



Sixth Form Newsletter - February 2024

From the Director of Sixth Form



In January, we ask our Year 12s to aim high and start future planning; we hope our Year 13s are now turning those ambitions into actions. The UCAS deadline saw over **240 applications** sent from SWCHS: a Herculean effort! We are enormously proud to be part of this important process, as students take their next steps for the future.

During January we also launch our Employability Programme for Year 12, while encouraging Year 13s to seek apprenticeship opportunities. There are multiple opportunities advertised on Teams, so students should check this platform every week. Remember, students can apply for both apprenticeships and university, if they wish to keep their options open. We are busy planning for National Apprenticeship Week, which will be covered in next month's newsletter.

As there is so much going on, we have written to each year group separately to help parents and carers navigate the months ahead. We hope you found this information useful.

Amy Kennedy

Year 12 Key Dates

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| Mon 5 th February – Fri 9 th February 2024 | National Apprentice Week |
| Tues 6 th February – Thurs 8 th February 2024 | School Production |
| Fri 16 th February 2024 | School closes for Half Term |
| Mon 19th February - Fri 23rd February 2024 | Half Term |
| Mon 26 th February 2024 | School Opens- Timetable Week 2 |
| Tues 29 th February – Wed 1 st March 2024 | Rotary Work based Interviews |
| Mon 17 th March 2024 | Progress Check published this week |
| Wed 20 th March 2024 | Tim Hardingham Lecture |
| Wed 27 th March 2024 | Spring Concert- Saffron Hall |
| Thurs 28 th March 2024 | School Closes for holidays (BH 29 th March & 1 st April) |
| Tues 2nd April – Fri 12th April 2024 | School Holidays |
| Mon 15 th April 2024 | School Opens for the Summer Term - Timetable Week 1 |
| Wed 17 th April 2024 | School Concert |
| Tues 23 rd April 2024 | Sixth Form Future Planning Evening |
| Wed 8 th May 2024 | Career Insight Event |
| Mon 6th May 2024 | Bank Holiday-School Closed |
| Fri 24 th May 2024 | School Closes for Half Term |
| Mon 27th May – Fri 31st May 2024 | Half Term (BH 27th May) |
| Mon 3rd June 2024 | School Closed – Training Day |
| Tues 4 th June 2024 | School Opens – Timetable Week 1 |
| Fri 28 th June 2024 | SWCHS Summer Fundraising Evening |
| Mon 1 st July – Fri 5 th July | Year 12 Work Experience |
| Wed 3 rd July 2024 | Awards Evening- Saffron Hall |
| Tues 9 th July 2024 | Musical Academy Recital – Saffron Hall |

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| Mon 14 th July 2024 | Progress Check published this week |
| Wed 17 th July 2024 | Concert- Saffron Hall |
| Wed 24 th July 2024 | Early Finish @ 1.15pm - School Closes for the Summer Holidays |

Year 13 Key Dates

| | |
|---|--|
| Mon 5 th February – Fri 9 th February 2024 | National Apprentice Week |
| Tues 6 th February – Thurs 8 th February 2024 | School Production |
| Fri 16 th February 2024 | School closes for Half Term |
| Mon 19th February - Fri 23rd February 2024 | Half Term |
| Mon 26 th February 2024 | School Opens - Timetable Week 2 |
| Mon 4 th March – Fri 16 th March 2024 | Year 13 Mock Exams |
| Wed 20 th March 2024 | Tim Hardingham Lecture |
| Wed 27 th March 2024 | Spring Concert - Saffron Hall |
| Thurs 28 th March 2024 | School Closes for holidays (BH 29 th March & 1 st April) |
| Tues 2nd April – Fri 12th April 2024 | School Holidays |
| Mon 15 th April 2024 | School Opens for the Summer Term- Timetable Week 1 |
| Wed 17 th April 2024 | School Concert |
| Mon 6th May 2024 | Bank Holiday - School Closed |
| Fri 10th May 2024 | School Finishes for Year 13 |
| Fri 24 th May 2024 | School Closes for Half Term |
| Mon 27th May – Fri 31st May 2024 | Half Term (BH 27th May) |
| Mon 3rd June 2024 | School Closed – Training Day |
| Tues 4 th June 2024 | School Opens – Timetable Week 1 |
| Sat 29 th June 2024 | Year 13 Gala Ball |
| Tues 9 th July 2024 | Musical Academy Recital – Saffron Hall |
| Wed 17 th July 2024 | Concert- Saffron Hall |
| Wed 24 th July 2024 | Early Finish @ 1.15pm - School Closes for the Summer Holidays |

Oxbridge Success!

Congratulations to our nine successful Oxbridge applicants, and to all 26 students who received an interview for Oxford or Cambridge universities. It is a great achievement to be selected for an interview, and we are proud of you all!

