



CollegeNews

December 2025



Southam
College



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Barcelona Trip



Remembrance day, at the 11th hour we observed a beautiful 2 minutes silence. Harvey played the "Last Post" in tribute. The Drama Leaders also presented a beautiful poppy installation in tribute.

An uplifting term



As 2025 comes to an end we have had the pleasure of our Annual Awards Evening this week, honouring the memory of former members of the school community and celebrating this academic achievement and effort of the students who completed GCSEs and A Levels this summer. It was a pleasure to welcome Paul, from Cardiac Risk in the Young (CRY), as he was able to share the work that this charity do and how our fund raising from last year makes a difference to people's lives. We were delighted to be able to offer a subsidised heart screening in school this half term.

This year's charity fundraising got off to a strong start with non-uniform day, and it was fantastic to see so many donations for the local Foodbank collection all in the same week.

End of term highlights are events such as the Dance Production, the Christmas Concert, and the House Awards. It is always such a pleasure to see students' confidence in their performances and to recognise the amazing effort that they put into their studies and extra-curricular. This half term has seen student travel far away but also close to home, with a residential to Spain and visits to Galanos House to commemorate Remembrance Day. In school we have celebrated awareness weeks for Anti-Bullying, Safeguarding and Online Safety and also Performing Arts Week. It never fails to surprise me how much can be fit in to just a few weeks, with so many students involved in so many events.

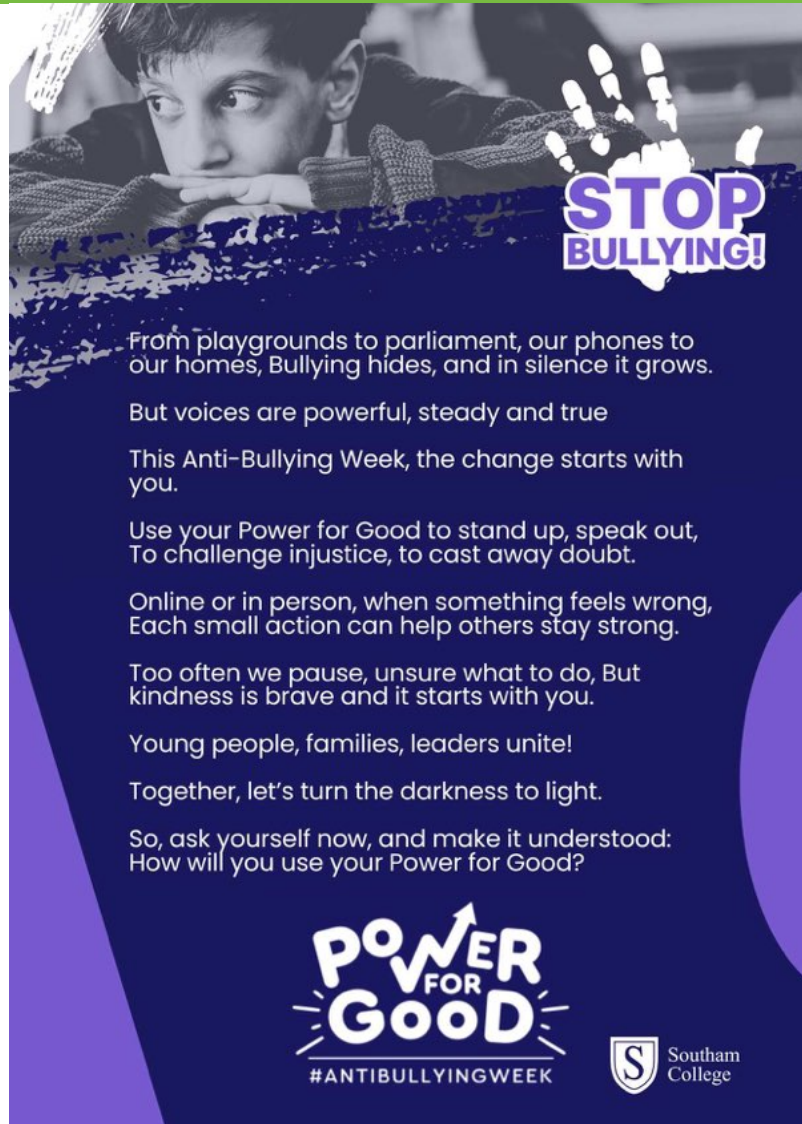
As we end this year and look to 2026, I would like to thank all of our fantastic students for their hard work, kindness and resilience over the last term of the year. I hope that students, staff, and parents all have a safe and enjoyable holiday and a well-deserved rest. Merry Christmas!

