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*Cultural Dance Workshop*



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Thank you to Southam College's Global Virtues and Cultural Ambassadors for creating our Christmas display!

# Another busy half term



**As we head into the Christmas break there is much to reflect on from a busy term.** Memorable experiences continue to take place in the form of trips such as Basketball matches, theatre visits and visits to the Food Bank and Soup Kitchen. Our Charity Superstars have been working hard to raise money for the two charities of the year, combining to raise over £1000 between them this term. In school we have been celebrating World Inclusivity week with workshops on Diwali, Hinduism and Bollywood Dance and Anti-bullying week with talks from our PCSO, Safeline and No Racism Here. The half term has been rounded off with the wonderful Christmas Concert, celebrating students' musical talents in a wonderful performance.

Students have been working hard on their learning and Years 8 and 11 have completed internal exams this half term, where their attitude was excellent. This will provide them with areas of strength and those for development in each subject, taking their learning forward for the Spring Term.

The new school build continues to be on track for move in at Easter so we have our final events in the original school hall next term. We will be starting some fund raising to support the move over the next term so please look out for updates on this and how it will support current and future students. We look forward to being able to invite you to see the new school in 2024.

Wishing you a merry Christmas and a happy new year.

**Miss Mason, Headteacher**

# Research with Warwick University



**On Friday 20th October we welcomed Sophie and Tabitha from Warwick University Medical school into Southam College, to explore a possible future intervention for students with eating and body image concerns.** There are currently barriers to treatments for eating disorders, so universities are exploring prevention education before this becomes too advanced for young people.

Students from years 7, 9, 12 and 13 volunteered their time to take part in a student focus group. They discussed the advantages and disadvantages of an intervention being delivered in school compared to a clinical setting. We then welcomed a group of parents to discuss the intervention, sensitivities around data and how recruitment could take place.

Thank you to each of the parents who took the time to join us and contribute. We also held a school staff focus group of Teachers, SLT, Teaching Assistants and Heads of Year to discuss the practicalities of implementing the intervention in school. Thank you to all staff who gave up their lunchtime, and especially to Ms Smith who supported with organising the research.

A special thank you to Warwick University for reaching out to us. We are passionate about enhancing our current Mental Health and Wellbeing provision for our students, and hope this research will lead us to being able to participate in an effectiveness study from 2024.

***Mrs Campbell-Birch and Mrs Browne  
Senior Mental Health Leads in school***



## **Southam College Christmas Trees**

**Kindly donated**

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



**Southam College held their annual World Inclusivity Week from 27th October – 10th November 2023.** It was a fantastic week which included a range of activities highlighting our inclusive community. We have fantastic highlights and memories from the week which began with Year 8 students taking part in our Diwali celebrations with a Diwali workshop, exploring the Sikh faith and culture. We also held a cultural dance workshop for Year 9 students where they were able to learn a routine and perform this. Year 7 students also took part in our Hinduism Education workshop, exploring the Hindu faith and culture, including dress, beliefs, and cultural practices. Thank you to all students who took part in the local multi faith poetry event held in Coventry. Thank you to all students, staff and parents/carers who supported our Macmillan Coffee morning. Students and staff came together to raise as much money as possible to help support people and families affected by cancer. Southam College raised £200. Your donation will make a huge difference to people's lives. Thank you to all students who sent in a photograph for our kindness competition as part of our celebrations for World Kindness day 2023. All photographs were used to create a whole school world inclusivity display!

As a school community, we also collected an enormous amount of warm clothes for local people. The Helping Hands community project have collected these and they are going towards supporting local people this winter.

Thank you to staff and students for making it such a memorable week, your support on this is greatly appreciated!

***Mrs Thomas, Head of Philosophy and Ethics***

# Well done George

**George Iacovides left Southam College in 2018.** He passed out as a Guardsman in the Coldstream Guards, in March of this year, following training at Catterick. He has since participated in the King's Coronation as a flag bearer; been part of the King's first Trooping the Colour, been to Malaysia for jungle warfare training, and was at Number 10 Downing Street for the Poppy Appeal, where he met Rishi Sunak and his wife. He has also been on guard at Buckingham Palace, St James' Palace and Windsor Castle.

Well done George! Everyone at Southam College is super proud of your achievements.



## Thank you

Mrs Turner visited the College on behalf of Brindley Twist Taftt and James Solicitors to donate a bereavement pack for the college. These packs are provided by Guy's Gift, their chosen charity.

We feel incredibly privileged and thankful for the generous donation and hope that students and staff benefit from the resources that it offers.



# Stowe Valley Recruitment Event



We welcomed lots of people to the Stowe Valley Recruitment Event at Southam College.

Thank you to everyone who attended. We were delighted to share with you our passion for providing an excellent educational experience for the children, families and communities we serve across our schools. We hope that those who share our passion and commitment to achieving this goal will consider joining us.

