

# Switch on

## SWCHS Parent Newsletter



### From the Associate Headteacher:

This half term, the school has continued to be full of life after the end of the school day! We have had hundreds of students involved in various activities including rehearsals for the lower-school play, Athletics club and Music ensembles, as well as a vast number of workshops to support students preparing for exams. And it is exams that take up a lot of time and attention in the summer months. Across the last two weeks, many of the A Level and GCSE exams have already taken place. We have been so impressed with the work put in by students in Year 11 and the Sixth Form and we wish them all well with the remaining exams after Half Term.

I would also like to take this opportunity to say ‘Thank You’ to Sarah Dignasse, our very hard-working Chair of Governors. We were delighted to learn that Sarah was invited to a garden party this month at Buckingham Palace in recognition for her ‘Services to Education’

I hope you have a lovely Half Term.

Best Wishes,

**Polly Lankester**  
Associate Headteacher



### SWCHS Trips and Visits:

Groups of SWCHS students have recently been travelling to some very exciting destinations:

#### China:

79 students and 10 members of staff spent ten days travelling around China over the Easter holiday. Molly Shamkh shares her highlights:

*“China - one of the most memorable experiences I will ever have in my entire life. Not only did I see some of the most awe-inspiring sites in the world, but I learnt from the people that life in China is so different to our daily life. I was a bit nervous and didn’t know what to*



*expect - what I experienced was a thousand times better than I could ever have imagined.*

*From cycling round the Xi’an City Walls to watching a Kung Fu Show, seeing giant pandas to tobogganing down the Great Wall of China - I couldn’t possibly choose a favourite but cycling around the walls was a highlight, to see the city from that height really put into perspective its ancient beauty. Visiting The Great Wall was unforgettable and visiting so many sites, including Tiananmen Square and the Terracotta Army, really showed to me how different the culture is. The pride the people of China have for their country can’t be ignored. Everywhere we went, the tour guides spoke with such detail and joy which made us realise that to them it was much more than just a building or place.*

*I cannot thank the people I travelled with enough for making the trip so unforgettable, from my best friend to the new friends I made on the trip. We looked after each other and encouraged each other when trying new food or doing something we weren’t so sure about. I want to say a huge thank you to all of the teachers. For me, if you have the opportunity, the China trip is a trip you shouldn’t think twice about.”*



#### Rome:

A group of Year 12 and 13 Classics and Latin students travelled to Rome in April 2019. Alice Jarman & Morgan Kent sum up their experience:

*“Jam-packed does not do the Rome itinerary justice! We went straight to the ruins of Ostia on the first day, transported literally to another time. This was followed by trips to see the classical wonders: the magnificence of the Colosseum looming above us and the intricacy of the carvings which covered the Ara Pacis. It was hard to take in St Peter’s Square in all its glory and the stunning beauty that was the Trevi Fountain. We walked MILES and had an amazing time. The staff who accompanied us were great and fired us up with the infectious enthusiasm and energy. What an experience - we’ll never forget it!”*



#### Iceland:

40 Year 12 & 13 Geography and Geology students spent five days in Iceland. Emily Bowles (Year 13) talks about the amazing trip:

*“This trip was a completely different experience to any other holiday. The natural environment differs so much from any other, from breath-taking waterfalls to vast snowy mountains. The days were jam packed with some amazing activities. Particular highlights included the whale-watching tour - we saw 4 humpback whales in their natural habitat. The waterfalls, each one different from the last and my personal favourite, Gullfoss, a sight to see. Finally, the chance to see the northern lights made the entire trip. I recommend Iceland to anyone who wants to experience a place like no other.”*



Sports News:

2019 Hockey Tour:

SWCHS hockey players from Years 8, 9 & 10 excelled at a recent Hockey Boot Camp in Holland. All 36 students played amazingly well in the matches against the Dutch teams and thrived when put through their paces by ex-international Dutch hockey coaches during hours of fun but tiring training sessions. SWCHS won 4, drew 1 and lost 4 matches. Despite a few bashes and bruises, the girls' spirits remained high and it was a very successful trip, enjoyed by all.



World Duathlon Championships:

Year 12 students Helena and Ciara recently travelled to Spain to compete in the World Duathlon Championships. Both girls raced superbly, Helena taking 1st place in 1 hr 10 mins and Ciara finishing in an impressive 6th place with a time of 1hr 12 mins. Congratulations to Helena and Ciara on a fantastic performance!



