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Ski Trip 2024



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Message from Miss Mason



Students and staff have pushed forward with learning, preparation for summer exams and a huge range of memorable experiences this half term, whilst also juggling a rather large move of home ahead. As always, there has been so much going on across all year groups, with Year 7 taking their first secondary school residential. It was a delight to hear about their

experiences on their return from a packed trip.

This has been a momentous Term for Southam College, our last in the original buildings. We are so grateful for the show of support for the school and its history. We have already received over £5000 in donations, for resources for the new build, and so many former students visited at our Farewell Event in the final week of term. It was amazing to hear more about the history of the school and what people remember from their experiences, getting to meet people who were pupils when the school opened was a privilege. I certainly ended the evening knowing more about the school than when the event started!

As we close the doors on our trusted buildings we look ahead to opening new doors and getting to enjoy the building we have watched being built over the last two years. We cannot wait to welcome students back to school and into a new phase in the school's history, for them to be the students that were there on day one! As soon as we have our boxes unpacked and are able to find our way around we will also be keen to offer tours to parents and community members.

I look forward to the exciting times ahead for the school community.

I hope you have a restful Easter break

Miss Mason

New Build Fundraising

Thank you to everyone who has shared or donated to the school fundraising page, with the online and parent pay donations we have already raised £5000 toward the new school build! We are so grateful for all the support given in such a short space of time.

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Ski Trip 2024



The 2024 Southam College Ski Trip took us to Kitzbühel, Austria. After a long coach journey, the students excelled in their skiing with all students making fantastic progress and developing their confidence and resilience along the way, demonstrating the control and technique to get them down a variety of different slopes throughout the week. As well as the skiing, and fantastic alpine views, students embraced local culture in Kitzbühel town as well as trying their hand with Austrian 9 pin skittles. One of the highlights of the trip was the visit to Zell am See to watch an Ice Hockey game. The fast and furious nature of the sport engrossed the

students, it also helped that it was a high scoring affair with the game ending 7-4! I would also like to thank the staff that supported the trip as without them, this trip wouldn't have been possible; Mr MacGibbon, Miss Owen, Mr Jeffries, Miss Dicken and Miss Brookes- Thank you.

And finally- a huge thank you to the 45 year 10s who were an absolute credit to the school throughout their time in Austria! I hope you all have made memories that will last a lifetime.

Mr Turton

Rotary Young Chef 2024

Gracie represented Southam College and Southam 2000 Rotary club at the District Final of the Rotary Young Chef Competition on Saturday at Champion School. I am delighted to share that she was Runner-up and now goes through to the next round in April to represent our district.

Well done Gracie and thank you 'Mum' for all your support

A very proud Mrs James and the Food department



Galanos House Visit

Volunteers from the Sixth Form Wellbeing Team visited Galanos House. Students had a wonderful time interacting with the residents through playing board games.

We have been visiting Galanos House for several years now, establishing an important local community relationship- there are fantastic benefits to inter-generational relationships!

We wanted to say thank you to Sara C for allowing us to visit but also to all staff and residents who make us feel welcomed. Thank you to Mr Bradbury who also gave up his afternoon to take the students to this memorable experience.

We continue to be impressed by the Sixth Form students for respectfully representing the College. The students are a living embodiment of the kindness and compassion we all like to see in the world.

Mrs Campbell-Birch



Childrens Mental Health and Wellbeing Week 2024

We held our whole school annual “Children’s Mental Health and Wellbeing Week” from Monday 5th- Friday 9th February, proudly supporting the national “Place2Be” charity campaign. This awareness week was planned to empower, equip and give Southam College students opportunities to express themselves in relation to emotions and continue to acknowledge that “Your Voice Matters” within our school.



Science equipment donations to LABAID

Several boxes of older Science equipment were packaged and sent on their way to the Charity LabAid.

Many thanks to DHL Healthcare Banbury for donating packing boxes and to The Entertainer Leamington Spa for transporting them onto LabAids headquarters in Amersham.

This will be sent on to developing countries who have Science labs but no equipment.

