

Newsletter



Opportunity
Community
Courage

Welcome to our Summer Newsletter

Welcome to the final summer edition of our school newsletter!

As we wrap up another busy and successful term, we're delighted to share some of the highlights, achievements, and memorable moments from across our school community. From exciting new initiatives to outstanding accomplishments by our students and staff, there is much to celebrate.

Thank you for your continued support throughout the year. We hope you enjoy this edition—and wish you all a restful and enjoyable summer break.
Sir William Stanier School

Proud of our Year 11s!

We would like to take this opportunity to say how proud we are of our Year 11 students for their exceptional effort, resilience, and dedication throughout the exam season. Their hard work and commitment have not gone unnoticed, and we commend them for the mature and focused way they approached this important period.

We now look ahead to Results Day, which will take place on Thursday 21st August 2025. Further details will be shared closer to the date, including timings and guidance on what to expect.

We wish all our Year 11 students a well-deserved summer break and look forward to celebrating their achievements with them in August.

Proud of our Year 11s!

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A message from Mrs Dale- 11c

I would like to give recognition to a group of students, who had a history of disengagement in class, to the point where it was unlikely that they would even attempt to sit their GCSE exams!

This group of students made a valiant effort to turn things around, and in the last year they worked so hard and were successful in the total redirection of their educational journey.

They completed all their exams to the very best of their ability and are now waiting for their results. I am so proud of each one of them and their own individual success story.

Year 11 Prom – A Night to Remember

Our Year 11 students celebrated the end of their secondary school journey in style at this year's prom. Dressed to impress, students arrived in glamorous fashion and enjoyed an unforgettable evening of dancing, laughter, and celebration.

It was a fantastic way to mark the hard work and achievements of the Class of 2025. The atmosphere was full of joy, friendship, and memories that will last a lifetime.

A huge well done to all our students – you did yourselves proud, and a big Thank You to Miss Johnson for arranging the evening.



Bingo & Quiz Night Success!

A huge thank you to everyone who came along to support our Bingo & Quiz Night on Friday 25th April. The event was a fantastic success, with a great turnout and a brilliant atmosphere throughout the evening. Thanks to the generosity of our school community, we're delighted to share that the students raised over £300 towards their Camps International expedition to Cambodia. Every penny brings them closer to this life-changing opportunity, where they'll contribute to vital community and environmental projects.



A special thank you to Sara Randle for being our brilliant bingo caller – your energy and enthusiasm really made the evening!

We're so grateful to everyone who bought a ticket, took part in the games, visited the tuck shop or simply came to show support. Your contribution really does make a difference.



Well done to our quiz winners and bingo champions – and watch this space for future fundraising events!



GCSE Art and Photography Trip

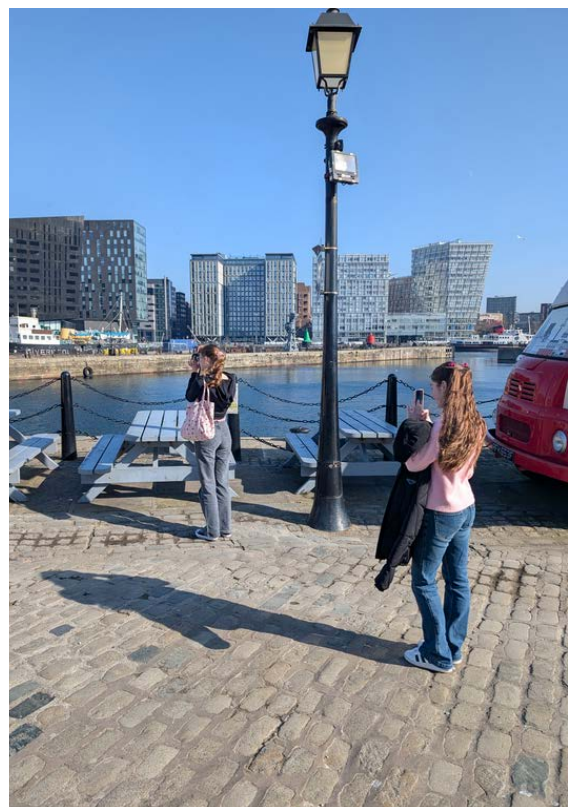
We took 40 GCSE students to Liverpool to explore local landmarks and environments to further their evidence based on the GCSE Exam. We spent the morning exploring The Albert Dock where pupils engaged in photoshoots and gathering visual research. Some pupils were even confident enough to engage with the general public and asked them to model for their photoshoot!

The whole group enjoyed seeing the sights in the lovely sunshine and photographed the different buildings, tourist attractions and textures for their work. We then walked through the city centre and stopped off at Nandos for lunch which was enjoyed by all!

In the afternoon we visited The Liverpool World Museum, here we explored the Aquarium, Egyptian exhibit, Space auditorium, and the Natural Forms exhibits. Pupils engaged confidently with the museum staff to ask questions about the artefact's and were able to handle and study real skulls up close.

Feedback from pupils on their day was overwhelmingly positive and some pupils have been back to visit the Docks again already based on their experience.

Pupils have used the evidence from the trip in their Art and Photography lessons to develop their ideas and projects further.



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Changes in the Canteen

New Dinner Price

From the start of the new term, the price of a school dinner will increase from £2.75 to £2.95. This small adjustment helps us continue to provide nutritious, high-quality meals for all our students.

