



# Switch on lite

SWCHS Parent Newsletter



## From the Head

Dear Parents,

It has been a really busy and dynamic end of term and if you have been to any of the events here in the past week or so you will know how hard our students and staff have been working and what incredibly impressive standards of performance have been achieved at the Dance Show, Variety Show and Mid-Winter Concert. We will all have earned a good break when it comes after the fun of Charities Week.



At the end of term, Mrs Ogbue and Dr Gwyer begin maternity leave, so at the beginning of next term we will be joined by three colleagues in English and Science who will cover during their absences: Dr Gitsham, Mrs Merrell and Ms Balerdi. All three teachers have taught at County High before and it will be lovely to see them back again.



May I wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas!  
**Caroline Derbyshire**

## EPQ:

This year's EPQ exhibition, managed by Mrs Kennedy, was a fabulous demonstration of how diverse the academic interests of our Sixth Form students really are.



The EPQ qualification allows students to be truly independent and have complete control over their learning. They are required to produce an extended piece of writing on a subject of their choice. Alternatively, some students elect to create an artefact which showcases their creativity with an evaluative report at the end.



This year we were treated to an exhibition which ranged from a photographic fashion project using the setting of the Met Ball to an extended study on the development of the Fool in Shakespeare's comedies.

## Senior Citizens' Party:

The annual Senior Citizens' party took place on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December and as always was a highlight of the Sixth Form social calendar. Students from the Sixth Form committee have



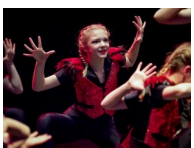
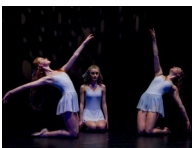
been working hard over the last few months planning the evening for our guests.

Due to the earlier start time more visitors were able to attend, which made for a wonderful party atmosphere. The evening included a variety of entertainment, starting with a quiz followed by bingo and music from our talented SWCHS students. The guests were served refreshments and there was, as ever, lots of singing and dancing to Christmas tunes. Thank you to all students and members of staff who helped to make such a memorable evening. Roll on next year!



## Dance Show:

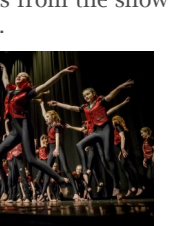
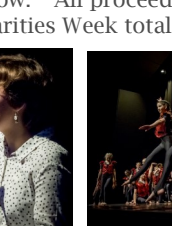
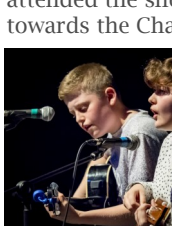
Over 300 SWCHS students from Years 7 - 12 took part in the 'Best of British' (themed) dance production to a full house in Saffron Hall last week. The show began with Year 9 GCSE dancers who flew us in to Great Britain as air hostesses. This was followed by a fabulous display of contemporary GCSE dances, class pieces, and dance club performances to a range of music by British artists, including Queen, The Rolling Stones and George Michael. The pupils danced brilliantly with excellent performances all round. Well done everyone!



## Variety Show:

A-Level Leisure Studies students have been learning how to manage an event in the best way possible by organising the Annual Christmas Variety Show.

Students from Years 7 - 13 treated the audience of 350 to 26 spectacular acts; some students performed in large groups whilst others were duets or solo performances. There were singers, dancers, musicians, actors and even a magician. An audience member commented, "There is a wealth of talent. It was lovely to see such a varied show". One member of the Sixth Form team said, "It has been hard work but very rewarding to see the whole show come together on the night, we have all learnt so much. We would like to say a huge thank you to all of the people who have been involved and to everyone who attended the show." All proceeds from the show will go towards the Charities Week total.



Sports News:

Jake Latham:

Congratulations to Jake, Year 8, who was recently selected to join the Essex Cross County team in the Southern Area Counties Cross Country Championships. This summer, Jake also competed in the National Triathlon championships. He finished 7th in his age group which is a fantastic achievement. Well done Jake!



Kayley Morris:

Year 12 student Kayley Morris has been selected onto the Advanced Apprenticeship in Sporting Excellence (AASE) programme\*. This is a programme for selected Year 12 Hockey athletes led by the Performance Department at England Hockey. The programme allows athletes to continue with their academic studies within their educational environment whilst gaining additional Hockey performance experience and qualifications. Congratulations Kayley!

Year 9 Drama:

On Thursday 14th December, Year 9 GCSE Drama groups performed their first assessment piece in Saffron Hall. Each class was given the stimulus of 'Holidays' and spent the term devising material around this theme. The students created a 15 minute performance, which they performed to a number of KS3 classes. Every group came up with a variety of brilliant scenes including monologues, adverts and whole class ensemble scenes. The performances were creative, polished and highly original; an excellent start to the GCSE Drama course. Well done to everyone involved.



Food Bank Donations:

Students from 10SXL, 10MXH, 10ALW and 9UB recently made a donation to The Uttlesford Food Bank. Miss Lock organised the 'reverse advent calendar' effort whereby every day one student brought in an item to honour the advent day in a way that showed true Christmas spirit and gave those in need a sense of Christmas on the big day.



Charities Week:

Another absolutely fantastic Charities Week! Here are just a few photos of the events and activities. Full details will follow in January 2018. Thank you to everyone who has taken part and helped to organise the events this week and thank you to all students for coming along and supporting the events.



Upcoming Events and dates in 2018:

SWCHS Presents THE WIZARD OF OZ

5<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> February 2018

7.30 Saffron Hall

£10 Adults

£5 Concessions

Tickets will be available from saffronhall.com in January.

The Wizard of Oz

Other dates for your Diary:

- Tuesday 16th January - Year 8 Curriculum Eve
- Tuesday 30th January - China Trip 2018 information eve
- Mon 5<sup>th</sup>—Thurs 8<sup>th</sup> Feb- Wizard of Oz Production
- Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February - SWCHS Pride Day

Parents' Evening Dates:

- |                        |              |
|------------------------|--------------|
| Thursday 11th January  | A2 - Year 13 |
| Thursday 22nd February | Year 11      |
| Thursday 8th March     | Year 8 (S)   |
| Thursday 15th March    | Year 8 (W)   |
| Thursday 19th April    | Year 7 (S)   |
| Thursday 26th April    | Year 7 (W)   |
| Thursday 10th May      | Year 9       |

SWCHS Term Dates 2017/18:

Spring Term 2018

Thursday 4th January 2018—Thursday 29th March 2018

Half Term 12th February—16th February

Summer Term 2018

Monday 16th April 2018—Friday 20th July 2018

Half Term 28th May—1st June 2018

School Training Days:  
(no pupils in school)

Tuesday 2nd January 2018

Wednesday 3rd January 2018

Monday 4th June 2018