

Winter Newsletter 2025

# Newsletter



Opportunity  
Community  
Courage

## Welcome to our Winter Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the second edition of our school newsletter!

A lot has happened since our last issue, and we're excited to share even more of the incredible stories and achievements from our students, staff, and school community.

From new initiatives to special accomplishments, we're proud to highlight the continued growth and success at our school. Enjoy reading!

**Sir William Stanier School**

## Year 11 Update

The Year 11 cohort has just completed their second set of Mock Exams, once again demonstrating impressive maturity and dedication. Results from the first set have been shared, and a Progress Evening was held with parents.

During the event, key messages were provided to both students and parents, with a strong emphasis on completing coursework and taking part in extracurricular clubs to enhance their knowledge and exam skills.

As we enter the last part of their education, it is crucial to stay motivated and focused. The students have now started their final set of mocks and are performing exceptionally well. We encourage you to continue supporting your child, and if you need any assistance, please feel free to reach out to Mr. Sanders or Miss Flood via phone or email.

# Student Council Election

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Meet Our Student Council Representatives!

We're excited to introduce the dedicated students who will represent each year group on the SWS Student Council this year:

Khaira (Year 7), Ibitayo (Year 7), Emily (Year 7), Harry (Year 8), Elena (Year 8), Sakeerna (Year 9), Khrystyna (Year 9) and Molly (Year 10)

These passionate students will be working hard to voice the ideas and concerns of their peers, while also leading exciting initiatives and projects throughout the year. Stay tuned for updates on their work and the positive changes they'll help bring to our school community!

## SWS Charity Project Kicks Off

The start of SWS Charity Project has officially begun, and this year's initiative is set to make a meaningful impact across four incredible causes, chosen by our students. After thoughtful voting, each year group has selected a charity they will support throughout the year:

- Year 7 has voted for Cancer Research UK, focusing on funding vital cancer research and supporting those affected by the disease.
- Year 8 has chosen Christie's, a leading cancer treatment hospital, to help improve patient care and support groundbreaking research.
- Year 9 will be supporting Hope House, a children's hospice that provides crucial care and support for children with life-limiting illnesses and their families.
- Year 10 selected MIND, a charity dedicated to providing mental health support, resources, and awareness to help those struggling with mental health issues.

Throughout the year, students will engage in fundraising activities, community events, and awareness campaigns to support these causes. Stay tuned for more updates on how our students will be making a difference! Let's show our support and work together to make 2025 a year of positive change.

# 2

## Careers

### Year 7 & 8

Year 7 and Year 8 students have been exploring various career pathways and the different skills required for different types of jobs. They've had the opportunity to identify their own skills and strengths and reflect on how these could support their future career choices.

### Year 9

Year 9 have been focusing on career pathways in preparation for the upcoming options process.

Year 9 so far this year has seen an increase in overall attendance compared to last year. This is seen in the high amount of students meeting the end of term rewards criteria.

Overall level of maturity of the year group has begun to change with an exam focus mindset, this is particularly seen with the achieved scores in the latest data collection from subjects.

### Year 10

Year 10 students have begun learning how to write a CV, with opportunities to start crafting their own. This will continue into the next half-term as they begin to focus on their future workplace experiences. Additionally, students have started meeting with the careers advisor to receive guidance and support as they explore their Post-16 options.

### Year 11

Year 11 students have had their final meeting with the careers advisor and are now attending Post-16 interviews. They will continue to receive support as they take their next steps, ensuring they have everything they need for a smooth transition.

# Reward and Celebration

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This half-term we have continued to celebrate the success of students who have achieved 100% attendance and 0-1 behaviour point. This again 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. As always this goes down a treat.



## Achievement Point Pyramid



Students have been putting in tremendous effort to earn Achievement Points, showing dedication and commitment to their studies and school activities. The recent launch of the Achievement Pyramid has been a huge success, with students excited to track their progress and celebrate their achievements as they climb to new heights!

