

CollegeNews

December 2024



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Thank you to all those who have donated to the foodbank. In total we have collected 884 items, including 499 tins and 186 packets of pasta!





We are excited to announce that Southam College has successfully achieved the 'Wellbeing Award for Schools' accreditation.



An uplifting term



There have been so many uplifting events this term but most recently the Food Bank Collection really showed the commitment to kindness from the school community, with the final total of over 1000 items donated to help local families. This was swiftly followed by our non-uniform day that raised nearly £2000 towards the school charity, CRY.

Our students have had a great Autumn Term, with over one hundred and twenty-two thousand House Achievement Points being issued for positive actions. It has been my pleasure to get to visit lessons and see the great work that students are doing in class, to hear from them how this links to their previous learning and what they are doing to develop. Outside of lessons we have celebrated Anti-bullying, Disability Awareness and Safeguarding Awareness Weeks. These have received support from outside agencies as well as our fantastic student leaders in the Sixth Form. We have started our monthly Parent Forums this term and it has been lovely to get to talk to parents and carers face to face. The forums allow the school to come away with actions to move the school forward; if you are a parent and have not had chance to come along to one yet, please do consider this for the new year. There is always an update on current projects. We now have access to all of the new building and parking. It seems so long ago that the build project started in the planning phase and it is fantastic to see it all in action and the artist impressions coming to life. Work on the astro turf is also moving at a pace for a Spring Term completion.

As everyone heads towards the school holidays, I would like to wish everyone a happy holiday and I hope that the New Year is a safe and enjoyable start to 2025. We look forward to what the Spring Term has to offer.

Miss Mason, Headteacher

Big Bang Fair on Location



Fourteen Year 9 students spent the morning at the Institute of Chemical Engineering for the Big Bang Fair on Location with Engineering UK. They had a fantastic time in the Mining experience, considering how to make the process of mining chocolate chips efficient, safe and environmentally friendly (while also making the most profit!). After this we had a great time looking around the hands-on exhibition, finding out what a career in Chemical Engineering looks like and trying out all of the different challenges.

Sixth Form Open Evening and Mornings

Thank you to all parents/carers and students who came along to the Sixth Form Open Evening earlier this month. It was great to see current year 11 students plus a large number of new students visiting our school. A brilliant atmosphere with over 200 visitors attending the event!

Well done to our Head students Abby and Persia for their excellent speech and all student subject ambassadors for their effort to lead stalls. Thank you to all teachers for showcasing our wonderful Sixth Form departments.



Anti-Bullying Week 2024



During Anti-Bullying Week, we are showcasing a series of displays centred around the theme of respect.

One of the highlights was a heartfelt poem emphasising why respect is essential in fostering a positive community.

The displays included various quotes from renowned figures, such as Malala Yousafzai, who said, "We all have the power to make a difference," reminding us that respect is about valuing others. This raised the question: is respect something that is earned? Many believe it is, as mutual respect often develops through understanding and trust.

To encourage students in showing respect, we shared top tips such as listening actively to others, appreciating diverse perspectives, using kind words, and standing up against bullying, reinforcing that respect is not just a value but a practice that enriches our school environment.

Naomi Sutton from Warwickshire Police came to our school to deliver an insightful hate crime workshop to students from Year 7 to Year 10.

Her engaging presentation captivated the students, encouraging them to actively participate in discussions about the seriousness of hate crimes and their consequences. Through interactive activities, Naomi helped them understand the importance of empathy and standing up against bullying.

The workshop was a valuable experience that equipped students with the knowledge and tools to foster a more inclusive and respectful school environment.



JLR Car Design and Modelling Day

On Thursday 21st November, Year 12 & 13 technology students took part in a Design and Modelling Day delivered by Jaguar Land Rover.

During the introduction to the presentation, students were asked about their particular interest in design, with them offering answers from CAD, concept cars, product design to just being mad into cars generally.

Concept design was then explored, the new (contentious) branding of the EV Jaguar was lightly debated, with JLR's emphasis being on sustainability, brand identity and the importance of the client experience. Students were given the opportunity to design their own Land Rover concept and were aided in their sketches by the experienced team.

This then led onto a presentation of career opportunities within JLR. Students were told in detail about the range of apprenticeships available annually, where those courses would take them into their careers as well as the support and pay structures and invaluable tips were shared on improving your chance of success in having your application accepted. The JLR team even went on to share their personal experiences of life as a new apprentice/ degree student within the corporation, to allay any doubts or concerns newcomers may have about fitting into the company culture.

After the break, teams split up into teams and carried out a range of activities including working on a scaled down clay wrapped model car. Students were encouraged to try the different sculpting tools, let their guard down and explore the different carving techniques, there were no rules to what they were allowed to do.

Secondly they were given a selection of exterior paint and interior swatch choices to see how design concepts are created and colour pallets chosen. Thirdly they had a similar set up but this time it was with the steering wheel, looking at fabrics, fixings, levers, pulling them all together to complete the finished product. The teams were rotated to give everyone a taste of the JLR design journey.

