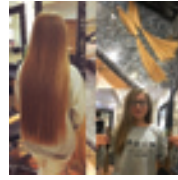




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ACHIEVEMENT
AUTUMN 2016
ISSUE 9

Switch on



Saffron Walden
County High School

IN THIS ISSUE OF SWITCH ON WE CELEBRATE OUR 'GOLDEN SUMMER' OF EXAMINATION RESULTS AND THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF ALL OUR STUDENTS WITHIN THE SCHOOL





From the Headteacher

THERE IS SOMETHING ABOUT THE PHRASE 'GOLDEN SUMMER' THAT HAS REALLY CAPTURED THE FEELING WE HAVE ENJOYED AT SWCHS IN AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR.

The weeks of sunshine came later than usual and have lasted well into the autumn, casting a golden glow of light across the site. August brought us all the spectacle of the Olympics at Rio, followed by the Paralympics in September and the hoard of gold medals achieved by Team GB. Our own hoard of gold mirrored these achievements and came in the shape of tremendous examination results. Interestingly, the last extraordinary glut of examination 'gold' achieved by the school synchronised with the 2012 London Olympics. As with Rio, our own medal tally surpassed that of 4 years ago and results in 2016 at every level, and on practically every measure, became our 'best ever'.

The GCSE Class of 2016

In this edition of *Switch On*, Year Achievement Co-ordinator Jane Watts writes about the success of her Year 11 group and the pride she feels in how well both the year as a whole and the children as individuals performed. She has every right to feel proud. These results were exceptional. We make no apologies for pursuing excellence at County High. At a time when state comprehensive schools nationally are being challenged over their provision for the most able children and our Prime Minister has signalled a possible return to Grammar School selection in some regions, we can declare with confidence that such measures are unjustified and unnecessary here. In this inclusive comprehensive school, a staggering 42% of the GCSE grades achieved by the mixed ability class of 2016 were at A/A* level and

83% of children achieved 5 A* to C grades including English and Mathematics. This attainment level is on a par with the very best non-selective schools in the country.

The A Level Class of 2016

Our GCSE results were especially satisfying because just a week earlier we celebrated our best ever 'A' Level results. Again this saw SWCHS Sixth Form outperform the majority of sixth forms across the country, including those who select their students according to ability. Every student passed, 92% of results were at A* to C grade and 41% were at A or A*. The stories of individual excellence that are captured in this publication are delightful. We wish our Year 13 leavers a terrific time on their university courses, gap years or in their new employment.

Progress

As an outstanding comprehensive school we also pride ourselves on the progress that children make in their five or seven years with us. The new Progress 8 performance measure demonstrates that all groups of students have made positive progress up to GCSE in relation to a weighted formula comprising 8 subject grades per pupil. Our Progress 8 score will be recorded as +0.33, which is one of the highest progress scores of any school in the county. By the time our students have completed A Levels, the progress made is even higher. We measure this progress in comparison with a national data set from sixth form centres using something called the ALPS thermometer. Grades on the thermometer go from an outstanding grade 1 to a poor grade 9. Our performance over the past three years gives us a Grade 1: in the best 1% of sixth forms across Britain.

Celebrating Success in Years 7 to 10

Of course we can only maintain such success if we see excellence and great progress for all reflected in the efforts of every year group that follows. This is why our Awards Evening is such a valued annual event. This year extra inspiration came from England Hockey goalkeeper and ex SWCHS pupil Patrick Smith who was our guest speaker.

The Year Ahead

So it was with great excitement that we greeted the new school year at County High. We have new state of the art classrooms to enjoy on a second floor in D Corridor, an attractive new covered outdoor eating area and the prospect of opening our Learning Centre after half-term. We have launched an initiative with Saffron Hall to become a 'Singing School' and we continue to offer a broad range of trips and enrichment, sports and arts opportunities for you to read about here. We strive for excellence and for great personal progress and we keep the emphasis on developing the whole person. We move forward into the new academic year with a song in our hearts and smiles on our faces.

