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THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK SOCIAL INFLUENCERS
MR CC MULLER, HEAD


Who influences our young people online? From which sources do our children obtain information and guidance when they come to make their decisions? How much are they

swayed by what they see and hear online? It is becoming increasingly clear that many young people are seeking direction from a breed of influencer known as 'social influencers'.

Influencing people and influencing young people in particular is not something any of us could or should ever take lightly. It is a significant responsibility – to be a force in a young persons' life is a privilege. To influence someone in the decisions they intend to make about their life is one of the most important aspects of a teacher's role. We all, in the teaching profession, take this responsibility

with the utmost seriousness.

Where does the responsibility lie with a social influencer? Indeed, what are the qualifications to be a social influencer? Teachers and doctors, for example, have undergone years of training and study, but being in possession of no qualifications appears not to be a barrier to someone speaking with assumed authority and seeking to influence others online.

When influencers tout opinion as fact, without providing evidence for their claims that becomes an issue for schools.

Of course we all enjoy hearing about other peoples experiences and other peoples successes: they serve as an example. We enjoy seeing what has worked for them and listening to moving and powerful testimony about overcoming illness or surviving an injury or any other personal trauma is both moving and inspiring. But the rules for any

person seeking to influence another must be honesty – to be honest about what you know and what you don't know. To do otherwise is both irresponsible and dangerous.

In short, facts matter and we need our young people to be able to tell the difference between fact and fiction; to challenge what they read, hear and see critically. Part of the process is giving the intellectual tools to our students so that they understand the credentials of the people they are listening to. They need to understand that training, qualifications and deep expertise in a subject matters – to take advice from people who know very little about the subjects about which they are talking is, in the final analysis, dangerous.

I have always believed that to listen to experts, individuals who have studied, trained, and worked hard to understand and know the facts on their particular field, is a privilege. They should be the real influencers.

NEWS IN FULL

THE LATEST NEWS AND EVENTS FROM SWPS

YEAR 8 LATIN PROJECTS THE DESTRUCTION OF POMPEII

During lockdown, Year 8 Latin students have been working on projects about the destruction of Pompeii and Herculaneum during the eruption of Vesuvius in 79 AD. They presented their findings creatively using powerpoint, news bulletins, stop-frame animations and clay models!

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The Discovery of Pompeii and Herculaneum

Pompeii was first discovered in the 1700's. The discovery of Pompeii astonished people back then, because it was almost perfectly preserved. It was as though time had stopped and the only thing that had changed was the loss of all of the citizens. Bakeries were even found with bread still in their ovens! The discovery of Pompeii sparked the 18th-century interest in classics.

Nowadays most of Pompeii and Herculaneum has been excavated and now modern architects and historians have a far clearer idea about what life in Rome might have looked like back then, because of the exquisite preservation of Pompeii, that was due to the ash.



PARALLEL HISTORIES DEBATE IRELAND/NORTHERN IRELAND

Following the popularity of our last Parallel Histories Debate, we've scheduled another one!

On Tuesday 16 March, our Debate team will be discussing two topics regarding Ireland and Northern Ireland:

- Should the British Government be blamed or praised for the partition of Ireland?
- Have the actions of the British Government been the root cause of conflict in Northern Ireland?

Keep an eye on our social media for more information when it's released.



EN FRANCAIS FRENCH FASHION CHIC

After going over vocabulary on clothes and colour, and for some fun whilst revising, we asked our Year 9 students to create their own Fashion Show which they presented with running commentary (en français bien sûr!) to the rest of the class. We had some amazing entries and a lovely end to the first half-term.



CENSUS DAY 21 MARCH 2021

The census is a survey that happens every 10 years and gives us a picture of all of the people and households in England and Wales. The next census takes place on Sunday 21 March 2021 and SWPS are raising awareness of the power of the census in influencing decision making in our communities, from schools to healthcare to transport.

This year the theme is 'The Story of Us' and we will be encouraging students in Years 7, 8 and 9 to share their individual stories about what has changed in their life in the last 10 years. Have you moved house? Perhaps you have moved countries! Have you moved schools? Have you welcomed a younger sibling into your family? Have your parents changed employment?

Life can change significantly in 10 years from an individual to a community to a whole city and nationally. The census helps us to see what changes are taking place and how we can plan for the future.

Get involved at www.facebook.com/census2021 or @Census2021 and make your story heard.

census
2021

NEWS IN FULL

THE LATEST NEWS AND EVENTS FROM SWPS

NATIONAL SCHOOLS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA 2021

The National Schools Symphony Orchestra is pleased to be holding courses from 8 - 18 July 2021. This includes three orchestras, big band, and conductors courses.

