CollegeNews

October 2026

Southam College



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YEAR 13 WELLBEING TEAM SOCIETY LEADERS FOR 2026-2027

A positive start to the school year

Returning for a new school year is always exciting, September is where the educational New Year's resolutions begin! We have been delighted to welcome brand new cohorts of students in Year 7 and 12, both of which have made excellent starts to their new Key Stages. Students settled quickly into the new term, and we were blown away with the support students gave at our Open Evening in September. As we reach the end of our first half term, I would like to take the opportunity to thank our students, staff and families for such a positive start to the school year. It has been a pleasure to see our students embracing new challenges, settling into routines and demonstrating the values that make our school community so special.

Whilst learning in lessons and interventions make up a huge part of everyday at school our memorable experiences provide chances to learn outside of the usual environment. From a huge range of subject related clubs to Craft, Animal and Mindfulness Clubs, the engagement has been fantastic. Year 7 have been on their first trip of the year to Whipsnade Zoo, the school has celebrated European Day of Languages with an impressive Bake Off and some of our older students have been to the Theatre and Whitewick Manor this week. Last year's winning House (Shakespeare) have taken their reward trip to Alton Towers, and our Houses are now racing around the world to win the attendance house challenge for this year. A personal highlight for the half term was the Year 7 Disco, seeing students relax and enjoy time with their new friends is always a pleasure. This event is run by the PTSA who work tirelessly to raise money which enhances students' experiences in school, if you have never attended a PTSA meeting do consider coming along this year!

As we head into the half-term break, our Year 11 students are midway through their first examination series of the year. They should be extremely proud of the commitment and determination they have shown so far, and I wish them every success as they continue their preparations for the year ahead.

Thank you to all parents and carers for your continued support and partnership. By working together, we can ensure that every student has the opportunity to thrive and be the best they can be.

I wish all our students and families a safe and enjoyable half-term break, and I look forward to welcoming everyone back for another busy and successful half term.

Miss Mason, Headteacher

Student Leadership Announcement

We are delighted to announce that Eisha B and Will D have been appointed as Head Students of Southam College for the 2026-2027 academic year.

Their appointment follows a highly competitive and rigorous selection process, which included a written application, student presentations, interviews with Headteacher Miss Mason and Head of Sixth Form Mrs Campbell-Birch, and votes from both students and staff. Throughout every stage of the process, Eisha and Will demonstrated exceptional commitment, leadership potential, and a genuine passion for making a positive difference within our school community.

We were particularly impressed by their enthusiasm and vision to contribute to the continued success of Southam College. Their ideas for strengthening student voice, supporting their peers, and enhancing school life stood out, and we are excited to see them bring these ambitions to life over the coming year.

We would also like to extend our sincere thanks and congratulations to all students who applied for leadership positions. The standard of applications was exceptionally high, reflecting the wealth of ambition within our Sixth Form. Choosing our student leaders was no easy task, and every applicant should be proud of their efforts and achievements.

Eisha and Will shared the following message:
"We are incredibly grateful to have been chosen as your Head Students for the 2026–2027 academic year. Thank you so much to everyone who supported us throughout the selection process—we truly appreciate your encouragement and belief in us. We are excited to work alongside the leadership team and, most importantly, to represent the student body by bringing your ideas forward and making a positive impact on our school community. We can't wait to get started!"

Congratulations to Eisha and Will on this well-deserved achievement. We are confident they will embrace their new responsibilities with enthusiasm, and professionalism, and we look forward to seeing the positive impact of their leadership throughout the year ahead.



Open Evening 2026

Thank you to everyone who visited our Open Evening, we hope you enjoyed your time in school and got a flavour of what the Southam College community is.

A huge thank you to our fantastic students; hosts, performers, tour guides, subject ambassadors and prefects for all of you support with last night's open evening, we are proud of all the students that represented the school at this event. Another massive thank you to all of the staff for their preparation and input on the evening.







EFFB Construction Gala

A group of students from Southam College attended the EFKB Construction Gala in Bicester. The students spent the morning exploring the different careers available within the construction industry from the trades such as bricklaying and carpentry through to working on plant machinery such as diggers and cranes.

