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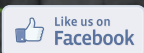
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*Silver DofE students competed their practice expedition in the Long Mynd*

# Have a great half term everyone!



**As we move towards summer we have been pleased to get back on the field for social times and use the space we are so lucky to have in Southam College.** The view of the new build is forever changing, with the purple exterior now slowly being covered by 178,000 bricks. Work on the interior of the new build continues at a pace, with paint going onto the first walls this week. We have been lucky enough to take the first students into

the build and have also asked our Year Councils for their feedback on what students would like to know prior to the move next year. This is an exciting time for the school and we look forward to sharing updates over the next two terms.

With the start of formal examinations students through Years 10 to 13 have had an incredibly busy end to the half term. I have been really proud of the levels of resilience they have demonstrated and hope that half term will provide some rest for students before we return to complete the examination season.

Around examinations we have had a thriving selection of memorable experiences with the athletics season well under way and Duke of Edinburgh

expeditions on most weekends. I am grateful to the staff who offer their time to support these events and to parents and carers for enabling students to engage with the range of activities on offer.

As we head into the last half term of the academic year we look forward to celebrating the successes of our current students and welcoming new cohorts in for induction days. The year seems to have flown by, however there is still much to do and enjoy over the final seven and a half weeks up to summer. Do check in to the Year Blogs (on the website) or our social media to keep up to date with events as they happen.

Have a safe half term.

***Miss Mason, Headteacher***

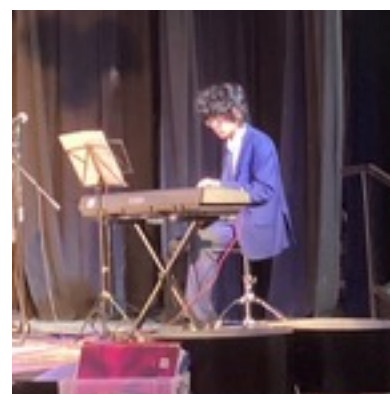
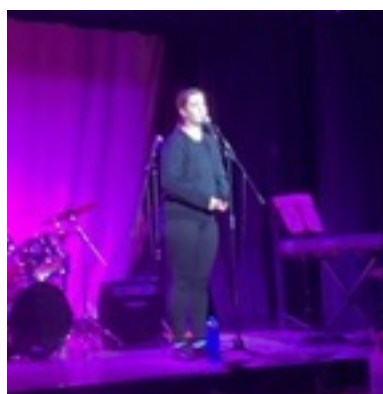


# Spring Concert

The Music Department's Spring Concert, was a vibrant event. It featured a range of performances by soloists, small groups, and ensembles from Year 7 to Year 12, showcasing various genres like Baroque, Jazz, Musical Theatre, and Pop-punk.

The concert began with an energetic performance by the Steel Pans ensemble, concluding with Paint it Black. Notable soloists included Anna (Y9), Carolina (Y7), Faye (Y9), and Charlie (Y12). Vocal group Vox Rox delivered renditions of Jar of Hearts and Valerie, while the Staff Choir performed Here Comes The Sun!

Following a break for refreshments provided by the PTSA, the second half commenced with the captivating Woodwind ensemble led by our woodwind teacher Mrs. Martin. Additional standout soloists included Geno (Y7), Daisy & Doris (Y8), Harvey (Y7), Eliana (Y8), James (Y9), Gao (Y12), and Anna (Y12). The evening concluded with an impressive performance of the Green Day classic, Basket Case, by the KS3 Rock Band, "State of Mind."



It was an exceptional evening enjoyed by all, and we eagerly anticipate your presence at our next concert. *Mr. Thompson, Head of Music*



## He did it!

As I'm sure you're aware our Head of P.E. Department, Mr Turton completed the London Marathon raising funds for our Charity of the Year, Dogs for Good. After months of long, cold, wet runs he proved his resilience and dug in deep to the finish line. He achieved his target of under 4 hours, completing the gruelling course in 3hours 54.

We're very proud of all your hard work.

# Local Employers required to support Southam College Career Services

**My role within the school is to support all students to make informed career choices by providing independent, impartial careers advice.**

My main priority is to develop sustainable business links with employers, so that we can work together to support and raise the aspirations of our students. Southam College would like the students to be more aware of the labour market and what career opportunities exist.

Currently there is a mismatch between the careers young people want to pursue and the opportunities available. We believe at Southam College that the choices made at school should be based on a clear view of the current labour market and how opportunities may change in the future.