Switch to Arbor Pay

We are also moving from ParentPay to Arbor Pay as our new payment platform. Arbor Pay offers a more streamlined and user-friendly experience for managing school payments.

If you currently have credit on your ParentPay account, please ensure you request a refund directly through ParentPay, as we will not be able to transfer balances to Arbor Pay.

We appreciate your understanding and cooperation as we make these changes to improve our services.

If you have any questions or need assistance, please don't hesitate to contact the school office on 01270 660880.

Lexonik at SWS

This term marked our first round of teaching and learning with a literacy programme called Lexonik Advance. Lexonik Advance is a structured literacy intervention programme designed to rapidly enhance students' reading, spelling, vocabulary, and comprehension skills. The benefits of Lexonik include enhanced confidence, better comprehension, and stronger foundational literacy skills to transfer to all curriculum subjects. Our students made fantastic progress throughout the six, hourly sessions, showing brilliant dedication and enthusiasm that truly shone.

Here are some comments from our students:

- "It's really good and it's fun. I learnt really hard words." (Year 7 student)
- "I feel that I can read better than I did and I liked how my reading has improved." (Year 9 student)
- "I am very proud of how far I have come. If you join Lexonik, don't be nervous or worried because you will learn along the way." (Year 10 student)
- "I would do it over 1000 times again!" (Year 10 student)

We are all very proud of you. We can't to learn with more students in the next academic year.





Community Connections: Bentley Care Home & Civic Engagement

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A group of our students recently visited Bentley Care Home, where they spent time engaging with residents through conversation, storytelling, and creative activities. The visit was a heart-warming success and a brilliant example of our students showing kindness, maturity, and care for the wider community.

This followed a recent visit from the Mayor, who spoke to students about the importance of civic responsibility, public service, and making a positive difference in society. Inspired by this message, our students were keen to get involved in community outreach – and Bentley Care was the perfect place to start.

We are proud of the way our students represented the school and look forward to building more local partnerships next academic year.

SWS Charity Project – Off to a Great Start!

The SWS Charity Project is up and running, with each year group supporting a cause chosen by the students:

- Year 7 – Cancer Research UK
- Year 8 – The Christie
- Year 9 – Hope House
- Year 10 – MIND

So far, students have taken part in fun and meaningful events such as hide-and-seek tag, non-uniform days, bake sales, and raffles.

Here's what each year group has raised so far:

- Year 7: £250.37
- Year 8: £185.61
- Year 9: £228.41
- Year 10: £99.45

A huge thank you to everyone involved—we're proud of the impact being made already, and we look forward to continuing this into the next academic year.

Reward and Celebration

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Breakfast with the Headteacher – Celebrating Our School Values

Two students from each year group were invited to enjoy a special Breakfast with the Headteacher, in recognition of how they have demonstrated our core values: Opportunity, Community, and Courage. The event provided a relaxed and positive setting where students shared their experiences, achievements, and aspirations over breakfast.

Each student was nominated by staff for going above and beyond – whether by showing resilience, supporting others, or seizing new opportunities.

It was a fantastic celebration of character and contribution, and a reminder of the strength of our school community.

Congratulations to all those recognised – you are shining examples of our values in action.



Top Attendance Form – Setting the Standard!

A huge congratulations to 9JTA for achieving the best attendance in the school this term!

This form has shown incredible commitment, punctuality, and pride in being part of our school community.

Excellent attendance is key to success, and 9JTA have set a fantastic example for others to follow. Their consistency and dedication haven't gone unnoticed – well done!



Reward and Celebration

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Whole-School Reward Day – A Well-Earned Celebration!

To celebrate students' hard work, positive behaviour, and commitment to our school values, we held a fantastic Whole-School Reward Day – and what a day it was!

All year groups took part in a variety of exciting activities, including bubble football, gaming zones, and plenty of fun, laughter, and team spirit. It was a brilliant opportunity for students to unwind, enjoy time with friends, and be recognised for their effort and attitude throughout the term. Reward Day is all about celebrating not just success, but the positive choices our students make every day.

Well done to everyone who took part – you truly earned it!



Reward and Celebration

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SWS Celebrates National Award Win – Congratulations, Mrs Randle!

We are absolutely thrilled to announce that our very own Mrs Randle has been named Jamie Oliver's Good School **Food Educator of the Year!**

This prestigious national award recognises educators who go above and beyond to champion healthy, inclusive, and inspiring food education in schools – and Mrs Randle is a shining example of just that.

From leading engaging cooking lessons to promoting nutritious eating and creating a food curriculum that empowers students, her impact at SWS has been truly outstanding.

Everyone at the school is incredibly proud of this well-deserved recognition. Mrs Randle's passion, creativity, and dedication have made a lasting difference to our students and wider community.

You can read more about her amazing achievement on the official website:

[🔗](#) Jamie Oliver's Good School Food Awards – Sara Randle

Well done, Mrs Randle – your SWS family couldn't be prouder!



2025 FOOD EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

SARA RANDLE, SIR WILLIAM STANIER SECONDARY SCHOOL, CREWE

Experience in the Workplace

Year 10 Work Experience – Gaining Skills for the Future



Our Year 10 students recently completed a successful week of work experience, gaining valuable insight into the world of work and developing key employability skills.

Students took on a wide range of placements across industries such as photography, sports coaching, primary education, retail, animal care, and more. These real-world experiences gave them the chance to explore potential career paths, build confidence, and understand what it takes to succeed in a professional environment.

