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*Ski Trip 2025*



# Message from Miss Mason



**One year on from our move into the new main block and the school is starting to feel like home.** It already seems hard to imagine the school, as it was in 2024. This term has seen the excitement of the new astro pitch opening and students are getting great use out of this, as they are the new build. We are so thankful for the fantastic environment we have at Southam. This week the field has re-opened and everyone is enjoying the space to play at social times.

There is always a busy schedule of lessons and exams, with Year 10 coming to the end of their examinations currently. I had the pleasure of seeing students' work in their Art Exam this week and was blown away with what they had created. Year 11 are working hard on their revision and making fantastic progress with their exam technique and our Sixth Form students continue to balance their wider interests with examination preparation. Year 7 students have grown in confidence and had a fantastic residential in the Isle of Wight. Our Year 8 students have been working towards their end of term rewards and making their first set of subject choices ready for September. Year 9 students, who have started their Duke of Edinburgh this year, continue to work on their award. As DofE participants get ready for their summer expedition, Year 9 students have also demonstrated their confidence and resilience with their sporting endeavours, complimenting everything they do in the classroom.

This half term saw so many stunning performances in Southam's Got Talent, an evening of celebration and joy that we all enjoyed. It felt impossible to judge and we were so grateful for the Head Students' skilled contributions in selecting a top three for 2025. I look forward to many more performances in our Hall over the coming years, getting to see students develop over time is a privilege.

Wishing everyone a safe and enjoyable Easter holiday.

***Miss Mason***

# Ski Trip 2025



This year's Southam Ski Trip went to Bardonecchia in Italy. After along coach trip across France we arrived into the sunny Italian Alps and our home for the week at the Villaggio Olimpico. There were 20 other schools at the Hotel during our stay and our 44 students shone as some of the politest and best behaved students there. Our 4 ski groups all made fantastic progress over the week, ably assisted by our excellent instructors at the resort. The weather was excellent all week and the snow held out, enabling all of our groups to enjoy each days skiing to the full.

As well as skiing, our groups sampled lots of great Italian food, both at the

Hotel and on the slopes, and took part in a variety of evening activities, a highlight of which was the Mountain Rollercoaster.

The students were a credit to the school and will have made many life-long memories. A huge thank you must be given to the staff who gave up their entire Half-term break and weekends to support this trip. Without them, this trip would not have been possible and such a success. They are Miss Owen, Mrs Southwick, Mrs Erroi, Mrs Walker and Mr Eltringham.

***Mr MacGibbon***

## University Taster Day

A group of Y12 students travelled to Clare College, Cambridge to attend a University Taster Day. The students had talks on studying at Oxbridge and the application process. They went on a tour of Clare, the second oldest Cambridge college, and had the chance to chat to current first-year students and ask questions. In the afternoon, they enjoyed a thought-provoking lecture on medical inequalities from a PhD student and attended a personal statement workshop, to help them start to consider their university options!



# Word Book Day 2025

We had a wonderful week celebrating reading at Southam College. Aside from our usual staff dressing up we have had a week of starting every lesson with reading a book from different genres from the science fiction of *The Martian* to the gothic creepiness of *Frozen Charlotte*.

For more information on the wonderful ways we support reading at Southam College please have a look at our library homepage on the Southam College Website.



**Congratulations to the winners of the 'Read Your Way Treasure Hunt' for World Book Day 2025. Students followed a trail around the school to identify teacher's favourite books.**

**WORLD COMPETITION**  
**Read Your Way Treasure Hunt**

More books available in the library from Wednesday 26th March. Items completed from the library by 12:00pm Thursday 28th March.

**The Details of Time by M. Martin**  
Time-travelling historical fiction at its best, weaving facts and fantasy to create a companion of a book.  
- Mr. Elberton

**Reading** Prizes for the winners - & Hope for all entries

# V.E. Day 80th anniversary

The History department are planning our commemoration events for the 80th anniversary of V.E. Day on 8th May.

We'd love to share stories from the local community connected to WWII, across a range of experiences whether at war or on the Home Front generally, or specifically connected to VE Day in 1945.

If you have a story you'd be happy for us to share, or would like more information, please contact

**Mrs Gough (Head of History)**  
[gough.j@stowevalley.com](mailto:gough.j@stowevalley.com)



## Careers Fair

On Thursday March 13th Southam College held its annual Careers Fair in the school hall. There were 35 exhibitors from local Colleges and Universities, Training Providers and Employers offering advice and information on the different career pathways available to our students.

The event was well attended by students, parents, and staff.

We hope that all the students that attended the event had an enjoyable experience and that they are now more aware of the different options available to them after leaving Southam College.

Southam College would like to thank everyone who attended this year's Careers Fair and for making it such a successful event.

**Mr Hughes (Careers).**



# Astro Opening

After seven months of construction work and the lead in of limited use, the brand-new surface for the Astro Turf and the reinstated flood lights were opened to students. The new surface is upgraded from our previous astro and is both FA and World Rugby accredited, giving us more flexibility for lessons and fixtures over the year.

It was a pleasure to see the Year 7 Girls using this facility in their lesson, we look forward to all the lessons, fixtures and social time activities in the months and years to come.

A huge thanks goes to the Stowe Valley MAT team for their hard work and dedication in getting this renovation completed for our students and also the wider community use in future.



