

October 2024

Newsletter



Opportunity
Community
Courage

Welcome to our Autumn Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to your first newsletter, we wanted share some of the fun that we have been having across this term, and make you aware of the exciting opportunities our students have had.

Even though we have only been back for 7 weeks, it has been extremely busy, with many events taking place such as Open Evening, Year 11 Information Evening and Year 7 Settling in Evening.

We would like to thank all members of our SWS and local communities for your support.

Sir William Stanier School

Welcome to our new Year 7s!

Year 7 have made a fantastic start to life at SWS. We have been very proud of their journey so far and been extremely impressed with their attitude and conduct around the school.

As they have embarked on this exciting new chapter, it has been filled with opportunities for growth, learning, and new friends. Year 7 have explored new subjects, discovered new passions, and have become part of our SWS community. In Year 7 our values focus on being kind, along with our school values of Ready, Respectful and Safe. Year 7 have continued to demonstrate these every day.

We can't wait for the next 5 years.

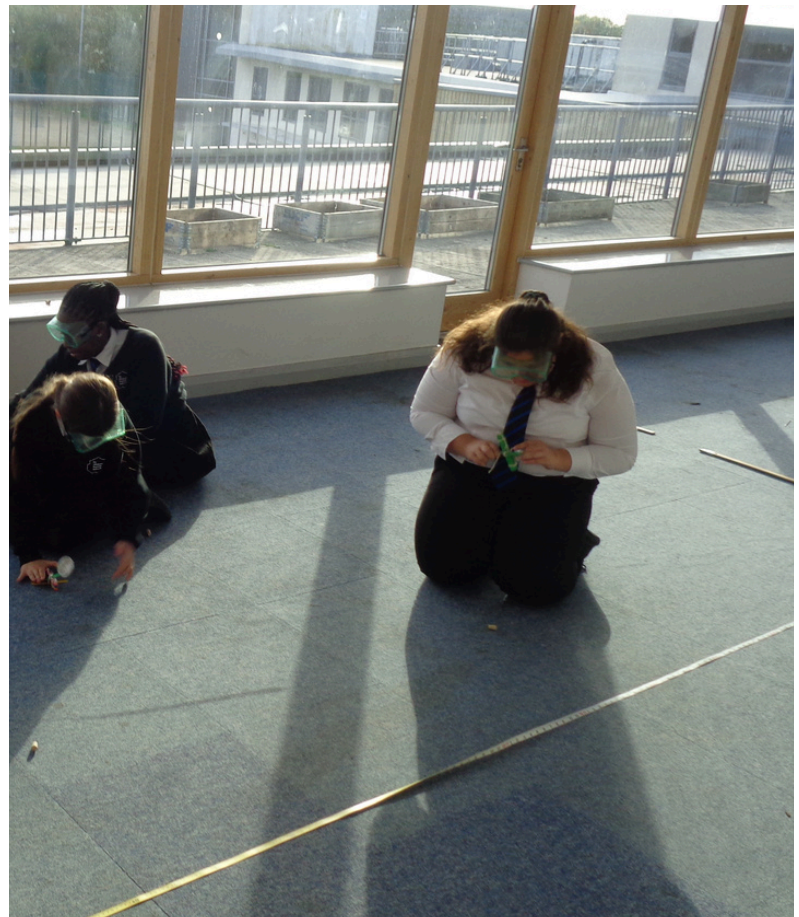
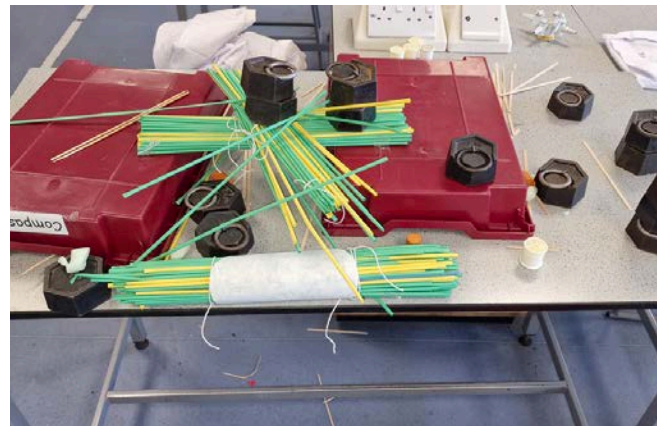
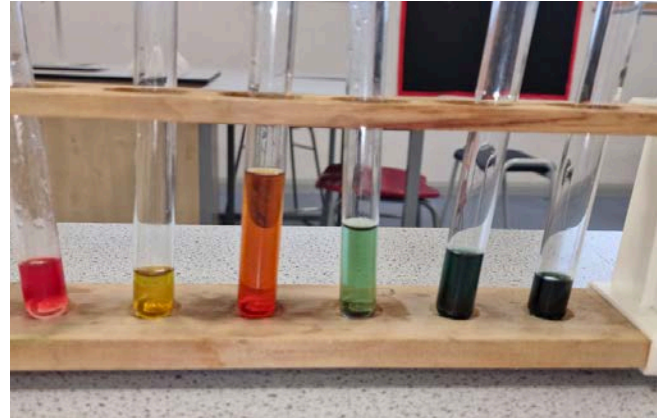
The Year 7 Team!