[Click here for the NSSO Brochure to find out more](#) and [Click here for the NSSO website](#) to book your place!



YOUNG SONGWRITER 2021

Calling all young songwriters... Are you aged 8-18? Do you write your own original songs? Do you fancy writing your first song?

The Song Academy Young Songwriter 2021 competition #SAYS21 is open for entries until 31 March 2021. You can win great prizes (including a recording studio session and Yamaha equipment worth £1,000), have opportunities to be heard and connect to young songwriters worldwide.

With judges including Fraser T Smith, Tom Odell, Miranda Cooper, Calum Scott & Tom Grennan this year is set to be bigger than ever! Check out songacademy.co.uk/SAYS21 for inspiration, tips on songwriting and how to enter #SAYS21

COMMUNITY FRIDGE PROJECT

In RS lessons Year 8 are learning about Wealth and Poverty. They have discussed the difference between absolute and relative poverty. Students have also been surprised to discover the amount of poverty there is in Britain - particularly during the COVID pandemic.

Emily N is proactively helping those in her community. From making Christmas dinners for the elderly to collecting food from Waitrose and Tesco which is about to go past its sell by date. Emily says: "The Community fridge initiative is about reducing waste in our local community. We typically gather around 50kg of food from our local supermarkets and anybody is welcome to pick some up the next day."



**SONG ACADEMY**

YOUNG SONGWRITER COMPETITION 2021 #SAYS21

EXPRESS YOURSELF

ALL STAR JUDGING PANEL
FRASER T SMITH
TOM ODELL
CALUM SCOTT
MIDGE URE
TOM GRENNAN
EG WHITE
MIRANDA COOPER
SACHA SKARBK
HARLEY SULE
MICHELLE ESCOFFERY
CHRIS DIFFORD
DAN GILLESPIE SELLS
EMILY PHILLIPS
JANET DEVLIN
PAUL ADAM
HANNAH V
STARSMITH
SIMON ALDRED
IAIN ARCHER

GREAT PRIZES
- RECORDING SESSION WITH A TOP PRODUCER
- PROFESSIONAL MUSIC VIDEO AND PHOTOS
- YAMAHA EQUIPMENT WORTH £1,000
- SCARLETT SOLO GEN 3 STUDIO BUNDLE
- PERFORM AT THE SAYS21 SHOWCASE

SPONSORED BY:


ENTER YOUR ORIGINAL SONGS!
WWW.SONGACADEMY.CO.UK

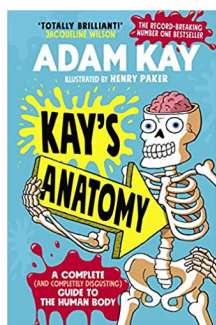
MEDICS, DENTISTS, VETS

Our Society has been busy over recent weeks. Prospective medics engaged with remote talks from biochemist and therapeutics developer, Dr Terri Gaskell, and dentist, Dr Narinder Kondel.

Grateful thanks are extended to our parents Dr Kondel and Mrs Truesdale for their much appreciated support of the programme.

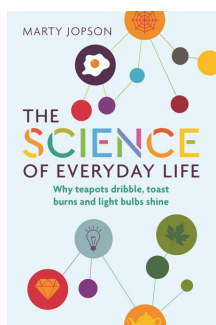
SCIENCE ENRICHMENT READING

To celebrate World Book Day 2021, our Science Enrichment Club shared some of their popular science recommendations:



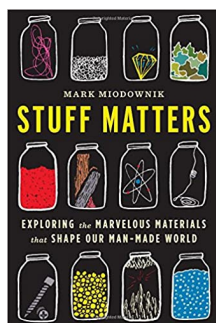
"I read **Kay's Anatomy** by **Adam Kay**. This book contains all the information you need to know about the human body, including information on cancer cells and true or false questions that he answers on many interesting topics"

Amelie, Year 9



"I'm reading a book called **The Science of everyday life** by **Marty Jopson**. It explains the science of everyday objects and events such as how prawn crackers are made and how eggs turn from clear to white and why your skin becomes wrinkly in the bath!"

Eden, Year 8



"I am currently reading a non-fiction book called: **Stuff Matters - The Strange Story Of Marvellous Materials** by **Mark Miodownik** - it's on the history and discovery of many different materials"

Sofia, Year 8



"**Meteorite** by **cosmochemist Dr Tim Gregory**, takes us on a journey from awe, wonder and mythology to modern scientific understanding, through the medium of meteorites. By studying these 'celestial stones' we have determined the age of the Earth and the universe; identified the culprit that wiped out the dinosaurs; and speculated at ancient life on Mars, and a potential origin for life on Earth. Not bad for a few dull rocks! Topical too, given the meteor shower over Cheltenham early last week."

