



# Sixth Form Newsletter - September 2023

## From the Director of Sixth Form



In some ways, it feels longer than a month since the start of term. Students have settled beautifully into the rhythm of school life and our Year 12 students have made a fantastic start to their studies – they hardly feel new at all! We have achieved a great deal in four weeks; Year 13 UCAS applications are being sent, trips are underway and hard thinking is happening in every classroom. Routines started now make an enormous difference to the outcomes of each student.

As the term is now under way, I am pleased to attach the central textbook list, to help you organise self-study at home, and the hard deadlines list, which includes all the coursework deadlines needed for the relevant subject. Please do add these dates to your calendar.

As I shared at our recent Year Ahead evenings, we were horrified to discover that the average teenager spends around 7 hours 22 minutes on their phone every day. We hope that together, we can bring this statistic down at SWCHS. Independent learning is an expectation in Sixth Form, but the temptation of phones can make this challenge harder. Thank you for your help in creating the right routines of study and thinking at home, to help your Sixth Former strike a balance between study and relaxation. Students should study independently for around 3 hours per day to be successful in their Level 3 courses.

As always, we hope our monthly newsletter helps parents learn more about what is on offer in Sixth Form, along with sharing the brilliant achievements of our wonderful students.

Amy Kennedy

## Key dates

### Year 12

<b>Wed 18<sup>th</sup> October 2023</b>	<b>Early Finish @ 1.15pm for Sixth Form Open Evening</b>
<b>Fri 20<sup>th</sup> October 2023</b>	<b>School closes for Half Term</b>
<b>Mon 23<sup>rd</sup> – Fri 27<sup>th</sup> October 2023</b>	<b>Half Term</b>
Mon 30 <sup>th</sup> October 2023	School Opens – Timetable Week 2
Wed 1 <sup>st</sup> November 2023	School Concert
Mon 4 <sup>th</sup> November 2023	Progress Check published this week
Tues 21 <sup>st</sup> November 2023	Careers Fair
<b>Fri 24<sup>th</sup> November 2023</b>	<b>School Closed- Training Day</b>
Tues 5 <sup>th</sup> December 2023	Senior Citizens' Party
Tues 12 <sup>th</sup> December 2023	Dance Show
Thurs 14 <sup>th</sup> December 2023	SWCHS Christmas Concert
Mon 18 <sup>th</sup> –Wed 20 <sup>th</sup> December 2023	Charities Week
<b>Wed 20<sup>th</sup> December 2023</b>	<b>Early Finish @ 1.15pm- School closes for holidays</b>
<b>Thurs 21<sup>st</sup> December – Thurs 4<sup>th</sup> January 2024</b>	<b>School Holidays</b>
<b>Fri 5<sup>th</sup> January 2024</b>	<b>School Closed- Training Day</b>
Mon 8 <sup>th</sup> January 2024	School Opens for the Spring Term- Timetable Week 2
Mon 5 <sup>th</sup> Feb – 11 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2024	National Apprentice Week
Tues 6 <sup>th</sup> February – Thurs 8 <sup>th</sup> February 2024	School Production
Thurs 8 <sup>th</sup> February 2024	Year 12 Parents Evening
Fri 16 <sup>th</sup> February 2024	School closes for Half Term
<b>Mon 19<sup>th</sup> February- Fri 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2024</b>	<b>Half Term</b>
Mon 26 <sup>th</sup> February 2024	School Opens- Timetable Week 2
Tues 29 <sup>th</sup> Feb – Wed 1 <sup>st</sup> March 2024	Rotary Work based Interviews
Mon 17 <sup>th</sup> March 2024	Progress Check published this week
Wed 20 <sup>th</sup> March 2024	Tim Hardingham Lecture
Wed 27 <sup>th</sup> March 2024	Spring Concert- Saffron Hall

Thurs 28 <sup>th</sup> March 2024	School Closes for holidays (BH 9 <sup>th</sup> March & 1 <sup>st</sup> April)
<b>Tues 2<sup>nd</sup> April – Fri 12<sup>th</sup> April 2024</b>	<b>School Holidays</b>
Mon 15 <sup>th</sup> April 2024	School Opens for the Summer Term- Timetable Week 1
Wed 17 <sup>th</sup> April 2024	School Concert
Tues 23 <sup>rd</sup> April 2024	Sixth Form Future Planning Evening
Wed 8 <sup>th</sup> May 2024	Career Insight Event
<b>Mon 6<sup>th</sup> May 2024</b>	<b>Bank Holiday-School closed</b>
Fri 24 <sup>th</sup> May 2024	School Closes for Half Term
<b>Mon 27<sup>th</sup> May – Fri 31<sup>st</sup> May 2024</b>	<b>Half Term (BH 27<sup>th</sup> May)</b>
<b>Mon 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2024</b>	<b>School Closed – Training Day</b>
Tues 4 <sup>th</sup> June 2024	School Opens – Timetable Week 1
Fri 28 <sup>th</sup> June 2024	SWCHS Summer Fundraising Evening
Mon 1 <sup>st</sup> July – Fri 5 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 12 Work Experience
Wed 3 <sup>rd</sup> July 2024	Awards Evening- Saffron Hall
Tues 9 <sup>th</sup> July 2024	Musical Academy Recital – Saffron Hall
Mon 14 <sup>th</sup> July 2024	Progress Check published this week
Wed 17 <sup>th</sup> July 2024	Concert- Saffron Hall
Wed 24 <sup>th</sup> July 2024	<b>Early Finish @ 1.15pm-</b> School Closes for the Summer Holidays

