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Ski Trip 2026



Message from Miss Mason



The second half of the Spring Term has taken us from dark winter night to the first signs of Spring and as always so much has happened in a few weeks.

Students and staff returned from a successful Ski Trip over the February Half Term break, and we were back for the second week of Year 11 Pre-Public Exams, students showed a great attitude and approach to these and are now working hard on the final preparations for the Summer Examinations.

Following this we enjoyed an array of performances in Southam's Got Talent, from Year 7's to Year 13's singing, dancing, playing instruments, performing magic tricks and many of these combined. At the end of the term there were more performances in the Music Concert, it was fantastic to see new faces on stage as well as watching the development of some of the older students. Thank you to everyone who came along to these performances to support students.

This half term also saw Year 7 go on their first residential to the Isle of Wight, whilst at the other end of the school Sixth Formers have been completing Geography Coursework at the Crandale Centre. We have celebrated World Book Day and welcomed employers and educational providers in for the school Careers Fair. No two days are the same in the school year!

As we move into the Summer Term we begin arrangements for GCSE and A Level examinations and look to welcome current Year 6 for their transition process, but what will always remain a key priority is the learning and teaching that goes on everyday in classes and via tutor time. Look out for April's Snapshot of Learning coming soon.

Kind regards,

Miss Mason, Headteacher

Ski Trip 2026

This year's Southam Ski Trip went to Voss, Norway. After an early start and flight to Bergen, students had the opportunity to visit a world heritage site before a coach journey to the hotel. There were 2 other schools at the Hotel during our stay and our 39 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 and conditions were perfect all week with students experiencing some of the best conditions available!

As well as skiing, our groups took part in a variety of evening activities, a highlight of which was the bowling and questionable quiz with added music round!

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 half-term break and weekends to support this trip. Without them, this trip would not have been possible and such a success. They are Mr MacGibbon, Mrs Southwick, Mrs Cunningham and Mrs Morton.

Mr Turton



Sixth Form Transition Mornings for Year 11

"Sixth Form Uncovered" led by our Student Senior Leadership Team

All internal Year 11 students who have applied to Southam College Sixth Form were invited to attend our new "Sixth Form Uncovered" transition mornings. These sessions were designed to help students understand what to expect as they move into Sixth Form.

Our Year 12 Prefects and Head Students prepared a range of questions and answers based on what current Year 11 students may want to know. They shared honest student perspectives on topics such as timetables, workload, subject choices and future destinations, giving attendees a realistic and honest insight into Sixth Form life.



Head student Emilia commented: *Our recent 'sixth form uncovered' was a fantastic opportunity to bring together the Year 11 and Sixth Form students in an open and supportive environment to answer any of their questions and allow them to get a clearer understanding of life in Sixth Form. Our Year 12 and 13 students were able to reflect on their experiences and share their own transition journey from GCSEs to A Levels, strengthening the collaboration of lower school and Sixth Form. The Year 11s asked thoughtful questions about work load, social life and wellbeing but also about life after Sixth Form and talking to students who recently made the transition helped make the experience relatable and reassuring. The Year 12s offered practical advice and reflected on what they wish they had known before starting sixth form. Thank you to everyone who came along!*

A huge well done to our Sixth Form Leadership Team for organising such a brilliant and supportive initiative, which will now be embedded long-term to support future students.

Mrs Campbell- Birch and Head Students Emilia & Akshaj



Visit to Auschwitz

On Tuesday 10th February, six students from Year 12 and Year 13 took part in a deeply moving visit to Auschwitz-Birkenau. The trip led by Holocaust Educational Trust, was both emotive and informative, offering the students the opportunity to engage directly with one of the most significant and tragic sites in modern history. From the moment we walked beneath the infamous gates of the concentration camp, the atmosphere was solemn and reflective. Our guide carefully explained the historical context, sharing detailed accounts that made the experience both profound and thought provoking. Walking through the gas chambers and seeing the personal belongings and photographs of victims brought a powerful reality to what had previously only been studied in textbooks. One of the most impactful aspects of the visit was hearing written accounts from the victims who had experienced this horror and testimonials from survivors, whose words reminded us of the human stories behind the statistics. Their experiences reinforced why this visit felt like a once in a lifetime opportunity to learn, reflect, and bear witness.

The day concluded with a commemorative ceremony marking the end of the visit, where we stood together in silence to honour those who suffered and lost their lives. It was a moment of unity and remembrance that none of us will ever forget. This visit will stay with us, shaping our understanding of history and strengthening our responsibility to challenge prejudice wherever we encounter it.



Incredible Eggs Duckling Hatching Programme

In February we received five Duckling eggs which students and staff watched eagerly awaiting hatch day. One black runner hatched on day one, the second Black Runner and one Fawn and White Runner hatched on day two, our Pekin hatched on day three and our final Fawn and White Runner hatched on day four. Five successful hatchings!

Students were able to watch this process, learn about duckling life cycles and look after and respect our feathered friends. A team of dedicated ducky carers supported our new residents, and all students were invited to visit, watch and hold the ducklings during breaks and lunches, the highlight of this being the ducklings daily bath time and Daily Duckdates!

Enormous thanks to all students who got involved, but extra special appreciation goes to Leo and Evie in year 8 who selflessly gave up their time to support both ducklings and visitors during every break and lunch for the 10-day programme.

