

Sir William Stanier

# Newsletter

Winter 2023



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## Headteacher's Welcome

Dear Parents and Carers,

Well, the weather outside may well still be frightful, but the students of Sir William Stanier have been delightful. They embraced the festive spirit full on and, as well as participating in Christmas jumper days, classroom door decorating and Christmas dinner, the End of Year Christmas Quiz organised and hosted by the Quizmaster himself, Mr Smissen, prompted a level of competition between forms that I could only marvel at. The buzz it created was a lovely way to end a long half term.

Across the whole term, I have to say that I remain impressed by the high standard of uniform displayed by our students. I'd like to thank you for your support in helping us to ensure that our children continue to look smart and arrive to school on time, ready to learn. That said, the colder weather has brought an increase in hoodies and coats being worn around school. Please remind your child that hoodies are not permitted at all and that coats should not be worn inside the school building. They are to be put away in bags or lockers, or, if preferred, carried over the arm. Tying them around waists and wearing them on heads is not practical. For anyone who has any issues around uniform, bags or equipment, please do contact us at school so we can see what we can do to help. We are always happy to assist where we can.

Whether or not the celebration of Christmas is a part of your lives, it is a time of year that often puts additional pressure on us and this can affect us in different ways. School is closed for the two-week Christmas break and students won't be returning until Tuesday 9th January, but if you feel you need any support during this time, there are people and organisations you can turn to. Please see the message from the Safeguarding team for contact details.

This has been a long term for everyone and we all deserve a well-earned break so I urge you to rest where you can and stay safe. I would like to thank all members of the SWS and local communities for your support in everything that we do to ensure that our students live out the SWS values of Opportunity, Community and Courage on a daily basis.

Wishing you a joyful and safe Christmas and New Year,

Nicki Gregg

Headteacher

## Ofsted update: Right on track!

In October, we had our long-awaited Ofsted monitoring visit which provided us with the opportunity to demonstrate just how far we have come since the last graded inspection of March 2022. While we recognise that we are not yet where we aim to be and that we are still on a journey of improvement, it is important to remember that the school we are now is a world away from the school I joined 18 months ago and this is thanks to the hard work and dedication of the staff - all of whom are committed to ensuring that every student has the opportunity to develop academically, spiritually and culturally. This is something that the inspector saw firsthand when he met with a wide range of students of his own choosing. Our children were as straight-talking as ever and were a credit to us and to you for the way they expressed their views on what we do well and how we can further improve.

I am delighted to share that we received the best possible feedback and the inspector was confident that we are on track to be an Ofsted 'Good' school in the next graded inspection. I would like to thank all of the staff, students, parents and guardians for their dedication and support. Sir William Stanier is more than just a building. It is the sum total of the people in it and those others who are committed to wanting us to succeed. I am really excited about the next phase of our development. Here's to even more progress next year!

# Food for thought...

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The term has been a very busy but enjoyable one in the Food department.

We have welcomed many of our new Year 7 students by introducing them to the food rooms and we have worked hard to enhance the curriculum by including lots of extra-curricular visits and activities.

We were delighted to be selected by the chef Jamie Oliver and his team to be one of only a handful of schools in England to pilot his new project: The Jamie Oliver Ministry of Cooking . This project will be introduced to other schools in September 2024, but SWS is first in line as we have access to the resources and recipes much earlier. As a part of the pilot, we have trialled Jamie's new recipes through our afterschool cooking club. Students in Year 7 have enjoyed making pancakes, fajitas, tomato soup and a spaghetti dish - amongst many other culinary delights. We may have a few budding Jamie Olivers of our own - watch this space!



We have also continued with our community support. As always, we were very proud and delighted that our students used their culinary skills in making a coconut and jam sponge traybake that was then served at the charity Chance Changing Lives for the homeless and needy Saturday evening meal. This is a local charity that relies on the support from local people to keep it running and makes such a difference to people's lives when they are facing challenging times. The dish was met with great reviews and it is something that we will continue to plan for on a regular basis.

Year 9 and 10 students were involved in an exciting cooking challenge with a team from the Royal Navy who tested their culinary and teamwork skills with a food challenge. It was an exciting activity where the winners appreciated the prestige of being named the best by the Royal Navy crew. We were delighted by the ways in which the SWS students stepped up to the challenge.

This was matched only by the extravaganza that was Halloween! Great fun was had by all when we let students loose to decorate the rooms and make tempting Halloween treats.



SWS also hosted a seafood special when we were chosen as one of the 250 schools to receive a delivery of Mussels from Offshore Shellfish; a sustainable mussel farm. Students learned about nutrition & health, as well as how to cook mussels perfectly. They were grateful to the Food Teachers' Centre for organising this opportunity as many agreed that mussels wouldn't have been their first choice of ingredient.

In a return to form, however, Food students have all made a variety of sweet treats to celebrate Christmas. Snowmen and reindeer cupcakes were on the menu, along with candy cane biscuits, while KS4 students also made a savoury sausage wreath with their own homemade flaky pastry. Delicious!

Merry Christmas from Team Food – Mrs Randle, Miss Dzomba, Mrs Coombs and Mrs Wakelin.

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## Let the music begin!

This term, in music, we have been thinking outside the Bachs (!) by giving our GCSE students the opportunity to engage in private tuition lessons with Love Music Trust. We've also seen an increase in students across the school signing up for the practice room after school and jamming together. Who knows - this could be the start of something beautiful!



