



A big thank you

I would like to start by thanking all members of our school community for your support this year. Whilst we have picked our way through numerous changes in regulations and restrictions it has been wonderful to have had the backing of our parents throughout and we have felt like a team. I like the story of JFK's visit to the NASA space station, seeing a janitor carrying a broom, President Kennedy asked him what he was doing. "Mr President", the janitor said, "I'm here to help put a man on the moon." This academic year has been a good reminder that we have a unified purpose – to provide the best start to life we possibly can for our pupils. It is also a reminder that it takes a community to educate a child. It takes a community to run a school. During these difficult times, those core values of the deep worth of the individual, intellectual curiosity, practical kindness, pride and, crucially, a community of fun and energy have kept us going.

It would be usual, in a message such as this, to review a whole host of academic triumphs, sporting success and beyond the classroom experiences. However, the major impact of Covid on the annual cycle of events is hard to ignore - many trips and competitions have had to be cancelled as have fixtures and residential. Despite this though, we can reflect with some pride on the way we have handled ourselves in this difficult time and despite the restrictions, there were significant successes. Pupil achievements this year have been high in quality and across so many fields, in and out

of school. The individual successes themselves were covered in our Prize Giving services and, accepting it is inadvisable to pick out an individual, I'll simply praise and thank them all together.

I will single out one group of people though, our Y11 leavers move on with our very best wishes and thoughts. They have all been wonderful and I hope that the summer will bring an excellent crop of exam results for them all but I also hope that they will think of their time at school as more than that. Exams are not the be all and end all in life, there's more to it than that. I really hope they remember the rest of it, the school trips, the plays, pantomimes and musical performances, the sports fixtures and tournaments because it is under these various challenges that they have developed and learned about themselves, forming strong bonds. I often send our leavers off with the words of the poet Kahlil Gibran, and they seem especially apt to the whole school as we look back on this strange year.

'Your living is determined not so much by what life brings to you as by the attitude you bring to life; not so much by what happens to you as by the way your mind looks at what happens.'

I wish you all the very best for the summer, Richard.

Y11 all set for new adventures



On 11th June a Leavers' Assembly was held to mark the Class of 2021's time at Sancton Wood School (which was live-streamed to parents and other year groups) and it was a wonderful way to wave goodbye to this year's Year 11s. This afternoon was comprised of various musical performances, prize-givings, nostalgia-evoking leavers' videos, and heartfelt messages from students and staff alike, including heart-touching speeches from our Head Teachers and this year's Head Prefects. From pianists to vocalists, the assembly was a delectable medley of musical splendour, which was topped off by a moving performance by the Head Prefect of the Class of 2021, Sanika Kale, to mark Sancton Wood 'letting go' of this year's Year 11s. So, this afternoon was definitely one to be looked back upon with glassy eyes and a warm smile.

It has been a fantastic few years, so it feels quite strange leaving secondary school. We were always told that these years would go by in a flash, but we would never believe it, thinking about the daunting prospect of the next four or five difficult years of lessons, homework and assessments that we still had ahead of us. Yet, now we are sitting here wondering where all of the time has gone, remembering the first day of Year 7 as if it were yesterday, and reminiscing about all of the memories that we have made.

We will be moving on next year to pastures new, experiencing things we have never before experienced: a much larger school and far more specialisation in our education- going from eleven or twelve subjects to only three or four. We will be taking a leap into the unknown, meeting new people, learning new things, leaving behind the comfortable and familiar atmosphere of Sancton Wood and exploring new horizons. We will be stepping into the real world. As intimidating as this may seem, Sancton Wood has undeniably prepared us very well for the next step on our educational journey. So acclimatising to the new, sixth form environment will be more manageable than expected.

Written by Sanika and Dani, Y11 Head Prefects

Exciting developments ahead

Standing still at Sancton Wood isn't a thing and we continually strive to build on our provision.

The start of the new school year will see our pupils learn and develop through our new enrichment programme which offers over 100 opportunities for our students to experience. Our new website will launch, in-line with our aims for professional communications with a clear sense of whole school identity. We have ambitious plans for the improvement of our sports facilities. We have a new hall for St Paul's scheduled for the summer, and we have tentative plans for a 6th form setting in the very near future.

As usual, there's a lot happening. Change is straightforward when we know that it will improve the pupils' experiences and opportunities; when it is in their best interest. It's exciting to think about where we will be in 2-3 years as the school continues to improve its offering and our reputation grows.

