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The new build continues to progress with changes seen everyday; its current purple exterior is quite a contrast to the older buildings behind it.

A busy term



As my first half term as Headteacher at Southam College comes to an end I marvel at how much we can fit into a seven week period. We have just supported Children's Mental Health Week and it is a joy to see how powerful the work of our Sixth Form students is on the whole school community. We have also seen several groups of Sixth Form students head overseas to Paris and Iceland recently, as well as students in the younger years heading out

on Duke of Edinburgh more locally. From trip and visits to speakers on knife crime and the holocaust, it really has been an enriching half term.

All of these activities enhance the school experience for students and add to the high quality, day to day, teaching and learning that takes place in classrooms in registration and lesson time. If you would like to know more about what your child is learning, please do go to the Curriculum tab on our website as well as having a look at tasks on Class Charts.

Students in Years 9, 10, 12 and 13 have all completed Pre-Public Exams this half term and I have been impressed with their work ethic and desire to progress in their learning. With Year

11 PPEs straight after half term we are keen for students to have all of the support they need to achieve their potential and will be running another in person parent/carer event for Years 10, 11, 12 and 13 next half term. We hope to build on these opportunities to welcome you into school.

Our final event for this half term is the 24 hour netball; I know that this is a huge commitment from everyone taking part and will support the Heads of House in their drive to raise £10,000 for Dogs for Good this year. We are already well on our way to naming the first puppy so keep the fundraising ideas coming.

Have an enjoyable half term.

Miss Mason, Head teacher

SOUTHAM COLLEGE READING MATTERS TO ALL OF US

How Parents and Carers Can Support Young People to Read



Be the best you can be!

READING MATTERS TO ALL OF US

Reading regularly and independently has been shown to improve concentration, improve mental health and to be linked to improved exam results in all subjects (not just English!)

However, there has been a decrease in the number of young people (particularly of secondary school age) who read independently every day. A 2022 survey commissioned by the National Literacy Trust concluded that only 28% of 8-18 year olds read daily, the lowest figure since they started commissioning this research.

SO WHAT CAN WE DO TO CHANGE THIS?

- Evidence suggests that reading for just 15 minutes a day can make a huge difference. Encourage your child to read for 15 minutes a day without distractions. If they get into this reading routine, they are more likely to develop positive reading habits.
- Encourage your child to visit the school library; our librarian Mrs Jones has a wealth of knowledge and will happily recommend books to cater to a variety of interests.
- Encourage your child to take part in library events and House reading competitions.

WHERE CAN I FIND FURTHER INFORMATION?

All of our upcoming reading events and competitions can be accessed via our new-look reading website:

www.southamcollege.com/students/library

Here you will find regularly updated lists of recommended novels for young people of all ages, a calendar of reading events and competitions and - coming soon - recommendations for reading in each of the subject areas.

READING EVENTS FOR THE SPRING TERM

Poetry by Heart

January to March: A national poetry recital competition. Find out more here: www.poetrybyheart.org.uk

World Book Day

2nd March: A programme of events and competitions coming soon

Tier 2 Vocabulary Bee

17th March: Years 9 and 10 have been learning tier 2 (academic) vocabulary and will compete in a House Competition to see who has mastered these essential words!



Kindness Confidence Resilience

MORE INFORMATION
www.southamcollege.com



House Achievement Awards

We started the Spring Term 2023 with uplifting house assemblies to celebrate students' Autumn Term Successes. Each house gathered and their Head of House recognised students who had earned the most HAPs within their house and year group, up to Christmas: a culmination of effort in lots of areas through the Autumn Term.

Awards were also given out for subjects, each subject selected one student from each year group to recognise achievement and one student from each year group to recognise effort in the Autumn Term. Students received certificates and also a house badge, that can be worn on blazers, to recognise being selected out of so many hard working students. These assemblies celebrated students from Years 7 to 13 and it was fantastic to see students starting the term with such positives.

During these assemblies Heads of House acknowledged all of the excellent effort and achievement students put into their school time and praised their house for pulling together to challenge in the House Competition This competition is still very open and we look forward to seeing who is in the lead at the end of this term.

This awards assembly is a new celebration, adding to the annual end of year awards we traditionally run, and another set of awards will take place at the start of the spring term. More house badges and HAPs will be available this term.

If you see someone with a house badge please do enquire what they earned this for.

