

# Switch on

## SWCHS Parent Newsletter



### From the Associate Headteacher:

Dear Parents/Carers,

December has seen a large number of excellent events including the Dance Show, the Variety Show, the Mid-Winter concert and the combined schools Spirit of Christmas concert in St Mary's Church; all of these showcased the talents of a large number of students and showed very impressive standards of performance and were all thoroughly enjoyed by the audiences. This week the entertainment has continued with the Sixth Form Committee having led another very successful Charities Week. Each day there have been excellent shows running at both break and lunchtime to raise funds to support the charities chosen by each year group. It has made for a fantastic and very busy end to the term.

At this point in the year, we will be saying goodbye to Mrs Richardson, who is leaving the Science department to focus on growing her own business, and Mrs Watson from the English department who is starting her maternity leave; we welcome back Dr Gwyer and Mrs Ogbue, who are both returning from maternity leave.

May I wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas.

Polly Lankester



### Musicals & Mixers Dance Show:

Over 300 students from Years 7-12 took part in the Musicals & Mixers dance production to a full house in Saffron Hall on Tuesday 4th December. This year's theme was based around well-known Musicals from films and the West End, including the Lion King, Grease and Dear Evan Hansen. The show produced a colourful display of contemporary, jazz, modern and ballet genres of dance and also included singers from the SWCHS musical theatre group.

The vibrant performances ranged from class pieces to dance club numbers and students own work. Fantastic performances from all students! We would like to thank everyone for their support of Dance at SWCHS.

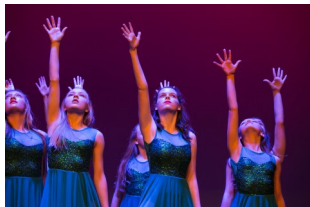


### Variety Show:

A-Level students from the Sixth Form Committee have been learning how to manage an event and bring together the local community in the best way possible by organising the Annual Christmas Variety Show.

Students from Years 7-13 treated the 500-strong audience to 20 spectacular acts, ranging from dance groups, singers, bands and even a magician. There was an abundance of talent, with each act providing amazing entertainment to raise funds for charity. There were performances from SWCHS dance students, a rendition of classic 'Green Day' songs by a Year 13 band and beautiful performances from some very talented singers. An audience member commented, "What an extremely entertaining evening with a wide range of talented individuals and groups.

It was a night of fun and a great way to kick start the Christmas spirit." One of the organising students said, "What a great experience, we are glad the audience enjoyed the performances". All proceeds from the show will go towards the Charities Week total, which will go to a number of charities including The Brain Charity, The Addie Brady Foundation, Refuge, Sophie's Fund, Brainbow and The British Heart Foundation. Thank you to all who supported us and for all of the kind donations.



### Senior Citizens' Party:

The annual SWCHS Senior Citizens' party took place on Wednesday 12th December and, as always, was a highlight of the Sixth Form social calendar! Students from the Sixth Form Committee have been working hard over the last few months planning the evening for our guests, creating oversized wrapped presents as decorations for the room, collecting raffle prizes and so on. However, an added special highlight this year were table decorations of small wooden Christmas Trees made by one very generous - and talented - guest, Mr Bernie Clark, to whom we are most grateful!

With 120 guests, the hall was full which made for a wonderful party atmosphere. The evening included a variety of entertainment, starting with a quiz followed by bingo and music from our talented SWCHS students. The guests received a Christmas card each from the students and were served refreshments: there was, as ever, lots of chat, singing and dancing to Christmas tunes.

Thank you to all students and members of staff who helped to make it such a memorable evening. Happy Christmas to you all and roll on next year!



Sports News:

Rugby:

The Year 10 team have enjoyed a fantastic term on the Rugby pitch, winning all 7 games played. This has included some fantastic victories on Saturday mornings against the likes of King Edward Grammar School, Coopers and Brentwood. Within the National Cup the boys have excelled, winning their first 4 rounds against St Ivo (55-5), Hinchbrook (52-7), Richard Hale (22-5) and Colchester Royal Grammar School (22-19). There have been notable displays in every round, with standout performances coming from Will, Joseph, Thomas and Joe. They are now in the Midlands Final and are awaiting news of who they will play after the Christmas break. The winners of this tie will 'enter the hat', along with the remaining 7 teams from across the country, in the quarter final of the Natwest Vase (final to be played at Twickenham).



Netball:

Well done to the Year 7 girls who won their final group game in the Essex cup against Colchester High School. [#nowthehardworkstarts](#) well after Christmas anyway.



Cambridge Classics Ovid Competition:

On Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> December a small group of Year 7 students attended the prize-giving ceremony of the annual Cambridge Classics Ovid competition at the Fitzwilliam Museum. Against a field of competitors from across the region, our students performed very well and won the 'Artefact' category with a stunning ceramic box made by Emilie, which the judges were truly amazed by. Our entries in the Performance and Writing category were also highly commended.



Students also participated in an 'Ovid Trail' competition on the day, which required them to find a selection of artefacts around the museum and answer questions about them. We won this competition as the judges were very impressed by their eagle-eyed ability to spot Medusa high above them in the ceiling!

Maths Week :

Our annual Maths Week keeps growing! In addition to all the logic puzzles and problem solving games, each year group were given a theme. Year 7s constructed rockets and engineered frameworks while Year 8s designed their ideal bedrooms. Year 9s looked into the Maths behind politics to see why gerrymandering was effective and hopefully can now work out what *fake news* is more accurately! Year 10s researched different mobile phone deals and learnt about jobs, tax and national insurance. Finally, Year 11s learnt about Sixth Form lessons and some groups visited Stansted Airport to learn more about jobs and the new college on site at the airport. Special thanks to Mrs Rymill and Mrs Gardner for making this all possible.



Year 9 Drama Performance:

On Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> December, Year 9 GCSE Drama groups performed their first assessment piece in Saffron Hall.

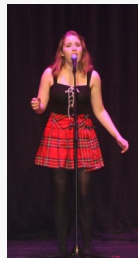
In September all four classes were given the stimulus of 'Holidays' and have spent the term devising material around this theme. Using material created during the term, each class then devised a 15 minute performance, showcasing their favourite scenes. They performed this



in Saffron Hall to their friends, family and teachers. Each group came up with a variety of brilliant scenes including monologues, adverts, holidays gone wrong and whole class ensemble scenes. All four performances were funny, creative, polished and highly original; an excellent start to the GCSE Drama course. Well done to everyone involved.

Charities Week:

Another absolutely fantastic Charities Week! Here are just a few photos of the events and activities. Full details will follow in January 2019. Thank you to everyone who has taken part and helped to organise the events this week and thank you to all the students for coming along and supporting the events.



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.

SWCHS Term Dates 2018/19:

Spring Term 2019  
Thursday 3rd January 2019 – Friday 5th April 2019  
Half Term: 18th February – 22nd February 2019

Summer Term 2019  
Tuesday 23rd April 2019 – Friday 19th July 2019  
Half Term: 27th May – 31st May 2019

School Training Days:  
(no pupils in school)

Monday 22nd July 2019

Tuesday 23rd July 2019