



Happy children, great memories, their best results

The great American Football coach Bill Walsh wrote a fascinating book called 'The Score Takes Care of Itself', in which he shared with readers some of the secrets of his success. He established what he called the 'Standard of Performance' amongst all his staff and players. This plan was simply to get the basics right: embed a culture of high expectations, positive relationships and excellent understanding of individuals. He understood that if these basics were securely in place, his team would win on match day and therefore, as the title of the book suggests, the score would take care of itself.

I have my own version of Walsh's motto which is 'The Results Take Care of Themselves', as that's the way I've always wanted Sancton Wood staff to approach the perceived pressure of exam results. If we are getting the basics right, the results will take care of themselves, without

a risk to anybody's mental health.

And how do we get the basics right? A combination of high academic standards, enforced by a rigorous cycle of observations, appraisal reviews and training for our staff; broad enrichment opportunities for our students and, most importantly, a relaxed, warm and friendly environment in which the children can thrive. A place where they can be themselves, feel safe, have fun and learn.

We hope that August will bring another outstanding set of GCSE results. However, while I want individual pupils to achieve their best academically, I am not worried that we may not make a National Top-10 list next year, or 'The Times Top 100 schools' or something similar. There's more to school life than that. I'd prefer to keep it simple: happy children, leaving us with great memories and the best results they could achieve

in place. I wish all our Y11 students the very best for the future.

I also hope that the rest of the school have enjoyed this academic year and will look back at it fondly, well prepared for the next stage of their journey through school. As ever, this newsletter is packed with the exciting activities and opportunities in which our students have been involved: the pictures of them all enjoying life gladden my heart.

I hope that you enjoy reading about what we've been up to this term and that you have a wonderful summer break. See you refreshed and ready to go in September.

Richard

MATILDA



What a way to come end the term. The school production of Matilda was truly amazing - the set design, the lighting and technical students, the backstage crew and of course all of the performers. Under the careful direction of Mr Saddler, the students were transformed into super stars. We could not have been more proud. They have lifted our spirits every Tuesday with their tunes and their dancing and the final performances were outstanding. A lot of hard work but we thank every person involved for giving us all such joy for three summer evenings.



Cambridgeshire Student Forum 2023

Cambridgeshire Student Forum (CSF) is a programme connecting schools from the local area. Delivered by Unloc, it builds a platform for young people to develop into local changemakers whilst developing student voice across Cambridgeshire.

Our Y10 CSF participants, Marius, Shadi, Naomi and Anna, have recently taken part in the final CSF summit of this year's programme to explore and discuss the most pertinent issues around their education and learning. In recent months they have worked collaboratively in Action Groups with students from other schools in Cambridgeshire to discuss Life Skills and Careers; Mental Health and Wellbeing; and Equality, Diversity and Inclusion. Through their project work, students have developed their planning, communication, teamwork, leadership and employability skills, and taken on an individual area of responsibility. We look forward to seeing Marius, Shadi, Naomi and Anna applying the skills and knowledge they have gained from their CSF work to their new prefect roles and other positions of responsibility next year.



Prefect Team

This week, several of our Y10 students were interviewed by Mrs King and Mrs Tall as part of their Prefect application. We had the highest number of applicants ever and with the quality of the written applications and interviews as strong as it was, the panel decision was an incredibly difficult one. We were very pleased the students put themselves forward for the role and to discuss their ideas. We hope the application and interview process have been a valuable learning experience for the students and that they will continue to put themselves forward for further opportunities which they can then cite on their sixth form applications.

We are delighted to announce our Senior School Prefect Team - 2023-2024:

Head Prefect - Elizabeth
Deputy Head Prefect - Nathan
Head of Dragon - Oscar
Head of Griffin - Ian
Head of Phoenix - Kayleigh
Charities and Campaign prefect - Elijah
Sports Prefects - Ollie and Anna
STEM prefect - Frans
Languages prefect - Shadi
Arts prefects - Max B, Grace, Adriana
Prefects - Marius, Jamie, Antonio
Chair of Wellbeing Committee - Cara

Head Prefect, Elizabeth says:

"Last week I was thrilled to find out I had been given the role of next year's head prefect. I'm very excited for the opportunities that come with this such as leading student council meetings



and being there to help my peers. I'm looking forward to guiding younger students when voicing their opinions and ideas and making sure the student voice is always heard. I'm very thankful for this opportunity and am excited to further develop my skills in leadership."

Scholarships

This term, we awarded our first scholarships. Our scholars were able to demonstrate outstanding talent and ability in the spheres of Academic Study, STEM, the Creative Arts or Sport. They gain automatic entry into our Thriving Minds Programme. Applications open again in the Michaelmas term.