Feedback from employers was incredibly positive, with many praising our students for their enthusiasm, professionalism, and maturity throughout the week.

Well done to all of Year 10 – you've represented the school brilliantly and made the most of this fantastic opportunity!

Year 10 Explore Future Pathways at Cheshire College and Reaseheath

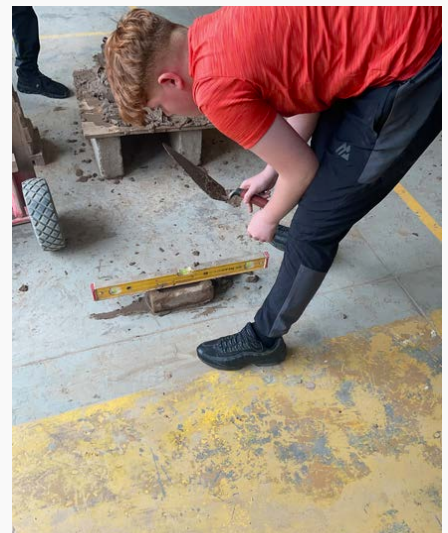
Our Year 10 students recently took part in an exciting and inspiring visit to Cheshire College and Reaseheath College, as part of their preparation for post-16 education and career planning.

At Cheshire College, students experienced a range of interactive workshops across different subject areas – from engineering and digital media to health and beauty – giving them a real taste of college life and the opportunities available after Year 11.

Meanwhile, the visit to Reaseheath College gave students insight into land-based industries, animal care, agriculture, and environmental studies. They had hands-on experiences and met with staff and current students who shared their journeys and advice.

These visits are a key part of our careers programme, helping students make informed choices about their future pathways and raising aspirations.

Well done to Year 10 for representing the school so positively – your curiosity and maturity were brilliant throughout!



Higher Horizons FC

A group of enthusiastic students recently took part in an exciting "Careers in Football" trip, offering them a unique glimpse into the wide range of opportunities within the sports industry. The visit included a behind-the-scenes tour of Stoke City Football Club and an insightful session at Keele University, both aimed at broadening students' understanding of potential career pathways in football and beyond.

At Keele University, students engaged in workshops and discussions around higher education and how their interests in sport could lead to future studies and careers. Sessions focused on sports science, management, coaching, and psychology, helping students link their passion with real-world possibilities.

This inspiring opportunity supported our commitment to student progression and aspirational pathways, showing that a passion for football can lead to a wide range of rewarding careers – both on and off the pitch.

Well done to all the students involved – your curiosity, enthusiasm, and professionalism were a credit to our school.



Embedding GROWTH to Prepare Students for Life

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We are excited to announce the launch of our new GROWTH curriculum, a whole-school approach to developing the personal development, character, wellbeing, and future readiness of every student.

The **GROWTH Framework** ensures that *every aspect of school life* – from form time to assemblies, PSHE to volunteering – contributes to shaping young people who can **lead, adapt, and thrive** in a rapidly changing world.

In a time where students face complex global challenges – climate change, digital identity, political unrest, mental health pressures, and shifting job markets – GROWTH gives them:

- A moral compass
- A sense of purpose
- The confidence to act
- The courage to adapt
- And the awareness to connect across differences

It transforms everyday experiences into powerful moments.

G Goals and Aspirations 

R Responsibility of being an active citizen 

O Opportunities 

W World Awareness 

T Tolerance and Respect 

H Health and Wellbeing 

Goals and Aspirations

Purpose: Empowering students to set personal and academic goals, raise aspirations, and pursue their ambitions with confidence and clarity.

Responsibility of Being an Active Citizen

Purpose: Encouraging young people to take responsibility for their actions and contribute positively to their communities, both locally and globally.

Opportunities

Purpose: Ensuring students are aware of, and can access, opportunities that enrich their learning and support their future careers and aspirations.

World Awareness

Purpose: Developing global understanding by exploring world issues, diversity, and the role of individuals in an interconnected society.

Tolerance & Respect

Purpose: Promoting inclusivity, mutual respect, and understanding across all backgrounds, cultures, and beliefs – aligned with British values and protected characteristics.

Health & Well-Being

Purpose: Supporting mental, physical, emotional, and social wellbeing, equipping students with strategies to manage life's challenges and thrive.

Growing Through School: A Journey Toward the Future

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As part of our GROWTH curriculum launch, each year group will follow a unique path that supports their development, both personally and academically. These tailored themes ensure students build the skills, confidence, and awareness they need for each stage of their school journey – and beyond.

◆ **Year 7 – Explore and Discover**

Students begin by learning about themselves, school life, friendships, and the wider world. It's a year to explore identity, respect, and possibilities.

◆ **Year 8 – Learn and Challenge**

With confidence growing, Year 8 focuses on deepening learning, challenging ideas, and developing responsibility both inside and outside the classroom.

◆ **Year 9 – Plan and Choose**

Students start to make more informed decisions, from GCSE options to personal goals. They learn to think ahead and take ownership of their choices.

◆ **Year 10 – Experience and Prepare**

Now firmly on their exam courses, Year 10 students gain real-world experience, careers insight, and resilience-building through enrichment and challenge.

◆ **Year 11 – Decide and Transition**

The final year is about making informed decisions, managing pressure, and preparing for life beyond school with confidence, clarity, and purpose.



All the World's a Stage – And What a Year We Had!