As well as borrowing from our store of instruments, students in our SWS Choir have also been using their voices to learn harmonies for a range of popular songs, most recently culminating in Christmas Carols to get everyone in the festive mood.

Our KS3 Drama club has seen a lot of laughs and enjoyment this year with students creating their own scenes around the theme: What Christmas Means to Me. They have transferred their knowledge from their Drama lessons into their own practice and devising; they've even attempted staging a play that was written by Year 8 student, Brodie Hughes. It has certainly been a drama - but for all the right reasons!

Elsewhere in Drama, we've seen a lot of wonderful work this term with students being given the opportunity to use the lighting and back drop behind the scenes in our Drama Theatre. They have also demonstrated great courage for their final assessments of DNA in Year 9. Well done, Year 9!

Moreover, if you're looking for a stocking filler or post-Christmas treat, our Matilda DVDs are now available for collection for those who pre-ordered during the show run. If you did not pre-order, but would like to purchase a copy, this can be done by placing an order with Mrs Bartlett.



Finally, the Performing Arts Faculty would like to thank you for supporting our events and allowing your children to have such wonderful, memorable experiences. We'd like to leave you with a Drama Pun: why did the singer always carry a ladder? Because they always wanted to reach the high notes!



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## Go team!

### Netball Report

This term saw a very busy calendar for the netball squad. We had numerous fixtures against schools across South Cheshire. We kicked off with a win vs St Thomas More, followed by draw with windy conditions against Malbank. Jodie in Year 9 has been the most voted player of the match so far. Huge congratulations to Jodie! It has been great to have so many new students coming to netball and taking part in various fixtures. We are looking forward to more fixtures and results to come after the Christmas break!



## Higher Education

On 13th December some of our Year 10 students spent a fantastic day at the University of Liverpool.

They took part in a tour of the campus, a Law seminar, and an Advice & Guidance session. They were all a credit to SWS and now have a greater understanding of what higher education can offer and the potential pathways open to them.

Melanie Lloyd  
Careers Advisor



# A Message from our Safeguarding Team

On behalf of the Safeguarding Team, we wish all our families a safe and restful Christmas break. We would like to thank you for your collaboration and support. If you have any concerns during school closure, please refer to the links we have provided here to support you.

- Social Care daytime number (up until 5pm) : 0300 123 5012
- Social Care Emergency Duty Team (out of hours) : 0300 123 5022
- Child Line : 0800 1111
- NSPCC : 800 800 5000
- On-line counselling service : Kooth.com (24hrs and 365 days per year)
- Youngminds.org.uk
- Mymind.org.uk
- CAMHs 24hr Crisis Line: 0800 145 64 85
- Police : 101 (non-emergency) / 999 (emergency only)

## Online Safety

### **You can now access the Online Safety Hub FOR FREE.**

Head to the Online Safety Hub for lots of expert advice and guidance to help you manage your child's safety online. It includes information on the latest hot topics when it comes to keeping your child safe, such as how to manage your child's screen time, understand the latest gaming platforms, what they mean for your child's safety and lots more.

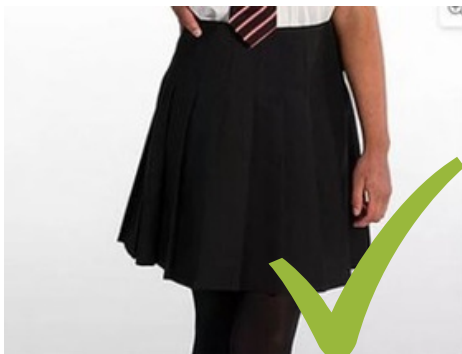
Simply follow the link to access The Online Safety Hub:  
<https://sirwilliamstanier.onlinesafetyhub.uk/>

### **Don't forget to sign up for your free Qustodio account.**

Gain more visibility on what's going on in your child's online world and make sure they are kept safe. Block dangerous content, introduce screen free schedules, receive alerts for inappropriate content and more.

Follow the link to create your free account and to download the app:  
[https://www.qustodio.com/en/30-days-school-special/?utm\\_source=internal&utm\\_medium=parentsessionsuk](https://www.qustodio.com/en/30-days-school-special/?utm_source=internal&utm_medium=parentsessionsuk)

# School Uniform Reminder: 2023 - 2024



Plain white collared shirt/blouse tucked into trousers or skirt.

Plain charcoal grey, or black tailored trousers or tailored shorts or a skirt. Skirts must be at a respectful and appropriate length, they must be a standard school skirt and not lycra.

No tight fitting ("slim/ skinny fit") trousers are permitted (even though they can be found in some uniform sections of some stores). Jeans, tracksuit bottoms, leggings or jeggings are not permitted.

A black SWS V-necked school jumper. No hoodies! No other alternative, non-school jumpers.

SWS school tie which has a different colour for each year group.

Sensible plain black shoes or plain black trainers. No colours at all on the black trainers. No different coloured soles or different coloured brand logos. No dark grey trainers.

Pierced ears should have stud earrings only, no hooped or dangly earrings. One small nose stud (not two) is permitted. No nose rings at all. No other piercings or jewellery are permitted; this includes rings, necklaces and bracelets.

Nail polish, acrylic or false nails are only permitted if they are natural in colour (no colours including white) and of an appropriate length, no more than half a centimetre of length beyond the finger tip.

- Extreme hair colours or styles are not permitted.
- Subtle, natural looking make-up is permitted. No false eyelashes.

