

May 2024

# Newsletter



## Welcome to our May Newsletter

Welcome to another edition of our school newsletter that provides you with an opportunity to share in our pride of the work that goes on at Sir William Stanier School. Over the last couple of weeks, we have been delighted with the way our Year 11 students have approached their exams and hope this positive and determined attitude continues for the remaining exams after half term. We know that qualifications are key to opening doors in life, but just as important, is who you are. We constantly remind students that kindness and thought for others will also get you a long way!

Last Friday I held a special Assembly for nearly 200 students across Years 7 to 10 who all had an outstanding behaviour record. In my Assembly, I told students that sometimes in schools there is too much focus on negative behaviour and the good behaviour is not celebrated. It was an absolute pleasure to see the hall full of students who every day meet the school's expectations in terms of their behaviour in lessons and around school.

Our extra-curricular programme has continued to flourish with fantastic levels of participation across this half term. You will see plenty of examples in this newsletter of students who have been taking part in exciting activities such as sport, cooking, music and many more.

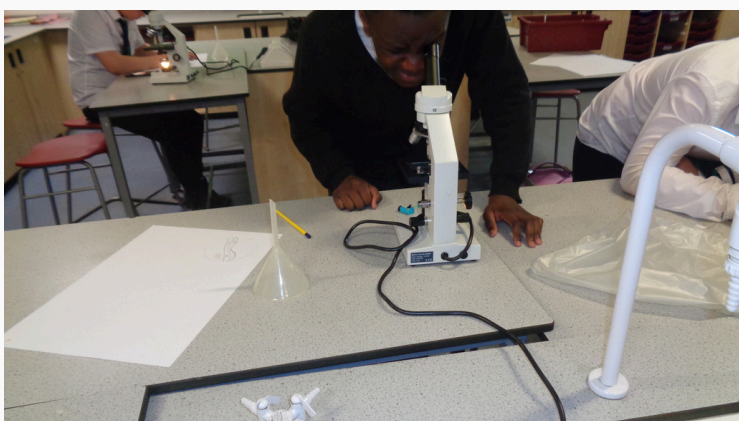
Finally, thank you to those parents who recently completed the parent survey. As a result of some of the feedback we received, we are planning to make a few changes to our routines after half term to ensure we maintain a calm and orderly school. I know that the vast majority of parents want to support us to maintain our high standards and I will be writing a separate letter to parents explaining the changes that will be introduced after half term.

I hope you all have a relaxing half term break and we look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on Monday 3rd June.

**Jim Barlow - Interim Principal**

## Animal and plant cells

In 7b2 students have been studying animal and plant cells. The class are doing a practical using microscopes to find and identify the varying cell slides, then draw their own representation of what they see.



# Celebrating Year 11's Journey to GCSE Success!

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As the academic year progresses, our Year 11 students have shown outstanding dedication and resilience. Their preparation for the GCSEs reflects not only their academic strength but also their exceptional character.

These past months, they've participated enthusiastically in preparation activities, including masterclasses, which have seen remarkable attendance. Their commitment exemplifies the school's values and sets a high standard within our community.

The upcoming May half-term will offer additional masterclasses, providing focused support to help refine their knowledge and boost confidence before the exams.

Let's keep supporting our Year 11 students as they approach this crucial phase. They have truly been a credit to our school, demonstrating that their potential is boundless.

Well done, Year 11—your future is bright!



## GCSE Photography



We took the Year 10 GCSE Photography pupils to Cheshire College South and West to engage in a workshop with the Photography department. They completed some cyanotype examples and completed photoshoots in the college grounds and train station to further their 'Growth and Decay' portfolio. All pupils were exemplary on the trip and worked really hard.

# Sport News

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## What a Week of Football!

On top of the Year 10s making it into the final of the South Cheshire Cup, we have some individual success stories.

- Rhys and Mathew (Year 11) pictured right, represented Crewe Athletic FC and won the Cup final with Mathew scoring a penalty to level the scores and for the team to win in the last minute.
- Sophie (Year 10) represented Sandbach United and won the Cheshire County Cup.
- Ashton and Aiden (Year 11) representing Sandbach FC won the Sunday League Cup Final.

Congratulations to all!



