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### **World Mental Health Day 2024**

Well done to the Sixth Form Wellbeing Team who spent time putting together over 150 handwritten staff uplift cards



*Southam College are pleased to announce we have achieved the National Silver Equalities Mark award!*



This is complemented by support for this year's charity, Cardiac Risk in the Young (CRY), with Charity Superstars planning their ideas to raise money.



display items for the main building.

Construction on the bus bay area at the front of school, is progressing swiftly, with completion remaining on track for the start of December. We also have continuing work being carried out on the astro turf, with the old surface removed and the ground now being prepped for the new surface to be introduced. Thank you to all members of the school community for your patience with these building works.

The first half term of the year began with getting to know our new students in Years 7 and 12. These students have settled in to school so quickly and been such a positive influence on the school community.

Our House Competition started off strongly with the European Day of Languages Bake Off, with some incredible creations and was swiftly followed up with House Cross Country. Over 45000 House Achievement Points have been awarded to students already, so this year is set to be a close competition.

Students have already been out on visits to Whipsnade Zoo, Warwick University and the theatre, with residentials to Condover Hall and Crandale Outdoor Centre. Last week was rounded off with the Year 7 Disco, a chance to socialise, snack and dance the evening away. Thank you to the PTSA for their support with this event, providing a great experience for students and raising money to go back into the school. This term the PTSA have already purchased footballs for use at social times, hamsters for Animal Club and new

I hope that you have a restful and enjoyable half term break and look forward to the half term ahead, seeing what we can achieve together.

**Miss Mason, Headteacher**

# Head Student Announcement

**We are pleased to announce the Head Students at Southam College for the new academic year 2024-25.**

Persia B and Abby T have been successful with being selected for the role of Head Students through a thorough process including a student vote, staff vote, letter of application, student presentations and interviews with Headteacher Miss Mason and Head of Sixth Form, Mrs Campbell-Birch.



We are so pleased to hear their passion towards the roles and look forward to seeing their ideas implemented across the school. We would like to also thank the students who originally applied as there were some excellent applications so the decision was not easy.

Persia and Abby commented: *"We are so happy to be given the opportunity to represent the students of Southam College next year, and to have the privilege to be a part of our school's history. Together with the student leadership team, we will work hard to make the differences you want to see across the school community. A big thank you to all those who voted for us, we look forward to the year ahead!"*

Well done both, we have no doubt you will be fantastic. We all wish Persia and Abby all the best for their future positions.

## **School Games Gold Mark Award**

We are delighted to announce that we, Southam College, have achieved the School Games Gold Mark Award for the 2023/24 academic year. The School Games Mark is a Government-led award scheme launched in 2012, facilitated by the Youth Sport Trust to reward schools for their commitment to the development of competition across their school and in the community, and we are delighted to have been recognised for our success.

As a department, we are extremely proud of this achievement!

***Mr Turton and the PE department.***



# 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!

**Campbell-Birch, 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 are 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.



# Drama Leaders 24-25

The Drama department are proud to announce our new Drama Leaders are now in role.

After writing a formal application, they were selected to help support the Drama department at events and with learning about general maintenance. They will be proudly wearing their badges and we are thrilled they volunteered as part of the school community and culture.

*Miss Ferguson, Head of Drama*



## Congratulations to our new 'Prefect' team 2024-25

We are so excited to announce our new Prefect team for this academic year. The applications from the Year 12s were such a high standard. We had a tough time picking as everyone was excellent. Along with our Year 13 Head Prefects, we are confident that our team will make a positive impact on the school community and be reliable role models for the younger years.

**Well Done Prefects!**

**Persia and Abby, Head Students.**



*Be the best you can be!*



# Year 7 trip to Whipsnade Zoo

We have had a great day with our Year 7 students at Whipsnade Zoo. All students participated in a workshop looking at adaptations in wildlife as well as exploring the many different animals at the zoo. It was great to be able to take our newest year group on their first memorable experience. We hope that they enjoyed the day and look forward to many more opportunities in the future!



## Student Success

During 2024 Ellis Cox has played bass guitar with Beeches Performance Ensemble, a Birmingham-based drum corps. Drum corps is an activity that started in the USA but is now all over the world. It's known as the 'sport of the arts' due to the physical fitness and mental resilience it requires of its performers. On 24 September Ellis travelled with the other 50 or so members to Belgium where the corps rehearsed for two days before heading to Dordrecht in the Netherlands to compete against the top European drum corps. Beeches

Performance Ensemble were crowned European champions, which means Ellis is also now a European champion.

**Congratulations Ellis for all your perseverance and resilience as well as your fantastic performances!**



## Competition Winners

Congratulations to Esme Wentzel, Bella Mann, Jake Osborne, Florence Wentzel, Olivia Bramwell, and Toby Price for their outstanding designs in the Reach Competition! Your bright and colourful creations truly showcase your understanding of Reach at Southam College. Thank you for your hard work and creativity! Keep shining!