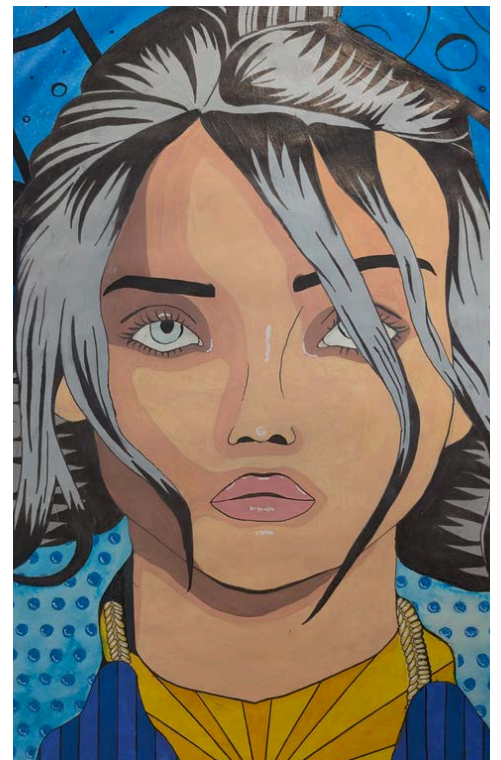
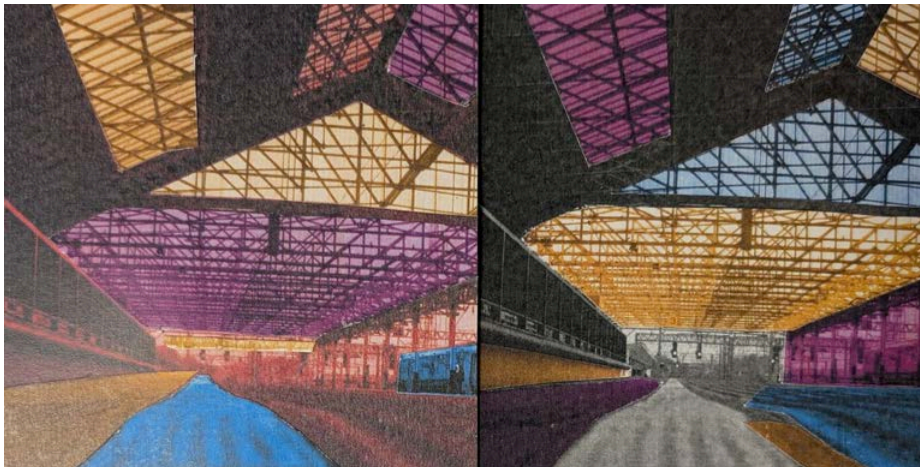
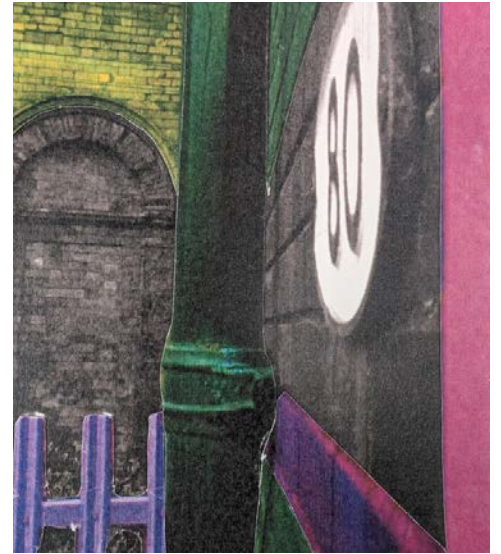
# Art & Photography

We are really proud of what our GCSE pupils have produced across a series of lessons. They have explored a range of materials and processes to link to their Natural Forms (Art), Pop Art (Art) and Formal Elements (Photography) projects.

We have really enjoyed celebrating pupils who engage every lesson and try their hardest. Pupils have been working towards achieving 20 Art points to gain their bronze star badge. This half term we have had a number of successful students who are now aiming for their silver star badge!

## Well done to:

Tiarna, Kellie, Jess, Jasmine, Jasmine, Scarlett, Leo, Sam and Gabriella.



# Community Spirit at SWS: Volunteering & Charity Events

SWS students have been showing incredible dedication to giving back to the community with two outstanding recent events.

Each week, our committed group of volunteers has been participating in a Weekly Litter Pick, helping to keep our school and local environment clean. It's been amazing to see so many students pitch in, showing real care for the world around them.

In addition, for Children's Mental Health Week, SWS hosted a charity event that raised over £400 for mental health initiatives. This amazing achievement was made possible by the generosity and enthusiasm of our students and staff, who came together to support this important cause. The funds raised will help provide vital mental health resources and support to children in need.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to both of these fantastic events – your hard work and kindness are truly making a difference!



