



Contents

Headteacher [Page 2](#)

Head Students [Page 4](#)

Sixth Form [Page 4](#)

Drama Leaders [Page 5](#)

Under 14s Girls football team

October - A fantastic 8-0 win against Aylesford School



Year 9 - France in a Day

" A truly inspiring and busy few weeks."



As we reach the end of our first half term of the academic year, I want to take a moment to reflect on what has been a truly inspiring and busy few weeks here at school. It has been wonderful to see our corridors, classrooms, and outdoor spaces once again filled with energy, enthusiasm, and a genuine sense of community. A particularly warm welcome goes to our new students and families who have joined us this term. Starting at a new school can be both exciting and daunting, but our new starters have shown great confidence and positivity as they have settled into our routines and

culture. They are already making their mark and contributing to the life of the school, with so many new students supporting at our Open Evening. We are proud of how quickly they have become part of our community.

This half term has also seen our new Student Leadership Team begin to take shape. Our Head Students have recruited their Prefect Team and Year Councils are now being formed I am confident that they will continue to bring fresh ideas and positive change over the year.

We have also celebrated a number of important events and themes over the past few weeks. Thinking Differently Awareness Week encouraged everyone to challenge assumptions, explore approaches to learning, and embrace individuality in how we solve problems. October has also given us the chance to mark Black History Month, with tutor discussions, and

sharing contributions of Black individuals from History. In addition to this, our European Day of Languages brought colour and fun to the school community, celebrating the richness of language and culture across our continent, with the highlight undoubtedly being our European Bake Off. The creativity, presentation, and delicious results showcased the culinary talents of our students — and made judging an incredibly difficult task!

In an 8 week half term our students have learnt so much and I hope that they are able to come home and share which parts of the curriculum have caught their attention. As we move into the next half term I hope to be able to see many of you in person, at the range of in person events that are on the school calendar.

Wishing you all a restful and enjoyable half-term break.

Miss Mason, Headteacher

Student Leadership Announcement

Head Students for the 2025–2026 Academic Year

We are delighted to announce that Akshaj S and Emilia B have been appointed as Head Students of Southam College for the upcoming academic year, 2025–2026.

Their selection follows a rigorous process involving a letter of application, student presentations, interviews with Headteacher Miss Mason and Head of Sixth Form Mrs Campbell-Birch, as well as votes from both students and staff. Akshaj and Emilia impressed at every stage with their dedication, leadership potential, and passion for making a difference.

We were particularly inspired by their enthusiasm for the role, and we're excited to see how their ideas and vision will positively shape our school community in the year ahead. We would also like to extend our sincere thanks to all students who applied. The calibre of applications was incredibly high, making the final decision a difficult one.

Akshaj and Emilia shared the following message:

"We're absolutely honoured to have been chosen as your Head Students for the coming year. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who supported us. We're excited to work closely with the student leadership team, bringing your ideas to life and positively impacting our school community. Let's make this year one we'll all be proud of."

Congratulations to both Akshaj and Emilia. We are confident you will thrive in your new roles and lead with integrity and enthusiasm. We wish you every success in the year ahead.



Sixth Form Student Leadership

Congratulations to our new 'Prefect' team 2025-2026

We are delighted to announce our new Prefect Team for this academic year. The applications from the Year 12s were such a high standard. Every applicant showed commitment, enthusiasm and leadership potential. Together with our Year 13 Head Prefects, we are confident that this team will play a vital role in making a positive impact on the school community, contributing fresh ideas and showing you are reliable role models for the younger years.

Well done Prefects!

Head Students, Akshaj and Emilia



Things to do

There are lots of activities happening locally over the half term, further information can be found at the links below:

- Warwickshire What's On | Warwickshire What's On
- What's On - Belgrade Theatre
- Fun Days Out in Coventry and Warwickshire | Coombe Abbey Hotel
- Warwickshire Country Parks Events - 94 Upcoming Activities and Tickets | Eventbrite
- What's On - The Herbert Art Gallery & Museum
- What's On - Rugby Art Gallery & Museum - Rugby Borough Council
- What's On | Warwick Arts Centre
- Home – Coventry Outdoors

Future England Roses

Congratulations to Isla and Beth who have both been selected for the u16 Warwickshire County development group. This was enabled and supported by the development and Barkers Butts RFC. We are hopefully that they will go on and tread in the footsteps of other former students in Representing England.

Mr Elkerton



Y9 France in a Day Trip

To celebrate European Day of Languages this year, 32 enthusiastic Y9 students embarked on a "France in a Day" trip packed with culture, language and authentic experiences.

