



SWPS NEWS



MR C C MULLER—HEAD

I am often asked about our school motto. Like most mottos its meaning is elliptical and, not at first glance, easy to comprehend:

A SPE IN SPEM (FROM HOPE INTO HOPE)

So I would like to use my final piece for the year discussing hope. The word hope is at the cornerstone of many expressions: we hope for the best; we hope against hope that something good will happen. Hope is our capacity to believe in a better future.



Autobiographies abound with individuals who cling to hope and use their hope to survive the darkest moments of humanity: from Mandela to Primo Levi, writers explore the nature of hope and their own experience of it in the direst circumstances.



The Ancient World, too, had its myth based on hope. Pandora, the first woman according to the Greeks, was created to punish mankind for receiving the stolen gift of fire. She brought with her the pithos (jar) which contained all the evils in the world. On opening the jar, thus releasing the horrors, only Hope remained.

In the New Testament the Greek word for hope is elpis, which has a joyful and confident expectation of eternal salvation. It is optimistic and heart-warming.

In literature, we can often find a connection between hope and resilience but at times this link can be mocked. Dickens' wonderful character Wilkins Micawber in David Copperfield, would always say "something will turn up". A hope against hope as it were; Theresa May was recently described as being "micawberish" in her dealings with Brexit.

Yet there is a more fundamental point here about hope, which the SWPS motto grasps. Hope should not be an arrogant attitude that things will be fine for me alone; nor should it take good things for granted. Rather such hope recognises that we will not always be able to be prepared for the worst, but does nonetheless believe in the best about human beings.

This hope also enables us to believe that we will do better over time; we are not perfect, but we can learn from our mistakes and it is our hope which draws its faith from the past. We are not condemned to folly forever – we move from hope to hope.

This is the hope we mean at SWPS – it is a hope that is always with us and yet it is complex. Such hope underpins resilience and it is the disposition of each member of our community. It is a hope that binds us and it is a strong conviction that whatever the circumstances, whatever may happen to us, together we will survive and together we will flourish.

I wish you and your family a wonderful Christmas.

Wellbeing Week—Gratitude

At the end of every term, we have a SWPS Wellbeing Week, and this term's theme was 'Gratitude'.

Lots of exciting activities and festivities, including gratitude postcards, form room decorating, dressing up, concerts and carol services, just to name a few...





Young Enterprise

This year our two Young Enterprise companies are RAH Enterprises and Amaze. Both of them have been working extremely hard over the last few months developing their product ideas and getting their products to market. The Managing Directors Sylvie and Salena wrote a few words about their companies:

RAH Enterprises is one of SWPS' Young Enterprise groups, comprised of eight Year 12 students. They produce bowls made from old, damaged vinyl records. As well as this, they also produce photo frames decorated with rolled up recycled magazines. They focus on sustainability and are the perfect gift for the hard to buy for person!! To find out more follow them on instagram: [@rahretro](https://www.instagram.com/rahretro); or on twitter: [@Rah_Retro](https://twitter.com/Rah_Retro)!!

'Amaze.' is one of SWPS Young Enterprise companies. Their products are hand painted block letters, perfect for a personal gift or as decoration. All of their letters are cherished from the start of the production line to the end. They've created various designs and sizes for these letters, so they are unique and made to suit you! For more information follow them on [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/amaze.ye) or [Twitter](https://twitter.com/amaze.ye): [@amaze.ye](https://www.instagram.com/amaze.ye)



PSHCE

In PSHCE, Year 7 have been learning all about the various SWPS learning habits, from organisation and teamwork to grit and curiosity. Last week, each



form made their own "lioness of courage". On coloured strips of paper, each student wrote about a time they have been courageous in the past, how they had been courageous that week, and something courageous that they will try in the future. The coloured strips then made up the lion's mane.

Hänsel and Gretel houses in Wellbeing week.

As part of Wellbeing Week, all the Year 7s and Year 8s had great fun constructing mini gingerbread houses from biscuits and sweets in their German lessons.

They all had a huge amount of fun and there was so much laughter and excitement. We were particularly



impressed by their creativity; each house had its own personality and charm, rather like our students in fact!

Carol Services at St Peter's

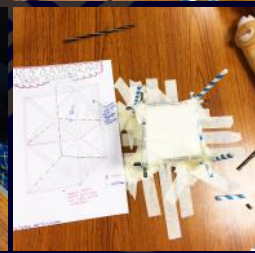
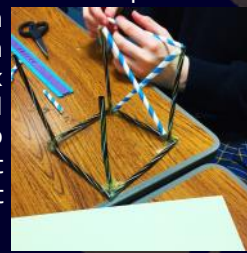
Our annual Carol Services took place this week on Monday and Tuesday evening in the beautiful setting of St Peter's Church in Chertsey. Approximately a quarter of our students were involved, including the whole of Year 7, the School and Chamber Choirs and the Flute Factory; they certainly treated us to some truly outstanding singing and music.

