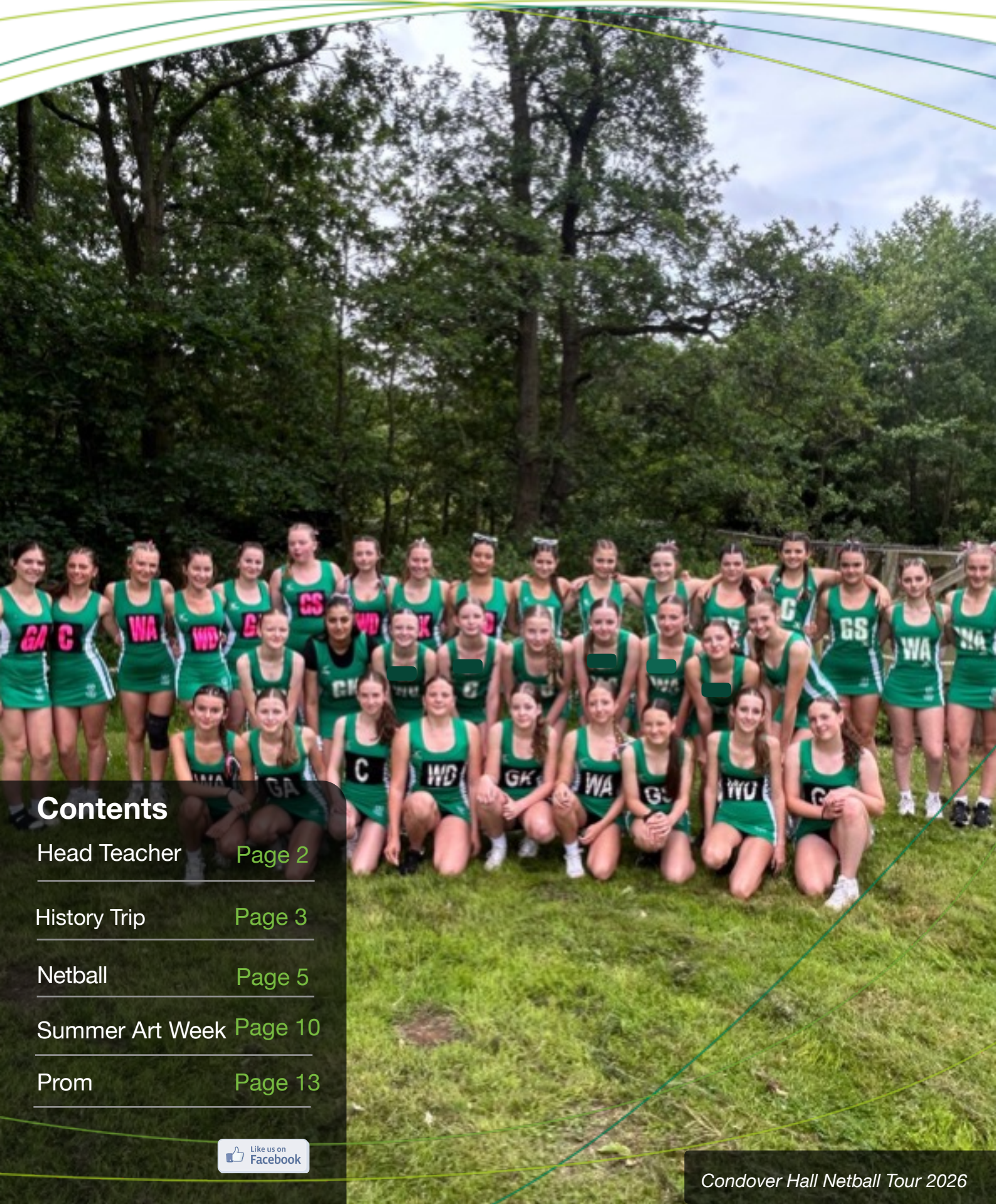




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Sixth Form Volunteering – Saturday Senior Citizens' Party

Wishing you a safe and enjoyable summer.

