

Welcome!

SWCHS SIXTH FORM



Firstly, congratulations on receiving a conditional offer to study at SWCHS Sixth Form!

You will be joining one of most successful Sixth Forms in the country - we are consistently in the top 5% for progress, according to the national ALPs measure. You will also belong to a community that is supportive and inspiring, challenging you to be the best you can be.

As a new member of our Sixth Form, we will share our monthly newsletters with you,



to show you what SWCHS Sixth Form is like. In the meantime, this Newcomer Newsletter will help you learn more about us.

We look forward to working with you!

Meet the Sixth Form Team

We are lucky to have a big team dedicated to supporting Sixth Form students. Here is a brief summary of our responsibilities.

Mrs Kennedy: Director of Sixth Form

Mrs Kennedy is responsible for running the Sixth Form, both operationally and strategically. You will work with Mrs Kennedy throughout your time in the Sixth Form.





Mrs Bendall: Deputy Director

Mrs Bendall is your Head of Year. She will support you pastorally, to ensure you have the best possible experience at SWCHS Sixth Form.



Mr Hansard: Deputy Director

Mr Hansard is Head of Year 13 and will support you alongside Mrs Bendall.



Mr Brown: Assist. Director (Yr 12)

Mr Brown will help ensure you feel part of our community. He is responsible for the Student Committee and runs Charities Week. He also co-ordinates our Elective programme.



Miss Oliver: Assist. Director (Yr 12)

Miss Oliver runs our PSHE programme and is responsible for the Student Union. She ensures students feel well supported and safe within our school.





Dr Toogood: Assist. Director (Yr 13)

Dr Toogood runs our Employability programme with Ms Bertie. Together they run our Careers Apps programme, ensuring our students are ready to enter the workplace. Dr Toogood also co-ordinates our Head Student projects.



Dr Wood: Assist. Director (Yr 13)

Dr Wood runs our Early Applicant programme, which starts in Year 12. She also co-ordinates our EPQ students and is responsible for the Student Council.



Mrs Jenkins: Assist. Director
(Yr 12 & 13)

Mrs Jenkins supports students who have particular needs or require additional support. She works with our Learning Support department, coordinating our Sixth Form teaching assistants. She also manages our Sixth Form bursary.





Ms Bertie: Employability & Academic Coach

Ms Bertie acts as a mentor to offer individual support for students seeking employment or in need of further academic help.



Mrs Chapman: Safeguarding & Attendance Officer

Mrs Chapman is our Safeguarding Lead for Sixth Form. She monitors attendance and works with students individually to ensure they are safe and attending school.



Mrs Chancellor: Study Centre Supervisor

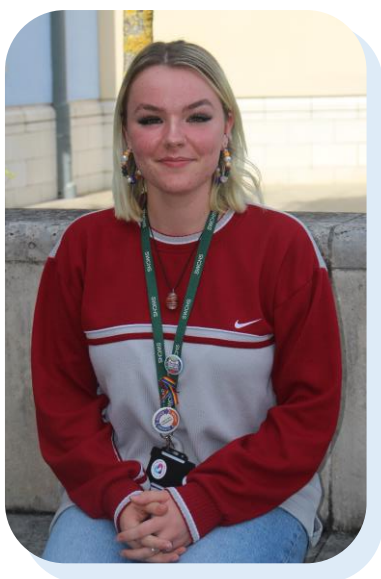
Mrs Chancellor works in the Study Centre to ensure it is a silent and productive place to study. She helps with general admin, and advertises on Teams the many opportunities available to students.



Meet Our Head Students



Our Head Student team are both Chairs of our Student Bodies and student leaders who want to make a difference in our community. *Read their bios to find out more*



Liv North

What I am Studying:

Chemistry, Physics & Maths

I will be working on projects throughout the year to promote diversity and inclusivity, with a focus on educating younger students. I will also be encouraging and inspiring more girls to study STEM past GCSE, as in many subjects within this field, there are still disproportionately few women.

Niamh Davies

What I am Studying:

History, Politics & Business

My Head Student project is based around my role as Head of the Sixth Form Committee. The Committee aims to foster a sense of community spirit within the school through various events and entertainment. Each year we organise Charities Week and the Variety Show, both of which raise lots of money for charity and are great fun to get involved with.



Meet Our Head Students



Sam Lambert

What I am Studying:

Further Maths, Maths,
Chemistry & PE

I'm working with Rosie to offer STEM mentoring to Year 9s; this includes advanced problem solving and STEM related work. This mentoring programme will aid the Year 9s in their development of problem-solving skills; it will also allow Year 12 students to get involved with mentoring. My personal role will be taking charge of the organisation of the mentors.



Olivia Harris

What I am Studying:

English Literature,
Film Studies & Photography

My project is running the Sixth Form students' Instagram. I am in charge of posting updates of events around school, and I also make announcements for the Sixth Form when they are needed. I helped with the transition for the new Year 12s by creating Q&As. I hope to be able to help with spreading information about what is going on in our Sixth Form community.

Meet Our Head Students



Sophie Brailsford

What I am Studying:

Further Maths, Maths,
Biology, & Chemistry

I am working hard to improve student wellbeing by receiving frequent input from the student body. By working with the SLT we will try to make your student experience the best it can be.