The students were able to participate in lots of hands on activities such as building bridges and walls, using power tools to drill holes and a competition to knock in 6 inch nail in the fewest attempts.

The morning was very successful and the students had a great morning out of school learning about the different careers available within the Construction industry.

Mr Hughes, Careers Leader





Sixth Form Student Leadership



Congratulations to our new 'Prefect' team 2026-2027

We are delighted to announce our new prefect team for this academic year.

The Year 12 applications were to such a high standard, with every applicant demonstrating commitment, enthusiasm and strong leadership potential.

Alongside our current Year 13 Head Prefects, we are confident that this team will play a vital role in making a positive impact on our school community. We look forward to seeing them bring fresh ideas, get involved and be reliable role models for the younger years.

Congratulations to everyone who was selected, and we wish you all the best in your new roles. Well done all.

Head Students, Eisha and Will.



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!

Sporting Success

Congratulations to Lawrie in Year 8 who has had his wonderful cricket season capped off by winning the Steelback player of the year for the U12 EEP South for Northamptonshire County Cricket Club.

A fantastic achievement and one we are very proud of.

Well done Lawrie! Mr Turton, PE



Thank You Beth



Former Southam Student Gives Back to Support 126 Students

A huge thank you goes to former Southam student Beth, whose incredible generosity has helped ensure that more of our students have the equipment they need to learn and succeed.

Having experienced first-hand how difficult it can sometimes be for families to provide everything needed for school, Beth wanted to give something back to the Southam community. She contacted the school to find out exactly what stationery our students needed and then set about fundraising, as well as generously paying for many of the resources herself.

Thanks to Beth's hard work and the wonderful support of the local community, she was able to fill an amazing 126 pencil cases, each containing essential stationery ready to support Southam students in their lessons.

As a former Southam student who grew up in a single-parent family, Beth understands that providing all the necessary equipment for school isn't always easy. Her determination to help remove that worry for other families makes her contribution particularly special.

We are incredibly grateful to Beth and everyone in our local community who supported her fundraising. Thank you for helping our students arrive at lessons equipped, confident and ready to learn.

Mrs Wilde



Make the most of October half term!

Across Warwickshire and the surrounding area, there are plenty of events and activities to enjoy, from autumn adventures and seasonal celebrations to cultural experiences and family-friendly days out. There's something for everyone to explore and enjoy this half term.

You can find more information 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

Community Visit to Galanos House





"Capturing Remembrance" Photography Project

On Wednesday 30th September, Southam College Sixth Form students were invited to Galanos House to take part in "Capturing Remembrance", a new community project exploring what remembrance means through stories, experiences and perspectives that reflect on the past, present and future.

Working in partnership with the National Memorial Arboretum and GRAIN Projects, the programme offered students a creative photography workshop, with selected images and student work set to feature in a public and online exhibition.

A huge well done to all of the students who volunteered their time to take part in this workshop. We are incredibly proud of the compassion, maturity and respect they demonstrated throughout the afternoon.

A special thank you also goes to Mrs Erroi, who accompanied the students and shared some of her own fascinating stories and experiences. Finally, our thanks to Galanos House, Sara C and the project leaders for delivering such a meaningful and memorable afternoon.

Mrs Campbell-Birch

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 Southam's Book Festival. Inspired by Roald Dahl's The Magic Finger, 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.



Attendance



At Southam College, we know that excellent attendance is one of the most important factors in helping students achieve their full potential.

Being in school every day supports academic achievement, strengthens friendships, builds confidence, and helps establish positive routines for future success.

Even a small number of missed days can have a significant impact on learning over time. By working together, we can ensure that every student benefits from the opportunities that each school day provides.

Thank you for your continued support in helping your child attend school regularly and on time.

NHS Careers Workshop

Year 9 and 10 students took part in an NHS careers workshop delivered by Clare who works for the South Warwickshire Primary Trust (SWFT). Students listened to a presentation on why we have the NHS, that there are over 350 different careers in the NHS and how to get an apprenticeship job in the NHS.
Hopefully the students are inspired to work in the NHS in the future.
Mr Hughes (Careers).





