

CollegeNews

December 2022



Southam
College

Contents

Headteacher [Page 2](#)

Steel Signing [Page 3](#)

Wellbeing Week [Page 4](#)

Recruitment Event [Page 8](#)

Sport News [Page 9](#)

Steel Signing Ceremony



Like us on
Facebook



Another busy half term



It is a privilege to be able to reflect on the achievements of students and opportunities that staff have provided over another busy half term. The whole school have participated in events on Anti-Bullying, Wellbeing and Human Rights this half term. All of these events support in broadening our horizons, adding to our knowledge, and understanding how we all impact the people around us, near and far. Year 11 have completed their first set of examinations for the Year and I know that Years 9, 12 and 13 are preparing for assessments in the New Year.

Thank you to parents and carers for your ongoing support, we appreciated the input at this half term's Parent Forums and are working on actions from these events for the Spring Term. Please do visit the school website and Year Blogs for updates throughout the term.

Wishing you a safe and enjoyable Christmas Holiday and looking forward to working together in 2023!

Miss Mason, Headteacher



As we approach the end of the autumn term, and my final term working here, I would like to congratulate everyone at Southam College for the truly wonderful school community they have created. Since joining Southam College in 2011, I have been privileged to see many students, past and present, flourish into kind, confident and resilient young people. I have also been privileged to work with a staff body who are committed to providing our students with an excellent quality of education. Whilst my new role starts officially in January, I will still be a regular visitor here at Southam College and

can't wait to see the achievements of our students as we head into the spring term. Thank you to everyone for making Southam College such a special place to be.

Mrs Kaye, Headteacher

Steel Signing Ceremony



As the construction of the steel frame, for the new £30m school build, draws toward completion we were delighted to take part in the steel signing ceremony at school this week.

A student from each year group joined members of the Department of Education, BAM Contractors, school staff, our Chair of Governors, the Chair of the Trust, Stowe Valley CEO and Southam Counsellor A John in signing one of the steels for the frame. We were then able to watch this be craned into place, as part of the roof for the new school hall. One of our

Head Students, Sophie Thurlow, also added the school values of kindness, confidence and resilience in a momentous day in the development of the new school site. We were able to take time to reflect on the changes that have occurred since the school was first designed and built from 1956, with an initial build cost of £132,000. Thank you to everyone who was able to contribute to the ceremony, a day that will be reflected on for many years to come and names that will remain in the fabric of the school for its lifetime.

Miss Mason, Headteacher





Wellbeing Week

Our whole school "Wellbeing Week" is based on the NHS "Five ways to wellbeing". This year we launched an 'action' campaign called "New Ways For November". Throughout the week we had information stalls and assemblies which were led by students from the Sixth Form Wellbeing Team.

Monday was our "Be Active" day. Savannah in Year 12 completed her charity dance-a-thon raising money for charities. We also welcomed our external visitor, Clare, who delivered pilates and circuits to both staff and students.

Tuesday was our "Take Notice" focus day which involved a safeguarding workshop from 'Safer Together' for years 9, 10 and 12 organised by Miss Parr. Mrs Sharpe also ran the jewellery creation workshop creating bracelets to be donated to a local charity called 'Gift to Lift' for teenage blood cancer patients. Staff also received 'Twilight Sweet Treats' at the training session from our Sixth Form Wellbeing team. For our "Keep Learning" day, we welcomed the EMHP's from the NHS Mental Health in Schools Team to lead a workshop on "creating calm" for Sixth Form students. Sixth Form students also had the opportunity to volunteer to take part in real life research with the University College London (UCL), "Incorporating medical students into school based skin cancer education". Students received a workshop from "Saving Skin" from Alex W who is a Doctor. We were also privileged to have Chris Dove from the West Midlands Ambulance service visit to provide Emergency First Aid training to our Sixth Form students alongside Year 13 student Will S. Students learned about CPR, the recovery position,

defibrillators, choking, excessive bleeding, strokes and seizures. We also received knowledge on fractures, burns, scalds and 'spiking' of drinks.

For our "Connect" focus day on the Thursday, Sixth Form students organised the positive post cards ready for the delivery to staff and students. We welcomed Pete and Dave, alongside Bob and Storm the emotional support swim dogs into school. So many smiles, laughter and joy experienced with our special furry friend visitors. Mrs Keech led a Sonic the Hedgehog raffle, sale of keyrings and "squishmallows".

