



Enriching Student Lives

One of the initiatives I've been most proud of this term has been the successful launch of our whole school enrichment programme. We had become increasingly aware that many of our children were unable to attend after-school activities and decided to try to offer a range of enrichment as part of our in-school provision. The result was our Wednesday afternoon whole school sessions and our Later Learning slots in the seniors.

Students are now offered opportunities to explore and discover a wide range of activities across STEM, sport, the arts, humanities, culture, as well as wider advanced curriculum qualification opportunities. In STEM our students have had specialised classes in programming and Artificial Intelligence and Robotics. The Chemistry clubs of 'Let's React' and '3D Molecules' have been popular as has the Introduction to Engineering course at the Prep.

Creative Arts have offered classes in Fashion Design delivered by the effervescent Kath from Make Cambridge, or Stage Make-Up with Ashlie from Bodyworks, our visiting artists Dan and Sa'adiah are close to finalising the first stage of their mural design devised with our students which will be appearing soon on a wall in the senior school.

Add to this drama club, art club, ceramics, musical theatre, costume design, technical theatre and jazz dance and that's quite a range of opportunities.

Our PE team have been able to expand their offering to include climbing, trampolining and strength and conditioning. Humanities have Time Travel Tours with the VR headsets, Local History Club and an Introduction to Politics. The Nursery has also joined in the initiative and are going to be offering baking and Music Maker to Elmers and Tigers at the start of next term.

The breadth and diversity of this programme gives students access to a whole host of new experiences helping them to develop a range of interests and skills and build a sense of confidence that will support them in the classroom and beyond. The activities help pupils to develop 'intellectual curiosity' and enable a 'community of fun and energy', these are core values at the school.

Next term will see the launch of more new initiatives such as our Ted X public speaking club and yoga.

Richard Settle, Principal

It takes a team to raise a boy - Partnership with CUFC



Sancton Wood has collaborated with Cambridge United Football Club (CUFC) to develop a PSHE programme for boys, a series of talks for their parents and some match day events for fathers and sons. A 'lads and dads' residential will take place in the summer term 2022. The PSHE lessons will be delivered by CUFC at Sancton Wood as part of their collaborative 'Mind Your Head' programme. Topics covered with students will include, Banter and Bullying, Social Media and Self-Image, The Benefits of Opening Up and Non-Violent Communication.

Sancton Wood Supporters' Club is a full programme aimed at helping parents support their teenage children, with a particular focus on fathers and their sons in Years 7, 8 and 9.

The programme covers a range of parenting issues but has a particular focus on the wellbeing of boys and how they can best be supported as they grow up in the modern world. It includes an exciting range of activities and events, all aimed at improving self-esteem and helping parents support the growth of their children.



Parenting Talks will be hosted by Sancton Wood and open to all. They will be delivered by trained family therapists on topics such as, 'What does your boy need from you' – a focus on the changing teenage mind and body; Sex and Relationships; Becoming the Referee – setting successful boundaries as a parent, and Teenage Friendships.

The Match Day Series will include several match-day experiences for senior boys and their parents at Cambridge United FC. As part of the Supporters' Club programme, each event will include pre-match lunch, followed by a talk on parenting from a positive male role model in the Sancton Wood family and then tickets to the match for all.

Richard Settle said: "I am delighted to launch Sancton Wood Supporters' Club. Our school already has an outstanding reputation for personalised pastoral care but we wanted to do more for some of the boys in our school. #MeToo and Everyone's Invited has shone a spotlight on the challenges teenage girls face and we want to be



sure that vulnerable boys get the support they need, too. We wanted to build on our existing relationship with CUFC and take a more involved, therapeutic approach to the pastoral care of boys which includes their parents and other positive role models. We have always believed that our responsibility to our pupils doesn't end at the school gates and have developed an initiative for the whole family that will really support parents, and fathers in particular, as they raise their teenage boys."

Neil Rowe, Head of Commercial at Cambridge United Football Club, said: "Cambridge United Football Club and our Community Trust are pleased to be working with Sancton Wood on their Supporters' Club initiative, bringing together the importance of talking about mental health and using a community as a support network – in this case for fathers and sons. Supporting a team and attending football games is far more than just watching the 90-minute game on a Saturday, we as a Club recognise that, therefore we want to use the platform we have to promote taking care of our own, and each other's, mental and physical health in the wider community."

