



Sixth Form Newsletter - End of Summer Term 2023

From the Director of Sixth Form



This newsletter highlights the transitional nature of this final month of the academic year. As we celebrated with our Year 13s and bid them a final farewell at our Summer Gala, we welcomed our new students for Induction Week. Similarly, Year 12s are now seeing the fruits of their hard work by receiving

their final Year 12 Progress Checks; they are now preparing their next steps during our Progression Planning days before Year 13.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome our new Year 12 parents to Sixth Form. This newsletter is published monthly to inform parents about the Sixth Form experience and to keep up to date with important details and dates. We are looking forward to working with you in September.

In the meantime, thank you for your support of the school and our students, and I wish you all a wonderful summer break!

Key dates

Year 13

- **Thursday 7th September:** Lessons start from Period 3 onwards (students should check Go4Schools)
- **Wednesday 13th September:** Year Ahead evening, 6pm start

Year 12

- **Wednesday 6th September:** Newcomers to SWCHS only
- **Thursday 7th September:** Start of term for all students
- **Monday 11th September:** Year Ahead evening, 6pm start
- **Friday 29th September - Sunday 1st October:** Norfolk Lakes trip

Celebrating the Class of 2023

A fantastic time was had by all at our Summer Gala to celebrate the end of exams for Year 13. It was a night of laughter, loveliness and lots of dancing! A professional photographer helped to shape memories; below are a few stunning photos of the evening. A photobooth was also available for more 'unofficial' memory moments. Year 13 has been a fantastic year group and we wish them all the best as they move on from Sixth Form.







Induction 2023

It was a pleasure to meet our new Year 12 cohort in preparation for September. Students accessed at least one lesson in each of their subjects and had a good taster of what to expect at SWCHS Sixth Form.

To help build on this knowledge, we recommend students look at the 'Getting Ready For' guides on the school website, along with the curriculum maps created for each subject. These will help students understand topics they will be studying and how the course will develop across the two years.

All subjects have set summer work. This can be accessed at any point before September and is also found on the website. Students should arrive for their first lesson with this work completed.

Understandably, a number of students wish to change subjects. For subject change requests, email subjectchange@swchs.net. These requests are processed after Results Day, so please bear with us over the next few weeks. All changes are subject to minimum GCSE entry requirements and class size availability.

We look forward to working with our new students and wish them a lovely summer before September!





Work Experience Triumphs

It was wonderful to see so many students make the most of their Work Experience week, with positive feedback from both students and generous employers who supported placements – 35% of students gave their placements 10/10! Most students also reported lots of learning, helping them with difficult future pathway decisions. As in previous years, nearly 40% of students have been offered further opportunities, including placements, part-time work and some full post-SWCHS apprenticeships – well done to all! We noted an increase in students (up to 15%) doing more than one placement, often combining an in-person placement with an online opportunity. Thanks to you, parents and carers, for helping to organise these important experiences.

A lucky group of students were able to spend the week working for ITG, a leading marketing agency, who put our students up in a hotel in Birmingham to help them learn more about the company and their forthcoming assignment, before students were tasked with producing their own ideas in the boardroom

at ITG headquarters in London. In front of members of their senior board, students delivered a fantastic set of presentations that received brilliant feedback! Well done to all students involved!



Progression 2023

Over the last few days of term, students received input to help guide their next steps after SWCHS Sixth Form. This included talks from various institutions including Nottingham, UEA and ARU, as well as guidance on careers, CVs and how to search for competitive apprenticeships.

Our trip to Nottingham was a great success, informing our students about university life and what to expect as uni students. They have also learned what makes a competitive application and what to include in a personal statement. Students have had extensive time with their tutors to help them get started with their personal statements.

Early Applicants for Oxbridge, medical and veterinary courses have also received additional workshops, and are now working individually with their mentors to help create the most competitive applications.

We hope students can continue this research over the summer months. This might include visiting different locations and booking Open Days. All students received a lecture explaining how to make the most of the summer to ensure they return ready to go in September.

If students are unsure of their next steps, please look at Unifrog and explore the Apprenticeships and University search functions. They are powerful tools in helping students see available opportunities, and how to access them.



Trip to Stansted Airport College

Six Year 12 students went to Stansted Airport College to look at opportunities for school leavers. They had an excellent presentation about the courses on offer and then a tour of the college campus. They visited the engineering workshop (and flew paper airplanes) - but the highlight was undoubtedly the old private jet 'parked up' in the grounds. We then waited to see the PM land in his Airbus - only to be whisked off minutes later. Hopefully a morning that opened the students' eyes to a world beyond Saffron Walden!



EPQ Opportunities

Over 70 students have submitted and received feedback on their EPQ project proposals. They have been allocated supervisors, who will begin working with them in September to help achieve project outcomes. The summer will involve extensive research for these students, as they build their project plans towards answering essay questions or creating artefacts.