Miss Mason

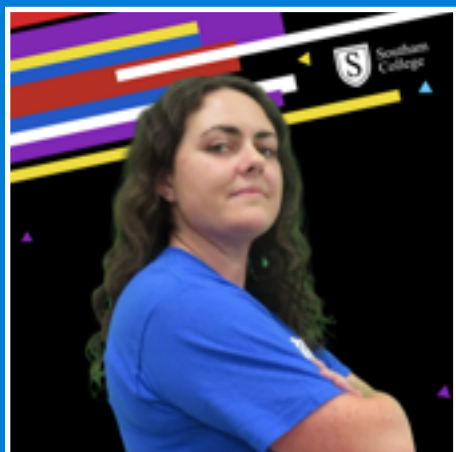


£3880 raised towards our **£10,000** goal



CHARITY OF THE YEAR - **DOGS FOR GOOD**

Introducing our Heads of House



Ms Cunningham - Head of Godiva

Being lucky enough to be Head of Godiva for the last year and a half has been an absolute pleasure, and what a year last year was. Starting off with our fantastic day out on our Rewards Trip for our previous House Cup win, followed by taking Sports Day by storm, winning three out of four possible trophies as well as the all-important overall winner! We had huge successes in creative, sporting and academic competitions across the board, with fantastic effort from our House. That is a tough year to follow, but I'm sure that the confidence, kindness and resilience embodied by Godiva pupils will carry us through to more victories this year.

Ms Brereton - Head of Shakespeare

Being the Head of Shakespeare is one of the highlights of my job here at Southam. I promote and see all the wonderful talents and celebrate the well-deserved successes of our Shakespeare students. Shakespeare have made a cracking start to the year and are in second place behind Webb Ellis for classroom HAPS. We need to keep up the momentum this term and ensure our participation in all competitions to make sure we clinch that top spot by the end of the year.



Mr Elkerton - Head of Webb Ellis

Well Webb Ellis what a great year you had last year. Champions! You should be proud of the high standards you met. Your efforts in all avenues of school life are a credit to you. We have much to fight for with the other houses snapping at our heels. To newcomers to the house - get stuck in and contribute to a great house. Remember you only get out of life what you put in! To the 'old guard' - continue to fight and be proud to be Webb Ellis!

Mrs Turton- Head of Whittle

Don't Wait for Opportunity, Create it.

This year I really want Whittle students to take every opportunity that is offered to them. Whether this is through academic competitions, physical challenges or social situations. I think it is imperative that students make the most of their time at Southam College and challenge themselves to allow them to develop and flourish into the best students they possibly can be. I hope I can help guide them and lead them to success this year.

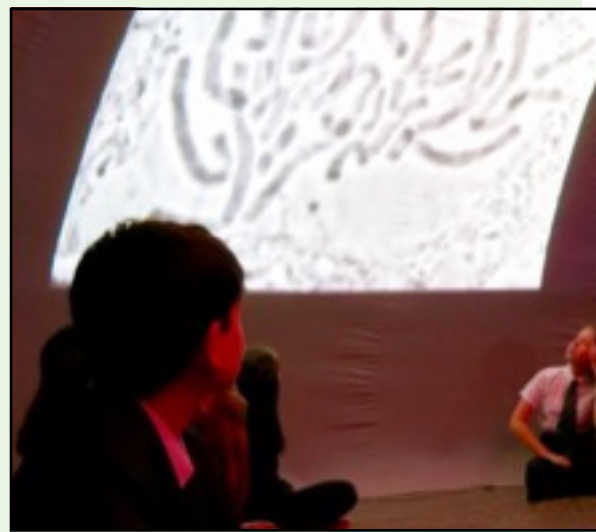


Explorer Dome Science Shows

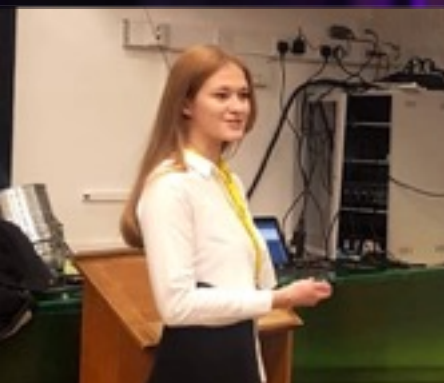
Year 7 students all enjoyed an immersive multi-sensory journey. This started 13.8 billion years ago with the moment where the Universe began as a tiny, dense fireball that exploded or 'The Big Bang' and took us on adventure through time which culminated in a look at some of the unusual genetically engineered organisms of the modern world. During this show we were able to study life processes, different cells, the structure of DNA as well as the intricacies of cell division, genetic engineering, natural selection, extinction and even the evolution of life itself.