At the end of a school year, it is always incredible to look back and see how much our community has achieved in the space of a year! Getting to see the Year 11 and 13s at their Proms is a joy, to have been able to watch their journey over the years is a privilege. This half term we welcomed Year 6 students for their transition days, and they have made a fantastic first impression.

This half term has seen many external and internal examinations but these have been complimented with a huge range of memorable experiences. We have had residential to Germany, Conover Hall for Netball, Duke of Edinburgh Expeditions for Silver and Gold and to France for Battlefields. We held our final charity non-uniform day and the House System has excelled in reaching an incredible £8000 for this year's charity. Whilst the hot weather cancelled sports day this year our athletes did take part in the MAT Athletics Championship and took the overall victory with strong performances

across the board. Our Sports Personality of the Year event took place this week, celebrating a range of team and individual achievements, aptly this week the school was also awarded Gold for School Games. There has been a wealth of activities for careers and destinations this half term, from the Year 12 UCAS conference and next steps day to the talks and sessions with local businesses that younger students have accessed. One of my highlights was attending the MAT Arts Festival at the Belgrade Theatre with such strong Music and Drama performances. The term has been rounded off with our House Awards Day and the announcement for this year's house cup winner. Congratulations to all students for each of their personal achievements this year, we are all very proud of you.

Wishing you a safe and enjoyable summer.

Miss Mason, Headteacher



Holocaust Memorial Centre

Over 40 of our Year 9 students recently visited the National Holocaust Museum, where they represented the school exceptionally well.

Throughout the visit, students demonstrated impressive knowledge, which was praised by their educator, Abbie. They explored the powerful museum exhibition making meaningful connections to their studies, including the life of Leon Greenman, whom they have been learning about in lessons.

Despite the rainy weather, students embraced the opportunity to explore the beautiful gardens, showing enthusiasm and curiosity throughout the day. Back inside, several students showed excellent confidence when answering questions and sharing their insights.

A particularly moving part of the visit was hearing firsthand from Holocaust survivor Martin Stern. Students listened with great respect as he shared his remarkable story of survival, from enduring life in camps, surviving a typhus epidemic, and narrowly avoiding a landmine as a young child, all alongside his 2-year-old sister. His story, marked by resilience and the kindness of strangers, left a lasting impression on everyone present.

All students behaved impeccably and conducted themselves with maturity and respect throughout the trip, they were a real credit to the school.



Year 8 Visit to the Computing Museum

Our Year 8 students stepped into a world that many of them have only ever taken for granted – the world of computing. Surrounded by devices, machines, and systems from decades past, they had the opportunity to do something truly important: stop, look, and ask “wow?”, “I wonder?”, and “what if?”

In a time where technology evolves at lightning speed, it's easy to forget just how far we've come. The museum exists not just to preserve and maintain computing history, but to bring it alive and more importantly, to educate and inspire the next generation. Today, that next generation was our Year 8 cohort.

Students explored how computing, the internet, and digital technologies have rapidly developed in an incredibly short period of time. From early machines to more familiar systems, they discovered that the devices in their pockets today are built on decades of innovation, experimentation, and creativity.

But why does this matter?

Because understanding the past helps shape the future.

The visit wasn't just about looking back it was about looking forward.

And judging by the curiosity, excitement, and questions sparked today, the future is in very good hands.

Mrs Wilde



Sixth Form Student Success Stories



Congratulations to Sahib B, who recently competed in the British Mathematical Olympiad Round 2 (BMO2), organised by the United Kingdom Mathematics Trust.

Sahib achieved an outstanding score of 17 out of 40, placing him 21st in the UK - an exceptional national result in one of the most demanding mathematics competitions in the country.

The BMO2 is taken only by high-performing students who have already excelled in Round 1. It is a 3.5-hour Olympiad consisting of four highly challenging problems, all of which require full written, proof-based solutions rather than short answers.

