

Switch on

SWCHS Parent Newsletter



From the Associate Headteacher:

As we approach half term, I have been reflecting on the last seven weeks. We were delighted to be confirmed as the highest achieving comprehensive school in Essex with excellent achievement and progress at both GCSE and A Level.

We enjoyed a wonderful Awards Evening with our guest speaker and SWCHS alumnus, Anna Greenland, who talked to the students about the importance of following your passion to achieve both excellence and joy in work and life. This event recognised and rewarded excellence (both in terms of subject mastery and also for showing a conscientious and resilient approach to learning), improvement, and finally for contribution to the extra-curricular life of the school.

Our Open Evening was held this week; it is the start of the journey for our future County High students and it was great to see their enthusiasm and excitement about joining us in 2019. This half term has been rich with extra-curricular opportunities for our students in sport and other areas as a number of articles in this newsletter outline. Plans are in place for many more opportunities next half term; I am particularly excited about the 'So Percussion Group' joining us all the way from Brooklyn, America, for 3 days of workshops and performances with Year 9. I am also excited about the Pearson Teaching Awards - the televised finals take place on the 21st of October and Jen Sims is a finalist for the Lifetime Achievement Award, recognising her huge contribution to the education and wellbeing of students and her role inspiring so many teachers in this school and further afield.

I hope you have a good half term break.

Polly Lankester
Associate Headteacher

Awards Evening 2018:

On Thursday 27th September Saffron Walden County High School came together to celebrate the achievements and successes of the previous academic year. 250 pupils from Years 8-11 worked alongside their Year Achievement Co-ordinators and Student Support Officers to prepare a review of their year - reflecting upon the high points, comedic moments, and the extra-curricular, academic and sporting successes.

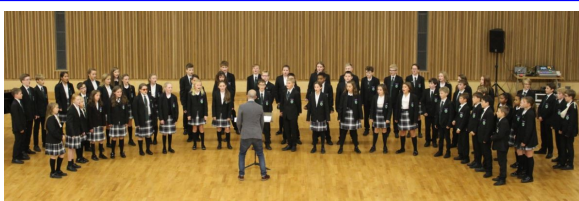
Our speaker this year, Anna Greenland, gave an inspirational speech about her passion for growing organic vegetables and how following her passion has led her to work for chefs such as Raymond Blanc and Jamie Oliver.

Caroline Derbyshire and Polly Lankester thanked all the pupils for representing the very best of our school community through their hard work, determination and passion which has been displayed over the course of the past academic year. Here's to another successful Awards Evening in 2019!



The Big Sing:

This week saw the culmination of weeks of class-room rehearsal with a celebration of singing in Saffron Hall. Vocal coach and choral director Dominic Ellis-Peckham was an inspiring force as he led the Year 7 form groups in rehearsal and into the final of the Year 7 Singing Competition!



The theme of the day was Funk! and the pupils fully embraced the vibe. With great vocal projection, strong melodic shape and sharp dance moves they really raised the roof of the concert hall. A range of songs were performed, including chart toppers by Justin Timberlake, 'Earth, Wind and Fire', 'Clean Bandit' and Stevie Wonder.

Charlie Penn played the piano for the groups and captured the contemporary mood perfectly; the energy and enjoyment throughout the day was palpable. The competition was launched back in July with a cohort of Year Six pupils as they embarked on their journey into SWCHS. The focus of the project has been confidence, teamwork and believing in yourself.

The pupils should be very proud of themselves, particularly forms 7JDI and 7EAC who won the competition with their sparkling version of 'Rather Be'.



SWCHS Support World Mental Health Day:

Students and staff wore non-uniform to school, with many also wearing yellow, to help raise money for Young Minds and their Hello Yellow campaign. Students enjoyed the numerous wellbeing activities that were on offer, including a gratitude board, live music, karaoke,



sing-along Grease, pet corner and mindful colouring.

There was such a positive school community atmosphere and most importantly we definitely raised awareness of Mental Health.



Sports News:

Senior Football and Rugby Tour:

51 Sixth Form students embarked on a five day tour of Northern Italy this month. The teams took part in three very challenging fixtures, details below. They also managed to squeeze in visits to Lake Garda, Jesolo Beach and Venice.