Caroline Derbyshire



SWCHS Awards Evening recognises student excellence

SAFFRON WALDEN COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL CELEBRATED ITS ANNUAL AWARDS EVENING ON WEDNESDAY 21ST SEPTEMBER WITH AROUND 250 STUDENTS RECEIVING AWARDS ACROSS TWO SEPARATE KEY STAGE 3 AND KEY STAGE 4 EVENTS. SAFFRON HALL WAS FILLED WITH STUDENTS AND PARENTS ENJOYING THE OPPORTUNITY TO JOIN THE SCHOOL IN RECOGNISING AND REWARDING EXCELLENCE ACROSS MANY DIFFERENT AREAS. EX-STUDENT PATRICK SMITH WAS INVITED TO DELIVER AN ADDRESS TO STUDENTS AND PARENTS.

The award winners and their parents were treated to canapés, drinks and music from the school Jazz Band before the formal

part of the evening got underway. Sixth Form hosts compered the event, which saw each year group giving a presentation on the previous academic year. During these, students spoke of memorable trips and experiences as well as developments in terms of their studies. Certificates were then presented to each year group by Patrick Smith. The majority of these were academic and were awarded by subject teachers for progress or excellence in specific subjects. Year Achievement Coordinators and other staff were able to nominate students for excellence or improvement across the curriculum or for contributions to the school community.

Patrick Smith then gave his address as guest speaker for the evening. He spoke of his experiences since leaving SWCHS in 2009. Patrick studied at the University of Birmingham and spent three years as a professional hockey player; during this time he represented GB and England hockey over 50 times as an U21/U18 player and 15

times at senior level. Patrick spoke openly about the challenges of being a professional sportsman and of his disappointment at missing out on competing at the Rio Olympic Games this summer. Patrick instead spent the summer volunteering with Refugee Support at a camp in Northern Greece. He spoke powerfully about these experiences and ended his address with some well-considered advice to the students present: encouraging them to have a vision, to always look out for new opportunities and to be honest with themselves about the choices they make.

As students and parents filed out of Saffron Hall it was clear that all had enjoyed this special event. Ms Derbyshire commented that "This was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the excellent achievements of a large number of our students. It was a huge pleasure to welcome Patrick back to school and I am sure that his words will have made a significant impact on our students."



Year 8 and 9 prize winners – from L to R – Pia Mannix, Luke Marshall, Ms Caroline Derbyshire (Headteacher), Mr Patrick Smith (Guest speaker), Joseph Gaffan, Florence Wolter



Year 10 and 11 prize winners – from L to R – Zoe Kambitsis, Harry Cooke, Ms Caroline Derbyshire (Headteacher), Mr Patrick Smith (Guest speaker), Grace Kidd, William Downes



'Best ever' GCSE results

RESULTS DAY IS THE MOST IMPORTANT DAY IN THE SCHOOL CALENDAR. WITH THE RAISING OF THE SCHOOL LEAVING AGE, SO MUCH HINGES ON GCSE GRADES AS STUDENTS PROGRESS ONTO A VARIETY OF CHOSEN PATHWAYS.

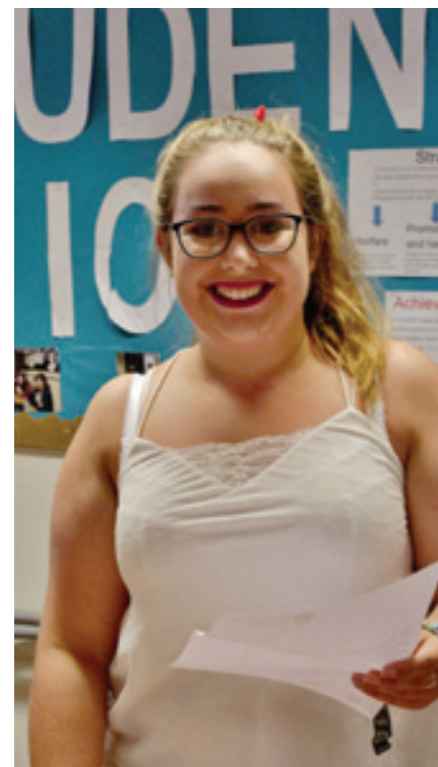
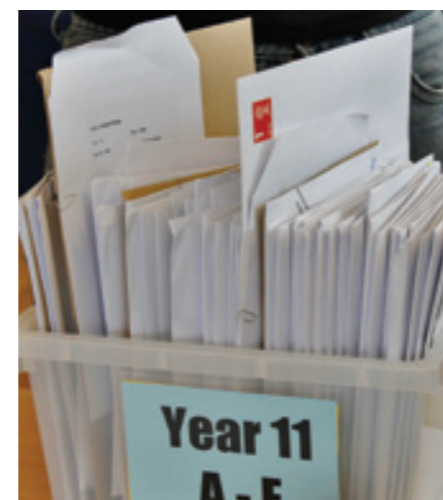
No matter what the starting point, we are always keen for our students to make excellent progress on their journey through SWCHS. I am absolutely delighted to say that the Class of 2016 achieved the best results ever!