Team GB:

Following a successful Super Series event in Llanelli where he came in second, Jack Stanton-Stock, Year 12, has qualified to compete in the European Elite Youth Championships in June as part of the Official GB team. Congratulations Jack, what an amazing achievement!

U13 Girls' Football team - District Champions:

SWCHS U13 Girls' Football team recently competed in the Bishop's Stortford District Under 13 Football Tournament. The girls kept a defensive clean sheet and scored a fantastic nine goals across the tournament. Success in the early rounds put them through to the final against Herts & Essex. Despite the onslaught from the opposition SWCHS put away the winning goal with just three minutes to spare. A superb performance from a talented group of footballers.



The U15 Girls' team also competed; some amazing saves meant the team only conceded two goals throughout. The girls worked hard for each other finishing 4th overall.

The Society of Authors Reading for Pleasure Award:

SWCHS has recently been awarded 'The Reading for Pleasure Award' which enables authors to show their appreciation for schools that demonstrate an exceptional commitment to reading for pleasure. Local author and SWCHS reading patron, Rosemary Hayes, nominated us with the following comment: "I would like to give a special mention to the librarian, Justine Lister, whose enthusiasm for books and reading and engagement with the pupils is a joy to witness."



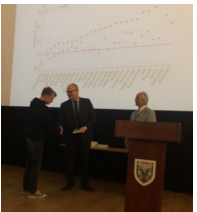
Mrs Lister will be hosting regular reading groups for Years 7-10 parents/carers and students during May and June. Please refer to the calendar on the school website for full details.

Young Writers Award - a clean sweep for SWCHS:


Students from schools in the local area were recently invited to take part in the 'Newport News Young Writers Competition'. Twelve creative students put forward their entries and we are delighted and proud that four SWCHS students gained all of the awarded places within the competition. Congratulations to **Helena Auty** and **Ashley Reid** (joint first place), **Florence Wolter** (second) and **Melissa Thomson** (third place). All prize winners will have their winning piece published in the summer edition of Newport News.

Economics Celebration Evening:


SWCHS Economics department held its annual Celebration Evening for some 90 students and their families. The aim of the evening is to recognise and honour the end of the A level course. The guest speaker, Prof. Anna Vignoles of Cambridge University, gave a timely and very relevant presentation on the latest research findings of the economic value of a degree, highlighting some of the differences by subject and institution. Selected students were given special awards, kindly donated by Saffron Building Society, and presented by the CEO Colin Field (pictured).



Upcoming Events:



Happy 4th of July




**4TH JULY 2019**  
**SUMMER CONCERT**  
7.00pm

This concert is set to be a vibrant showcase of the Summer Term's work in the Music Department. With a nod to the USA and Independence Day, all SWCHS Choirs will sing a variety of songs. Other performers include: Stephen Poulis's The Road Home, Aaron Caplan's Chop & my dove and Laurence Brevin's Sonneteer. This concert is also set to be a performance platform for the Intermediate ensemble and a celebration of their progress.

Featuring:  
Intermediate Concert Band  
Junior Jazz Band  
Intermediate Strings  
Show Choir  
Chamber Choir  
SWCHS Voices  
Year 7 Choir  
Audience Jazz Ensemble  
Orchestra


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**A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM**



28th 29th 30th June 2019  
7.00pm £7  
£5, £4 concs

**SWCHS Art Exhibition**



Opening times:  
Student Visits - Break and Lunch on Thursday 28th June  
Public Show - Saturday 30th June 10.00am - 4.00pm

ELLINGTON HENRIK  
SWCHS Art Exhibition 2019  
OCR Cambridge Technical Diploma in Art & Design Level 3 A2 Level  
Art, Textiles and Photography students.  
Saffron Walden Students: Thurs 8th and Fri 7th, Public Show: Sat 8th June  
County High School. Please use the school entrance near the lower car park.  
Friend

Music concert tickets available from Saffron Hall Box Office

Tickets for the production can be purchased on Wisepay

The Art Exhibition is open to the public on Sat 8th June

Hampers & Changers:

We are delighted to share the news that The Saffron Ice Cream Company and Ananta Thai Food will be suppliers at our Hampers & Changers event on Fri 5th July 2019. Don't miss out on the opportunity to purchase tickets; they are only on sale until the beginning of June. We would love you to support this event which will be a great opportunity to celebrate the school year with friends and family, along with live music, dancing, a bar and an auction of promises.

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:

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