For our 'Give' focus for this year we took part in several trips and experiences. The Sixth Form Wellbeing Team volunteered for a local Baby Bank, we visited several times to Galanos House to "Engage with the Aged" enjoying singing, dancing and bingo! As a whole school we have contributed to helping families in need this winter with a phenomenal response to the baby bank campaign. Items are being handed over to baby project at "Carriers of Hope" charity in Coventry to be distributed to asylum seekers and refugees, as well as "Baby Godiva" charity. We have also done a "Confectionary Christmas campaign" for local hospital staff and patients.

We are so proud of every student who took part, tried a new experience and a special mention to the wonderful Sixth Form Wellbeing team who showed incredible leadership skills. Thanks to all visitors who have attended and staff for supporting the week. We hope our students and staff have had a week of reflection on the importance of their own and others' wellbeing. A memorable experience for all.

Ten Shot Film Challenge

On Tuesday 8th November 20 Year 10 budding film makers set out to complete the Ten Shot Film Challenge run by the Young Film Makers Academy. Their challenge was to create a film using only 10 individual shots, having filmed and edited in a single day. The initial rain couldn't dampen their spirits and they set out filming during periods 1-3 and editing during periods 4 and 5. This was a great opportunity for the Media Studies Students to practice their practical and creative skills.

Year 10 exceeded all expectations and produced six amazing short films - Mrs Bretherton and Miss Darketts even turned their hand to acting to make cameo appearances! We look forward to the films being screened at the end of the year. Well done Year 10!

Miss Darketts
Head of Media Studies.



Anti-Bullying Week

"We the Head students are very excited to announce a new wave of student leadership at Southam College. The Prefect team along with the new Year 13 leaders have come together to establish a new level of student leadership that aims to amplify the student voice so that the pupils here at Southam College know they go to a school where their voice will be heard, and their opinions won't go unnoticed.

Sophie, Head Student

Spanish Exchange

The Modern Foreign Languages department were really excited this month to be able to welcome our guests from the Spanish school IES Zaframagón in Olvera, Spain. 15 students and 2 teachers came over



to take part in the Spanish exchange programme and to experience British school and family life. This is the second time we have done an exchange with this school (the first was pre-covid) and we're so pleased to have it running again this year.

It was a fantastic week; it was wonderful to see our Southam students practising their Spanish and making our guests feel welcome. They took part in lots of lessons, and we took them to the Stratford MAD museum, did medieval battle skills at Warwick Castle and they had a meet and greet with our very own Southam Mayor who told them all about our local history.

Our Southam families also really looked after them in their free time with trips to the Birmingham Christmas markets, the Cotswolds, London and a Coventry City football match to name but a few. They even got to taste some British staples - Sunday dinners and fish and chips.

Overall, it was a resounding success, the Spanish students were really grateful for the wonderful hospitality of our families and are looking forward to returning the favour in March when we go to visit them.

We'd like to send a big GRACIAS to all those involved.

Mrs Spencer and Ms Brereton, Spanish Department



Southam College Christmas Trees

Kindly donated

by Mr Gary Collins of Deppers Bridge
Christmas Trees 07768 594 363

Southam Lions International Peace poster competition

Well done to Seb, Year 7 for his fantastic entry to the Southam Lions International Peace poster competition. His winning entry has now been chosen for the first round of the local competition.

Students were asked to create a piece of artwork in response to this year's theme of, 'Lead with compassion.'

Well done to Ada and Lennon who came runners-up!

Good luck to Seb for the next round.



Maths Week

To celebrate Maths Week England, students in Years 7 & 8 took part in a Maths Teacher Treasure Hunt where they searched for teachers that were wearing a prime number, a square number or even a triangular number, among other categories.

The Maths Department were blown away by the number of entries and the enthusiasm with which the students approached the challenge. It was lovely to see students engaging in mathematical discussions about the different types of numbers they had collected.

PTSA Quiz

Thank you to everyone that supported the PTSA quiz on Friday 18th November. A brilliant event with a great variety of rounds, thank you to the PTSA for all of their hard work in putting this on.

Please do look out for future events and come and support the PTSA in raising funds for our students.