Fabulous Forest School

As part of our Enrichment programme, the head of Nursery and Pre-Prep, Miss Nic Henson runs Forest School for Pre-Prep. Forest school builds resilience, a sense of achievement and improves motivation and concentration. They started off by making leaf crowns and garlands using thread. The following week the children have been learning about about fire safety including preparing the ground and toasting marshmallows on an open flame. They have also been busy learning about art in nature by making leaf printed clay pots. These experiences offer new perspectives and empowerment and help to build positive relationships with their friends and also adults. The children have been really enthusiastic, and have enjoyed stories about forest fairies and the magic they hold. Their use of imagination has led to creating their own worlds. The children have been problem solving and expanding their vocabulary and communication skills through den building which has been a lot of fun!



Cakes, Caricatures and more!

Friday 19th November saw the school come together to raise money for Children in Need. Nursery, Pre-Prep and Prep came to school in Pyjamas (staff too!) which was a treat for everyone. Pre-Prep and Prep organised a cake sale, which had a very long queue. There was also the opportunity to have a caricature done by some of the Y5 and Y6 pupils. Senior school had a non-uniform day, and also a lovely cake sale - which sold like hot cakes! Y11 business students also put together a selection of fantastic sweets to sell as part of their course. Sancton Wood raised an astonishing £1,035.59! Thank you to everyone for taking part and donating. We are really proud to be able to support this wonderful charity.



Ancient Learning

Y6 visited the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology. The children looked closely at the exhibits, especially those relating to the Ancient Mayan civilisation. They were able to handle a collection of exhibits, one of which was a thousand years old. Obsidian was the favourite material handled – it was a really shiny black volcanic rock.



Superheroes Big Write

Y1 and Y6 have been busy creating and writing about their very own superheroes and had a fantastic time doing this.

The children absolutely loved the creating their stories and the process of writing. They even looked the part by dressing up as superheroes!



Harvest Festival Fun

During Harvest Festival, Tigers and Elmers came together for a special assembly where they learnt about the types of fruits and vegetables farmers grow and how they end up in shops and markets. They talked about whether they had noticed more tractors and machinery on the road recently and how this is busy time of year for farmers. Some children brought in shoeboxes of food to give to charity and discussed who these boxes might be going to and how they might feel after receiving these. Finally the children sang “Cauliflowers Fluffy” and had a dance to Dingle Dangle Scarecrow rhyme.



Taste Away

Our Prep and Senior school enjoyed tasting a selection of apples which many hadn't tried before including Kissabel and Egremont Russet . Thank you to Dawson for putting this together.

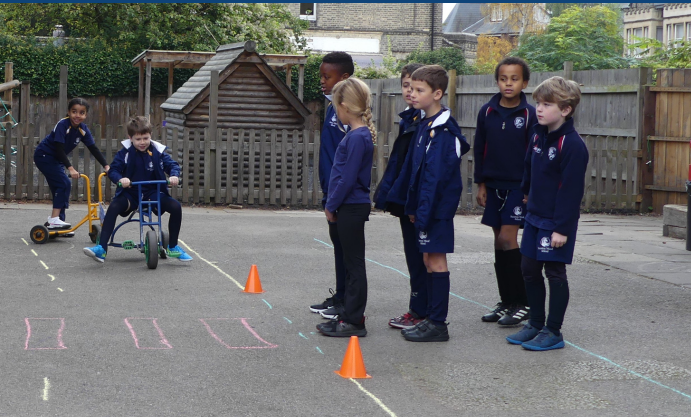


Virtual Playdate

Tigers had a virtual play date with the Nursery class at The Lyceum School in London; The Lyceum School is also a member of Dukes Education. It is great being part of the Duke's Family and we are always keen to establish links with other schools. This time they taught each other Christmas songs. We are really looking forward to seeing our Lyceum friends again soon.

Road Safety

Cambridgeshire Police visited the Prep School to teach the children about Road Safety. They learnt about the different types of crossings and even practiced crossing the road using our chalk zebra crossing and bikes!



Debating Dukes

In October three Y6 students visited London to participate in the first-ever Dukes Debating Festival. The children learnt the skills of debating over the morning and in the afternoon competed against other schools in a real-life debate. Dukes Education Founder, Aatif Hassan was on hand to give them pointers and present certificates to all the participants.



Here we go, another STEM week is over!

We had so much fun with potions, pumping hearts, rockets, and many other things! Seeing the enthusiasm and amazement in the students' eyes was the best reward I could hope for. If you have known me for a while you know how much I believe in doing practical science in primary schools. From an early age children can acquire skills like critical thinking, working in teams, problem solving; not to speak of dealing with the frustration of something not working. Because yes, science is like that! Sometimes science doesn't work, and it can be frustrating, but when something is not working in science it is never a failure but rather, an invaluable lesson that will give us experience and will challenge us to do better. Science is beautiful because it teaches this, and those skills are priceless even if the students don't enter science careers. These strong beliefs have pushed me to become a STEM Ambassador, and to work, as STEM Ambassador, mainly with primary schools. We are very lucky at Sancton Wood School as we have a beautiful and functional science lab in our Prep School. I have visited many primary schools and I have never seen one like ours! Our beloved lab gives us the opportunity to do practical science on regular basis and also to perform demonstrations and activities which would not be possible to undertake in the classroom for health and safety reasons.