Widely regarded as the UK's hardest national school-level mathematics competition, the BMO2 is designed to assess advanced problem-solving, mathematical creativity, logical reasoning, and the ability to construct rigorous proofs under pressure.

Sahib's performance places him among a very small group of the strongest young mathematicians in the country, representing an outstanding national-level achievement.

A fantastic accomplishment. Well done Sahib, we are very proud of you.

Condover Hall Netball Tour 2026

What an incredible weekend for our Southam netball teams! After two days of fantastic competition, determination and teamwork, we are delighted to share the final results from the tour.

Southam Electro (Year 9) – 1st Place

Southam Lightning (Year 10) – 1st Place

Southam Dynamite (Year 8) – 3rd Place

Southam Thunder (Year 10) – 3rd Place

The girls have been outstanding throughout the trip, demonstrating resilience, sportsmanship and unwavering support for one another. We are incredibly proud of everything they have achieved both on and off the court.

Players' Player Awards

Southam Dynamite – Orla B

Southam Electro – Helen A

Southam Lightning – Phoebe C

Southam Thunder – Bethan E

Coach's Player Awards

Southam Dynamite – Olivia M

Southam Electro – Ellie M

Southam Lightning – Jess J

Southam Thunder – Mya C

Outstanding Performance Awards

Most Improved Award – Ashlee T

Sharp Shooter Award – Phoebe D

Pocket Rocket Award – Fay T

Rock Solid Defence Award – Bella H

Cheerleader Award – Florence F

A huge thank you to all of our players for their commitment, enthusiasm and effort throughout the weekend. Thank you also to Mrs Mellor and Mrs Turton for supporting the trip.

Congratulations to everyone involved – you have represented Southam School brilliantly and created memories that will last a lifetime! **Miss Owen**



Appointments with our SENCO

As part of our ongoing SEND support / provision, we are offering online 15 minute appointments with our SENCO Miss Amy Hawkes and our Assistant SENCO Mrs Elizabeth Reeves. This will provide an opportunity to meet and to ask any questions you may have about the school's SEN provision and your child's education.

These appointments are open to all pupils, not specific families.

Appointments are bookable online via school cloud

<https://southamcollege.schoolcloud.co.uk>



Miss Hawkes, SENCO

Saturday Senior Citizens' Party

On Saturday 6th June, students from the Sixth Form and Wellbeing Team Society generously gave their time to volunteer with the Southam and District Lions International Club at their annual Senior Citizens' Party.

Students arrived at midday to welcome around 120 members of our local community into school. It was heartening to see them offering such thoughtful support—greeting guests on arrival, assisting with seating, and ensuring everyone was settled with refreshments.

A special mention goes to Erin, who played a selection of beautiful pieces on the keyboard, setting a wonderful tone on arrival for the guests. The atmosphere throughout was warm and lively, with entertainment including a brass band, singers, and a raffle. There was plenty of clapping, dancing and singing, shared by students, Lions Club members and guests alike.

Our Sixth Form volunteers also played a key role in preparing and serving afternoon tea including sandwiches, cakes, tea and coffee, ensuring the event ran smoothly from start to finish.

Congratulations to Matilda, Louise, Erin, Lily, Neve, Chloe, Ty, and our newest (and youngest, aged 5!) volunteer, Jasper. These students were outstanding, giving up their entire day to support others. A special thank you also to Ms Hawkes for also coming along to support the event. Their kindness, maturity and commitment truly reflect the values of our Sixth Form Wellbeing Team, which align closely with the Lions International Club's ethos of service and compassion.

It was a pleasure to see different generations coming together in such a positive and supportive environment. Thank you to Ben and Peter for inviting us to be part of this special community event. A memorable and uplifting afternoon—one that we are incredibly proud to have supported. Our students were a real credit to the school.

Mrs Campbell-Birch



Medical Workshop Experience with Warwick Hospital

Sixth form students, Kiana, Annabelle, Jack and Eisha attended a medical workshop at Warwick Hospital, gaining valuable insight into studying and working in medicine.