Dr Limburn

WORLD BOOK DAY 4 MARCH 2021

Celebrating this year's World Book Day virtually, SWPS Library tasked staff and students with sharing bookshelves, creating book characters from potatoes, and a 'Guess Who' for avid readers to deduce!



Mrs Taylor's Bookshelf



Charlie's Bookshelf



Eleanor's Bookshelf



Mr Muller's Bookshelf

SWPS LIBRARIAN MRS MAGDA VIDGEN

We'd like to take a moment to recognise our extraordinary Librarian, Mrs Vidgen.

As well as:

- keeping our Library in order,
- organising literary events,
- supporting staff expanding their horizons with new book recommendations and CPD materials,
- providing invaluable access to an amazing breadth of academic resources,
- and of course her creative costumes for any occasion...

she has also recently achieved her Postgraduate Diploma in Library and Information Services Management from the University of Sheffield!

Mrs Vidgen goes above and beyond at SWPS and we send congratulations on her well-earned achievement.

VIRTUAL HIGHER EDUCATION FAIR

THE JOURNEY TO UNIVERSITY AND BEYOND



STARTING THE JOURNEY

The prospect of going to university is exciting, yet can also be very confusing – especially now, when live Open Days are not an option. Students have many questions: Which university? Russell Group or not? Which course? Do I need a conventional degree for the kind of career I want? Should I take a gap year? Can I study abroad? At an American University? What financial help is available? Do universities have well-being programmes?

Our Higher Education Fair is an important event in inspiring students to take ownership of their future by answering the questions surrounding the options available to them post A level – the beginning of a very exciting journey. This year we are taking the experience online, with a range of masterclasses hosted by top universities.



UNIVERSITY MASTERCLASSES

Preparation is key and the wide-range of masterclasses on offer give our students opportunities to ask questions critical to the decision-making process. This year, classes on offer included Student Finance and Budgeting; Russell Group Universities; Student Life; the UCAS process and more.

THE VIRTUAL FAIR 2021

Wednesday saw the second stop on the journey to 'Life Beyond SWPS'. The Virtual Higher Education Fair took place for L6 and S6 students involving nine masterclasses and workshops.

Russell Group Universities and Burnett Global Education spoke on topics ranging from 'Why go to University and Choosing a Course', 'What's so special about the Russell Group and how to decipher League Tables', and 'The effect of Brexit and COVID on work placements and studying abroad'.

The masterclasses were extremely well attended and the hosts were impressed with how our students engaged with the interactive activities. Will and Sian from Nottingham University in their session on 'How to write a Personal Statement' were particularly impressed with the thought-provoking questions that were asked ranging from the benefits of including details about placements and difficult circumstances.

Feedback on students has been positive... there is an exciting buzz in the Sixth Form Centre as students are processing the idea that their new adventures are only 18 months away!



IN THE KITCHEN WITH SWPS



SUNDAY SPECIAL

SCONES

Recipe

INGREDIENTS

Ingredients

450g self-raising flour

2 level tsp baking powder

50g caster sugar

100g butter, softened, cut into pieces

2 free-range eggs

150ml milk

60g sultanas



METHOD

1. Preheat the oven to 220C. Put the flour, baking powder and sugar in a large bowl. Add the butter and rub in with your fingertips until the mixture resembles fine breadcrumbs.
2. Crack the eggs and stir in with the milk into the flour to mix to a soft, sticky dough.
3. Turn out onto a lightly floured work surface, knead lightly and work in the sultanas, if using. Roll out to a rectangle about 2cm/3/4in thick.
4. Cut into as many rounds or other shapes as possible with a fluted 5cm/2in cutter and place them on the prepared baking trays. Brush the tops of the scones with a little milk.
5. Bake for 12–15 minutes, or until the scones are well risen and a pale, golden-brown colour. Lift onto a wire rack to cool.
6. To serve, split the scones and serve with strawberry jam or roasted rhubarb and clotted cream.

BRINGING YOU SOME TASTY TREATS YOU CAN PREPARE OVER THE WEEKEND TO ENJOY DURING THE WEEK.



MARDI GRAS COMPETITION

Tuesday 16 February was 'Mardi Gras' in France, so the French Department invited the whole community to take part in a competition.