Our STEM week has not only been about fun and engaging activities. We also talked about the stereotypes in science. The students were amazed to know that only 30% of people working in STEM fields are women. I told them that we need to change them numbers, and above all we need to fight the bias that generates that number. Sadly, the stereotype that STEM careers are more suitable for men is not the only stereotype in science. Another one, even more fixed in the young mind, is that in order to be a scientist you must be very clever and bright. Because of this, children are often scared and intimidated by science. As I always say: Science is for everyone. That is why we have to teach the children, especially in primary school, that science is not difficult and, like every other subject, you only need to be keen to study, passionate and never give up! We can teach that by 'doing' science. I can see how the children enjoy doing practical work, I can see the curiosity, the amazement, the passion in their eyes and we need to encourage this. We need them to realise that science is beautiful and also very fun.

This is what I do as STEM Ambassador, this is what we do at Sancton Wood.

Emilia Angelillo, STEM Ambassador

Emilia has also been announced as a finalist for Grattells' "Science Technician of the Year 2021. We are all behind you!

Distinctions all round

On Sunday 19th September we held a private examination session for London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art (LAMDA) speech and drama. LAMDA Teacher Mrs Jackson, said "I was incredibly proud of all 20 students, who were from Y2 to year 10 for their courage, determination and creativity. Not only did the examiner comment on what lovely, polite and friendly students we have, but they all gained distinction grades too, which is a wonderful achievement. I'd like to congratulate all of them and also their parents for supporting them throughout."



Pen to Paper

To recognise National Poetry Day the English department launched a poetry writing competition in which students were challenged to write their own poems on this year's theme: Choice. Students from all year groups took up their pens and constructed poems. They were inundated with entries and spent a long time deliberating the literary merits of all of them. Well done to all those who entered.

Y11 – Cam
Y10 – Freddie & Flora
Runner up – Ella
Y9 – Nathan Baker
Runner up - Adrian
Y8 – Larissa
Y7 – Darcey
Runner up - Kherlen

All it's Gory

As part of enrichment, pupils in the Senior School started learning about Stage Make Up. Y7 and 8 pupils had a fantastic time covering themselves in fake wounds, and boils -Impressive stuff!



Meet Sonny

We have welcomed a new member to the Senior School family - this is Sonny! He will play an important role in pet therapy and has already made a huge impact. He will be visiting the Nursery, Pre-Prep and Prep school regularly. Nursery enjoyed asking lots of questions about puppies, and Sonny and our original therapy dog Blue recently visited Prep-Prep to listen to the Y2's read which they were thrilled about. It was a very exhausting day for them!



Maths Olympiad

A few of our Y11 students sat the Mathematical Olympiad for girls. This is a 2.5 hour paper that consists of just 5, yes 5, questions. For interest here was the first (easy!) question.

1. (a) Find all whole numbers x such that

$$(x^2 - 7x + 11)(x^2 - 4x + 4) = 1.$$

(7 marks)

(b) Find all whole numbers x such that

$$(x^2 - 7x + 11)(x^2 - 4x + 4) = -1.$$

(3 marks)

This is the first time these girls have sat questions of this level of difficulty and they displayed exemplary dedication not just in sitting the paper but also in the follow up when they were provided with solutions and worked through them. This challenge was totally optional and we are very proud of the students for putting themselves forward and taking it on. Well done to all of them!



A Classic Trip

Y7 visited the Museum of Classical Archology to learn more about Greek and Roman myths. It also gave them the opportunity to see some artwork depicting these stories in real life.



Hip Hip Hooray for Hockey!

On Tuesday 9th October the U14 Sancton Wood hockey teams set off for Lee Valley Stadium where many have played including the England teams; the stadium was also used in the Olympics. I managed to have a word with some of the players in the girls’ team before everybody departed.

Masha (Y7) was goalkeeper for the girls. She said she felt terrified and extremely nervous having never played hockey apart from in PE: Masha wasn't the only one. Out of the eight players assembled to play most had little hockey experience if any besides that in lessons at school. Even those who had played outside of lessons before didn't feel much better. Cara (year 8) was trying to stay positive and keep up moral but really was scared herself. The team captain Naomi (year 9) wasn't feeling well at this point but pushed on none the less. Once the teams arrived at the pitches, they were informed that the boys would be playing in the stadium and that the girls would be playing on the practice pitches.