Students were totally engaged with this experience and asked some excellent questions, very well-done year 7!

We would like to say thank you to our talented presenters Matt and Josh from Explorer Dome for delivered such engaging and imaginative sessions



**HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL
DAY
27 JANUARY**



To mark Holocaust Memorial day on 27th January, Mrs Mali with the help of Sixth Formers Evie DuBois and Elliot Barlow, led the assemblies exploring the theme of ordinary people who suffered at the hands of the Nazis during WW2. Evie and Elliot spoke eloquently about why Holocaust education is so important in today's society and talked about their participation in the incredible Lessons from Auschwitz project where both pupils will have the memorable and life changing opportunity to visit Auschwitz-Birkenau camp in Poland in March.

All pupils listened intently to the message of tolerance, love and kindness during the assemblies.



**HOLOCAUST
MEMORIAL
DAY TRUST**

Warwickshire Early Help Awards

On Wednesday 25th January we were delighted to attend the Early Help Awards, celebrating professionals across the county for their exceptional work in supporting families and children.

Mrs Erroi, Head of Year, was awarded the Lead Professional of the Year for the Stratford District. This was awarded for “working tirelessly to support young people and their families” and for being “proactive and reactive but maintaining the best interests of the families at heart at all times”.

The Early Help process is supported by professionals in all schools and it is a testament to Mrs Erroi’s dedication to be selected for this award when there is so much excellent work taking place across the district.

Congratulations to Mrs Erroi, we are all delighted to see you be recognised for your efforts within school and the community.

Poetry Live!

Well done Year 10 for a great day at Poetry Live! We heard from poets on our Power and Conflict cluster, including: Carol Ann Duffy, Simon Armitage, and John Agard. We hope this boosts your revision for your PPE.



Connect Drop in

If you have any questions or would like support regarding your child's attendance, you are now able to book online appointments with Mr Richter, Attendance Lead at Southam - every Monday between 11.30am-12.30pm via <https://southamcollege.schoolcloud.co.uk>



National Heart Awareness Week 7th February to 14th February

Miss Burrows' son Lochlan was born with congenital heart disease (CHD) and has undergone 2 heart surgeries so far, at Birmingham Children's Hospital. We also have students in our school with congenital heart disease.

Some symptoms include: cold clammy hands, breathlessness and a blue tinge around the mouth/fingernails. If you or a family member are experiencing any of these, please get your heart checked by your GP.

Miss Burrows and her family are walking from Great Ormond street in London, to Birmingham Children's Hospital (110 miles), in order to raise money to fund a room where parents can stay by their child's bedside. If you would like to read more about their story, or if you would like to donate, [click here](#)



Napton Music Festival Trust

We were honoured to welcome the Trustees of Napton Music Festival Trust into school to see our music lessons in action and enjoy a tour of our facilities. They were treated to a rousing performance of Djembe drumming from a group of Y7 students, and we're so grateful for their support which allows us to continue offering these much valued small group lessons.



Iceland Trip

The Year 13 Geography trip to Iceland, 'the land of fire and ice' was an incredible experience! From waterfalls to geysirs, volcanic craters and beaches to geothermally heated greenhouses, the students experienced all that Iceland had to offer, including every type of weather imaginable! We also stood on the margin of the Eurasian Plate and North American Plate. Bathing in the Secret Lagoon, while it snowed around us on the first morning was also a highlight on this incredible trip. The students were amazing and made the most of every moment of the four days spent in beautiful Iceland!



Sports News

The year 8 Basketball team took a short trip to Rugby Free Secondary School for their last scheduled Jr NBA game as they faced the hosts and Sydney Stringer, having lost to both teams previously, before Christmas. Southam's first game was against Sydney Stringer who comfortably won their first encounter against Southam 32-10 but our year 8s were up to the challenge having drastically improved since that fixture. Southam started strong as they kept to their game plan and scored points inside the paint. Sydney Stringer became alert to this and were able to slow the scoring down, but the game remained close as the third quarter ended 10-10.

Unfortunately, Sydney Stringer managed to pull away in the fourth quarter, but the final 16-12 loss was proof of Southam's commitment and improvement.

Southam's second game was against Rugby Free who had beaten Southam by a small margin in their first fixture earlier in the year. Southam started strongly, finishing the fourth quarter 6-0 up. In the second period, Rugby scared Southam as they scored some baskets to decrease the lead however in the 3rd and 4th quarter Southam managed to continue their good scoring form and solid defensive to close out their first win of the season! The group have shown brilliant determination to continue to train and they thoroughly deserved the win.



