



From the Associate Headteacher

Dear Parents/Carers,

We always seek to be an outward facing school, sharing what we do and engaging with the best educational research. This meant that this month we hosted a visit from 21 headteachers from Australia and they were really impressed by the attitude of our students and the quality of their work. We have also been included in a book! The first chapter of *The Learning Rainforest Fieldbook* includes the case-study of Education at Saffron Walden County High.

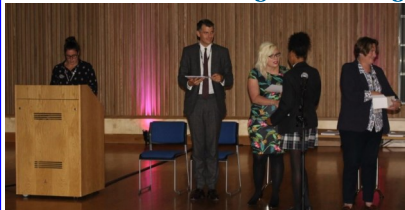
We like working with other organisations to make sure we provide the best opportunities we can for our students. This includes national organisations such as Teach Computing and the Institute of Physics as well as organisations closer to home. We feel very lucky to be able to work so regularly and closely with Saffron Hall. The Saffron Hall team strives to enrich life here including their concerts, speakers and events such as Any Questions as well as the wonderful education work that they do with our students including the outstanding Year 9 Dance Residency that took place this week. We are also delighted to now be working with SWCFC to bring a 4G pitch for the school and community to our site.



As always, there has been so much to celebrate in terms of student achievement in this newsletter. I hope you enjoy reading it.

Polly Lankester

SWCHS Awards Evening 2019: Recognising hard work, determination and excellence.



On Thursday 10th October 2019 SWCHS came together to celebrate the achievements and successes of the previous academic year. The 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, the extra-curricular, academic and sporting successes.

After each year group entertained the assembled group of parents, family and fellow pupils, Ms Derbyshire gave every award winner a sought after SWCHS pen followed by a certificate presented by our guest speaker and SWCHS alumnus Dr Lorna Dallas. Ms Derbyshire also thanked all pupils for representing the very best of our school community through their hard work, determination and passion which had been displayed over the course of the past academic year. Here is to another successful Awards Evening in 2020!

Navigating the Teenage Years event:

We recently hosted our first ever Well-Being event for parents and carers on the theme of “*Navigating the Teenage Years*”. Various external agencies were invited including We Are Thrive, Essex Police, West Essex Mind and Victim Support, who were on hand and able to provide useful information and advice about what’s on offer locally to help support our young people and parents. The evening commenced with a keynote speech on the Teenage Brain, presented by Anna Moorhouse (SWCHS Well-being Co-ordinator) and Phil Heath (SWCHS SENCO). Parents then attended a series of workshops covering a variety of topics including anxiety and anger, online safety, drugs and knife crime to name just a few. All presentations are available to view on our website.



The event was very well attended by parents and carers and we are grateful to those who attended and for the generous donations towards our Well-Being fund. We hope you found it informative and worthwhile. Watch this space for details of future events!

Bar Mock Trial – The verdict is in: Saffron Walden County High School are the winners!

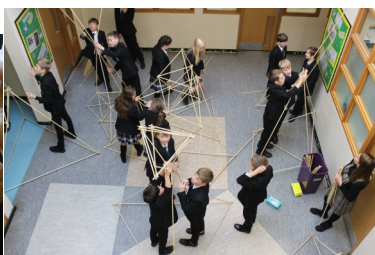
Students from Years 10-13 were declared the winners of the Regional Bar Mock Trial competition at Cambridge Crown Court this month. Having made last year’s Bar Mock Trial Final, held in Edinburgh earlier this year, SWCHS successfully defended their achievement and won this year’s Regional Heat. They will now compete in the Bar Mock Trial Finals to be held in March 2020 at the Old Bailey in London.

Since 1991, the competition has enabled 53,000 students from state schools across the country to compete in mock criminal trials in real courts. The Mock Trials are performed before real judges who assess student performances and their knowledge of the judicial process.

“We are so incredibly proud of all the students who took part. They have been working on two complex cases since July and their hard work and dedication has certainly paid off. As teachers, we feel so privileged to be able to work with such wonderful young people”.



Maths Week at SWCHS:



Sports News:

Hockey:

Congratulations to the Year 8 Girls' A and B Hockey teams who were both crowned District Champions! Amazing effort girls, well done!

The Year 9 Girls' team won all of their games to also become winners of the Bishop Stortford & District Hockey tournament. A fantastic performance from all players!



Netball:

The U16 netball squad competed against the top 16 schools in Essex this month. The standard of play in the competition was extremely high and the team worked incredibly hard to win all of their group matches. The team finished runners up which means they have qualified for the regional round in the National Schools Competition in January 2020. Congratulations and good luck for the next round.



Rugby:

Champions!! Congratulations to the Year 7 Rugby team who won all 6 games on the way to winning the Bishop's Stortford District Rugby Tournament this afternoon.