After a wait the girls’ team played their first match. Being 7-a-side, everybody was playing on half pitches. The girls played a couple games and then they had an hour-long break in which time the remaining bits of lunch and some biscuits and snacks were eaten. In their games so far, no-one had managed to score a single goal. They had lost to all the teams they had played and of course it didn't help that they had no goalie whereas their opponents did. This was because the helmet had been left at school, so it was not safe for Masha to play. Naomi said that the team was at a disadvantage but had done reasonably well considering. At this point team moral was at a low. Arabella (Y8) said that she was hoping to win at least one match. Another match was played and resulted the same as the previous ones. The girls had once again a long break until their next match. Then things started to look up. The boys finished their games so the girls could borrow their helmet and

finally have a goalie which would help and Ellina (Y7) found a lucky four-leaf clover which she stuffed in her sock for luck during the next game.

They won! They won 1-0 to Sancton Wood! Everyone was so happy with the result, and it boosted their spirits. Sofia (Y8) scored the winning goal. In an interview with her after the match she said it was unexpected and that she was literally fighting the goalie as the ball kept rebounding. Despite all this there was one negative outcome of the game. Isobel (Y7) who was the only attacker had to come off halfway through the match due to injuring her hip.

Now they were at the finals for their group. This would determine whether they won gold or silver medals for their division. They lost but it was a good game, nonetheless. Arabella had got her wish. They had won one match!

I managed to get an interview with Mrs Grindrod, Head of PE after the games. She said that she was super proud of the girls and their attitude. Her favourite moment was they defending of short corners. She also said that the day wasn’t about winning but about having fun and gaining experience.

Now it was time for giving out the medals. The girls won silver ones and the boys also placed second in their division and so they too received silver medals. After a long day of hockey, it was finally time to head home. Well done Sancton Wood! Hip hip hooray!

Alicia S Y8



Climbing High

Well done to the new Climbing group from Year 9. They were fantastic in interacting with the instructor and were able to climb a range of heights on the walls at Kelsey Kerridge Sports Centre. With some students pushing themselves to try climbing the walls at different angles.



Jumping for Joy

Well done to all the trampolinists last half term. They all achieved their badges at a variation of levels over the 6 weeks. The new group have started and are already showing so much progress.



Achievements

Our Y7 Arabella entered an Equestrian arena eventing qualifier for the National Schools Championships which took place in October. She came in 5th place and qualified for the Plate Championships. What an amazing achievement.



Sofia in Y8 has had a great swimming season so far managing to achieve PB's in 2 Gold, 1 Silver and 3 Bronze Medals in the Club Championships. She has also qualified for the County Championships to compete in 9 races! Well done Sofia!



Anna and Masha competed for East Anglia in the ISA National Swimming competition at the London Aquatic centre. Both girls qualified through regional events to make this final. They put out incredible performances in the freestyle events including relays. Masha Y7 came away with a Silver Medal for the Y7 Girls freestyle relay team.



Congratulations to Oscar in year 9 who has been awarded with the Junior Golfer of the year from Saffron Walden golf club. Well done Oscar what an achievement.

Cross Country Efforts

Well done to all the Y4, 5, 6, 7 and 8s for all their efforts in the cross-country event at the end of November. Thirty students went to Gosfield School in Essex, to take part in a cross-country event. There were hundreds of competitors and all the students battled hard around the rough terrain to complete the race. Everyone put in a huge amount of effort. A special mention for Phoebe for getting the lowest score of the day, finishing 18th, Franck 23rd, Harry 25th, Kherlen 26th and Dani 26th. Well done all!

Football Fun

The U10's team travelled to Southend to compete in the ISA tournament. All the players worked hard from the start and played some fantastic football especially in attack. Special mentions to Roman, Theo and Oliver who all took turns in goal and made some important saves. Well done to all students who took part.

Learning From The Best

Our Head of Maths and member of Cambridge & Coleridge Athletics Club, Mr Escalante-Phillips recently featured in the Cambridge Independent, due to his amazingly fast cross-country times. He has on average, across five distances, improved by 34 seconds in 2021. He has also represented England at the Antrim Coast Half Marathon and hoping to represent England again this year too.

Wordsearch

G	R	T	R	T	I	N	S	E	L
V	E	U	H	N	V	J	K	R	A
U	K	R	E	S	L	K	L	W	A
P	C	K	J	H	E	L	V	E	S
P	A	E	A	T	N	A	S	S	C
L	R	Y	T	I	V	I	T	A	N
A	C	W	T	V	S	T	A	R	G
W	O	R	O	K	H	O	L	L	Y
S	Q	U	Y	N	T	D	T	C	V
P	X	P	R	E	S	E	N	T	S

star
nativity
santa
elves
holly
tinsel
turkey
cracker
snow
presents



We wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from everyone at Sancton Wood