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Year 12 students visited Keble College at the University of Oxford to support them with their Oxbridge applications.



Year 9 students were excited to take part in The Big Bang Theory Roadshow at Coventry Cathedral.

"The term has been packed with memorable experiences."



The new school year started off with the celebration of GCSE and A Level Results and welcoming our new Year 7 and 12 students into school. Our new students made an excellent first impression and are now very familiar with the school routines. The school value of kindness shines through from our new students and Year 7 had a fantastic evening getting to know each other better, at the PTSA Disco, a few weeks ago.

As always, the term has been packed with memorable experiences with Geography and History residential visits, achieving the Gold Mark for Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development across the school, theatre trips, a visit to the Houses of

Parliament and climate change conference, external speakers on hate crime, the European Day of Languages Bake Off and celebrating Black History Month, to name a few.

What has been evident this half term is the ability of our students, both academically and socially. Our new Head students have launched the plans from their campaigns and made themselves available to younger students whilst recruiting a team of Prefects to work alongside them. The vast number of students who supported in the Year 6 Open Evening gained nothing but praise from the families that they interacted with at the event. I have the privilege of seeing students focused on their learning in class and developing relationships and social skills outside of lesson time. The number of students who put themselves forward to be ambassadors, volunteers, council representatives or charity superstars never fails to impress me; this makes the school a lovely community to be part of. The work of the Textiles and Art departments on displays for Remembrance

Day demonstrate what can be achieved when so many people work together for a shared goal.

The new school build is progressing in line with the schedule for us to move in at Easter 2024. There are now gas taps in Science Labs, carpet in some corridors and benching in computer rooms, it really is starting to look like a school. We will share photo updates via our social media platforms, as and when we are able to visit the build site and look forward to working with you to say goodbye to the loyal buildings of the past and welcome the new school over the Spring Term.

We have been pleased to welcome so many parents and carers into school over this half term via our evening events for the PTSA, Year 11 and 12 talks to set out the year ahead, Year 7 meet the tutor evening, our SEND and Neurodiversity events, as well as launching this year's Duke of Edinburgh scheme.

As we come to the end of the half term, I hope that you can have a safe and enjoyable break and look forward to the rest of the term ahead.

Miss Mason, Headteacher

Global Virtues and Cultural Ambassadors



Southam College are excited to present their Stowe Valley Global Virtues and Cultural Ambassadors for 2023 – 24.

Our ambassadors are excited to be working on the key virtues of:

Mutual Respect, Democracy, Acceptance, Individual Liberty and Rule of Law

We look forward to seeing your fantastic work and celebrating key festivals and celebrations throughout the year.

Books Abroad Collection

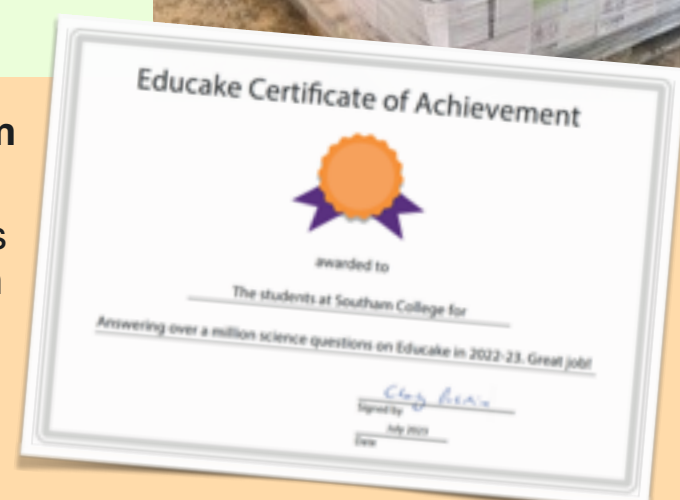
With our future premises move in mind as well as new textbooks coming into use, staff and departments were busy sorting through books towards the end of last term and by the end of term, we had collected over 2500 + textbooks and fiction books for reuse / recycling. Two pallets full were collected at the end of July. The charity Books Abroad based in Scotland sends textbooks and young people's fiction to schools across the world, also reselling adult fiction locally to help raise funds to cover their costs and it is heartening that so many books can continue to be used and are helping students' learning elsewhere. Books Abroad were appreciative of the quantity and quality of the books provided, and most are now on their way to schools and school libraries in Sri Lanka. This is the second collection we have done and we hope to repeat the exercise within the MAT when the need arises.