Be reassured though that some things don't change, and we're clear on that: our core values, ethos and approach are non-negotiable.

A whole new world



in our very own Great Fire in the playground. Y3 also raised heads as they became Romans and marched through the playground with their shields.

We were delighted to welcome parents into school to watch Y5's performance of Aladdin. Mrs Byrom was determined to give the children this experience and we believe we were one of the first schools in England to put on a production in this way. As we go to press we also look forward to welcoming Y4 parents into school for a performance of 'The Easter Parade', our Sports Day, fun activities on Founders' Day and our Prize Giving service.

We were also thrilled to run an off-site field trip with Y10 Geographers setting off to explore the beautiful Flatford Mill.



We've continued to be creative in how we've been able to bring our learning to life. Mrs Jackson got into character as Thomas Farriner, who came to talk to Y2 about the Great Fire of London. Mr Settle later took on the role of the infamous Baker as he set fire to their Tudor houses

A spot of nursery gardening



The Summer Term saw the return of families into our nursery garden and what a wonderful morning it was.

The Tiger children had been working on a project to reinvigorate the wildlife and natural habitats that we have in our garden. We already see so many amazing creatures visiting our brilliant bug hotel, birds busy foraging in our Forest School area and more mini-beasts than we can count each day. The children had noticed that we didn't have many flowers and we set about planning what could be done about it.

After the children had chosen what sort of plants they would like, Mrs. Jones took a trip to Scotsdales and purchased many different herbs, flowers and bulbs to be planted in our garden. Some of our families also donated seedlings from their own greenhouses so we had courgette, pumpkin and tomato plants too.

When the morning of the Gardening Day arrived, so did the rain, but that didn't dampen the spirits of our keen horticulturalists who turned up in full rain clothes with tools in hand. We spent a wonderful (Covid-19 safe) morning digging, planting and watering together and the pride and joy was evident in the children's faces.

Our gardening morning wasn't just about gardening, it was also an opportunity to reconnect safely with the wonderful community of Sancton Wood families. Thank you to everyone who made it so successful and to the children for looking after our garden and all of its inhabitants so well.

The great outdoors



Our new outdoor play equipment continues to be an incredible source of exploration and adventure. Our young paleontologists never tire of digging for dinosaur bones in the sandpit and many a performance has taken place on our stage and culinary delight created in the outdoor kitchen. Our den building area has been home to a whole host of homes and vehicles and the bug hotel is perfect for keeping our young learners curious about nature and the environment as they regularly check-in on its guests.

Numbers Day



Numbers Day is organised and run by the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC), to raise money for the charity.

Schools are invited to run a variety of activities linked with numbers and Maths. At Sancton Wood, on 7th May, we were asked to wear an item of clothing with a number on it and to donate to the NSPCC. We raised a total of £175.

Throughout the day we experienced a range of lessons from creative number poems in English to following an exciting trail in Maths. We use numbers in everyday life without even noticing!

Here's part of a numbers-based story from Harry in Y6:

Eight was scared of seven, because seven ate nine. Eight missed nine and didn't like seven because it was Nurple's lucky number. So eight set out on a quest to bring nine back to life and sue seven for cannibalism.

Written by Freya and Lottie, (Writing Club)

Modroc madness



Coloured Carrots



Before half term Holroyd Howe brought an exhibition of coloured carrots in to expand the children's culinary knowledge. They brought purple, yellow, white and the normal orange carrots.

Not everyone was optimistic at first but Mrs Taylor handed out bowls, asking them to try. Some people didn't even realise that they were carrots.

Mrs Taylor commented, "I had to reassure the children that they were carrots, not parsnips, turnips or beetroot."

Reluctantly, some people took a carrot and nibbled feebly at the end. Realising how good they were, the rest of the sticks were quickly devoured in one fell swoop. It was a shame that the carrot supply ran out so quickly. Some especially keen students even took whole carrots home.

Holroyd Howe has a goal of teaching students more about food; this includes introducing them to new flavours and textures.

Written by Ollie, Masha and Dan, Y6 (Writing Club)

Yinka Shonibare--a famous freelance artist-- is who we have studied in Y6 and taken after his example with a new material: Modroc. Modroc is a powdered strip of Plaster of Paris applied to cardboard surfaces (or models, such as ours) and used as a plaster shell. Ms Alton, Art teacher from the senior school, introduced us to this material.