By the end of the presentation the students had been given a nose to tail introduction to JLR and felt the overall experience had certainly been a valuable one.



Employee Spotlight

Mr MacGibbon

P.E. Teacher
Southam College

Off the back of a very impressive Ironman Triathlon at the start of September, Mr MacGibbon recently participated in a Duathlon consisting of a 10km run followed by a 38km bike ride and then finished off with a 5km run.

Mr MacGibbon's extremely successful performance at this event has seen him qualify to be a part of the Great Britain Duathlon team at the World Championships in 2025 which will be held in Pontevedra, Spain.

Needless to say, we are extremely proud of Mr MacGibbon and his achievement! We look forward to seeing how you get on at the World Championships!!

Well done Sir!



www.stowevalleymat.com



Southam College Christmas Trees

Kindly donated
by Mr Gary Collins of Deppers
Bridge Christmas Trees

07768 594 363

Christmas Tree Festival



The Philosophy and Ethics department would like to thank the Year 7 students who gave up their time to create Christmas tree decorations for Southam College's entry to the St James Church Christmas Tree festival.

The theme of our tree was 'A Christmas Wish for the World' and the students put their wishes on the baubles and paper chains that adorned our tree.

A special thank you to Mrs Birch for organising our space in the festival.



Sidh in Year 8 has done an incredible achievement by individually raising £828 for the school charity CRY. Sidh rode 100 miles on a bike and was sponsored for his efforts. Well done Sidh!

This now puts our total above £1000 in our aim to raise £15,000 for our charity. Please donate or get involved!



Visit from Olympian Emily Craig!

Our Year 10's had a fantastic start to the week this week, with Emily Craig the British 3 times Olympic medalist coming in to talk to our students.

Emily talked about her journey and the determination, strength & courage it took to get to her outstanding successes. Our Year 10s also were able to ask a variety of different questions to upskill and build the resilience required to be able to achieve their goals.

Emily also shared around her gold medal which was a fantastic experience for all!



New Bus Bay Opens

On Thursday 28th November we held the opening of the new and larger bus bay, this is one of the final stages of our new school build. We were delighted to welcome Mr P Catterall to drive the first coach around the new bay and break the ribbon, joined by a number of Year 9 students. The bus bay was fully operational this morning and gives us the space to fit in twice the coaches that the old bus bay allowed.

We know the opening of this space will relieve some of the pressures on Welsh Road West at the end of the school day and when trips return. Thank you to all members of the community for your patience and support over the last three years, as the new build process was completed.

We look forward to enjoying the school going forward.



Volunteering visit to Galanos House - Christmas prize bingo!

The Sixth Form Wellbeing Team went along to Galanos House to spend time getting to know the residents through chatting and playing Christmas prize bingo together!

It was fantastic to see the inter-generational relationships building as we think it is important to give students the opportunity to initiate, build and strengthen connections with the older generation.

Well done to the students for showing kindness and engaging so respectfully. It was a pleasure to see you all interacting, giving up your time and spreading some Christmas. A memorable afternoon for all involved.

Mrs Campbell-Birch





HALLOWEEN WRITING COMPETITION

Congratulations to our winners

Winner: Bailey wrote a wonderfully eerie story called 'Cries of the Dead'.

2nd place: Leo wrote an excellent two-part story about Halloween night. He really brought his characters to life!

3rd place: Florence wrote a fantastic poem called 'The Wind'. She created a very spooky atmosphere!

CRIES OF THE DEAD

In a world devastated by a mysterious plague, a man awoke one morning to a silence so profound it felt like the end of time itself. He was the last man on Earth.

Days turned into weeks as the man scavenged the empty streets of his once lively city. He wandered through silent homes, collecting food and supplies, but the eerie silence took a toll. Every creak of a floorboard, every gust of wind felt like a reminder of the countless lives lost.

One evening, while exploring a decaying bookstore, he stumbled upon a dusty, old journal. The pages were filled with frantic tales of a man who believed he could hear the whispers of the dead. The man laughed at the story, but as night came, he felt a chill creep down his spine.

That night, he heard it, a faint whispering, echoing through the darkened streets. "Braden..." It called to him softly, like a siren luring in her prey. He tried to shake it off, convincing himself it was just his mind playing tricks. But the whispers grew louder, more consistent, each one tugging at his already fading sanity.

Desperate for some form of an answer, he returned to the bookstore the next day, hoping the journal held more clues. As he flipped through the pages, one entry caught his eye. "They come when you're alone, drawn in by your weakness."

Panic gripped him by his throat. He raced home, locking every door and boarding up the windows. That night, the whispers turned into soft cries. He could feel a presence, as if shadows danced just beyond his sight, taunting him in his slumber.

"Braden... you're not alone..." they called.

He clutched his head, trying to block them out. "Leave me alone!" he shouted, but the cries only grew more desperate.