## Year 13

Mon 16 <sup>th</sup> October 2023	Early Applicant deadline
Wed 18 <sup>th</sup> & Thurs 19 <sup>th</sup> October 2023	Testing date for Oxbridge Admissions Assessments
<b>Wed 18<sup>th</sup> October 2023</b>	<b>Early Finish @ 1.15pm for Sixth Form Open Evening</b>
<b>Fri 20<sup>th</sup> October 2023</b>	<b>School closes for Half Term</b>
<b>Mon 23<sup>rd</sup> – Fri 27<sup>th</sup> October 2023</b>	<b>Half Term</b>
Mon 30 <sup>th</sup> October 2023	School Opens – Timetable Week 2
Wed 1 <sup>st</sup> November 2023	School Concert
Tues 21 <sup>st</sup> November	Careers Fair
<b>Fri 24<sup>th</sup> November 2023</b>	<b>School Closed- Training Day</b>
Mon 27 <sup>th</sup> November 2023	Progress Check published this week
Thurs 7 <sup>th</sup> December 2023	Year 13 Parents Evening
Tues 5 <sup>th</sup> December 2023	Senior Citizens' Party
Thurs 14 <sup>th</sup> December 2023	SWCHS Christmas Concert
Mon 18 <sup>th</sup> –Wed 20 <sup>th</sup> December 2023	Charities Week
Wed 20 <sup>th</sup> December 2023	SWCHS UCAS application deadline
<b>Wed 20<sup>th</sup> December 2023</b>	<b>Early Finish @ 1.15pm- School closes for holidays</b>
<b>Thurs 21<sup>st</sup> December – Thurs 4<sup>th</sup> January 2024</b>	<b>School Holidays</b>
<b>Fri 5<sup>th</sup> January 2024</b>	<b>School Closed- Training Day</b>
Wed 31 <sup>st</sup> January 2024	UCAS application deadline
Mon 8 <sup>th</sup> January 2024	School Opens for the Spring Term- Timetable Week 2
Mon 5 <sup>th</sup> February	National Apprentice Week
Tues 6 <sup>th</sup> February – Thurs 8 <sup>th</sup> February 2024	School Production
Fri 16 <sup>th</sup> February 2024	School closes for Half Term
<b>Mon 19<sup>th</sup> February-</b>	<b>Half Term</b>

<b>Fri 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2024</b>	
Mon 26 <sup>th</sup> February 2024	School Opens- Timetable Week 2
Mon 4 <sup>th</sup> March – Fri 16 <sup>th</sup> March 2024	Year 13 Mock Exams
Wed 20 <sup>th</sup> March 2024	Tim Hardingham Lecture
Wed 27 <sup>th</sup> March 2024	Spring Concert- Saffron Hall
Thurs 28 <sup>th</sup> March 2024	School Closes for holidays (BH 9 <sup>th</sup> March & 1 <sup>st</sup> April)
<b>Tues 2<sup>nd</sup> April –Fri 12<sup>th</sup> April 2024</b>	<b>School Holidays</b>
Mon 15 <sup>th</sup> April 2024	School Opens for the Summer Term- Timetable Week 1
Wed 17 <sup>th</sup> April 2024	School Concert
<b>Mon 6<sup>th</sup> May 2024</b>	<b>Bank Holiday-School closed</b>
<b>Fri 10<sup>th</sup> May 2024</b>	<b>School Finishes for Year 13</b>
Fri 24 <sup>th</sup> May 2024	School Closes for Half Term
<b>Mon 27<sup>th</sup> May – Fri 31<sup>st</sup> May 2024</b>	<b>Half Term (BH 27<sup>th</sup> May)</b>
<b>Mon 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2024</b>	<b>School Closed – Training Day</b>
Tues 4 <sup>th</sup> June 2024	School Opens – Timetable Week 1
Fri 28 <sup>th</sup> June 2024	Year 13 Gala Ball
Tues 9 <sup>th</sup> July 2024	Musical Academy Recital – Saffron Hall
Wed 17 <sup>th</sup> July 2024	Concert- Saffron Hall
Wed 24 <sup>th</sup> July 2024	<b>Early Finish @ 1.15pm- School Closes for the Summer Holidays</b>

## Year Ahead Evenings

It was a pleasure to meet so many parents at our recent evening events. All resources used are now on the school website ([www.swchs.net](http://www.swchs.net)), for easy access. We hope the evening was helpful and you and are set for the year ahead!

