

# Switch on

SWCHS Parent Newsletter



### From the Associate Headteacher:

Dear Parents/Carers,

This newsletter celebrates the extremely successful 2019 Charities Week. You can see what a fun time we had while raising money for so many worthwhile causes. The Sixth Form put so much thought and effort in to this event and we are all very grateful to them. They should be very proud of putting on such a fantastic programme and for celebrating the work of the chosen charities.

This is the final week of rehearsals for Fantastic Mr Fox. I have popped in to a couple of rehearsals and this is clearly going to be another stunning production; the talents of our Upper School students combined with ambitious set and costume design mean that this is guaranteed to be a brilliant feel-good family show, bringing some joy to your winter. Tickets are still available for the 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> February and can be purchased from the Saffron Hall website.

This week has also seen Holocaust Memorial Day marking 75 years since the liberation of Auschwitz. All students have taken part in an assembly to help them to reflect on this landmark anniversary and the importance of standing up to prejudice and intolerance today. These essential qualities are reinforced throughout the year in lessons and in our assembly and speaker programme as we work to ensure that all of our students are ready to play an active and positive role in modern British society.

Best wishes,

**Polly Lankester**

### Holocaust Memorial Service:

A group of 27 Year 8 History students and 20 students from the Chamber Choir attended the Holocaust Memorial Service at St Mary's Church in Saffron Walden this week. The service included a talk from a guest speaker, whose parents were persecuted in the Holocaust because of their faith.

The Chamber Choir sang 'Wiegala' by Ilse Weber. Ilse was voluntarily transported to Auschwitz with the children of Theresienstadt and she was killed, along with her son, Tommy. Performing Ilse's music was an absolute honour.



In school, Rev Tim Hardingham led an assembly for students in all year groups.

### Teaching Hub:

The Department for Education has announced that SWCHS is one of only six schools nationally who have been designated as a Teaching School Hub. As one of the country's highest performing schools, SWCHS will now have a role acting as a regional hub, supporting over 200 schools in this region.

The Saffron Teaching School Hub will now co-ordinate the work of a range of local partners to boost professional development opportunities for teachers, improve school-to-school support, and strengthen staff recruitment and retention.

We are thrilled with this new designation. It recognises that SWCHS is a leader of education at a local, regional and national level. As well as enabling us to co-ordinate support for other schools, being a Teaching School Hub will also provide exciting professional development opportunities for our own staff and help us as a school to continue to recruit the best teachers.

### Charities Week:

We enjoyed an action-packed end to 2019 with another hugely successful Charities Week. Each year our Sixth Form team organise three days of fantastic entertainment for the whole school and raise thousands of pounds for charities in the process. This year certainly did not disappoint!

The fund-raising bonanza comprised of many events which took place during break and lunchtimes over the three days. Highlights included Tik Tok, Teacher Takedown, Strictly Come Dancing and the Xmas Factor. Some very brave teachers competed against each other; dancing in Strictly, performing in Teachers Got Talent and even Sumo wrestling in Teacher Takedown - much to the amusement of the packed audience of students.

Another highlight of the week was staff fancy dress day. Each department competed to be crowned the best dressed by our Sixth Form committee of students. This year the team of Languages teachers, as Father Christmas and his Reindeer, were the worthy winners.

This year's charities, selected by our students are:

**Year 7:** Act4Addenbrookes

**Year 8:** Cancer Research UK

**Year 9:** Accuro

**Year 10:** Ben Kinsella Trust

**Year 11:** Papyrus - Prevention of Young Suicide

We would like to thank everyone who supported the fundraising events, particularly the Sixth Form students, led by the Sixth Form Committee and Mr Dan Crittenden. Their dedication and hard work resulted in a fantastic three days for the whole school and helped us to raise a total **£9,382**. We hope that The Variety Show, taking place on 24th March, will help us to add even more money to this fantastic total.



### SWCHS Media Student Wins Moving Image Award:

We are extremely proud that former A Level Film and Media student, Callum Broomhead, has won an award for The Best Music Video at the recent Moving Image Awards. The awards ceremony takes place every year and encourages entries from students studying either Film or Media. Callum's winning video is a skillful blend of narrative and performance, which demonstrates a sophisticated appreciation of editing and cinematography.



