



SWPS NEWS



The Head—Welcome Back!

The first week back and it certainly seems to have gone remarkably quickly and successfully. In spite of the clear blue sky, the long hot summer has faded from view. Lessons have begun in earnest.

It is always a joy to see smiling students enter the school with such enthusiasm, (especially on the first day of the school year!). No doubt our older students will be excited about what they are going to study in more detail, whilst our new Year 7s will be keen to make new friends and take advantage of all of the different opportunities that are available.

The Head's first assembly traditionally sets the scene for the year. So for my first assembly this week I talked about the importance of truth and integrity. Despite the era of fake news I stress to the SWPS community that the truth matters. Of course, we want our young people to question what they see and read critically; we want them to be discerning in their judgements and to be thoughtful in their conclusions. We never want them to take things at face value. Finding the truth, however, in the sea of information and comment, has never been harder.

Sapere audi is the clarion call of the Enlightenment Project "dare to know". Although over 200 years old as a concept, it has never had more importance than today. For any young person to find out things, to make judgements, to come to decisions, to commit ideas and thought to paper can be daring. Why? Because the moment we conclude, or write, or think that something is true, that is to say when we commit to something, there is always the possibility that we might make a mistake.

So we at SWPS want our students to have open minds, to search for facts and to test their ideas against others. They should be critical but never cynical. The community of our school enables this sharing of information to happen and with it the development of ideas to occur. No proper education can take place in a silo. We want them to think for themselves, rather than by themselves.

**C Muller
Head**



PS I have joined the ranks of twitter – please do follow me [@SWPSHead](https://twitter.com/SWPSHead)

Upcoming Events

11 Sept	Admissions Prospective Parent Information Morning
	Sport Senior Sports Tour Information Evening
12 Sept	Year 7 Parents' Intro Evening
	Sixth Form Parents' Intro Evening
14 Sept	Co-curricular Fair

Y8 Lunchtime Concerts

These concerts begin at 12.55pm in the Jarvis Room. All students participate in their group's concert.

Parents, relatives and friends are most welcome to attend to support the performers. Please sign in at the Main Reception and you will be guided over to the Music Department.

8 Nov	8W
15 Nov	8Y
22 Nov	8X
29 Nov	8Z

Senior Deputy Head

It has been a delight to see how quickly our students have settled into their new routines with enthusiasm and high energy!

There have been some exiting developments over the summer including:

- freshly refurbished corridors and dining area
- the opening of our exciting new Atrium Café
- the arrival of SOCS Activities – our new student-friendly system for joining clubs and activities

We are thrilled to see everyone in the new uniform and have all noticed how smart and well-presented they are! Thank you so much for ensuring our high standards are upheld.

We wish you and your families another great year filled with amazing opportunities and some fantastic events here at SWPS!

**S Husselbury
Senior Deputy Head**

Keeping up-to-date

Welcome to new students and their families. It has been a delight to welcome so many new students to SWPS this week - of course our many Year 7 joiners, but also those who have joined us in Year 8, Year 9 and into the Sixth Form. We wish you all a happy and successful time here, and hope that you settle quickly. You will receive this newsletter every Friday (with a few exceptions along the way) and of course you can follow us on our social media accounts:

Facebook: [Sir William Perkins's School](#)

Twitter:

[@SWPSOfficial](#) - our main account

[@SWPSHead](#) - Mr Muller's own account

[@SWPSSport](#)—sporting updates & successes

[@SWPSRowing](#)—the SWPS Boat Club

[@SWPS6thform](#)—Mr McCormick, Head of Sixth Form

[@SWPSTravel](#)—updates from student trips

[@SWPSLibrary](#)—the latest news and recommendations from our marvellous Librarian, Mrs Vidgen.



We would love it if you followed, engaged, shared and generally enjoyed our news from these channels to spread the word to the outside world about what an exciting place SWPS is.