Well done to all students at Southam College!

In the academic year 2022-2023 students completed 1,047,000 science questions on Educake.

60,000 questions were set by students themselves using Educake as a revision tool.



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

4. 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.



Stand Against Violence

Year 9 students had a presentation from the charity Stand against Violence on Friday 15th September.

Students heard a powerful story of a young man who was subjected to an unprovoked attack. Student were able to see through the eyes of all involved enabling the students to explore the cost of violence. A really powerful session where all students took the subject matter seriously and could empathise with the real life story. They were thinking of positive choices and thinking through the consequences of their actions. The presenter commented that the students are a real credit to the school.



National Religion and Media Centre Conference

Sixth form students from Southam College attended the national Religion and Media Centre conference at Coventry Cathedral. Students heard from a wide range of speakers and journalist exploring the local religious landscape. Students heard from ITV and The BBC exploring how religion and

media can work together. Students also had the opportunity to speak on the student panel and share their personal worldviews.

It was great to see students share their views with other local schools.



SMSC Gold Quality Mark Award



Southam College are pleased to announce we have been reaccruited for the national GOLD Quality Mark award recognising the high quality of Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural education we provide to our students.

The award recognises the importance of students experiencing a wide range of memorable experiences, enriching their lives both socially and culturally but also it highlighted the importance of ensuring our students leave school, having experienced a wide variety of faiths, religions, and worldviews and moreover how our students can make a positive difference to the society in which they live – locally, nationally, and globally.

Southam College continue to ensure students gain cultural knowledge, have opportunity to develop key social skills and have the confidence to share their own opinions and views within a safe learning environment.



European Day of Languages

We would like to say a big thank you to all the students that took part in the **European Day of Languages Bake off**. There were over 60 amazing entries that were decorated or baked to represent Spain, France, Germany, Poland, Romania, Greece, Cyprus, Lithuania, Turkey, Italy, Ireland, Denmark, Sweden, Bulgaria and many more.

Our favourite quote from one of the cakes was " We all smile in the same language"

We also raised £215 in the cake sale for our school charities, Teenage Cancer Trust and Len's Light.



Staff Achievement



We are proud to say that Southam College staff member, Adi has been nominated for a Girlguiding Midlands Chief Commissioner's Award.

This award recognises an extraordinary contribution and dedication given by a member.

A huge "WELL DONE" from all of us!

Battlefields trip

At the start of October, 101 students (mainly Year 10 with 10 Year 12s) and 10 staff had the opportunity to travel to France and Belgium to visit the battlefields and memorials of WWI. We were blessed with fabulous weather for our trip which meant we could see as many sites as possible.

On our first day we had the chance to visit the memorial and trenches at Vimy Ridge, followed by Notre Dame de Lorette (the French national war memorial which remembers the soldiers of all nationalities who died in the region of Northern France). Day 2 was spent in the region of the Somme with visits to important battlegrounds, memorials and cemeteries. Students were able to see the scale of the Lochnagar crater, visit the memorial to the missing at Thiepval, and the Canadian trenches at Beaumont Hamel, amongst others. On day 3 we traveled to Belgium to explore sites around the Ypres Salient - here we were able to consider the differences between Commonwealth and German cemeteries, explore trench systems and pay our respects at the Menin Gate for the ceremony in the evening.

We were so proud of the students we took - they were polite and engaged and really made the most of our trip. The questions asked showed how they were taking on board the gravity of the sites we visited in a really mature manner. We hope they have been able to share some of the stories we told with people at home so that the memories of those who gave so much throughout the war can continue to be remembered. The History department are looking forward to taking our next WWI Battlefields trip in July 2024 with Year 9!