Students who received offers are:

Oxford University: Charlotte Burke (History), Finlay Houghton (Computer Science), Lara Ramsey (French and Beginner's Italian) and Nathan Wilkins (History and Politics).

Cambridge University: Daniel Belteki (Maths), Ellie Cameron (French and Beginner's Russian), Sarah Meanwell (Natural Sciences), Hannah Scothern (Natural Sciences) and Abigail Weersing (Maths).



Mock Multiple Mini Interview (MMI)

At the start of the month, Year 13 students who have applied to study medicine underwent a mock MMI in school. MMIs are quite different to panel-style interviews and are a popular way to assess students as they assess many different soft skills. The students were put through several short assessments 'stations' that each lasted less than 10 minutes. The stations hosted by different members of staff included role play, professional judgement, calculation and data interpretation and giving instructions. We hope that this experience equips our students well as they attend their interviews at various medical schools.

Year 12 Early Apps

With the Year 12 Early App. Support Programme and Seminar Series underway, students who are considering an early application for University (Oxbridge/Medicine/Vet Medicine) have been exploring super-curricular opportunities in their chosen subjects. The lunchtime seminars, in which students

deliver presentations and take questions on an academic interest beyond the curriculum, continue to be a thought-provoking and enjoyable lunchtime experience for both students and staff. To give a flavour of the breadth of subjects covered, this month the subjects discussed have included 'Linguistic relativity', 'Gravitational Lensing' and 'Why the criminal justice system is failing.'

Holocaust Memorial Day: 27th January

Almost 25,000 people across the country tuned into the Holocaust Educational Trust's annual webcast to mark Holocaust Memorial Day and we were pleased to join them. The students who attended said it was a very powerful event and listening to Hedi's story will stay with them forever.

Natasha Kaplinsky OBE interviewed Holocaust survivor Hedi Argent MBE about her experiences in pre-war Vienna and her family's decision to flee and find refuge in the UK. Hedi spoke movingly about the reason she shares her testimony today – 'I speak because other children like my cousin Bubi cannot.' Thousands of students across the country are now witnesses to Hedi's testimony and will remember her story and her cousin Bubi for years to come.



Next month, two students will be representing SWCHS at the **Lessons from Auschwitz** project, which will enable them to visit the Auschwitz concentration camp and then share their experiences with others.



Class of 2023

Alumni Events

It was lovely to start the term with our alumni event. Over 200 students from the Class of 2023 came back to SWCHS to catch up with friends and receive their Level 3 certificates. It was fantastic to see so many and hear of their adventures after SWCHS.



1 - Samson is completing a degree apprenticeship at HSBC

Samson Marks, River Codrington Rodriguez and Will Tillbrook returned to SWCHS in January to offer alumni insights on applying to Conservatoires, undergraduate life at a Russell Group university and making competitive degree apprenticeship applications. They offered invaluable advice for our students.

Careers Apps

Careers Apps for Year 13 still runs weekly (P5 Wednesdays). This session offers students insights into employment, apprenticeships and the skills needed to succeed in applying to employers. The emphasis is on researching opportunities and keeping options open. With so many exciting higher and degree level opportunities now available, we encourage students to consider dual applications to both university and apprenticeships. Students should contact **Ms Bertie** or **Dr Toogood** if they need general guidance, help with applying for jobs or prepping for interviews etc.

National Apprenticeship Week: 5th – 11th February

A letter and schedule of events has been sent home to parents and advertised on Teams for both year groups, to explore the amazing roles available. There are also webinars offered by employers, who are keen to recruit into their apprenticeship programmes. We have included information focused on educating parents and carers, as well as interactive videos and podcasts to help explore this option fully. **Please look through the schedule with your son/daughter and highlight anything of interest. Registration IN ADVANCE is required for webinar sessions and in some cases, numbers are limited.**

UCAS Update



With over 240 applications sent to UCAS, 148 students have already received at least one offer! Huge congratulations to these students. Every applicant received 1:1 support from their tutors to send their application and were present when their application was sent. This is a special moment for the tutor and student, and we feel privileged to be part of such a key process.

If students haven't yet received an offer, please do not worry. Many universities are waiting until the final deadline to start sorting applications. The deadline for universities to respond is 16th May, so there is still plenty of time. Students need to reply to these offers by 6th June, but please do not rush this big decision. **Firm choices can be aspirational, but to avoid Clearing, students should ensure that the insurance offer is in line with current forecasts.** For further guidance, please contact the form tutor or go to the UCAS website.

Top Destinations for this year's students include: Leeds, Nottingham Trent, Bristol, Durham, York, Sheffield, Exeter, UEA and ARU.