The day began with a Q&A session with University of Buckingham medical students, who shared advice on preparing for medical school, followed by a talk from Consultant Lucie Jones about her journey into surgery. These sessions highlighted both the opportunities in medicine and the commitment required.

In the afternoon, students explored the four pillars of medical ethics through debates and took part in a simulation session using the A-E assessment (Airway, Breathing, Circulation, Disability, Exposure). They practised key clinical skills, including measuring oxygen levels and assessing patients using simulation equipment.

The experience was highly immersive and inspiring, giving students a real insight into medical careers.



Motorsport Careers Talk

A group of Year 8, 9 & 10 students recently attended a careers talk delivered by Chris who has worked for several F1 teams. The presentation included information on the different careers available in the Motorsports industry. Two lucky students were able to win an actual part of a wing from an F4 car.

Chris explained the pathways into the Motorsports industry and the entry requirements to become a motorsports engineer. Hopefully the students are inspired to work in the Motorsports industry in the future. **Mr Hughes (Careers).**

Awareness Workshops

All Year 12 students took part in a Driver Awareness Workshop as part of our Character Education, Personal development offer. This was led by John Squires, a former police officer and road safety specialist. We are proud to welcome John back to Southam Sixth Form each year where his engaging and informative sessions continue to make a lasting impression, helping raise vital awareness about the dangers of distracted driving, particularly among young and novice drivers.

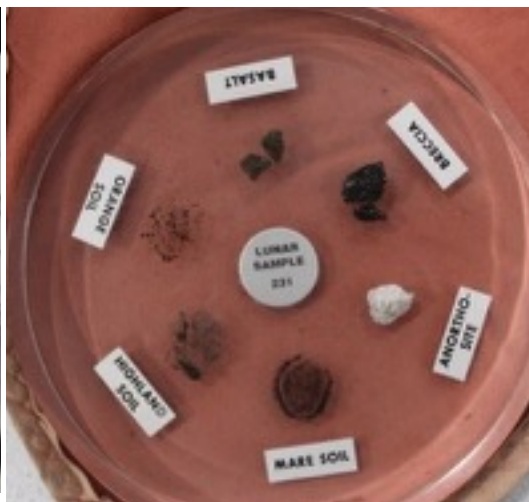


Moon rock in school. How was it?

A few weeks ago, our Science class were fortunate enough to be able to see a real moon rock from NASA along with, meteorites and many other types of rocks.

We discovered that the meteorites were magnetic which was very interesting and were able to hold and touch them. We had a challenge to decipher which rocks were which by testing the magnetic properties as well as through looking and testing them in many ways. We all found this to be a very engaging and quite competitive activity. After this our groups were taken one by one to see a case full of many different, interesting types of rocks such as meteorites found in many places around the globe. We were told many facts about them and each of us got to hold them which we all found amazing. We also had a small disc handed around the classroom during our activities with a teacher telling us facts about what it had in it. Inside the disc there was a small fragment of moon rock which had come from the Apollo 13 mission. We are all incredibly grateful for this amazing experience and are very thankful to NASA for giving us this opportunity.

Esme B, 10A Science



Pathways into Education Careers Talk

A group of Year 10 students recently attended a "Pathways into Education" careers talk delivered by Alison from Coventry College. The presentation included information on the 51 different careers available in working with children. Students completed several activities on how to engage with young children and look at the different ways young children learn.

Alison explained the different pathways into the careers working with children and the entry requirements required to gain employment in the Education sector. Hopefully the students are inspired to work with children in the education sector in the future.

Mr Hughes (Careers).



National 'Thank a Staff Member Day' 2026

On Wednesday 17th and Thursday 18th June, Southam College celebrated 'Thank a Staff Member Day', recognising and appreciating all staff across the school.

Over 150 heartfelt messages from parents and carers were shared, making a meaningful impact. Celebrations included breakfast treats, random acts of kindness, 'Positive Postcards', and over 55 Certificates of Appreciation.

