



HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Students and staff have been working incredibly hard this term and it has certainly paid off, this edition of the Sancton Wood Times shows a real sense of energy and community across the school and so many wonderful achievements to celebrate.

In August we were thrilled to receive our GCSE results, the school offered a total of 22 subjects with 93% of grades between 9-4 and 40% of the total grades were at 7-9. Our students and staff worked incredibly hard and should feel very proud of all that they achieved.

We were delighted to be recognised nationally on two fronts. Firstly, a nomination for the Independent School of the Year award for the third consecutive year, thanks to the success of our excellent Senior Careers' Day initiative. Also, our pioneering PSHE

Supporters Club programme, in partnership with Cambridge United, was highlighted by the Independent Schools Council as an example of best practice and was celebrated at a special reception held at the House of Lords.

This term we hosted the Thriving Minds Dukes Schools Symposium here at Sancton Wood, attended by 170 students from across Dukes' schools and the local area. This allowed students to come together and discuss global issues in finance and STEM, as well as opportunities to work creatively in art and literature. The keynote for the event was delivered by Lucy Hawking who went on to deliver a session entitled 'How to Make a Better World.' The students loved it, with one commenting 'It's the best school trip I've ever had!'

It's perhaps no surprise that interest in attending Sancton Wood is at record levels, as typified by the attendance at our Open Morning and the level of applications for places in next year's Year 7 cohort, and this term saw us admit our 400th student. This growth brings wonderful opportunities for students in areas such as the development of the enrichment programme, facilities at the school and the international trip to Iceland.

As A Community of Fun and Energy, I have no doubt we will match all these achievements and more next term! It's such a pleasure to showcase all we have achieved so far; I hope you enjoy reading about it, Richard.



Thriving Minds Dukes Schools Symposium

Sancton Wood hosted its first ever Thriving Minds Symposium at the beginning of November giving students who had signed up to the Thriving Minds Programme the opportunity to meet experts in STEM, creative writing, art and design and sport.

Journalist and philanthropist, Lucy Hawking, daughter of the famous astrophysicist Professor Stephen Hawking, introduced the event. She encouraged pupils to think about how they could make the world a better place and not be afraid to do things differently.

Excited for the day ahead, everyone then made their way to their first chosen workshop. I attended the creative writing talk because I love English - 'Finding your Voice and Making it Heard', with novelist Jim Keeble. I found the tips on how to keep the reader interested really useful and the writing activity was a lot of fun.

When it was lunch-time, we got the chance to meet students from other Dukes schools and hear about university opportunities and career possibilities. The rest of the afternoon was spent in our second workshop.

I headed to the Art Room for 'From Blank Canvas to a Signature Style' led by children's illustrator, Kate Winter. She told us we shouldn't let anything stop us being creative and showed us how to use cut outs to make landscape masterpieces - which I really enjoyed.

Speaking to such successful people was so inspiring, nobody wanted the day to end. I hope next year I can go again and enjoy more workshops.

Written by Nancy, Y7

Arrivals and Departures by Alan Ayckbourn



On the 12th of October 2023 at around 10:00 p.m. we closed our doors for the final time. We were finished with our production of Arrivals and Departures. It was a memorable and exciting adventure filled with struggles along the way but more importantly it was a fun experience. We were just a group of students working hard to create a memorable production and in the end it was all worth it.

The journey started around Easter this year when Mrs Robinson announced the play. Within a few weeks of doing so auditions had taken place and roles had been assigned. Over the course of 4 months of rehearsing and a summer holiday of line learning we were ready and on the 11th of October we finally opened our doors for the first performance.

The plot centres around ex-soldier Ez, Yorkshire traffic warden, Barry and an undercover terrorist operation. What could go wrong? Rehearsals started, being hosted after school on various days of the week. Overall, the rehearsals in the summer term were quite relaxed with everyone instructed to learn their lines over the summer. Once the new school year started however, it started to hit home that there were just 4 weeks until the production and there was lots of work to do.

Ready or not October came and it was showtime. Most were stressed to some degree, some were nervous and quite a few were ready for it to be over and to return to life as normal. Somehow the fabulous Mrs Robinson had pulled everyone together despite some last minute changes to the cast.



Everyone was backstage and the play started. The tech team did a wonderful job as did the backstage crew. Things were going well. The only downside was, being October, people were starting to catch seasonal coughs and colds which wasn't great. When the lights went to black out, for the final time it was over. Everyone's hard work had paid off in the end. We had created a successful and well received show.

Overall, the experience was enjoyable and it couldn't have happened without everyone involved. To conclude, we all owe Mrs Robinson, Mrs McKillop and Mr Sadler many thanks for putting together this wonderful performance. Finally, for anyone thinking about being part of any kind of show, whether it's a play, musical or any other kind of performance, we recommend you give it a try. You won't regret it.

One final thanks to Mrs Robinson for putting together and organising this wonderful adventure.

