



Sixth Form Newsletter - November 2023

From the Director of Sixth Form



November has been packed full of super- and extra-curricular opportunities for our students. This newsletter will provide just a snapshot of some of them.

This month, we also welcomed our SAT colleagues to the school for a day. They attended various Sixth Form lessons, and their feedback was overwhelmingly positive. They commented that lessons were of exceptional quality, and classroom support for students was inspiring.

The students have worked tremendously hard this term and should feel immensely proud of all they have accomplished.

We are now madly preparing for Charities Week – the highlight of the year! You will hear all about the fun and frolics of Charities Week in the December Review, which will be published at the start of next term. So, in this last newsletter of the year, I wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Amy Kennedy

Year 12 Key Dates

Tues 5 th December 2023	Senior Citizens' Party
Tues 12 th December 2023	Dance Show
Thurs 14 th December 2023	SWCHS Christmas Concert
Mon 18 th –Wed 20 th December 2023	Charities Week
Wed 20th December 2023	Early Finish @ 1.15pm- School closes for holidays
Thurs 21st December – Thurs 4th January 2024	School Holidays
Fri 5th January 2024	School Closed- Training Day
Mon 8 th January 2024	School Opens for the Spring Term- Timetable Week 2
Mon 5 th Feb – 11 th Feb 2024	National Apprentice Week
Tues 6 th February – Thurs 8 th February 2024	School Production
Thurs 8 th February 2024	Year 12 Parents Evening
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 Feb – 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
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

Thurs 7 th December 2023	Year 13 Parents Evening
Tues 5 th December 2023	Senior Citizens' Party
Thurs 14 th December 2023	SWCHS Christmas Concert
Mon 18 th –Wed 20 th December 2023	Charities Week
Wed 20 th December 2023	SWCHS UCAS application deadline
Wed 20th December 2023	Early Finish @ 1.15pm- School closes for holidays
Thurs 21st December – Thurs 4th January 2024	School Holidays
Fri 5th January 2024	School Closed- Training Day
Wed 31 st January 2024	UCAS application deadline
Mon 8 th January 2024	School Opens for the Spring Term- Timetable Week 2
Mon 5 th February	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
Fri 28 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

Uttlesford Careers Fayre held at SWCHS: Tues 21st November

We were lucky to host the Uttlesford Careers Fayre in conjunction with Harlow College. Many local and national employers and further education providers came to Saffron Hall to showcase the vast range of opportunities available to students when they leave SWCHS. We hope those who attended found the event useful.



Remembrance 2023



The Sixth Form collectively observed a Remembrance Service in Saffron Hall. Mr Hansard gave the assembly, presenting research conducted by Mr Collins. Students learned about George Downham, Andy Porter and Charles Pearson, residents of Saffron Walden who served and died in the First World War. Students were invited to tie ribbons on the Sixth Form balcony area as an act of remembrance.

Year 12

Unifrog



Year 12 has been introduced to Unifrog, a platform we use to help students start shaping their futures. They have also received talks on how to create a compelling CV and should now be finalising these, in preparation for the Rotary Interviews next term.

Life Lectures

As part of the Life Lecture programme, Year 12 received an excellent talk by Mr Cox about the impact of drugs on his family. He explained some consequences of drugs that aren't always considered or talked about. This month, students also had the benefit of listening to guest speaker Emma Cole, HIV ambassador. Emma shared anecdotes from her experience, describing what it's like to live with HIV.

In life lessons this month, alongside exploring Unifrog and CV writing, Year 12 revisited the topic of contraception. These lessons considered the risks and reliability of each type of contraception, as well as treatments for STI's.



Early Applications

We are proud of students who are starting to receive invitations to interviews for Oxford and Cambridge. A fantastic achievement! All students have received a mock interview to help them prepare, and SWCHS is happy to host any online interviews if required.

Support has already begun for **Year 12** students intending to make competitive university applications for medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine or Oxbridge. If you have not yet signed up, but intend to apply in one of these areas, please contact Dr E Wood as soon as possible.

We are also pleased to provide individual support for students considering an American application. If you would like to receive this support, contact Dr Wood.

The Seminar Series is well under way, giving Year 12 students the opportunity to present on a topic of their choice, extending their super-curricular portfolios. Please come along to D5 on Monday lunchtimes to learn more!

Year 13

University Applications

As part of the Life Lecture curriculum, we welcomed Exeter University to SWCHS, to provide additional support for students writing personal statements. They provided guidance on choosing the right degree and making a competitive application, including personal statement tips, information on contextual

offers and university bursary support. Please encourage your son/daughter to speak to their tutor if they have extenuating circumstances that should be shared during their UCAS application.

Anglia Ruskin University have also supported our students by offering 1 to 1 personal statement sessions. This is in addition to our own tutorials and UCAS clinic on Wednesday afternoons.