Our Show-Stopping Year

What a phenomenal year it has been in the Performing Arts department! One of the biggest highlights was the introduction of Dance as a new discipline alongside Music and Drama – a huge step forward that has been met with enthusiasm, creativity, and outstanding talent from our students. The inclusion of dance has allowed learners to express themselves in new ways, build confidence, and explore new physical and artistic skills, all while contributing to the growth and identity of Performing Arts at our school.

Our calendar has been packed with exciting events and opportunities, offering students the chance to engage with the wider performing arts community and showcase their talent. From seeing *&Juliet* at the theatre to performing festive favourites at Bentley Manor Care Home, singing alongside other schools at the Hungerford Primary Big Gig, learning from industry professionals at Keele University, and joining workshops at the prestigious LIPA – it's been a year full of growth, excitement, and memories.

And of course, we closed the year with our incredible whole-school production of *High School Musical* – a vibrant, high-energy show that truly brought the house down.

&Juliet – A Theatre First for Many

In May, we took a group of 27 students to see the West End smash-hit *&Juliet* at the Regent Theatre in Stoke-on-Trent. This jukebox musical, which reimagines Shakespeare's classic tale with a pop soundtrack and a bold feminist twist, had our students hooked from the first note to the final bow.

For many of our students, this was a deeply special moment – it was their very first time stepping inside a professional theatre, let alone seeing a live musical. The impact was immediate. There were smiles, gasps, laughter, and plenty of singing along.

Seeing such a vibrant, modern production opened their eyes to the magic of live performance and inspired many to think about how storytelling can be reimagined through music and movement. It was a brilliant reminder of the power of theatre to excite, inspire and transform.



Performing Arts

A Celebration of Dance Creativity and Choreography

Students across Years 7 to 9 have been fully immersed in their dance projects this term, each exploring different styles and professional works. Year 7 have taken inspiration from the film Honey, learning Hip Hop actions through a dance circuit, applying Tutting, and using choreographic devices to develop their own creative routines.

Year 8 have studied the work of Ashley Banjo and his company Diversity, focusing on Urban dance and using choreographic intent, space, and Hip Hop techniques to produce some fantastic group pieces.

Meanwhile, Year 9 have been analysing Emancipation of Expressionism by Kenrick 'H2O' Sandy, using themes and repertoire from the piece to inspire their own street dance choreography, incorporating styles such as Popping, Locking, Krumping, and Waacking.

Beyond curriculum lessons, Dance Club has had an exciting year exploring Contemporary, Jazz, Commercial, and Hip Hop styles. Learners have shown fantastic commitment, with some even stepping into leadership roles as choreographers to bring their own movement ideas to life.

It's been a brilliant first year for the club, and we look forward to seeing even more students getting involved next year!

Encore! One Last Time with Year 11

The end of an era came at prom this year, where our talented Year 11 band performed together one last time as part of their secondary school journey. The band has been a key feature in the music scene at our school, performing at numerous events, assemblies, and showcases over the years.

Their final set was full of emotion, talent, and joy – a true celebration of everything they've achieved as a group. Though it was their last time performing under the school banner, it's far from the end for them as musicians. They've formed a strong bond as a band and plan to continue making music together beyond school. We're so proud of the legacy they leave behind – they've inspired younger students and shown what's possible with commitment, creativity and teamwork.

Performing Arts

Composing Your Future at Keele University

In July, a group of our Performing Arts students visited Keele University for a fantastic enrichment day. The trip was designed to give them a taste of life at university and to explore the ways performing arts can link to technology, science, and future careers.

The day began with a full campus tour, giving students the chance to see lecture halls, accommodation, and social spaces. We then headed into the science and technology labs, where students worked in teams to build their very own working speaker – a fascinating blend of sound engineering and creativity. Later, they took part in a DJ workshop, where they got to experiment with professional DJ equipment and learn the basics of mixing tracks using specialist software.

The trip was a brilliant example of how performing arts is interconnected with so many exciting pathways, and many students left feeling inspired to consider careers they hadn't previously imagined.



Performing Arts

What Team... Wildcats!

Our 2024–2025 school production of High School Musical was nothing short of spectacular. From the first auditions in September, right through to the final curtain call in July, our cast and crew poured their hearts and souls into this production. Rehearsals were intense, joyful, and often emotional – and the result was a polished, professional, high-energy performance that wowed audiences across two fantastic performance nights, one of which was completely sold out.

Students worked incredibly hard to develop their singing, acting, and dancing skills. Many had never performed in a full-scale production before, but you would never have guessed. The confidence, camaraderie, and professionalism on display were incredible. What made this experience so special was the journey – over 11 months, our cast became a family. They supported each other through every step of the process and created lifelong memories.

We are bursting with pride and are thrilled to announce that another musical is coming in 2025–2026 – details to follow soon!



Performing Arts

The Curtain Rises on an Even Bigger Year

The Performing Arts department is already buzzing with ideas and excitement for next year. Our ambition is to make 2025–2026 even bigger, better, and bolder. We're already planning another full-scale school musical, alongside a packed schedule of theatre trips. We'll be heading back to the Regent Theatre, as well as organising visits to the Liverpool Empire and Crewe Lyceum – giving students access to some of the UK's best touring productions.

We're also hoping to run an exciting residential trip to London, including West End theatre visits, workshops with professional performers, and opportunities to explore this vibrant city!