90% of students got 5 or more A*-C grades and 42% of all grades were A or A*. A staggering 80% of all students in the year group achieved at least 8 A*-C grades. These results are living proof of the excellent teaching we pride ourselves on and the sheer hard work and determination of our students. To support our students, we have provided lots of assistance along the way with study support options, regular revision classes, booster groups and relaxation and counselling sessions. The students themselves undertook a thorough revision programme over the Easter break, which gave them a great start to their more formal revision timetables. Study leave pathways

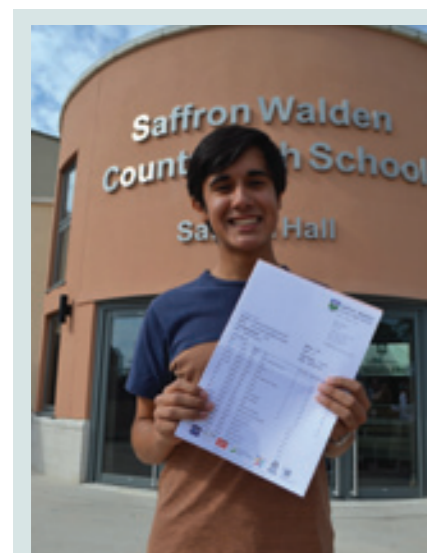
were negotiated with individuals, with some students not following the traditional 'study leave' routes but coming into school to work alongside subject teachers. The Class of 2016 have made excellent all round progress and achieved these amazing results alongside their outstanding performances in the Arts and Sport. Maintaining a healthy balance between academic studies and extra-curricular activities is key to our success. Pastoral care and the well-being of our students remained a key priority throughout the year. Many of this talented cohort have also raised money for charity and given time volunteering in the local community.

The academic achievement and personal qualities of the students in this year group have made me immensely proud. They have proved that hard work really does pay off! I have no doubt they will make a positive contribution to the wider community and wish them all every success for the future.

Mrs J Watts
Year Achievement Coordinator
for Year 11



It is important to recognise the achievements of all students, not only our most academic. The new "Progress 8" measure introduced this year, measures progress in attainment across a range of subjects rather than the final grades. Ensuring good progress is made (based on KS2 results from primary school), is at the heart of our teaching and allows us to celebrate the successes of the whole cohort. Every sub-group within the school achieved a positive Progress 8 score, including our Pupil Premium group and students with Special Educational Needs. The regular progress checks throughout the year enabled staff to reward those that were working hard and set all students targets for improvement.



Although girls marginally outperformed the boys, most worthy of a mention for academic excellence are William Banks and Adrian Ramirez-Valdez (pictured above), both gaining 12 A* grades across a range of subjects. Adrian also studied Additional Mathematics and gained an A grade (no A* available in this subject) and also has Grade 8 distinction in flute, piano and saxophone. Next year he will study Biology, Chemistry, Maths and French at County High's sixth form. An additional nine students gained at least 9 A* grades on the day alongside Higher Project Qualifications! 52 students gained 10 or more A or A* grades.