Thriving Minds

This term, our Thriving Minds group have been creating TEDx talks, allowing them the opportunity for deeper thinking and exploration around a topic they care about. Some topics have explored Nuclear Fusion as a renewable Energy Source, Hydroponics, Why we Dream, Expiration Dates and the Dangers of Tik Tok. The students will present their cases in the new term, ready for submission to TEDx. This is a wonderful opportunity to develop presentation skills.

Next term, our Thriving Minds students will be assigned a mentor to guide them with the best opportunities available for their talents through enrichment and wider opportunities available to them in Cambridge, in school and throughout the Dukes Education network.

Beyond the Classroom

You will know by now that we are big believers in extending learning beyond the classroom. This gives our students rich, practical experiences that contribute to greater understanding, developing curiosity and promoting a love of learning. We've been out and about lots this term...

Botanic Gardens



This term, our Tigers, Reception and Y5 have all visited the Botanic Gardens, with all its wonderful learning opportunities, just a stones throw away.

Our Tigers collected 'Botanic Garden Treasures', did some bark rubbings, found and named plants, flowers and trees, counted how many trees they could touch, hugged some trees and had a picnic lunch on the lawn.

Bury Lane



Reception had lots of fun at Bury Lane.

The Beach



Y2 had a fantastic day building sandcastles, playing games and paddling in the (rather cold) sea.

Sedgewick Museum



Y2 and Y3 had a lovely trip to Sedgewick Museum as part of their transition activity. They had a fantastic time looking around the museum at the fascinating objects and especially enjoyed the dinosaur artifacts.

Zoology Museum

Y3 enjoyed learning about skeletons and having time to look at the displays. They produced some lovely sketches.

Kingswood



Y7 attended their first senior school residential trip to Kingswood in West Runton. They took part in a range of activities, from climbing, to shelter building, archery and zip wire.

West Stow



Y5 headed to West Stow Anglo Saxon village as part of their history topic studying the Anglo Saxons. The day was spent outside exploring the village and inside the museum looking at real artefacts from the time!

Museum of Technology



Y5 visited the Museum of Technology and took part in some Tudor printing.

Maison Clément



Y6 visited Maison Clément in Cambridge. They were given a tour of the kitchens, with French explanations, by Clément himself and ordered a croissant in French.

Escape Room



Y10 visited an Escape Room to work as a team using different skills to solve challenges.

The Globe and The Tate Modern



Y7 and Y8 enjoyed a sunny London day as they all strolled the Southbank, visited the Tate Modern and finished it all off watching 'Midsummer Night's Dream' at the Globe Theatre.

Flatford Mill



In the week before the half-term, we visited Flatford Mill on the River Stour to complete the fieldwork element of our GCSE Geography course. We piqued our interests in fluvial landforms by getting our toes wet in the River Brett and we furthered our knowledge of urban developments along the Ipswich Waterfront, relaxing afterwards with a tea and pastry. We applied our classroom theory to real world scenarios and conducted two geographical investigations across the three-day residential visit. We had a deeply knowledgeable tutor named Andy who said that the geography "flowed from him". Andy guided us through the course and helped us to gain a greater appreciation for the world around us. We learnt new data capture techniques and practised those that we had been taught before. Overall, the trip was very enjoyable, and we thank Mr Sayer for organising and taking us to Flatford Mill and Mrs Ainscough for donating her time and expertise in accompanying us.

Shadi & Zak, Y10

A Right Royal Knees Up

The tea took place on 9th May in the school playground. In the hours building up to the tea, Sancton Wood was filled with excitement and anticipation at the prospect of completing fun activities with friends such as making coronation bunting, drawing ourselves as the monarch of the United Kingdom and drawing our own flags. There were many different snacks on offer, such as crisps, mini sandwiches and some delicious cake. There was a vegetarian option too.

Sachin, from Y6, commented, "As we sat down in the seats to have the tea, the teachers came around holding sandwiches made out of the school bread. They were very, very nice - the coronation chicken was the special one that they made for this year. I really liked it."

Another Y6 student commented, "The coronation tea was a nice party to celebrate our new King." He went on to say, "The food was nice. I specially loved the cake." Emily said that she really enjoyed the activities.

The general mood among the students was very positive before, during and after the tea, with this tea leaving the students with a good feeling about future events like this one!

Charlie Y6

Congratulations to our Crown Competition winners



Our Nursery got involved with the festivities too with a 'Coronation Tea Party'. They played balloon tennis, decorated their own Sceptres, danced and ate lots of sandwiches and cake. In the lead up to it, they enjoyed lots of royal activities, looking at the Union Jack, listening to the national anthem, making crowns, dressing up and making coronation cakes.