Miss Mason, Headteacher

Anti-Bullying Week 2025

During Anti-Bullying Week, our school is celebrating the theme "Power for Good" through a display that encourages students to stand up and speak out against injustice.

A featured poem powerfully captures this message, inspiring our community to embrace their voices and challenge negativity. Alongside the poem, handouts with practical tips are being distributed to students, highlighting ways to demonstrate respect and harness positive power in their interactions. We believe that by fostering these values, our students will not only empower themselves but also contribute to a more inclusive and supportive school environment.



From playgrounds to parliament, our phones to our homes, Bullying hides, and in silence it grows.

But voices are powerful, steady and true

This Anti-Bullying Week, the change starts with you.

Use your Power for Good to stand up, speak out,
To challenge injustice, to cast away doubt.

Online or in person, when something feels wrong,
Each small action can help others stay strong.

Too often we pause, unsure what to do, But
kindness is brave and it starts with you.

Young people, families, leaders unite!

Together, let's turn the darkness to light.

So, ask yourself now, and make it understood:
How will you use your Power for Good?

POWER FOR GOOD
#ANTIBULLYINGWEEK

 Southam College



Hannah Rankin 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, Hannah 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.

Sixth Form Open Evening

A huge thank you to all parents, carers, and students who joined us for our Sixth Form Open Evening on Thursday 6th November. It was wonderful to welcome both our current Year 11 students and a large number of new visitors to the school. The event had a fantastic atmosphere, with over 200 guests in attendance!

A special well done to our Head Students, Akshaj and Emilia, for their excellent speech, and to all of our subject ambassadors for leading their stalls with such enthusiasm and professionalism. We'd also like to thank Phoebe, Hannah, and Luca for providing the beautiful welcome music - we're so proud of you. And of course, a big thank you to all of our teachers for showcasing the incredible range and quality of our Sixth Form departments.



Galanos House Trip

We spent a fabulous morning with the residents and volunteers at Galanos House helping them make poppies for their display. The students have explained their experience below.

"A group of us had the most wonderful time making poppies for Armistice Day alongside the residents of Galanos House. In total we made more than seventy poppies out of tissue and card. They looked beautiful. We also were privileged to have some interesting conversations with the residents. We worked together and it was such an amazing experience, we liked it that much that we didn't want to leave. Thank you for having us. incredible range and quality of our Sixth Form departments."



Barcelona Trip - By Oliver Lester Year 13

During our few days in Barcelona, we were lucky enough to have the chance to see some of the most famous sights that Spain has to offer, whilst also soaking up the Spanish culture at the same time.

On our first day, we visited the world renowned La Boquería Market and took the opportunity to practise some Spanish in order to try some of the delicious products available there.

The buzzing atmosphere truly made this a highlight of the trip. After a walk down La Rambla and through the historic gothic quarter, we spent the afternoon at the Park Güell. Despite the grey skies and rain, the unique sculptures of Gaudí still shone with colour and the serenity of the park was a welcome rest from the vivacity of the city. The day was finished by an unforgettable flamenco show, where we saw some incredibly talented professionals and some slightly less talented (!) volunteer dancers, selected from the students.