## Reading at SWS

There has been amazing work taking place across Key Stage 3 and brilliant improvements seen in some students' reading.

Readers have been enjoying time in the library with Mrs Smissen, increasing their word count in morning Fluency sessions and sharing new and interesting books in Reading Buddy sessions with Y11 students.

World Book Day is on 6th March- a great day of activities and events is planned- We're looking forward to as many people as possible taking part- details to follow.

## Congratulations to the Athletics Team!

Huge well done to selected students from our Year 7 and 8 cohort for their hard work, drive and resilience at the South Cheshire Indoor Athletics Competition. All students represented themselves, the school and the community with pride and should all be proud of their efforts.

Thanks,  
Team PE



## Biggest Ever Football Session at SWS!

The Football Association's #LetGirlsPlay campaign is making great strides in ensuring girls and young women are encouraged to participate in football, regardless of their age, background, or ability. The success of the Lionesses, along with the ongoing work of the campaign, has opened up incredible opportunities for young women across the country to discover the many benefits of football, both on and off the pitch.

The 'Biggest Ever Football Session' aims to empower girls in schools nationwide to engage with football, either as players or through exploring related career opportunities. On Friday 7th March, we will be hosting the biggest football session in PE lessons and at clubs. There will also be other opportunities throughout the day to learn about careers in football.

# SWS Daily Schedule and Expectations

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Please take note of the following new timings and expectations for the school day:

**8:28am** – Warning: Students must be off the drive and through the gate within 2 minutes.

**8:30am** – Gate shuts; students should be lined up and ready to start the day.

**8:58am** – End of Form Time: Staff will begin inviting students onto the corridor.

**9:05am** – Start of Period 1: Students arriving after this bell will be marked late.

**9:58am** – End of Period 1: Staff will begin inviting students onto the corridor.

**10:05am** – Start of Period 2: Students arriving after this bell will be marked late.

**11:00am** – Start of Break: Staff will begin inviting students onto the corridor.

**11:18am** – End of Break.

**11:25am** – Start of Period 3: Students arriving after this bell will be marked late.

**12:18pm** – End of Period 3: Staff will begin inviting students onto the corridor.

**12:25pm** – Start of Period 4: Students arriving after this bell will be marked late.

**1:20pm** – End of Period 4; Start of Lunch.

**1:58pm** – End of Lunch.

**2:05pm** – Start of Period 5: Students arriving after this bell will be marked late.

We appreciate your punctuality and cooperation in keeping the school day running smoothly!



# Performing Arts

What an incredible few months it's been! It has been packed with exciting opportunities in Performing Arts! From our trip to LIPA for a music workshop and a heartwarming visit to Bentley Manor Care Home, to the launch of our Performing Arts rewards and ongoing rehearsals for High School Musical, our students have been shining. Clubs like Dance, Choir, and Drama have also flourished, making this an exciting time to reflect on.

## Trips and Events in Performing Arts

Last half term, a group of our GCSE Music students, along with selected Key Stage 3 students, had the incredible opportunity to visit the Liverpool Institute of Performing Arts (LIPA). During the trip, students took part in a composition workshop, where they developed their songwriting and arranging abilities under the guidance of expert practitioners. In addition to the workshop, they enjoyed a guided tour of LIPA's state-of-the-art facilities, gaining a firsthand look at this prestigious specialist university. The experience provided our students with not only the chance to learn from industry professionals but also the inspiration to pursue performing arts at a higher level, offering a glimpse into the world of professional performing arts and higher education opportunities in this exciting field.



On the 18th of December, a group of our talented students visited Bentley Manor Care Home to spread some festive cheer during the Christmas period. The students delighted the residents with a heartfelt performance of Christmas songs, filling the room with joy and holiday spirit. They also showcased their dramatic talents with a short piece based on the story of Mary and Joseph, bringing the nativity to life in a touching way. To round off the event, the students delivered a captivating reading of 'Twas the Night Before Christmas, which was met with smiles and applause from the audience. The performance was met with overwhelming warmth and appreciation, demonstrating the power of performance to connect generations. The visit was a wonderful experience for everyone involved, highlighting how art can bring people together and spread joy during the festive season.



