

Contents

Headteacher [Page 2](#)

Author Visit [Page 3](#)

Reward Trip [Page 4](#)

Sailing Trip [Page 7](#)

Sports Day [Page 10](#)

Gold Practise DofE expedition



"Have a safe and enjoyable summer."



The summer term is a favourite for all the celebrations that it holds. As our Year 10, 11, 12 and 13 students come to the end of summer exam season it has been a pleasure to watch our leavers celebrate in assembly and at Proms, where students got to celebrate this milestone with friends in delightful surroundings. In school, we have been wowed by the cast and support team for Mary Poppins Jr, with three amazing performances by the team, a culmination of hours of practice and teamwork. This was quickly followed by Sports

Personality of the Year, an evening that celebrated sports people from Years 7 to 11, for performance and endeavour, ending in a song and dance that brought smiles to faces. The final full week of term was rounded off with House Awards for all year groups still in school, celebrating achievements and effort in subjects across the board, as well as in Duke of Edinburgh, Green Edge and awards for students who embody the school values of kindness, confidence and resilience. I am very privileged to get to celebrate all of these achievements with students and staff and proud of where this year has brought us to.

All these celebrations go on around an array of school trips, external speakers, our first ever Proud to be Southam day, extra-curricular activities and of course the learning and teaching in lessons and completion of pastoral

activities and assemblies. It is amazing how much you can fit in as the end of term approaches!

This half term has also seen us welcome our new Year 7 and 12 students on their induction days, ready for September. It is lovely to welcome new students at the start of their journey, whilst others move on to endeavours and adventures outside of Southam College. I wish the students and staff leaving us this summer all the very best for the future and look forward to welcoming our new intake in September. To parents and carers, I thank you for all of your support and getting through another successful school year, I look forward to working with you in the year ahead.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer.

Miss Mason, Headteacher

Sathnam Sanghera Visit

We were thrilled to welcome author and journalist Sathnam Sanghera to speak to Year 7 from Southam College and Year 6 from Southam Primary.

He talked about the British Empire and colonialism and how this influences our lives now, including the language we use and the food we eat. He also talked about his own experiences growing up in the UK and later as a journalist. Students enjoyed asking a multitude of questions at the end and were clearly inspired to learn and know more. We learned a lot, what a brilliant morning!



German Trip

In June 56 Students from Y8, 9 and 10 were able to develop independence and language skills in Germany. Students were an asset to the school and impressed with politeness and punctuality. Day visits included the world renowned cathedral city of Cologne, the historic town of Rüdesheim, Koblenz and Phantasialand. Students had the opportunity to develop their cultural capital whilst learning about culture, language and delicious food.

Linguist Reward Trip



Year 9, Year 10 and Year 12 linguists had a lovely day out in the sunshine at the University of Birmingham. We started the day by hearing the notifications of DuoLingo on the coach, getting everyone in the mood ready for the day ahead.

Students got to learn about university life and pathways into studying languages there. Some Year 9 students were particularly thrilled to hear there are 2 Starbucks cafes on campus and plenty of eateries. Before lunch they got to have a tour around the campus and learn about 'Old Joe' the clock tower that is bigger than Big Ben, they learnt about the sports facilities that hosted the Commonwealth Games and then enjoyed lunch on the open green spaces. Students finished the day with a Russian language taster session where they were decoding Russian using the Cyrillic alphabet. A huge thank you to the students who were incredibly polite and really enthusiastic towards languages.

Year 9 Health and Social Care

A big thank you to Gemma Proctor who delivered lessons to Y9's about infancy & child development. Students were really engaged and learnt hands on how to change nappies, bath a baby and about the activities used to provide infant intellectual development via voluntary support groups in the local area. Thank you to our Year 12 Health and Social Care students who also helped to prepare the babies (not real of course!).

Well done!
Health and Social Care Team



West End Performer Visit

The cast and crew of Mary Poppins Jr had an exciting visitor. Glen Facey, a previous Mary Poppins West End performer and current actor in Back to the Future The Musical, came to teach our students the theatre choreography for our own musical! Students took part in an all-day workshop learning the moves to Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious and Jolly Holiday. They all worked incredibly hard throughout the day, despite the heat and high intensity of the dances. Students then took part in a Q&A at the end, where they found out how to get into drama school, Glen's favourite role he has played and how to overcome stage fright.

Thank you to the PTSA for funding this opportunity for the students, and for allowing students to gain such a memorable experience.



Welcome back Teniel

We were very pleased to welcome back Teniel Sullivan, last year's Head Boy, back to Southam College to deliver a talk to Year 12 students who are hoping to study medicine after they complete their A-Levels.

Teniel spoke about the application process, the UCAT test, personal statements, work experience and maximising their prospects of gaining an interview. Teniel has just completed his first year at Medical School at the University of Sheffield and he was also happy to share an insight into the life of an undergraduate! His talk was informative and very useful, and his advice will be highly valuable for students relaunching the MedSoc.



Holocaust Memorial Centre Visit

Mrs Mali would like to thank all the Year 9 History pupils and staff who went on the trip to the Holocaust memorial centre in Newark. Pupils had the chance to reflect and learn more about what they have been studying in school about the Holocaust by visiting the beautiful memorial gardens and exhibition and then having the unique opportunity to listen to the inspirational and remarkable testimony of Auschwitz survivor Arek Hersh.

We were all incredibly privileged to hear from Arek Hersh who is 95 years old and still educating young people about the dangers of intolerance and hatred and how his brutal and barbaric experiences under the Nazis have shaped his life. Arek was only 11 when war broke out in Poland in 1939 and survived the hardships of numerous ghettos and work camps before ending up in the notorious death camp, Auschwitz Birkenau aged only 14. Pupils were so mature and respectful throughout the day and asked some really poignant and pertinent questions of Arek.