## Meet our Head Students



Our new Head Students have already achieved a great deal. More students are supporting others in the role of mentors than ever before, and we look forward to our first Sixth Form Sports Day! Much work is happening with diversity and inclusion. Our student bodies are busy preparing for Charities Week, the Senior Citizens' Party and the subject seminar series. We thank these students for offering so much to our school community.

## Go4Schools and Attendance

Thank you for monitoring your child's attendance closely on Go4Schools. We will also send you an email by the end of the day if your child has missed a lesson or registration – remember, you do not need to call the school, as you can see your child's attendance on Go4schools. If it looks like your child has attended all their lessons, then they have missed tutor time, which is essential. Tutor time takes place on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. For Year 13, this is at 1:10pm and for Year 12, this is at 1:55pm.

If a Sixth Form teacher is absent, their lessons are not covered as students can work independently. All work is set on Teams for students to complete, but all students must finger touch in, to avoid being marked as absent.

We have recently had two fire drill practices to show students the correct procedures. It is essential that Year 13 students finger touch in and out of the building as they arrive and leave, so we know who is on site for fire regulations.

## Prospective Year 7 Open Evening and Sixth Form Open Evening

Thank you to every volunteer for making the prospective Year 7 Open Evening such a success. Well over 1,500 people attended, and it was a very busy evening. We hope our Sixth Form students enjoyed their role as guides – they were fantastic, and we were proud of them for representing the school so positively.

The 6th Form Open Evening is on Wednesday 18th October. Thank you in advance for playing your part in this important event. Our students are the Sixth Form, and parents will want to hear from you about what makes SWCHS Sixth Form special – so thank you for being our best ambassadors.

## Electives

Students have now chosen their Elective activity for the Autumn term. This is an extracurricular activity, designed to help students build a complete personal portfolio and develop skills outside their academic studies. This term we have been able to offer 48 elective choices, ranging from playing for school sports teams, participating in music and art, to voluntary work outside school. Many students have also chosen to undertake a Personal Project they have arranged themselves.

Extra and super curricular activities are highly valued by us as a school, and we believe strongly in their benefit for student wellbeing. We hope all students embrace their chosen elective; we will encourage them to reflect on the skills they are learning at various points over the year.

## Clubs, Societies and Surgeries



In addition to Electives, students can attend numerous clubs and societies. These have now been updated on our board in the Study Café - students are always welcome to come along!

Many subjects offer a lunchtime surgery, where students can gain more support. These are also advertised to students on the Study Café display board.



## Sixth Form Support



<https://www.sixthformsupport.com/>

This website is designed to help students find the right support for them. Please do also use this at home, if you think your child would benefit from additional support.

The school are also pleased to offer **Sixth Form-only counselling drop-in sessions**. These take place every **Week 2 Wednesday in Period 5 and Period 6**. No appointment is needed, just turn up at the Wellbeing Shed behind the Pavillion.

Other days that drop-in sessions are available for the whole school, including Sixth Form, are:

**Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday (1.10 to 1.50pm)**

## YEAR 12 UPDATES

### Flexible Attendance after Half Term

Following a positive first settling-in check, students are allowed to leave the school site during the day. Please note this flexible attendance pass is only for students who have demonstrated they have made the transition to Key Stage 5 study. Some students may be put on a Study Support programme; they will register in the Study Centre during free periods, if they have not yet demonstrated independent study skills required for their courses. More information on this will be given at the start of next half term.

### Subject Changes

Now that term has started in earnest, we would strongly recommend for any student who might wish to change subjects to contact their tutor as soon as possible. As term progresses, it will become increasingly difficult to swap subjects, as any work missed will need to be caught up.

## Norfolk Lakes

Over the last weekend of September, 166 students attended the Manor Lakes adventure park in Norfolk. The students threw themselves into a whole range of activities – canoeing, kayaking, giant paddle boarding, raft building, wall climbing, tug of war and archery. They even managed to beat the staff at five-a-side football! Soggy feet and tired limbs were soothed by hot showers and substantial amounts of food. A big thank you to the students who behaved so brilliantly and the staff who gave up their weekend to create such a fantastic experience for all.



