# European Day of Languages

We have been thrilled to see so many entries to our Great European Bake Off Competition to celebrate the European Day of Languages 2024. We were very impressed by the range of countries and cultures celebrated, the great skill of our bakers, and their incredible creativity with their designs. The lunch time cake sale raised over £200 for our House Charity, and we are grateful for the support from sixth form students to run this successfully.

With over 70 entries this year, choosing winners amongst such a range of professional quality cakes was challenging, and we'd like to thank everyone that took the time to participate in this event.

We hope you enjoyed creating your masterpieces and we look forward to celebrating the European Day of Languages 2025!

THANK YOU – MERCI – DANKE – GRACIAS – DZIĘKUJĘ – GRAZIE – DIOLCH



## Year 10&11 Awards Winner

*Maria S 11GV8*

### Taste

*Max B 10WE8*

### Presentation

*Lee C & Joshua M 11WH10*

### Highly Commended

*Thomas F11WH10*

## Year 9 Awards Winner

*Joshua C 9WE6*

### Taste

*Stan G 9WH6*

### Presentation

*River W 9SE6*

### Highly Commended

*Josh C 9GV5*

## Year 8 Awards Winner

*Molly E 8WG3*

### Taste

*Victoria M 8GV4*

### Presentation

*Katie S 8WE3*

### Highly Commended

*Bella B 8WE3, Sofia A 8WH3, Tilly F 8WH3*

## Year 7 Awards Winner

*Mya W 7WH1*

### Taste

*Jake O 7SE1*

### Presentation

*Esme W 7SE1*

### Highly Commended

*Chloe P 7WG1, Holly K 7GV2, Esther F 7GV2, Julian W 7WH2, Charlie F 7WE1*

## Southam's Book Festival

Southam College art students have had the pleasure of collaborating with Southam Library to help create a window display for the up and coming Southam's Book Festival. Inspired by Phillip Pullman's 1st book out of the His Dark Materials Trilogy, "Northern Lights", students have created some stunning art work to advertise the importance of imagination & books.

We are proud of all the hard work from the students involved.



# Stay Connected!

This half-term saw several initiatives to build an even stronger culture of connection and belonging. Every one of our 1032 student who attended every day during our Connection Badge Challenge fortnight received HAPs and a ClassCharts Connection Badge and was entered into a prize draw. We also saw the return of our annual connection catchphrase competition - this year's overall winner was "Your Future Starts with Your Presence" (Y11 Godiva student). The winning slogans for each House were:

**Godiva: Show up, shine bright, and shape your future—every day at school is a new step towards your dreams!**

**Shakespeare: Attendance is a small step in a big race.**

**Whittle: Never dream for success - work for it!**

**Webb-Ellis: Being present is powerful.**

Watch out for the launch of our Connection Champion's League - more information coming soon!

## Sporting Star

A massive well done to Frankie in Year 11 who has been signed by Aston Villa on a 2 year deal.

She is looking forward to working with the U18s and U21s Ladies Teams.

We are extremely proud of her ongoing sporting achievements.

Hopefully there will be a few more clean sheets for Southam College before the bright lights of the WSL! Well done Frankie!

*Mr Turton and the PE department.*



@AVWFCOfficial



## THANK YOU PTSA

### PTSA Footballs

Thank you to the PTSA for providing students with a set of footballs for lunchtimes, they are being greatly enjoyed!

# Southam College Career Events 2024/25

Thank all of you who supported Southam College students in careers activities during the 23/24 academic year. Our students benefited from talks from employers, visits to local businesses, mock interviews, work experience placements and more.

We are excited about our programme of activities for 2024/25 and would be delighted to welcome you to Southam College during the year.

Career activity	Dates	Description
Southam College Careers Fair Sports Hall	Thursday 13th March 2025	Exhibitors to include local employers, colleges, training providers and universities.
Year 10 Mock Interviews	Tuesday 13th May 2025 and Wednesday 14th May 2025	Local business and community volunteers to support with Yr10 mock interviews.
Year 12 next steps day	July 2025	Volunteers from Universities and employers that offer school leaver opportunities deliver workshops to our Yr12 students

Additionally, if you could provide a work experience placement in July/August 2025 for one of our Year 10 or Yr12 students that would be very helpful.

## Southam College Sixth Form Open Evening 2024

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup>  
November, 6-8pm

32% A\*-A, 59% A\*-B  
78% D\*- Distinction

Please arrive from 5.45pm

The opportunity to attend live presentations from **Miss Mason (Headteacher)** and **Mrs Campbell-Birch (Head of Sixth Form)**. Visit our fantastic departments to hear more about the wide range of subjects we offer.

We are recruiting students for **A Levels and Level 3 vocational** from across **Warwickshire, Northamptonshire** and further afield for the September 2025 intake. Students are welcome to log an **'Expression of Interest to apply'** if you are an external applicant to Southam College. Official application forms will open in November.

We look forward to meeting you.

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

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# House Cross Country starts with success for Shakespeare!

