



# What a term it has been

What a term it has been, we really do have a lot to celebrate. Once again, we started the year with impressive GCSE results. This year our 9-4 pass rate was 91.4% and the percentage of all grades at A or A\* (our 7-9 rate) was 44.6%. This was almost identical to the performance of our students in the last set of 'normal' GCSEs in 2019. Crucially, for a non-selective school academically, our results are way ahead of the national average. We are also interested in the value we add to each pupil compared with what that same pupil profile achieves nationally, and our value-added scores are very strong. Overall, each Sancton Wood pupil obtained 1.35 grade higher than the mean, which proves that we add real value.

We were also delighted to be announced as a finalist in the Independent School Awards for a consecutive year, a wonderful achievement for our Prep School who were quite rightly nominated for their outstanding provision.

We were also awarded the prestigious Millie's Mark award at our Nursery. Having the award demonstrates our commitment to going above and beyond the minimum requirements for keeping children safe. It shows that all staff working directly with children not only hold a paediatric first aid certificate but that they're also competent in how to apply this in practice. Achieving Millie's Mark shows we have the correct procedures and documentation in place and gives parents that greater reassurance. They are such a strong team in the Nursery it was great for this to be recognised.

We completed a successful inspection from the ISI. We look forward to sharing the official results with you in the new term and we think that parents will be thrilled with the outcomes. The team were really touched by the support we received from our parents during this process; it was nice to think that it was a whole team effort, parents included.

Finally, we hosted (and were successful in) the National Poetry Together initiative, held the first events in our senior Thriving Minds programme and showcased a number of Creative Arts events, culminating in the Senior 'Our Town' production.

Have a wonderful festive break.

Richard



## Enrichment



Enrichment in the autumn term in the Senior School has been centred around students having new opportunities and exploring activities that they have not experienced before. Some of the highlights include:

Cambridge Museum Explorers have been out every Wednesday afternoon visiting a selection of the many University museums. 10 students along with Mrs Davies have been taught about the evolution of humans, discovered rare plants and investigated the armour of the Middle Ages.

Mountain Bike Club has explored the byways, bridleways and tracks in the countryside around Cambridge. They have ridden along the original tracks of the Roman road that connected Cambridge and Ely, explored the chalk streams that rise south of Cambridge and tested their handling skills on the Trumpington pump track.

Students have taken part in a range of sporting opportunities, from professional sprint training on a Tuesday afternoon to working towards their trampolining certificates on a Wednesday.

In Creative Arts, the Set Design group have been busy preparing the set for the upcoming 'Our Town' performance. In Illustration, the students have designed a range of Christmas cards after being taught how to create a story through images.

Japanese Bookbinding have learnt new skills and explored the intricate art of making books. Fashion Design have learnt how to use a sewing machine and are preparing for a summer term fashion show which will raise money for charity.

AI/Machine Learning has been led by a PHD Research Fellow from ARU. This has challenged and pushed our keen programmers, they have built their skill levels visualising deep

neural networks. STEM club has learnt how to survive a zombie apocalypse and enjoyed making edible science.

There will be new opportunities in the Spring term for students. The Y7s and 8s will turn their focus to the summer performance of Roald Dahl's Matilda during Tuesday afternoon Enrichment. This will be a focused session where all the cast will be able to rehearse together before the final performances at the end of the summer term.

Y10s will get the chance to learn cooking skills with our Head Chef, Paul, on a Wednesday, making pizzas, bread and many other delicious foods.

Orienteering and navigation sessions will run in preparation for students choosing to do the Duke of Edinburgh award in Y9. The group will learn how to read a map, how to use a compass, walk on a bearing, create a route and geocaching.

Instrumentalists will take part in Orchestra on a Wednesday. They will work on their compositions and prepare for future performances.



## Poetry Together



We were delighted to host the Poetry Together Competition Finals at Sancton Wood. The poetry initiative is sponsored by Dukes and endorsed by HRH The Duchess of Cornwall and the writer and former politician turned celebrity, Gyles Brandreth who hosted the event.

