

Switch on lite



SWCHS Parent Newsletter

From the Head

Dear Parents,

In the dark days of November, we all tend to put our heads down, work hard and keep carrying on, so it is lovely when something unexpectedly celebratory happens. This weekend such an event occurred as we noticed that in The Sunday Times 'Parent Power' supplement Saffron Walden County High School was described as the 'highest achieving comprehensive' in East Anglia. The judgement is based on our 2017 examination results at both GCSE and A level. This is quite an accolade.

Another flash of excitement comes with the announcement of a Royal Event - no, not Prince Harry and Meghan Markle's engagement, but our own Mrs Hulland's visit to St James's Palace this week to assist with the Duke of Edinburgh Gold award presentation. Mrs Hulland is something of a County High legend, who is known for helping everyone and going above and beyond her job description, so she thoroughly deserves her special day.

Have a good December.

Best wishes,

Caroline Derbyshire
Headteacher

Bar Mock Trial:

A group of 18 SWCHS students from Years 10 - 12 took part in the prestigious Bar Mock Trial Competition at Ipswich Crown Court. Students took on the roles of barristers and witnesses and presented their case against teams from other schools, battling it out in a real courtroom in front of real judges.

The students all performed brilliantly and received very positive feedback from the judges about how well prepared they were. Special mention must go to the four barristers who put in an enormous amount of work and really helped to mentor the less-experienced students.



We put up a very good fight but failed to get through to the second round, losing out to more experienced teams of older students. We were extremely proud of our team.

Maths Week:

SWCHS recently celebrated Maths Week. This year was bigger and better than ever with all year groups taking part in problem solving and team building activities.



Year 7 enjoyed the experience of building structures from dowelling. They also made balloon rockets and measured how far they could travel. Year 8 looked into the structure of bridges and Year 9 designed Kaleidoscopes. Our Year 10



students worked with NatWest Bank employees who came into school and shared their experiences in finance.

After the success of a very busy but fun week, we look forward to Maths Week 2018!

Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award Presentation:

Since Mrs Hulland first volunteered to help on a DofE trip 10 years ago, she has never looked back! Not only is she the main DofE co-ordinator and administrator at SWCHS, attends almost every trip and expedition, she has supported hundreds of students going through the award over the last 10 years. Mrs Hulland was recently nominated to attend a Gold award presentation at St. James's Palace. This week, Mrs Hulland met HRH The Earl of Wessex along with a SWCHS student who received her award. An incredibly proud moment for the team at SWCHS.



As DofE leader, I have always been overwhelmed by the support our students receive. It is incredible to see so many young people achieve such a prestigious award and they should all be extremely proud of their actions. SWCHS also recently received a DofE award, from the West Essex area, for the number of hours contributed to the local community by our students. We were placed second overall in the area. This is equivalent to donating over £5000 to the charities and groups that were supported. **Miss K Holden**

Music News:

It has been a very busy few weeks for our Music department! Students from Years 7 - 13 performed in the Michaelmas concert to a very appreciative audience. The following day, SWCHS Brass Band were given the incredible opportunity to play side by side with a Brass ensemble from the Guildhall School of Music. This year, we are trialling two whole days of Masterclasses for the Academy. Students worked with professional singers, violinists, trombonists and saxophonists, with their peers from Years 11 - 13 in the audience. Everyone learnt a great deal from the experience.



We are now looking forward to 6th December when SWCHS students have been invited to watch the London Symphony Orchestra in rehearsals. What an opportunity!

Thanks:

Our non-uniform day on Friday 3rd November raised an amazing £1207.81 for the Alex Ruffell Memorial Fund. The charity was set up by SWCHS parents almost 20 years ago in memory of their son, who sadly died after contracting meningitis. All the funds they raise go to support Chidobe Primary School in Zimbabwe and we are delighted to be able to help this worthwhile cause. Our donation will be used to help fund the refurbishment of the sports court at Chidobe. Our thanks go to everyone who took part in the non-uniform day.



Sports News

Rugby:

The SWCHS U13 and U14 boys have just returned from a hugely successful Rugby tour to Bristol. The squads were made up of 23 players who enjoyed visits to watch Bath v Leicester and Wales v Australia. The boys enjoyed a training session at Bath RFC as well as fixtures against Beechen Cliff Academy (Bristol) and Beaconsfield RFC.



The U13s played two very close and enjoyable matches, a draw against Beechen Cliff and a well deserved victory against Beaconsfield. The U14s came up against two very strong teams and despite a massive team effort and a courageous defence, SWCHS unfortunately lost out in both games. Joe Gaffan was named player of the match and the outstanding tourist award went to Diego Labandeira Amaro for his contributions on and off the field.

Hockey:

The U14 Hockey team put in a tremendous performance at the District Hockey tournament to become District Champions for the 3rd year in a row. Players player was Lily Godfrey and the coaches player of the tournament was awarded to the whole team for a superb performance.



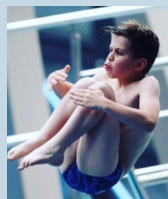
Table Tennis:



Boys from Years 7 - 10 recently competed in the Level 3 School Games Table Tennis Finals. All students played extremely well against some very tough teams. The Year 7 & 8 boys took home Silver medals as they finished second overall in Essex and the Year 10 & 11 boys finished third in their group. A fantastic performance, well done to all who competed.