Cross Country: Congratulations to all our runners! Here are a selection of just a few students who represented SWCHS.



Year 12 Economics Students win 'Running the Country Competition':

Our Year 12 economists recently took part in 'Running the Economy', a competition for Sixth Form students, run by Prof Tony Cockerill at the Faculty of Economics in Cambridge. The teams of students competed against Year 12 and Year 13 students from Hills Road, Long Road and Stephen Perse. Both SWCHS teams worked extremely well together with one team winning the competition overall.



'I loved it! It was really interesting, and I found out so much.' Darwin, Year 12

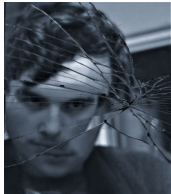
'A very unique experience, enriching and interesting. I enjoyed it thoroughly and would love to go again.' Archie, Year 12.

Young Photographers Competition:

Year 12 Photography students, Emily Bide and Polly Bullman, have won both first and second prize in the Young Photographers Competition held by The Rotary Club of Saffron Walden.

Emily won First Place with - 'Shattered Visage' and Polly won Second Place with 'The Camel and the Keeper'. They both attended the awards ceremony along with their parents and SWCHS staff, Ms Polly Lankester and Mr Jason Ions. Emily was informed that her 'Shattered Visage' photograph will be entered into the District Competition in the New Year.

Well done to all who entered and especially to Emily and Polly - a really positive start to their Year12 Photography course.



Christmas Events and Dates for your Diary:

We have an extremely busy month ahead at SWCHS! Please see below events not to be missed. Further details on page 3.



Sun 1st December:

ASU Christmas Fair: **1.00pm - 4.00pm.** Come along to meet the animals and festive crafts, refreshments and carols. Tickets £3 (free entry for under 5s).

Tue 3rd December:

SWCHS Dance Production 'Step in Time' - tickets are available from Saffron Hall Box Office.

Tue 10th December:

SWCHS Christmas Concert - pupils will perform a festive repertoire in this end of term concert. Tickets available from Saffron Hall Box Office.

Wed 11th December:

Senior Citizens' Party - one of the highlights of the year for us when we welcome local Senior Citizens to SWCHS for a Christmas Party.

Charities Week begins!

This year's charities week preparations are fully underway! The Sixth Form student teams are working hard to plan some very exciting events for the students to enjoy. Charities week is always one of the most fun and positive events of the year that brings the entire school community together. Please see Page 3 for a timetable of events.

Mon 16th December:

Christmas Jumper Day - Please bring £1



Tue 17th December:

Staff Fancy Dress, Lower School Non-Uniform, Sixth Form Dress Up please bring £1.

Wed 18th December:

Students must wear Full School Uniform - School Closes at 1.15pm



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 2019/20

Autumn Term 2019

4th September 2019 - 18th December 2019

Spring Term 2020

6th January 2020 - 3rd April 2020

Half Term 17th February 2020 - 21st February 2020

Summer Term 2020

20th April 2020 - 22nd July 2020

School Closed for Bank Holiday - 8th May 2020

Half Term 25th May 2020- 29th May 2020

School Closed for Training Days: (no pupils in school)

1st June 2020

Charities Week:

	Monday 16 th December	Tuesday 17 th December	Wednesday 18 th December
VENUE			
BREAK	 The Pit 50p  Q6 50p Saffron Hall £1	    	 PHOTOBOOTH    PHOTOBOOTH 
LUNCH	The Pit 50p Q6 £1 Saffron Hall £2	  	

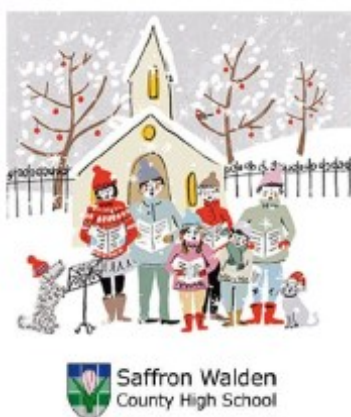
All Events will be priced at 50p, £1 or £2 and tickets for most events will be available to purchase on the door. Please note that tickets for Strictly Come Dancing and The Xmas Factor must be purchased in advance from your child's form tutor.

Uniform Changes:

Monday 16th December : Christmas Jumper Day - Please bring £1.

Tuesday 17th December: Staff Fancy Dress, Lower School Non-Uniform, Sixth Form Dress Up – please bring £1.

Wednesday: Students must wear Full School Uniform



10TH DECEMBER 2019
CHRISTMAS CONCERT
7.00pm

Senior Ensembles will perform in this concert along with all five school choirs!

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