Southam College Sixth Form Open Evening 2023

Thursday 9th
November, 6-8pm

A Level A*-C
75% 2023

Please arrive from 5.45pm

Live presentations from Miss Mason (Head teacher)
and Mr Bradbury (Head of Sixth Form)

We are recruiting students for A Levels and Level 3 BTECs from
across Warwickshire, Northamptonshire and further afield.

The sixth form is an integral
part of the school. (OFSTED 2021)

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SOUTHAM COLLEGE
SIXTH
FORM



Southam College Career Events 2023/24

We are excited about our programme of career events for 2023/24 and would be delighted to welcome you to Southam College during this academic year.

Career activity	Dates	Description
Twilight Business Meeting	23rd November 2023 (4.30-5.30pm)	Local businesses are invited into school to discuss how they can engage and work with Southam College school.
Extended Work Experience Placements	Oct 23 – July 24	We have a number of Yr10 & Yr11 students that would benefit from spending 1 day per week at a local employer. Could you offer an extended work experience placement to our students.
Careers Fair	14th March 2024	An opportunity for students, parents teachers and employers to meet and discuss opportunities available both Post 16 and 18.
Yr10 Mock Interviews	5-6th March 2024	An opportunity for local employers to support the Yr10 Employability skills course and our students to develop their interview skills.
Yr10 & Yr12 Work Experience	July 2024	Could your company provide our students with a 1-week experience placement

THANK YOU PTSA

A big thank you to the PTSA for supporting the PE department and funding the new Girls Football Kits. We can't wait to use them and look forward to lots of success.