For further information about current and upcoming opportunities across our Trust, please visit [www.stowevalleymat.com](http://www.stowevalleymat.com)



## Charity Superstars



### Triathlon

Keva W in Year 7 has raised an amazing £150 for the school charities LEN'S LIGHT and Teenage Cancer Trust by doing a sponsored Triathlon.

Well done Keva for this amazing achievement!

## Charity Bake Sale

Well done to Sidh, Year 7 who has baked and sold over 100 cupcakes to support the school's two chosen charities (Teenage cancer trust and Len's Light) and has raised £110 during the school holiday.

We are proud of Sidh's efforts and commitment in supporting Southam College!



## Thank you

Well done to Scarlett F in year 9 who did a cake sale in November for the school charities.

**She raised a whopping £142.50!**

Huge congratulations - all this money will go to LEN'S LIGHT and Teenage Cancer Trust

## APPEG Visit

Mr Hughes and three 6th form students were invited to the All-Party Parliamentary Engineering Group lunch at the House of Lords. The students were able to mix with Lords, MPs and Professionals in the Engineering sector to discuss "Engineering for Clean Water". The students had a great day and were talking enthusiastically about the issues with regards to engineering for clean water and the event has certainly raised their aspirations about a future career in the Engineering sector.



# Christmas Tree Festival

Southam College would like to say a big thank you to their Global Virtues and Cultural ambassadors for supporting our participation in the St James's Church Christmas Tree festival this weekend.

Students have created their own decorations, reflecting this year's theme of 'comfort and joy.'

Money raised from our participation will go towards supporting the two-house charities: Teenage Cancer Trust and Len's Light!



## Peace Poster Competition

Thank you to all students who entered our International Peace poster competition in partnership with Southam Lions.

We were really impressed by your efforts this year on the interpretation of this year's themes: Dare to dream! Peter from Southam Lions judged the competition and Izzy G, Year 7 was identified as the overall winner.

## Random Acts of Kindness

Students from the Sixth Form Wellbeing Team society went along after school to have a very cold, exertive weeding session until it was too dark to see one another! The students worked with Mrs Tomlinson and Mrs Legg to help get our memorial garden back to its former glory, remembering our former students like they deserve.





# Southam Food Bank Collection

Thank you to all staff and students who supported our Southam food bank collection this Christmas.

Southam College's Global Virtues and Cultural Ambassadors visited the food bank and handed the donations over. Students got to experience first-hand the work of the local food bank and how they support local people. Students asked great questions and learnt how the food bank operates.

Thank you to Southam Food bank for letting us visit and be part of such an incredible programme!



Southam College students raised **£120.79** in support of the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal, that is run by Galanos House for the Southam District.

A huge congratulations goes to Galanos House for raising over £22000 in total for the 2023 Appeal.

# Sports News

Congratulations to Jamie in year 10 who has recently signed for Northampton Town FC. We are extremely proud of your achievements and cannot wait to see you progress. Well done Jamie.



A massive congratulations to Isabelle K who competed for the English School Athletics team in the SIAV International Pentathlon Championships in Cardiff.

Taking part in the 60m Hurdles, Shot Putt, Long Jump, 200m and 800m, Isabelle, competing against athletes from the year above, finished a very creditable 9th, and was also part of the Gold medal winning England team.

Well done, Issy and here's to many more successes in Athletics this season!



## Trip to Morningside Arena

In November, the PE department took 40 students to Morningside Arena to watch Leicester Riders take on London Lions in a British Basketball League fixture.

Leicester Riders fought well in the first half but went into halftime losing by a few points. In the 3rd quarter, our students got behind the Riders as they clawed back and led the Lions into the 4th Quarter. London responded with some good 3-point shots and came away with the win but some amazing Basketball, great atmosphere and a really close score made evening a great success. Our students were very loud the whole game and thoroughly enjoyed the experience and certainly learnt a thing or two! It was a pleasure to spend the Friday evening with them.





Stowe Valley  
MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

ICE AND FROZEN WATER

# WATER SAFETY

## DO NOT TAKE THE RISK

We would like to remind people of the extreme danger of playing near or attempting to walk on frozen ponds, lakes, canals or rivers.

**Please do not take unnecessary risks by venturing on frozen water, stay off the ice and keep pets on a lead.**

**If you fall through the ice**

- Keep calm and call for help.
- If no help is available spread your arms across the surface of the ice.
- If the ice is strong enough kick your legs and slide onto the ice.
- Lie flat and pull yourself to the bank.
- If the ice is very thin, break it in front of you and make your way to the shore
- If you cannot climb out, wait for help keeping as still as possible.
- Press your arms by your side and keep your legs together.
- Once you are safe, go to hospital immediately for a check-up.



Stowe Valley  
MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

EMERGENCY & CHILD PROTECTION

## 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.**