Written by Alicia and Josh, Y10

Pre Reception Peter Rabbit



Our brand new Pre-Reception class (Peter Rabbits) is now up and running at St Paul's Road. The children (and staff!) have been so pleased to have the younger pupils rejoin the Prep school once more. The Peter Rabbit class have enjoyed their newly refurbished classroom and outdoor area over the past few weeks and have settled into their new routines with ease and confidence. We look forward to an ongoing relationship with the Tiger class at Station Road over the coming months and will be visiting every Wednesday for Forest School.

Christmas Carols



We were delighted to welcome families to the nursery for a spot of carolling. It was lovely to come together and start the festive season with a sing-song.

Little City



Tigers joined our Reception class at St. Paul's Road, for a 'Little City' experience. They absolutely loved dressing up and exploring all the different role-play opportunities, such as the vets and the supermarket. We were very proud of how well they played with each other and how absorbed they were in their play.

Children in Need

On Children in Need day, we raised money by having a bake sale (run by Y6). Alongside selling the delicious cakes generously donated, we sold secondhand books. Everyone was encouraged to wear something spotty, like Pudsey's bandana, and to donate. We raised about £650 to support children in need.

Written by Sophia R, Y6



Our nursery took part too, dressing up in spotty clothes.

STEM Week



We have an exceptional science department here at Sancton Wood, so we always go for STEM Week with force.

Our very own STEM Ambassador, Mrs Angelillo has been busy across all three sites. At our nursery our youngest budding scientists sent rockets to the moon, made mini volcanos and skittle rainbows, built structures and watched a mentos explosion.

Wow! STEM week was amazing. On the Monday, an amazing UFO landed in the playground and we wrote a story about it: all the classes did an amazing job with their creativity and imagination.

During the week, all the classes went to the Science Lab to experiment with rockets, organised by our STEM Ambassador, Mrs Angelillo. Y6 made rockets with film-roll canisters, a little water and a fizzy vitamin C tablet. Some of them shot up higher than the main building; then we made balloon rockets, propelled by air. Y5 also had the opportunity to make balloon-rockets. Y3 explored how a magnet can make a rocket levitate. Y1 saw how high stomp rockets would fly. There was a lot of happy shouting in the playground. Thank you, Mrs Angelillo.

Written by Sophia H, Y6

Aliens have landed



Twinkly Nativity

The Christmas tree went up and Christmas songs started playing in the playground but Christmas really kicked off when our youngest students performed in their Twinkly Nativity at St Paul's Church. We were proud of their lovely clear voices and wonderful singing.



The BIG Write

Aliens landed in school! We didn't know why they were here or what they looked like, but we did work out (from their tiny footprints and spaceship) that they were very small. Outside the spaceship were two empty, teal-coloured eggshells. We found traces of them all over the school in quite random places like the library, or the pew. There was a small blue handprint on a window.

After lunch, the spaceship disappeared, though the footprints did not. By that time, we'd written our Big Write stories about them.

Written by Harsh, Y6



Happiness Poems

As part of the national 'Poetry Together' initiative, spearheaded by Dukes, we wrote poems on the theme of happiness. The poems could be no more than 14 lines long. There were lots of joyful poems written and some have been entered for the 'Poetry Together' competition.

Keith Hatton Visit

We had an exciting visit from a special guest, Keith Hatton, who came to show us his new book, 'Professor Plunder's Time Machine: The Doors of Doom'. We were thrilled when he read a bit of the first chapter and answered our questions. It was so cool to meet a real author. Keith's visit was a real treat and we were grateful for the insights he shared with us.

Written by Vasileios, Y4

Odd-Sock Day



On Odd Sock Day, we wore socks that didn't match. We did this because we wanted to show everyone that we were allowed to be unique. This was part of Anti-Bullying Week. We made a noise for no bullying by wearing odd socks.

Written by Audrey, Y6

Hallowe'en and the Day of the Dead

The Hallowe'en Disco was great fun. One of the things we had at the disco was candyfloss, along with glowsticks. We dressed up in some impressive Hallowe'en costumes and make-up. The hall was decorated with pumpkins carved for the house competition, which added to the atmosphere.

In addition, in Spanish we had been learning about the Day of the Dead and, as part of this, we cut out papel picado: decorations made by cutting tissue paper. While we made these, Mrs Swayne put on music from the film: Coco. This is also about the Day of the Dead. As well as papel picado, we coloured decorative printed skull templates.

Written by Hazel, Y6



National Poetry Day

On National Poetry Day, we tested our poetry skills exploring similes, alliteration, and metaphors. We even had a go at reciting poetry from memory to work on our performance skills. Plus, we had the opportunity to create our very own poems using various poetry styles. I wrote a Haiku about dandelions. We talked about the language we used and shared our thoughts on what we liked and how we could make our writing and performances even better. National Poetry Day - there's just so much to tell!

Written by Zavia, Y4

European Languages Day

The hall was buzzing with excitement as we all tried different salsa dances. But the best part was the gorilla dance! It was like a real salsa party, with everyone stomping and crossing to the rhythm. The salsa was so fun, and we were all lost in the music. It felt like we were proper salsa dancers! It was such a great way to celebrate and learn about different cultures to celebrate European Languages Day.