Following a very early start and a Eurotunnel trip on Le Shuttle, students began their adventure at the traditional morning market in the town of Etaples. Here, they put their language skills to the test, purchasing souvenirs and sampling local food - all in French, bien sûr!

Next, the group explored the popular tourist town of Le Touquet, with its unique architecture and seaside charm. Students visited a local biscuiterie and learned about the production of their famous biscuits (and sampled a few, too). Afterwards, they explored Le Touquet beach for some fresh air and a friendly sand sculpture competition.

The final stop was the impressive Nausicaá Aquarium in Boulogne-sur-mer. Here students marvelled at the underwater world, getting up close to penguins, sea lions and a ray called Charles.

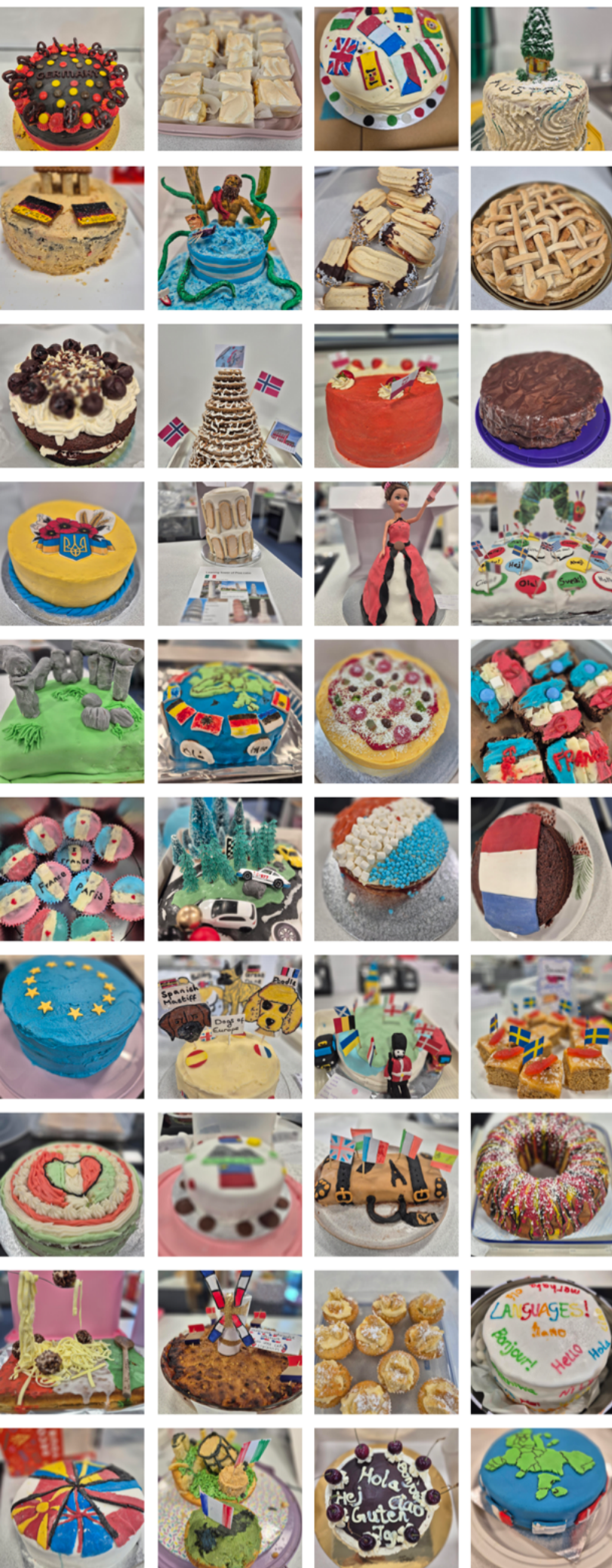
Throughout the day students were exceptionally well-behaved, polite and enthusiastic. They embraced every opportunity to speak in French and represented the school well. The day has been a wonderful way to celebrate language learning and immerse the students in real-world French culture. It was a pleasure to celebrate European Day of Languages with them - une journée inoubliable!



Year 7 trip to Whipsnade Zoo

We 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!

European Bake off competition



Our annual European Bake off competition was back with a superb number of entries this year. We were really impressed with the range of countries entered and the amount of traditional recipes that students used. We were wowed with the creativity and the effort that the students put in, we even had 2 floating forks this year! We raised over £230, exceeding last year's total for our house charity during the sale at lunchtime. Thank you to all who participated in this brilliant event, which is a highlight in the school year.