Prizes were given for the best-looking crêpe, the most original topping, and to the best action shot of crêpe flipping! Students baked up a storm and we saw some fantastic entries from across the school!



BURDOCK P, L6



JENNIFER W, 7L

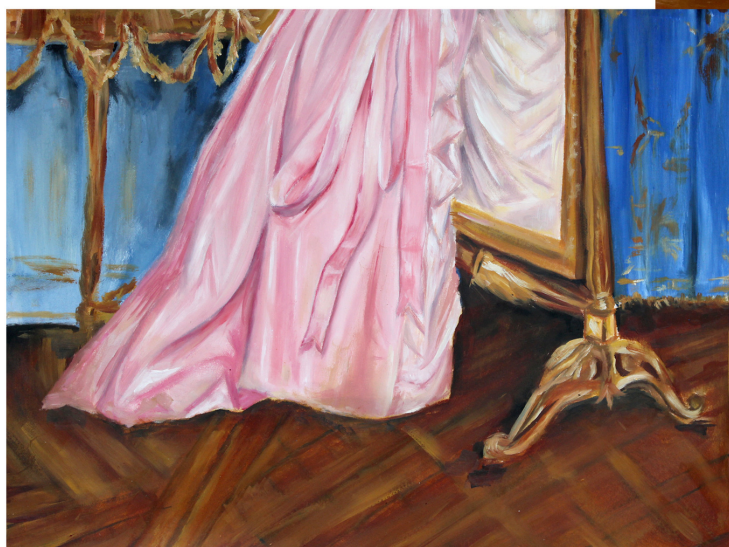


EMILY W, 10P



ART

A SELECTION OF OUR BEST ARTWORKS FROM FEBRUARY 2021

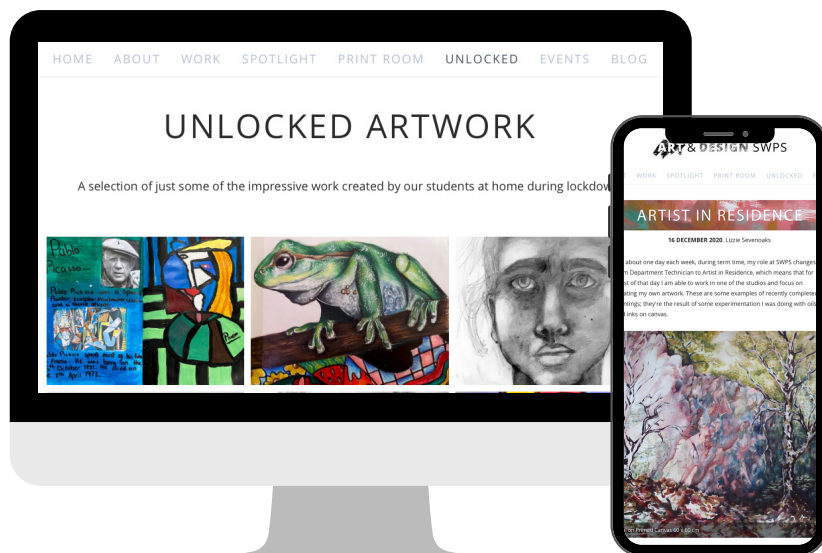


GISELLE - YEAR 13

UNLOCKED ARTWORK

In the Art & Design Department, we are extremely proud of our students for the extraordinary artwork they created during lockdown. We have put a selection of it in our online gallery; please do take a look: www.artdesignswps.org.uk/unlocked

Also take a look at the wonderful visual blog from our talented Technician and Artist in Residence, Lizzie Sevenoaks: www.artdesignswps.org.uk/blog