And that's not all – we'll also be hosting two Performing Arts showcases in the new academic year, providing students with opportunities to perform in music, dance and drama in front of their peers, families, and wider community. These will be joyful celebrations of creativity and a real platform for young talent to shine.



Performing Arts

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The Show's Not Over Yet!

We'd like to end by offering our heartfelt thanks to the parents and carers who have supported our students every step of the way – whether it's helping with costumes, learning lines, transport to rehearsals, or simply cheering them on from the audience. Your encouragement makes all the difference.

A massive thank you to everyone who bought tickets to see High School Musical – your support helped bring our vision to life and gave our students the chance to shine. We also want to thank the incredible staff team across the school who have given their time, expertise and encouragement to help our department thrive. Your belief in the power of Performing Arts has helped us achieve more than ever before.

We are incredibly excited about the year ahead – especially as we prepare to move into our brand-new specialist Performing Arts centre within school. This fantastic new space will include a dedicated dance studio and a suite of music practice rooms. With this new facility, and with the continued support of our school community, the future of Performing Arts is looking brighter than ever. Here's to another amazing year!

Signing off for the summer from Team Performing Arts... Mrs Gaffney, Mr Gaffney, Miss Bartlett and Mr Whittaker.

Year 2 Students Get Hands-On at Apple Crumble Workshop 🍏

We were delighted to welcome Year 2 pupils from Brierley Primary School to our Food department for a fun and interactive cooking session! With the help of our wonderful Year 11 Food students, the younger visitors learned how to safely use knives and master the “rubbing in” technique to make delicious apple crumbles.

The teamwork between our older students and the Year 2s was heartwarming to see, and everyone left with a handmade dessert to take home and enjoy. A fantastic experience for all involved—well done, chefs!



A Wild Day for World Book Day! 📖🍔

World Book Day brought storytelling to the kitchen as our Food department dressed as characters from Ratburger by David Walliams! Students enjoyed a hilarious twist on the story by making their very own “ratburgers” (beefburgers, we promise!) and listening to excerpts from the book as they cooked.

It was a wonderful way to combine reading and cooking—and the results were as tasty as they were imaginative!



Food Department

Digging Deep: RHS Nature Parks Project 🌻🐸

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We were delighted that our application for funding from the Royal Horticultural Society Nature Parks was successful! With support from the Cheshire Wildlife Trust, students from all year groups rolled up their sleeves and got stuck in—digging a 1m-deep pond and planting a stunning wildflower garden around it.

This wasn't easy work, but the students showed incredible resilience and enthusiasm. Their efforts are already bringing more biodiversity to our school grounds—and it's just the beginning!



Growing a Greener Future: Orchard & Allotment 🌳🌿

Our Food department continues to go from strength to strength in sustainability and community connection. Year 10 Food students planted five apple trees as part of our community orchard. We can't wait to see these trees flourish and provide fruit for future Food lessons—and possibly for local organisations too.

Meanwhile, our Rooftop Allotment is transforming what was once a grey, concrete space into a thriving garden. Thanks to the hard work of Mr. Harrison and Mr. Bond from our site team and help from Mr Randle, we now have raised beds and growing areas in place. Students have been incredible in helping move compost to the roof—using the lift, no less!

Huge thank you to Ms Beckett and Mrs Randle for coming into school over the weekend and in the holidays during those first hot weeks with no rain to keep the trees watered. Also thanks to Mrs Benton & Ms Cornes from site team for helping to water too!



Food Department

MP Connor Naismith Visits the Food Department to Support Healthy Eating & Sustainability 🍌👨🍳🌱

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We were honoured to welcome Connor Naismith, MP for Crewe and Nantwich, to our Food Department this term. His visit was part of the national Jamie Oliver's Ministry of Food initiative, which aims to ensure that all young people leave school equipped with essential cooking and nutrition knowledge.

During his time with us, Connor joined a Year 10 lesson led by Mrs Randle, where he took part in hands-on cooking, joining in with a discussion on healthy eating, food access, and students' experiences of preparing meals at home. His enthusiasm and genuine interest made a big impact on the students, who engaged thoughtfully with questions around food insecurity, affordability, and the importance of cooking from scratch.

"Every child should leave school with the knowledge and skills they need to cook healthy food from scratch," Connor shared during the visit. "While some children take on food at GCSE and gain those skills, others miss out. It's clear that schools like Sir William Stanier are going above and beyond to address that gap."

Connor was also given a full tour of the department's ongoing sustainability and environmental projects, led by Mrs Randle, Mrs Coombs, and Ms Beckett, in collaboration with Cheshire Wildlife Trust. He met students working hard on the creation of our school pond, the wildflower garden, and the exciting development of our rooftop allotment.

Connor was particularly impressed by our plans for the community orchard, where students planted five apple trees earlier this year. Once matured, the orchard will not only provide fruit for our Food lessons, but will also serve the wider community—connecting with organisations such as Chance Changing Lives.

"It was fantastic to see such inspiring work going on," said Connor. "Not only are students learning how to cook nutritious meals, but they're also developing an understanding of sustainability, food provenance, and how to give back to their local community. This is exactly the kind of education that prepares young people for life."

We are incredibly grateful for Connor's visit and his recognition of the hard work taking place in our department. It's clear that our students are not just cooking meals—they are building healthier futures, stronger communities, and a greener world.