Although emergency weather alerts for our second day threatened to dampen our spirits, and almost everything else, we prevailed and after a short shopping trip we proceeded to Montjuic Castle. In contrast to the series of steps and terrifying (for some) cable car ride up to it, the castle provided no complaints, offering spectacular 360 degree views over the city and the surrounding hills and sea. After tackling the cable car for a second time, we visited Poble Español, which offered us a glimpse into some of the different areas of Spain. With its wide range of architectural styles and replicas of historical sights the town was an incredible visit, and its plethora of shops and cafes allowed us to practise the language.



Our final day began with a visit to the newly crowned tallest church in the world La Sagrada Família, another of Gaudí's designs, an incredibly picturesque building, which elegantly combines the large and minute scale in an awe-inspiring vista. We continued from there to the port and after a surprise trip to the beach and a visit to the Ciutadella Park, we made our way to the airport to end our trip.

But what did we learn about Spain? We gained an insight into everyday life in a bustling Spanish city, whilst also learning about the distant and modern history of the country.

Drama Leaders 25-26 Announced!

We are proud to present some of our Drama leaders for this coming year!

Some were selected again as they took the role so seriously. Miss Ferguson was proud of the maturity of the applications this year and knows they share her passion for representing themselves. This programme has got some important projects coming up this year having already played an integral role in Remembrance day. Watch this space for more of their work representing the school.



Congratulations to our catering team!

We are pleased to announce they have achieved a 5-Star Food Hygiene Rating, reflecting outstanding standards in food safety and hygiene.

Well done to the team for their commitment to excellence.

Book Fair

Southam College library came alive to the sound of book sales at the annual Scholastic Book Fair.

Students had the opportunity to browse and purchase exciting new books during their lunch break, and they made the most of it! It was lovely to see so many students exploring new genres and discovering new authors.



Careers

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
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	Monday 6th 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.



Forest School

On Friday 21st November year 7 participated in a "Wild and Free" forest school session based on the novel *October, October*. In the novel the main character, October, finds moving from her home in the woods to the city challenging and experiences a range of emotions as she needs to adapt to her new surroundings.

We invited Clinical Psychologist Dr Julia Twynholm from Space to lead the event which focused on emotional regulation, self-awareness and compassion. We explored how we can change our perception of things that are going on around us, develop our interpersonal skills, social connection, problem solving and adaptability whilst also considering reward seeking that might change our behaviour. We also learned about how we can use the outdoors to support emotional regulation and wellbeing, focusing on the role of nature and the importance of being still.

It was a fantastic day for all involved and I would like to thank students for their engagement and positivity throughout the day. **Mrs Looney**

Performing Arts week



We were proud to celebrate our first ever Performing Arts week. My aim was to highlight how important the arts are to us and how they create memories which are powerful to our lives. Firstly, I asked all staff to write on posters expressing their favourite arts memory. The response was overwhelming! I never realised how many performers we have in surprising areas! The impact that this has created generating conversations with our student community was also so powerful and inspiring we are going to keep this going next year..

Some students took the opportunity to go on the treasure hunt to find out about Staff experiences with the Arts. It was also wonderful to contact previous students and see where studying the Arts has taken them. I know I barely scratched the surface with this but I am so grateful to them to be willing to share their stories with our school community!

Next year I pledge to make this bigger and better as we reinforce how important a balanced curriculum is to our development, and we will continue to shout loud and proud! Miss Ferguson

Here are the recommended Christmas reads, available from the school library:



Visit to Galanos House

On Wednesday 26th November, a group of volunteers from the Sixth Form Wellbeing Team visited Galanos House, where they enjoyed an afternoon of live music, conversation, and plenty of dancing with the residents. The visit highlighted the wonderful benefits of inter-generational connections, and it was a joy to see students and residents interacting.

A huge well done to our students for engaging with such maturity, warmth, and enthusiasm—and for getting the dance floor going! Thank you also to Sara C at Galanos House for allowing us to visit and to the residents and staff who are always so welcoming.