The Year 11 band, consisting of Alfie H, Jenson C and Blake B, recently visited Hungerford Primary School to perform a live set for the students. Their performance was met with great enthusiasm, and the primary school pupils had the opportunity to experience live music up close. Following their set, the band took part in a question-and-answer session, where they shared insights about studying music at secondary school. They discussed what lessons are like, the opportunities available, and the support provided by the Love Music Trust, giving the younger students an exciting glimpse into the musical journey that awaits them in the future.

## Extra-Curricular Clubs in Performing Arts

This term, students in Dance Club have been hard at work creating and perfecting choreographed pieces that showcase their creativity and teamwork. Meeting every Friday after school from 3:00 to 3:45 pm in G42, the club provides an energetic and supportive environment for students to explore various dance styles and techniques. Dance Club continues to be a fantastic opportunity for students to develop their skills, build confidence, and have fun through the art of movement.

Finley, Year 9, attended the 'Boy's Day of Dance' at the prestigious Vocational Performing Arts School, The Hammond, Chester. This was an all-day event which allowed boys between the ages of 9 - 18 to participate in a variety of workshops led by industry professionals. The day consisted of classes in Jazz, Ballet, Commercial and Latin. The faculty explored, techniques, choreography and performance skills. Finley loved the jazz class as it allowed him to showcase his personality. This has been a fantastic opportunity and has allowed Finley to see his potential as a performer. We cannot wait to see his development through the Arts.



# Extra-Curricular Clubs in Performing Arts

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Our Choir was busy practicing Christmas songs throughout December, for their performance at Bentley Manor Care Home, bringing plenty of festive cheer to the residents. This half term, the Choir has been learning songs for SingFest. They joined students from Monks Coppenhall and Beechwood Primary for a rehearsal on Monday, 20th January, as they prepared for the big event, which will take place in March. It's a great opportunity for our students to collaborate with others and showcase their hard work!

Drama Club had been working on a performance based on the story of Mary and Joseph, with a unique twist, throughout December. The students focused on bringing the classic tale to life in a fresh and engaging way, adding their own creative touches to make it both entertaining and meaningful for their audience. Their hard work culminated in a performance at Bentley Manor Care Home, where they shared their piece with the residents as part of the Christmas celebrations. The students' dedication and enthusiasm were evident, and their performance brought warmth and joy to everyone in the audience.



# Rewards in Performing Arts

During half term two, we introduced a new rewards system in Performing Arts to celebrate and recognise students' hard work and dedication. Since November 4th, two students have had the chance to be selected every Performing Arts lesson for their outstanding contribution, and their names have been placed into a rewards jar at the end of each lesson. This system aims to inspire continuous dedication, and students can feel proud knowing that every effort counts towards a bigger reward. At the end of each half term, 9 lucky students will be selected from the rewards jar to receive a badge for their efforts and this half term marked the start, with the first 9 names selected.

The rewards jar will remain in use until April 4th, with further opportunities for students to earn a badge in Half Term 3 and Half Term 4, with another 9 names selected each time. What makes this system even more exciting is that all names entered into the rewards jar since November 4th will be in the running for a special rewards trip: a chance to watch the musical *Juliet* at the Regent Theatre in Stoke-on-Trent. Only 27 students will be selected for this exclusive trip, so every name in the jar counts! Encourage your child to continue their hard work, as they could be one of the lucky students selected to attend the theatre trip!



# High School Musical Club

We are excited to announce a fantastic opportunity for students to join the much-anticipated production of High School Musical! Due to recent changes, we now have spaces available for additional chorus members to be part of our talented cast. This is a great chance for students who love to perform but prefer not to take on a lead role. As a chorus member, you'll play a key role in supporting the main scenes and adding energy and atmosphere to the show.

Rehearsals for High School Musical will take place on Mondays and Wednesdays from 3:00 PM to 4:15 PM in G42. We are looking for committed students who are passionate about performing and eager to be part of a team. The production will take place on July 9th and 10th, and it promises to be an unforgettable experience!

If you'd like to join, please reach out to a member of the Performing Arts team as soon as possible. We only ask that you stay committed to weekly rehearsals and put in your best effort.

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks for your continued support in helping create such meaningful experiences for the students of Sir William Stanier. Your involvement plays a key role in making these opportunities possible, and we are truly grateful.

Mr & Mrs Gaffney, Mr Whittaker and Miss Bartlett, Team Performing Arts.