Sixth Form Iceland Trip



We landed early on the Friday morning and were greeted with some fairly extreme weather. After making our way to Reykjavik we were advised to make our way to the hotel as quickly as possible before the road closed, which gave students an afternoon to relax and enjoy the pool.

On Saturday we enjoyed Iceland's Golden Circle which included some of the country's most stunning sights including Thingvellir National Park (where the Eurasian and North American plates meet), Gullfloss Waterfall, the Geysir Center, and Kerið Crater.

On Sunday we travelled to the south of the country and stopped at a variety of sights including Seljalandsfoss Waterfall, Skógar Waterfall and the Sólheimajökull Glacier. We also visited Reynisfjara Black Sand Beach and the small town of Vík.

Thankfully the cold and clear conditions held out through the day and in the evening we set off looking for a suitable place to see the Northern Lights. Unbelievably we only had to wait a short while before we spotted the tell-tale green glow in the sky – such an amazing experience!

On Monday we had time to experience shopping and sights in Reykjavik before heading to the airport for our return flight.

Understanding Autism Workshops

Thank you to all families who have joined us for our workshops on understanding Autism with Claire Brinkley. We have enjoyed working together and learning more about neurodiversity. New workshop dates will be advertised for after the Easter break. This series of 3 workshops will be open to both current and prospective families at Southam College.



JLR International Women's day conference at Warwick University

15 Year 10 students attended the 'JLR International Women's day conference' at Warwick University.

Students were given inspirational talks from female leaders within JLR and introduced to the variety of roles available within the company. The speakers were very impressed with the questions that Southam College students were asking and how keen they were to find out more about working for JLR.

Well done Year 10! Mrs Tomlinson



Year 9 Philosophy and Ethics

Thank you to Abeda and support from the local Muslim community who visited Southam College to talk to students about the significance of Ramadan for Muslims around the world.

Abeda spoke with Year 9 Philosophy and Ethics students regarding the Muslim worldview and how this is practised today. Moreover, she was also able to speak with our Global Virtues and Cultural ambassadors regarding the work they do on religious and cultural celebrations, promoting mutual respect and individual liberty for all.

We wish you a safe and happy Ramdan.



Yr10 Mock Interview days



Year 10 students were offered the opportunity of a mock interview with a member of the local business community. The two mock interview days were very successful, and our students have gained valuable experience of the interview process. I am sure this experience will support all the students with their interviews for 6th form, college, apprenticeship, and jobs next year.

I would also like to thank all the volunteers who helped support this careers event.

Mr Hughes (Careers)

Sustainable Southam

As we prepare to move into the new building in April, we have been showing everyone how sustainable our new school is through our 'Did you know?' campaign.

Here are some of the main points:

- No waste from the demolition of the existing buildings has been sent off site. It has been crushed and used as foundations for the new building.
- The concrete used in our new school is more sustainable as it contains less cement which is high in greenhouse gases.
- There are no fossil fuels used inside our new school except for use in science lessons.
- Solar panels on the roof of our school will produce over 400,000kWh of electricity.
- The amount of energy needed to heat our school is 40% less than other buildings.
- Heating for the school will come from a ground source heat pump.
- The carpet and vinyl tiles are made from recycled materials.

If you want to support Southam as we aim to be a more sustainable school, please look at our top tips on what you can do.



Southam's Got Talent 2024



What a fantastic evening. I think it's fair to say Southam really does have talent. 16 amazing acts took to the stage for the last performance on this Southam college stage.

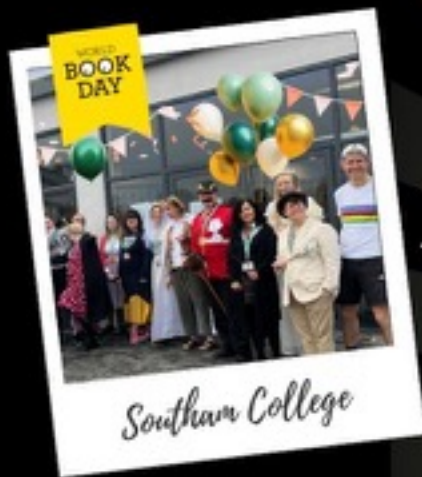
The acts showed the vast talent the students have with students from year 7-12 taking part. The judges found the decision extremely difficult as there truly was so much talent to choose from.