Our new joiners are probably going to finish the week rather tired, maybe somewhat shell-shocked, but hopefully happy after their first couple of days here. Remember that everything works out as the term progresses, and to tell your form tutor if there is anything you are unsure about. Enjoy your weekend!

S Hallsworth

Director of Communication & Admissions

Adventure Lifesigns—Atlas Mountains Expedition

During the Summer holiday a group of 15 intrepid adventurers from Y8 & 9 along with two members of staff set off to Morocco to climb to the highest point in North Africa, Toubkal in the Atlas Mountains. So at 3am we met at Gatwick and flew to Marrakech, Morocco where the adventure began.

The students had the chance to visit the Suks of Marrakech before the hard work began. The heat and altitude played its part and made for an arduous climb but after spending nights in small refuges on the mountain the team reached the top of Toubkal at 4169m. All of the students summited the mountain and were overawed by the scenery that greeted us which can only be described as extremely dramatic.

This was an arduous trek and took some of the students far out of their comfort zones but they persevered and the sense of achievement was visible in them all. After the descent we enjoyed another trip around the suks where seeing Mary Berry filming was one of the trip highlights.

This was an excellent adventure for all involved, the organisation by Adventure Lifesigns was great but I think it will be a long time before anyone drinks Mint Tea or eats a Lamb Tagine again.



A Sivyer
[SEE MORE PHOTOS](#)

Wellbeing Weeks

Wellbeing is the state of being 'comfortable, healthy and happy' and is at forefront of everything we do at SWPS. We know that if students are to learn effectively and reach their potential, it is essential. At SWPS promoting wellbeing happens every day in the small but significant moments of kindness and good humour that we bring to our community, but we also highlight its importance during our termly 'Wellbeing Weeks'. At the end of each term, students are offered the opportunity to take part in different activities to learn about positive mental and physical health and have some fun. This has included watching the Sixth Form Christmas panto, a whole school Easter egg hunt and Quidditch tournament, learning to meditate and meeting some friendly dogs to name but a few. Look out for photos of wellbeing moments in future newsletters. Below are a few photos to remind you of our last wellbeing week in July.

H O'Connor

Assistant Head—Pastoral & Wellbeing



Year 10 Woodlarks Camp Site Volunteering

Over the summer, five of our Year 10 students volunteered at Woodlarks Camp Site, an accessible campsite for people with physical disabilities. They worked with campers to enable them to experience activities such as archery, swimming and a specially designed aerial runway, and had an exhausting but very memorable week. I was really impressed with their positive attitudes and willingness to have-a-go and problem solve, and look forward to even more students coming along next year! Comments from the students: 'Extremely rewarding'; 'Don't forget you can do it for Gold DofE Residential'; 'I'm going back next year!'

H Golding



Coupe de la Jeunesse, Cork, Ireland 2018

Emily Keen's GB Rowing exploits took her all the way to Cork, Ireland this summer for the annual Coupe de la Jeunesse Regatta. This is a 13 nation European Championship, which is run as two separate single day regattas on Saturday 28 July and Sunday 29 July. Emily competed in Junior Womens' Double Scull along with Gloucester Hartbury sculler Rhiannon Morgan

The Saturday regatta started in what can only be described a fairly blustery conditions, but the duo handled this really well to progress as winners of their heat comfortably beating Spain, Austria, Monaco and Hungary in the process. Unfortunately conditions between the end of the heats and the scheduled finals deteriorated and no more racing was able to take place that day. A somewhat frustrated crew to say the least were awarded 4th place based on their time across the three heats.

With the frustration of Saturday still fresh, much of the evening debrief and pre race planning centred on how the crew could go and right the wrongs of yesterday. The forecast for a much calmer Sunday gave them the opportunity to go and do this and drawn against Saturday's bronze medallists Ireland they set about making a statement in their heat. The race turned out to be a close fought affair with the GB double coming out on top, winning their heat beating Ireland by 1.5 seconds and comfortably beating Italy and Portugal.