Amelia Greenwood, one of our top performing girls, achieved seven A*s and 4 A grades. She was, understandably, "over the moon". She will continue at SWCHS to study Biology, Chemistry, Maths and History. Lauren Brannon (pictured right), who thought her exams had gone badly, was pleasantly surprised on results day, gaining eight A*s and three A's across a variety of subjects. She is continuing with Further Maths and History and taking up Economics and Government & Politics, as she enters sixth form.



Isabell Issitt made excellent progress whilst at SWCHS, having arrived from primary school with 'below average' SATs scores. She has worked incredibly hard throughout her time here, especially in Year 11. It was evident that Isabell was struggling with her GCSEs and she was offered the chance to join the 'Study Support' group with Ms Sims. Isabell acknowledges that the support she received, and being allowed to drop one subject, enabled her to boost her grades across other subjects.

Despite revising over the Christmas break, Isabell's mocks did not go well – her grades ranged from D to F. However, she did not give up! Isabell knew she had to work towards C grades in Maths and English if she was to pursue her dream of becoming a nurse. She kept her revision momentum going, took on a growth mind-set and adopted a 'can do' attitude.

Her organisation and planning for exams was exemplary. She spent time making cue cards, did lots of past papers and sought the help of her subject teachers to find out how she could improve her performance. She met with friends for group revision sessions and continued to play hockey out of school as a means of unwinding. Yes, she will admit that exams were stressful but she came each day fully prepared.

On results day, there were tears before she'd even got to the front of the queue! Isabell achieved C grades in English Language, Maths, Science, History, Art and a B in SPE. She gained 2 further GCSEs in English Literature and French at grade D. In her own words "These results for me were like getting A*s".

I am extremely proud of Isabell and all of the other students that worked hard and exceeded their target grades.



'Best ever' A Level results

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE CLASS OF 2016?

THERE WERE LOTS OF SMILING FACES AND HAPPY STUDENTS ON A-LEVEL RESULTS DAY, WHICH SAW SWCHS 6TH FORM ACHIEVING RESULTS AMONGST THE BEST IN ENGLAND FOR STUDENT PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENT.



On results day 17% of our students achieved A* and 41 % achieve A*/A grades. This enabled the majority of our students to take up places at their first choice university or employment. Overall, 85% of our Year 13 leavers went to university or held a deferred place. 45% of these students went to Russell Group universities (a group of 24 leading UK universities), including 6 students to Oxford or Cambridge and 5 to Medical schools.

It's always good to see students pursuing traditional careers, with Education and Nursing amongst our cohort's choices. Alongside more traditional courses, such

as Law at LSE, students explored some less well known degree options such as French and Chinese and Chemical and Nuclear Engineering. Perhaps the prize for the most intriguing course goes to Thomas Mitchell-Kempner studying Marine Technology and Naval Architecture at Newcastle University!

Some of our students chose to go straight into employment with training, gaining places with Deloitte and Grant Thornton and as a Digital Content Editor for a music company in London.



Ethan Moorhouse has taken up a place on the LAMDA BA (Hons) course in Professional Acting – LAMDA is recognised as being one of the best drama schools in the world.



Eddie Curtis has taken up a scholarship to the Royal College of Music in London to study bass trombone. It is a 4 year BMus course and he may have the opportunity to study abroad for some of this time. The Royal College of Music is one of the world's great conservatoires, training gifted musicians from all over the world for international careers as performers, conductors and composers.



Katie Manby is ready to start her degree in Classical Civilisation at Oxford University, after achieving A*, A, A grades at A Level for Classical Civilisation, History and Latin as well as achieving an A* grade for her Extended Project. She was a Head Student representing the school and also Head of the Sixth Form Student Union. Katie always knew she wanted to go to Oxford and joined the Early Applicants' programme as soon as she entered Sixth Form; following a structured programme which supported her in her application. She was able to attend advice sessions, meet with Oxbridge alumni and get advice from Oxbridge staff and students. She was also given a mock interview by an expert in her chosen field so she was fully prepared for the challenge.