Science Club

KS3 Science Club have enjoyed their investigations this term. They have needed to think like engineers to build bridges to support as much weight as possible as well as building sections of rollercoaster to make a marble travel as fast as possible.

We have also discovered which supermarket makes the best (stretchiest) strawberrylaces and had to problem solve to make a rainbow using only acids and alkalis. However, I think the part they enjoyed the most was setting me on fire (not to be tried at home)!

Mr Privett



Year 11 have started the new academic year positively. They have had a session with Elevate Education which has provided them with key study skills and the motivation to achieve their goals. Our Information Evening for parents and students was well-attended.

Revision sessions are now fully up and running and students have started to design their own Revision Timetables.

Our next round of Mock Exams start on the 11th November.

Reward and Celebration

At the end of the half-term, we celebrated the success of students who had achieved 100% attendance and 0-1 behaviour point. This was a great success, with over 400 students involved in 1 or more of our award events during the week. Students enjoyed early lunch and pizza.

During Friday afternoon, students who had 0 behaviour points along with 100% attendance enjoyed a relaxed end to the half-term by watching Hocus Pocus!



Sport News

Congratulations to the Football Teams!

Huge congratulations to all of Sir William Stanier football teams who have represented the school fantastically. All students played brilliantly in all the games. We all enjoyed creating some fantastic memories for the school and we will cherish them. Huge thanks to all parents and staff for your continued support.



Crewe Girls Utilita U13 Cup

The EFL Utilita Girls Cup – alongside its sister competition – the EFL Utilita Kids Cup, are two of the country's biggest national football competitions for schools and children. The SWS U13 girls football team will be taking part in a local tournament during the next half-term against teams in the area. The winner of the tournament will represent Crewe Alexandra in the Community at the EFL Utilita Girls Cup.

We want to wish the team a massive good luck in the tournament!

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Performing Arts

We'd like to take a moment to highlight some of the incredible opportunities our students have experienced in Performing Arts this half term.

The Performing Arts Department at Sir William Stanier offers excellent extracurricular activities that have been hugely successful this term. The Dance Club has seen students exploring various dance styles, including contemporary dance. The choir has also been popular, with students practicing in preparation for SingFest. Our Drama Club has been working on a Christmas-inspired text in anticipation of a potential community Christmas event. Additionally, we've begun preparations for this year's school musical, "High School Musical," which has already sparked a lot of excitement among students.



During our recent Open Evening, visitors enjoyed performances from the SWS Choir, Year 11 music students, and solo performers, along with a special dance workshop. It was a wonderful showcase of talent, and the students were truly outstanding, demonstrating dedication and confidence in their performances.

This year, we've added Dance to the Performing Arts Department, welcoming our new dance teacher, Miss Bartlett. Dance is now on rotation with Drama, giving KS3 students the chance to learn from a specialist teacher. As Dance is part of the national curriculum, it's important for all KS3 students to have the opportunity to study it. Including Dance in the Performing Arts Department ensures students have more time to explore and enjoy the subject.

Dance at SWS

Year 7 students have been exploring the theme of Marvel, diving into its vibrant characters and dynamic movements. Meanwhile, Year 8 students have been engaged in a murder mystery unit, using movement and choreography to convey suspense and intrigue. Year 9 students have focused on dance in action films, analysing how choreography enhances storytelling and excitement in cinematic scenes. Each year group is developing their skills and creativity through these engaging themes, fostering a deeper appreciation for dance in various contexts.



This term, Miss Bartlett launched the SWS Dance Club, where students have been learning a range of genres, including contemporary dance. For those who love to dance, this club is ideal, offering additional opportunities to learn techniques and styles beyond the standard curriculum. The Dance Club meets in G42 on Fridays from 3:00 to 3:45 PM. Interested students should see Miss Bartlett for more information.