The final decision was extremely close seeing Bea (year 7) finishing in the 3rd with her hoop performance, Matt (year 11) coming a close 2nd with his guitar but the overall winner was Florence with her beautiful version of Adele.

Not forgetting the competition is a house competition, Florence gained Webb Ellis the first place points but with Matt and Bea both earning HAPS for Whittle it is keeping the competition tight at the top.

Well done! The house team are super proud of all the acts and look forward to seeing the talent next year on the new stage.





Thursday 7th March

WORLD BOOK DAY 2024 'Read Your Way'

On World Book Day, staff and pupils across the Trust have celebrated their love of books. As a Trust, we know the power of reading to inspire, educate and entertain and we promote this with our children and young people every day.

Today we have seen our school communities bring books to life with participation in a wide range of fun-filled activities, both remembering fondly old favourites, and introducing new stories for our pupils to enjoy.

Another fabulous World Book Day celebration to remember.



NEW...ePlatform

To continue our celebration of **World Book Day**, Southam College are delighted to announce a 4-week trial period of an exciting eBook and audiobook library, found here:

<https://southamcollege.eplatform.co>

Students will be able to download & borrow from a catalogue of over 2000 books with new titles added monthly. Login details for each student have been emailed to parents and passed onto students so please do get reading!



Southam College Student Leadership Success Celebration

Rosa, Year 10. Young Leaders Award

Congratulations to Rosa who has been awarded a Young Leaders in Service Gold Award by Southam Lions, in recognition of the volunteer coaching she has completed at Rugby Borough Football Club over the past 12 months - over 100 hours!

After completing a youth volunteer course, Rosa started her path of volunteering by assisting with coaching sessions for children with additional needs, this was quickly followed by two of the U12 girls teams, where she was able to apply much of her own playing experience in teaching the girls who are only a couple of years younger than her. As her confidence grew, she started assisting the coach of the newly formed U8 girls team, where the vast majority had very little experience playing.

Rosa has shown great enthusiasm and commitment to her coaching and should be very proud of her achievements.

Well done for showing such fantastic leadership skills and commitment to volunteering within the local community.



Rosa is pictured receiving her award from Pam Thomas (Southam Lions President).

Sports News

Sam smashes it for County

Samuel B Year 7, has recently been chosen to play for the Warwickshire county hockey team. We are incredibly proud of this achievement. Samuel has always been so hard working and dedicated to the sport since a young age. He has been playing with Rugby and East Warwickshire for a number of years and they chose him to be part of the talent platform and trial for Warwickshire. He was selected and has recently played his first county match against Worcestershire and Northamptonshire. Well done from everyone and the school; dedication and hard work paying off!



Victory in the cup final!

The Year 10 netballers played their final for the league cup at Kings High. The final was due to take place next week but because of the house trip Kings High agreed to bring the match forward.

The girls started off with a great start seeing Charlotte popping in the first shot of the game. For the first few minutes the game was going goal for goal and we thought we were in for a close, well fought match. Southam managed to sneak ahead in the last few minutes of the quarter thanks to key intercepts from Evie and Phoebe H.

In the second and third quarter Southam stretched their lead as Rosa and Phoebe H started to find it easy to feed Phoebe and Charlotte.

The final quarter saw Eva, Isla and Evie make crucial interceptions seeing Southam extend the lead further. The final score saw Southam win 23-8.

I can safely say it is one of the best games of netball I have seen the girls play. There was individual brilliance, team spirit and positive attitudes across the court. It was fantastic to see such great support from the parents, grandparents and siblings this evening, I feel it helped lift the girls performance to the next level. The girls have come a long way from losing out last year in the semi-finals. You should be extremely proud of your performance this evening.

I am so impressed with your performance this evening, well done a well deserved win!

Mrs Turton



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.

