



# Sixth Form Newsletter - October 2023

## From the Director of Sixth Form



We hope that all our students had a restful half-term break and are ready to embark on another busy term. This term holds much joy with our annual Charities Week and Senior Citizens party - as we head towards Christmas, this is my favourite half-term of the academic year. October was similarly inspiring, and I always enjoy writing these newsletters as it gives me an opportunity to reflect on what has been achieved. I hope you enjoy learning about October's accomplishments.

At the end of October, we welcomed some Saffron Academy Trust colleagues to visit the school. As part of this review, a significant number of Sixth Form lessons were observed. The feedback received was tremendous; they were all incredibly impressed by the quality of education in the classroom. It is fantastic feedback for teachers, but also especially important that parents know teachers and students are both working hard to create a brilliant atmosphere for learning here at SWCHS. Thank you to all who participated on this observation day.

As we have reached the end of the first half-term, I am keen to learn more about your experience as parents and how well you feel your child has settled into Sixth Form this academic year. If you have any feedback you would like to offer, please do let us know on this survey by clicking [HERE](#):

Amy Kennedy

## Year 12 Key Dates

**Please note the change of date: Year 12 Parents' evening has been moved. This will now take place on Thursday 11th January. Further details will be sent nearer the time.**

<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- Fri 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2024</b>	<b>Half Term</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 29 <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 13 Key Dates

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
Thurs 11 <sup>th</sup> January 2024	Year 12 Parents Evening
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
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 29 <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- School Closes for the Summer Holidays</b>

## Open Evenings - Thank you!

This month saw Open Evenings for prospective Year 7 and Year 12 students. Each event hosted **in excess of 2000 visitors**, many of whom were ably guided by our wonderful Sixth Form students. These events could not run without Sixth Form volunteers – the feedback we received was very positive.

We would like to say an additional thank you to our Year 13 Head Students, who gave amazing presentations at these events. It was a daunting task, but they rose to the occasion admirably!

Please note for any siblings looking to join SWCHS Sixth Form next year, the deadline for applications is **30th November**.









## Black History Month

We are proud to support Black History Month and our previous Head Student, Jessica Robertson, worked with Mrs Chancellor to create this display for all to see. Mr Hansard also offered the Sixth Form an assembly looking at Black British History.



We do also have a wide range of literature in our Book Nook by black authors, for students to enjoy.





## Mental Health Awareness Day

SWCHS marked World Mental Health Day on Tuesday 10th October. The Sixth Form team joined the whole school by wearing bright colours and collecting money for Mental Health Awareness Day. Activities for the whole school took place in the Wellbeing Shed.

We do, however, recognise that Mental Health Awareness isn't just for one day. The link to our website to access additional available support is here: <https://www.sixthformsupport.com/>





**Please wear bright  
clothes and donate  
£1 on wisePAY to  
support World  
Mental Health Day  
Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup>  
October**



## Year 13 Updates

# UCAS

42 students have now submitted their applications and 23 students have already received offers!

As per our guidance last summer, we hope all students intending to make a UCAS application have now completed a first draft of their personal statement. This will give tutors the time they need to support each student individually through the process and for them to make any necessary edits.

The UCAS clinic will still be available on Wednesdays period 5 for any student who has questions about their UCAS application.

### Early Applicants

32 students submitted early applications for Oxbridge and Medicine. Some exams have already taken place, whilst other students need to submit work ahead of deadlines. It is important that each student

knows the steps they need to take in their application to ensure they meet additional deadlines. We are now organising mock interviews for each applicant and will be in touch shortly to confirm details.

### **History Super-Curricular Opportunities**

Our lucky historians have received two inspiring opportunities this October. Firstly, prolific historian Professor Richard Evans offered an excellent talk and discussion to our Year 13 students. This was especially useful for those completing their NEAs on German history. Professor Evans is a lead historian for German history and has written a number of famous books including The Third Reich trilogy.



Year 12 and some Year 13 students also experienced a fantastic tour of the Tower of London and Westminster Abbey. The trip was directly relevant to the students' study of the Wars of the Roses.



Our Music Academy students were fortunate enough to receive a workshop from leading Opera singer, Yvonne Howard. A rare and wonderful opportunity!



## Life Lessons and Lectures

# Talk Consent.

We were pleased to welcome Talk Consent to talk to the Sixth Form about consent. A range of issues were discussed, including a range of different case studies, and how students can manage situations that might make them feel uncomfortable.

This talk complemented the Year 12 Life Lecture hosted by Mrs Bendall on Harmful Sexual Behaviours. Students learned about both female and male perspectives of harmful sexual behaviours, and how such behaviours might come about. Students had the opportunity to reflect on the lecture in their following Life Lesson.



Year 12 students have also had the opportunity to look at the Unifrog platform in their Life Lessons as a useful tool to help navigate their future career paths post Sixth Form. Students will continue to log engagements and activities on Unifrog throughout their Sixth Form journey as discussed in Dr Toogood and Ms Bertie's Life Lecture. The Life Lecture got students to think about the world of work as well as how to prepare for the upcoming rotary interviews, as well as how to reflect and refine their CV's.

In Year 13, students had a Life Lecture hosted by Dr Toogood on how Unifrog can support them with their future destinations, as well as careers in the global economy.