Josh Broughall (2nd from right) came into the Sixth Form and, realising his strengths lay with coursework rather than exams, chose his subjects accordingly: studying IT and Double Applied Business. He worked steadily in Year 12 but his AS results were a pale shadow of what was to come. In Year 13, even though early on he decided not to apply to university, he fell in love with his Business course and especially finance: in spring, after a series of interviews and tests, he secured a position with Deloitte, the national accountancy firm. On results day, he got A*A* in his Double Business A Level – in 4 of his 6 units he achieved over 90 UMS and in 1 a perfect 100 – and a starred distinction in IT. His reaction? A typically modest 'I can't believe it'.

As we say goodbye to one cohort of students we find ourselves in the midst of a new set, but we are looking forward to one last event with the class of 2016 when they come back to celebrate certificates evening in December.

Mrs H Cox
Director Of Sixth Form



Dates for the diary:
 Michaelmas Concert – 17th November, 7pm, Saffron Hall
 Midwinter Concert – 14th December, 7pm, Saffron Hall

Sporting Achievements

SUMMER 2016 WAS YET ANOTHER TERM OF SIGNIFICANT SPORTING OPPORTUNITIES AT SWCHS. ATHLETICS, CRICKET, ROUNDERS CLUBS, PRACTICES AND MATCHES ENABLED MANY OF OUR STUDENTS TO PARTICIPATE AND COMPETE IN LOCAL AND REGIONAL COMPETITION.

Athletics performances were impressive at District level. We had over 100 athletes regularly attending athletics clubs and well over 75 students represented the school at the North West Essex Championships in Braintree and the Bishops Stortford and District Championships in Ware. In both of these events SWCHS were overall winners, with many of our individual year teams also taking the top 3 places. In addition, approximately 30 SWCHS athletes went on to represent NW Essex at the Essex Schools Games at Melbourne Park, Chelmsford. One of these athletes, Helena Dyce, progressed to the English Schools' event.



On the cricket field, it was the Year 9 boys who led the way making steady progress through the highly competitive Essex Schools' Cricket Cup. The team beat King Edward Grammar School, Robert Clack, Southend High School and New Hall School on the way to the final, where they eventually lost to Barking Abbey at the second attempt; the first final being abandoned for rain. Special mention should be made of Harry Ball, who batted throughout the innings in the final, making 83 not out. It was however, as always, a team effort.



Success at district level Rounders was widespread this summer. Year 7 won their district tournament and remained undefeated during the season. Year 9 also won their competition for the third year running and the Year 10 girls' team were runners up in their tournament.



The annual SWCHS end of term sports day proved to be a fitting conclusion to the athletics programme. It was an excellent day of track and field performances from the students (and staff), with rapturous support from the many spectators.

Sports day culminated in a series of awards for the Sports Personalities of the year. These awards are given to students, who, in the opinion of the PE staff, have made the most significant impact on school sport throughout the year.

SWCHS SPORTS PERSONALITIES OF THE YEAR 2016

	BOYS	GIRLS
Year 7	1 Joseph Gaffan	1 Talia Kimber
	2 Daniel Siddle	2 Florence Wolter
	3 Henry Huxter	3 Kate Paige
Year 8	1 Jacob Park	1 Maisey Southgate
	2 Alex Key	2 Lucinda Legg
	3 Keith Flaxman	3 Megan Redmayne
Year 9	1 Jack Stanton Stock	1 Maddie Howlett
	2 Harry Cook	2 Zoe Kambitsis
	3 Jarno Logaretti	3 Nancy Ford
Year 10	1 Tom Cansell	1 Matilda Kagengi
	2 Oliver Newman	2 Paige Sheekey
	3 Alex Wilson	3 Alex Mannix

A Singing School

ON THE 12TH AND 13TH OF SEPTEMBER, SWCHS WAS ALIVE WITH THE SOUND OF SINGING. THROUGH A COLLABORATION WITH SAFFRON HALL AND GABRIELLI ROAR, DESIGNED TO PUT SINGING AT THE HEART OF MUSIC MAKING IN THE SCHOOL, 2000 PUPILS FROM SWCHS CAME TOGETHER TO MAKE THEIR VOICES HEARD; LEARNING NEW SONGS, HARMONIES AND RHYTHMS.



