

May 2024

*Year 9 Bronze D of E
Journey through the Cotswolds*

Contents

Head Teacher [Page 2](#)

Year 7 Trip [Page 3](#)

Career Services [Page 4](#)

Articulate [Page 6](#)

DofE [Page 9](#)





Our new school opened this term

Have a safe and enjoyable half term.



This half term has been momentous for the Southam College community as we finally made the move into the new building. This has been a privilege to be part of and we are incredibly pleased with our new home, however I recognise that even change for the good brings challenges and I have been so proud to witness the kindness, confidence and overall resilience of students, staff and parents over this half term. It was a pleasure to

welcome parents and carers on our tours last week to get a first proper look inside the school we now have. This building will provide the whole community with so many opportunities over the years to come and we look forward to getting the best out of it for everyone. A huge thank you goes to everyone who has donated to our fundraising page for the new build, via JustGiving or ParentPay. We have raised over £6000 so far and look forward to creating our Wall of Thanks with donor's names in the Autumn.

Around the move school has continued at a pace, with trips, visits, events and lessons. Charity Week was a delight to be part of and really boosted the totaliser towards its end of year target of £10,000. Over weekends we have had successful Duke of

Edinburgh Expeditions and Netball residentials and our evenings have been kept busy with Neurodiversity events for parents and carers and welcoming in Year 6 families as part of the transition preparations, as well as preparing for the residentials that take place next half term.

Around all these events and activities I have to acknowledge the effort of all the students taking GCSEs, AS/A Levels and equivalent. The commitment and hard work of students, supported by staff and family, is always inspiring to see as the culmination of years of learning. I wish all of our students the best of luck in the remaining examinations after half term.

I hope that you have a safe and enjoyable Half Term.

Miss Mason, Headteacher

Year 7 Isle of Wight Trip



This years residential trip was incredibly successful.

For some students, this was their first time travelling, so the memories and lessons they gained will be cherished for a lifetime. PGL on the Isle of Wight provided excellent hospitality for the 106 students on this adventure. With a well-planned itinerary and thrilling activities, everyone had an enjoyable and engaging time.

A special thank you to the dedicated staff who ensured all students had a memorable experience. It was a trip full of happy memories and valuable experiences. Congratulations to everyone who participated in the Isle of Wight trip in 2024.

Mrs Erroi, Head of Year 7



Rotary Young Chef

Gracie C represented Southam College and Southam Rotary club this weekend at the Rotary Young Chef Midlands Cluster final at Loughborough College. She cooked up a storm again cooking a delightful two course meal for the judges. She unfortunately didn't win on this occasion but we are so proud of how far she has come and how much she has developed since her Rotary Young chef journey began in January.

Well done Gracie. Thank you to everyone who has been involved especially 'Mum'.

Mrs James and the food department

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

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.

6th Form Success Stories

On Sunday 7th April, Hermione completed her first Half marathon in London to raise money for 'The Multiple Sclerosis Society'.

Hermione states 'since the diagnosis of MS in my family last Christmas I wanted to raise money. The experience itself was something I had never imagined, exhausting but so incredible. I walked away feeling grateful that I was able to balance a strenuous training regime alone whilst also working hard for my upcoming A-levels with the aim of studying Sport Science at University in September'.

Well done to Hermione for raising over £2000 for charity, but also for the commitment to do her very best for her studies over the last 2 years. Keep up the amazing work both in and outside of the Sixth Form Hermione, we are proud of you. Best of luck for the final weeks ahead.

Mrs Campbell-Birch, Head of Sixth Form



The Space Rats

Southam band '*The Space Rats*' have been working with SPARKS UK this year. They held a fantastic performance in Alcester and were amazing!

Libby L has been a big support and fellow band members Fearne L, Year 7 and Bethany W, Year 8 were dynamic. Libby also performed with another band showing her skills again in another great performance.

Thank you to parents and staff that supported this event.

The Space Rats were a credit to themselves and Southam College.

Well done to the band for a fantastic performance and a special thank you to James the music tutor and Clare from SPARKS UK.

Mrs Erroi, Head of Year 7

Appointments with our SENCO

As part of our ongoing SEND support / provision, we are offering online 15 minute appointments with our SENCO **Miss Amy Hawkes**. This will provide an opportunity to meet and to ask any questions you may have about the school's SEN provision and your child's education.

These appointments are open to all pupils, not specific families.