The Big Toddle

Our Nursery were delighted to take part in The Big Toddle once again, with a short, sponsored walk around our big garden to help children, young people and families who need Barnardo's support. We've raised a whopping £530 so far.



Sancton Wood's Got Talent



We had a wonderful afternoon delighting in the talents of our students. We were treated to piano recitals, martial arts displays, dancing, singing, rapping, a guitar performance, gymnastics and more.

The audience were so supportive and cheers could be heard throughout the school.

Pride Month



We celebrated Pride month with an assembly delivered by a visiting speaker from Kooth. It was lovely to see everyone so colourful in their bright home clothes. At lunch time, much fun was had with rainbow face paints, temporary tattoos, nail polish and hair tinsel. The competition to guess the number of skittles in the jar was fiercely fought. The cake sale and donations for activities were a huge success and raised nearly £150 which will be donated to a charity that supports LGBTQ+ teenagers. Thanks to everyone who sent in cakes and supported this event.

Literacy Leaders



A group of our brilliant Y8 and Y9 Literacy Leaders have been visiting the Prep School to listen to some of the Y1 and Y2 students practise their reading skills.

The younger students love having a willing friend who will listen to them read and help them with fluency and vocabulary, if needed. The older students love these sessions, too: they enjoy encouraging the younger students, and it's a chance to learn how to offer gentle help when needed.

Junior Physics Olympiad Challenge



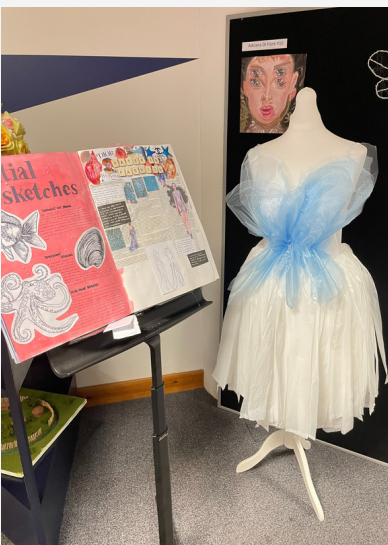
Nearly 20 wonderful Y9 and Y10 students volunteered to enter the Junior Physics Olympiad. This is an online challenge that focusses on problem solving and has a huge range of questions. Despite being aimed at Y10, all of our students achieved at least a Bronze award. They are superstars and I am very proud of them all. Special congratulations to Jamie, Ian and Nathan in Y10 who earned a Gold award, and also to Alexander who won a Silver award in Y9.

Physics has recently been very lucky to receive a new piece of equipment called a "Ruben's Tube". We were given this thanks to the hard work of Emilia Angelillo our wonderful technician who has good links with the supplier Philip Harris.

It's an amazing bit of kit that allows us to demonstrate standing waves with live flames. It has been entertaining classes with flames "dancing" to different music tracks.



Art Exhibitions



Y9 and Y10 students have exhibited their work. Y9's pieces were based on landscapes, and showed a diverse mix of approaches to the theme.

Mrs Robinson said that it was lovely to see parents and friends coming to support the students to see some of their fantastic work at the Y10 Creative Arts Showcase. The Art Exhibition really highlighted how talented our artists at SW are.

Mrs McKillop's musicians also made us proud. It is the largest cohort of musicians we have had at SW to date,

and it is fantastic to see and hear a range of instruments and vocal performances of such high quality.

The Clown Who Couldn't Smile

On 26th of May, Y6 presented their parents with a play about an immensely depressed clown seeking a source of unfound joy. It was developed inside the hall, and therefore played there as well. The parents laughed and cried with the children (not literally, otherwise we would have had to buy packets of tissues in bulk for this moment), which proves that they shared the intense moments that the characters portrayed.

In the first scene alone, Mehmet (Y6), also known as 'Gingo' the clown, had some gigantic dives, shocking the audience. He was one of the many clowns, including Benjamin, Naomi, Stellan and of course, the main character: Leia, named 'Bonzo'.

Actions that made a big impression on the cast included 'Mr Big's' strut during his lecture in Act 4; the routines of the 'clown school' students in Act 5; and the acrobats' performance in Act 3. Other funny scenes included: Grace, or Dippy, and her 'time skip' sign, saying 'four days later...'; Charlie Chuckle's order to Bonzo for her to resign, concluded in a short finger point to backstage and the word, 'Go!' However, a repeated gag was David's (or 'Liam's') scolding of his fellow comrades for their unhelpful remarks when it came to retrieving Bonzo's smile.