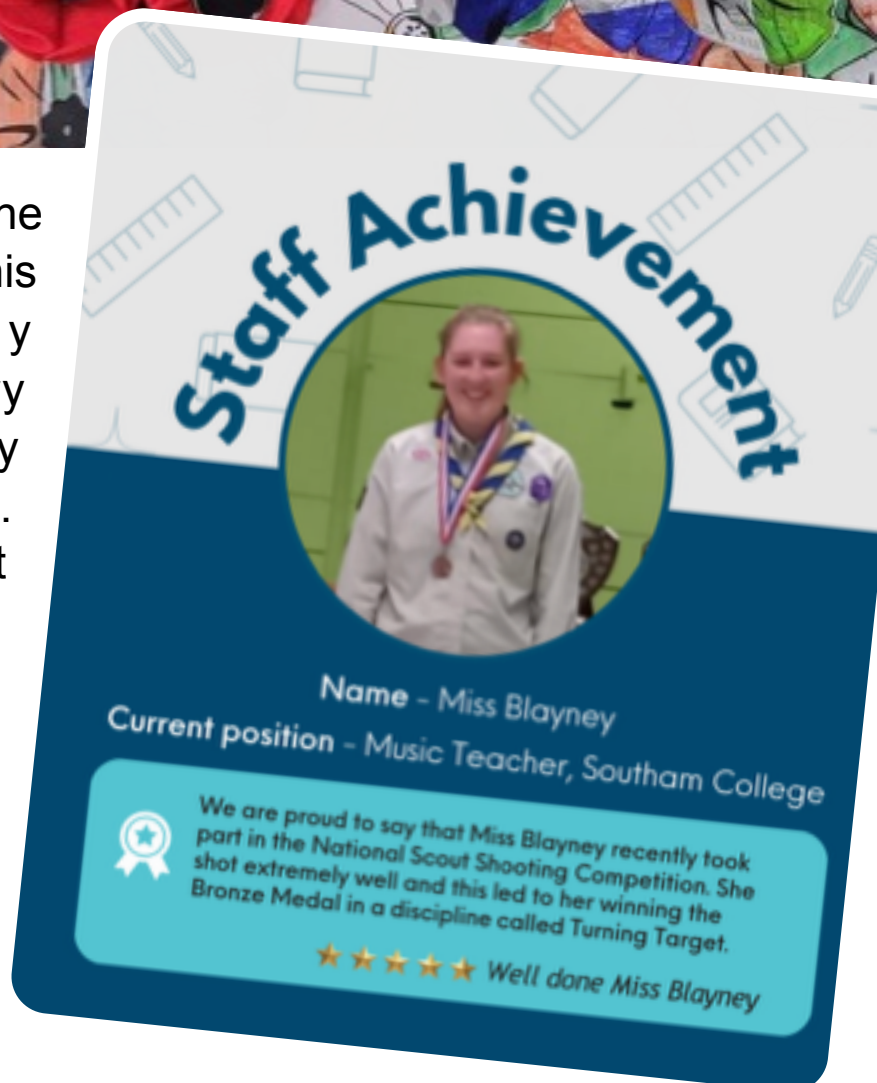


Remembrance Day Display



A huge well done to all of the students who contributed to this year's Remembrance day display. Students were very creative with their paper poppy entries to the house competition. The felt poppies have turned out so well, some students had never hand sewn or used a sewing machine before, great effort shown from all students involved.

HAPs have been awarded to every student who took part.



A fantastic weekend at Condover Hall



Runners Up 2023

On Friday 29th September the Year 11 netball squad travelled to Condover Hall for the final time as this team. Everyone was very excited and looking forward to a weekend of quality netball and spending time with their friends. They were ready for the challenge of going up against new teams at a competitive standard this year more so than ever.

Saturday morning started with a 7am wakeup call before heading to the courts for the first games.

We played 4 matches, won 3 comfortably and lost 1 to a very strong club. They showed true resilience and a confidence in themselves and each other.

Due to the organisation of the tournament and the number of teams in our pool, we knew we would be playing the same 4 teams again on Sunday. Knowing the opposition allowed us to mix up our team and some students played in different positions which allowed them to shine.

The accuracy of shooting and movement within the semicircle from Chloe and Sandra made them difficult to mark and allowed Southam to score an amazing 69 goals. (Well done to Keri for stepping up)

Izzy, Darcie, Keri, and Esme dominated the middle of the court with skilful passing, tight marking, and quick feet, both on and off the ball.

Excellent communication and teamwork from Lily and Sofia resulted in superb defending in the final third which made it very difficult for the opposition to score against us.

As always, the girls showed great flexibility as they swapped positions and slotted in perfectly as I know they can. Their commitment, experience, and enjoyment of playing together for 5 years is evident to see.

Congratulations to Izzy who was voted Players Player of the tournament 2 years running and Esme for Coaches Player. These awards are always very close and difficult to nominate but well deserved.

I find myself repeating the same compliments as it really is a pleasure spending time with such wonderful, thoughtful, and friendly students from Southam College. Their patience and support whilst teaching me 'One marshmallow' was something special.

Can I also thank Mrs Turton for organising a fantastic Netball tour and Miss Owen for making it so special!

Mrs Herbage



Mental Health in Schools Team (MHST) Parent/Carer Tips for Wellness:

STARTING CONVERSATIONS AROUND MENTAL HEALTH

It can be difficult to speak with your young person about their mental health and wellbeing. It is important to try different methods and see what works for you.

Useful conversation starters:

"How are you feeling?"

"What was the best and worst bit of your day?"

"How can I help you?"

"I can see that you are feeling _____. Do you want to talk about it?"

"Today I felt _____. How did you feel today?"



More conversation
starters!

Some young people find it easier to have these conversations when they do not need to make eye contact. Try having these conversations whilst doing a normal activity, such as cooking dinner, washing up or even in the car!

Top Tip: Try to avoid starting these conversations around bedtime.

Discussing and expressing feelings:

- Try using emojis, coloured stickers or pictures to show how you are feeling.
- If your young person finds it hard to have these conversations, they could try sending you text messages to let you know how they feel or using a shared feelings diary.

Statements of encouragement can help a young person share their feelings:

"I love you, nothing can ever change that"

"Even if I don't understand, know that I want to"

"If you need to talk to someone else, that's ok too"

"It is ok to feel this way"

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.

