



From the Associate Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

August 2018 brought the news of excellent results at both GCSE and A Level. It was lovely to be in school on those days and to see our students celebrate the outcome of all their hard work with us at County High. Our A Level results remained exceptionally strong with 40% of entries graded A or A\* and 89% graded A\* - C, proving yet again that we have one of the best Sixth Forms nationally. However, we were particularly pleased to see just how well our students rose to the challenge of taking the new, more difficult GCSEs in so many more subjects this year. The attainment of our students was outstanding and their progress from their KS3 start points was also excellent; last year's Year 11 can be justifiably proud of their achievements and we are delighted to welcome them back to Year 12.

Exam success comes from the hard work of our students, but also from the skill and support of our dedicated staff; we have made some excellent appointments for 2018- 2019, ensuring that we are fully staffed with subject specialists of the highest quality. They are introduced to you below.

September has already seen lots of exciting extra-curricular activity at County High provided by so many of our subject areas. This has included a fabulous launch of our Year 7 singing competition and Year 7 and 8 Dance events, in collaboration with Saffron Hall, and we are looking forward to further projects with Saffron Hall for students later on this term. We are always looking for ways in which we can enrich your child's time with us and to provide the challenges and opportunities that make for a truly outstanding education.

As you will be aware from Caroline Derbyshire's letter to you this week, all schools continue to face significant financial pressures. We remain grateful for all the support our community and parents have provided to us, including the lovely comments from parents about the school and the work we do with your children.

Wishing everyone a very happy and successful Autumn term.

**Polly Lankester**  
Associate Headteacher

Teaching Staff Changes:

Welcome to the teaching staff who have joined us this term.

Ms K Armstrong	Learning Support
Mrs R Bingley	Languages
Miss M Cairns	Science
Miss F Case	History
Mrs A Church	Psychology
*Miss L Crow	Sociology and RPE
Mrs E Culley-Morgan	Film and Media
Dr P Evans	Science
Miss A Greenwood	Business
Miss A Hosking	RPE
Mr P James	Classics
Miss C Judge	English
Mr P Kaye	Maths department

Miss C Law	Director of Music
*Mrs C Mellor	English
Mr C Miller	Science
Mrs C Moore	Technology
Miss L Nelson	Computing
Mrs K Pieri	Learning Support
*Mr R Smith	PE
Ms R Taylor-Munro	Cover Supervisor
Dr M Thomas	Science
Mr M Toogood	Maths
Dr E Wood	Science

\* Returning members of staff.

Dance:

Saffron Hall provided students from Years 7 & 8 with the wonderful opportunity of exploring the Hip Hop genre of Dance with 'Boy Blue Entertainment Dance Company'. Students enjoyed learning some key hip hop 'grooves' and short phrases with the dancers. Boy Blue will be holding after school clubs on Monday evenings for those who wish to pursue Hip Hop Dance.



The theme for this year's Dance production is 'Musicals and Mixers'. This will explore music from a range of current and all-time great musicals as well as showcase some of the creative GCSE choreography work. Students from all year groups and abilities are encouraged to take part in the show which will take place on Tuesday 4th December.

The Big Sing:



Year 7 kicked off their first full week at SWCHS with a song! In preparation for their annual Singing Competition, students in Year 7 spent the day in Saffron Hall, working in groups with acclaimed British conductor and chorus master, Dominic Ellis-Peckham. The theme this year is **Funk!** and pupils were introduced to a form song and also their year song which is Stevie Wonder's funky anthem, *Sir Duke*. The groups are now busy in class rehearsing their songs, in preparation for the competition final which is held on October 15th!

Jack Petchey:

Congratulations to the Jack Petchey Award Winners for 2018. All award winners were recognised for a wide range of achievements and were officially presented with their awards at a ceremony in Great Dunmow. A special mention to Mrs Robertson who was also nominated for a Leader Award which came with £750 from the Jack Petchey foundation to be used for in-school projects and initiatives which will benefit pupils at SWCHS.



Sports News:

Hockey:

Congratulations to the U18 Girls' Hockey team who beat Stephen Perse, Hills Road and Kimbolton to become County Champions this week. The girls now go through to represent Cambridgeshire at the East Tournament next week.



The U16 Girls' team also travelled to Kimbolton and won their first match against St Marys 2-0. The home team was next with our attack penetrating successfully, another 2-0 victory. The girls went straight into the last match against JFAN and the 3-0 victory secured their place as County Champions. The team also qualify for a place in regionals.



The U15 Girls' Hockey team have made a great start to the season beating Chigwell 2-0. A superb team performance with 6 girls being nominated as player of the match. A more difficult 2<sup>nd</sup> game for the U15 team saw a 0-0 draw against JFAN which was ended to end with chances from both teams.



Year 8 Girls St Edmunds Open Day Hockey Tournament.



The Year 7 Hockey teams made a great start this week.

Netball:

A great start to the Netball Essex Cup for Year 9. A 34-12 win against St Mark's, some excellent play and great teamwork.

Rugby:



SWCHS Yr 10 Rugby squad test out the new Rugby pitch with a win over JFAN.



1st XV today playing at Allianz Park in the National Cup.



Winning start for Year 9 against JFAN 46-10.

Language News:

The Languages team ran a launch event for Year 12 French, German and Spanish students this month. Guest speakers included Richard Burrett, who spoke to the students about how languages have influenced his career and former student, Jacob Watson, also spoke about his experiences as a Sixth Form linguist at SWCHS.



Bibi Tilley, Megan Hutchinson, Bonnie Muir have been shortlisted for the final of the Routes into Languages 'East Mother Tongue Other Tongue' poetry competition. Their poems will appear in the anthology and they, their families and teachers are invited to the Celebration Event at Murray Edwards College, University of Cambridge in October.

The Historical Great Write:

A group of young historians took part in the first ever SWCHS 'Great Write' in June. Students spent the entire day researching and writing on a period of history of their choice and produced some outstanding pieces of work. The historians asked for sponsorship for their efforts and raised a fantastic £185 for local charity Schoolreaders. This week our students and SWCHS patron of reading Author Clare Mulley presented the cheque to Lorna Rolfe from Schoolreaders. This charity aims to improve literacy levels in primary schools across Essex.



SWCHS Book Sales

Book sales will be taking place during Open Evenings and Parents' Evenings throughout the year in the Learning Centre. A selection of second-hand books will be available, prices starting at 50p each. All money raised will be reinvested in new books for the Learning Centre.

Music Tour 2018:

The 20th of July was not the end of term for the Music Department as we headed off to sunny Barcelona for the latest annual Music Tour.

We had a fabulous time - performing two great concerts to very appreciative audiences. Unbelievably our third concert was rained off while the UK was bathed in a Spanish heatwave, but we didn't let this dampen our spirits. Apart from performing, we also visited the city, including the highly individual Sagrada Familia and Las Ramblas where students bought lunches at the wonderful open air market. The Waterpark was a highlight for many students and some Sixth Form students also got involved in a poolside singsong with the hotel's resident vocalist. All in all a musically and culturally enriching tour, with time to relax and forge new friendships.



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](mailto:info@swchs.net). Sixth Form students - email [6formabsence@swchs.net](mailto: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