In Music this half term, Year 7 students have been exploring Chinese music, using the pentatonic scale to create melodies that reflect the unique sound of this tradition. Year 8 students have been working on variations, using the familiar melody of "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star" as a stimulus to experiment with different musical genres and styles, enhancing their creativity and understanding of composition. Year 9 students have focused on reggae, delving into its distinctive rhythms and influences while incorporating elements of this genre into their own compositions and performances. Each year group is making great progress in their musical journey, developing their skills and confidence while enjoying the richness of various musical styles.

The SWS Choir has been hard at work rehearsing for SingFest next year, an exciting event that will unite students from Sir William Stanier with those from Monks Coppenhall Academy, Beechwood Primary School, St. Michael's Community Academy, and Vine Tree Primary School. This collaborative performance will be held at Congleton Town Hall, providing a fantastic opportunity for students to showcase their talents. The choir will perform a variety of songs themed around "What a Wonderful World," celebrating the beauty of our planet while also highlighting important issues related to climate change. Through their performances, the students hope to inspire their peers and the community to appreciate the environment and consider the impact of climate change. The event is sure to be an engaging and meaningful experience for everyone involved. Students wishing to take part in this event should note that rehearsals for next term will be on Tuesday, November 5th, November 19th, December 3rd, and December 17th in F29.



GCSE Performing Arts

This half term, GCSE students have engaged in peripatetic music lessons, receiving personalized instruction on their chosen instruments. These lessons have been essential for Year 10 students as they prepare for their first solo performances, their initial chance to perform to GCSE standards. Meanwhile, Year 11 students are using these lessons to prepare for their ensemble performances, a key component of their coursework that contributes 15% to their overall GCSE grade. Through these sessions, students have enhanced their technical skills, built confidence, and gained valuable performance experience. Students interested in enrolling in peripatetic music lessons should reach out to Mrs Gaffney for more details.

Drama

In Drama, Year 7 students have had an introduction to the fundamentals of drama, focusing on essential skills such as improvisation, character development, and teamwork, which lay the groundwork for their future studies. Year 8 students have been working on the scheme of work titled "Mugged," where they explore different staging types and the concept of an assassin. Meanwhile, Year 9 students have delved into the play DNA, examining its themes and character dynamics. Each year group is building their understanding of dramatic techniques and enhancing their performance skills through these varied and engaging topics.



Drama Club

Mr. Whittaker has been leading the Drama Club this term, where students have been exploring various skills in preparation for the upcoming Christmas events. They are working on acting techniques such as improvisation and character development while learning a Christmas-themed text for their performances. This practical approach encourages creativity and teamwork, helping students build confidence as they prepare to showcase their efforts during the festive season. Rehearsals for next term will be on November 12th, November 26th, and December 10th in G42.

High School Musical is coming to SWS!

We're excited to announce that this year's school musical is "High School Musical"! The process has kicked off with auditions and call-backs, where students showcased their talents and enthusiasm for the show, often surprising us with their creativity and skill. We're thrilled to have assembled a full cast of students, along with several chorus members, all eager to bring the story to life. Mrs Gaffney is taking the lead as Director, while Mr Whittaker serves as Stage Manager, ensuring everything runs smoothly on stage and behind the scenes. Mr Gaffney is our Musical Director, guiding the cast through the music, and Miss Bartlett is the Choreographer, crafting the lively dance routines for the show. Rehearsals for the first song, "Wildcat Cheer," have begun, and students are having a blast learning the choreography and collaborating as a team. Rehearsals will take place on Mondays and Wednesdays from 3:00 to 4:15 PM, and Mrs Gaffney will create a rehearsal schedule to let students know when they are needed for the next half term. The energy and excitement surrounding the musical are palpable, and we can't wait to see how everything comes together for what promises to be an unforgettable school production in July 2025!

Finally, the Performing Arts Department would like to express our gratitude for your ongoing support and for enabling your children to have such amazing and memorable experiences. We wish you a wonderful October Half Term holiday!

Food Department News

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Celebrating Food Education and Community Engagement

It has been an exciting term in the Food Department! We have thoroughly enjoyed welcoming our new Year 7 students and engaging with our KS4 option groups. We are proud of our recent national successes, including achieving the Food for Life Foundation Award and being selected as finalists in the National Food, Farming & Natural Environment Competition. These accomplishments highlight our commitment to high-quality food education.

Alongside these achievements, we continue to prioritise opportunities for our students to connect with the school and local community. From hands-on cooking experiences to community-focused projects, we are dedicated to enriching our students' understanding of food and its impact. Here's a look at some of the highlights from this term!

Exciting News from the National Food, Farming & Natural Environment Competition - SWS National Finalists!

