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## What an incredible start to our new school year!

This half term we have seen students working incredibly hard, supported by their families and our staff, to make the most of every opportunity available to them. Our new Year 7 students have made such a successful transition to Southam College; it has been wonderful to see them grow in confidence over the last 7 weeks as they settle into our school community, and we know they will continue to flourish.

We are also incredibly proud of the achievements of our 2021-2022 Y11 and Y13 cohorts in the summer. The progress our young people make across their time with us is truly

inspiring and the kind, confident and resilient young people they have grown into is a source of pride for us all. Many of them have now joined us in the sixth form or started on higher education and career paths and we wish them every success.

It's not just in the classroom that our students have shown they are going to make the most of this academic year: the memorable experiences our students have already participated in have been a joy to witness. Residential trips in the UK and Europe, European Day of Languages celebration, and the vast array of sporting and other extra-curricular activities have made sure

our year has got off to a great start. We are so grateful to our staff for facilitating these experiences and to families for supporting them. We can't wait to see what the next half term brings!

The last week has also seen significant changes confirmed for January 2023, with Headteacher posts for Southam and Oakley School, respectively, being confirmed for us. We both look forward to continuing to work within the Stowe Valley MAT.

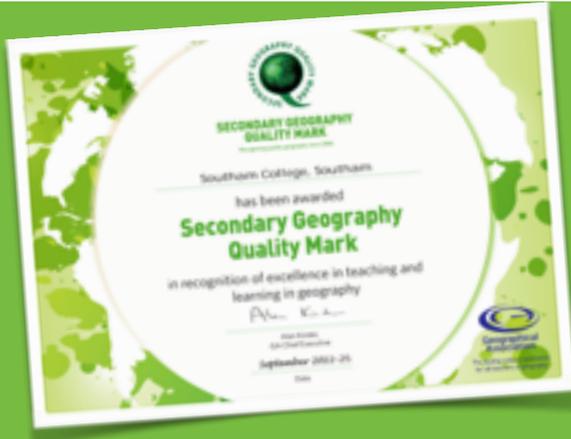
Wishing everyone a safe and enjoyable half term.

**Miss Mason and Mrs Kaye**

# Head Student Announcement



Simona O and Sophie T have both been successful in being appointed to the position as representatives of the school and student leadership team. As part of their appointment process, both students faced interviews with senior leaders, a staff vote and final student vote before being announced. We are excited by their ideas for developing student leadership at the school and wish both the very best of success for this academic year.



## Congratulations to our Geography Department

The Southam College Geography department are thrilled to have been awarded the Secondary Geography Quality Mark (SGQM) by the Geographical Association which we will hold till 2025.

This is an internationally accredited award currently held by under one hundred schools globally recognising the quality of the teaching offered. The accreditation assessment involved webinars, student voice, evidence of progress across the Key Stages as well as lesson submissions. The accreditation allowed the department to reflect on the Geography curriculum and continue to enhance it further. We are proud to say Southam College Geography department is gold standard!



# Great Start for the Sixth Form!

Welcome back to Year 13 students as we come to the end of the first half term of autumn. I have been impressed by the start that most Year 13s have made during this first half term – keep it up and you will continue to succeed!



It has also been a really good start for Y12 who have celebrated their GCSE results and now begin AS with relish. It's a massive step up from GCSE to A level, so it is really important to use time as wisely as possible and see your teachers or tutor if you are having any difficulties.

Overall, attendance in both years has been excellent. This is a really good start to the new academic year, keep it up!

**Mr Bradbury, Head of Sixth Form**

## UCAS Update

It's that time of year when Y13 students are thinking about their future – whether it is for university, employment or college, we are here to help. In terms of UCAS, the main time to be getting forms and personal statements completed is now. The sooner your form is completed, the sooner you will hear back and start receiving offers.

### Top tips for UCAS

1. Research your course options and university choices widely - there's loads of courses out there!
2. Check what type of degree you will be applying for - honours or foundation?
3. Find out what types of jobs you can get with the course you are applying for.
4. Research the methods of assessments for the different degree

courses - is it exams, coursework or a mixture?

5. Make sure you know what your predicted grades are for your application - these are not the same as your target grades!

6. Choose at least 2 back up options on your 5 choices in case you don't get offers from some courses.

7. Go on open days and visit as many places as possible - all universities are different.

8. Work hard on your personal statement and make it interesting - especially your opening line!

9. Don't leave it to the last minute - the earlier the better, especially for popular courses.

10. BE HONEST - it's your personal application and every personal statement is checked for plagiarism.

**Keep up to date with UCAS information, follow us on twitter [twitter.com/SouthamCollege](https://twitter.com/SouthamCollege)**



# Can You Help?

Southam College have several students aged 14-16 interested in a career in the construction industry. A small number of students would benefit from valuable work experience out on site to help them gain experience in the field that they wish to progress into.

If you may be able to offer a placement for one day per week or more, over 8 weeks or more, please contact **Mr Hughes – [hughes.a@stowevalley.com](mailto:hughes.a@stowevalley.com)**  
If you are not able to offer a placement at this time but would be interested in finding out more for possible placement in the future please feel free to get in touch also.