Diving:

Albie Vaughan, Year 8, represented SWCHS in the East Region qualifiers for the English Schools Swimming Association Diving Competition. Albie won a Bronze medal and has now qualified and been selected to dive in the finals at the London Aquatic Centre in December. Fantastic effort and good luck for the finals Albie!



Odd Socks Day:

Year 7 donned colourful wacky socks for a day to help promote and celebrate our differences as part of 'odd socks' day. The idea, linked in with anti-bullying, is to help us all understand that we can work together to combat those attitudes that seek to point out and ridicule those who are different. Thanks to the Year 7 students who participated, there were certainly some very interesting sock combinations!



Year 12 French Exchange:

Students visited Verdun on a French Exchange this month and were fortunate enough to be there over Remembrance Day. The group visited the historical sites of the Douaumont Ossuary and the Battlefields at Les Éparges.



We spent time with our exchange partners in Metz where we visited the Centre-Pompidou (Museum of Modern and Contemporary Arts) and explored the local shops. After spending time at local schools we learnt that the French education system is very different to the UK. All in all, we had a great time, immersing ourselves in a new language and culture. If only someone had warned us that Verdun is one of the coldest places in France!

Firebreak Programme:

Congratulations to Ray Laverick, Matthew Benge, Flynn Ockwell-Smith, Louis Robinson-Warwick and Joe Little (Year 9) for completing the Firebreak Programme organised by the Essex County Fire & Rescue Service in Saffron Walden. The week-long course tested the boys' teamwork ability, leadership and resilience in the face of adversity and challenging circumstances. Well done and thanks to the Essex County Fire & Rescue Service for such a great experience!



Upcoming Events in December:

Members of the Sixth Form committee have been busy planning next month's events. The Senior Citizens' party will kick off Charities Week celebrations on Wednesday 13th December. All local Senior Citizens are invited. If you know of anyone who would like to attend then please ask them to contact us. This is followed by the Annual Variety Show, that promises to showcase a sparkling array of talent from across the whole school in an evening performance at Saffron Hall.

Our in school Charities Week events will begin on Monday 18th December. There will be a varied programme of events over the last three days of term during break and lunchtime. Please note that tickets will be issued on a first come first served basis. Xmas Factor tickets must be purchased from the Year Office.

Costs: Break time events 50p, lunchtime events £1, Xmas Factor £2



Last year exceeded all expectations as the total raised and distributed to local charities came to an astonishing £12,800! This year we are aiming even higher.

SWCHS Term Dates 2017/18:

Autumn Term 2017

Last Day of Term Wednesday 20th December 2017

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

Charities Week Information:

Uniform:

Monday 18th December - Christmas Jumper Day
Please send in 50p

students can wear a Christmas Jumper with school uniform trousers or kilts.

Tuesday 19th December - Non-Uniform Day
Please send in £1

non-uniform for Years 7 - 11.
Sixth Form and Staff - fancy dress.

Wednesday 20th December - Full Uniform

Years 7 - 11 full school uniform.

Charities Week Timetable of events:

	MONDAY 18 TH	TUESDAY 19 TH	WEDNESDAY 20 TH
Break	Pit PHOTOBOOTH THE GREAT SWCHS BAKE OFF VIDEO 50p	PHOTOBOOTH Carpool KARAOKE VIDEO 50p	PIT GIG GOGGLEBOX VIDEO 50p
	Saffron Hall DINNER DATE 50p	YOU'RE HIRED! 50p	MOCK THE WEEK 50p
	Lunch	Pit PHOTOBOOTH LOWER SCHOOL BAZAAR £1	PHOTOBOOTH COUNTDOWN £1
Saffron Hall ARE YOU SMARTER THAN A 6 TH FORMER? £1		Swatchy Comedy Dancing £1	THE XMAS FACTOR (tickets only) £2

SWCHS DANCE PRESENTS
BEST OF BRITISH
TUESDAY 12TH DECEMBER 2017
7.15PM
SAFFRON HALL

Senior Citizens' Party

Wednesday 13th
December 2017 at
SWCHS
5pm to 7.30pm
A FREE evening of
music, dancing and
entertainment and
festive food
Contact SWCHS on
01799 513030 to book
your place
(transport can be
provided upon request)

The Variety Show

**Thursday 14th
December 2017**
Saffron Hall
Doors Open 7.00pm
Showtime 7.30pm
Tickets £5 - Available 14/11
From the Tourist Office
or SWCHS

We look forward to seeing
you there!

All proceeds from the event go to charity

**Saffron Walden
County High School**

**15TH DECEMBER 2017
MID-WINTER CONCERT**
7.00pm

This concert will focus on the vocal work going on in our
Singing School and pair this with some longer
contributions from our Senior Instrumental Ensembles.
Come along to enjoy a relaxing evening of music before
the rush of Christmas takes over.

Featuring:
SW Voices
Academy Vocal Consort
Chamber Choir
Show Choir
Ashdon Primary School
Year 7 Competition
Winners
Senior Strings
Jazz Band
Orchestra
Concert Band

SAFFRON HALL
Audley End Road
Saffron Walden
CB11 4UH

Box Office:
0845 548 7650
www.saffronhall.com