Poetry Together is about bringing the young and old together through the joy of poetry. This year, children and elderly folk from across the UK and around the world took part, to submit poems on the theme of Laughter and Tears. We were thrilled to have four finalists from the school: Joshua (Y9), Kherlan (Y8), Benjamin (Y6) and Adam (Y5), with Kherlan and Benjamin both winning their categories. Benjamin was chosen by ITV Producers to appear on This Morning to read his poem live on air. He went with his Mum and they had a great day.

Y5 and Y6 enjoyed creative writing workshops with the Children's Poet Laureate, Joseph Coelho and award-winning author Lucy Cuthew.

## Black History Month

In October we celebrated Black History month (BHM), Mrs Kuhnell launched the month with an assembly highlighting some incredible achievements and giving students ideas for media and films they may find interesting. In addition to the posters displayed around school, focusing on key historical and present-day figures in every field, there were also lunchtime film shows. Mrs Kuhnell arranged for the school to have a special lunchtime dining menu. The whole school also took part in a diversity day with money raised for The Africa Educational Trust.

BHM is a great focus, but we aim to celebrate diversity throughout our curriculum all year and we love it when students get involved. We were delighted that Isla (Y8) chose to deliver an assembly highlighting the plight of The Mangrove Nine, Elizabeth and Grace (Y10) presented their assembly on Michelle Obama. In Y7 we have been learning about inspirational figures, including Nelson Mandela and Harriet Harman and we hope that they too will chose their own figures to teach us about in assembly. In Music, Y9 have studied the History of the Blues from the slave trade to the early 1900s - how the working conditions of the plantation and railroad slaves led to the emergence and growth of the Blues. Pupils were tasked with writing a project on the history of the Blues and listening to this style of music and linking it with the music they listen to today.

Y10 enjoyed a cinema visit to a Butanese film as part of the film festival. The KS3 English curriculum gives the opportunity to study diverse texts and of course discuss their importance. Y10 and Y11 studied Josephine Baker this term in their French lessons. Some Y11 students will be starting next year with a trip to London to see 'Mandela the Musical'.



## The Zoo Comes to Town

Our nursery and Reception were treated to an amazing petting farm experience, paid for by the brilliant 'Dukes Club'. The children thoroughly enjoyed seeing and touching the animals and Carl, who ran the session, was able to share some fascinating facts. Lots of the children were brave enough to hold and even feed some of the animals, including a Duck, Chicken, Hamster, Snakes, Hedgehog and Bearded Dragon.

## Cake Glorious Cake

The bake sale on Friday the 18th November was for Children in Need. Sancton Wood children all had fun and bought cakes. All of the money from the bake sale and the money raised from the donations for wearing our pj's was donated to Children in Need. The bake sale alone raised over £460! The best cakes in my opinion were the Pudsey Bear cakes. It was brilliant day of pj's, cakes and lots of money raised.

Oliver, Y5



## Fitzwilliam Museum

On the morning of Friday, 25th November, Y4 went to the Fitzwilliam Museum. We went to witness the artifacts of the Ancient Egyptians, who we have been learning about all term. One of the most impressive things we saw was the sarcophagus lid of King Ramses III. On the lid of the sarcophagus was Osiris, King of the Dead and the first mummy. Speaking of mummies, we saw an actual mummy which, unusually still had a brain inside. We also saw real canopic jars, shabti figures and the coffins. We were taught by one of the museum's teachers and enjoyed telling her the things we knew about the Ancient Egyptians. After an exciting two hours we made our way back to school.

Iden and Siddharthan, Y4



## Nativity

Christmas can really begin when we have the much-loved school nativity. We were back with gusto at St Paul's Church with an impressive performance of 'The Angel Who Nearly Missed it All' from Our Tigers and Pre-Prep.

The children worked so hard to learn all of their lines, songs and dances and really got us in the Christmas spirit.



## Accelerated Reader

This year, Sancton Wood has signed up to the Accelerated Reader programme. Parents, students and teachers labelled all the books in the library. Now we can choose a book and be sure that we can take a quiz on it in our Accelerated Reader account.

Certificates are awarded for reading certain numbers of words. The Million Word cheque has so far been presented to Bea, Kai, Lydia in Year 6, and Siddharthan in Year 4. Nearly everyone has taken lots of quizzes.