Here are some comments from the cast: a behind the scenes insight!

Yash, or 'Phillip', said, "I enjoyed the play a lot: everyone made me laugh and I enjoyed being the character that I was assigned!" "I think the audience was very well behaved, and we all kept our calm and didn't make many mistakes," said Andreas, or 'Carl'.

"I was happy and extremely glad playing my part as Raymond," said Misha. "It was very fun." "It was really fun, but to learn 81 lines is quite difficult. The 'downfall' was when I was asked a question and my hat began to fall off my head. Other than that, I think it went well," said Leia, who played the main character, Bonzo.

Finally, Lydia opined: "The adults laughed in the wrong places. I'm not impressed - the adults couldn't understand the humorous parts."

Sachin Y6

Maths Challenge

On 6th June the Saint Faith's Prep Maths Challenge took place. Four Y6 students (Sangha, Lydia, Jonah and Sachin) went to represent the school. One of the pairs placed 19th out of 40 and the other place 26th out of 40.

We all had great fun solving the problems given. After each one, we had to run round all the tables that the host called 'islands' (to make the distance each pair had to run fair), get our answers checked and receive the next challenge. We all enjoyed eating cookies and drinking lemon squash at the end.

Sachin and Jonah did really well on the challenges and secured 26th place. Sachin said of this mathematical event, "The hall was gigantic. It was quite intimidating. However, the maths challenge was exhilarating, I would recommend it to anyone who wants a bit of fun!" All in all, everyone enjoyed themselves.

Lydia, Y6

Students in Y7 and Y8 have also taken part in the United Kingdom's Mathematics Trust (UKMT) Junior Maths Challenge. The challenge is a multiple-choice Maths competition run by many schools across the country. There are 25 questions, each with five options labelled A, B, C, D and E. Students were tasked some tricky, out-of-the-box style problems across a variety of topics within the Key Stage 3 curriculum. Through a mixture of logic, reasoning and mathematical skills, each question tested their depth of understanding and ability to apply their Maths more laterally.

Goodbye and Good Luck Y11



The Y11s completed their very last day at the Senior School with a day of celebration. A very special Leavers' Lunch was followed by the Leavers' Service, which included beautiful instrumental performances from Sarah, Guy B and Giulia. A final speech was given by our Head Prefects Yektaa and Guy, before handing over the prefect mantle to the incoming Y11 students.

They had lots of fun at their Prom. We look forward to welcoming them back to the school whenever they are passing by and would just like to pop in to say hello. We hope they do.

Enrichment

We're proud of the fact that clever scheduling means that we can dedicate time to an enrichment programme within the school timetable. Being able to expose our students to a wider range of activities gives them the opportunity to discover new interests or further explore subjects they love. Here's a look at just some of the activities that have taken part this term.



Model Making



Baking



Sketching



Guitar Masterclass



Green Power Racing



Dinosaur Club



Japanese Book Binding



STEM Club



Gardening Club



Edible Science



Eco Bag Project



Mountain Bike Club

Cricket

Y3 and Y4 Girls



Y3 and Y4 girls travelled to St Mary's for their first cricket fixture. The girls learnt a lot through playing and experiencing batting, bowling and fielding for the first time. On the day there were fantastic performances all round by the girls who very much enjoyed the experience. A couple of special mentions for Anya, who took a much-deserved wicket getting one of the St Mary's players out with some accurate bowling. Aiden, hit some fantastic shots when batting. Julia, for her enthusiasm in the field. The standout performance definitely came from Elia, who managed to get four wickets during the game which is fantastic to see.

Y5 and Y6 Girls



On the first Friday after the half term break, the girls in Y5 and 6 went to St Mary's to play a cricket match. At that point neither Sancton Wood nor St Mary's had practised much. We drew but had a lovely time there and they were so nice we felt like a proper team.

The rest of the week we all practised in our PE lessons and started to get better. We went back to St Mary's again and won. It was extremely exciting for everyone. We all felt like a proper team and got back on the bus enormously proud of ourselves. It was an incredibly fun afternoon out that we were happy about!

Lottie and Emily (Y6)

Sports Day Special Prep

What a day. The morning started with the parade around the track, full of red, green, and yellow. In the field events the pupils showcased their skills and demonstrated their fantastic technique throughout the morning. Some standout performers were Oliver, Y5, who achieved maximum points for his house in the shot put, Caya in reception, Arthur, Y3 and Henry, Y5 who demonstrated fantastic technique, when competing in the Nerf throw.