This popular artist, a culture-weaving art icon, does sculptures of aliens. Yinka Shonibare is a British-Nigerian artist living in the United Kingdom.

The young, aspiring artists in Y6 have taken particular inspiration from one of his artworks: Dysfunctional Family. His stunning sculptures combined with his interest in exotic patterned fabrics is what we were aiming for.

Using recycled materials and wrapping them in Modroc Plaster, we created alien sculptures with our own culture and interests embedded in them. We've been honing our painting skills throughout the lessons and our taste for collage. The patterned fabrics are derived from our heritage, aesthetically pleasing to the eye with ethnic influence.

Written by Kherlen and Oriana, Y6 (Writing Club)

A splashing good time



Our Prep School have loved their intensive swimming courses at the Abbey Pool Complex this term. They have all been impeccably behaved and have made real progress with their water confidence and swimming ability. It has been great to have yet another sense of normality and opportunity to make up for lost time.

Y6 took their time in the pool a little further with some life saving lessons during Drowning Prevention Week. They learnt skills such as treading water, signaling for help, floating and the survival stroke. Some of Y6 also took part in a Swimming Gala, swimming in individual and relay races. Congratulations to Griffins who emerged victorious.

Fantastic facilities

Our students have wasted no time in making the most of our specialist facilities again. They have enjoyed time in our science labs, art, drama and music studios and ICT suite, perfect for immersing themselves in their craft.



The Big Write



For the last Big Write of the year we all wrote shape poems. People came up with creative shapes and very interesting poems. Some personified their chosen shape and some described it. I, for one, personified my wave. I made it seem like the wave had a consciousness and a fellow Big Write winner (Leia) had the same idea as me.

The shapes and sizes of all the poems were different and they all had different language choices which made them interesting. What I like about shape poems is that the writer can be as creative with their writing as they want and you have very few boundaries. The words have to make the shape. Although it's quite hard to read, the art makes up for it.

This term's winners were:
Olivia, Sebastian, Sid, Leia, Nora, Ajmer and Anne.

Written by Anne V, Y6

Oh to be in Reception again



We begin our life-long love of learning through play and our Reception class do this in style. With a different theme every week Peter Rabbit class have learnt with rhyming spell books, potions, magic wands, buying wiggly worms and maths monsters during magical week. They've also made castles, dragons nests, bridges and teddy bear snacks. They loved Goldilocks yoga and the opportunity to be introduced to programming through Bee Bots in computing. Smoothie Fridays have allowed them to mix and create and even learn about the general election by voting on their favourite flavours.

Virtual reality for the classroom

Sancton Wood School is keeping ahead of the times by introducing VR in the classroom. Class VR sets made a grand entrance after a long lockdown and galvanised teachers and pupil's imagination alike.

Following an inspiring training session on their return from the Easter break, VR technology leaders could let their imagination flow and start planning lessons using the VR sets using a wide array of exciting resources available 'off the shelf'. The system also allows teachers to preload images and clips then release them for viewing during the lesson. Two weeks later Mrs Cottam's students were able to look inside a cell in 3D and explore the various organelles.

The following week, Dr Kay's Y9 students enjoyed their first '3D Chemistry' lesson looking at the fascinating 3D structures of carbon nanoparticles which 'came alive' in front of their eyes. These structures are non-toxic and are being investigated to provide a safe 'cage' to encapsulate and deliver complex medicines including anticancer agents.

'Wow' and 'awesome' were heard as students enthusiastically explored the structures of



'Fullerenes and nanotubes on their VR sets. Harry BC summed up his feelings: 'It took Scientists hundreds of years to discover this and we can look at it in 3D just like that!'. The Y11 students also enjoyed their A'Levels transition lesson using the sets. 'I wish we had had these when we were taught atomic structure' commented one mesmerised student.

VR sets enhance student learning and engagement because students learn a subject by 'living it'. Whether it is an atom, a cell, a piece of art or an ancient ruin, the 3D experience engages the mind in a remarkable way because it transports us there.

VR sets made a fabulous entrance at Sancton Wood and are here to stay. They also will be used in the lavish enrichment programme being rolled out from September and we look forward to inspiring students across many subjects.

Written by Dr Kay

Student Leaders

Once Y11s had left it was the chance for Y10 stars to shine and our newly selected Student Leaders have now taken up their position.