Written by Julia, Y4



Getting to know the Senior School

In Y6, we start to get to know more about the Senior School, through visits and other activities. At the start of term, we were treated to a delicious morning cream tea. The prefects were there to answer the questions we'd prepared about life at the Senior School.

In November, the prefects accompanied us on a cinema visit. This was good fun and gave us further opportunities to get to know senior students, who will be there next year when we're in Y7.

Twelve prospective students visited for a taster day. We spent half of the day at the Senior School where we had lessons with the teachers there. We also ate lunch there. It was a good day and all of the twelve taster children have decided to come to Sancton Wood next year.

Written by Yumeth, Y6

Enrichment

at the Prep

Young Voices

On a Wednesday afternoon, at the Prep School, we do Enrichment and one of the choices is Young Voices (my favourite). The main thing we do is practise all of the amazing songs, some of which have exciting dance moves to go with them. After all of the practising is complete, in January, we will go to the incredible O2 Arena for a performance with thousands of other children from around the UK and the world. We will perform to all the parents. There will be bright lights, famous performing artists and a choir of ten thousand children.

Written by Martha, Y6

Eco-Bags

Before I write about Eco-bags, please enjoy this short commercial:

Come with us and make Eco-bags because we'll bag you up. Just like that!

Anyway..., I thought Eco-bags enrichment was great. I loved doing tie-dye and potato-printing. The cherry on top is that we made so many of them! So let's just say that, if you go to Waitrose, you will have plenty of shopping bags to choose from. I also thought that it was really cool that my teacher took the activity. In total, I really liked it.

Written by Aurora, Y6



Students travelled to Waitrose to deliver the bags which will be sold in store. Proceeds will go to CAMFED, supporting education for women in Africa. They had their photo taken by a local newspaper and the Branch Manager surprised them with a gift.

Design and Technology

In DT (Design and Technology), we did a lot of activities this term. One thing we have done is baking: we made cookies and shared them out in groups. Towards Christmas, we made Christmas crafts including threading and stitching decorations and some origami. Thank you to Miss Todd and Mrs Clulow for organising the activities.

Written by Sophia R, Y6

School Trips *at the Senior School*



Iceland

The packed itinerary began with a visit to the Blue Lagoon, a relaxing way to unwind after the stresses of international travel. This proved to be a trip favourite but there were many more highlights to come. On the second day we climbed up the sides of the majestic Skagafoss waterfall, saw the effects of climate change on the rapidly shrinking Sólheimajökull glacier, and learned about the origins of the prominent basalt columns on the black sand beaches at Reynisfjara. On the third day the adventure continued at pace beginning with a visit to Gullfoss, a thundering two-stage waterfall. We then made our way to see the original Geysir and got covered in hot steam from the erupting waters. Next on the itinerary was a stop at Thingvellir. We stood between the continents in the rift valley and wondered in awe at the parting of the tectonic plates. The afternoon was spent absorbing some local culture in the capital Reykjavik, which for some students involved taste tasting the local breakfast cereals.

Despite Storm Babet's best efforts to thwart our return to Sancton Wood, everybody made it back safe and sound. The trip was a memorable and educational experience in so many ways and I am sure all the students enjoyed this once in a lifetime visit. Everyone conducted themselves impeccably throughout the trip and I was extremely impressed with their composure when confronted with challenging weather and uncertainty about our return flight.

My special thanks go to Mrs Tall, Mrs Ainscough and Mr Gabbitas who proved invaluable in making the trip work and supporting the students throughout the adventure.

Written by Mr Sayer

Macbeth Trip

On Tuesday 26th of September, Y11 set off on an adventure to central London to watch Macbeth at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre.

We all agreed that the architecture of the city was astounding; we were fascinated by the glass buildings towering over our heads. We sat down for a much-needed lunch break beside The Tate Modern and enjoyed some interesting sandwiches. Meanwhile, we were encircled by ravenous pigeons. We quickly realised that the birds seemed to enjoy our packed lunches more than we did; one of us even befriended a pigeon! We all found this impressive, and it could be considered a highlight of our day.

At last, it was time to enter the theatre. Fortunately, the weather was kinder to us than the previous time we visited The Globe in Y9 (it was pleasant making it through the day without getting completely drenched!). Furthermore, this time we had the luxury of seated tickets: "The best part was the seating" - Will F.

As for the play itself, while the more modern interpretation was a very creative idea, many of us found the execution of it slightly confusing as it wasn't quite how we'd imagined it. The dialogue was not consistently delivered in a clear manner and was sometimes too quiet to follow what the characters were saying. However, the actors' range of expressions helped us understand the tone of the scene.

While the play wasn't quite what we expected, a fair amount of us appreciated the costume design, especially Macbeth's. It was also a very worthwhile experience for students who hadn't yet seen the Globe, as the building itself and the architecture is remarkable.