Appointments are bookable online via school cloud

<https://southamcollege.schoolcloud.co.uk>



Miss Hawkes, SENCO



ARTICULATE

19TH APRIL 2024

Southam's Amnesty Society were privileged to host a Q&A Fighting for Freedom event in which both Richard and Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe spoke to our students and staff about their fight for freedom during the 6 gruelling years Nazanin was held captive in Iran.

Thank you to all the guests, staff and students who attended. We have been blown away with all the kind comments we have received about the event, and we have been left inspired and empowered! Well done to all the Amnesty students involved, you were amazing!

Mrs Savage

I just wanted to say a very special thank you for arranging such a wonderful event today.

It was so well organised by your Amnesty Group. They all did themselves, their parents and their school proud.

It is lovely to see such a caring group of young people and so competent at expressing themselves.

Please accept congratulations on what you have achieved.

MARGARET

Many congratulations on today's event. Thanks so much for inviting me to hear such inspiring and humble speakers. The students were also brilliant.

RICHARD

Just to say thanks for today - it was really lovely for us to meet so many people who had been so caring and supportive during the campaign, and for Nazanin to hear so many great stories and meet such kindness. We both talked about how we were struck by it on the journey home. Can you thank all the Amnesty group for putting so much thought and care into the event. We were really impressed with them all, as well as the new school.

Also can you thank Eloise for taking the time to come down from Chester. It was really lovely to see her again. And Nazanin was very moved by her thesis.

RICHARD RATCLIFFE

I just want to echo what Richard has written. Thank you ever so much for the kind invitation to the College and having the privilege of meeting both Richard and Naznin and to hear their personal stories during Naznin's captivity. Thank you too for always including the UN Association in your activities.

GIAN





Student Leadership

Congratulations to Mollie, Persia, Abby and Lucas who were successful with their applications to become our Sixth Form "Senior Head Prefects" as they transition into year 13. The students were chosen by Head Students Mae and Evie via an application process. This new leadership role has been developed to complement our existing Sixth Form student leadership structure.

We also wanted to say a big thank you to all of our current year 12 prefects who have been

incredible with supporting our transition into the new build. We are really proud of you all for your hard work, dedication but also exemplary role modelling to lower school this half term.

Look out for our student leadership vacancies and opportunities over the term ahead as we refresh our whole school student leadership structure moving forward into the new academic year! Positions available for all year groups across year 7-13!

Mrs Campbell-Birch and the Head Students, Mae & Evie.

Student Leadership

Well done to our Sixth Form Wellbeing Team for volunteering at the spring Triathlon!

Daniela, James, Harriet and Erin gave up their weekend to support with the local Triathlon that took place at Southam College. On Saturday 20th April, during the set up morning, James and Harriet did a great job of roping off the cycling and running routes on the school field.

Daniela put in a huge shift into the event on Sunday 21st from 7am - 3pm! During this time as well as prepping things such as water, food and medals at the finish line, Daniela completed various marshalling jobs including checking bikes out and in to the transition zone on the adults race and handing out bands to count laps on the adult and children's races. She was supported by Erin during the afternoon.

Well done to our Sixth Form Wellbeing Team society volunteers. Your contributions and commitment to events both in and outside of school is admirable. Keep up the amazing work! We are proud of you all.

Mrs Campbell-Birch





Student Success

Following receiving a Gold Award from Southam Lions for her outstanding volunteering at Rugby Borough Football Club, on Wednesday 10th April Rosa attended the Rugby Borough Council Awards. During an evening in which the efforts and achievements of many people in the area were recognised, Rosa was presented with the Rugby Young Volunteer Award for 2023.

This is amazing achievement and is further recognition of the coaching that Rosa has completed with a range of young teams at the football club- Ben Wilde, Southam Lions.

Well done Rosa from everyone at Southam College!



Maths Challenge

Miss Harvey took students to Caroline Chisholm school in Northampton for the regional Team Maths Challenge. Students worked as a team in four competitive rounds against eight other schools.

Southam managed to secure **THIRD** place!!!

Well done to Ada, Jimmy, Milo and Jack for their enthusiasm and engagement with the day. You were fantastic and impeccably behaved!

Miss Harvey

Stowe Valley MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

JOIN OUR TEAM

We are hiring

- Stowe Valley Multi Academy Trust is a family of schools in Warwickshire and Northamptonshire
- including our brand-new schools Oakley School
- an all through school and Myton Gardens Primary on the edge of Leamington and Warwick.