We hope you enjoyed celebrating with us and look forward to your entries next year.

Thank you - Merci - Danke - Gracias - Dziękuję - Grazie - Diloch

Year 7

Winner: Ahaana K 7WE2

Taste: Marley C 7WH2

Presentation: Florence R 7WH1

Highly Commended: Annie V 7WH2

Year 8

Winner: Esther F 8GV4

Taste: Daisy MB 8WG3 and James L 8GV4

Presentation: Isla S 8GV4

Highly Commended: Jacob G 8WH4 and Aoife S 8SE3

Year 9

Winner: Alice B 9SE6

Taste: Tilly F 9WH5

Presentation: Katie S 9WE5

Highly Commended: Alexandra A 9WG5 and Molly E 9WG5

Year 10

Winner: Josh C 10GV7

Taste: Joe D 10WG7

Presentation: Joshua C 10WE6

Highly Commended: Bethan S 10WH8 and Jess J and Macy H 10GV7

Year 11

Winner: Eva LH 11WE9

Year 12

Winner: Amelia F 12SE

Highly commended: Nicol S 12SE

World Mental Health Day



We were proud to acknowledge and raise awareness of World Mental Health Day across the whole school community.

During morning registration, all students across years 7-11 watched a pre-recorded assembly slide show led by the Sixth Form Wellbeing Team, outlining our “Catch it, Check it, Challenge it, Change it” (4Cs) tool to help manage thoughts and emotions.

Staff received a dedicated Sharing Good Practice session, with plenty of wellbeing uplifts including breakfast rolls, RAKtivist (Random Acts of Kindness) nomination cards, and Pick 'n' Mix -Pick-Me-Up sweet jars to be kept in staff workrooms.

We also officially launched our Wellbeing Peer Mentoring Programme for both Sixth Form and Lower School.

Our Wellbeing Team Leaders hosted an information stand in reception, and the Senior Mental Health Leads met with Birmingham University to plan an exciting research partnership.

A huge thank you also goes to Faye, Matt, and Hugh for their fantastic live lunchtime music performance outside the Music Hub and to Liam (Year 12) for running the Halloween sweet cone sale.

Well done to everyone who contributed to making this year's World Mental Health Day a lovely event. Your efforts have helped raise awareness of the importance of mental health and wellbeing across our entire school community for this nationally recognised day, but we will continue to support all students day in, day out.

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.

Employability Skills Champions 2025

A big congratulations to both Hope U and Olly M who are the joint winners of this year's Southam College Employability Skills champion award. Both students scored maximum points for their CV, Interview skills together with excellent employer feedback from their work experience placements.

I would like to congratulate all the students that completed an external work experience placement this year and I hope that the students are able to put to good use the employability skills they have learnt in moving forward with their Post 16 option choices.

Mr Hughes, Careers Leader



PTSA Southam College

PARENT INVITATION

We would personally like to invite you to the Southam College PTSA AGM



Southam College PTSA AGM

NEW DATE - Tuesday 11th November

7.00pm in the Canteen

Everyone welcome

This will be an opportunity for you to find out a little more about the PTSA.

We will discuss the events of 2024-25 and start planning for 2025-26.

PTSA

Please email southamcollegeptsa@gmail.com if you have any queries

Attendance Matters!

We are so proud of our students' commitment to being in school every day, we have started a new the attendance drive.

Be in to win!



Southam College Career Events 2025/26

Thank you to all of you who supported Southam College students in careers activities during the 24/25 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 2025/26 and would be delighted to welcome you to Southam College during the year.

Career activity	Dates	Description
Southam College Careers Fair Sports Hall	Thursday 12th March 2026	Exhibitors to include local employers, colleges, training providers and universities.
Year 10 Mock Interviews	Tuesday 5th May and Wednesday 6th May 2026	Local business and community volunteers to support with Yr10 mock interviews.
Year 12 next steps day	3rd July 2026	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 Y12 students that would be very helpful.

Southam College Sixth Form Open Evening 2025

Thursday 6th November
6:00pm-8:00pm
Please arrive from 5:45pm

Outstanding results
26% A*-A 59% A*-B 57% D*- Distinction
Average grade B-

Join us for an evening showcasing everything Southam College Sixth Form has to offer.

- The opportunity to attend live presentations from Miss Mason (Headteacher) & Mrs Campbell-Birch (Head of Sixth Form).
- Explore our outstanding departments.
- Discover the wide range of subjects we offer.