Food Department

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Honoured at the Business Education Awards 🏆

Our Food department was proud to be shortlisted at the Business Education Awards in London. Miss Randle and Miss Coombs represented the school at the glittering ceremony hosted by Kate Bellingham. While we didn't take home the top prize, being recognised for "outstanding commitment to high-quality food education, enriching student opportunities, community work, and sustainability" was a huge honour.



Well done, Team Food!

Gardening Club Blossoms at Crewe Green Sunflower Farm 🌻🚜🐑



The KS3 Gardening Club had an unforgettable visit to Crewe Green Sunflower Farm. As part of their enrichment, students learned about crop rotation, allotment planning, and the life cycle of sunflowers.

Highlights of the trip included tractor rides, meeting the farm animals, and even bottle-feeding lambs! Huge thanks to Alex and the team at the farm for such an educational and joyful day.

VE Day 80: A Sweet Tribute with Carrot Cookies 🇬🇧🥕

To commemorate VE Day 80, our Key Stage 3 Food students stepped back in time to explore rationing through food. Using a wartime recipe by Marguerite Patten, they baked delicious carrot cookies—a clever sweet treat from an era of make-do-and-mend.

Students reflected on the resilience of those who lived through the war, while all proceeds from their bake sale were donated to the armed forces charity, SSAFA. A brilliant way to remember and honour the past through the power of food.



Deputy Mayor Sally Graham Visits Our Food Ambassadors 🍷👏

We were thrilled to welcome Deputy Mayor Sally Graham to our department for an afterschool session with our incredible Food Ambassadors. The students were preparing desserts for Chance Changing Lives' Saturday Kitchen, which provides nutritious meals to vulnerable members of our local community.

Sally rolled up her sleeves to help in the kitchen before touring the pond, orchard, and rooftop allotment. She later described her visit as “the most memorable of the year”—a testament to the positive impact our students continue to make.



Deputy Mayor Presents Badges to Our New Food Ambassadors 🏆👩🍳

We were honoured to welcome the Deputy Mayor of Crewe, Councillor Sally Graham, to Sir William Stanier School to present badges to our three newest Food Ambassadors. This special occasion marked the official appointment of our latest student leaders, bringing the total number of Food Ambassadors to eight.

These students play a vital role in representing both the Food Department and the wider school community at a variety of local and regional events. From supporting community cooking initiatives and hosting school visitors to speaking at external functions and taking part in sustainability projects, our ambassadors truly are the face of our department.

Councillor Graham was delighted to return and expressed how impressed she continues to be with the department's commitment to hands-on education, student leadership, and community outreach. She congratulated the new ambassadors and presented each with their official badge in a small ceremony attended by staff, peers, and proud family members.

It's been wonderful to see how this programme is growing," she said. "These students are not just learning how to cook—they're learning how to lead, contribute, and inspire."

Mrs Randle said 'We are incredibly proud of our Food Ambassadors, both new and returning. Their dedication, teamwork, and enthusiasm continue to make a real impact—and we can't wait to see what they achieve next.'



Hospitality Takes the Stage at Stoke College 🎓🍓



**SWS Hospitality
Visit**



Our Year 10 Hospitality students had a fantastic experience visiting Stoke College. They took part in a workshop where they created beautifully presented raspberry mousse desserts, developing professional techniques they'll carry forward into their GCSE practical's.

We're so excited to build this new link with Stoke College and look forward to future collaborations.

Behind the Scenes at Hickory's Smokehouse 🔍🍴

As part of their studies for their GCSE Hospitality Qualification, our Year 10 Hospitality students visited Hickory's Smokehouse for an immersive industry experience. They explored the roles of front and back of house, EPOS systems, quality control, and portioning—gaining invaluable insight into the fast-paced world of hospitality.

Of course, no visit would be complete without a delicious Hickory's breakfast—well-earned and well-enjoyed!



**Year 10
Hospitality
Visit to
Hickory's
Smokehouse
Gresty Green**



RHS School Gardening Award Levels 1 & 2 Achieved! 🥕🏅

We're proud to have achieved Royal Horticultural Society School Gardening Awards Level 1 and 2!

These achievements reflect our students' hard work in building our allotment, planting produce, and understanding sustainability.

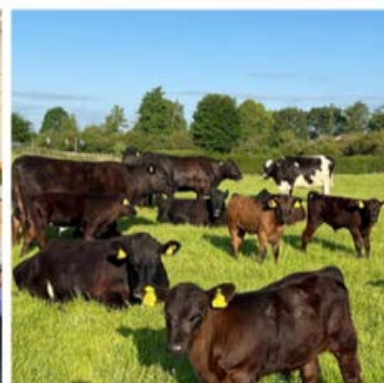
Next up: working towards Levels 3 and 4 as our growing project continues to bloom!



National Farmers Union Visit: Farm to Fork Comes to Life 🐄📋

We were thrilled to welcome members of the National Farmers Union (NFU) for their annual visit, linking perfectly with our Year 8 “Farm to Fork” unit. Students learned about beef and dairy farming, career opportunities in the industry, and even discovered the existence of cow passports—prompting one student to exclaim, “I can’t believe cows have passports—it’s not like they’re off to Ibiza!”

As always, the session ended with the special naming of the farm’s newest calf—Benjie. A moo-ving experience all round!



**NFU Visit
Year 8
Food
Lessons**



Cheshire Show Adventures 🌞🧀🚜

Our Food Ambassadors and Year 10 Food students had a glorious day out at the Cheshire Show. Under sunny skies, they explored a range of food industry exhibits, sampled cheese and ice cream, and even had a go at operating a digger and drone!