Staff also enjoyed a picnic on the field, bringing everyone together to relax and connect. A standout moment was a 'High School Musical'-inspired staff song, with lyrics by Matilda O'Connor and support from Year 12 student Sahib, capturing the fun and spirit of the week.

The two days highlighted the strength of our community and the vital role every staff member plays.



Southam College's Y8 STEM Cadets delivered a virtual presentation to online assessors for their Engineering Development Trust Bronze Award after having completing a 12-week project on creating a zero waste school. The assessors were extremely impressed with both the innovative ideas of the project and the confidence seen in the students delivery. Well done!

Summer Art Week



Southam College Art Department are proud to display our fantastic student's work at this year's **Summer Art Week with Warwickshire Open Studios (from 20th June to 5th July)** at **St James Church, Southam**. This amazing event showcases the works of local artists, artisans and local primary schools, and we are ecstatic we are able to show case the outstanding work we do here at Southam College alongside them. It was such a fantastic sight seeing the Mayor of Southam enjoying the outcomes our students work hard to produce across all years. Well done everyone and please feel free to pop along up until the 5th July to show your support to our amazing local community of artists.

Mr Phillips



Well done Archie

Archie M, a Year 7 student at Southam College, recently attended an equestrian show jumping event in Jersey, representing the England jumping team. Archie delivered an outstanding performance, winning both the 80cm and 90cm classes.

Well done Archie, from everyone at Southam College!



Pride Week

On Thursday 24th June, we marked Pride Week with a vibrant and joyful lunchtime celebration. Our students created fantastic artwork, designed stickers, and shared information about Pride, helping to spread awareness and positivity across our school.

With music playing and such a wonderful atmosphere, it truly was a special event for everyone involved.

A huge thank you to Mrs Cannell for organising this fantastic celebration, and to all the students who worked so hard to make it such a meaningful and memorable occasion. Your efforts made us all proud!



Ryton Pools Trip

50 Year 12 A-level Biology and BTEC Science students went to Ryton Pools Country Park to carry out fieldwork. Students used random sampling to survey plant species in both managed and unmanaged meadows, before calculating Simpson's Index of Biodiversity to compare diversity levels between the two areas.

They also carried out further sampling in one of the ponds, this time focusing on invertebrates and fish, to compare species diversity in habitats with differing light intensities.

Summer Holiday: Discover What's Happening Near You

Looking for ways to make the most of the summer holidays? Across Warwickshire and the local area, a variety of events and activities are taking place — from live performances and cultural experiences to outdoor fun and family-friendly days out. There's plenty to explore and enjoy for all ages.

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 - 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

Pupil Premium update - July 2026

This year we have been working hard to update the communication methods for parents/carers to access information around pupil premium funding. This includes updating and relaunching the pupil premium section of the website.

In addition to this, we have delivered several training sessions to staff as part of wider professional development to enhance and widen staff understanding of key strategies to support students within the classroom.

As a result of this, we have received more requests and contact than ever before, and due to this we have been able to allocate an increased amount of funding in supporting our pupil premium students and their families.

In a recent survey sent out to parents and carers to gather feedback on the systems we have in operation, we would like to take this opportunity to share with you the key questions raised and the solutions we have decided to implement in the future.

You said, we did

You would like faster refunds on claims made

We have spoken to Finance and arranged that when we authorise a refund request we will respond to you with feedback around a possible deadline as to when you will receive this.

You would like an idea of your running balance

We have agreed that as of September 2026 each half term we will email parents with an update of how much money they have spent in that academic year.

You would benefit from an increased level of support from a named individual

We will continue to send out an initial welcome letter at the start of each academic year, if after this time you require further support or specialist advice or input Mrs Wilde will continue in her role as Pupil Premium Coordinator and can be contacted directly via SOUPupilPremium@stowevalley.com

You said it would be helpful to receive further support for food technology ingredients

Through an agreement with the department, the food technology team are happy to provide ingredients when requested by parents or carers in advance. If this is something you would like then you should contact your child's teacher directly via email or classcharts.