On the 12th September we launched our 'Inter Form Singing Competition'. Each Year 7 form worked with Greg Beardsell and Nick Shaw (choral directors) to find their 'Form Voice' and learn new repertoire by renowned British composer Jonathan Dove. Music lessons for this half term were spent fine-tuning each form's singing and helping them prepare for the final competition, which took place on the 17th October.

'Singing at SWCHS is so much fun, I really enjoyed the competition day with Greg and Nick'
 Saffron Harvey-Rudd

On the 13th September we undertook the ambitious mission of getting every student in the school singing. Working with Greg Beardsell, each year group recorded different musical riffs in order to create their own school 'mash up'. We hope to release this song soon on our website. The students had a fantastic day:

'It was inspiring and helped me to settle in quickly'
 Florence Wilson-Toy

CHORAL SINGING AT SWCHS

We are incredibly lucky to have so many singing opportunities available to students. On a Tuesday lunchtime, Sarah Clark runs our 'Show Choir', singing songs from musicals. On a Wednesday lunchtime, Janet Wheeler directs our 'Chamber Choir' who specialise in sight reading more challenging repertoire. We have also launched a new choir called 'SWCHS VOICES'. This choir rehearses on a Thursday lunchtime and is open to all singers, whether they read music or not.

DID YOU KNOW THAT SINGING CAN...

- Alleviate stress and depression
- Increase oxygen to the body
- Exercise major muscle groups in the upper body
- Improve posture
- Release endorphins
- Give an increased sense of community, belonging and shared endeavour
- Increase life expectancy



YOU'RE NEVER TOO OLD TO START SINGING!

This school-wide singing initiative is not just for the students – it is also for the staff! A staff briefing early in September saw all the staff singing 'Ordinary People' before the start of a school day. Teachers will also be taking part in a 'singing CPD event' in January to blow away those winter blues!



SWCHS News

FOCUS ON ENRICHMENT

Model United Nations club is available to students in KS3, KS4 and KS5. Students have the opportunity to research a designated country and look at their policies on areas such as human rights, ecology, health and economy. Students undertake research, learn how to write resolutions, get the opportunity to merge resolutions with countries from other schools and practise their presenting skills. Students are ultimately working towards having their resolution selected and debating other resolutions at Felsted during the conference days.

CHALLENGE YOURSELF

Are you looking to be challenged outside of school? Do you want to meet up with like-minded people from across the country, make new friends and spend the day or even a weekend together being stretched in your favourite subjects? Then have a look at <https://giftcourses.co.uk/> (Please note that SWCHS are not involved in running these courses. Some financial assistance may be available from GIFT).

STUDENT VOICE- ELECTION TIME

At the beginning of term, we celebrated the fantastic outcomes Student Voice achieved in 2015-16. The new undercover outdoor eating area being just one of the many exciting developments to take place directly as a result of the Student Voice Team. Student Voice is a vital part of life at SWCHS and makes a real difference. It allows an opportunity for students to make their voice heard and to work with staff to make the school even more effective. This term we have been encouraging students to put themselves forward to be a member of one of the Student Voice committees by asking them to complete a manifesto outlining their ideas. It has been excellent to witness democracy in action with the whole school elections in assemblies. Each of these students will be elected onto one of our three committees: Blue Voice – responsible for Teaching and Learning; Green Voice - responsible for the Environment and links with the community; Purple Voice –

responsible for the Wellbeing of the students. We look forward to introducing you to the Student Voice Committee of 2016-17 and sharing their ideas for improvement with you all. Please visit our webpage to keep up-to-date: www.swchs.net/swchs-student-voice Also please follow us on twitter: @SWCHS_SV

GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

This term 16 of our Year 13 Government and Politics students have the opportunity to take part in a simulation exercise run by North Carolina State University. The first part of the simulation requires them to 'run' a campaign for either a Democrat or a Republican candidate to 'win' the nomination for their party. The second part challenges them to take a candidate from the other party and 'run' the general election campaign for them. The simulation will involve weekly challenges to which they will need to respond, including scandals and blunders! This is a fantastic opportunity for students to immerse themselves in the workings of the American electoral system, while watching the real thing play out in front of them.