Congratulations to Libby who took the stage at the Godiva festival this month. Joining the band Spark, she played guitar in front of a huge crowd and tells us she loved every minute.

Well done Libby!



## Whitemoor Lakes Trip

Well done to all of 10WG8, who worked well to overcome some personal challenges and fears, by working as a group and supporting each other.

Both Mrs Wilde and Mr Johnson are extremely proud of how well they worked together as a tutor group



# The Great European Bake Off



First of all we would like to say a massive thank you to all students who entered the Bake off. We had 56 entrants and raised £91.50 in the bake sale for the school charity.

We had 1 overall winner and runners up in 2 categories - Taste and Appearance.

## Overall Winner

1st Eben J - 8GV3

## Taste

2nd Daniel J - 10SE7

3rd Rose P - 7SE1

4th Bertie M - 7WH1

## Appearance

2nd Joshua C – 7GV1

3rd Josh C -7WE2

4th Joseph B – 7SE1

*Well done to you all.*

# Online Workshops



Mrs Spencer and Mrs Johnson would like to say a massive GRACIAS and MERCI to all of our Y8 students who participated in our online workshops with Spanish and French schools. We know it can be daunting to speak to your peers in another language, and we were very proud of how much you immersed yourself in the experience. We hope you enjoyed the chance to talk with the students and we definitely appreciated your efforts singing in Spanish and French! The organisation and partner schools have complimented Southam College students on how well they conducted themselves during the sessions and we want to echo this sentiment.

**Estupendo! Formidable!**



# WWI Battlefields Trip

The History department took 100 Year 10 students on the WWI Battlefields trip in October. We were so impressed with the attitude, interest and respect that all students showed towards the important sites we visited and many members of the public commented on how wonderful our students were. We visited a range of sites connected with the Battle of the Somme and the battles around the Ypres area, for example: Thiepval memorial, Lochnagar crater, Tyne Cot cemetery and Langemark German cemetery. Students also had the opportunity to experience the Last Post ceremony at the Menin Gate in Ypres and three students laid a wreath on behalf of Southam College. As well as historical visits, students were also able to experience a traditional Belgian chocolate shop! Planning is already underway for our 2023 Battlefields trip, and we are looking forward to taking the next group of students on this important memorable experience.

***Mrs Meredith***



## Cameron Dowling

The family of Cameron, a Southam student who sadly lost his life just before his A level exams in 2022, bequeathed his double bass to the school in his memory. A plaque is attached to the case to commemorate his life.



The instrument belonged to  
Cameron Dowling.  
2004-2022  
Amazing musician  
Will be forever missed

We are all proud of Cameron at Southam and he touched many people in his time here. This generous gift will allow other students to follow Cameron's love of music and play this incredibly valuable instrument in his memory.

We would like to thank his family for this gesture and Cameron will always be remembered by those who knew him at our school.

# Cirdan Sailing Trip



The Cirdan Sailing Trust invited Southam College to send a crew of 4 students and 2 staff to take part in the ASTO Small Ships Race aboard 'Duet', a 70ft Edwardian gaff-rigged yawl from 1912. We set off on 21st Sept and joined the yacht at Gosport Marina, before embarking on our 'voyage', spending 2 days sailing her up and down the famous waters of the Solent before mooring at Cowes for the start of the race on Sat 24th Sept. Over 20 vessels from all around the

South Coast took part in the event, including crews of young people from across the country. Duet was the oldest boat in the race, but held her own, out pacing many newer boats with more experienced crews. In the end we came 3rd in our class and 12th overall, a fantastic achievement for our students, who competed with great maturity and confidence.

It was an amazing experience, aboard a historic sailing boat, and one that I hope will remain in the memories of all those who participated for many years to come.

Many thanks to BAM, our new School building contractors, who generously helped to fund this trip and make it possible for our students to experience such an unforgettable trip.

## Congratulations Tom

A Huge Congratulations to Y11 Student Tom who has been selected to play for Northampton Saints DPP for the 2022-23 season. Tom plays outside centre and we are extremely proud of his achievements and look forward to seeing his progress this year! Well Done Tom.



# English Schools Cross Country Cup

**Monday 11th October - It was the return of the first round of the English schools cross country cup at Princethorpe. The Southam College team took on the famous course to try and secure fast times to qualify for the regional round.**

First up to face the course was the junior girls, their job was to complete 1 small loop and one large loop. The best of the team was Bella with a storming run finishing in 7th place. Bethan had her first outing representing Southam and managed to finish in 14th place beating a lot of yr8 runners. Tammy, Xanthe and Summer also had good runs fighting against the wind up the long hill finishing in 25th, 32nd and 38th respectively.

Next was the junior boys turn, their route was slightly longer seeing them face 2 small loops followed by 1 large one. Emilio went out hard from the off getting himself inside the top 10 after the first lap. He managed to hold his form throughout finishing in 8th position. Charlie and Oliver had their own battle between themselves, seeing Charlie get the better of him into 18th place whilst Oliver lost a shoe in 19th place. Strong runs from the rest of team saw them finish in (21st) Finn, (23rd) Tom, (24th) Harvey and (26th) Adrian.