Despite us all being a little bit perplexed by the production, we loved the gift shop, playing with the swords (we definitely didn't see the 'No playing with the swords sign'). Walking back to the coach, we met some international students from a school in Germany, and our Languages Prefect enjoyed talking with the likeminded peers. A lovely end to an action-packed day.

Written by Elizabeth, Y11

Y9 Residential: Graffam Water



It was water up down and all around as Y9s braved the elements and the lakes at Grafham Water on their residential trip. Huge thanks to Mr Kennedy for stepping in to lead the trip and for Mr Barry and Ms Cairnduff for taking them on their residential.

School Trips *at the Prep*

Y5 trip to the Fitzwilliam Museum

In the first half of term Y5 went to the Fitzwilliam to look at the Ancient Greek artifacts. We saw pots, wine jars and sculptures of Greek philosophers. We were shown a coffin which was in the centre of the room. We went around drawing the items we thought were interesting.

Written by Iden, Y5



Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology Y6 trip

Y6 went on a trip to learn more about the Mayans at the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology. At the museum, Dr Rob Law showed us a plaster cast of a Mayan face, taken from a pillar in the Yucatan Peninsula. He talked us through the many details, including the fact that the Mayans considered large noses to be a sign of nobility.

Next, we sat at a table with real Mayan artefacts, handled them and tried to guess what they were. After the facts were revealed about them, we had some time to explore the museum to find further Mayan artefacts.

Written by Adam, Y6



Y6 trip to Cambridge Central Mosque

Y6 went on a trip to the magnificent Cambridge Central Mosque. Upon arrival, we went to see the glorious garden. Standing in the centre, an impressive white-stone fountain created a splashy but calm sound. Then we saw the entrance hall where the geometric patterns had reasons. For example, the pattern on the wall was a line from the Qur'an. Finally, we entered the prayer hall and heard the call to prayer by the Imam.

Written by Alfred, Y6



Y7 Residential: Kingswood



We all cheered when we arrived at the Kingswood gates, excited to look around when we got off the coach. The Kingswood staff greeted us. They were very nice. Then we grabbed our bags and walked over to our rooms. When we got sorted into our rooms and put our bags away, they took us all around on a tour. We saw: a zip wire, climbing walls and a lot more fun and exciting things to do. Our favourite activity was the zip wire (I must admit it was scary for me, but it was fun!) We all wanted to have another go. You had to go through a door on the climbing wall then you had to climb up the stairs all the way to the top. After that they would clip you onto the zip wire. Then all you had to do was jump! Easier than it sounds!

The most popular activity was going to the shop. We all came home with a sugar rush! We also enjoyed the disco. We all got ready to dance and they played lots of great music. The most popular song when most people got up to dance was the Macarena.

We also did a fashion show where we used bin bags and leftover cardboard to create a fashion look. Then our models walked down the runway while their team sang a song of their choice for back up music. We all really enjoyed Kingswood and we had so much FUN!

Written by Grace, Y7

Following on from Grace's article, we enjoyed doing some more fun activities at Kingswood. Archery was amazing entertainment, as we got to shoot arrows and get a good technique and aim. The best part of archery was for sure a moment we can all laugh at when one buddy shot his arrow a bit off... into the ceiling! I definitely think we all enjoyed problem-solving as it was a mix of teamwork activities, which involved climbing, games with ropes, using tyres to make our way to the other side and balancing on a giant seesaw! One of the most hardworking activities was definitely fire lighting. This was really active and involved lighting a fire and trying to keep it going, which people from groups had to get pine needles that are a life source for fire. We all did a great job keeping the fires going and, in the end, we all smelled like a barbecue!

Some of the prizes were given to Leia, Iris, Nancy and Grace for the tidiest room for the whole trip. Stellan for being so funny and happy and David for having the best moment when he shot that arrow! And a big thanks to all of the teachers who went with Y7 and looked out for us. And we're all happy to say that Kingswood was terrific!

Written by Marina, Y7

Owl Sanctuary Trip: Life Science Study in Suffolk



Y7 and Y8 were taken to the Suffolk Owl Sanctuary for their curriculum plus visit.

Although it was raining nearly everyone had prepared for the weather and we began with a tour of the bird cages making our way towards the Meerkat enclosure. They meerkats weren't too keen to come out of their warm bedroom into the cold but were eventually encouraged because they are inquisitive creatures.

Our group then had a talk on Falconry and learnt how some of the language we use today relates to this ancient sport, such as "under the thumb".

After lunch, we went into small groups to take part in some enrichment work with the meerkats, investigate some "bugs" up close (a cockroach and a stick insect) and find and identify bones from owl pellet "fluff". This was quite an exciting way to work out what the owl had been eating.

At the end of our visit, we left the site under a spectacular double rainbow.