World Mental Health Day 2026

To mark World Mental Health Day, students took part in a range of activities promoting positive mental wellbeing. Highlights included a Kooth assembly for Years 7-13, wellbeing information stands, staff wellbeing initiatives, a charity bake sale, and the launch of our Wellbeing Peer Mentoring Programme, with over 45 Sixth Form students attending training. Thank you to everyone who helped make the event such a positive and meaningful success for our school community.

Southam College Career Events 2025/26

Thank you to all of you who supported Southam College students in careers activities during the 26/27 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 2026/27 and would be delighted to welcome you to Southam College during the year.

Career activity	Dates	Description
Southam College Careers Fair Sports Hall	TBC	Exhibitors to include local employers, colleges, training providers and universities.
Year 10 Mock Interviews	Tuesday 25th May and Wednesday 26th May 2027	Local business and community volunteers to support with Yr10 mock interviews.
Year 12 next steps day	5th 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 2027 for one of our Year 10 or Y12 students that would be very helpful.



ENJOY A SPOOKY HALF TERM HOLIDAY

WITH THESE FABULOUS STORIES FROM ePlatform



Audiobooks
Go to **https://southamcollege.eplatform.co/** or download the ePlatform app with the QR code or from an app store. The setup code is 5283
Your username is your personal school email address (this is your school PC username followed by @stu.sco.svmat.uk) and your password is the same as your school PC password.

For more details go to the library page of the school website

Southam College

Stowe Valley
MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

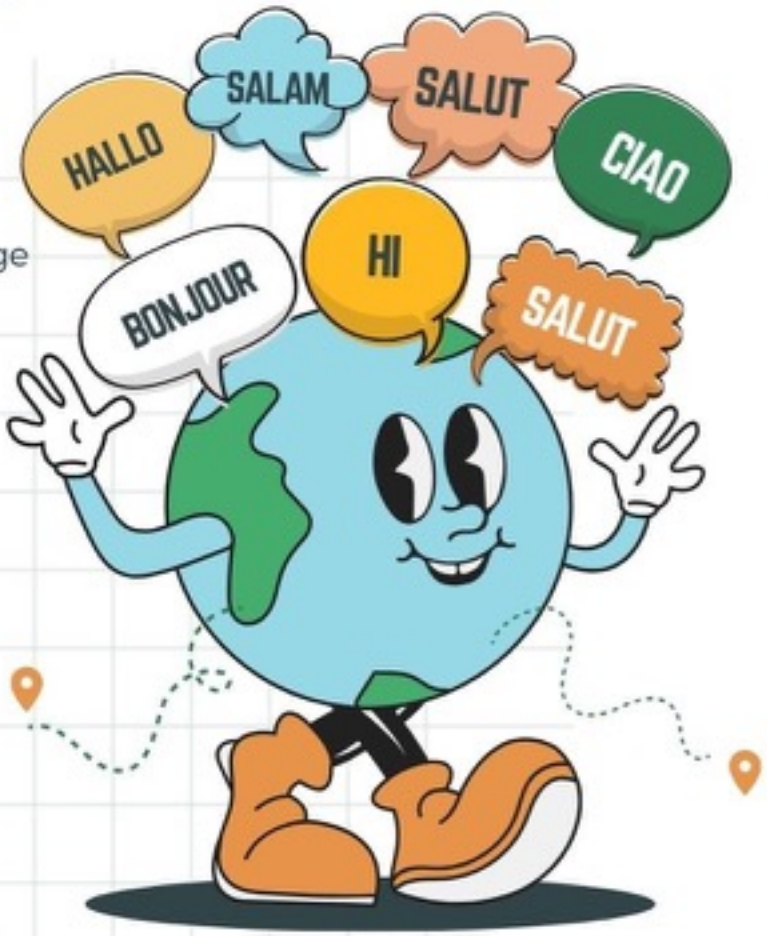
EAL at Southam College

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!

SOUTHAM COLLEGE

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.

June 2024 update