Life Lessons

In Life lessons and lectures, students have been learning about student finance. We were pleased to welcome ARU to help students understand and navigate the student loans system. The slides are still available for students to access on Teams.

You'll Never Be A-Loan!

Student Finance unravelled by ARU

Delivered by Jade Matthews
schoolsandcolleges@aru.ac.uk



Raising Aspirations

Mrs Kennedy launched our Raising Aspirations Programme with Year 12 in a Life Lecture. This lecture accompanied the handout sent home to enable students to make more informed choices about the next steps to university. We hope you had a chance to read this and talk to your child about their hopes and ambitions. Life Lessons will also follow this up by encouraging students to research ideas in more detail.

Subject News

Economics

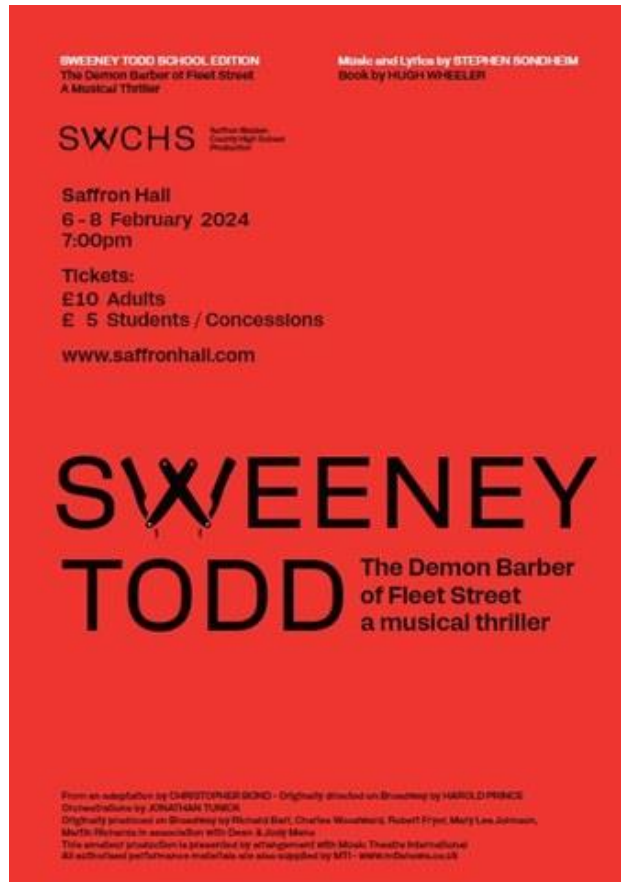
SWCHS was the only secondary school invited to the lecture, which was for University/PhD economics students and faculty at Cambridge. Students had the opportunity to experience the educational environment and facilities of a world class institution (Jesus College) and to get a taste for what studying economics at Cambridge is like. The lecturer was Professor Oriana Bandiera from the London School of Economics. Professor Bandeira is the Sir Anthony Atkinson Professor of Economics at LSE, recognized for her pioneering work with numerous accolades, including the Yrjö Jahansson Award and the Arrow Award. An honorary foreign member of the American Economic Association and a fellow of the British Academy, among others, Professor Bandiera continues a tradition of innovative economic inquiry with significant policy implications. Her research pushes the boundaries of understanding economic activities in low-income countries. In her role as director of the LSE's Hub for Equal Representation and the G²LM|LIC program at IZA, she employs robust economic modelling to tackle issues of representation and labour market dynamics. A leader in her field, Professor Bandiera serves on councils and boards like the Econometric Society and the International Growth Centre. Her work embodies the spirit of the Stone Lecture, advancing economic knowledge and its application to global development challenges.

Before the lecture, students had the opportunity to speak with current students and interact with the Head of Economics admissions for Cambridge University. It was a very worthwhile event!



Performing Arts

There are still some tickets left for our annual school production! Come along and support the students and have a great evening! Good luck to all students participating and supporting the production.



Congratulations

All students who received their GCSE Maths and English results this month. We were so pleased to see so many successful outcomes! If you did not achieve the grade you hoped for, please do not give up. Many students were very close to the boundary and may well achieve the needed Grade 4 next time.



Grace Strickland has now made her debut for the U18 England Rugby squad. Please click on the link to read more:

[England U18 Women announce 2024 Elite Playing Squad \(englandrugby.com\)](https://www.englandrugby.com)



U18 boys hockey beat SPF 6-0 and Wisbech 3-1 to win the Cambs hockey tournament. 6 goals for Stan, 2 for Dan & 1 for Lochie. They now go through to represent Cambs in the Regional Finals in Ipswich on 1st March. Well done!



The senior netball team won the first match of the season against Chigwell School. Congratulations, ladies!



Well done to all our SWCHS runners who competed at Essex Schools cross country.