squad won the NW Essex District athletics.



### Year 9 Girls

The year 9 girls have been fabulous this year, the hockey tour was a huge highlight, they worked hard in the coaching sessions and showed grit and determination in the matches. The year9 mixed rounders team made it to national finals where they finished in the top 4. There have been some outstanding performances in Athletics and a lot of progress. It has been a real highlight to see some girls progress in the sprinting events.

### Year 9 Boys

The year 9 boys have had another excellent year on the sportsfield, with some of the highlights outlined below:

- Rugby - District champions, won 13/15 games, an unbeaten rugby tour to Cardiff and Bristol, County cup 1/4 finalist.
- Cross Country - District champions.
- Swimming - District Champions.
- Hockey - Round 2 of the national finals.
- Football - District Semi-finalists.
- Athletics - NW Essex District Champions (Bishops Stortford runners-up).

### Year 10 Girls

Year 10 girls have had an amazing season of sport:- Combined with the year 11's they won their county finals and were regional finalists in both hockey and netball. They won the North- West Essex Athletics and were 3rd in the country in rounders (won the district & regional tournaments and came 3rd in the nationals).

Individuals – Keira Shaw has qualified to represent GBR in the U20 Duathlon at the Europeans next year. Holly Hartley has been selected for the challenge cup for Hockey (Best regional players).

## Year 10 Boys

The year 10 boys have had a busy year to date! They have enjoyed numerous Rugby fixtures and a tour to Cardiff and Bristol, the team also made the quarter finals of the Essex Cup.

Football and Cricket have seen multiple pupils take part which was pleasing to see. The respective sides have had some mixed results throughout their seasons.

Finally, we have had some fantastic performances at various athletics competitions this term

## Year 11 Girls

The hockey season was led by the amazing captain Ella Chen who is such a confident and skilful player. The hockey team had great success in their matches they played 9 friendly fixtures and won them all , they won the Essex school U16 hockey championship and got through to the regional finals.

The football season saw us lose in the second round of the Essex cup despite so many talented players in the year group.

The u16 netball squad also had great success in the local fixtures and finished third in the bishop Stortford and district tournament. The girls who played a significant role in the national tournament, getting through to the semi-finals of the National cup

## Year 11 Boys

Even after Mr Ison leaving the commitment remained high for the rugby season beating TBSHS, Robert Clack and Leventhorpe. Reaching the semi final of the Essex 7's which was the last time some would represent the school.

The numbers at football were consistently high from all abilities. Managed to get some good friendly fixture vs Newport A&B and Birchwood.

The commitment to give back was noble with half a dozen or so helping with Yr 7 rugby club and Fin Barden helping referee Yr 7 & 8 Football.



## Dance

Our annual SWCHS dance production this year was a huge success using a Disney theme, students from all year groups were involved in some capacity, performing on the Saffron Hall stage. Dance clubs have

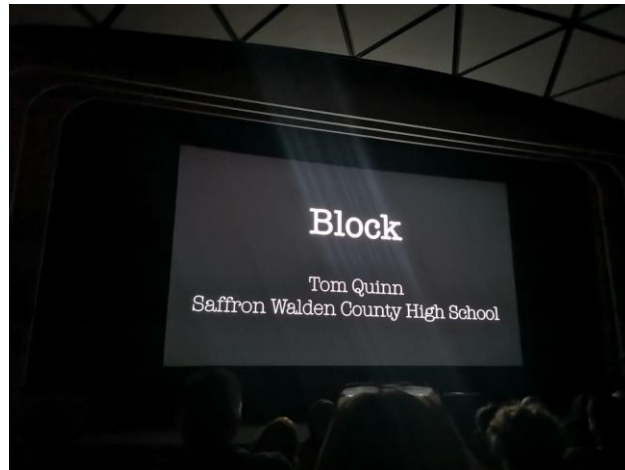


continued to run throughout the year with excellent attendance. The Step Into Dance club qualified, from 100 schools, to perform in this year's 'StepLive' evening dance show in Cadogan Hall in London, this is a great achievement for our pupils.

