

24th June 2021



Saffron Walden County High School

Saffron Academy Trust

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Dear Parent/Carers and Students

ON-SITE INDUCTION VISITS CANCELLED

Yesterday, SWCHS was invited to meet with experts from other agencies, including the Essex County Council Public Health and Education Team, the District Council, and Public Health England, to discuss the current cases of COVID-19 in the school. In the meeting, it was agreed that due to the number of positive cases in Year 10, this should be classified as an outbreak. It was also agreed that this outbreak is likely to be caused by the more transmissible variants as well as the mixing of young people both inside and outside of school.

Whilst Public Health England were very positive and satisfied by our safety measures within school, we now need to take effective and decisive action to stop any further spread of the virus and ensure that school can remain open for as long as possible.

Therefore, in accordance with the advice from Public Health England, it is with regret that I am writing to inform you that we will have to **cancel all on-site induction visits** next week.

Whilst we are saddened not to meet you in person next week, we hope that you understand the reasons behind this decision. We will still be offering a series of online events to help students integrate into the Sixth Form here at SWCHS:

1. **On Monday 28th June**, from 6:00pm-7:00pm, the Year 12 collegiate will be hosting a live Q&A session on Zoom, with details about what to expect at SWCHS Sixth Form. (This has been **rescheduled** from Tuesday as a result of England's timorous progress in Euro 2020!) The evening is primarily aimed at parents and carers; however, students are more than welcome to join in too. We hope that by rescheduling this event, more parents will now be able to attend.

There will be an opportunity to ask questions during the session. However, please do send your questions in advance to kholden@swchs.net

You can join the meeting [HERE](#)
Zoom Meeting ID: 881 8749 8966
Zoom Passcode: 565122

If any parent is now unable to attend this rescheduled time, please do still get in touch and we will answer any questions that you might have. We also hope to host our annual 'Welcome to Sixth Form' event for parents in September.



2. **On Tuesday 29th June**, we are delighted to welcome Ms Finn Manders, School Liaisons Officer at Emmanuel College Cambridge, who will be holding an interactive session providing students with information on how to explore the idea of higher education and how to apply to competitive courses and universities. Ms Manders will also be giving an insight into the benefits of applying to Cambridge University.

This session will start at 4:00pm and will be hosted via the Microsoft Teams app:

[Join Meeting here](#)

Throughout Induction Week, current Year 12 students will be hosting a number of 'lunch time takeovers' on the Sixth Form Instagram channel: [@SWCHS Sixth Form](#)

This is an opportunity for prospective students to ask our current students any questions about activities that go on 'beyond the classroom'. **These sessions will run from 12:00pm-1:00pm, each day**, and will be themed as follows:

Monday - Extra Curricular and Virtual Tour: This will focus on Electives, which are activities that run on a Wednesday afternoon in Sixth Form. Electives give sixth formers the opportunity to engage in pursuits other than their academic studies. This includes representative sport, drama, the Music Academy, as well as individual projects. Year 12 students will also film a live tour of the Sixth Form area.

Tuesday - Student Bodies: The Sixth Form prides itself on the involvement of students in the running of the Sixth Form. In addition to our Head Students, there are three distinct bodies: Student Union, Student Committee and Student Council (details of which can be found on p.15 of the Sixth Form prospectus). We have found that the more students that get involved in the school community, the better. Please join this lunchtime takeover if you would like to find out more.

Wednesday - Super Curricular: This refers to students looking to broaden and deepen their academic experience. This will include exploring the EPQ, work experience and applying for both apprenticeships and university.

Also on Wednesday, students looking to study A-Level English, will be able to take part in an English Q&A session on Zoom between 3:00pm-4:00pm.

You can join the meeting [HERE](#)

Zoom Meeting ID: 936 2780 7369

Zoom Passcode: swchs

Finally, on **Thursday 1st July**, Mrs Kennedy, the Director of Sixth Form, will send out a link to a 'Next Steps' presentation. This will be a guide to what happens after Induction, what to expect on GCSE results/Enrolment Day at SWCHS and the arrangements for the start of the school term in September 2021. The hyperlink will be included in the Thursday morning email and will also be on the Induction Week pages of the website.

Once again, my sincere apologies for this unavoidable cancellation of our on-site visits.

Kind regards



Mr M Hansard

Deputy Director of Sixth Form – Head of Year 12