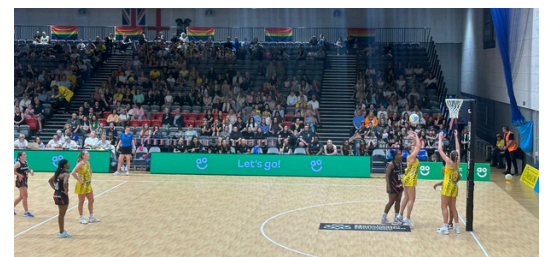
## Year 10 Football Success!



Massive congratulations to Sir William Stanier's Year 10 Football Team for making the South Cheshire Schools Final on Tuesday and representing the school and themselves brilliantly. It was fantastic to see so many of our teachers there to support our Year 10s. Unfortunately, they came up short in the final. However, a massive achievement for themselves and the school to reach the final for the first time. Well done guys!!

## Netball Trip to watch Manchester Thunder

The netball squad enjoyed a fantastic time at Manchester Thunder v Saracens Mavericks! What a great game of netball and the chance to watch national level players! They are looking forward to putting what they have learnt by watching into action!



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## Debate Mate Competition



The inaugural debate mate competition was super exciting. This saw us compete with four other secondary schools and was organised by the trust, The Learning Partnership. Heated arguments & motions were argued with integrity, honesty and passion.

## Mental Health Awareness Week



SWS came together to tackle stigma and share ways to support good mental health. This year's theme was 'Movement', and our week focussed on different ways to move more for our Mental Health. Students and staff took part in the Daily Mile, Yoga and Meditation across the week. We introduced a new role to our Student Leadership group, which involves being a Student Wellbeing Ambassador. The number of applications has been fantastic so far, and we look forward to welcoming our new leaders to the Student Leadership team.

## Art with UTC and Leighton Academy



A fantastic group of Year 9 pupils worked with Mrs Ferguson on our competition ideas for a project running with the UTC. This is going to be part of a huge project across Crewe schools. The top three designs will be completing their final mock ups in colour very soon to be submitted for selection, we can't wait to see what they come up with! Students had to base their plaque design ideas on someone who has been influential to the Crewe landscape, so of course, we chose Sir William Stanier!

Miss Waite has been completing Primary Art workshops at Leighton Academy. Students have been developing their colour theory knowledge, studying the artist Pablo Picasso, and painting portraits in his style.

# Food Department



We are thrilled by the culinary skills displayed by our Year 11 Hospitality students. After completing their practical exams, they have diligently prepared for their written assessments. Their passion and skill level in practical tasks have greatly impressed us, and we are proud of each student's achievements. We have embraced revision sessions and Year 11 Food students had a fun Bonga Bingo Revision session after using their culinary skills to cook themselves a full cooked breakfast. Call Master Randle read out the numbers, and students had to answer questions correctly to mark them off. Prizes were given out for the best dance moves along the way. It was a fun way to revise in the busy exam season. We wish them success as they conclude their exams and move forward in their journeys.



Our Year 11 Step Out students recently enjoyed a full English breakfast and a 'Milkshake Master Class' as a reward for their dedication in achieving their Hospitality qualification. This celebration, generously hosted by Hickory's in Gresty, was a delightful way to acknowledge their success. We are excited about the prospect of organising similar reward breakfasts for more Food students soon.

In the Food department's continued commitment to community support, we are exceptionally proud of our students who use their culinary skills to aid the local charity, Chance Changing Lives. This charity, which serves meals to the homeless and needy on Saturday evenings, depends on local support and makes a significant difference in the lives of those facing hardships. Our students' desserts received glowing reviews, and we plan to continue this initiative regularly.



# Food Department

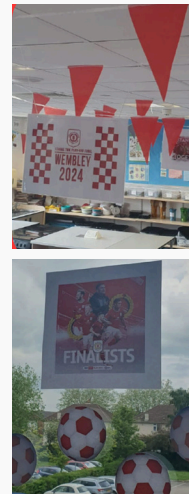


This half term, our Cooking Club involved both Year 7 and Year 8 students, where they enjoyed making chocolate chip cookies and jam tarts. The enthusiasm these students show is truly heartening, and it is a joy to spend additional cooking time with them after school.



We also opened our doors to families for a 'Family Cook Session', where a parent or older sibling of a student from SWS came into school so that they could enjoy cooking together. The session was well-attended, and participants were pleased to take home the pizzas they made for dinner.