To help start the whole process, our EPQ students were lucky to receive a day workshop from the Royal Literary Fund on academic writing skills and project management. The sessions were led by published

authors who are Fellows of the Royal Literary Fund and are all linked to Cambridge University. One such presenter was Deborah Chancellor, our Study Centre supervisor, who is also a published author and writer. Thanks to Deborah for creating this wonderful opportunity for our students. Pen profiles of each speaker are listed below:



Deborah Chancellor

Deborah Chancellor is a prolific writer of children's fiction and non-fiction on a wide range of subjects. She first trained as a primary teacher before becoming a children's book editor and author; she likes to appear at literary festivals and run writing workshops for children and young people.

Deborah now juggles her time between a busy writing and editing career and working in a Sixth Form library. She has worked as the RLF Writing Fellow at the University of Cambridge and Anglia Ruskin University, giving writing tutorials to undergraduates and post-graduates. She loves helping young people see potential in their writing and gain confidence and enthusiasm for their work.



Penny Hancock

Penny Hancock is a bestselling novelist and freelance writer. Previously she worked as a primary school teacher in inner London, and a teacher of English as another language both here (working with asylum seekers and refugees) and abroad. She has created a number of best-selling text-books for children learning English as another Language as well as readers

for Cambridge University Press. Penny did an MA in creative writing in her forties that gave her insight into the challenges facing students when writing academically. She worked as the Royal Literary Fellow at Anglia Ruskin University in Cambridge and loved helping students from a diverse range of backgrounds, often with more than one language, to gain confidence in their own writing, and believes that everyone can discover a joy in writing.



Inbali Iserles

Inbali Iserles is an award-winning author of children's books. A fascination with urban foxes inspired her popular *Foxcraft* trilogy, which has been translated into multiple languages. Inbali has written for the New York Times bestselling *Survivors* series under the pseudonym Erin Hunter. She also writes non-fiction books for younger readers on subjects as diverse as undersea volcanoes and the domestication of cats. She has penned articles and reviews for a range of publications including the Guardian, the Independent on Sunday and Mslexia.

She was a writing fellow of the Royal Literary Fund at the Department of Earth Sciences, the University of Cambridge, from 2020 to 2022.



Christopher Woodall

Although Christopher spent most of his writing life as a translator from French and Italian, the immersive and vast fictional project that he first conceived in the 1970s has now – somewhat to his own surprise – finally begun to see the light of day. *November*, the first in a quartet of novels, appeared in 2016 from Dalkey Archive Press. *Sweets & Toxins*, a selection of short stories, was published in 2019, again by Dalkey. While working on further short stories and on the sequels to *November*, Christopher acted as RLF Writing Fellow from October 2020 at Magdalene and Wolfson colleges (Cambridge) and, from October 2021 to June 2022, at the University of East Anglia.

Criminology Workshop and Trip

Our Criminology students had several fantastic experiences this month, starting with a fantastic workshop where they examined a crime scene, investigated a murder based on a real-life case, and presented the evidence in a mock courtroom trial. The workshop, closely aligned to the WJEC qualification, was enormously beneficial for the students' understanding.