ART

A SELECTION OF OUR BEST ARTWORKS FROM MARCH 2021

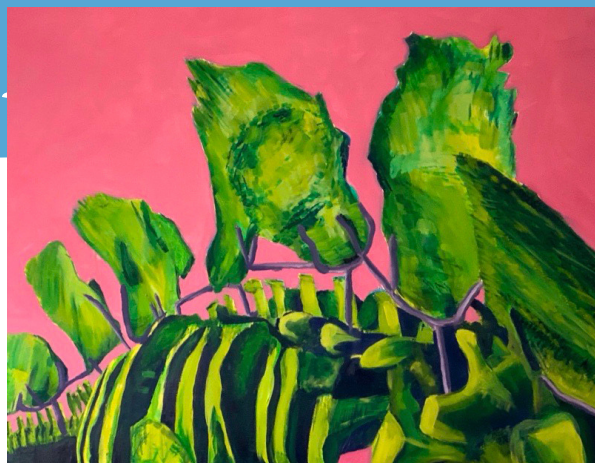
KI - YEAR 10



ASHBURY - YEAR 9



ELIZABETH - YEAR 10



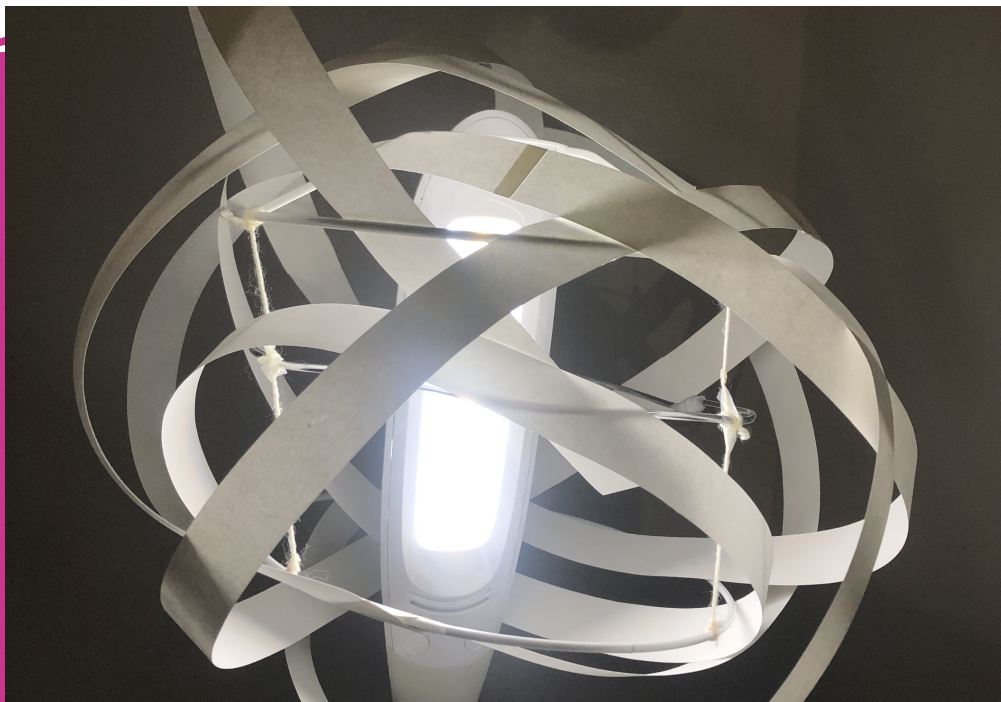
EVE - YEAR 12



EVIE - YEAR 10

DESIGN TECHNOLOGY

A ROUND UP OF THE LATEST FROM DESIGN TECHNOLOGY



A LEVEL PRODUCT DESIGN MAKE AT HOME DESIGN TECHNOLOGY



@SWPSDESIGN

During the final weeks of online learning the Technology Department organised for students in Years 9, 10 and 12 to do some practical work at home with 'make at home' kits. Year 9 have been learning about types of motion and mechanisms so put this into practice with their 'make an automata' kit, which enabled them to make their own moving toy.

Year 10 Product Design and Textiles have been getting their sewing machines out and constructing their own folding storage baskets with flat pack wooden frames, the fabrics printed with block prints they designed using 2D design.

Year 12 were set an even bigger challenge: a light fitting, and asked to design and make their own lightshade using humble materials found at home. They have been encouraged to look at iconic lighting designers and experiment with paper folding techniques to create their very effective outcomes.

Students in Years 7 and 8 have continued the Food Technology curriculum at home making delicious fairy cakes, pasties, and macaroni cheese! We have seen great culinary talent during the online learning period, we wonder if a SWPS bake off is in order in the summer term...?

If you are interested in finding out more about A level Product Design at SWPS, contact Miss Blackman who can give you more information. Also check out our Twitter and Instagram pages @swpsdesign for more examples of the exceptional work produced in the department.

DRAMA

TREADING THE BOARDS AT SWPS

WHAT'S ON THIS TERM?