SEVEN GO WILD AT WHIPSNADE!

This summer Science celebrated their 10th year with no Year 7s being attacked by lions at Whipsnade Zoo! The lovely weather was perfect for our budding naturalists as they were clambered on by lemurs, tried to spot the always elusive tigers and marvelled at the size (and cuteness) of the baby elephants and giraffes.

FILM COMPOSITION SUCCESS

Congratulations to Josie Olney (a former Sixth Form student who studied A Level Music) who has composed some of the music for a BBC Four Film starring Emilia Fox called 'Kew's Forgotten Queen'. BBC Four called Josie's music "delightful". Well done Josie!

CAVENDISH LABORATORY

The Cavendish Laboratory in Cambridge has been home to 29 Nobel Prize Winners. If it were a country, it would rank ahead of Russia, Japan and Switzerland in terms of number of prizes won. Having one of the world's greatest physics departments within 15 miles is incredibly fortunate for us and so it is a real privilege to take some 50 Year 10 students to the Cavendish for the annual Physics at Work event. With a series of quick-fire but fascinating presentations on a variety of applications of physics in research and industry, this represents a day of new possibilities for our future Science A-level students. Our students were engaged and enthusiastic about sessions from Rolls Royce, the latest in optical electronics and superconductors and many, many more. The need for scientists and engineers remains a constant and will be key whatever the future holds. This was a great day, giving Year 10 students a different perspective about physics and the wide variety of careers and possibilities it can lead to.



A LEVEL BIOLOGY TRIP TO ZANZIBAR

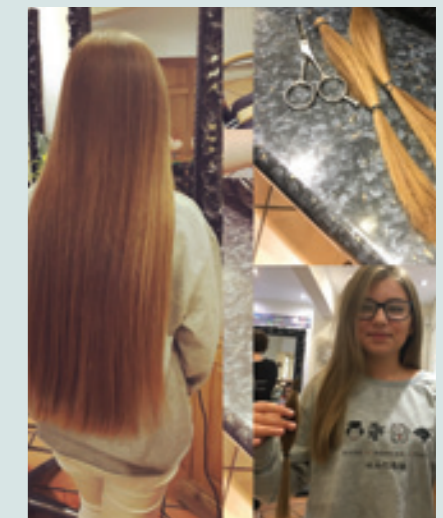
Our trip to Zanzibar in August was the most eye-opening experience of my 17 years on Earth so far. We were submerged into a vibrant culture completely contrasting our own. In a place where 'hakuna matata' is taken literally, what stood out to me most about Zanzibari culture is how positive and easy going everybody is. In Swahili, when asked how you are, you can only reply with 'fine' or 'peaceful.' While we are so preoccupied with the stress of daily life, this was very humbling, when some of these people can barely afford to send their children to school. I am hoping to study ecology at university, and the experiences and knowledge I gained about diverse and unique ecosystems within this part of the world was second to none. It really was an experience I will take with me through the rest of my life.

Libby Pool, Year 13 Biology student.

CELEBRATING THE ALTRUISM AND KINDNESS OF OUR FABULOUS STUDENTS

Over the holidays Emma Warden Hill and Poppy Harling (both SWCHS Year 9, pictured above right) and a primary school friend of theirs, Alice Tyler, organised a sponsored walk to raise money for Cal Aid, which is a charity working with refugees in camps in Europe. The three of them set off from Poppy's house in Radwinter at 8am and walked to Emma's house in Linton via Saffron Walden - a total of over 13 miles carrying their own water and food. They were joined for parts of the walk by members of their families. They then camped out. They have raised £1317 for CalAid.

On Saturday 17th September, Rosie Raynor (Year 8, pictured bottom right) had nine inches cut off her incredibly long hair for the Little Princess Trust. The charity provides real hair wigs to boys and girls across the UK and Ireland that have sadly lost their own hair through cancer treatments. Thank you to Rosie and all the children in Year 8 that made a donation to this excellent cause.