The more books you read, the more quizzes you can take and the more words you will have read, meaning you can then win a certificate, or even be photographed with the Million Word cheque.

Bea, Y6



## Our Trip to the Mosque

This term, Y6 learned about Islam. As part of the topic, we visited Cambridge Mosque on Mill Road. When we arrived, we took off our shoes inside the intricately designed entrance hall. A pleasant lady was our tour guide and showed us round.

She first led us into the washroom, where Muslims perform wudu before praying. Then, we arrived at the Exhibition Room, which was full of amazing, ancient objects, some of them dating back to the 9th century. After all the examining of aged items, we vacated the room to go to the Prayer Hall, which was gigantic. There, we met the Imam, one of the people who leads prayers at the mosque. He said that an Imam never stops learning, and he showed us a framed section of the cloth that covers the Ka'bah in Mecca, which had been given to the mosque.

It was an amazing trip.

Sachin, Y6



## Botanical Gardens

Year 3 went to the Botanical Gardens to look at the Rainforest areas. We took our animals we created and put them amongst rainforest plants and discovered them! We really enjoyed looking at the fish in the tropical pond!

Julia, Y3

## Ceremony of Carols

Sancton Wood, along with the Galfrid School and the choristers of Jesus College have been working on an enchanting musical performance. It is The Ceremony of Carols, by Benjamin Britten. There are many different songs put together like a story. The main focus is on Jesus, and the songs are in Old English for greater effect. We sing in parts.

It is exciting and beautiful. Not only will the performance have wonderful singing, we will also be accompanied by the harp, which will complete the magic of the concert.

Leia, Y6

## The Big Write

What we did for the Big Write this term was to explain an invention that solved a problem. I invented a mechanical pencil with a thicker lead and an exterior made of wood. I explained that the lead in propelling pencils breaks easily and that the lead in regular pencils is hard to sharpen perfectly. Mechanical pencils use plastic, which is bad for the environment. Then I explained my solution. It was a cool, interesting task and a bit hard to think of a problem to solve.

Misha, Y6

## Harvest Festival

Sancton Wood attended the harvest festival on the 30th September. Everyone brought in food to donate to the food bank (like beans and pasta). We had been practising songs for the harvest festival in music and sang 'Don't go pecking in the cornfield' and 'Gather up a box of in the church'. The vicar read us a story about Jesus and a picnic they shared with their friends. The reception children were allowed on stage to act out the picnic. The story was told to help us understand the meaning of sharing food. We all then shared our food donations and took them to the front of the church ready for the collection.

Holly, Y5

# Fun at the Abbey



This November, the Y8s were lucky enough to visit Westminster Abbey in London as we were learning about the Tudors in history. On Tuesday the first, we arrived at school with our bags, coats, blazers and jumpers, ready to go.

We left the school at around 8:40 and hopped on the coach to London. It took us around two hours to get to London, but once we were there, we stretched our legs and had a little walk around

The weather had not (yet) failed us and the sky was still reasonably blue, so after a toilet break, we sat down on the green and slightly wet grass and ate our lunch while the greedy pigeons eyed up our sandwiches. When everyone had finished, we made our way towards Westminster Abbey. We made a little scenic tour past Buckingham Palace where we saw some of the King's Guards and carried on our way.

We made it to the Abbey and were rushed inside as it had just started raining. Luckily, we weren't too wet, and having hung up our coats and bags on pegs we then went to a hall in which there were huge stained-glass windows covering the walls and met our tour guides. We were split into forms to have a look around. We passed the coffins of many monarchs including: Mary I, Elizabeth I, Mary Queen of Scots, James I (her son) and even Edward III, who is famous for his many children. We also passed the Coronation Chair - my favourite part - which was used by 26 monarchs including the Tudors. Contrary to what you might think, the chair was small and wooden, not ornate, as might have been expected. In addition, in the 18th and 19th centuries, when the chair was open to the public without the glass case that currently surrounds it, many schoolboys and visitors carved their names into the chair. We suspect Queen Victoria was not amused.

Soon enough, however, it was time to go, and after retrieving our coats and bags, we walked back to the coach (fortunately the rain had stopped!) and set off back home. We got back to school tired and ready to go home, having had a fascinating day. I think that I can speak for all of Year 8 when I say that we thoroughly enjoyed this school trip and can't wait for the next one!

