

# Switch on

## SWCHS Parent Newsletter



### From the Associate Headteacher:

#### Dear Parents and Carers,

You may have seen in the press the exciting news about the school working with Saffron Walden Community Football Club to bring a 3G artificial grass pitch to SWCHS. This will be a great facility that will bring huge benefits to the school and the wider community. Mr Sindell has also led a successful bid to Sport England towards improving our Cricket facilities so we look forward to a bright sporting future!

We want to be a school that provides excellent opportunities for every child, both in and out of the classroom, and it is lovely to be able to celebrate some of these opportunities in this newsletter. This year marks the 5th Birthday of Saffron Hall and so it is also a fitting time to reflect on the impact it has had on the school and we hope you will enjoy reading and remembering some of the great performances and events that have taken place across the last five years.

This week we have had Boy Blue Dance workshops all week for some of our students and also for students from our feeder primary schools, with SWCHS students working on a dance to open the Boy Blue performance in Saffron Hall tonight. Then, next week, I am looking forward to our upcoming Music Concert on March 13th.

Following our sell-out Quiz Night, I am also pleased to announce that tickets for our new "Hampers & Champers 2019" event will be on sale from 9am, Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March which we hope will be the first of many exciting SWCHS summer socials.

Thank you to all of you for your on-going support.

**Polly Lankester**

### The 39 Steps Performances:

After months of rehearsals and preparations, SWCHS students performed *The 39 Steps* in Saffron Hall. The cast and crew were made up of students from Years 10-13, with 45 performing onstage and a further 20 supporting backstage. Each evening the cast and crew impressed the audience with their confident characterisation, comic timing and expertly executed technical effects.



This has been our most student-led production to date as all backstage roles were undertaken by students, including the operation of lighting and sound boards. The fantastic production was enjoyed by very appreciative audiences over the three nights.

Everyone involved in the production did a fantastic job! We are so proud of every student who performed both on and off stage.



### SWCHS Pride Day:

The 4<sup>th</sup> annual SWCHS PRIDE event took place in February. All members of the school community had the opportunity to listen to inspirational speakers. Ex-students also visited for the day to share their experiences whilst at SWCHS.

At lunch time the LGBTQ+ Allies ran a Bazaar where students could take part in competitions, games and activities. The whole school team got involved as you can see from our photos.

Year 13 student, Leo Clarke, Chairperson for the Allies, explained that PRIDE day celebrates diversity and shows that LGBTQ+ students are valued and accepted throughout the school. He further went on to say how vitally important the talks have been. Students now have a better understanding of the LGBTQ+ community and will hopefully be able to support their peers.



### A busy few months for the Computer Science Department:

Sixth form students Tom Birkbeck and James Goodwin were invited to the Department of Computer Science at the University of Oxford as finalists in a UK-wide competition – The UK Bebras Computational Thinking Challenge. All SWCHS Computer Science students competed in the competition during lessons last year. The boys' results from the first round placed them in the top 10% of the 6,415 entrants.

Reaching the final of the Elite age group is an impressive achievement. Tom and James were among the top 60 highest achieving students invited to the final round. They are pictured receiving their finalist's certificates at the prize-giving ceremony. Well Done Tom and James!

Year 8 girls recently participated in a nationwide competition run by the National Cyber Security Centre. The idea behind the competition is to inspire an interest in the computing industry to fill the current gender gap. A number of girls signed up, with many teams showing immense dedication in the hope of making it through to the next round. We are currently waiting for the results so watch this space....



Sports News:

Rugby:

The Year 11 Boys' team showed real character and resilience in their recent Essex Cup Quarter Final. They came back from 11 - 15 down with one minute to go to win the game against Colchester Royal Grammar School 18 - 15.



Football:



Congratulations to the Year 9 Boys' Football team who recently won the Bishop Stortford District Competition.

Netball:

A great win for the Year 7 Girls in the quarter finals of the Essex Cup Plate. SWCHS 33 - St Martins 10



Two very tough games for the U15 A & B Netball teams. Both teams lost to Forest 11 - 18, then they both fought back to win their matches against Bishops Stortford College. A Team 19 - 18 and the B team 26 - 15. Well played Girls!

Hockey:



Senior Boys' win the East Preliminary Tournament.



U14 Boys' Hockey team at the East of England finals

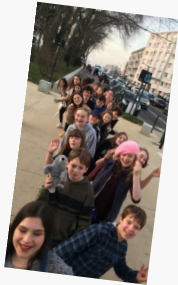


Year 7 at the Cambs U12 Hockey Tournament

**Half Term Trips:** A total of 151 students and 15 staff travelled to Italy for the Lower School Ski Trip during half term.



**French Trip:** Year 8 students spent four days on the Opal Coast in Northern France as part of a French immersion trip. They followed a very busy itinerary, with Art workshops, a shopping trip, a visit to a WWII weapons bunker, Nausicaa Aquarium and an afternoon on a French farm. We were accompanied by a very enthusiastic French *animateur* who led all activities and students relished the opportunity to hear and speak French. Highlights included tasting *escargots* (snails) and *Maroilles* (a very smelly local cheese!), and the fine weather allowed us a brief detour to the beach!



Upcoming events:

**SWCHS Spring Concert - Wednesday 13th March:** Book your tickets from [www.saffronhall.com](http://www.saffronhall.com).

**ASU Easter Fair - Sunday 24th March 2019:** Come along and meet our new additions.

**Hampers & Champers:** We are pleased to announce that tickets for our new 'Hampers & Champers 2019' event will be on sale from 9am, Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March. Look out for the Parentmail next week for further instructions on how to purchase the tickets, as well as terms & conditions.

We look forward to welcoming you to our first Hampers & Champers event.



**SWCHS**  
**SPRING CONCERT**  
*'A journey through fantasy and light'*

**SAFFRON HALL 13 MARCH 7.00PM**

Highlights:  
THE LORD OF THE RINGS  
HARRY POTTER  
TANGLED  
GAME OF THRONES arr. Luke Lawlor  
STARS - Eriks Esenvalds

Featuring:  
All SWCHS Ensembles and Choirs

Box Office: 0845 648 7650 [www.saffronhall.com](http://www.saffronhall.com)

**HAPPY EASTER TO YOU**

Homemade Cakes Refreshments  
Farm produce Animal Handling  
Giant growing Egg Painting  
Easter egg raffie Chocolate hunt

**Sunday 24th March 2019 10am - 4pm**  
Saffron Walden County High School

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 or email address.

SWCHS Term Dates 2018/19:

**Spring Term 2019**  
Thursday 3rd January 2019 – Friday 5th April 2019

**Summer Term 2019**  
Tuesday 23rd April 2019 – Friday 19th July 2019

School Training Days:  
(no pupils in school)

Monday 22nd July 2019

Tuesday 23rd July 2019