The final race for the Southam team was the inter girls race. Esme and Rosa went out hard on the first lap trying to establish positions and pace. Rosa managed to get the better of Esme in the back field nudging herself further towards the front of the pack. A good second half of the race saw Rosa finish in 7th position with Esme hot on her heels into 9th. Eva and Grace both had gutsy runs and dug in deep until the end and came home in 16th and 18th respectively. These runs were good enough to see the girls finish in 3rd place in the team standings and possibly securing a spot in the regional round in November.

All in all a great afternoon of running, there were some really fantastic performances by all and you should be really proud.

***Well done, Mrs Turton and Mr MacGibbon***



# A fantastic weekend at Condover Hall



**The year 11 netball team enjoyed an amazing weekend at Condover hall. The weekend involved a combination of adventure activities and a netball tournament.**

There were some outstanding performances from all players across the 2 teams on the Saturday. Southam 1 remained undefeated during day 1 (knowing the toughest teams were still to be played). Amelia was on fire in the shooting circle and with the 3 defenders Chloe, Scarlet and Chloe grinding down their players gave the team a goal difference of 89.

Southam 2 had a great start winning the first match convincingly thanks to great shooting from Freya and Phoebe, however they had 2 very close defeats seeing them finish day 1 in 7th.

Southam 2 started the second day off with a win against Herewood, and had a fantastic match against the Shottery A team thanks to a fired up Ella and Issy in defence continuously turning over the ball. However it was not enough for the win and the girls finished in 7th place but fantastic effort.

Day 2 saw a mixed bag of results for Southam 1 losing to Northwich A and Shottery A but still securing their place in the semifinals. They drew Northwich A again but this time the girls were calm and collected and managed to nudge ahead 10-8. Meaning it was a Southam v Shottery final. The girls had a wobbly first half being down 4 goals, but at half time the hero of the day, Chloe H stepped on at GS and created a confidence amongst the team that pulled them back to a 10-10 draw at the end of full time. The girls battled through the final 4mins but unfortunately lost 15-12 in extra time.

The girls were amazing from start to finish, producing some of the best netball they've ever played together but also representing the school brilliantly and were real role models throughout.

**Well done girls,  
Mrs Turton and Miss Owen**



# LEAVE OF ABSENCE DURING TERM TIME UPDATED INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

The Supreme Court recently reached a decision in the case of *Platt v Isle of Wight Council* which has clarified the law on unauthorised leave, including holidays, during term time. The parents of children of compulsory school age are required to ensure that they attend school on a regular basis. The Supreme Court has made clear that attending school 'regularly' means that the children must attend school on every day that they are required to do so. As such, the parents of any child who is absent from school without authorisation for any length of time are likely to be considered as committing an offence under s444 of the Education Act 1996.

Head Teachers retain the ability to authorise leave in accordance with the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006. When considering such requests for a leave of absence, the school are obliged to act within the law. Head Teachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances relating to the application. If the leave is granted, head teachers are able to determine the number of school days a child can be absent for.

It is for the Head Teacher to decide what is 'exceptional' and it is at their discretion if the circumstances warrant the leave to be granted. The school can only consider Leave of Absence requests which are made by the 'resident' parent.

Each application for a leave of absence will be considered on a case by case basis and on its own merits.

Where applications for leave of absence are made in advance and refused, the child will be required to be in school on the dates set out in the application. If the child is absent during that period, it will be recorded as an unauthorised absence, which may result in legal action being taken against the parent(s), by way of a Fixed Penalty Notice.

Failure to make an application for leave in advance can also result in a Fixed Penalty Notice being issued to the parent(s).

All matters of unauthorised absence relating to a Leave of Absence will be referred to the Warwickshire Attendance Service, part of Warwickshire County Council

**It is important to note, Fixed Penalty Notices are issued to each parent of each absent child, (for example 2 children and 2 parents, means each parent will receive 2 invoices in the amount of £120 each, totalling £240 for both children, this is reduced to £60 per child if paid within 21 days).**

**Where a Fixed Penalty Notice is not paid within the required timeframe as set out on the notice, the matter will be referred to Warwickshire County Council's Legal Services to consider instigating criminal proceedings under S444 Education Act 1996.**

Fixed Penalty Notices are issued in accordance with Warwickshire County Council's Code of Conduct for Penalty Notices.

**Your child's progress academically as well as socially is our shared priority**

**Warwickshire School pupils recorded 31,196 half day sessions of absence due to holiday in the Autumn term 2019.**



**Southam  
College**



PTSA

# QUIZ NIGHT

In the Core, Southam College

Prizes for winning teams and proceeds go back into the school.

Friday 18th  
November

Doors open at: 07:00pm  
Quiz starts at: 07:30pm

£5

per person /  
team of up  
to 6 adults

Raffle | Well stocked, licensed bar | Snacks



Book your table by contacting Nicola Ryder on  
[nicolaryder67@gmail.com](mailto:nicolaryder67@gmail.com)



Please give your team name when booking.