Special mention must also go to all our readers who read the Nine Lessons beautifully and to FOSWPS for providing the refreshments. The aroma of mince pies and mulled wine added to the joyous and festive atmosphere of the evening. Well done to everyone involved!



Earthquakes at SWPS

Year 8s had a ground shaking time making earthquake proof buildings. Students had to plan their building to make it life safe and then build it within lesson time. Attempts were very good and put to the test with a weight bearing exercise followed by vigorous shaking. The best structures were strong in the material they used and had protection strategies in place. Some even used complex mathematical equations to attempt to get the best structure!



Glowing Christmas Badges

In Science Club this week, Year 7 students designed and produced a variety of colourful Christmas badges and then illuminated them using wires, batteries and LED lamps.



SWPS Carol Services 2018

Recordings of this year's Carol Services are now available by following this link.

Both evenings' recordings have been uploaded to showcase the fantastic work of the soloists who were different on each night as well as to include the different readings as part of the Service of Nine Lessons.

[CLICK HERE TO LISTEN TO THE CAROL SERVICES](#)



8Q Charity Fundraiser

A massive well done to 8Q for organising a very successful fundraiser for Riding for the Disabled Association.

Just shy of 100 students showed their support at 8Q's Christmas movie event!

Thank you to everyone who attended and contributed to a fantastic charity!



Y9 Slavery Project

As ever the Bantuma Slavery Project was keenly contested in Year 9 History lessons. Each year we are amazed with the ingenuity in presentation terms, with us seeing British Empire bunting being used by one group this time. We were impressed by the depth of understanding and empathy in some of the projects, this year working in groups of three. Special mention should go to the joint runners up: Lisa Doidge/ Aaleekanu Mishra/ Sierra Warnes and Tiggy Edwards/ Ella Passell/Maria Remsha. But the overall winners were Anna Cowell, Lauren Mansey and Maeve Slater for their thoroughness and depth of analysis. Some of these projects will make their way to Ghana next October in our exchange with Bantuma School and we praise all of the Year 9s for their efforts.



Sixth Form Social

With bellies full after a lovely SWPS Christmas dinner, and spirit lifted by a fantastic Christmas Panto a large number of Sixth Formers attended last night's Sixth Form Christmas Social. It is fair to say the standard of ice-skating at Hampton Court was variable, and we are not sure we have any budding Olympians in our midst, but in true SWPS spirit the students enthusiastically slipped, slid and fell their way around the Hampton Court Ice Rink (that is not to mention some of the skills of the attending staff!) A hasty retreat was had to the warmth of a nearby Zizzis for a rather unseasonal yet tasty dinner. It was just rewards for a first term for the L6th adjusting to A-levels and a challenging coursework and UCAS term for S6th.



Hans Woyda Inter-Schools Maths Competition

It has been confirmed that SWPS have finished as runners up of League 1 in the Hans Woyda Inter-Schools Maths Competition. The team, consisting of Bethan Williams, Bella Cook, Clara McKee and Amy Stonehouse, achieved the highest ever points total for SWPS. A massive thank you to the team for representing SWPS and congratulations on a fantastic result!



Salvation Army Collection

Following an inspiring and informative talk in Life Skills in December the Charity Reps and Sixth Formers decided that they would like to contribute to the work the local Addlestone Salvation Army do at Christmas.

The Salvation Army have a toy and food appeal, which means they can give to local families age appropriate toys and a food bag in the run up to this very expensive time of the year. The Sixth Form were moved by this appeal and organised this donation. We hope it can make Christmas a little bit better for some families in the surrounding area.





Christmas in Classics

The Year 11 Classical Civilisation class prepared for their trial exams after Christmas, by modelling prescribed sources in Gingerbread. Masterpieces included, The Lion Gate, the entrance to the Treasury of Atreus tholos tomb, a megaron and The Lion Hunt Dagger. Alas, just like Mycenae, they suffered a dramatic and mysterious devastation in the last 10 minutes of the lesson...



SPORTS NEWS

Christmas!

This week in PE we have had lots of festive fun in all the lunchtime and after school clubs with Christmas music, games and dress up! Well done to everyone who has taken part and we look forward to seeing you after Christmas for more practices and fixtures!!



The Year 7s and 8s have enjoyed a crazy Christmas game and quiz in their PE lessons this week with all sorts of equipment and activities! Fab effort from everyone who has taken part and well done to all the winners!

Badminton

Congratulations are in order again for Alexandra Oprisan (L6) who won her first international medal (Silver) at the U19 Estonian tournament held in Tartu, Estonia. This is an amazing achievement as Alexandra has to compete against very strong players from all Nordic countries (including Russia).