Ted G is our new Head Prefect. Ted joined the school in Y8 and since then has been a key member of the school community. Not only an exemplary student across the board, Ted has also represented the school on many occasions, has performed in school productions and taken part in many extra-curricular activities.



Some words from our new Head Prefect:

I am keen to bring some fresh ideas to the table. I have moved countries and changed schools more than five times and this has made me extremely resilient and adaptable. I am passionate about a range of social and environmental issues and strive for positive change.

I believe in hard work at school and am constantly wanting to develop my knowledge and the range of subjects at school means there is always something new to learn. Also having faced discrimination in the past I hope I can be understanding and can utilise my Prefect position to ensure our school continues to be a positive environment where every pupil feels that they can express themselves and feel comfortable doing so. It is important that Sancton Wood remains inclusive.

I have really enjoyed participating in school productions, this has boosted my confidence and drastically improved my public speaking and communication skills. Outside of school I often volunteer at my local community centre helping the local drama club and raising funds for them. I was also a master raffle ticket seller in primary school which is always important!

One of the things I most enjoyed this year was being given the opportunity to lead two geography workshops for the Y6s as part of their preparation for Senior School. Next year I will be starting to run an enrichment opportunity with Mrs Robinson for the younger Senior School students teaching drama skills.

I would like to introduce more safe spaces where students can go if they are feeling overwhelmed as this is increasingly important for both easing back into the normal school routine after lockdown and supporting my peers embarking upon their GCSEs. I am also very excited about the range of enrichment opportunities to come as all students will value these. I would welcome more open conversations around our school involving mental health, discussions about diversity and culture. I really hope that along with the other Prefects I can help to support the school and lead or mentor students in the right direction.

I am grateful for the opportunities and support that Sancton Wood has offered me and I am keen to give something back. Quite a balancing act with GCSEs ahead of me but nonetheless exciting!

My story about my relationship with Science and Dr Shaun Donnelly



Science is hard. Brilliant...but hard. Two years ago it was a language that meant nothing to me, however with three compulsory science GCSEs and dreams of a Russell Group university, I knew it was a language that I had to conquer. Now I am a confident and assured scientist with a solid grasp of the fundamentals. There is no mystery to how I achieved this, I simply decided to put in some extra work on these subjects. I picked up the textbook over the summer holidays before the start of Y10, and studied the early chapters so that I had a solid base knowledge of Biology, Chemistry and

Physics, ready to build my knowledge in the classroom over the next two years. We are incredibly lucky at Sancton Wood, as we have some fantastic and supportive teachers - they all recognise that some students struggle with science and they all produce a range of fabulous support materials to help them. The other great resource is Dr Shaun Donnelly's revision books and YouTube channel [freesciencelessons.co.uk](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfreesciencelessons).

On the 10th March 2020, before the first lockdown, Mrs Cottam invited Dr Donnelly to spend a day at Sancton Wood, to run some masterclasses with us and run revision sessions with Y9, 10 and 11. I was very lucky that day because I even got the opportunity to have lunch with him and tell him my story about me and my relationship with science. It was a fantastic day and I think we all would agree that we learnt so much during those masterclass sessions. Dr Donnelly's videos and revision books are the cornerstone of my science revision - he is a real inspiration, as in his hands the complex becomes

easy to understand, and he gives you strategies to help you to remember topics and information on the type of questions to expect in your exams.

Mrs Cottam had invited Dr Donnelly to return to Sancton Wood for a three day revision class in April 2021, however this didn't happen due to the exam cancellation and ongoing travel restrictions at this time. On the 11th June 2021, during our final Y11 leavers assembly, it was quite a surprise and truly amazing that Dr Donnelly joined us via Zoom, to congratulate us on all our hard work and achievements throughout the GCSE science course. Thank you so much Dr Donnelly for taking the time to appear at our leavers assembly - in his capable hands Biology, Chemistry and Physics have been transformed from the toughest subjects in my timetable into truly fascinating subjects, which hold the key to unlocking life and the universe.

Written by Johnny B, Y11

Fabulous fixtures



It has been great to see fixtures return after a very long wait. The pupils have loved the competition and have shown what they have learnt throughout the term. The Leys and The Perse have been our opponents and we have had various competitions throughout each year showcasing the Sancton Wood tennis talent. Lucas S, Ben C and Ciaran T have impressed for the Y11 team, with Anton R and Thomas M showing determination and desire for Y10. Standout performances from Y9 have been Jackson J, Guy S and Oliver S, with all other players performing to a very high standard. Y7 and Y8 tennis stars have been Alicia, Claudio, Harry D, Declan, Alex, Lillian and Naomi who have all improved their tennis fantastically well. We look forward to seeing all our pupils in action again in September.

