



# Sixth Form Newsletter - January 2024

## From the Director of Sixth Form



As you know from our previous newsletters, we reflect upon each month to share highlights and key moments with you. Although December was only three weeks long in school, so much was achieved! The success and altruism of Charities Week fills me with pride, and I would like to send a huge

thank you to the Sixth Form team, in particular Mr Brown and all the tremendous students who contributed.

This month, we were also pleased to learn that 'The Times' Parent Power Tables named Saffron Walden County High School the second-best comprehensive school in the East of England. Whilst we always focus on the students under our care, it is warming to receive this external accolade.

We are also very proud of our Core Maths provision here at SWCHS and were delighted to feature in a national educational magazine as an example of its success. Sam Barker, our lead teacher of Core Maths has done a fantastic job in raising the profile of this important subject and it is vindicating to see some fantastic, reduced university offers for our Year 13 students in recognition of this qualification.

The full article can be found here: [One school's success with Core Maths | NCETM](#)

January will now bring a new focal point for our students. We name this term 'Aspiration', as it is a time when students in Year 12 and 13 start to consider their future choices, and to appreciate how hard work can and will shape the opportunities that lie ahead for them.

I hope you all enjoyed a good break and are ready for the important term ahead. This is the final full term for Year 13, and for both year groups we aim to make it as impactful and memorable as possible. Finally, we wish all students sitting external exams this month the best of luck!

Amy Kennedy

## Year 12 Key Dates

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 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-</b> School Closes for the Summer Holidays

## Year 13 Key Dates

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>

## CHARITIES WEEK NEWS: OVER £10,000 RAISED!

This year, the charities selected were:

Cancer Research UK

- RSPCA
- WWF
- WaterAid
- Help for Heroes
- Make a Wish Foundation
- ASU (Agricultural Science Unit) at SWCH

	Venue	Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> December
Breaktime	Q6 – 50p	TikTok	(IM)PRACTICAL JOKERS At SWCH	THE BOX OFFICE Movie Parodies And More
	Saffron hall -£1	Carols KARAOKE	TASKMASTER	THE MASKED SINGER
Lunchtime	E3 – 50p	Chris Trains GetZest	PIT GIG	PIT GIG
	Q6 – £1	TEACHER BESTLING	UPPER SCHOOL QUIZ	WOULD I LIE TO YOU ?
	Saffron hall -£2	Yr 10-13 THE X FACTOR	Yr 7-9 THE X FACTOR	

### Senior Citizens' Soiree

It was wonderful to host over 150 local senior citizens at our Christmas party – our highest number ever! Many students came along to join in with the festivities and fun, kicking off our Charities Week. Since the party, we have been flooded with lovely messages of thanks from those who enjoyed the occasion. We would like to thank the Student Union and Mrs Ward for their leadership of this important and inspiring event.











### **Staff run, cycle and row from Land's End to John O'Groats!**

Collectively, staff completed an indoor triathlon – completing well over 800 miles for the charity Tommy's who support families who have experienced stillbirths, miscarriages and premature births. Some staff were more competitive than others and some looked more ridiculous than others, but together, staff have managed to raise over £1000! A brilliant achievement!

There is still time to support this cause, if you can. Please click on the link below and thank you for any donation:

[https://www.justgiving.com/page/swchs-indoortriathlon-tommys?utm\\_medium=qr&utm\\_source=offline](https://www.justgiving.com/page/swchs-indoortriathlon-tommys?utm_medium=qr&utm_source=offline)



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







## CHARITIES WEEK EVENTS

Each year our Sixth Form students organise three days of fantastic entertainment for the whole school, to raise money for a range of charities selected by students.



Twelve events, arranged by a committee of Sixth Form students, took place during break and lunchtimes over the last three days of term. Highlights included Xmas Factor, Box Office, Masked Singer and Strictly Come Dancing, much to the amusement of the students, and even included a special recorded message from Janice from Friends!

SWCHS is proud of the Sixth Form Student Committee, who have worked so hard to put on such a fabulous week of events, particularly our Committee Head Students James Nash and Lewis Phipps. We would also like to thank the whole school community for their donations and support.















It has always been a tradition during Charities Week for staff to dress up in fancy dress. This year's efforts were incredible - we hope these photos make you smile. Guess the theme of these departments!







## SPORTS MATCHES



Charities Week was kicked off this year with a Staff Vs Students Basketball match. Fabulous fun was had by all!

Rain and soggy pitches did not stop our alumni matches from going ahead and it was lovely to see so many of our alumni students return to participate in the event.

It was a very close and gripping game of Hockey with end-to-end play. 6th form dominated initially going 2-0 up but the Old boys and girls upped their game to win it 3-2. Well done everyone.





*1 - The current school team won a very difficult and slippery game of rugby!*

## **New Year Honours List**

We would like to celebrate the Sixth Form students who make a difference to our community, either within school or the local community. You are welcome to nominate any student who you think deserves a special mention - this could be for the daily characteristics they display, their contribution to any clubs, volunteering, charity work or community action. Please complete the nomination form by Friday 27th January. Students can be in Year 12 or Year 13.

[Microsoft Forms](#)



## YEAR 13 NEWS

Thank you to so many parents who joined us for the recent parents' evening. We hope you found the feedback from teachers useful and you feel more informed on how to support your child in the final remaining months. We will be sending out further revision support in the next few weeks to help you support your child with their forthcoming mocks in February and ultimately in the summer.