Y10 Trip to the Tower of London



Curriculum Plus Y9 Trip to the Imperial War Museum

To enrich Y9's studies on the First World War this term, they went on a day trip to the Imperial War Museum in London. The aim of the trip was to explore the experiences of men fighting in the front lines during WWI and how they coped with the conditions in the trenches. The students learnt some of the interesting ways the opposing armies fought the war, in particular how the British army created artificial trees that they placed in no-man's land to spy on the Germans. After having lunch, the students explored the rest of the museum and spent time learning about the role of troops in Northern Ireland and the Homefront during WWII. A fantastic trip was had by all.



Our Y10s had a great glimpse of British History in all its finery and its bloodiness when they visited the famous Tower of London this week.

"The Tower of London was an exciting experience for Y10. I enjoyed it greatly. My favourite part was when we looked at the Crown Jewels. These were really beautiful to admire and we had a tour guide who taught us about everything in even further depth. I also loved the trip as it was a fun bonding time with our peers, so we learnt, and we socialised." Cara Y10

"The trip to the Tower of London was great. We were shown Traitors' Gate where prisoners, including monarchs were led through and the famous White Tower where people were imprisoned. Apart from all the talk on prisoners and traitors we also saw the Crown Jewels - which were absolutely beautiful."

Written by Phoebe, Y10

Y11 D of E



On the 30th of September our Duke of Edinburgh participants headed off to Suffolk to complete the final part of the award - The Expedition.

The group journeyed for more than six hours, following the Stour River from Long Melford to Bures. The students were surprised by the amount of effort and energy needed to complete the walk. We all walked into the night on Friday and were led to camp by torch light and the beautiful Harvest moon. Tents were up quickly, the group prepared themselves a hot meal and we all gathered by the campfire. The next morning, we saw a lot of cooked breakfasts including pancakes, croissants, and porridge (great carbs for the walk ahead). Once most of the food was eaten, students noticed bags were much lighter and they zoomed to the first checkpoint in no time. To lighten their bags even more, they stopped in a beautiful field beside a stream for another cooked meal and roasted marshmallows.

Congratulations to all participants, they showed tremendous perseverance and resilience.

Taking part in the scheme helps to give students many of the skills they will need as they grow more independent - confidence, teamwork, leadership, problem solving, endurance and resilience. They learn new things, realise the importance of volunteering and being part of a community and ultimately it is great fun.

In the words of the DofE award: "Choose the things you love to do or try something completely new, help your community, test your limits, enhance your skills, and grow your confidence".

HPQ Presentations

Thomas, Adrian, Nathan and Max could not have been more different in the topics they chose to research for their HPQs - Lunar bases, Hydroponic living walls, Foosball tables, Creative writing; one thing they all had in common though, they were all amazing. Informative, interesting, well researched projects expertly delivered, and they made their teachers and parents proud. Well done to those students - life skills learnt that you could take with you forever.



Flags of the World Humanities House Competition



One Thursday lunchtime, the whole school were invited to take part in a Humanities department quiz. Students were challenged to identify 38 flags of the world. Many students posted some very impressive scores. Notable mentions go to Ned (Y10), Hugo (Y10) and Anastasiia (Y10) with 34. Will (Y10) scored an impressive 37, only mistaking the Ivory Coast for Ireland. However, Alicia (Y10) and Abdelali (Y8) achieved 38/38, an absolutely amazing score. They both receive 100 house points for their Houses and a copy of Tim Marshall's book 'Worth Dying for: The Power and Politics of Flags'.

Careers Day

On Wednesday the 4th of October 2023 we, at Sancton Wood School, enjoyed our second annual Careers Day to help Senior students better understand opportunities for future employment possibilities.

Students attended a talk by InvestIN on either interview technique (KS4) or career planning (KS3) and in addition chose four talks from a choice of 25 different career areas, each given by an expert in their field. The options were Law, Fashion Design, Education, Screen Writing, Civil Engineering, Nursing, Computer Programming, Artificial Intelligence, Sports Coaching, Creative Writing, Veterinary Science, Neurosurgery, Investment Banking, Events Planning, Forensics, Journalism, Art History, Novelist, Medicine, AI, Interior Design, Detective, Programming, Aerospace Engineering and Pathology. I personally chose Civil Engineering, AI, Forensics, and Aerospace Engineering. The most interesting talk in my opinion was AI, which wasn't so much to do with careers in AI, but more how to adapt into using AI in other jobs, and also how to avoid having your job outsourced to an AI, which will be very helpful in the future.

Overall, the day was a helpful experience for me and my peers to understand how we want to shape our futures and what career(s) we may pursue in the future.

Hugo, Y10

Thriving Minds

I joined Sancton Wood's thriving mind program a little over a year ago now. Since then, I have been given many opportunities which have allowed me to develop important life skills such as public speaking, nurturing a growth mindset and tips and tricks for presenting yourself as a strong candidate in interviews. From attending a seminar in London on nurturing a growth mindset and advice on next steps post Sancton Wood to a symposium starring Lucy Hawking. Recently the group created and presented a Ted X presentation which through some hard work and feedback developed many of our skills. For example confidence while public speaking as well as constructing interesting, easy to understand presentations.