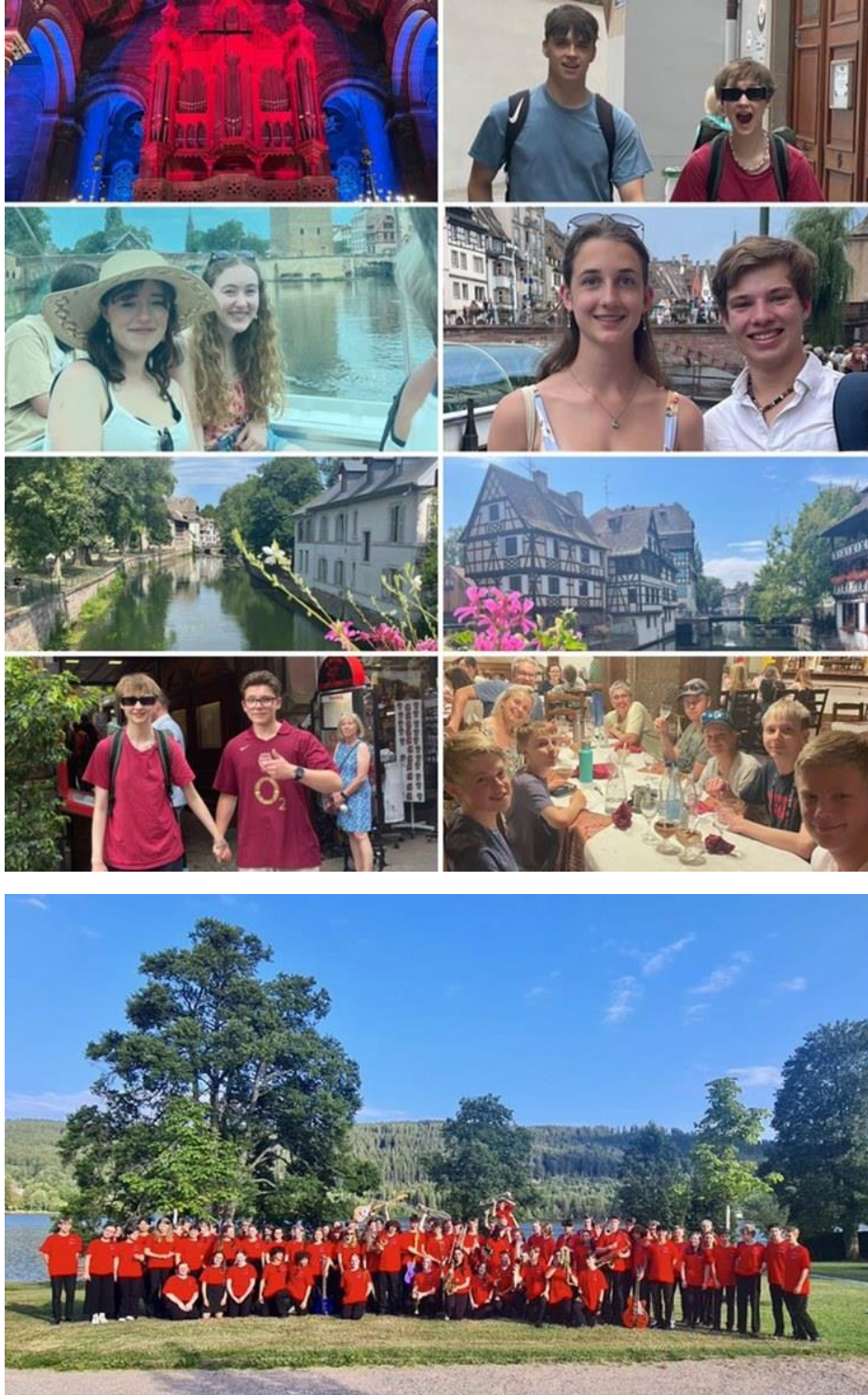
Students also had a visit from a local magistrate, outlining the role of magistrate in court proceedings and how this differs to that of a judge at jury in Crown Court. For a follow-up day, students visited courts in London, witnessing the court experience first-hand. Students also got to observe parts of the Kevin

Spacey trial currently in the media. They also visited the Clink Museum to learn more about Criminology over time.



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

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!



SWCHS Summer Concert

Wednesday 12th July 7:00pm
Saffron Hall

A showcase of music making from a range of ensembles
and choirs.

Box Office: 0845 548 7650

www.saffronhall.com



Lower School Disco

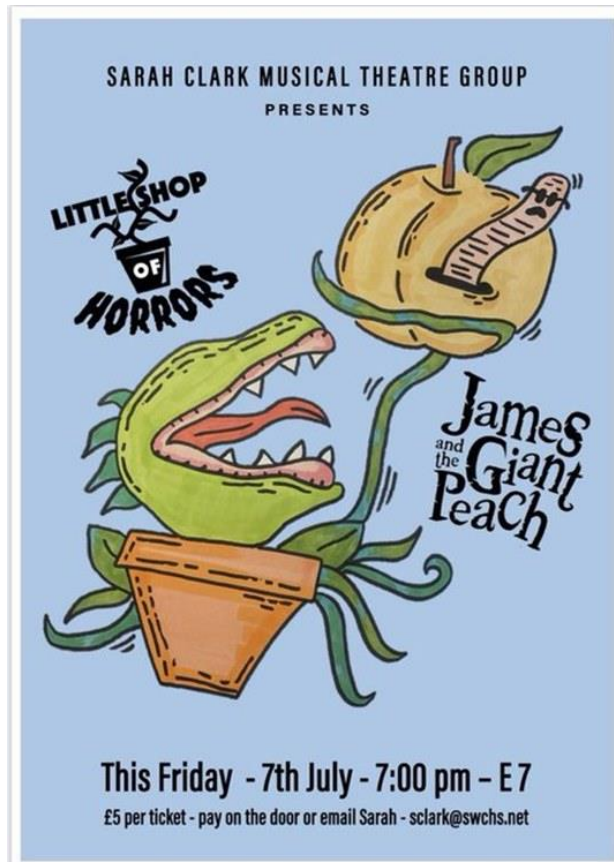
A huge thank you to our Student Union (and Mrs Ward) for organising a Lower School disco for over 150 Year 7 students. You created a fantastic evening for Year 7s to enjoy!





Congratulations

Well done to all Sixth Form 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!



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

Congratulations to Tom Quinn, who 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 watched his short film on the big screen. It was a huge achievement to be nominated from over 200 entries.