Freya, Y8

# Natural History Museum

It was a Tuesday like no other, as parties of emotions scattered throughout the building. The Natural History Museum was a giant museum with lots of artefacts inside. We looked at rocks and minerals, reptiles and birds.

After lunch, there were three things we wanted to see: dinosaurs, whales and volcanoes. The dinosaur exhibition was a nice place to explore. There was a robotic t-rex which scared multiple children. There were fossils and dinosaur recreations and even some facts. As we entered the whale room, the biggest recreation of a whale was lying in the air. This area was not just about whales but had many mammal exhibits.



The final room we were going to visit was the volcanoes. To reach the volcano area we ascended on an escalator and entered through a planet shaped hole which was around three times as big as a teacher! There was information on how volcanoes react and as we passed, we saw multiple pieces of cooled lava. There was even one we could touch! It was called pillow lava. We also passed many minerals and shattered rocks. The one that some people found the coolest was obsidian because they played Minecraft. Next we went into a place called the earthquake room where the ground shook a little to give you an idea of what it would feel like to be in a real earth-quake zone!

Soon after that, students started to insist on going to the gift shop. There were many items inside: lollipops, magnets, rocks, minerals, clothes, animal and dinosaur toys, little fluffy animals, caps and jewellery. As we left the shop, everyone gathered for a class photo.

By the time we got back to Cambridge it was pitch black! Tired but happy after an exciting day of exploring everyone was so excited to return home.

Abdelali, Y7

# Adventure



Y10 enjoyed a trip to 4 x 4 adventure site. The trip was aimed at team building and pushing the students outside of their comfort zone.

During the trip students were split into three groups and took part in a Team Challenge, Archery and Air Rifle Shooting. Students were fantastic throughout the day throwing themselves into all the different challenges, achieving success and proving fantastic at supporting each other and working together. They showed brilliant spirit especially in the afternoon, when a large rain shower drenched them, to carry on and complete their final tasks.

A special mention goes to the following students who were identified by the instructors throughout the day for the various skills and leadership they showed: George T for a high score of 180 on the Archery which saw him take home a trophy. Dan and Oscar who showed excellent accuracy on the Rifle Shooting Activity. Finally, Shadi, Elizabeth, Max, Declan and Grace for demonstrating good leadership skills on the Team Challenge.

# Careers Convention



On 30th November we welcomed guest speakers from across a wide and varied range of professions to attend our first ever Careers Convention at our Senior School. Drawing on the school's network we were able to offer talks on 19 different career options from Artificial Intelligence to Medicine, Finance to Filmmaking. InvestIN and Magoo Giles also gave keynote speeches.

Not only did the experts give context to how our students' learning is practically applied in industry, but they were a huge source of inspiration for them when considering their own career paths. The students were highly engaged and asked brilliant questions.

It was an incredible day and another step towards ensuring that our students are fully equipped, and ready to take on the next steps in their bright futures.

# Languages Week

"Why bother studying a language", is a common phrase passed around schools nowadays, with fewer and fewer people deciding to study languages every year. Languages are presented as very daunting subjects, but this isn't the case at all. All subjects take time to learn, but language is an interesting exception. As you continue to progress, it almost becomes second nature, as the ability to speak a language comes more naturally than any other subject. By the age of just 3, you would have learned over 200 words and be able to form roughly 2-3 sentences!

Luckily Sancton Wood has recognised the importance of language and organises Languages Week in September every year. This year the school was lucky enough to be visited by several speakers such as; Gael and Virginie from Alliance Française Cambridge, who came in to give a detailed and inspiring talk of all the benefits of learning French, and Professor Timothy Chesters from the Department of Modern Languages at Cambridge University. He gave his captivating 'Why Languages?' talk on all the benefits of being multilingual and the opportunities it can lead towards. He mentioned enticing career paths such as a U.N interpreter and working in National security and intelligence.