It was a truly memorable afternoon and a lovely atmosphere for everyone involved.

Mrs Campbell-Birch



There are lots of activities happening locally over the Christmas holidays, 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](#)

Safeguarding Awareness Week 2025

In the last week of November, we raised awareness of Safeguarding through our Safeguarding Awareness Week. Our focus was on 'Staying Safe Online' and we focused especially on the emerging issues of Artificial Intelligence and Disinformation, also known as Fake News.

Students from Years 8-13 have heard about these concerns in their assemblies, with a Year 7 assembly planned for this Friday. They were advised on general online safety tips, such as not sharing personal information and protecting their data with strong passwords, as well as the laws around sharing AI-generated imagery that could be harmful. This has been reinforced with bulletin messages to all tutor groups throughout the week, and an eye-catching display full of top tips and signposting to further guidance in the entrance foyer.

Here are our top 5 tips for staying safe online:

- Keep all accounts private, by checking privacy settings, using strong, secure passwords and always logging out after use
- Check your facts online, by verifying statistics and sources, and checking the credentials of the author
- Before you share, think 'would I want my closest family to see this post'
- Sharing indecent images of a child is against the law - even if they are 'fake' AI-generated images, so always report anything of concern to a trusted adult
- Only ever communicate online with people you know in real life, and never meet up with a stranger

How to report a concern:

Report to the Safeguarding Team - Mrs Browne (DSL), Mrs Taylor (Deputy DSL) and Miss Roijers (Safeguarding Pastoral Support)

Use our website - we have lots of resources at www.southamcollege.com/safeguarding, including the CEOP button and the Student Voice platform

Report to police - if your concern requires police involvement, call 101 or report online via your local police force website



**SAFEGUARDING
AWARENESS WEEK**



Stowe Valley MAT Latest News

Stowe Valley Art Competition – A Celebration of Creativity!

Our schools are always alive with energy, with pupils and staff working tirelessly to support each other in creating the best possible school experience. But every so often, something truly extraordinary happens—something that makes you stop and say... WOW!

I had one of those moments on Friday when, alongside Ms. Bridge, Headteacher of Kinton School, I was invited to help shortlist around 50 postcards from an incredible 1,800 entries for the Stowe Valley Art Competition. This inspiring event was brilliantly led by Ms. Purnell, Head of Art and Photography at Kinton.

The talent on display—from Year 1 through Year 13—was nothing short of breathtaking. The creativity, effort, and passion poured into these pieces made the task of shortlisting almost impossible. Every single entry reflected the dedication and imagination of our pupils and staff, and I couldn't have been prouder of you all!



Save the Date!

All shortlisted entries will be showcased at the Stowe Valley Art Exhibition at Compton Verney Art Gallery from Friday 24th to Sunday 26th April 2026.

There will be an exclusive private viewing on Friday evening for Stowe Valley stakeholders and gallery staff/directors, followed by public viewings throughout the weekend.

This promises to be a spectacular celebration of art and a truly momentous occasion for the Stowe Valley Multi Academy Trust. I really hope you can make it! **Ranjit Samra CEO**



LATEST NEWS | DECEMBER | 2025



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 jo@samaritans.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

Family support helpline and face to face consultations

Family support workers are available across Warwickshire to listen, support and offer advice and guidance to families and professionals.

To speak to a family support worker over the telephone, call 01926 414144 option 1, then option 2, Monday to Friday between 9am – 4pm

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.

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 neglect, abuse or cruelty, contact Family Connect immediately on 01926 414144.

Lines are open from: Monday to Thursday: 8.30am – 5.30pm Friday: 8.30am – 5pm

Out of hours

If you have an emergency outside of usual office hours, please contact the emergency duty team immediately on 01926 886922.

Emergency contact

If you think that a child is at immediate risk, contact the police immediately on 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.