Alexandra's latest international achievements lifted her rank in the Badminton England National Ranking and today she is the top U18 Women Singles player in England, and ranked 9th in Women Singles across all age groups (including Senior Players).

Swimming

Don't worry if you haven't sent your swimming form back yet – please email your times to jdunlop@swps.org.uk and they will be looked at over the holidays! The first gala is on Monday 14 January at Notre Dame!

BRITISH ROWING INDOOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

Over 50 Perkins rowers made the trip to the London Olympic Velodrome for the British Rowing Indoor Championships last weekend, where the entire area inside the cycle track was filled with rowing machines and big-screens. It was the first national event for our new J14 rowers, and Mischa Illman put in a very promising performance to finish in the top 10 out of 70 in the 4 Minute race for Year 9s.

Continuing on the success of our senior squad at least season's event, there were two impressive bronze medals; for Emily Keen in the Sixth Form Girls' 2000m, and also in the Junior Girls' Relay event for our lead team of Lerin Adetola, Ella Ayoade, Emily Keen and Annabelle Taylor. It was fantastic to see thirteen teams of Perkins rowers aged 13-18 competing in this 4-person relay event; by far the largest entry from any club or school on the day.

There were also some excellent top-10 performances from our J15 squad, the highlight of which was Jessica Roles winning a fantastic silver medal in the Year 10 Girls' 500m event. This is a great sign of the growing depth of the club from top to bottom, and bodes well for a successful season for all of our athletes!

CHRISTMAS PUDDING RACES

Sunday morning saw the river and boathouse filled with a motley crew of angels, elves, reindeer and santas. The Boat Club Christmas Pudding Races combine our annual house



rowing competition with a barbeque and day of festive fancy-dress fun. It was great to see so many rowers from all year groups in attendance, as well as their supportive families (and pets!) Seeing reindeer doing battle with angels in opposing rowing boats really is a sight, and adds a lot of fun to something that our rowers already love doing! There was a tight battle at the top, with the final standings giving Lonsdale the victory for the second year in a row.

Family Quiz Night

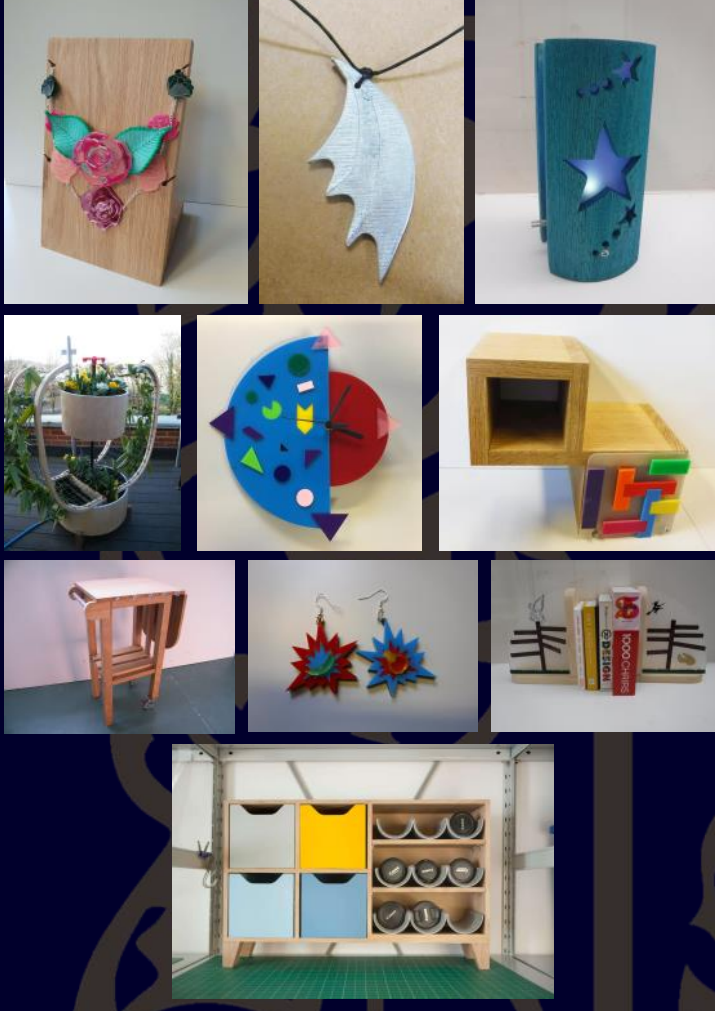
Friday 11th January, 7.30pm - 10pm, SWPS Boat Club

£5 Per Player - Bring your own snacks and drinks
Visit: www.swps.org.uk/SWPSBCQuiz to book tickets

Designs of the Year

As the year draws to a close the Design Technology Department wanted to look back on some of the stunning designs created in 2018. Congratulations to all students who have been chosen as our designs of the week so far, we look forward to more creativity and originality in 2019. Here are a few highlights from Years 13 – 8.