## Southam College Careers

Here to support students with:

- Career aspirations
- Option choices (GCSE and Post 16)
- Further and Higher Education courses
- Finding Apprenticeships/Traineeships
- Employability Skills (CV writing, applications and interview skills)
- Labour Market Information



**Here are the different ways your company can support the Southam College careers program:**

- *Attend schools career fair*
- *Deliver presentations on your company's specialist area*
- *Attend mock interviews*
- *Provide work experience placements*
- *Provide mentoring*
- *Support Employability Skills sessions*
- *Attend termly breakfast meetings with other employers*

**Here are the different ways Southam College is willing to support your company:**

- *Promote your full and part time vacancies*
- *Promote apprenticeships/traineeships*
- *Promote volunteering placements*



**Andy Hughes**  
**Southam College Careers Adviser**

You can contact me on 01926 812560 or email me at [hughes.a@stowevalley.com](mailto:hughes.a@stowevalley.com)

## Year 10 Work Experience placements required

Could your employer support at least one Year 10 student by offering them a one week work experience placement during the summer holidays? This opportunity will enable the student to learn and develop key work and employability skills such as interpersonal and communication skills, the ability to work independently, using initiative and team work which will enhance their transition into further education and employment and will hopefully stand them apart from other candidates when competing for College, University, Apprenticeship and Employment vacancies.



# Year 10 Ski Trip

During the first week of the Easter holiday, 39 students and 4 staff travelled to America for the return of the Southam College ski trip. After a trans-Atlantic flight to Boston, there was a 3 hour transfer to the destination, Killington. The students excelled in their lessons and made fantastic progress throughout the 5 days of skiing in a variety of conditions including temperatures as cold as -10 and then warm weather with rain. This didn't deter the students in the slightest! There were a range of evening activities including rock climbing, quiz night, bowling and traditional American Diners. The students embraced the American culture and particularly enjoyed being transported by a traditional American School Bus! The students were a credit to the PE department and Southam College.



## Puppy Walter has arrived!

Our school's charity efforts this year have been remarkable, we've raised well over £10,000 for Dogs For Good and are on track to reach our next target of £15,000. In recognition of our contribution, we have proudly named and sponsored one of the adorable puppies and called him Walter. He is a bold, playful, and inquisitive little bundle of joy and came all the way from Ireland and is now with a temporary puppy boarder in Wellingborough. Through our collective efforts, we have not only raised significant funds but also cultivated compassion and empathy within our student body.

Thank you to everyone involved in this heart-warming initiative. Together, we are making a difference, one wagging tail at a time.



# Highly Sprung Theatre Company

We are delighted to be working with Highly Sprung, a professional physical theatre company based in Coventry. Over two days, drama students from year 8 and 9 have had the opportunity to work with two artists to create an original piece of physical theatre. All the students will attend the Physical Fellowship Festival on July 4th at the Belgrade theatre working with professional theatre companies and will perform to a public audience in the evening.

The first day was fantastic as students developed essential drama skills, collaborated, imagined and enjoyed the opportunity to be part of the ensemble. More updates of the project will follow and tickets will be available from the Belgrade Theatre Box Office from May.

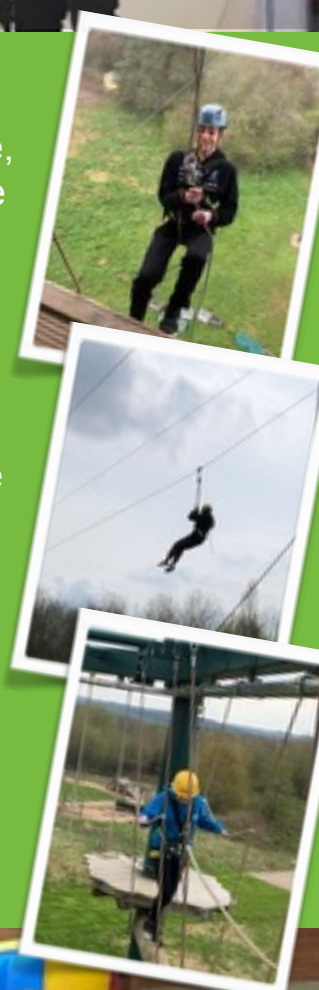


## Year 11 Revision Trip to the Pioneer Centre

We began the weekend on Friday evening with an inflatable challenge, consisting of an energetic game of dodgeball and relay races in the inflatable assault course. Saturday saw the students abseiling, climbing and flying down the zipwire, encouraging and supporting each other brilliantly. They also participated in English and Maths revision sessions targeting grades 7-9, and in the evening took on the giant see-saw and other tricky outdoor team-building activities. On Sunday morning, the students were up early to make the most of the pool table and table tennis, before embarking on a Science revision session, and the trip ended on a high (literally) as students took on the aerial challenge and the daunting 'fan jump'.