Over 70 applications have now been sent to UCAS, with many more in progress. Offers are starting to flood in! Six students have already received all their offers, and a further 56 students have received at least one offer.



Life Lectures

Dr Wood and Mrs Bendall held a Life Lecture this month to guide students with potential university interviews. If a student does receive an invitation to a university interview and would like a mock interview, they should contact Ms Bertie (SBertie@swchs.net)



Life Lessons

This month, Year 13 students have received lessons to help consider their responsibility to maintain a healthy lifestyle. As part of these lessons, students have thought about healthy diets on a budget, to equip them for independent life beyond Sixth Form.

Language Trips to the BFI

In November, Year 12 students of French, German and Spanish enjoyed trips to the BFI Southbank Centre for a languages film study day. Students had morning activities and lectures, with an afternoon screening of a foreign language film related to their studies. Over three days students conducted themselves brilliantly, participating in lectures in their target languages in front of many other sixth formers from across the country – a brave thing to do!





Psychology Masterclass

On Thursday 30th November, Psychology students were treated to a series of online seminars by leading Psychologists. The workshops included topics directly related to the A-Level course, as well as offering super-curricular opportunities to deepen learning in Psychology. Thanks to Miss Sogi for organising access to this event.

**Psychology conference:
'Mind map: Power of the Brain'**



OXFORD
HIGH SCHOOL
GDST

For Years 11-13

Thursday 30th November, 9:00 am – 12:30 pm GMT

Meeting Link: [Click here](#)

Meeting ID: 859 9735 7362

Passcode: OHS22PSYCH

Time	Speaker Name	Title of Session
9:00 – 9:05	Sixth form students	Welcome and Introduction
9:05 – 9:50	Dr Sophia Frangou	A guided tour of the human brain during the lifespan
9:50 – 10:35	Dr Gaia Scerif	Cognitive development in children
10:35 – 10:45	BREAK	BREAK
10:45 – 11:30	Blanca Piera Pi-Sunyer	Social and self-development during adolescence
11:30 – 12:00	Miss Holly Swadling	Brain functions
12:00 – 12:30	Dr Arjune Sen	Clinical insights into mind-brain health

Coming Up . . .

Charities Week 2023!

The Sixth Form Committee have been hard at work this term organising Charities Week for the whole school community to enjoy during the final week of term December. More information and photos will follow in our newsletter in the new year, but for now here is a taste of what students can expect!

	Venue	Monday 18 th December	Tuesday 19 th December	Wednesday 20 th December
Breaktime	Q6 – 50p			
	Saffron hall -E1			
Lunchtime	E3 – 50p			
	Q6 – E1			
	Saffron hall -E2			

SWCHS Staff Charities Week Challenge! Please donate!

Throughout December and during Charities Week, SWCHS staff will be running, rowing and cycling the 600+ miles (as the crow flies) from Lands' End to John O'Groats. They will be completing this challenge in aid of Tommy's - the pregnancy and baby loss awareness charity. If you wish to donate to this fantastic cause, follow the QR code below. Thanks in advance!



SWCHS STAFF
**INDOOR
TRIATHLON**

IN AID OF
**TOMMY'S PREGNANCY AND
BABY LOSS CHARITY**

STAFF WILL BE RUNNING, ROWING AND CYCLING THE
600+ MILES FROM LANDS END TO JOHN O'GROATS

FULL LAUNCH DURING SWCHS CHARITIES WEEK

PLEASE DONATE VIA THE QR CODE

Tommy's
Together, for every baby



This year, the SWCHS school dance production has the theme of Heroes & Villains. The show provides pupils from across all age groups to showcase performance work from their lessons, extra-curricular dance classes and Day of Dance workshop. Tickets are available from Saffron Hall: <https://www.saffronhall.com/whats-on/view/heroes-villains-a-swchs-dance-production>



SWCHS
CHRISTMAS
CONCERT

Thursday 14th December 7:00pm
Saffron Hall

Festive fun with our ensembles & choirs!

Box Office. 0845 548 7650 www.saffronhall.com

A festive poster for a Christmas concert. The background is dark blue with white snowflakes and musical notes. In the foreground, a white snowman wearing a blue hat and scarf is playing a blue saxophone. To the right, there is a stylized blue Christmas tree with white lights. The text is in white and yellow, providing details about the event.



Congratulations!

Congratulations to the Senior Ladies hockey team for winning the district tournament and retaining the title from last year.



Well done to the Sixth Form netball squad. In the semifinals of the East Essex National Schools tournament, they lost by one goal to the eventual winners, Brentwood.



Congratulations to Annie, Tom and Emilie for winning their sections in the recent Music Festival competition held at Saffron Hall. The standard was exceptionally high!



Praise goes to all SWCHS students who participated in the tremendous production of Bussy Malone in the Saffron Walden Town Hall. It was brilliant!