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
LUNCHTIME 13.05 - 13.35	GCSE & A LEVEL REHEARSAL TIME DRAMA STUDIOS 1 KS4 & 5 PRE-BOOKING ESSENTIAL	YEAR 7 DRAMA CLUB STUDIO 1	SIXTH FORM DVEC: DIGITAL VIDEO EDITING CLUB DVEC STUDIO BOOKING AVAILABLE FOR L6 & S6	YEAR 11 DVEC: DIGITAL VIDEO EDITING CLUB DVEC STUDIO
	YEAR 8 PUPPET CLUB DRAMA STUDIO 2	YEAR 9 DRAMA CLUB STUDIO 2	GCSE & A LEVEL REHEARSAL TIME DRAMA STUDIOS 1 & 2 KS4 & 5 PRE-BOOKING ESSENTIAL	YEAR 8 (+DIRECTORS) JUNIOR DRAMA DRAMA STUDIOS 1 & 2 AND MAIN HALL
AFTER SCHOOL 15.45 - 16.45	YEAR 11 LIGHTING & SOUND CREW TRAINING LIGHTING GALLERY - MAIN HALL & STUDIO INVITE ONLY	YEAR 7 & 8 DRAMA SCHOLARS LIGHTING & SOUND CREW TRAINING LIGHTING GALLERY - MAIN HALL & STUDIO INVITE ONLY	YEAR 11 DVEC: DIGITAL VIDEO EDITING CLUB DVEC STUDIO	GCSE & A LEVEL REHEARSAL TIME DRAMA STUDIOS 1 & 2 KS4 & 5 PRE-BOOKING ESSENTIAL

COMPUTER SCIENCE GIRLS WHO CODE

Girls who Code is offering a FREE Summer Immersion Program to develop the skills needed for hobbies and careers in tech.

Visit girlswhocode.com/SIPApply for more information on how to apply.

GIRLS WHO CODE SUMMER IMMERSION PROGRAM



Apply today!
girlswhocode.com/sipapply

SIP is a FREE 2-week introductory computer science program for girls and non-binary students ages 15-18 years old. Learn the skills you need to make an impact, get an inside look into the tech field, and join a supportive lifelong sisterhood!

Learn more at girlswhocode.com/isipfaq.

JOIN A SISTERHOOD | MAKE AN IMPACT | PREPARE FOR A CAREER IN TECH



RELIGIOUS STUDIES

ALL THE LATEST FROM THE SWPS RS DEPARTMENT

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY

Year 9 students produced a piece of artwork which demonstrates the idea of 'light in the darkness'. in honour of this year's Holocaust Memorial Day.

Students have also been studying prejudice and discrimination and as part of this module they discussed the Holocaust to highlight what prejudice unchecked can lead to.