A RIGHT ROYAL SWCHS BAKE OFF!

Year 7 and 8 students took part in a royal bake off on June 10th to mark the Queen's 90th birthday. Year 8 students created 90 decorated cakes to mark the occasion in their food lessons that day, whilst Year 7 took part in a 'design a cake' competition in the preceding week, with the six winners going head to head in a Bake Off. The Mayor of Saffron Walden and Ms Derbyshire were the judges on the day and Hannah Blower in Year 7 and Charlotte Newling in Year 8 were our winners. The standard of baking and decoration was amazing - Mary Berry would have been very impressed!



ASU@SWCHS

The Agriculture Science Unit (ASU), previously known as the Farm, introduces new staff Miss Blakey and Miss Duff. These are exciting times; plans to develop the ASU include offering post 16 courses, children's birthday parties, canine first aid courses and community based events. The staff are

looking to make the farm self-sustainable with plans to produce meat, eggs, goats milk and fresh produce to sell in the near future. The ASU also offers student membership; this is open to any SWCHS student. Members can join staff to help with animal care and horticultural daily duties; these range from

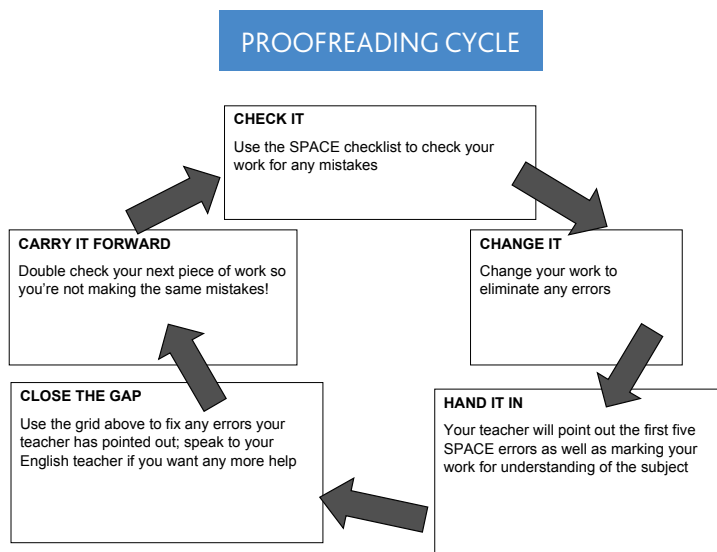
produce collection to feeding, health checking and exercising animals. Each Thursday lunchtime there is a practical taught session to develop skills further. The ASU is open to students from 8am to 4pm Monday to Friday. For further information please contact asu@swchs.net



- S SPELLINGS
- P PARAGRAPHS
- A APOSTROPHES
- C CAPITALS
- E EDIT FOR MEANING

SPACE – RAISING STANDARDS OF LITERACY EVEN FURTHER

SPACE is a new literacy proofreading and marking system for KS3 and KS4. Students are encouraged to check key pieces of work for five common literacy errors and make corrections before handing it in. Teachers will then check the five key areas themselves and add any relevant codes to indicate to students that they need to make corrections. Students will be expected to transfer their literacy skills across all subjects and to develop the habit of proofreading and editing their work.



AUTUMN AND SPRING TERM DATES

AUTUMN TERM:

Monday 28th November 2016
(TRAINING DAY)

Wednesday 21st December 2016
(LAST DAY OF TERM)

SPRING TERM:

Thursday 5th January 2017 –
Friday 3rd March 2017

13th February – 17th February 2017
(HALF TERM)

Friday 27th January 2017
(TRAINING DAY)

SWCHS WEBSITE

Please do take a few minutes to look at our new SWCHS website: It is packed with information and guidance for parents and students. We hope you enjoy its new look and responsive features. Whilst Google updates its record of our site, it may not appear high in the search rankings. In the meantime, if parents want to find Wisepay they should go to www.swchs.net/links

PHOTOGRAPHY

Supplied by Stephen Bond, Roger King, Kristi Magiroos, Paul Wilson. Our thanks go to all members of staff who have kindly submitted photos