ISA Netball Tournament



The Y6 girls have travelled down to Southend to be part of the ISA Netball tournament.

With very limited practice we had some nervous but excited netballers. Our first match was the well drilled Ursuline. We unfortunately took a heavy loss in this game but the girls really developed some lovely play ready for our next match.

We played the host team Alleyn Court second. With some excellent feeds from Kherlen as centre to our shooters Masha and Lottie we took a great win with 7 goals to 5. Tilly and Wilma, our defensive pair, managed to reach for the rebounds and keep the hosts from scoring.

Our third game against Finborough was another tough match but we managed to keep the score low for a 7-1 defeat. Our final game of the day was against Woodlands. It was even going into half time. Ori came on as WA in the last half of play and made some fantastic interceptions to feed the ball into Masha and Lottie again enabling us to take the lead and finish 4-2.

After a tough day in the sun the team were thrilled to have achieved 3rd place and enjoyed some delicious netball themed cupcakes which were thoroughly deserved after all their hard work.

Athletics



This has been the first year we have been able to host an athletics club at Wilberforce Road, giving the pupils the opportunity to take part in a wider variety of sports.

The athletes have all shown huge improvement in the high jump and long jump events, some trying them for the first time. It was excellent to have our senior pupils practice javelin and sprinting at the ground to really replicate what would happen in a formal competition.

We hope to run this club again next summer. It is likely to be invitational to allow our athletes to practice their specific events for the East ISA Athletics Competition.

ISA Y5 and Y6 Athletics



Meet the teacher: Mrs Burke



Can you tell us a bit about your background?

I loved Maths from a young age - from a small rural northern village and all the way through to getting my First from Cambridge. (I specialised in Quantum Mechanics and Cosmology at King's.) The most natural thing in the world was to teach it to others. But after 5 years teaching, I was persuaded to 'use' my problem solving skills more directly, so I took a detour of 12 years through Whitehall. That was endlessly interesting. Now I am back, I hopefully have a few more interesting anecdotes!

What is your favourite thing about teaching Maths?

I get so much joy from that moment when it 'clicks' forever for someone who has been struggling and working hard on a topic they find tough. I also love it when pupils see connections across topics and loop facts back on previous learning.

How do you manage your dyslexia?

Words are so much more tricky than numbers! Mind maps got me through my GCSEs. There are so many great dyslexic role models now.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

Maths is my 'calm place' but I'm happiest walking in moors and up mountains.

What will you be doing this summer?

We are all going to Sherwood Forest to pretend to be Robin Hood - I expect to return covered in bruises!



Blue is back

Our students love Blue being back in school. One of his favourite things to do is listen to our young readers.

The students in Y5 and Y6 have worked hard all term with hope of an athletics event.

We were very pleased to travel to Garon Park in Southend to compete against seven other schools in the regional competition. The students competed in track events including an 80m sprint, 600m and relay as well as field events including ball throw and long jump.

We came away with 13 medals; 8 bronze in the relay, Archie, Enea and Pheobe took bronze and Kherlan took silver in the sprint and Masha came away with a gold medal in the long jump, jumping an amazing 3.40m.

WORDSEARCH

a	l	e	d	m	b	o	i	p	s
y	w	c	t	r	e	n	s	q	u
s	t	a	y	c	a	t	i	o	n
u	b	m	z	a	c	j	h	u	g
n	u	p	c	f	h	b	g	t	l
s	x	i	v	c	k	d	e	d	a
h	f	n	g	r	e	s	t	o	s
i	h	g	l	m	r	t	k	o	s
n	a	d	v	e	n	t	u	r	e
e	i	s	u	m	m	e	r	s	s

staycation
beach
adventure
sunshine
outdoors
rest
summer
sunglasses
camping
barbecue



2 groups:
Y2-6 & Y7-10

2 days a
week for 6
weeks

£35 per
child, per
day

Sancton Wood Summer Sports Camp

This summer camp will be run by experienced PE teachers and offers the opportunity for your child to work on their sporting skills whilst having fun with their friends

Express your interest with adam.clarke@sanctonwood.co.uk