What an emotional and thought provoking day Year 9 have had.



Year 7 Trip to London

Year 7 Philosophy and Ethics students had the opportunity to visit St Paul's Cathedral and the London Central Gurdwara in June. It was fantastic to see students immersing themselves within two contrasting worldviews and seeing faith being put into practice first hand.

Students received a guided tour of St Paul's Cathedral, exploring the history, design, and use of the building, including climbing the dome of the cathedral. Moreover, students also experienced a visit to the Central Gurdwara. Here, they observed Sikh worship by local worshippers. They learnt about the Sikh faith and community, including the 5 Ks. It was fantastic to see students sharing in the Langar within the Langar Hall.



Thank you to both St Paul's Cathedral and The Central Gurdwara for hosting us!



Cirdan Sailing Trip

10 of our intrepid Yr 9 students embarked on a 6 day voyage onboard Queen Galadriel in the Solent from 2nd - 7th July. Many of our crew hadn't set foot on a sailing boat before, so the first few days were a baptism of fire, as they were all needed on deck in strong winds and choppy seas, hoisting sails as we tacked through the waves with sea spray covering the decks.

It was very impressive to witness how they all rose to each challenge that was thrown their way, and our lead crew of 3 sailors were full of admiration for their novice deckhands.

We anchored each day in the sheltered bays along the Isle of Wight, and even managed to get ashore for Fish'n'Chips in Yarmouth. Undoubtedly the students' favourite day came on Thursday when they all participated in a number of activities onboard our vessel: climbing the rigging to get to the crow's nest; steering our tender 'Gollum' in the waters around Queen Galadriel; learning different knots and visiting the engine room and navigation table.

It was a truly memorable experience for all onboard, and we are all indebted to the crew lead by Charlotte, and assisted by Lucy and Erlys, the Cirdan Sailing Trust and BAM our school contractors who were very generous in their support of our voyage.





Mary Poppins Jr.

Standing ovations all around for the summer production.

This year we proudly presented Mary Poppins Jr. All the students came together to put on this highly rewarding show. This was the last summer production in the hall as it exists. The collaboration between all students and staff was inspiring. The hours of hard work were tough on everyone but the end result was brilliant. We thank everyone that contributed and we look forward to making new memories in our new space.

Miss Ferguson, Head of Drama

THANK YOU PTSA

Year 10 really enjoyed using the new Formula Finder sheets, they made brilliant progress understanding a topic which had bedevilled them since the start of year 10. After using the sheets, the concept really 'clicked'.

We would all like to thank the Southam PTSA for their generous funding of this brilliant equipment.



Year 10 *Work Experience* **PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION**



Students are to take the photograph whilst they are taking part in an activity during their work experience placement.

Criteria - the student needs to be in the photograph.

Photographs will be judged by the Careers team.



Please email all entries to
Mr Hughes hughes.a@stowevalley.com
Deadline Monday 4th September



Results Day 2023

A Level Results Day - Thurs 17th Aug, 9.00am-11.30am

GCSE Results Day - Thurs 24th Aug, Y11 9.00am-11.30am, Y10 10.00am -11.30am

Results will be available from the SPORTS HALL and access to the site will be via the Sports Hall car park by the Hive.

We encourage you to collect your results in person but if you are unable, you may nominate another student or family member to collect them on your behalf.

Please email SOUExams@stowevalley.com providing the name of the person collecting. They must provide formal photo ID to identify themselves.

Results will **NOT** be available through Insight

Sports Day 2023

On our reserve date of Wednesday 19th July, the weather tried its best to stop us for the 2nd time.... but we carried on and witnessed some fantastic sporting action!

An action-packed day with javelin, shot put, high jump, long jump, discus and a full track programme including hurdles saw the 4 houses battle it out to get their name on the Sports Day Trophy.

The results:

Y7 Winners - Whittle

Y8 Winners - Whittle

Y9 Winners - Webb Ellis

Y10 Winners - Webb Ellis



The prize of overall sports day champion was a fierce battle with only 25 points separating 1st and 2nd position.

The overall winners of Sports Day 2023 were Whittle!

A huge congratulations to Mrs Turton, the Head of House for Whittle and all the students on winning the trophy!

It was fantastic to see the whole school celebrating and participating in the day and we are so proud of the students' behaviour and attitude!

Well done everybody!

Mr Turton and the PE department

Golfing Achievements

Well done to Josh for participating in the Ellexis Brown Golf Foundation Junior Open at Nailcote Hall. Josh had a net score of 48 and came in first place - this was his first ever open where he was one of 72 young golfers from around the country!

Josh then went on to play in the Welsh cup (club competition) - scoring 49 points and shot 13 under to finish in first place.

Josh is already the Winter league club winner and English cup club winner!

We are super proud of your achievements and hope to see you gain more titles in the future.



Rory's Rugby renaissance

We are very pleased to announce that Rory S. in year 12 has been selected for development training with Scottish Exiles in July. Rory has been a stalwart of school rugby teams over the years through thick and thin. His hard, firm but fair approach is in keeping with the ethos of the game. As a second generation Southam college player, Rory has maintained family tradition and has kept the spirit of Rugby running throughout his school career. His dedication has been second to none. We know that Rory will take on board all advice on his development and wish him luck for any future success. "Fortan leat" as they say in the highlands!



Two Castles Run

Well done to Matthew in year 11 who completed the Two Castles run in a tremendous time of 42.08. Matthew finished 11th in his age group which ranged from 15-19 and an equally impressive 107th overall. We are extremely proud of your achievements. Mr Turton and Mr Samra were delighted to see you at the finish line!



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.