Pippa Johnson

What I am Studying:

History, Latin & Classical
Civilisation

As a Head Student my responsibility is organising the Senior Citizens Support Programme. I will be working alongside the Student Union to continue the Buddy System this year, together with delivering Christmas hampers and spreading festive joy!

Helena Auty

What I am Studying:

Drama, History & German

I am one of the two Arts Representatives and my focus is on using pre-existing facilities in school to help benefit students' mental health. I am also vice-chair of the committee and will be supporting Niamh with the organisation and management of charities week.



Meet Our Head Students



Melissa Thomson

What I am Studying:

Business Studies, Economics
Maths & Further Maths

My focus as a Head Student is to broaden the resources available for exploring international study and the application process to international institutions. I hope to make international study a bigger opportunity for students in the Sixth Form and provide help to those passionate in learning more about this route. My aim is to diversify the options for students post A-Levels and make extra opportunities aware to those who want to partake in them.

Sam Spaxman

What I am Studying:

Biology, Chemistry & Maths

I am a Head Student focusing on wellbeing throughout the school, which coincides with my role as co-chair of the Student Union. My role is mainly focused within the Pastoral Hub, where I help support students, both academically and emotionally. The Student Union also supports and comes up with ideas to help improve wellbeing across the Sixth Form.



Meet Our Head Students



Hattie Altaparmakova

What I am Studying:
History, Music & Spanish

My role as head student is being head of the Student Council. The council deals with the academic side of Sixth form, so I aim to help improve communication between students and teachers and to work on projects including a possible rewards scheme, a resource to help with revision and mentoring between year 12s and year 11s.

Rosie Chen

What I am Studying:
Further Maths, Maths, Physics
& Chemistry

I am going to be working on promoting STEM in lower school, especially towards girls. Sam and I are setting up a mentoring scheme to extend high achieving students in Year 9, with a focus on problem solving and applying knowledge in unfamiliar situations. A-Level students will work as mentors, which will benefit their communication skills, and it will be great to see some cross year group collaboration!



Meet Our Head Students



Naomi Park

What I am Studying:

Drama, English Literature
& History

Alongside Helena, I am one of the Arts Representatives amongst the Head Students. My project is focused around making a large resource guide for those students who would like to go on to pursue careers in the arts. It will include information on Art, Drama, Music, Dance and Musical Theatre courses, and give some insights into auditioning and application requirements. I would also like to get in a few guest speakers to help students understand what it takes to make it in the arts industries.



Mphatso Moto

What I am Studying:

Biology, Chemistry & Maths

As a Head Student, I'll be working with Liv and Jodie on diversity and multicultural awareness throughout the school. I'll be working with teachers to integrate diverse stimuli in classes, and also encourage more insight into the livelihoods of the global majority. As well as this, I'll be starting plans for Black History Month 2022.

Meet Our Head Students



Jodie Wright

What I am Studying: Biology, Chemistry & Maths

I have two projects as a head student, one being co-chair of the Student Union along with Sam, where we work on ensuring that the student experience within the sixth form is the best that it can be, with a big focus being on student wellbeing. My second project is to increase wider multicultural learning within the school and to broaden knowledge and appreciation of a range of different cultures.



What is it like being a Sixth Former at SWCHS?

We try to be a 'school within a school.' In other words, Sixth Form is new and different, no matter where you studied at GCSE. We have separate spaces and systems, and you have more independence and freedom than before. As you will be attending a school Sixth Form, you will receive

the school support you are used to. However, we also expect you to be a role model for our younger students on site. You will be treated like a young adult, and in return you have the responsibilities that come with these benefits.

Here's what our students say:

"Moving to County high for sixth form is a decision I am so proud of. I have not only met the most amazing people, there is also complete support in this environment by both subject teachers and heads of year, academically & pastorally. I have particularly enjoyed the independence that SWCHS provides. I was welcomed into sixth form with open arms and am so grateful for the opportunities it has provided and the kindness shown by students and teachers in making a daunting decision, into the easiest and most exciting one I have ever made!" **Megan Hartland:**

What is it like being a Sixth Former at SWCHS?



What support will I get for my UCAS application?

Support for university starts almost as soon as you begin Sixth Form. All students receive a Unifrog account, which we frequently use to help students formulate their longer-term plans. However, more specific support starts in Spring term, when students are asked to start considering their options more carefully. We host guest speakers and offer an inspirational trip to the UCAS convention. In Summer term, we run our Progression Programme – introducing the UCAS form, explaining what makes a competitive application, and running a series of workshops and lectures to help

students write personal statements. We also visit a university and host a parent/carers evening. We are also unique in that at the end of Year 12, we ask students to tell us their long-term ambitions, so we can formulate new specialist tutor groups. Students then work with like-minded students and are supported by a teacher best suited to their skills. For example, artists work with an art teacher and scientists work with a science teacher. This means students receive more specialist support and can work with others applying to similar courses/careers.