We are recruiting students for **A Levels** and **Level 3 vocational** from across **Warwickshire, Northamptonshire** and beyond for the **September 2026** intake. Students are welcome to submit an 'Expression of Interest' to apply. Official full application forms will be launched in November.

We look forward to welcoming you to the event.

The sixth form is an integral part of school life
OFSTED 2021

T: 01926 812560

E: Southamcollege@stowevalley.com

Welsh Road West,
Southam
Leamington Spa. CV47 0JW



Stowe Valley
MULTI ACADEMY TRUST



SOUTHAM COLLEGE
sixth
FORM

London Marathon

Raising funds for



2026

"As a PE teacher I believe that everybody should have the opportunity to be active! Unfortunately, that isn't always the case and I would like to help support a charity that can make it happen by doing something that I enjoy..... Running! In April, I will be taking on the streets of London in the 2026 London Marathon for Whizz Kidz. Any donation, large or small makes a huge difference! " *Mr Turton*



Every child deserves to play, laugh, and dream

You can donate at

[https://www.justgiving.com/page/joshuaturton2026?
utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL](https://www.justgiving.com/page/joshuaturton2026?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL)

Thank You

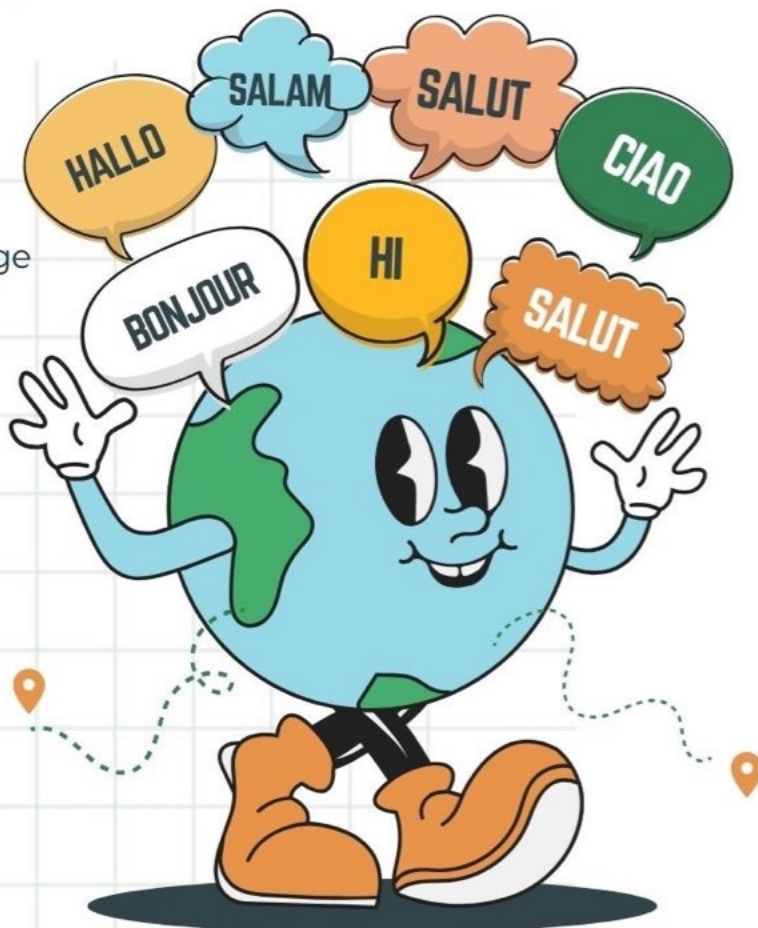
EAL at Southam College

Do you speak another language at home?

That's amazing!

Our EAL program in Southam College – lead by our EAL coordinator, is here to help students grow in confidence, improve their English, and feel proud of their language skills.

No matter your level of English, we are here to support you.



What's in it for Students?

Speak with confidence in class and with friends
Get help with reading, writing, and homework
Join fun group sessions to learn and make new friends
Celebrate your culture and language—we love diversity!



Support for Families

Help understanding school letters and reports
Tips for learning English at home
Access to bilingual resources
Friendly staff who understand your needs



Access Support

Accessible to all the students of Southam College
Students can be referred by the teachers or parents

If you think your child may benefit from EAL support, please speak to their tutor for a referral or contact the EAL coordinator **Mrs. Walia** ✉ walia.s@stowevalley.com

Be the best you can be!

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.