The students represented Southam College fantastically and really pushed themselves out of their comfort zone, whilst having a great time in the process.

Well done to all those involved and thank you for your enthusiasm, politeness and hard work!







## Chick update!

The beautiful chicks that students watched hatch in school during science week are now happy, healthy small hens. We were so pleased to receive these pictures from Mrs Quigley.



## Silver Duke of Edinburgh

On the 28th May, 43 Year 10 students started their DofE practice expedition in Carding Mill Valley. They walked for 3 days and camped 2 nights. During the day, students walked over the Mynd, reaching the highest point in Shropshire. At camp students cooked an array of different meals and played a range of sports, including football, baseball and volleyball, just to tire themselves out even more. Sunday was the only day of rain, but students maintained their high spirits regardless. The behaviour was fantastic and we hope they are looking forward to their qualifying expedition in Exmoor.







## Dogs for Good visit

A small group of 35 students got the unique chance to meet some assistance dogs who work for the charity Dogs For Good. We were really pleased to welcome Tina Williams, John Hawthorne and other members of the charity, who spoke about the training the dogs received and how they help the lives on individuals.

After the talk, students got the chance to meet the dogs upfront for a cuddle and ask questions of the charity leaders.

## Zoologist Talk

We would like to say an enormous thank you to our visiting Zoologist Carys, who delivered an incredibly inspiring presentation today to a range of students from year 7-12.

Students were fully engaged and gained valuable insight from this experience. Carys answered a plethora of questions not just about Zoology but also about other issues such as University courses and work experience opportunities.

Thank you so much Carys!



## VASCULAR BIRTHMARK DAY OF AWARENESS

MAY 15TH 2023

Every birthmark tells a story

## We Support Vascular Birthmark Day of Awareness

It's incredibly likely that at some point in your life, you've encountered someone who has a birthmark, and maybe you have one yourself.

Vascular Birthmark Day is a day of support, awareness and recognition for those who have birthmarks, and is there to help people understand those who have them.



# Sports News

## Fantastic performances at the first round of the English School Track and Field Cup

*16th May* - Southam College athletics team completed the first round of the English Schools Track and Field cup. This is a competition where students score points based on their performances and all scores get added together to create a team score. It's a great competition to encourage students to support each other but also maximise their performances to gain more points and not focus on positions.

The junior girls team made up of year 7 and 8 students finished in 5th place, best performances coming from Bella in 800m (2.36 – 25pts), Bethan in the hurdles (14.2 – 18pts) and Tammy in the Javelin (19.79m – 19pts).

The intermediate girls finished the day in 6th place and the intermediate boys finishing in 8th, but as the students were all bottom of the age group as we only fielded a year 9 team they have gained valuable experience for next year. However outstanding performances from Isabelle in both the high jump and 200m (1.53 – 22pts and 26.4 – 26pts) and Rosa in the 1500m (5.33 – 21pts) did not disappoint.

But the stars of the show were the junior boys team (year 7 and 8), they finished in 1st place 15 points ahead of 2nd place Kenilworth. This score should earn them a place in the regional finals in a few weeks time. There were some strong performances from Isaac in both the 100m and long jump (12.8sec – 22pts and 5.14m -23 pts), Tom in the 800m (2.34 – 18pts), Oliver in the High jump (1.44m – 18pts), Sam in the shot (9.96m – 19pts), Jake in the triple jump (10.22 – 20pts) and James in the 200m (27.8sec – 18pts). But the star of the show was Charlie in the javelin throwing a massive 37.44m gaining him 30points for the team (joint top points for the whole competition).

It was a great day and everyone worked really hard and showed great resilience throughout. We look forward to hearing whether the junior boys have qualified for the regional finals.

Well done,

PE dept.







Our Stowe Valley community celebrated the Coronation of King Charles III in style. Our pupils took part in a range of fun and creative activities to commemorate this occasion of national and cultural significance. We wish all of our families and the Stowe Valley community a wonderful Bank Holiday weekend.



*Bilton School*



*Southam College*



*Kington High School*



*Byfield School*



*Rokeby*



*Bishops Itchington*



*Southam Primary*



*Temple Herdewyke*



*Stockton Primary*







# Nut Free

## Please support us in making Southam College a nut free school

People who suffer from nut allergies can develop severe and potentially life-threatening allergic reactions.

One in fifty children in the UK have an allergy to peanuts and nut allergies can equally impact adults.

Reactions do not just occur when nuts are eaten, they can be from traces touching a person's skin or be airborne. The only way to protect both staff and students is to not bring nut products into school or on to school transport and trips.



**We appreciate your support with this. If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact the College**



## 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.**