In the afternoon, it was time for the track events. The races started with Pre-Prep, where they ran the bean bag pick up, tennis ball on a racket and 30m sprint. Next up was Y3-Y6 to sprint, 300m and 400m races. A special mention for Aden and Connor, Y4, who showed brilliant speed and determination in their races to win gold for their houses. The last races of the day were the relay, where the pupils showed good knowledge of passing the relay baton and excellent running technique.

Thank you to all the pupils for their superb enthusiasm and dedication throughout the year.



ISA Junior



On a Wednesday in late May a group of students travelled to Southend to compete in an Independent Schools Association athletics competition. The day started off with a relay race for all six teams with the top four teams in each race to go on to the final. Then all the pupils split up and competed in their events.

Then it was time for the relay finals and everyone who took part did amazingly. Overall, Archie (Y4) won a bronze in the 100-metre sprint, Iden (Y4) won a silver in the 150-metre sprint and Mae Grace (Y5) won a gold in the long jump. Everyone did really well in all their events and should be really proud of themselves.

Scout, Y6

Senior



Well done to our senior athletes who represented the school exceptionally well, on what was a fantastic day for us as a department, hosting the ISA East Athletics for another year. We had a range of success throughout the day.

The standout performance from Sancton Wood came from Sofia A-B who ran a fantastic 800m race finishing in first place and securing a gold medal. Sofia did fantastically well representing the school and East Anglia at ISA Nationals in Birmingham, finishing in the top ten.

We also saw success in the field events with Declan securing a silver medal in High Jump, Teddy a silver in Shot Put, Antonio a bronze in Discus, Anna a bronze in Discus, Tom J a bronze in Javelin and Archie a bronze in Long Jump.

Success on the track came in the Hurdles with Isla winning a silver, and Archie and Lola winning bronze.

Again, all the students were fantastic in their behaviour and effort and the whole PE department are extremely proud of them.

Senior

The senior students showed great effort and determination on the track and in the field. In the morning Y9 and Y10 showed fantastic application in their track events from hurdles, 100m to 400m and relay. There were standout performances from Harry D running fantastically to represent Phoenix house. This was followed by excellent runs from Anna in 200m for Griffin and Shadi in 400m for Dragon. At the same time Y7 and Y8 were showing great skills in their throws and jumps. Standout performances came from Suree (Y7 Dragon), Zane (Y8 Griffin) and Claudia (Y8 Dragon) who won multiple gold medals in various events.

In the afternoon it was the turn of Y7 and Y8 on the track and Y9 and Y10 in the field. On the track there were standout performances from Hjalmar (Y8 Phoenix) picking up multiple gold medals, Zac (Y7 Phoenix) who won a number of his track events and India (Y8 Dragon).



Hall of Fame

At Sancton Wood, our staff and students are doing brilliant things all of the time, inside of school, and out. Here's a little look at some of them:

Theo was offered the chance to join Cambridge United elite in football.

Huw has become part of the City of Cambridge under 10s cricket team



Sofia retained her 200m Backstroke county title. She is now a triple county champ.



Naomi obtained her car racing license.



Zac B's football team became U12 Hunts County Cup Football Champions.



Clara received silver medals for finishing 2nd Place, in the Cambridgeshire General Gymnastics County Competition.



Jared received his Chief Scout's Gold Award badge (equivalent to a Duke of Edinburgh award). He has since moved on to Explorers and received the Best New Explorer award.



Ethan placed 28th in the country at the National BYC.



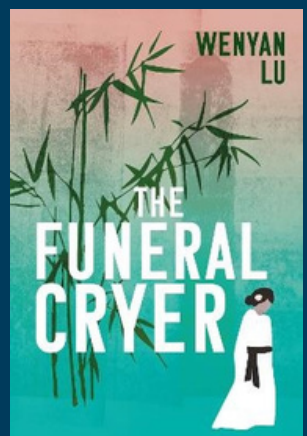
Lottie was selected to play for Comberton's under 14 A (first) team. They were awarded the league shield.



Ella in Y11 won the Sawston 7k Fun Run.



After successfully finishing the CCMF competition, Clara performed her recital debut.



Mandarin teacher Wenyan Lu's book won the Indie Fiction Book of the Month Award.



India represented the school equestrian team in the National NSEA finals at the prestigious grounds of Hickstead.



Why not end the summer holidays with a trip to The British Library for the Poetry Together Launch Party? Tuesday 5th September, 11am - 3pm.

It will be hosted by Gyles Brandreth, and offer performances and workshops from Children's Laureate, Joseph Coelho and Slam Poetry Star, Steven Camden.

Places are free and offered on a first come, first served basis. To RSVP or request to perform, email poetrytogether@dukeseducation.com.