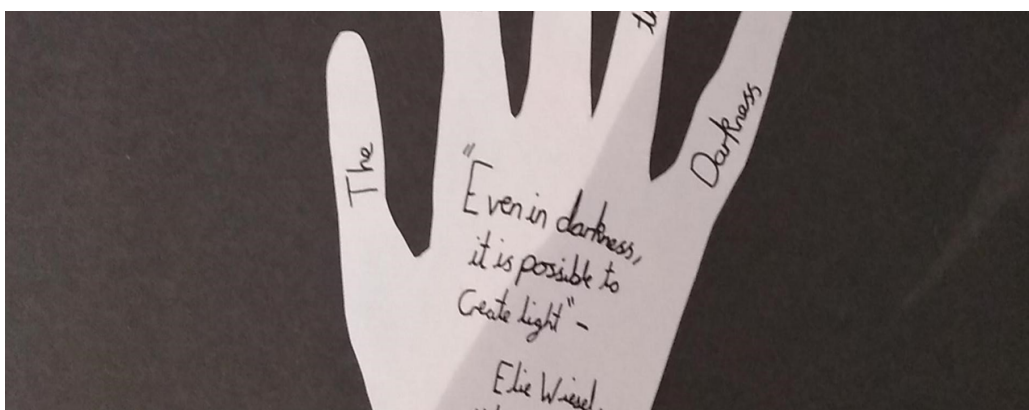


HOLOCAUST
MEMORIAL
DAY

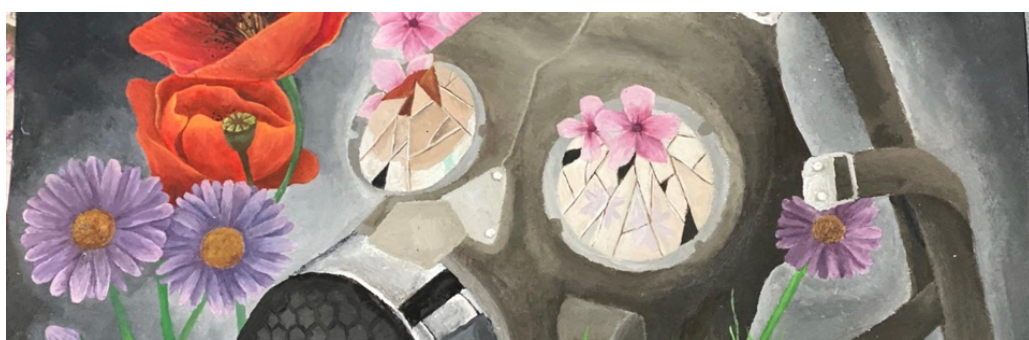
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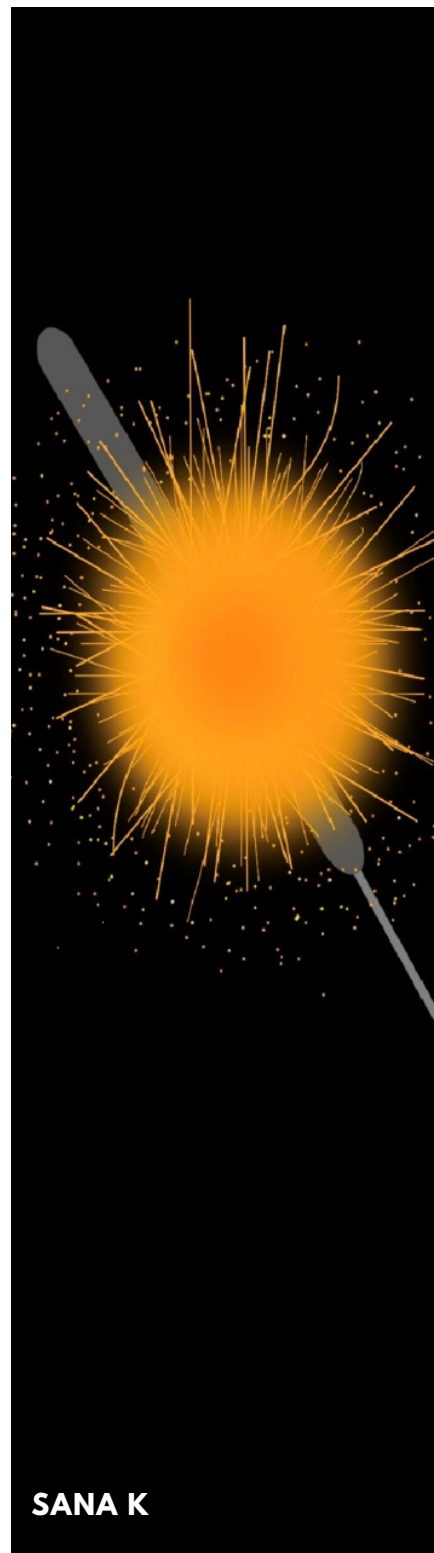
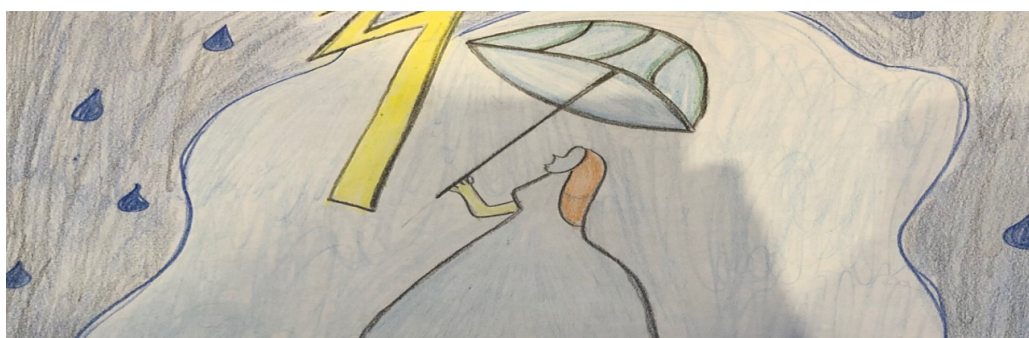
HARRIET R



AMY L



AMELIE H



SANA K

STEM

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, AND MATHEMATICS AT SWPS



SCIENCE WEEK AT SWPS

This week saw both British Science Week 2021 and International Women's Day 2021. To celebrate, all SWPS students took part in a Kahoot Quiz Challenge as part of the Friday Form Time Fun programme.

Rounds included topical science, fake news and facts, and 'Hidden Figures', designed to celebrate underrepresented female pioneers in Science, such as Rosalind Franklin, Marie Curie and Ada Lovelace.

PI DAY

Sunday 14 March marks the annual celebration of the mathematical constant π (pi). We encourage you to celebrate by eating foods that start with "Pi", such as pies, pizza, pine nuts, pineapple, or pickles.