It was a fantastic day of hands-on learning and discovery, giving our students valuable exposure to careers and technologies in the wider food sector.



Honoured Guests at the Mayor Making Ceremony 🎓🏛️

It was a real privilege for our Food Ambassadors and Year 10 students to attend the Mayor Making Ceremony for Crewe Town Council—especially as Sir William Stanier School was the only school invited!

New Mayor Councillor Sally Graham shared how inspired she was by her visit to our Food department during her year as Deputy Mayor. She was so moved, in fact, that she has chosen community partnerships as her focus theme for the year—directly influenced by the work she saw in our kitchens. We are proud beyond words!



Our Year 10 Food students had an excellent visit to the Cheshire East Council Youth Careers Fair at Crewe Market Hall this term. The event brought together a wide range of employers—including the armed forces—to help students explore career options and ask important questions about their future.

The students particularly enjoyed the interactive activities, which included a rifle shooting range and even an inflatable assault course! These hands-on experiences, paired with access to real-world job insights, made for an inspiring and informative morning.



SWS Food Dept

Visit to

**Cheshire East Council
& DWP
Youth Forces
Engagement Event**



Food Department

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A Taste of the Future: Reaseheath College Taster Days 🍔🍪

#TeamFoodTour25

Our Year 9 students who have chosen Food for Key Stage 4 were treated to a hands-on taster day at Reaseheath College—and what a delicious day it was! From making burgers and pizzas to churning ice cream, cookies, and butter, the students embraced every opportunity.

They also learned about the farm-to-fork journey, giving them an early insight into what they'll explore in their GCSE Hospitality course. A fantastic experience to start their Food studies off on the right foot!



Practising Like Pros at Cheshire College South West 🧑🍳🍷

#TeamFoodTour25



**Year 10
Food visit
to CCSW**



Year 10 Food students had a brilliant day at Cheshire College South West, working alongside professional chef Shane Guildford to create stunning raspberry sobas with Crewe patisserie.

Students focused on precision and presentation, gaining skills to help them shine in their GCSE practical assessments next year. A big thank you to Shane and the college team for such a valuable experience.

Sunflower Growing Competition in Full Bloom 🌻🏆

To celebrate our growing project and inspire every form group to get involved, we launched a school-wide sunflower competition this term! Each form received three seeds and compost, and over ten weeks our 'Royal Sunflower Guard' measured and tracked each plant's progress each week sending a weekly updated showing the growth and leaderboard of the sunflowers to all forms.

We were delighted to announce that the winners were 7RLO, who were rewarded with a trip to Crewe Green Sunflower Farm! 7RLO had a great visit to the farm with a nature walk and then all picking sunflowers before time in the activities area.

The whole school embraced the challenge and it was fantastic to see such enthusiasm for gardening and sustainability.



SWS Sunflower Competition Winners Visit to Sunflower Farm



Food Department

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Exploring Nature at Bearstone Fruit Farm 🍓🐸📱

#TeamFoodTour25

Our Year 7 students enjoyed a magical day at Bearstone Fruit Farm, where they combined learning, adventure, and the great outdoors. Students created beautiful nature journals, went on a scenic nature walk, spotted frogs, and even enjoyed a relaxing tractor ride through the fields.

They got to taste a variety of delicious fruits and pick a punnet to take home—a perfect end to a day of hands-on exploration. These experiences are a great way for students to understand where their food comes from, while connecting with the environment around them.



SWS Food Department
Visit to Bearstone Fruit Farm



Cooking with Jamie Oliver—World Record Style! 🌍🍷

Our Year 8 and 9 students joined Jamie's Ministry of Food UK in an ambitious attempt to set the World Record for the Largest Cooking Class! Cooking live with Jamie Oliver and his chef team, students followed along in real-time, preparing a healthy dish while counting down to the world record attempt.

It was an electrifying atmosphere and such a fun way to build confidence and community through food.



Mrs Randle Celebrated at National Fish Heroes Awards

Sara Randle, Curriculum Leader of Food here at Sir William Stanier, has been recognised with a prestigious Fish Hero Teacher Award at the National Fish Hero Teacher Awards and Conference, held on 20 June 2025 at the historic Fishmongers' Hall in London.

Hosted by the Fishmongers' Company and the Food Teachers Centre, the event celebrated the success of the Fish in Schools Hero programme, which ensures pupils across the UK get the chance to prepare, cook and eat fish during their time at school.

Mrs Randle was selected from hundreds of teachers nationwide for her outstanding work inspiring students to gain confidence with fish cookery, explore healthy eating, and learn about sustainability, seafood species, and careers in the fishing industry.

Her efforts have given students in Crewe, Cheshire valuable, hands-on experiences that many would not otherwise access.

"It's a huge honour to receive this award," said Mrs Randle. "Seeing students excited to cook and taste fish, many for the first time, is incredibly rewarding." Over the last six years, the Fish in Schools Hero programme, funded by the Fishmongers' Company's Fisheries Charitable Trust, and managed by the Food Teachers Centre, has delivered free fish to schools, provided teacher training, and supported creative classroom learning.

Thanks to this support, Sir William Stanier students have been part of a national effort to address falling fish consumption and inspire the next generation of confident, informed home cooks.



#TeamFoodTour25 Ends on a Sweet Note at Hickory's 🍰🥤🍷

We wrapped up an incredible term with a reward visit to Hickory's Smokehouse in Gresty for 14 of our most dedicated Food students. These individuals were selected for their outstanding effort and attitude in lessons throughout the year.