Stowe Valley Recruitment Event



We were delighted to welcome everyone to our Recruitment Event at Southam College. Those who came were able to find out more about our schools and what it is like to work within the Stowe Valley MAT.

Our Headteachers and Central Team representatives spoke passionately about our belief in providing an excellent education for children and young people, and how valuable the people who work in our schools are to realising this ambition. Thank you to everyone who attended.

If you would like any further information about current opportunities in our Trust, please visit www.stowevalleymat.com



Movember

We have all really enjoyed participating in Movember this year to raise awareness and money for all men's health. It was a very small sacrifice for such an important cause. Thank you all for donating!



Sports News

A huge congratulations to Year 9 students Eva and Frankie who have been selected for the Warwickshire County Girls Football Team. We are so proud of your achievements!

Well done ladies!

Mr Turton and the PE department



Grace Swimming Club success

City of Coventry Swimming Club success and participation in the Swim England Talent Pathway County Development Programme run by Warwickshire Amateur Swimming Association (WASA).

In October Grace competed with the City of Coventry Swimming Club at the City of Cambridge SC Grand Prix taking part in a number of races covering a variety of distances and strokes. She won a total of 3 golds, 2 silvers and 1 bronze medal in her age group. For some of her race times she now ranks in the top 15 of all female swimmers within her age group in the UK.

Grace was also chosen to take part in the Swim England Talent Pathway run by WASA and led by the Warwickshire County Head Coach assisted by coaches selected from clubs within the county.

Sporting Success

Early December saw the first in the series of the British Schools Trampoline competition. The West Midlands heat took place at Action Indoor sports , Birmingham.

Francesca , who trampolines for Central Galaxy Coventry at a national level, competed in the Elite Female Year 7-9 category against 5 other competitors . Each competitor performed a set routine and a routine of their choice. Francesca performed a 10 somersault routine including a double back somersault to win the silver medal. It was a close competition with only 0.4 points between the first and second place. This means that she has qualified through to the next event and will represent Southam College in January at the zonal school's championships in Hinckley to try and qualify for the semi finals.

Well done Francesca, we are very proud of your achievements!



P.E. Success

A big thank you to students and staff for all of the extra-curricular activities this term! We've had a blockbuster term including over 50 fixtures across Basketball, Football, Rugby, Netball as well as 3 x-country meets and 1 swimming gala. The PE department want to say a massive thank you to all who have participated in all fixtures and attended our Badminton, Trampolining, Gymnastics and Cheerleading clubs!

We look forward to seeing you all when clubs re-commence from Monday 9th January 2023! Well done Francesca, we are very proud of your achievements!