Why not also tune in to a live listening session with Maths artist John Sims from 1.15pm until 2pm on Sunday.

[\(click here to visit the Exploratorium website\)](#)

PI ESTIMATE

We have come to estimate π often, and all of these have been used as approximations to π in the past. Which is the closest one?

A) 3	B) 3.14	C) $\frac{22}{7}$	D) 4	E) $\sqrt{10}$
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Check the end of the newsletter for the answer!

PI FACT

In 2019, a Google engineer set a new world record as she calculated Pi to 21 Trillion Digits!

UKMT INTERMEDIATE MATHS CHALLENGE SUCCESS

Last half term all of Year 10, as well as some Year 9 and 11 pupils, sat the UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge online. Last week we received the results and I am delighted to report that 37 students gained a Bronze award, 16 students gained a Silver award and seven students gained a Gold award.

Based on how well they did within their age category, nine students will now proceed to the next round of the challenge and complete the Intermediate Kangaroo next week. Well done to all those who took part and best of luck to the students progressing to the next round.

RASPBERRY PI FOUNDATION TECH FAIR

Find more information on the Raspberry Pi Tech Fair at: online.coolestprojects.org



SPORT

CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES FROM THE PE DEPARTMENT

KAITLIN'S WALKING ALL OVER CANCER THIS MARCH!

Congratulations to Kaitlin in Year 7 who is "Walking all over Cancer", walking 10,000 steps every day for Cancer Research UK.

Kaitlin has already smashed her donation target but if you'd like to help her raise even more, her fundraising link can be found below:

[fundraise.cancerresearchuk.org/
page/kaitlinhills-walk-all-over-
cancer-fundraising-page](https://fundraise.cancerresearchuk.org/page/kaitlinhills-walk-all-over-cancer-fundraising-page)



PE LESSONS

Over the next few weeks, during our PE lessons we will be doing a variety of activities, working in teams, solving challenges, using cross-curricular skills such as map reading, staying active, getting involved in competitions and tournaments for football, hockey and netball. Here are some photos from week 1 so far!



[@SWPSSPORT](https://twitter.com/SWPSSPORT)

SPORT

CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES FROM THE PE DEPARTMENT

LUNCHTIME & AFTERSCHOOL CLUBS & ACTIVITIES

We are back to our clubs this week. We are so excited to see everyone back and ready to play hockey, netball and badminton! It's great to see that our SWPS students have stayed active at home. Come and get involved, there are options every day at lunchtime and after school. Fingers crossed the weather stays on our side!!!

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
LUNCHTIME 1 12.40 - 13.10	YEAR 12/13 HOCKEY YEAR 10/11 CROSS COUNTRY	YEAR 10/11 HOCKEY	YEAR 10/11 NETBALL SHOOTING	YEAR 10/11 NETBALL	
LUNCHTIME 2 13.00 - 13.30	YEAR 8 NETBALL YEAR 9 NETBALL SHOOTING	YEAR 9 NETBALL YEAR 8 NETBALL SHOOTING YEAR 7 HOCKEY	YEAR 8 HOCKEY YEAR 7 BADMINTON	YEAR 9 HOCKEY YEAR 8 BADMINTON YEAR 7 NETBALL SHOOTING YEAR 7 CROSS COUNTRY	YEAR 7 NETBALL YEAR 9 BADMINTON
AFTER SCHOOL 15.45 - 16.45	YEAR 7 BADMINTON YEAR 10/11 HOCKEY YEAR 9 NETBALL YEAR 8 FITNESS	YEAR 9 BADMINTON YEAR 8 HOCKEY YEAR 10/11 NETBALL	YEAR 8 BADMINTON YEAR 9 HOCKEY YEAR 7 NETBALL	YEAR 10/11 BADMINTON YEAR 7 HOCKEY YEAR 8 NETBALL	

SPORTY CHALLENGES AT HOME

We have loved hearing about challenges people have set for themselves while they have been at home.

- Charlotte (Year 10) ran 100km for Frimley Park Hospital.
- Lottie and Kate (Year 8) walked a half marathon to raise money for Cancer Research! (pictured right)
- Elina (Year 8) recorded fantastic lockdown diaries!
- Lots of students joined Mr O'Connell and Miss Foxley's virtual hockey and netball clubs, getting involved in fun challenges and games.
- As you saw in the last newsletter, we had lots of entries for the Postbox challenge.
- Making sure we stayed connected, we played lots of virtual fitness games during our time apart.

Well done to all students, we have been very impressed and proud of your efforts.