## Life Lecture and Lessons



So far this term students have had the opportunity to engage in a variety of topics in their Life Lesson and Lectures. In their Life Lessons, they have looked at the transition to Sixth Form from Key Stage 4 and what it takes to be an independent learner, as well as how to utilise the opportunity to meet new people. They've also discussed how they can protect themselves and their personal safety as they begin to gain more independent time and freedom. Their most recent lessons have also looked at mental health and

supporting others across a variety of mental health conditions. The topic of ‘mental wellness education’ was discussed in the first Life Lecture with guest speaker Mark Newey. More information will follow from Mark on how to access further support sessions privately.

## YEAR 13 UPDATES

All students should have received a small group or individual tutorial, to help the tutor identify the planned next steps for each of their tutees, and how to support them with their destination plans. Further tutorials are now taking place – students must attend these, to receive the best support.

### UCAS Clinic

This clinic will be running every week for students making UCAS applications who would like additional support.

The University of East Anglia (UEA) will be running a Personal Statement writing session after half term for any Year 13s still struggling with this part of the UCAS application.

### Early Applicants

Students should now be finalising their personal statements, be signed up for any admissions assessments, and have completed their UCAS form. If that is not the case, they should do so as soon as possible. For us to spend the necessary time with each student, applications will be sent as soon as they are ready – we don’t want any last-minute panics on the eve of the 16th October deadline!

All students should now have been registered for their admissions tests. They recently sat their mock admissions tests, and we are planning mock interviews for all Early Applicants. Further details of interviews will follow, after the 16th October deadline.

### Careers Apps

Careers Apps has been launched to approximately 60 Year 13 students. The introductory session was hosted by Dr Toogood and Ms Bertie, both of whom had extensive careers in industry prior to teaching. The session guided students looking at opportunities alongside (or instead of) university, either in direct employment or via the apprenticeship route (‘Earn while you Learn’). Various levels were discussed, from Advanced to Degree Level Apprenticeships, and advice was given on how to begin researching such options. Previous SWCHS students have successfully gained entry to apprenticeship programmes with the BBC, Ernst & Young, Grant Thornton, Nuclear Medicine (NHS), JP Morgan and Morgan Stanley Investment Banking, to name but a few. Drop-in sessions will take place every **Wednesday during period 5 in the Study Centre**, when Ms Bertie and Dr Toogood will help with research, applications, CV writing and interview skills, and much more. A separate newsletter is sent out every month concerning these future pathways, which will include real opportunities already available.

### Life Lecture and Lessons

So far this term, Year 13 have reflected on their Year 12 experience and considered advice they would give to their former Year 12 selves, both in terms of wellbeing and specific subject advice. In addition, students have explored the theme of managing the risks of alcohol and drug use, as well as driving safety. The first Life Lecture this term was delivered by Mrs Bendall and Mrs Moorhouse, who introduced Year 13 to possible challenges they might face in their final year of academic studies at

SWCHS. The lecture gave students the opportunity to reflect on how best to support themselves and others as they face possible challenges, and to consider what support to seek if necessary.

## Forthcoming Opportunities

The Law Society are participating in their first mooting competition (to simulate a court hearing) later next month. They are currently researching the answer to the question: **'If you could change any one law, what would it be and why?'**. The Law Society meet in D8 every Tuesday lunchtime.

The Debate Society meet every Friday in B2, discussing a wide range of topics. All are welcome.

The Bar Mock Trial meet every Thursday after school (3:30-4:30pm) in B2. All are welcome.

## Upcoming live broadcasts- free from Speakers for Schools

Click here for the [Live Broadcasts Schedule](#). Live broadcasts are a great way for students to hear from leading figures from a range of industries, and have the opportunity to ask questions via a moderated Q&A.

You can register on behalf of your students, and you will be sent the event link, or students can register for talks by selecting 'other' rather than teacher.

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## Congratulations!

Charlotte Burke has received 'Highly Commended' for both the Fitzwilliam College History competition (top 5 out of over 100 entries) and the St Hugh's Classical Reception competition (top 9 out of 74 entries). It is an unprecedented achievement for a student at SWCHS to receive Highly Commended for both Oxford and Cambridge Universities - congratulations, Charlotte!



Ben Sanford was invited to a celebration lunch with a Director of Studies at Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge following his essay submission to Caius Explore. Well done, Ben!

Grace Strickland has been selected to play at the England U18's women's rugby training camp. Congratulations, Grace!

The Senior Girls Hockey team won the County tournament, earning them a place at the regional finals in Ipswich on 9th November. A fantastic achievement – well done, ladies!



The Senior Football team won their first match against JFAN, winning 2-1. Congratulations!



Congratulations to Tom Hammond who won Gold at the ACF National Athletics Championships held in Liverpool in the 200m. This means Tom is now 200m ACF Senior Boys Champion