**The house cross country is the first house sporting event of the academic year, and this year Shakespeare start the year off in first position.**

The day started off with the year 9s, and they turned out in forces. The girls started the day with a highly contested race seeing Ila striding to victory over the last 200m. Bethan fought off Tilda to secure 2nd spot with Phoebe finishing in 4th. The year 9 boys race was even more competitive with 3 seconds splitting the top 4. Joe finished top of the pile narrowly edging ahead of Freddie (2nd), Harvey (3rd) and Elias.

The year 8's followed suit, and the girls race was competitive but Eva managed to stretch her lead in the final 400m to secure a convincing win over Alice and Eggie. The boys race was highly contested and came down to a fantastic sprint finish. Sam snuck ahead of Olly to secure a second place for Shakespeare.

The final race was the year 7 event, and the first introduction to house competitions for the year 7's. The girls race was fast paced and saw Peyson take victory for Whittle. Second place was secured by a Shakespeare student just ahead of Orla. The final race was won by Jago for Godiva, ahead of Finley and Harris.

A great day of racing, and some of the top performances will see selection to compete for the school in the English Schools Cross Country cup.

Final standings:

**1st Shakespeare**

**2nd Godiva**

**3rd Webb Ellis**

**4th Whittle**



# A fantastic weekend at Condover Hall

## Year 11 Netballers continue their great form.

The year 11 team took to Condover hall for their first experience of the club weekend. The competition is extremely high but the girls were up for the challenge.

The first day saw the girls battle 2 tough teams narrowly missing out on victory by 1 goal and 4 goals respectively. However after playing extremely well they then moved on to win the next 2 matches convincingly qualifying for the cup match on Sunday.

On Sunday, the girls faced a tough team Galaxy from the Wirral in which they lost to. However they also faced one of the teams they'd lost to the day before from Scotland. This time the girls came out playing some truly fantastic netball and managed to pull out a 3 goal win.

Unfortunately, they didn't make the final but they did play some outstanding netball and possibly the best netball they've ever played as a team. Every player did a great job and fought until the very end. You should all be super proud of yourselves.

Well done,

**Mrs Turton and Mrs Herbage**

**Player's player:** *Phoebe H - for being strong in the middle and being consistent throughout.*

**Coaches Player:** *Phoebe B - for some outstanding shooting and playing the best netball we have seen you play.*



## The sixth form netball team had a fantastic weekend at Condover Hall.

They started the day on Saturday playing some great netball showing how much they've grown as players but also as a team. The quality was really high and they battled through some of tough clubs who'd travelled from Wales and Scotland. They finished the day in 6th and qualified for the plate for day 2. On day 2 they played some more tough games but continued to play some outstanding netball.

It is lovely to see the development of the girls throughout the years. You played extremely well all weekend you should be proud of yourselves.

**Mrs Turton and Mrs Herbage**

**Players player:** *Chloe - for fitting in so well with a team you haven't ever played for.*

**Coaches Player:** *Scarlett - for holding the team together in the middle throughout the weekend and being solid in the middle.*

## 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 Wight* 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 law states a leave of absence may only be granted by a school if an application is made in advance and if it considers there are exceptional circumstances relating to the application.

Schools must judge each application individually considering the specific facts and circumstances and relevant background context behind each request.

A leave of absence is granted entirely at the school's discretion. Generally, a need or desire for a holiday or other absence for the purpose of leisure and recreation would not constitute an exceptional circumstance.

Where a leave of absence is granted, the school will determine the number of days a pupil can be absent from school.

When making an application for Leave of Absence 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. The school may also request further information on the application and supporting documentation where appropriate.

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 is expected 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. 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.

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'.

All matters of unauthorised absence relating to a Leave of Absence will be referred to the Warwickshire Attendance Service, part of Warwickshire County Council. Penalty Notices are issued in accordance with Warwickshire County Council's Code of Conduct for Penalty Notices and in the first instance, as an alternative to prosecution proceedings.

### Leave of Absence taken in the academic year 2023-24

**It is important to note,** 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 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.

### Leave of Absence taken in the academic year 2024-25

The law relating to Penalty Notices is due to change with effect from 1 September 2024. Therefore Penalty Notices issued for Leave of Absences taken after this date will be issued in accordance with the updated legislation.

- 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 – 4 in total).
  - First Leave of Absence offence: The Penalty Notice amount of £160 to be paid within 28 days, this is reduced to £80 each child if paid within 21 days.
  - Second Leave of Absence offence within a 3 year period (from the date of issue of the first penalty notice): The amount of £160 paid within 28 days. No reduced amount.
- Payment plans will not be offered and/or payments received outside of the 28 day period will not be accepted. Where a penalty notice expires unpaid the matter will be referred to Warwickshire County Council's Legal Services to consider criminal prosecution.
- Third Leave of Absence offence within a 3 year period (from the date of issue of the first penalty notice) A penalty notices will be not be issued and the matter will be referred to Warwickshire County Council's Legal Services to consider instigating criminal prosecution proceedings under s444 of Education Act 1996.

Your child's progress academically as well as socially is our shared priority.