DECEMBER 2022





... with your Year group

... with your learning

... with friends

... with rewards



... with support

... with clubs and memorable experiences

... with your personal development

... with your tutor and staff

... with your House

Kindness
Confidence
Resilience

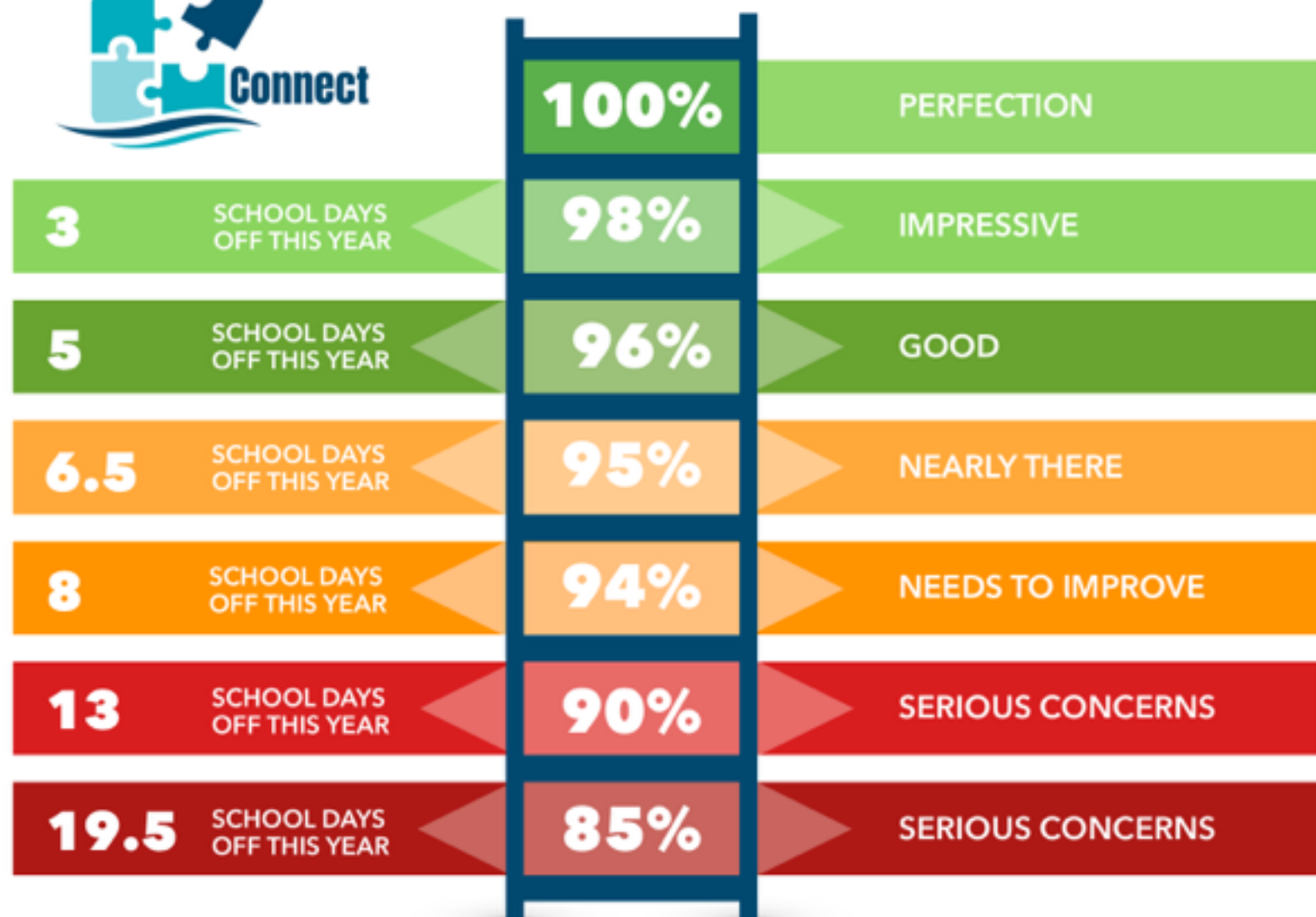
... with your future career path

Attendance Ladder

Autumn, Spring 2022/2023



Total possible school days -129 days



Department for Education statistics show that students with 100% attendance are 2.2 times more likely to achieve 5+ GCSEs at 9-5 including English and Maths than pupils with lower than 90% attendance. Every day and every lesson matters!

We know parents try wherever possible to not have medical appointments during the school day in order to avoid missed lesson time and a reduction in school attendance. However we appreciate this is not always avoidable, therefore please try to book appointments using student social times, such as between 10.30-12.30am mark which will use break and lunchtime and therefore minimises lost lesson times. This can ensure that students are in school for the other 4 lessons and only missing part of one lesson, rather than losing morning or afternoon lessons. Thank you for your on-going support with this.

There is always someone that can

HELP



During the Christmas holidays the **Safeguarding team** want to remind you that support is available



CHILDLINE

You can talk to us about anything. No problem is too big or too small.
Telephone 0800 1111



RUNAWAY HELPLINE

If you are thinking about running away, if you have already run away, or if you have been away and come back. You can also contact the Helpline if you are worried that someone else is going to run away or if they are being treated badly or abused.

Telephone 116 000 www.runawayhelpline.org.uk



SAMARITANS

24hr service offering emotional support.

Telephone 116 123 **Email** jo@samaritans.org



LOOK AHEAD

Works with vulnerable people throughout the UK, those with learning difficulties, mental health, young people and the homeless.

Telephone 0333 010 4600 www.lookahead.org.uk/



STAY SAFE YOUNG MINDS

If you feel overwhelmed, or like you want to hurt yourself, support is available for you to talk things through. You deserve help as soon as you need it.

Telephone 0800 068 4141 **Text 85258**



KOOTH

Safe, anonymous online community and counselling for young people

Kooth.com



Stowe Valley
MULTI ACADEMY TRUST
SAFEGUARDING & CHILD PROTECTION

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**