Written by Nathan

House Photo Competition



The photo I submitted for the photography competition, I took on a trip with my brother and father in the Austrian Alps. Right before this trip, I went to a German language camp for two weeks (also in the Austrian Alps), where the most memorable thing was a friend betting me 20 bucks I couldn't eat 10 coconut desserts, which I absolutely demolished, and as a bonus, was late to my next class.

My brother and father met up with me after the camp and we took a train and a bus to a hotel in the major valley, where we began our journey the next morning, walking out of our hotel room in slow-mo, to the guitar solo of The Final Countdown of course. We hiked up the secondary valley in scorching sun, although it later cooled off with altitude and drizzles. After a hike of about 10km walking and 1600m altitude gain, we reached our first mountain hostel, at about 2500m above sea level.

Written by Yavor, Y10

Celebrating Black History Month



Our prefects Grace and Ellie delivered a memorable assembly to the whole school to begin the celebrations for Black History Month (BHM). We were also treated to the delightful music of some legendary women jazz players - the focus of this year's BHM being 'Celebrating our Sisters.' They also decorated the school to begin the month of celebrations.

As part of Black History Month and the theme of 'celebrating our sisters', Mrs Kuhnell presented a whole-school assembly highlighting Jesskah Inaba, who not only broke, but smashed her way through a triple-glass ceiling as a blind and black female barrister. Jesskah qualified on October 13 during Black History Month and has now joined the Bar. Her journey was amazing and it is stories like Jesskah's that help steer organisations in a more diverse and inclusive direction. In Jesskah's own words: "I know I can do this job well, and the more people like me who go through training the easier it will become. I know I'm giving hope to others in similar situations."

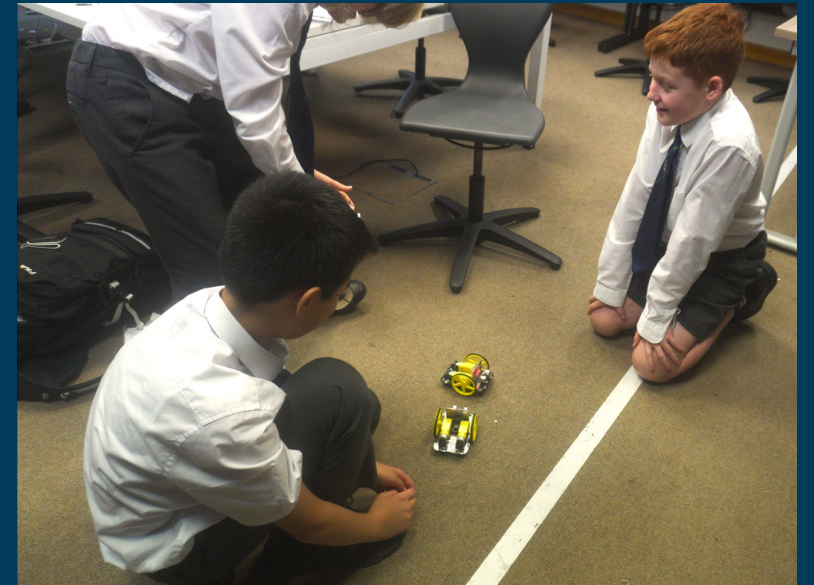
Enrichment at the Senior School

As a student at Sancton Wood it is great to see and experience that alongside the standard school subjects they also offer extra-curricular opportunities. There are a wide variety of subjects, ranging from life skills, physical education, and creative arts. All pupils at Sancton wood get to individually choose the enrichment they would like to attend; this allows every student to do what they enjoy most or want to learn more about.

During my time at Sancton Wood, I have had the chance to participate in many enrichment options. These include; illustration, cooking, band practice, drama and set design. All of these I have thoroughly enjoyed, one of my favourites being band practice. With band practice I get to focus on some of the things I love; music and singing, but it also improves my teamwork skills and it highlights that working together can create something even better. The drama enrichment definitely built up my confidence through the school and has allowed me to enjoy one of my favourite hobbies. Also working alongside and part of the set design programme has shown me another side of performing and what it takes to make a show.

I think we are very lucky to have such a variety of enrichment programmes at Sancton Wood. I have learnt a lot and really enjoyed trying new things and learning new skills. Each term I look forward to seeing what enrichment programmes are on offer and deciding what I want to experience. Time goes by so quickly in each session but I enjoy every second of it and look forward to the next session.

Written by Lucia, Y9



Stage make-up

Sport at the Prep

The Michaelmas term has been another successful period for the PE department and students at Sancton Wood. We encourage all the students to show our Sporting Values in lessons and during fixtures and competitions: Effort, Respect, Commitment, Challenge and Enjoyment. This term it has been amazing to take students to a range of fixtures with so many displaying these core values. We are very proud of the effort and commitment students have shown across the term in representing the school.