Rugby

A.S.D Valsugana Rugby Padova 42 SWCHS 0.
ASD Rugby Oltremella 23 SWCHS 21

Football

Mellaredo FC 4 SWCHS 2
ASD Castel Mella 1963 0 SWCHS 2
La Rocca Monselice 1 SWCHS 1

The Year 7 Rugby teams have continued their good start to the season with two wins against a tough tackling St Martins School.

Hockey:

Congratulations to the U15 Girls’ Hockey team who produced another great team effort to become District Champions for the 4th year in a row!



The Senior Girls’ Hockey team have made it through to the Regional Hockey Finals on 22nd November winning the East Tournament this month. They have won all 9 games played across 2 tournaments and have only conceded 1 goal. A fantastic achievement! The U16 team put in an awesome effort to finish 3rd overall.



Netball:



Congratulations to the U16 and U14 Netball teams who won the North West Essex Netball Tournament. Both teams have now qualified for the County Competition on 18th November. Good luck girls!



Uttlesford Careers Fair 2018 :

Over 2,000 students and their parents/carers from three Uttlesford secondary schools attended the 2018 Uttlesford Careers Fair. Those attending were able to discuss careers and post-16 education options with the nearly 90 companies, organisations and education providers who provided information stands. All stands were kept extremely busy throughout the evening answering searching questions from students and parents/carers. Over 600 people attended the 23 talks that provided additional detail on the wide range of careers and apprenticeships options open to local students.



The 2019 Uttlesford careers event will focus more on the expanding range of national and local apprenticeship opportunities that are now available to students.

Upcoming Dates for your Diary:

Tue 30th Oct	Year 9 Information Evening
Thur 8th Nov	Sixth Form Open Evening
Mon 12th Nov	Michaelmas Concert
Fri 30th Nov	School Closed—Staff Training Day
Tue 4th Dec	Musicals and Mixers Dance Show (Y7-11)
Wed 12th Dec	Senior Citizens Christmas Party
Thur 13th Dec	School Concert
Mon 17th Dec	Charities Week begins



Saffron Walden
County High School

12TH NOVEMBER 2018
MICHAELMAS
CONCERT
7.00pm

This concert will feature a range of performances from a variety of school ensembles. From the winners of the Year Seven Inter-form Singing Competition through to the Jazz Band, this concert is set to be a showcase for all the exciting work taking place this term within our department.

Featuring:
Yr 7 Singing Competition
Winners
Frets
Junior Jazz Band
Intermediate Strings
Intermediate Concert
Band
Senior Strings
Orchestra
Concert Band
Jazz Band

SAFFRON HALL
Audley End Road
Saffron Walden
CB11 4UH
Box Office:
0845 548 7650
www.saffronhall.com

Parents’ Evening Dates:

Year 12	6th December 2018	Year 8 (s) side	21st March
Year 13	10th January 2019	Year 8 (w) side	28th March
Year 7 (s) side	24th January 2019	Year 10	6th June
Year 7 (w) side	31st January 2019	Year 9	20th June
Year 11	28th February 2019		

You can follow us on Twitter and Facebook click on the symbol and follow the link. Please note that many of our subject areas also have their own Twitter account. Reporting Absences: Please call 01799 513030 when reporting your child’s absence, do not use the email address info@swchs.net. Sixth Form students - email 6formabsence@swchs.net before 8.40am. please email each of your subject teachers for that day.

SWCHS Term Dates 2018/19:

Autumn Term 2018
Wednesday 5th September 2018 – Wednesday 19th December 2018
Half Term: 22nd October – 26th October 2018

Spring Term 2018
Thursday 3rd January 2019 – Friday 5th April 2019
Half Term: 18th February – 22nd February 2019

Summer Term 2018
Tuesday 23rd April 2019 – Friday 19th July 2019
Half Term: 27th May – 31st May 2019

School Training Days:
(no pupils in school)

Friday 30th November 2018
Monday 22nd July 2019
Tuesday 23rd July 2019