## Spring Out & About Trip

Seven Southam students from visited Ryton Pools Country Park in the warm spring sunshine and built some bird-boxes and feeders. It was a great experience for them all and they had the added bonus of taking home some new residences for some of our feathered friends!

Well done to you all. **Mr MacGibbon**



## Sixth Form Wellbeing Team

We had a memorable afternoon at the Global Tea Party event, dancing and celebrating with the residents of Galanos House. The atmosphere was filled with joy as live music was playing and we witnessed a wonderful exchange between our sixth-form volunteers and the residents, bringing smiles to everyone's faces.

# Year 12 Geography Fieldtrip



In March, our Year 12 geography students had the exciting opportunity to visit the Cranedale Centre in North Yorkshire for a three-day fieldwork trip designed to support their AS exams. The students were fortunate to experience glorious sunshine throughout their stay, making their hands-on learning even more enjoyable. During the trip, they developed essential geographical skills by collecting and analysing both primary and secondary data. They examined evidence of quaternary sediments within the dramatic cliffs at Sewerby, conducted research on the impacts of afforestation on water and carbon cycles, and explored the concept of place perception in the coastal town of Scarborough. The students' enthusiasm and dedication made the trip a great success.

**There are lots of activities happening locally over the Easter holidays, further information can be found at the links below:**

[Warwickshire What's On | Warwickshire What's On](#)

[What's On - Belgrade Theatre](#)

[What's On | Warwick Arts Centre](#)

[Warwickshire Country Parks Events - 113 Upcoming Activities and Tickets | Eventbrite](#)

[Fun Days Out in Coventry and Warwickshire | Coombe Abbey Hotel](#)

[Home – Coventry Outdoors](#)

[What's On - Rugby Art Gallery & Museum - Rugby Borough Council](#)

[What's On - The Herbert Art Gallery & Museum](#)

# Southam's Got Talent 2025



**Southam's Got Talent 2025 was a very popular and very successful show in our new hall.** We had 24 fabulous acts taking part, all of whom showcased their brilliant talents showing a great variety of skills. We had singers, pianists, dancers, a band, a magician and some individual instrument acts.

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. We had returning winners and performers alongside those who had never performed on the show before. We also raised a superb

£1150 from ticket sales for the school's charity, Cardiac Risk in the Young, to add to our totaliser.

The final decision was extremely close seeing Aadhav (year 10) finishing in 3rd with his amazing version of Stay a little longer, Pearl (year 9) coming a close 2nd with his original song on the piano but the overall winner was Adwaita with her superb Bollywood dance routine.

Not forgetting the event is a house competition, Adwaita and Aadhav both gained HAPS for Whittle, while Pearl earned Webb Ellis a significant number of HAPS too. These additions to the House totals are keeping the competition tight at the top.

**The house team are super proud of all the acts and look forward to seeing the talent next year.**





# NEW...ePlatform

To continue our celebration of World Book Day, Southam College encourage students to use ePlatform, an online digital library with a huge selection of exciting eBooks and audiobooks.

<https://southamcollege.eplatform.co>

Students can download & borrow from a catalogue of over 2000 books with new titles added monthly. To log-in students should use their school computer username (followed by @stowevalley.com) and usual password, so please do get reading!



## Southam College welcomed author Monika Singh Gangotra to help celebrate World Book Day and International Women's Day in spectacular style.

A whole day of events kicked off with a Year 7 assembly and culminated in creative writing workshops with groups of outstanding students. Thank you to Monika for her entertaining and informative workshops, and thank you to the talented students involved who are certainly authors of the future.

WORLD  
**BOOK  
DAY**

6 MARCH 2025



# Sports News

## MORE CHAMPIONSHIP SUCCESS!

A brilliant display of skill, discipline, and determination saw Jenson Elgar crowned Home Counties Junior Cadet Class Champion!

Jenson will now represent the Home Counties when they take on the Western Counties on March 9th - a fantastic achievement that reflects his dedication to the sport.

Having trained in boxing for eight years, Jenson struggled to find the right gym until joining Banbury Boxing Club a year ago. Since then, under the guidance of its exceptional coaches, he has made remarkable progress, experiencing more success in this short time than ever before.

With seven fights under his belt and a 4-3 record, Jenson has already represented the Home Counties on the Isle of Man, securing a dominant unanimous decision victory. Now, by winning his latest competition with another unanimous victory, he has earned the title of Home Counties Junior Cadet Champion for his weight class.

His journey has been one of relentless hard work, from intense running sessions to strength training, pushing through even when motivation was low. His commitment has paid off - this victory is well deserved!

**Congratulations, Jenson!**



## Well Done Charlie

Congratulations to Charlie B in Year 7 who was 1st place in the British Minibike Championship Winter Series!

Trophies and awards were given out by British Superbike Rider and all-time lap record holder at the Isle of Man TT, Peter Hickman, along with, the British Minibike Championship owner and Chairman, Alan Lord.

**Well done Charlie on a fantastic first season!**





Southam College



Bilton School

Thursday 6th March

# WORLD BOOK DAY 2025 *'Read Your Way'*

On World Book Day, staff and students 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 students to enjoy.

Another fabulous World Book Day celebration to remember.



Oakley Reception



Bishops Itchington



Byfield



Rokeby



Kineton High School



Stockton Primary



Southam Primary



Myton Gardens



Temple Herdewyke

## 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.**