Our fluffy friends departed on the 5th of March 2026 to go to their new families who are very excited and will take great care of them. Whilst we say a sad farewell we look forward to offering this memorable experience again in the future.

Last but by no means least, huge thanks to the Southam College Science Technician Team without whom this would not have been possible.

Mrs Sharpe

London Marathon

Our very own Mr Turton is running the London Marathon to raise money for Whizz Kidz. Let's show our support and help him achieve his £2,100 target.

Please donate at [HERE](#)



Thank you to Miss Sharpe who organised the activity and has given up her timeto allow this amazing wellbeing opportunity for our students and staff.



Bespoke Hairdressing Workshop

A selected group of students participated in 2 workshops run by Stephen Fordham and his specialist assistant Vanessa from Bespoke Hairdressing in Rugby.

Our students were taken through a braiding masterclass, and by the end of the sessions had progressed to produce some technically advanced techniques such as Fishtail braids and ropes.

Well done to everyone who participated and a massive thank you to Stephen and Vanessa for their expert tuition.

We will be inviting Bespoke Hairdressing in again after Easter and some students who showed extra promise will be invited back for an advanced session.

Looking forward to it!

Mr MacGibbon



Easter Holidays: What's On Locally

There's a wide range of exciting activities happening across Warwickshire and the surrounding area during the Easter holidays. From theatre performances and museum events to outdoor adventures and family-friendly attractions, there's something for everyone.

You can find more information 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](#)

Careers Fair 2026



In March, Southam College held its annual Careers Fair in the school hall. There were 30 exhibitors from local Colleges (Warwickshire, Stratford upon Avon and Coventry) and Universities (University of Exeter, University of Sheffield, Coventry & Northampton), Training Providers and Employers (JLR, Police, NHS, Army, Playground games and Warwickshire County Council) 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).



High Attainers Trip

Year 11 High attainers have had a wonderful weekend at Whitemoor lakes! All students have worked excellently on their preparations for English, Maths and Science GCSE's alongside some Zip wire, abseiling and canoeing fun in the spring sunshine!



English Schools National Cross Country Championships, Liverpool

Congratulations to Freddie D who competed in the Inter boys race at the National schools championships for Warwickshire. Against the best athletes from across the country, Freddie did fantastically well and was the seventh Warwickshire athlete home, especially as he was running against students who were a year above him. English Schools National Cross Country Championships, Liverpool

Year 12 Geography

In March, our Year 12 geography students had the opportunity to visit the Cranedale Centre in North Yorkshire for a three-day fieldwork trip designed to support their AS exams and prepare them for their own independent investigations (NEA).

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 primary and secondary data and then analysing it using a range of statistical methods and geographical information systems (GIS). They examined evidence of quaternary sediments within the dramatic cliffs at Sewerby, conducted research on the impacts of afforestation on water and carbon cycles in Dalby Forest, and explored the concept of place perception in the coastal town of Scarborough.

The students' enthusiasm and dedication made the trip a great success.

Well done Year 12.



Southam College staff fundraiser for Anthony Nolan

Southam College community has chosen the Anthony Nolan Charity as our charity of the year for 2025/2026.

10 of the school staff are doing a 10km Wolfrun in April to raise money.

Mr Bradbury, Mr Hall, Mrs Morten, Mr Jeffries, Mr Gill, Miss Brown, Mr MacGibbon, Dr Pickup, Mrs Southwick, Mr Bannister are hoping to raise £2500.

Please help them reach their target.

[**DONATE HERE**](#)



Children's Mental Health and Wellbeing Week

We celebrated Children's Mental Health and Wellbeing Week, supporting Place2Be's "This is My Place" campaign and helping students recognise their support networks and sense of belonging.

We launched our Self-Care and 4 C's approach—Catch it, Check it, Challenge it, Change it—and continued activities through House sessions and Character & Culture lessons. Students and families received wellbeing and 4C's tips, while drop-ins and 1:1 support were available with our counsellor and MHST team.

Key events included Sixth Form and Lower School Peer Mentoring, a charity sale of Worry Worms, Calming Chickens, and Pocket Hugs, a daily Sixth Form wellbeing stand, a visit to St James Primary, yarn orbing, and a PTSA-funded mobile farm. The week closed with live music and Random Acts of Kindness. Staff were supported through Tea and Talk, shout-outs, prize draws, and a social event.

We were delighted by the engagement from students and staff, especially the leadership from our Sixth Form Wellbeing Team. Southam College students continue to show the kindness and compassion we value.

Mrs Campbell-Birch



For Children's Mental Health and Wellbeing Week, our Sixth Form Wellbeing Team arranged for a mobile farm to visit school, funded by the PTSA. Laura and Emily from The Good Day Farm brought a wonderful range of animals, including ducks, chickens, a pig, sheep, a goat and Murphy the miniature pony, turning our field into a petting farm for the day.

Students from all year groups enjoyed 1:1 and small group encounters, as well as drop-ins at break and lunchtime. The experience created calm, therapeutic moments, lots of smiles and laughter, and gave students the chance to learn about animal care and welfare.

The visit was incredibly uplifting, and we are hugely grateful to The Good Day Farm for sharing their animals with us. We hope to welcome them back in the future.



There is always someone that can **HELP**

During the Easter 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



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.