The turnaround time between heats and finals on Sunday is extremely short so it wasn't long after the triumph in the heat that the crew were up and ready to push off for the final. There were plenty of nerves around (mainly from coach and parents!), but once they hit the water they knew what they had to do. Any major European final is always nip and tuck and this year was no different! With 500m to go the French seemed to be edging towards a win but there were also 3 other boats within 1 second of each other fighting it out for two medals including our Great Britain crew. Again the nerves in the grandstand were at fever pitch, and on the line it was extremely difficult to tell what had happened and where we had finished! After a short and excruciating wait Emily and Rhiannon were awarded the Bronze medal just 0.3 seconds behind 2nd after a photo finish needed to be examined. A total of 1.2 seconds was the difference between getting silver and going home 4th.

All in all a monumental effort to come away from their first major championships representing Great Britain with a medal to show for it!

J Keir

British Junior Rowing Championships

The final event of last season's racing programme was the British Junior Rowing Championships in Nottingham, which produced the finest results our club has ever seen at a National event. 27 of our athletes carried on training past the end of term to go and test themselves against some of the top rowers in the country.

Three J15 quads raced hard down the initial time trials, with two of our crews making it through to side-by-side finals. Ayla Ayub, Sadie Koram, Grace Taylor, Lola Wright and Ruby Edwards finished 2nd in the E final, with Tess O'Donnell, Celia Crosbie, Emmie Kirkhope, Sophie Darke and Anna Cefai were 2nd in the D final.

Two of our senior athletes put in very creditable performances in single sculls with Lucy Mapplebeck finishing in the top half in the J18 time trial, and Kate Stenning ranked 18th overall in the J16 event. Annabelle Taylor and Olivia Garnham were involved in a tough battle in a very competitive J18 doubles field, reaching a final position of 5th in the A final.

In an exceptional few hours for our club, the Sunday afternoon saw medals galore. First up, Bella Daniels, Ella Ayoade, Lerin Adetola and Louise Wax rowed away from the field to win gold in the J18 quad sculls, our first national title in any event for several years. In the very next race, Harriet Jordan and Sikemi Adetola put in a barnstorming first-half to secure a bronze medal in the J16 pair. This was quickly followed up by Eve Linney and Denise Martin who beat a pair of U16 internationals from Marlow to secure another gold medal in the J16 double sculls.

To finish the season with 8 National Medallists and the club to be champions in two events is a tremendous reward for the hard work and dedication that all our rowers put in to their daily training. After a good break in the holidays, they are already building for their assault on summer racing 2019!

C Boddy



MUSIC

A big congratulations to all students who took Music exams last term with Associate Board or Trinity and received the fantastic results below:

Name	Yr	Instrument	Grd	Results
Isabelle Basra	7	Flute	3	Pass
Taban Mazloom	7	Singing	2	Pass
Carys Poole	7	Flute	5	Distinction
Jessica Wilkes	7	Piano	3	Merit
Ella MacGregor	7	Cello	5	Merit
Ria Patel	7	Singing	3	Merit
Lola Adepoju	8	Piano	8	Merit
Ava Grant	8	Trumpet	2	Merit
Isabella Gray	8	Singing	3	Distinction
Isabella Gray	8	Violin	1	Distinction
Amelie Christian	8	Cello	6	Merit
Sophie Schofield	8	Piano	7	Distinction
Phoebe Ayling	8	Flute	3	Pass
Abigail Bishop	8	Clarinet	5	Merit
Milly Wee	8	Guitar	1	Distinction
Saskia Cronjaeger	9	Clarinet	5	Merit
Niamh Moynihan	9	Piano	3	Merit
Eve Thomas	9	Theory	5	Pass
Sahiba Atwal	9	Piano	2	Merit
Natalie Clarke	9	Cornet	6	Distinction
Alice Cope	9	Theory	5	Distinction
Zara Cope	9	Theory	5	Distinction
Mary O'Donnell	9	Theory	5	Pass
Isobel Caulfield	9	Oboe	3	Merit
Amber David	9	Theory	5	Pass
Tess O'Donnell	10	Flute	3	Merit
Isabel Barnfather	10	Theory	5	Merit
Maddi Tanner	10	Viola	5	Pass
Caitlin Pittol-Neville	11	Trombone	6	Merit
Hannah Burrows	L6	Alto Sax	6	Distinction