## Congratulations

One of our film students, Tom Quinn, was shortlisted for the Barney Oram Creativity Award at the Media Magazine Awards at BFI Southbank. Tom and his family attended this event on July 3rd and saw his short film played on the big screen.

Congratulations Tom, such a huge achievement to be nominated out of over 200 entries.





### **Congratulations to The Brilliant Club Graduates**

Congratulations to our group of 14 students who completed a six-week course on Illuminating the Body - how engineering can have an impact on healthcare and treatment, run by Jelena Brown.

The Brilliant Club is a charity which work with schools and universities across the UK to increase the number of pupils progressing to highly-selective universities. They do this by running programmes in schools, where the students are taught by PhD students.

All the students passed the assignment with flying colours, with two pupils –Dylan Hart & Dylan Miller – being awarded a 1st.



Congratulations to Ellie Cameron who has been announced as the national winner of the Anthea Bell Prize for Young Translators 2023 (French to English). The Anthea Bell Prize competition is run by Queen's College Oxford and attracts thousands of entries from across the country. Ellie won the Level 4 competition (for students from Year 11 - Year 13), with her creative translation of a poem by Marguerite Yourcenar.

Congratulations to Grace Strickland, who was selected for the England Rugby u18 squad - an amazing achievement!

## Teachers Q&A

### Mr Millership, Year 8 Achievement Co-ordinator



#### **Why did you decide to become a teacher?**

I coached football throughout my teens and really enjoyed working with young people and seeing how I could help them improve. I also had a love for all sports and knew I wanted to teach PE from a young age!

#### **Did you have any other jobs before teaching?**

I had lots of part-time jobs during college and university. These included bar work at Stansted Airport, working for an accounts department, football coaching and a few shifts on a milk float!

#### **What was your favourite subject at school?**

PE! I also loved Maths and sat my GCSE a year early.

#### **What was your worst subject at school?**

At the time it would have been German, however I regret this as I wish I could speak another language!

#### **Did you every get a detention and if so, why?**

I don't think I did... Sorry there's no interesting story!!!

#### **Do you play an instrument or speak another language?**

I can't play an instrument, however I try my best to speak a little Italian as we take the ski school trip there annually and it's by far my most favourite country in the world.

#### **Best piece of advice given to you that you would pass onto a student?**

You never know what will happen in the future, therefore keep all doors open!

#### **What would your students be suprised to find out about you?**

I spent 6 weeks in Thailand, Vietnam and Cambodia, staying in run-down villages with locals and following the Mekong River.

#### **What is your favourite TV Show?**

Friends – it ages like a fine wine and is great to just relax in front of!

#### **Do you have a hidden talent?**



I like re-developing homes and have re-developed 3 homes in my life (with considerable help from contractors!!)

**What is your dream holiday destination?**

Anywhere away from the hustle and bustle of every day life! I love being up a mountain in the Alps, in a quiete cove on the Med, or lost on a long walk in the Peak District.

**What would you take to the jungle as your 1 luxury item?**

Pillow – I need sleep!!!!!!

**If you could have any super power what would it be?**

To fly – I love flying on airplanes!

**Sunrise or Sunset?**

Sunrise, on my bike in the countryside!

**Dogs or Cats?**

Dogs – I have a black Labrador and I'm allergic to cat fur!

**Summer or Winter?**

Both – I love the fact we have different seasons in the UK.

**Sweet or Savoury?**

Sweet – Dorringtons Doughnut!!!!

**Messy or Tidy?**

Tidy – I can't stand mess... it's a bit of a phobia....

**Coffee or Tea?**

Decaf coffee

**Night in or Night out?**

Night in with my feet up

**Movie or Book?**

Depends on how I'm feeling, usually an episode of a boxset though.

**Truth or Dare?**

Truth

**Mountains or Beach?**

Difficult as I love both, however I'd lean towards the mountains!

## Maths or English?

Maths – I've always been better with numbers!

## Safeguarding Update:

Children can spend more time on-line in the summer holidays and so below are two guides that provide key reminders that you may wish to discuss with your child.





Other useful links for July:

Below is a link to the NSPCC website section providing advice to parents. You can find supportive tips and advice on topics such as supporting children's mental health.

[Advice and guidance for parents from the NSPCC](#)

## 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**.