You said it would be useful to have the QR code for trips added to correspondence letters

We have liaised with our EVC lead to request that as standard practice we will add the QR code wherever possible to the letters.

Year 13 Leavers' Prom 2026

On Tuesday 7th July, our Year 13 students marked the end of their Southam College journey with a truly memorable evening at Skylark. The event was beautifully organised by our Head Students, Emilia and Akshaj – well done for your efforts to create a stylish celebration.

It was a fitting finale to celebrate the end of seven years of hard work and friendship as a student at Southam College. We hope you look back on these days with sentimentality in years to come.



SUMMER READING RECOMMENDATIONS

HAPs will be awarded for book reviews of any book that you read over the summer holidays (minimum of 50 words per review). Please email your review to Mrs. Jones jones.s@sco.svmat.uk by September 7th 2026



Escape Room by Christopher Edge

When Ami arrives at The Escape she thinks it's just a game – the ultimate escape room with puzzles and challenges to beat before the time runs out. But as the Host locks Ami and her teammates inside the first room, they quickly realise this is no ordinary game and the stakes are sky-high. . .



Witch Child by Celia Rees

A journal has lain hidden for more than three hundred years. When it is discovered, its pages reveal a powerful and moving story. A story from the 1600's – a time of superstition and suspicion where innocent women were accused of witchcraft.

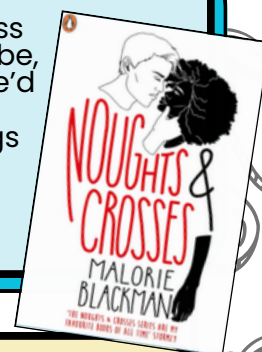
Dry by Neal Shusterman

Everyone's going to remember where they were when the taps ran dry. The drought – or the tap-out, as everyone calls it – has been going on for a while. Life has become an endless list of don'ts: don't water the lawn, don't take long showers, don't panic. But now there is no water left at all.



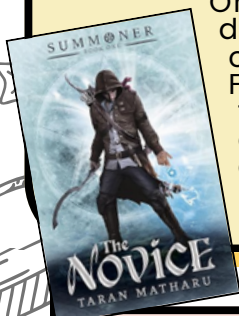
Noughts and Crosses by Malorie Blackman

You're a nought and I'm a cross and there's nowhere for us to be, nowhere for us to go where we'd be left in peace. That's why I started crying. For all the things we're never going to have.'



Summoner: The Novice by Taran Matharu

One boy's power to summon demons will change the fate of an empire. Fletcher, an orphan, is training as a blacksmith's apprentice when he discovers he has the rare ability to summon demons.



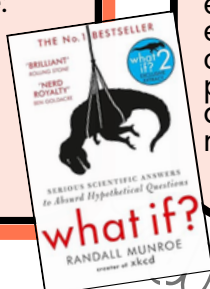
Animal Farm by George Orwell

When the downtrodden animals of Manor Farm overthrow their master and take over the farm themselves, they imagine it is the beginning of a new life of freedom. But as a ruthless group of pigs takes control, they discover that they are hopelessly ensnared once more.



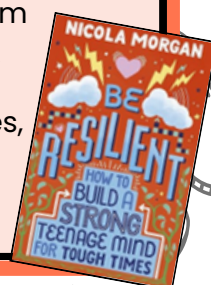
What If? by Randall Munroe

WHAT IF ... one man decided to answer all the unanswerable questions, using science: How long could a nuclear submarine last in space? What would happen if absolutely everyone jumped at the same time? What if my DNA vanished? What are the odds of meeting my soulmate?



Be Resilient by Nicola Morgan

Life doesn't always go to plan. From exams to friendships to global events, teenagers can face many challenges. You need to be prepared to cope with tough times, and to come back stronger. You need to BE RESILIENT



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.