Piano in the Atrium

A big 'thank you' to the following students who played their piano pieces so beautifully in the atrium during lunch on Thursday: Lola Adepoju, Grace Lawlor, Annabel Tang (Y9), Sophie Bishop, Sarah Biswas, Alice Cope, Zara Cope, Saskia Frayling (Y10) and Lucy Reynolds (Y11).

Students are very welcome to play the piano in the atrium during morning and lunch breaks. It's lovely to listen to live music whilst we eat.

T Scrutton

LIBRARY

Book of the Week

This week's BotW is 'Move Fast and Break Things' by Jonathan Taplin, selected by Mrs Vidgen.

Book of the Week



Google. Amazon. Facebook. The modern world is defined by vast digital monopolies turning ever-larger profits. Those of us who consume the content that feeds them are farmed for the purposes of being sold ever more products and advertising. Those that create the content – the artists, writers and musicians – are finding they can no longer survive in this unforgiving economic landscape.

In "Move Fast and Break Things", Jonathan Taplin offers a succinct and powerful history of how online life began to be shaped around the values of the entrepreneurs like Peter Thiel and Larry Page who founded these all-powerful companies. Their unprecedented growth came at the heavy cost of tolerating piracy of books, music and film, while at the same time promoting opaque business practices and subordinating the privacy of individual users to create the surveillance marketing monoculture in which we now live.



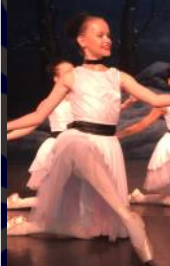
What's on in the Library

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

SPORTS

Ballet

Eve Leyland (Y8) has had a very busy Summer when she was appearing in Swan Lake at the New Wimbledon Theatre. She took part in 3 performances and also won the Junior Dancer award for the company (out of 100 dancers!). Fantastic work Eve! Hopefully you're not too worn out for the beginning of term!



Summer Musical Theatre Workshop

Our students were treated to magnificent musical and theatrical workshops at the end of the holidays, ending their summer holidays on a high note!

After three days of Music Theatre Workshop led by West End Principal Performers, our students were performing at an amazing standard. The fourth day saw an intensive Classical Choral Singing Workshop, preparing our students for choir auditions with expert guidance on singing, acting, and choral scholarship application. There may well be SWPS students appearing on the West end stage in the future! Watch this space!

One student had this to say:

"It was a valuable few days where an incredible amount of quality work was achieved in a fun, inclusive way. Meeting successful theatre and musical performers made the experience feel very real and taught good lessons on how to be successful in the performing arts. The whole experience taught how singing, acting and dancing can be incorporated together to make an impressive performance. I recommend it."





ACADEMIC AMBITION

Expand your mind with scholarly seminars

Mr Muller's seminars are designed to inform, provoke, stretch and challenge you to think about new ideas!

Get an introduction to new philosophies, cultures, histories, politics, scientific theories and much more

Structured similarly to University seminars, you will also get a feeling for the Higher Education experience.

Mondays

Room 252

4.00—4.50 PM

Date	Title
10 Sept	Moby Dick: the greatest American novel?
9 Oct	What is Hate Speech?
29 Oct	Cultural Relativism—is nothing really wrong or right?
12 Nov	AI—problem or solution for the future?
26 Nov	The freedom to dissent: the politics of John Milton
3 Dec	Pride—Dante's sin in Purgatory
10 Dec	Don Giovanni— introduction to Mozart's Opera (part 1)

The Unexamined Life is not Worth Living