J Blackman



DT Lego Competition

Following a large number of excellent entries the DT department have whittled down the winners for the Lego Master snow globe competition, congratulations to:

- 1st Place Alexa Zagefka, 7L
- 2nd Place Bella Gray Pearson, 7P
- 3rd Ria Patel, 8Q

More information regarding the DT department trip to Denmark in 2019 which includes a trip to the Lego House in Billund will be released in the new year.



Follow the SWPS Design Technology department [@SWPSDesign](https://twitter.com/SWPSDesign) to keep up with all of their creations and activities!

Christmas Decoration Club

The Design Technology Department were pleased to run a Christmas decoration making club over Monday and Tuesday lunchtimes in Wellbeing Week.

Students from Years 7 to 12 came along and created very festive original designs which have been laser cut and placed on the tree in DT ready to be collected at the end of term.

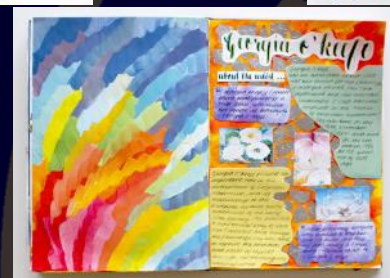


ARTWORKS OF THE MONTH

Here's three of our four Artworks of the Month, for December, selected by the Art & Design Dept staff.

They're by Holly Revell (Y11), Bea Ross (S6), and Khushy Toor (Y10).

Take a look at more of our students' artwork on our Art Dept website (Artworks of the Month are on the Spotlight page): www.artdesignswps.org.uk



LIBRARY

Book of the Week

This week's BotW is 'Have You Eaten Grandma?' by Gyles Brandreth, selected by Mrs Vidgen.

Book of the Week

Gyles Brandreth
Have You
Eaten
Grandma?



On the flowing importance
of correct punctuation, grammar
and good English

Why, like, does everyone keep saying 'like'?
Is it 'may be' or 'maybe'? Should it be 'past' or 'passed'?
Is it 'referenda' or 'referendums'?
What's happening to our language!?

Our language is changing, literacy levels are dwindling and our grasp of grammar is at crisis point!

But do not despair, *Have You Eaten Grandma?* is here: Gyles Brandreth's definitive (and hilarious) guide to punctuation, spelling, and good English for the twenty-first century.

Without hesitation or repetition (and just a touch of deviation) Gyles, the Just A Minute regular and self-confessed grammar guru, skewers the linguistic horrors of our time, tells us where we've been going wrong (and why), and reveals his tips and tricks to ensure that, in future, we make fewer (rather than 'less') mistakes.

End of.

(Is 'End of' alright? Is 'alright' all right? You'll find out right here...)

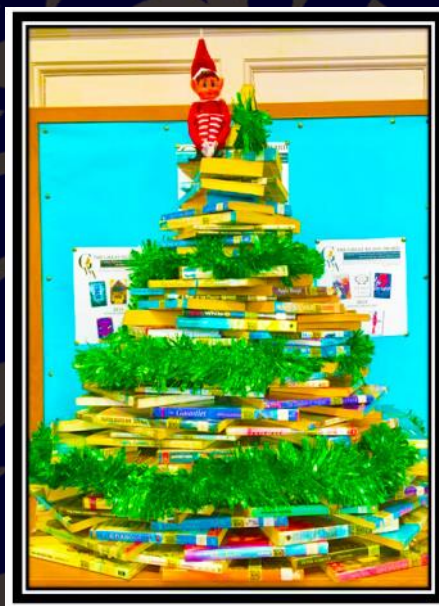


What's on in the Library

Follow [@SWPSLibrary](https://twitter.com/SWPSLibrary) to keep up-to-date with what's happening in the Library!

We would like to wish you a happy and restful holiday.

Relax and Read A Lot!



MUSIC

Scholars Concert

Thursday 24 January

12.55pm in the Jarvis Room

Join us in a treat of musical performances as our music scholars take to the stage.

Parents, friends and relatives are all welcome to attend.

**CLICK HERE TO RESERVE
YOUR SEAT**



Year 7 Lunchtime Concerts

Thursday 31 January – 7M

Thursday 7 February – 7L

Thursday 14 February – 7P

Thursday 7 March 2018 – 7Q

12.55pm in the Jarvis Room

Join us to watch our Year 7s perform either as a group or playing their chosen solo piece.

Parents, friends and relatives are all welcome to attend these informal concerts.

**CLICK HERE TO RESERVE
YOUR SEAT**