Here's what our students say:

Applying for university can feel so daunting and overwhelming but knowing there are people around to offer guidance is a massive help. Your tutor will always be your main point of contact and they are there to support in the form of tutorials, which is especially helpful when beginning the application. Your subject teachers can also help to give more tailored guidance in the subject area and help you better understand your strengths and weaknesses.



The main thing is you're never alone and teachers are always around to offer help whether that is your form tutor or subject teacher and I found having different perspectives invaluable. **Molly Shamkh**

What is it like being a Sixth Former at SWCHS?



I want to make an Early Application for university. What support is available?

Dr Wood runs our Early Applicant programme. Initial interest is gathered in the autumn term, as opportunities start quickly in Year 12. Our Student Council also runs a weekly seminar series to help students present to others on a topic of their choice – an essential skill to practice, in preparation for an Oxbridge or medical interview. In Spring term, students are invited to a weekly session when they learn more about the application process and how to make the most competitive applications. Alumni

students and other professionals help individuals to develop their personal statements and offer mock interviews.

Here's what our students say:

I knew I was interested in the early applicants programme, but was unsure of where (or even what!) I wanted to study. I was given help with researching relevant courses, and chatted to my subject teachers about university and applications. This helped me massively, not least with realising that maths was the subject I wanted to pursue! From the early apps programme, I was assigned a mentor, who worked closely with me on my personal statement, and was also another friendly face to discuss my applications with. My teachers also gave feedback on my personal statement, in preparation for the entrance exams the maths department ran sessions in electives and after school. After all the applications were sent in and entrance exams had been sat, we had the opportunity to have online mock interviews. From this, we were given more personal feedback to work on, meaning we felt as prepared as it's possible to feel before the real interviews! **Rosie Chen**



What is it like being a Sixth Former at SWCHS?



What support will I get to apply for jobs and apprenticeships after Sixth Form?



Even if you intend to go to university, all students will be seeking a job one day! Therefore, our support starts early – in Year 12, you will learn what employers are looking for and will be asked to create a CV. You will be invited to attend a mock interview, hosted by Saffron Walden Rotary Club, receiving feedback on how to improve your employability skills. In addition to the general support programme, we also run a Careers

Apps program. This weekly session is run by Dr Toogood and Ms Bertie. Students receive talks from local employers, consider interview techniques and discover how to develop skills outside the classroom to make them stand out. Students receive bespoke support for each application they make.

Here's what our students say:

"SWCHS were extremely helpful when I was applying and looking into apprenticeships. Dr Toogood provided me with lots of websites and resources which helped me locate apprenticeships, when I asked for extra support in looking into specific jobs he was very helpful. Miss Bertie really helped me prep responses to specific things in job descriptions, how to answer interview questions and what to expect from an interviewer in terms of what they are looking for". **Olivia Smith**



What is it like being a Sixth Former at SWCHS?



What is sport like at SWCHS Sixth Form?

We have great facilities for sport at SWCHS. Our new 3G football pitch is great for both competitive and more casual games of football. Our netball, hockey and football teams compete in local and regional games. During electives, there is also an opportunity for students to participate in a range of activities including basketball, trampolining, fitness and yoga.

Here's what our students say:

"The sixth form prides itself on its sporting achievements. In addition to competing, we also have electives

where you can play sports socially. This is a perfect way to meet lots of new people and was especially beneficial in year twelve after coming out of the online learning period and had a positive impact on everyone that took part, it made me realise how much sport benefited me, socially and mentally. It has been an honour to represent the school in both hockey and netball. I hope newcomers to the sixth form take up the opportunity to get involved and access the wealth of benefits that school sports offer." **Jodie Wright**

What is it like joining SWCHS Sixth Form from another school?

With over 100 students coming from other schools, SWCHS Sixth Form is a new experience for everyone; we ask all students to mix and make new friendship groups. At the start of term, we offer a range of ice-breaking activities within tutor groups, as well as a weekend residential to Norfolk Lakes at the end of September. Tutor groups in Year 12 are organised around timetable blockings, so students can



get to know others who are free at a similar time. There are also plenty of lunchtime clubs and activities for students to make new friends.

What is it like being a Sixth Former at SWCHS?



What our students say:

"When I came to SWCHS it was a big change for me, previously I was at a school of 600 students. I was in classes where I had no previous friends so it was a completely fresh start. Despite all of the change, the transition to sixth form was as it was for everyone; a push into the deep end. However, everyone at SWCHS is so supportive and understanding that they always give you the help you need. This support enabled me to make friends and enjoy my classes from day one."

Sam Lambert

What happens at Induction

This year, you will attend school for two days (Tuesday 5th and Wednesday 6th July).

During this time, you will have a personalised timetable, consisting of two lessons of each of your chosen subjects (excluding Core Maths), you will also have time with a Sixth Form tutor, and there will be opportunities to meet others joining the Sixth Form. At the end of the two days, you will receive a further online lesson, along with summer activities to help you prepare for a successful start in September.

On **Wednesday 6th July**, we will also host a parents and carers evening to help share more information about the transition to Key Stage 5. This event will cover what SWCHS Sixth Form is like, and how students can best use the summer to prepare for the start of their Sixth Form journey.



We look forward to seeing you in September!