Inter-House Competitions

At the Prep School, we will be using a range of different activities to promote interhouse competition throughout the year. The first inter-house competition this year was the Santa Dash on the 5th of December at Fenner's. Students completed a range of challenges linked to Christmas to win points for their houses, whilst wearing the festive colour red.

As a department we are currently looking to appoint house sport captains for the Prep School based on students' efforts and the qualities they show within lessons. We will let students know who the sports captains are when we return in the New Year, so, keep on impressing us.



Hockey



The girls from Y5 and Y6 have made such great progress in their hockey this term. The results in their fixtures have really proven that. We played St Marys 3 times in the Under 11 and Under 10 squads. We started with a 0-1 defeat, then a 0-0 draw and finished with a 1-1 draw. Player of the Season from Y5 is Scarlett our captain for the Under 10s and goal scorer Aden, plus special mention to our goal keepers this season Audrey, Y6 and Leia Y5.

Cambridge Tag Rugby Festival



They played four games against primary schools from all over Cambridge. In our first game the students played well against a tough opponent, with Archie scoring our only try. As we moved through the tournament, the group grew in confidence in both attack and defence, and we saw a great improvement in our results. Iden and Hugo also got themselves onto the scoresheet which was very positive to see.

ISA East Junior Swimming



Well done to our fantastic swimmers, Sophia R (for backstroke and breaststroke), Martha (for butterfly and freestyle), Henry (for backstroke), Theo (for butterfly), Alfred (for freestyle), Oliver (for breaststroke) and the Y6 Boys Relay team. They were fantastic in representing the school and giving their all at Ipswich Crown Pools. Keep up the good work!

Cross Country

On 27th November all Y3-Y6 made the trip to Netherhall for the Cambridge Cross-Country Event. On a very wet, windy and cold morning, all the students showed fantastic resilience and effort to complete the 1500m track. It was made especially difficult by the prospect of running up a rather steep hill, but all the students persevered and produced some excellent finishes. As a department we were very proud of all the students and rewarded them all with house points for the bravery and effort they had showed.

We have more Cross Country with the ISA Regional Competition for years 4-11 in February.

Football



Well done to the Y5's who performed fantastically well in the tournament, returning with bronze medals. The day started off with a narrow 1-0 defeat, after a fantastic rabona effort from Archie was saved in the last minute to deny Sancton Wood a point. The second game was an end-to-end match, with Hugo making some fantastic saves to keep the game 0-0 against the eventual winners, Alleyn Court. In the third game of the day, thanks to some excellent defending and tackling from Otis, Sid and Oakley we were able to keep Alleyn Court B out. At the other end, a fantastic pass from Ben to Archie led to the only goal of the game, where Archie danced around four defenders and smashed the ball into the top corner. This gave Sancton Wood their first victory of the day. In the last game of the day, it took some great communication and teamwork to get the victory. Our goal came from some fantastic play by Ben and Archie, who carved open the opposition defence with some lovely passing.

Multi-Sport



Well done to the pupils who showed excellent effort and teamwork throughout the morning. The pupils took on a variety of activities which included dribbling in football, tug of war, passing in rugby and the standing long jump. The pupils really enjoyed the morning and it really helped further develop their skills in a variety of sport.



Standout performances included: Johnathan (17th Place in Y3), Aiden (16th Place in Y5), Scarlett (20th Place in Y5), Iden (17th place in Y5), Ben (19th in the Y6 race), Archie (20th in the Y6 Race), Oliver (17th Place in Y6).

Staff in the Spotlight

Edward Batty | Head of KS3,
History Teacher and Senior
School Enrichment Coordinator



Could you tell us a bit about your background?

I grew up in the southwest of England, just south of Cheltenham on the Cotswold edge. Both my sister and I attended a little prep school which was mainly focused on developing a love of sport and being outdoors. So, I played sport for all my childhood, rugby, cricket, cross-country running, hockey, water polo and athletics. My parents spent most of their time ferrying us around to places at the weekends and coming to watch us during the week. I then went on to a school in Cheltenham where there was more of the same focus on sport but also being involved in the CCF (Combined Cadet Force) and volunteering to coach sport in the prep school.

How did you get into teaching?

For my gap year I worked in a boarding school in South Africa. This got me into the idea of teaching as I enjoyed taking the students on expeditions, coaching sport and looking after the junior boys in their boarding house. At the weekend we would mountain bike down into the local gorge and take the boarders cliff jumping and building campfires. This was also my first taste of teaching some academic subjects and helping the younger boarders with their prep in the evenings.

After university, I applied to be an expeditioner in a school out in Swiss Alps. This first job had nothing to do with History or teaching in the classroom but was focused on taking the students camping, climbing, hiking and skiing in the local mountains. I also worked in the junior boys boarding house. As I had a History degree, the Headmaster asked me to cover some lessons and so I began to get some classroom experience and eventually did my PGCE.

What is your favourite thing about teaching your subjects?