On top of the fascinating talks given throughout the week, the school hosted an inter-house competition. Students were encouraged to collect Flag tokens during the week by trying to speak as many different languages as possible. Their efforts would be rewarded with house points which would be counted up at the end of the week. Whilst the Flag token competition was going on, many film clubs were hosted at lunch time in many different languages; including French, Spanish and Mandarin. And to top off the busy week, there was a home clothes day where students came into school wearing their countries' colours to raise money for the Cambridge Refugee Settlement Campaign and an international lunch with dishes from all over the globe.

Languages connect people from all over the world, all from different cultures and different backgrounds. You can experience so much more that the world has to offer through the different perspectives of cultures as some ideas can't be translated. Two famous quotes perfectly highlight this idea; "If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his own language, that goes to his heart." - Nelson Mandela. And "You live a new life for every new language you speak. If you know only one language, you live only once." - Czech Proverb.

Ben, Y11

# Thriving Minds



On Tuesday 23rd November a group of Y8-10 got together to go to London to a Thriving minds conference called 'Big ideas for bright minds'. It was a very interesting and informative day; we listened to a lecture on the Psychology of outstanding achievement, the professor quoted Twilight when on the subject of self control (which was a highlight).

We debated the motion 'It is never ok to comment on another person's body' which threw up a lot of emotive issues. The conference ended with a funny lecture on guitars and how they link to the world of physics and vibrations. A super day was had by all and we look forward to the next lecture at Cambridge University.

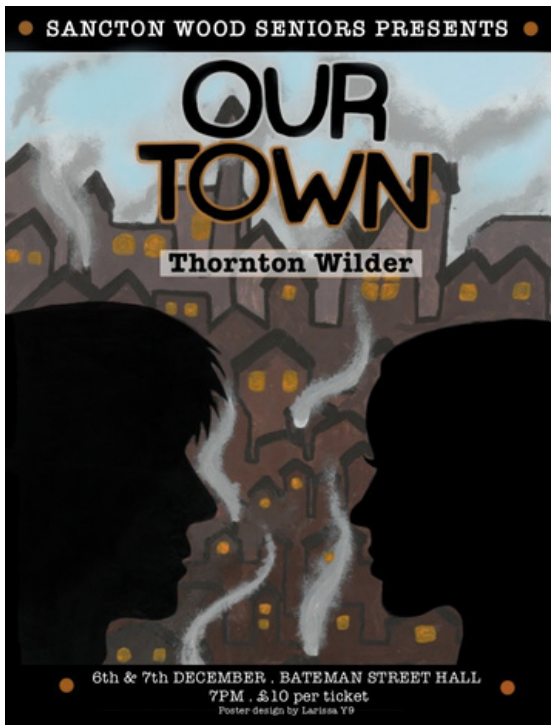
Shadi and Julia, Y10

# Science Museum

On the 1st November we took a coach into London (Kensington) with all of Y9 accompanied by Mrs Ainscough, Dr Kay, Mrs Angelillo, and Mrs Manning. For many students this was their first visit to the Science Museum and there was so much to do. We went around in small groups of 10 students, so everybody got to see a slightly different collection of displays.

The space exhibition seemed to really grab people's attention, as well as the "engineer your future" area and the history of time (clocks). The cancer revolution exhibition was amazing. The students could try out different medicines to help kill cancer cells, slow down their division, or stimulate the immune system to fight back and protect itself. It was a lengthy journey back to school in heavy traffic but they remained in good spirits and used the time to get to know their year group better.

# The School Production



As I write we are in the final stages of preparation leading up to Sancton Wood's production of Our Town. The play tells the story of the residents living in a small American town, Grover's Corner. Playwright Thornton Wilder suggests to the audience that during our time on earth we don't truly appreciate what life has to offer. In these past months I have witnessed ingenuity, commitment

and collaboration come together to create a performance that will be remembered long after the curtain has fallen. As the summer term commenced auditions began. This demonstrated that Sancton Wood is a school of many talents. People came together to begin the process of creating a performance. Singers sang their first note. The actors delivered their first line. The band learnt their first melody. All awaiting the curtain's rise.

Casting the right people can make or break a show. Our cast has been wonderful from the outset. Learning their lines, perfecting delivery and embodying their characters. I believe the roles are very well suited to their actors. Let us not forget this play is set in pre-war America only adding to the challenge with accents to cultivate. However, as expected the cast has stepped up, not only meeting this challenge but surpassing it. It has been a real delight to be a part of our school's acting community.