For more details please visit www.stowevalley.face-ed.co.uk/vacancies

D of E

On the first weekend in May, our largest Duke of Edinburgh expedition yet, saw 112 students embark on a journey through the Cotswolds, camping across two sites. Friday's persistent rain failed to dampen spirits, with students maintaining enthusiasm throughout. Saturday greeted us with glorious sunshine, causing students to wish for the rain to return. We extend our gratitude to the parents for their support, dropping off and picking up, enabling them to embark on this memorable adventure.

Miss Brookes and the DofE team



Ella and Sophie and their Coventry City Red U14 team took part in the ESF tournament in Skegness. After five tough group games they finished top of the table so made it through to the semi final and then won the final. The team has now been entered into a Winners' finals at St George's Park in June. A huge congratulations to them both.

Charity Week 2024 - a huge success

Over the 5 days all tutor groups were involved in running staffs and activities which were fun and helped make over £1600 across the week. We believe this might be a record amount for Charity Week fundraising. Thank you to all the students and staff who were involved in making it a success. In particular Mr Jeffries for overseeing the organisation of the week. We are now really close to our target for the year of £10,000!



Reading Lists

Does your child struggle to find something to read? Here are some suggestions from our school librarian. Remember, a reading book is part of the school equipment. All of these texts are available to borrow in the library.

Year 7

The Wolves of Willoughby Chase

by Joan Aitkin

Artichoke Hearts

by Sita Brahmachari

Artemis Fowl

by Eoin Colfer

Hunger Games

by Suzanne Collins

The Seeing Stone

by Kevin Crossley-Holland

Mockingbird

by Kathryn Erskine

The Graveyard Book

by Neil Gaiman

A Wrinkle in Time

by Madeleine L'Engle

The Dog Runner

by Bren MacDibble

The Island at the End of Everything

by Kiran Millwood Hargrave

Here Lies Arthur

by Philip Reeve

Five Children on the Western Front

by Kate Saunders

Year 8

Wranglestone

by Darren Charlton

The Bubble Wrap Boy

by Phil Earle

Tulip Touch

by Anne Fine

The Bone Sparrow

by Zana Fraillon

Bone Talk

by Candy Gourlay

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time

by Mark Haddon

The Supreme Lie

by Geraldine McCaughrean

Mortal Engines

by Philip Reeve

How I Live Now

by Meg Rosoff

Midwinter Blood

by Marcus Sedgwick

Salt to the Sea

by Ruta Sepetys

Chinese Cinderella

by Adeline Yen Mah

Year 9

Children of Blood and Bone

by Tomi Adeyemi

The Various

by Steve Augarde

Lionheart Girl

by Yaba Badoe

Maggot Moon

by Sally Gardner

Coram Boy

by Jamila Gavin

Lord of the Flies

by William Golding

The Lie Tree

by Frances Hardinge

Monkey Wars

by Richard Kurti

Buffalo Soldier

by Tanya Landman

Eight Pieces of Silva

by Patrice Lawrence

The Deathless Girls

by Kiran Millwood Hargrave

The Call

by Peadar O'Guilin

Happy reading

fingerspellingathon



The top 3 in each house will progress onto the grand final at the end of the year.

HOUSE COMPETITION

What do we need?

Students from each house to volunteer to learn the British fingerspelling alphabet

Why do we want you?

To take part in a house competition in June to spell words using the British fingerspelling alphabet

How to get involved

Any interested students should give their names to their Head of House by Wed 5th June using the link:

<https://forms.office.com/e/RyGSW4p5sh>

The first heat between Whittle and Shakespeare will be on Wednesday 12th June

The second heat between Webb Ellis and Godiva will be on Thursday 13th June

Both heats will take place in G3 at lunchtime

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.





PARENT GOVERNOR VACANCY

at Southam College

The Governing Body at Southam College currently has a vacancy for a Parent Governor. All parents and carers of registered pupils at the school are eligible to become parent governors.

Governors play an important part in the leadership of the school and work together with staff to make sure that the College provides a challenging and supportive environment for all our pupils. Governors do not need to be experts in the field of education but you do need to have the time and the willingness to get involved. We would be particularly interested to hear from parents/carers with professional leadership skills and those who have links with the local community. A governor also needs to be able to work as part of a team and develop relationships with a range of people, have the ability to question and to make connections between different types of information.

Training is an essential part of the role and governors are provided with ongoing training, free of charge, to enable them to discharge their functions effectively. The usual term of office is four years from the date of appointment.

Expressions of interest and requests for further information should be made to the Governance Professional,
Mrs Maria Page at page.m3_CG@stowevalley.com

Closing date for applications is Friday 21st June 2024 at noon.



Stowe Valley
MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

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