

# Switch on lite

SWCHS Parent Newsletter



## From the Head

Dear Parents & Carers,

Here is the last newsletter of what has been a tremendously successful term at SWCHS. The term ended with an inspiring Spring Concert involving 17 different ensembles and a winning streak in our sporting fixtures: both the U16 Girls' Netball and Hockey teams won their respective Essex Cup competitions! Well done girls!

I'm off to China today with 80 students and we could not be more excited about the trip.

Have a lovely Easter holiday with your own families and friends.

**Caroline Derbyshire**  
Headteacher

## SWCHS Spring Concert:

Our Music Department celebrated the end of an extremely busy term with a Gala Concert on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> March in Saffron Hall. The concert followed this term's spectacular Wizard of Oz production and music masterclasses/workshops, involving Sixth Form music academicians.

Over 200 students showcased the many and varied ensembles that make music in school each week. The audience enjoyed the sound of the Samba from The Rhythm Corporation,



performances from Brass, Strings, Jazz, Woodwind, Concert Band and Orchestra, to mention just a few. Vocal performances came from SWCHS Voices, Chamber Choir, The Show Choir and Phoebe McNally who accompanied the Jazz Band.

SWCHS Music Department are extremely proud that so many students regularly give up their free time to participate in extra-curricular music and we look forward to several more performances scheduled for the summer term.



*Soloists: Charlotte Hancock, Florence Wilson-Toy, Joshua Lucas.*

## ASU Easter Fair:

The Agricultural Science Unit (ASU) opened its doors to the public for their annual Easter Event last weekend. Egg collecting, goat grooming and ferret walking were just a few of the many activities on offer. The main attraction were our Ryeland lambs.

The ASU are currently looking for volunteers of all ages to help with the development of the allotment and greenhouses. They also have just over a month to go in the bid to receive a cash award from the Tesco Bags of Help initiative. Please vote for us when you visit the Saffron Walden branch of Tesco using the tokens given at the checkout.



## Science Week:

Science Week was a great success, with interactive activities on offer for all year groups.

Students had the chance to come face to face with rainforest animals, make and race their own egg-mobiles, extract DNA and make aspirin. With the Medical Mavericks, students were able to use equipment to test their own heart and even videoed the inside of their eyes. Groups also visited Duxford Air Museum and learnt about ruminant digestion at the SWCHS Agricultural Sciences Unit. Special thanks goes out to all involved, especially the friends and parents/carers who volunteered their time to help inspire and enthuse our budding scientists. Responses from students have been fantastic! Bring on Science Week 2019!



## SWCHS Geologists Rock:

A team of six Year 13 Geology students represented the Eastern region last week in the prestigious annual National Schools Geology Challenge, run by the Geological Society. Having qualified from regional 'heats', the students competed against seven schools and colleges from as far afield as Northern Ireland, South Wales and the North West of England.

The students had to research and deliver a formal presentation on their chosen geological topic: an evaluation of the evolution of flight in birds and pterosaurs. They also produced a supporting A1 poster summarising their findings. In the final round of the competition the team faced a challenging quiz with six rounds on a wide range of geological themes. Supported by their mascot, Neville the Knitted Nautiloid, the SWCHS team came second overall, just behind Aylesbury Grammar School, and were awarded the judges' prize for the best presentation.



## Lord Chris Smith:

We were delighted to welcome Lord Chris Smith to SWCHS this month. Lord Smith shared with our Sixth Form students his most proud and difficult moments as a Labour MP, a cabinet minister and as Chairman of the Environment Agency. He also spoke of how and when he announced that he was openly gay - the first MP to do this. His talk was inspiring and thought provoking for all.



Sports News:

Trophies, cups and medals galore – what a month!

Rugby:

It has been widely reported in the press this month that our Year 10 rugby team led a triumphant comeback against Worth School to win the Schools' U15 National Bowl at Sixways Stadium. The team were supported by 50 travelling spectators as well as many students and staff back at school. Congratulations to the team and their coach Mr Ison!



SWCHS 1st XV won the Cambridgeshire County Schools Invitational Cup Final 69-5 at Grange Road stadium, home of Cambridge University RFC.

Netball – Essex Plate:

Over 50 teams from across Essex took part in this year's Essex Plate competition. The U16 team, made up of students from both Year 10 and 11, played against Newhall School from Chelmsford in the final. The team were successful, winning the match 34 - 18.



District Tournament – dominated by SWCHS:

The U15 Girls' Netball team are District Champions for the fourth year in a row! A fantastic achievement for this hardworking team.

The U14B team are hot on their heels, this year's win makes them District Champions for the third year in a row.

Some amazing play from the U13B team who are also District Champions.

Both the U12 teams had a superb tournament. The B team were runners up after narrowly losing out in the final to Herts & Essex. The A team were unbeaten throughout the competition and were crowned District Champions.



Hockey:  
Essex Cup

Big congratulations to the U16 Girls' Hockey team who are now Essex Cup Champions! They played a superb match against Bancroft in the final winning 3 -2.

The U14 Girls' team were runners up in their competition only just losing out on penalties.



Boys Hockey:

Congratulations to the Year 7 Boys' Hockey team who were the highest placed state school at the Cambridge Hockey Festival, finishing 5th overall.

Step into Dance Spring Blast:

Thirty six students performed two exciting dance pieces choreographed by Emily Lewis at Chelmsford civic theatre on 26th March. The theatre showcased various dance styles from school across Essex.



Year 8 Latin Trip 2018:



Year 8 Latin students recently visited the Museum of London to experience life in Roman Britain. The group became real archaeologists when they handled Roman artefacts and were given the task of working out what the artefacts were and how they would have been used. A captivating storyteller then brought Boudica's rebellion against the Romans to life before our eyes and students wrote some brilliant speeches

for each side. The group explored the museum's Roman gallery and Londinium's amphitheatre was the final stop where students stood in the arena where gladiators would have fought over 2000 years ago!



Kellie Forbes of YuuWorld tamed the Dragons:

Dragon's Den has long been a firm favourite with Business students at SWCHS and our Year 12 students were very excited to have the opportunity to hear from an entrepreneur who had successfully pitched to the Dragons. Kellie Forbes, co-founder of 'YuuWorld', explained to the students how the initial idea of an 'activity backpack' for children became a product that is now sold worldwide. After their initial success with the product launch Kellie explained why YuuWorld applied to Dragon's Den, how the company has subsequently grown and the issues they faced during their international expansion. It was a fascinating presentation and Kellie is sure to have inspired some entrepreneurs of the future to follow their dreams.



World Book Day Bake Off:

Despite the snow's best efforts, we were still able to spend the day celebrating World Book Day. The whole school had the opportunity to indulge in reading for pleasure by taking part in our first ever school-wide 'Drop Everything And Read' session. At lunchtime, the Learning Centre was host to the SWCHS World Book Day Bake Off where students showed off their baking talents by displaying incredible book-themed showstoppers. SWCHS Patron of Reading, Clare Mulley and Learning Centre Manager Mrs Smith had the difficult job of deciding the winners but eventually Hannah Parrish (Year 7) was awarded star baker for her creative Paddington-themed cake, with Hettie Tuck (Year 7), Grace Strickland and Jean Horton (Year 7) and Eleanor Game (Year 9) as our runners up.