During the enrichment sessions this term the creative department have put on both choir and set design to help create our play. I have been a part of the choir. Over these months we have been working on numbers such as "Blest Be the Tide That Binds"- Hans G. Nageli, singing alongside a piano accompaniment weekly. The choir has really come together and developed as not only an ensemble but also as individual voices. Shown in the multiple solos and trios performed. Such as Frank Sinatra's "Love and Marriage" and "Chapel of Love" by the Dixie Cups. Students in GCSE music classes have been selected to form a band, this time has made me realise how much music beats at the heart of Sancton Wood. In set design students have been using their artistic ability to build us our own stunning Grover's Corner. A rather impressive level of creativity and thought has brought alive the scenes of Wilder's play, proving that not only the performers make the show.

Sancton Wood is known for its warm sense of community, its ability to bring out the best in everyone, and its joyful atmosphere. Nothing more could demonstrate such qualities than our first school production after many years of enforced lockdown. These last few months there have been tremendous amounts of dedication from students, our Director Mrs Robinson and Musical Director Mrs McKillop have made a show we hope you enjoy watching, as much as we have enjoyed making it.

Elizabeth, Y10  
Playing Mrs Soames and a leading part of the choir.

## Rosettes for our Equestrian Team



The Sancton Wood Equestrian Team competed at Brook Farm Equestrian Centre in the NSEA regional show jumping qualifiers. They started the morning two riders down as Bea had broken her arm practicing for the competition the day before and Evie's Horse, Morris, was unwell.

However, the team put their best hoof forward and enjoyed a day full of success and rosettes. Lottie and Arabella competed in the 70cm Grass Roots regional qualifier, and both the girls had fantastic clear rounds in super-fast time and qualified for the champs in December. India competed in the 90-95cm and did incredibly well, coming third overall, after another clear round and fast time. It was a great day's work for the riders and horses and they are looking forward to the NSEA Grassroots championships on December the 20th where Evie, Lottie and Arabella will be representing the school.

In the meantime, we wish Bea and Morris very speedy recoveries.

## Rowing

On Monday 7th five students made the trip to the Perse for a rowing competition. All five students were fantastic, putting in competitive performances and recording great times and distances during the event. Special mention to Zac who won his age group event with a distance of 407m in 2 minutes on what was his first time on a rowing machine. Masha also put in a fantastic performance winning her age group. Well done to the five rowers for a great performance: Lottie, Masha, Leonard, Zac, Millie.

## Hockey



The first fixture of the term saw an U15 Girls Hockey team make the short trip to the Stephen Perse. The girls put in a fantastic fighting performance and did themselves and the school proud. Special mentions to Naomi J for excellent defending and Elizabeth E for making a range of incredible saves to keep the girls in the game. Well done to the team: Lucia, Elizabeth, Parmida, Naomi, Emma, D, Larissa, Millie and Arabella.



On Friday the 4th of November a group of girls from Y6 made the trip to play St Marys. The girls played fantastically well in both attack and defence. Mrs Grindrod was so impressed with the progress they made throughout the game and how well they represented the school. Special mention to Lottie and Emily who were voted as players of the match. Well done to Ava, Ivy, Lottie, Leia, Cooper, Emily, Bea, Grace, Naomi, Poppy, Lydia, Marina.

## Football

On the 12th of October a group of boys from Y4-Y6 travelled to Allyn Court and put in an outstanding performance to finish second and win a silver medal. In their 5 games the boys won 4 and drew one which was against the side that eventually won the tournament. All the boys put in outstanding effort. Special mention to Theo and Archie in attack who scored some excellent goals, Hugo who made some outstanding saves in goal and Benjamin for excellent defending. Mr Kennedy and Mr Clarke were very proud of all the boys: Hugo, Benjamin, Oliver, Theo, Sid, Henry, Adam, Archie, Dante, Yumeth, Abodie and Alfred.