We are thrilled to announce the success of our recent entry in the National Food, Farming & Natural Environment Competition! In May, our Year 10 Food students, along with some enthusiastic Year 9 prospects, submitted a written application and were selected as semi-finalists. This fantastic opportunity allowed them to visit a local dairy farm, where they learned about various farming processes. Following this experience, six students—Lucas, Lily, Ashli, Emma, and Nikkita—collaborated to create a compelling film titled "Sustainability in Farming," which we submitted to the judging panel.

Fast forward to September, and we received the incredible news: we were one of only six schools chosen to compete in the national finals! During the finalist residential weekend, Lily and Emma participated in hands-on workshops. They worked diligently to prepare a presentation showcasing all they learned throughout this experience. Special thanks to Ms. Dzomba and Miss Phillips for their unwavering support during the weekend! Mrs. Coombs and Mrs. Randle also joined the team for the final afternoon, and it was an intense and high-pressure environment. We are proud to say that Lily and Emma rose to the occasion brilliantly.

While they didn't clinch the top prize, Lily and Emma received high commendations for their outstanding efforts, along with a finalist trophy and certificate. We are incredibly proud of this achievement!



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Year 10 Students Visit Belton Cheese Company

Our Year 10 students recently had an exciting and insightful visit to Belton Cheese Company, where they learned all about the fascinating process of cheese making. This visit built upon our earlier trip to Seaton Farm, where students explored the dairy farm and observed how milk is collected. It was fantastic to see the next steps in the cheese-making process firsthand.

During their all-access tour of the factory, students gained valuable knowledge about various aspects of cheese production. They even had the opportunity to participate in a cheese grading activity, which allowed them to test their skills in evaluating different types of cheese.

The visit also provided an overview of the diverse career roles within the cheese industry. Students explored positions related to risk assessment, factory production, scientific testing in the laboratory, as well as logistics and delivery. This exposure to different career pathways was both informative and inspiring.

We are proud to announce that our students were the first school ever to visit the Belton Cheese Factory, making this a truly special experience. Thank you to Belton Cheese for their warm welcome and to our students for representing our school so well!



Cooking Club Update: A Delicious Success!

We are excited to share that Cooking Club has once again been a hit with our KS3 students this term! With overwhelming interest, our club has been oversubscribed, and we couldn't be happier to see so many young chefs eager to join in on the fun.

This term, students have been busy whipping up a variety of delicious dishes. So far, they have created tasty jam cushions, flavourful chicken fajitas, decadent chocolate cakes, and delightful chocolate-dipped fork biscuits. Each session has been an opportunity not only to cook but also to learn valuable culinary skills.

Cooking Club is a fantastic way for students to enjoy the art of cooking while developing their confidence in the kitchen. We are proud to see their creativity and teamwork shine through each recipe.

A big thank you to all the students for their enthusiasm and hard work! We can't wait to see what delicious creations are in store for the rest of the term!



Baking for a Cause

We are proud to announce that our Cooking Club has been busy baking cakes and sweet treats to raise money for the Macmillan Cancer Charity. This initiative was chosen by Mrs. Wakelin and the students, many of whom have personally known someone affected by cancer. Their motivation to make a difference is truly inspiring.

The students put in a tremendous amount of effort to bake a variety of delicious cakes, and we were thrilled to see such enthusiasm from both fellow students and staff who came out to support the cause by purchasing the treats.

Thanks to everyone's generosity, we are delighted to report that we raised an impressive £80 for the MacMillian charity! A heartfelt thank you to all the students for their hard work and dedication.



SWS Celebrates Foundation Food Award Achievement!

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We are excited to announce that SWS has achieved the prestigious Foundation Food Award from the Food for Life initiative! This nationally recognised framework honours our commitment to providing high-quality food education and promoting sustainable practices within our school community.

This achievement is a testament to the hard work of our Food Department, particularly Mrs. Coombs, who has worked hard on the collaboration with our Catering Manager, Mrs. Flood. By integrating food education into lessons and organising whole-school events, our students have deepened their understanding of nutrition and healthy eating.

We are particularly proud of initiatives that engage parents in school cooking experiences, charity bake sales, and regular cooking for local homeless and vulnerable people. These efforts highlight the importance of community in our food journey. Additionally, our focus on sustainability in sourcing ingredients and offering diverse options in school meals reflects our dedication to fostering a positive food culture.

Mrs. Randle, Curriculum Leader for Food, shared, “This award is a significant milestone, especially considering it is typically achieved by only a select few secondary schools. We are absolutely delighted to have achieved this recognition.”