During their Life Lessons, Year 13 students have been discussing the importance of drive safety as well as the risks associated with drink driving. In addition, they have had the opportunity to learn and trial a variety of retrieval practice techniques to help aid their revision strategies in preparation for upcoming exams and assessments.

## Year 12 Updates

### Settling-In Check

This is an important first indicator for students, showing how well they have managed the transition to Key Stage 5 study. It is very pleasing to see so many students rising to these demands. The settling-in checks will be published to parents/carers imminently. Please do take some time to discuss these with your young person.

Students with learner scores of 3 or less should reflect carefully on how they can improve to meet Key Stage 5 expectations. We will expect to see improvements next half term. Tutors will also be holding tutorials with students and using tutor time to discuss the settling-in check in more detail. If you have questions about the settling-in check, please contact either the subject teacher, or your form tutor.

### 'Earned Autonomy'

Following the Settling-in checks, students may be eligible for 'Earned Autonomy' - that is, the ability to leave school for independent study. Please note that students should be studying full time, and paid work is not permitted during this time.

We will send out details on whether students are eligible for earned autonomy shortly.

Some students may now also wish to drop a subject. A letter has been sent to parents and carers by Mr Hansard, to explain how this process works.

### Subject Seminars

Subject Seminars will be starting every Tuesday lunchtime on Monday 13th November.

For students wishing to make competitive applications to university, it is important they demonstrate an interest in learning independently outside the classroom. To facilitate this, the Student Council lead our Subject Seminar programme, where Year 12 students present to other students a topic of their choice. Our Year 13 students, George Willetts and Annie Sullivan Qosja are kicking off the series by showcasing



their winning seminars from last year. We hope to see lots of Year 12 students taking part in this brilliant opportunity!

### Gold Duke of Edinburgh

We are excited to be running Gold Dofe this year , training has already started with a walk learning micronavigation in the hills around Littlebury Green. We will be having a day of first aid training in November all getting ready for the practice Expedition in The Peak District and the final assessment in the Brecon Beacons .



### Coming Up

#### Ann Dodgson Memorial Lecture hosted by Vicky Tennant, UNHCR Representative to the UK

We are pleased to host the Ann Dodgson Memorial Lecture at SWCHS on **Wednesday 29th November at 4pm**. All are welcome to attend.

The lecture will be hosted by Vicky Tennant, UNHCR Representative to the UK. Vicky will discuss a number of issues related to the international Refugee Crisis.



### **Biography**

Vicky Tennant is the UNHCR Representative to the United Kingdom. Educated at the University of Essex and Queen's University, Belfast, she is a member of the English Bar.

She has served with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees since 2000, in a range of positions at its Geneva headquarters and in field operations, including Pakistan, Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Somalia, Sudan and Myanmar.

Her most recent field assignment was in Syria, serving as Deputy Representative from September 2020 to June 2022. At UNHCR headquarters, she worked in a range of policy, evaluation, and emergency-related positions, and served as Special Assistant to the High Commissioner. She has authored a number of articles and book chapters on the topic of forced displacement.

### **Year 12 Switzerland Trip**

Thank you for attending the Year 12 information evening regarding the forthcoming trip to Switzerland in July. If you missed the session and would like to learn more, please watch the video link below. Please note that the deadline for applications is this Wednesday.

[https://swchs365-my.sharepoint.com/:v/g/person/stfamken\\_swchs\\_net/EZGugrMtS8BBrf8jzYJXoNsBWg2GeyOpT8nd3NgAuNkkaA?e=e4WFqN](https://swchs365-my.sharepoint.com/:v/g/person/stfamken_swchs_net/EZGugrMtS8BBrf8jzYJXoNsBWg2GeyOpT8nd3NgAuNkkaA?e=e4WFqN)



### Year 13 Only Ski Trip

We are pleased to offer an exclusive Year 13 Ski trip on 1st Jan-6th Jan 2025. Further details have been sent in a letter. Any questions, please speak to Mrs Kennedy.



### Senior Citizens Party

A huge thank you to the Student Union and Mrs Ward for co-ordinating this year's Senior Citizens Party. It is always a wonderful evening, so we hope you can invite some relatives and come along to celebrate Christmas together!



## Congratulations to . . .

**Abigail Weersing**, for participating in the the 27th European Women's Chess Club Cup in Durrës, Albania, which took place from 1st to 8th October.

This was the first time SPTW had entered this competition, and with two women's world champions and a host of strong teams from across Europe participating, the young women expected a tough but interesting experience.

The team performed well; winning 2 matches, drawing 2 matches and losing 3 matches, all of those to higher ranked teams. The team was seeded 21st and finished in 15th equal position. Abigail scored 4 out of 7 possible points and her chess grade surpassed 2100, earning her the Woman Fide Master (WFM) title. **There are less than 2,000 WFMs in the world.**

An amazing achievement, Abigail, well done!



Three SWCHS students, including Sixth Former, **Claire Middleton** enjoyed their opportunity to work with Granta Chorale on their Christmas compositions. Their entries have been shortlisted for the Christmas Carol Competition.



Congratulations to the seniors girl's hockey team in their match against Hockerill. The keeper proved difficult to get past, but all that possession paid off with Emilie finding the backboard. Well done to **April Veitch** for receiving player of the match.