As the sun pierced his eyes the following morning, The man gathered his courage and ventured outside, convinced he'd face whatever was tormenting him. But as he stepped into the sunlight, he saw the ghostly figures flickering in and out of existence, the souls of those who had perished, trapped in their grief.

"Join us, Braden..." they whispered, stretching out translucent hands.

He stumbled back, his heart racing. They were not just echoes, they were lost, longing for company. And he realized the truth he was never truly alone.

In a moment of realisation, The man understood what he had to do. With a weary heart, he stepped forward, ready to join them. As he crossed into their realm, the whispers welcomed him with open arms, wrapping him in an embrace that felt both haunting and warm.

And in that instant, the last man on Earth became just another whisper in the endless void, never truly alone again.

Written by Bailey, Year 9

ARE YOU A LOCAL BUSINESS THAT OFFER SCHOOL LEAVER OPPORTUNITIES?

Southam College would like to invite local businesses to take part in the "Southam College local employer school leaver opportunities project", which is being funded by Warwickshire County Council Future Careers Fund.

Southam College in partnership with Career Seekers Direct will produce several short video clips to be filmed in July 2025, with the help of our Yr12 Media students as part of their work experience week.

The local employer engagement project involves local companies producing a 3-5 minute video clip which will assist our students in finding which local companies offer school leaver opportunities. The video clips will be embedded into the Character and Culture scheme of work, promoted on both the career and schools social media platforms.



The benefits to your company are that it will raise both students and parents awareness to which local employers offer school leaver opportunities and hopefully will help you to recruit our students in the future.

If your company would be interested in taking part in this project please email



hughes.a@stowevalley.com

There is always someone that can

HELP



During the Christmas holidays the **Safeguarding team** want to remind you that support is available



CHILDLINE

You can talk to us about anything. No problem is too big or too small.
Telephone 0800 1111



RUNAWAY HELPLINE

If you are thinking about running away, if you have already run away, or if you have been away and come back. You can also contact the Helpline if you are worried that someone else is going to run away or if they are being treated badly or abused.

Telephone 116 000 www.runawayhelpline.org.uk



SAMARITANS

24hr service offering emotional support.

Telephone 116 123 Email joesamaritans.org



LOOK AHEAD

Works with vulnerable people throughout the UK, those with learning difficulties, mental health, young people and the homeless.

Telephone 0333 010 4600 www.lookahead.org.uk/



STAY SAFE YOUNG MINDS

If you feel overwhelmed, or like you want to hurt yourself, support is available for you to talk things through. You deserve help as soon as you need it.

Telephone 0800 068 4141 Text 85258



KOOTH

Safe, anonymous online community and counselling for young people

Kooth.com



Stowe Valley
MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST
SAFEGUARDING & CHILD PROTECTION

There is always someone that can

HELP



Parents and Carers - During the Christmas holidays the Safeguarding team want to remind you that support is available

WARWICKSHIRE FAMILY INFORMATION SERVICE

Looking for some help and advice? Try visiting Warwickshire FIS website for lots of free advice and guidance available to all Warwickshire residents

Website - www.warwickshire.gov.uk

EARLY HELP FAMILY SUPPORT WORK

For service for advice and guidance on:

Parenting and all aspects of family life, Children and young people's behaviour

To speak to a family support worker over the telephone, call 01926 412412, Monday to Friday between 9am - 4pm. If you would like to book a face-to-face consultation with a family support worker at one of the sessions shown below, please telephone the family support line on 01926 412412, Monday to Friday, between 9am-4pm.

Website - www.warwickshire.gov.uk/children-families/service-changes-children-families/2

WARWICKSHIRE REFUGE

If you are experiencing domestic abuse of any kind in Warwickshire, Refuge's regional Domestic Violence and Abuse Service can support you and your children to keep safe.

Call Refuge's Domestic Violence and Abuse Service Warwickshire Helpline on 0800 408 1552 (Monday-Friday 8:30am-8:30pm) to speak to one of our support workers.

Website - www.refuge.org.uk

WORRIED ABOUT YOUR MENTAL HEALTH?

Wellbeing for Warwickshire is 'joined-up' support service for adult mental health that can meet a number of needs in a way, and a time and a place, that suits people best. For ease of use, the service has a single phone number **0800 616171** and a single website address

www.wellbeingforwarwickshire.org.uk and these are available for Warwickshire residents 24/7, 365 days a year.

WORRIED A CHILD IS AT RISK OF SIGNIFICANT HARM?

If you have concerns that a child is suffering any form of abuse, neglect or cruelty contact the **Warwickshire Children and Families Front Door (Front Door)** immediately by calling **01926 414144**. Lines are open Monday to Thursday 8.30am - 5.30pm, Friday 8.30am - 5.00pm.

If you need to get in touch out of usual office hours, please contact the **Emergency Duty Team** immediately by calling **01926 886922**.

If you think that **a child is at immediate risk**, contact the Police immediately by calling **999**.

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 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.