### Career Opportunities

Many opportunities are now becoming available. Students should check Teams regularly, along with Unifrog, to see which opportunities are most relevant to them. Here are just a handful of options that have already been advertised this term:

**AstraZeneca – BioPharmaceutical Apprenticeship Opportunities – applications now open – closing date 1st February** [Early Talent \(astrazeneca.com\)](https://astrazeneca.com)

### Events

**CRC Open Day** – Saturday 14th January 10:00-12:30pm [Cambridge Regional College - Cambridge | Huntingdon \(camre.ac.uk\)](https://www.cambridge.ac.uk)

### Mock Exams Commence Monday 4th March (two weeks)

Year 13 mock exams will start on Monday 4th March. Teachers will tell students what papers they can expect for each sitting, but it is important that students start to prepare their revision timetables and build in frequent opportunities for retrieval practice, both at home and during independent study. Most courses will not finish teaching new content until around the Easter period, so the opportunity to revise in class is very limited. If any student feels stressed about their revision, or doesn't know where to start, they should book a tutorial with their form tutor, as we are here to help.

### UCAS Applications

183 applications have now been sent to UCAS. 31 students have already received all offers, with a further 135 students receiving at least one offer. It is an exciting time for students, but we do encourage students to take their time now in their response, awaiting further data from their mocks and progress checks before finalising Firm and Insurance offers. More guidance on how to respond to offers will be sent shortly.

For those yet to make an application, there is still time! The deadline is 31st January. However, as it is quite a long process, students should speak to their tutor about this as soon as possible so we can offer the best support. We are proud to offer 1:1 support for all our UCAS applications.

### Oxbridge Interviews

Congratulations to 26 students who were selected for interview at either Oxford or Cambridge; it is a brilliant achievement to be selected for the interview, and whatever the outcome, we are very proud of all the students who entered this rigorous process. You are all a credit to SWCHS!

## YEAR 12 NEWS

### In Class Assessments and Parents Evening – Thursday 11th January

Students have now completed all of their class assessments to help them gauge their progress for the first term. Feedback on these, along with their general progress will be shared at the forthcoming parents' evening. We hope to see you there!

### Life Lessons and Lectures

At the end of November, students enjoyed listening to Emma Cole, a regular visitor to SWCHS to share her stories of living with HIV. As well as providing much entertainment, Emma always offers a very thought-provoking talk to students to help them learn more about the virus as well as recent medical research in the area.

## SUBJECT NEWS

### Holocaust Educational Trust



Anna Videsch and Gwennan Rush have been selected to represent SWCHS at the forthcoming Lessons from Auschwitz project. Anna and Gwennan will meet Holocaust survivors in a series of online seminars and will visit Auschwitz for the day to learn more about the horrors of the Holocaust.

We have been fortunate enough to receive some further spaces for this trip. Further information is available here: [Holocaust Educational Trust - Lessons from Auschwitz \(het.org.uk\)](https://www.het.org.uk)

Interested participants should contact Mrs Kennedy as soon as possible as places will be given on a first come first served basis.

## Economics

We were delighted to welcome back alumni student Alfie King, to talk to our Economics student about his experience as an Economics undergraduate and placement year with Volkswagen. Alfie is the first of a series of alumnus talks we have scheduled to help inspire students with their next steps.



## Law Society

Congratulations to the Law Society for competing in this year's Gresham College national oracy competition. Topics ranged from the ethics of space ownership and the challenges of upholding the law through to whether Maths should be made compulsory until the age of 18. Results of the competition will be shared in the Spring, but congratulations to all participating students.

## Music Academy

Our Music Academy students were busy last month with a number of performances, including their own Christmas Concert, participating at St Mary's Church for Spirit of Christmas as well as a very special performance at Audley End House. It was a beautiful event.

To celebrate 10 Years of Saffron Hall, our musicians also had the privilege of performing alongside Jess Gillam for a special performance. The week before, students enjoyed an Opera Workshop with Yvonne Howard – our students are very lucky!





## Congratulations

To Grace Pierson for being selected for the Mavericks squad in Netball – a brilliant achievement!

To all our Sixth Formers who performed and supported the Heroes and Villains dance show held in Saffron Hall on Tuesday 12th December. It was a fantastic evening showcasing a brilliant array of dance.







**Charlie Warren (Year 13) is fundraising for Dementia UK**

Every night throughout December, Charlie was running a Christmas light show in aid of raising money for Dementia UK. This money will go towards helping provide admiral nurses to the families that need them. This cruel disease has taken hold of my grandma. Money can still be donated via the link [HERE](#)

**Awab Kazuz (Year 1) - Half Marathon for Islamic Relief**

Awab participated in the Islamic Relief Half Marathon on December 16th, 2023. As a personal marathon, this event was not just about running 21 km, but also about raising funds for a cause that is close to his heart. Islamic Relief is an organization that provides aid and support to those in need around the world, regardless of their race or religion. We all have a responsibility to help those who are less fortunate than us, and Awab was grateful for the opportunity to do so through this event. Your donation will go directly towards supporting Islamic Relief's efforts to provide food, shelter, and medical care to those who need it most. Please consider making a donation today via the link [HERE](#) - no amount is too small. Together, we can make a difference in the lives of people who are struggling and bring hope to those who need it most.