## Rugby



The first of two Rugby fixtures took place against Joyce Franklin Academy on Monday 21st November. The boys put in an outstanding performance with tries from Zac, Ethan, Archie x2 and Will F-D. There were also some fantastic physical tackles and contact by Henry, Beau and Dan M. The second was a trip to Gosfield on the 17th of November where again the boys put in a battling performance coming up just short. There were lots of positives especially Dan M who was outstanding in attack and defence, making a try saving tackle and scoring a fantastic try. Well done to all the boys involved across the two games. Much to be proud of and things to improve on. Rugby Squad: Teddy D, Henry P, Sivash Z, Oli B, Will F-D, Hjalmar, Archie, Rupert, Ethan, Beau, Dan M, Zac B, Dani B, Ruben and Vincenzo.

## ISA East Swimming Nationals

On Thursday 10th November 9 students from Sancton Wood made the trip to Ipswich to take part in the ISA East Swimming Nationals. The students all did fantastically well in their individual events with lots of well-placed finishes and personal best times achieved. Well done to the students who represented the school at this event including: Poppy M, Carla D, Naomi M (Y7) India, Mash, Kherlen (Y8), Sofia A-B (Y9), Anna and Illia (Y10) and from Prep: Martha (Breaststroke and Freestyle), Sophia R (Backstroke), Theo (Backstroke and Freestyle), Jonah (Freestyle), Scout (Breaststroke), Leia (Breaststroke) and Cooper (Freestyle).

**Parents' Wellbeing Support Programme**

**Pastoral Event**  
Monday 9th January  
Bateman Street  
5pm and 6pm

- Staying safe online
- What your teenage child needs from you
- EYFS: Supporting your child's early development
- A primary perspective

To book visit  
<https://linktr.ee/sanctonwoodschoo>

## In the spotlight...

### Mrs Beatrice Kuhnell Computer Science Teacher



I was born in the French West Indies and came here after obtaining my Baccalaureate. During my studies in Sixth Form back home, I was inspired by my English teacher and thought it would be great to become a teacher. Before going into teaching, I worked for private and corporate companies in London for 13 years. I then decided to go to university where I completed my first degree at University of East London then I completed my second degree (PGCE to teach Computer Science) at Anglia Ruskin University.

In terms of teaching, it is rewarding to see when students work through challenges and get it at the end. Resilience is key when it comes to teaching Computer Science. "All things are difficult before they are easy" sums up what the subject is about. It enables students to be creative, to think logically and build their resilience. I enjoy seeing students persevering through tasks and then see their victorious smile on their face. I like seeing their personality shining through their work.

I am happy to work at Sancton Wood, moving from a State to a Private School, was like a new beginning. I feel like I have got a voice and I am given the opportunity to put my stamp on everything I do. One highlight, this year was during Black History Month, I organised Diversity Day and it was great to see all students turning up with red, yellow and green tops and a black bottom which represents the diaspora flag. It was great to see all these colours in Autumn.

Students are amazing and willing to work hard in the classroom. My colleagues are respectful, kind and fun. Even if there is a routine in lessons, every day is different, that what makes teaching interesting. Expect the unexpected and deal with it.

In my spare time, I try to be fit by attending a Park Run on Saturdays, gardening, browsing the internet for interesting gadgets and try cooking interesting food. I would like to learn to cook Persians food.

During the holidays, I will be going to France to visit friends and family. I will also spend some time in Wales, where I love walking under the rain. Just to be in touch with nature is amazing!

## Charity Committee

Our Charity Committee is made up of children from each year group in Y7-Y11. Our job is not just to separate parents from their money and then give it to a good cause - we do a little more than that. We aim to highlight to the younger generation the amount of problems that some people have to face in life and encourage students to think locally and globally when it comes to helping people in need.

We have a good success rate in this field with over £500 having been raised for multiple causes since the committee's creation. We have raised funds for Save the Children, Jimmy's Night Shelter, the African Educational Trust, Women's Aid and The CRRC. We meet twice a month to discuss possible ways to fundraise money and who we should direct funds too.

On the 7th December we will be having Christmas Jumper and home clothes day and all monies raised will be for Jimmy's Night Shelter. In the age of recycling, we are not encouraging purchasing new jumpers, students can be inventive and decorate one they already have!

Ian, Y10