U15 Rugby Southam v Bablake

After a long break and a few cancelled fixtures, our talented Yr 10 Boys Rugby team finally had the chance to show what they can do away against a BKHS team containing some of their strong A team players.

Right from the kick off Southam dominated the contact and breakdown zones, scoring a powerful team try with the first move of the game. Ioan E driving over with a typical line busting surge to finish off a fine attacking play. BKHS responded well and tried to threaten our line, but each time, we thwarted their attempts and set off on our own assault of their territory.

It was Ioan again who crossed for our 2nd try and Jack C converted with a testing kick to make it 12-0. Archie H looked to have scored on the right wing towards the end of the half, only to be denied by a tight referee's call. Jack C, however, was able to score and he was delighted to cross the line for his first try to make it 19-0 at half time.

Keen to maintain the physical and territorial advantage, Southam maintained their intensity from the first half, and whilst some quicker ball from the breakdowns and some less selfish play on their line, may have been rewarded with an earlier score, when it did come, it was worth waiting for. A following move from the left wing to the right, with some nice scissors and looping runs, left our debutante Wilbur free to dive over in the right corner for his first Southam try. The try of the game and one to remember for Wilbur. By ten we were out of sight and intent on denying the home team a score, though Ben H crossed for a well deserved try and Jack C converted twice more.

The final score was 31-0. A fantastic return for a wonderful team performance. Congratulations to all the team, not just for the result, but also the way they conducted themselves during the whole day. Hopefully, we'll get the chance to show our abilities on and off the pitch again this season.

Well done, lads. Mr MacGibbon



The logo for PTSA (Parents Teachers Student Association) is displayed in a white rectangular box. The letters 'PTSA' are in a green, serif font. The 'T' and 'S' are connected, and the 'A' has a stylized green leaf-like shape integrated into its right side. The background of the entire poster is a dark, slightly blurred image of school uniforms hanging on hangers against a light-colored wall.

PTSA

UNIFORM DONATIONS

**DO YOU HAVE UNIFORM THAT
YOU NO LONGER NEED OR USE?**

Our next uniform sale will take place on Thursday 2nd March
7.00-8:00pm in the Core Block

If you have any donations of uniform that you no longer need
(including footwear) that is in good condition please feel
free to drop this in to reception over the coming weeks.

**WE APPRECIATE THE FANTASTIC SUPPORT WE
HAVE HAD FOR UNIFORM SALES IN THE PAST
AND LOOK FORWARD TO THIS NEXT EVENT.**

London Marathon

Raising funds for



2023

"I am running the London Marathon in 2023 to raise money for Dogs for Good. I work at Southam College who are supporting Dogs for Good as our charity of the year in memory of a member of staff who worked closely with the charity." *Mr Turton*



Southam
College



Dogs for Good believes in the power of dogs. Since 1988, Dogs for Good has been making life-changing differences for people with disabilities.

You can donate at
www.justgiving.com/Joshua-Turton

Thank You

LEAVE OF ABSENCE DURING TERM TIME UPDATED INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

The Supreme Court clarified has clarified the law on unauthorised leave, including holidays, during term time (Platt v Isle of Wright 2017). 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.

The regulations regarding Leave of Absence (The Education (Pupil Regulations) (England) Regulations 2006 as amended by Education (Pupil Regulations) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2013.) advise:

- Head teachers **shall not grant any** Leave of Absence during term time **unless they consider** 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. When making an application for Leave of Absence in advance parents are advised to give sufficient information and time to allow the Head teacher the opportunity to consider all the exceptional circumstances and to notify parents of their decision. It is advised that if the resident parent has not received notification or a response regarding the leave of absence application, it is their responsibility to ascertain if the leave is authorised prior to the start of the leave.

The school can only consider Leave of Absence requests which are made by the 'resident' parent ie the parent with whom the child normally resides.

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.

Where a leave of absence is requested, but additional days taken either prior to or after the request may be considered as part of the leave of absence and could result in a Fixed Penalty Notice being issued to the parent(s).

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

Leave of Absences which are not made in advance cannot be authorised in line with legislation. This will result in the absence being recorded as 'unauthorised'. This may result in legal action against the parent, by way of a Fixed Penalty Notice. 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 96,366 half day sessions of absence due to holiday in the Academic year 2021/22.