In support of Crewe Alexandra making it to the Division 2 playoff final, the Food Department decorated their room. Mrs. Coombs, a big fan of the team, and many of our students spent a nervous week waiting for the Wembley match.



Lastly, we are proud to award our first-ever food ambassador badges to three outstanding KS3 students: Jake Coombs, Toby Brassington, and Charlie Bloor. These students have excelled in their Food lessons and participated extensively in extracurricular activities, often giving up their personal time. Their hard work in earning this recognition is commendable.



We wish you all a lovely half term break from all of Team Food  
– Mrs Randle, Ms Dzomba, Mrs Wakelin & Mrs Coombs.

# Performing Arts

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In Performing Arts, we are excited to share the incredible activities that our students have been involved in this term.



GCSE Students have been given the opportunity to explore their instruments with the tutors from Love Music Trust in the Peripatetic Music lessons. Year 10 have been working on their solo performances in preparation for the recording at the end of Half Term 6, which will be a part of their GCSE portfolio. Whilst Year 11 have been using the time to prepare with some extra Music revision in preparation for their GCSE written exam on the 17th June. There are now quite a few students in KS3 that are partaking in peripatetic Music lessons on a range of different instruments. If students wish to have lessons on an instrument of their choice, they should see Mrs Gaffney, who will provide them with the details.



KS3 Music students have been looking at contrasting topics across all year groups including, Titanic in Year 7, Samba Music in Year 8 and Musicals in Year 9. Students have been really engaged in Music lessons this half term and have been learning different skills with a variety of instruments at their fingertips – including singing!



Year 10 Music students have been involved in a project this half term with Higher Horizons and have been focusing on music festivals and making music thus far. They are still to participate in sessions focusing on recording music, marketing and the music business and DJing. This has been a successful project so far and students are learning a variety of skills such as teamwork, communication and creativity (and much more!), which are all skills that are incredibly important in the Performing Arts industry.

This half term in Drama, Year 8 have been exploring Frantic Assembly's adaptation of *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time*. They have been deepening their empathy and understanding of hidden disabilities and working together to accomplish seamless lifts. Year 9 have been exploring devising and creating their own performances based around social issues such as: online bullying, homelessness and poverty. These pieces were all created by the students' themselves and aimed to educate their audiences on these issues and how we can work together as a community to stop them.

Finally, the Performing Arts Faculty would like to thank you for your continued support and allowing your children to have such fantastic and unforgettable experiences. If students are interested in participating in any extra-curricular activities, please see a member of the Performing Arts team.

Many thanks from Mrs Gaffney, Mrs Bartlett and Mr Whittaker.

# Performing Arts Clubs Choir and New Drumming Club!

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This half term, the choir has been engaging with a lively mix of pop songs and classics from musicals and films. Students have been particularly enjoying learning Ariana Grande's hit 'One Last Time', alongside 'Love is an Open Door' from the film Frozen. All students who would like to join the choir are welcome and we rehearse in F29 on Mondays 3-3.45pm.

As we continue to explore more repertoire, we are excited to announce the addition of a 'Drumming Club' starting after May half term. Students who are eager to try their hand at drumming are welcome to come along to F29 on Tuesdays 3pm-3.45pm. We'll be using a variety of percussion instruments, including African drums and Samba drums. This is a fantastic opportunity for students to immerse themselves in the musical world of drumming.

## A Message from our Safeguarding Team

On behalf of the Safeguarding Team, we wish all our families a safe and restful half term 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.**

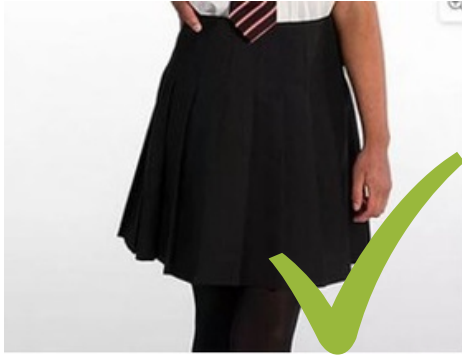
Gain more visibility on what's going on in your child's online world and make sure they are kept safe. Block dangerous content, introduce screen free schedules, receive alerts for inappropriate content and more.

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

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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.