## Sports News:

### Netball:

The Year 11 Girls' Netball team finished 4<sup>th</sup> in the Regional Netball Competition. They played extremely well throughout, working very hard to qualify for the semi-finals. Congratulations to the team!



### Cross Country:

SWCHS once again performed immensely well at the North West Essex Cross Country Event. Notable performances came from Keira Shaw who won the overall Year 7 girls race, Luca McGrath and Lewis Buchallet who came 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> respectively in the junior boys race, Jake Latham and Finn Budden who came 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> respectively in the inter boys race and Sophie Allen who came 2<sup>nd</sup> in the inter girls. Congratulations to all athletes who performed.

The eight SWCHS students who qualified then ran in the Essex Championships Cross Country event. They raced against strong competitors, representing their districts from schools across Essex. Congratulations to all our students, particularly Lewis Buchallet, Year 9, who finished 13<sup>th</sup> in his age group.

### Hockey:

The Senior Boys' Hockey team fought their way back to narrowly lose out to Wisbech 4-3 in the Cambs Hockey Tournament. Both teams now progress to the regional stages in a couple of weeks time.



Congratulations to the Year 9 Boys' who also played in the Cambs Tournament. The boys have also qualified to the East round in February.

### Basketball:

Year 7 Boys' Basketball won their game 16-7 away to Leventhorpe this week. The boys are improving and learning with every game.



Year 8 Boys' competed in their first District Basketball game vs JFAN this month, winning 16-40. Well done boys, your hard work is paying off.

### Dance:

Year 10 GCSE Dance students took part in a three hour dance workshop working on anthology *Within Your Eyes*. The piece, created by James Cousins, provided students with a hands on experience of the work they will be examined on in their theory exam. They learnt many movement phrases from the work and developed their choreographic understanding of the work.



### Leadership Training:

A group of students were selected to participate in some leadership training at Davenant school this month. They worked on both confidence and leadership skills and will use these when working in local primary schools.



### Lord Taverners Indoor Cricket:

Congratulations to the Year 8 Girls' who competed in their first Essex Indoor Tournament this week. It was a very fast paced and challenging competition for the team. They played extremely well, finishing second overall in the competition.



## Fantastic Mr Fox:

This year's upper school production is Roald Dahl's classic tale of greed, revenge and the power of friendship, *Fantastic Mr Fox*, adapted by David Wood for the stage.

Join us at Saffron Hall for a feast of family fun, furious farmers, fabulous frolics and, of course, some *Fantastic Foxes*!

The production runs from Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> February to Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30pm.

Tickets are available from the Saffron Hall Box Office.

£12 Adults £6 Concessions.

We look forward to seeing you there!

SWCHS presents  
Roald Dahl's  
**FANTASTIC  
MR FOX**  
Adapted for the stage by David Wood

Tuesday 4th February 2020  
Wednesday 5th February 2020  
Thursday 6th February 2020  
Saffron Hall 7:30 pm

Tickets at [www.saffronhall.com](http://www.saffronhall.com)  
Adults £12  
Concessions £6

This amateur production of *Fantastic Mr. Fox* (Wood) is presented by special arrangement with SAMUEL FRENCH LTD, Concord Theatricals Company.

## Important dates for the month ahead:

Tue 4<sup>th</sup> February - *Fantastic Mr Fox* in Saffron Hall  
Wed 5<sup>th</sup> February - *Fantastic Mr Fox* in Saffron Hall  
Thur 6<sup>th</sup> February - *Fantastic Mr Fox* in Saffron Hall

Mon 10<sup>th</sup> February - Music Academy Concert in Saffron Hall  
Thur 13<sup>th</sup> February - Year 11 Parents' Evening  
Thur 13<sup>th</sup> February - SWCHS Pride Day

Fri 14<sup>th</sup> February - **School Closes for Half Term**

## SWCHS Term Dates 2019/20:

### Spring Term 2020

6<sup>th</sup> January 2020 - 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2020

Half Term 17<sup>th</sup> February 2020 - 21<sup>st</sup> February 2020

### Summer Term 2020

20<sup>th</sup> April 2020 - 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2020

School Closed for Bank Holiday - Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2020

## School Training Days: (no pupils in school)

1<sup>st</sup> June 2020

## Have your contact details changed?

It is extremely important that you inform us of any changes to your contact details. Please email [office@swchs.net](mailto:office@swchs.net) to advise us if you have recently moved house or changed any of your contact telephone numbers.