History is about developing a perspective, not just regurgitating facts. Creating your own understanding about an event from the past and being able to sift through the problems of bias and perspective really gives you the tools to be able to think critically. Teaching History is also an excuse to discuss current issues and generally get students to be vocal and tell each other what they think about the world around them, I hate a quiet classroom.

What do you like about working at Sancton Wood?

Sancton Wood is a special place, I have worked in many schools that all boast about being caring and kind. But Sancton Wood is truly that place and this means that the staff are friendly, but the greatest joy is that the students are fantastic to teach. There is a two-way respect between teachers and students, and this creates a unique atmosphere.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

In my free time I either go running or cycling. I am a big fan of doing long distance walks, runs or bike rides. For a while I was focused on running ultramarathons and racing in the Alps when I lived there. I also love to go walking with my wife, son and dog around Cambridge and further afield on the weekends.

What will you be doing for the holidays?

I will be spending the time relaxing with my wife and son and seeing the rest of our family. I might also get out for a long run for a day but that will be depending on the weather.

Sport at the Senior School

Hockey

The hockey players have made great progress in their hockey this season, learning more about tactical game play and developing some creative short corner routines.

Player of the Season is Stella from Y9 for her outstanding commitment and effort in hockey, always willing to dive into tackles and lead the team well.



Table Tennis

It has been great to play some competitive Table Tennis this term as part of the ISA. Our Y8 and Y10 students travelled to Stoke College to compete in the regional competition. Well done to all our players but special mention to our medallists Harry S, Harry Z, Gabriel, Phoebe, Holly, Zara, Orson, Harry D, Emma, and Szabina. We hope to take a small number of students to the ISA National event in the Lent term in Birmingham.



Sancton Wood Equestrian Team

On the 3rd December the Equestrian Team have their first event of the season. India, Lottie and Emily will be competing at Brook Farm Equestrian Centre in Essex for some Arena Eventing with the hope of qualifying for the NSEA championships at Hickstead in May 2024. The girls have been training hard and have high hopes of qualifying. Keep an eye on the PE department's social media channels for the results. Evie has competed in the NSEA December dressage competition, and we nervously await the results to see how she has done. Bea and Arabella are taking their time getting to know their new ponies but hope to be out competing with the rest of the team in the new year.

Ella selected for the Mavericks

We are proud that Ella from last years Leavers has been selected for the U17 Maverick Netball Team. Ella is a great role model for our young netballers, she was captain of the school team, leading them to 2nd Place on Netball tour last year. Congratulations Ella we look forward to following how you get on.

ISA Senior Swimming

Congratulations to all the students who took part in the ISA Swimming Championships. It was a great team effort, and everyone performed extremely well. A special mention to Sofia for finishing 3rd in the 100m Breaststroke and Carla for finishing 3rd in the 50m Breaststroke. Well done everyone!

Football

Y8

The game started at a frantic pace with both teams looking dangerous in attack, and some nice passing and crossing. However, neither team could take their chances after some good defending from both sides. Unfortunately, Stephen Perse broke the deadlock with a nice finish. Sancton Wood continued to push but Stephen Perse was able to double their lead. The boys continued to show excellent teamwork and determination throughout the game and their effort was rewarded when Zac smashed the ball into the top corner. Well done to all the boys.



Y10

The game started with the boys showing fantastic resilience and determination in their defensive block; they limited Stephen Perse to half chances in the early stages of the game. Unfortunately, Stephen Perse was able to break the deadlock with a lovely finish into the corner of the goal. Harry continued to show fantastic distribution from goal kicks and made some outstanding saves to keep the boys in the game. The boys continued to push for a goal with Louis making some excellent runs on the winger; however, they were unable to beat the Stephen Perse goalkeeper. Keep up the good work.



Y11

The match started at a high tempo; both teams showed good composure on the ball and determination without it. The boys displayed fantastic resilience in their defending to keep the game at 0-0. However, Stephen Perse took the lead. The boys stayed motivated and kept pushing for an equalizer with some good passes to Alex on the wing. In the first half, Sancton Wood were able to beat the keeper with some good work from the midfielder - he found Ollie, who then shot across the box. Although the keeper saved the shot, Oscar was in the right place to tap it into the goal. The team continued to show good teamwork and motivation throughout the game. A special mention to George who produced some excellent saves in goal. Keep up the good work.

Inter-House Competitions



Each half term the students at the senior school will be given the opportunity to compete in house sport competitions to earn points for their houses. The first of which at the senior school saw students playing singles and doubles badminton to win points for their houses.

a	l	n	d	e	g	e	l	f	k	holly christmas family elf turkey santa carols festive donkey bauble
m	c	h	r	i	s	t	m	a	s	
b	a	o	c	f	i	h	j	m	a	
o	r	l	p	b	q	t	v	i	n	
w	o	l	x	a	r	u	s	l	t	
y	l	y	t	u	r	k	e	y	a	
a	s	c	e	b	z	d	o	s	v	
j	h	b	f	l	g	n	p	q	w	
d	o	n	k	e	y	m	u	t	r	
k	i	l	f	e	s	t	i	v	e	