The visit included a milkshake masterclass, a delicious breakfast, and lots of smiles. It was the perfect way to say thank you to our students for everything they contribute to our department.

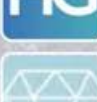


SWS Food Department World Record Breakers Celebration Celebration at Hickory's



NEED SUPPORT?

This is a collection of websites that provide information and support to young people and families. Most of the sites are free though some have paid components to them to access added resources and support. Scan the QR code next to each icon to visit that website.

 Young Minds This is the UK's leading charity committed to improving the emotional well-being and mental health of children and young people	 Beat Beat is a website dedicated to Eating Disorders.	 MindEd An online learning and advice resource for anyone interested in, or concerned about, the mental health of children and teenagers.	 Childline A counselling service for children and young people up to their 19th birthday in the UK provided by the NSPCC
 Heads Together A campaign to tackle stigma and change the conversation on mental health	 FRANK Provides facts, support and advice on drugs and alcohol	 Rethink Mental Illness Help & support for people affected by mental illness.	 Head Meds Provides information on mental health medications.
 Child Bereavement UK Providing information & support to families when a child is bereaved	 Time To Change A mental health campaign with the objective of reducing mental health-related stigma and discrimination	 National Autistic Society The leading UK charity for autistic people and their families	 Samaritans A registered charity aimed at providing emotional support to anyone in emotional distress or struggling to cope.
 Mood Juice Offers information, advice to those experiencing troublesome thoughts, feelings and actions.	 National Self-Harm Network Offers support forums, in a safe environment, that can help people understand and manage self-harm	 OCD-UK Support and information for those suffering Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder	 Kidscape Offers support and information for young people experiencing bullying
 Care For The Family National charity which aims to promote strong family life & help those who face family difficulties	 Anna Freud Centre A children's charity dedicated to providing training & support for child mental health services.	 Family Lives Parenting and family support.	 SupportLine Offers confidential emotional telephone support in the UK for men, women, children and young adults
 Winstons Wish Support children and young people after the death of a parent or sibling	 Papyrus The UK Charity for the prevention of young suicide	 Women's Aid Offer support and information to women and children who have experienced domestic violence.	 LGBT Youth Scotland Advice and support for the LGBT community
 Happy Maps Advice and support for parents, children and young people on a range of mental health issues	 MindMate Helps young people understand the way they are feeling and find the right advice and support.	 Therapy Comics Mental health resources using comics instead of text	 Gingerbread Advice and support for single parents
 Tourettes Action Support and information about Tourette's Syndrome	 Anxiety UK Advice and support for those suffering from anxiety and panic.	 ADHD Foundation Support and information about ADHD.	 NSPCC A charity campaigning and working in child protection in the United Kingdom
 Brave Online Online CBT for young people experiencing anxiety	 Changing Faces British charity supporting and representing children, young people, and adults who have a visible difference to the face, hands, or body	 Stem 4 Charity that supports positive mental health in teenagers.	 Reach Out Reach Out is an Australian website which helps with everyday questions through to tough times
 Charlie Waller Trust This charity was established to understand and talk openly about depression and support where young people know how to maintain positive mental health	 ACAMH The ACAMH website has extensive information about youth mental health topics as well as resources for professionals working with young people and families.	 On My Mind On My Mind aims to empower young people to make informed choices about their mental health and well-being	 Heads Above The Waves A not for profit charity that supports young people with depression and self-harm.
 Rise Above Rise Above has helpful information about gaining confidence, managing anxiety and general advice from the people who've been there themselves	 The Proud Trust An organisation that helps young people empower themselves to make a positive change for themselves.	 Wee Seeds A digital toolbox to plant the seeds of calm, focus & sleep in the early years, nurture well-being and grow family connections through mindfulness & meditation	 Kooth Kooth, from Xanzone is an online counselling and emotional well-being platform for children and young people, accessible through mobile, tablet and desktop and free at the point of use.
 Operation Diversity Academy An online training, resource and support membership site for parents, carers and guardians of neurodivergent children with SEND	 Action for Children Amongst the resources provided by AFC is a free and confidential live chat service with parenting staff. Chat online or request a call back when it's convenient for you.	 HandsOn Scotland HandsOn provides help and practical advice for supporting children and young people's mental health and emotional wellbeing.	 Bridge the Gap A non-profit organisation supporting parents and schools develop practical strategies to support children's emotional development, well-being and mental health.
 Help Guide HelpGuide is a small independent nonprofit that runs one of the world's top 10 mental health websites. Trustworthy content that can be used to improve mental health and make healthy changes.	 Teen Sleep Hub The Teen Sleep Hub provides support to teenagers to help them get the sleep they need.	 Lucy Faithful Foundation The Lucy Faithful Foundation is the only UK-wide child protection charity dedicated solely to preventing child sexual abuse.	 Harmless Harmless is a passionate organisation that works to address and overcome issues related to self-harm and suicide.
 Alumina This is the UK's leading charity committed to improving the emotional well-being and mental health of children and young people.	 Self Injury Support UK-wide self-harm & self-injury charity offering direct support, reliable information, expert training and specialist consultancy.	 Place 2Be Place2Be is a children's mental health charity with over 25 years' experience working with pupils, families and staff in UK schools	 Mind Mind is a mental health charity. They aim to make sure no one has to face a mental health problem alone.