# Food Department News

## Cooking Club's Spooky Halloween Adventure at Bearstone Fruit Farm

This half term, our Cooking Club celebrated Halloween with a fun trip to Bearstone Fruit Farm! The day was filled with exciting activities, spooky surprises, and lots of fun.

The adventure began with the maize maze. Students worked in teams to navigate through the twists and turns while searching for hidden ghosts. "It was so much fun getting lost and finding the ghosts," said Jake, one of the Cooking Club members. Working together in the maze was a great way to enjoy the Halloween spirit.

After the maze, we learned about the differences between sweetcorn and maize. Tena, the farm owner, explained how each type is grown and why farmers choose one over the other. We also talked about crop rotation, which means planting different crops each year to keep the soil healthy. It was cool to see how much thought goes into farming!

One of the best parts of the day was picking our own pumpkins straight from the field. Each student got to choose a pumpkin to take home and decorate for Halloween. "Picking my own pumpkin made Halloween feel extra special," said Toby. It was amazing to see all the big, beautiful pumpkins ready for the season.

To finish the day, we gathered around a fire to toast giant marshmallows. Everyone enjoyed this delicious treat. It was the perfect way to end a fantastic visit.

Overall, the Halloween trip to Bearstone Fruit Farm was a huge hit! Everyone loved exploring the maze, learning about farming, picking pumpkins, and enjoying tasty treats by the fire. "It was a great trip and thoroughly enjoyed by all," said Mrs. Randle. We can't wait for our next adventure! Thanks to Bearstone Fruit Farm for hosting us and making this Halloween one to remember.



# Food Department Shines with Heartwarming Community Service

Our Food Department is making a delicious difference in the community! Recently, our dedicated Food Ambassadors stayed after school to prepare a special dessert for the Chance Changing Lives Saturday meal, supporting homeless and vulnerable people in our area.

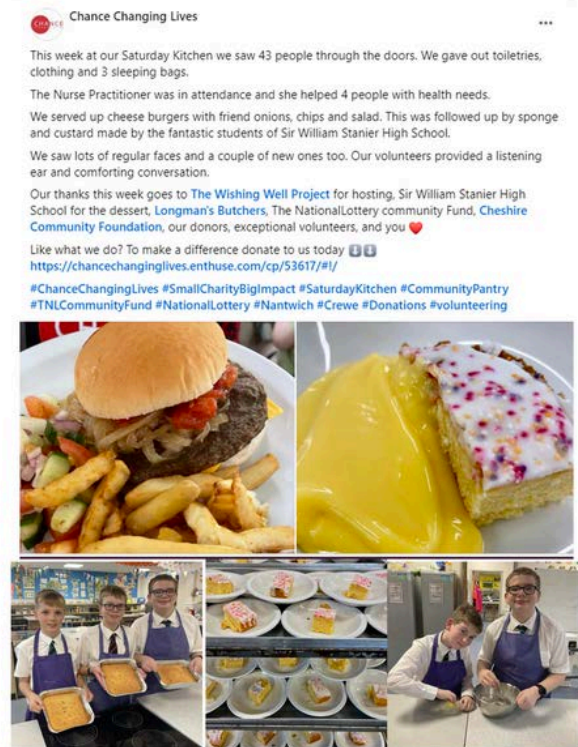
The Food Ambassadors created tasty treats to bring smiles to those in need. “It feels great to use our cooking skills to help others,” said James, one of the Food Ambassadors.

“We understand how important it is to support community members who need a little extra help,” said Charlie, another Food Ambassador. “Helping out with the Chance Changing Lives meal taught us the value of giving back. It’s not just about cooking; it’s about caring for our community.”

Chance Changing Lives is a local charity that provides meals and support to those who are homeless or going through tough times. Our Food Department is proud to support this amazing organisation regularly. “We’re happy to contribute to such a meaningful cause,” said Mrs. Coombs. “Our students are learning valuable lessons in empathy and community service.”

“We’re proud of what our students have accomplished,” added Mrs. Wakelin. “Their dedication to helping others is truly inspiring and shows the positive impact we can have when we work together to support those in need.”

A big thank you to our Food Ambassadors for their hard work and kindness!



# Cooking Club Thrives This Term with Delicious Creations and New Faces

Our afterschool KS3 Cooking Club has been busier than ever, delighting students with a variety of tasty dishes and welcoming both new and returning members. From savory favorites to sweet treats, the club has been a hub of culinary creativity and fun.

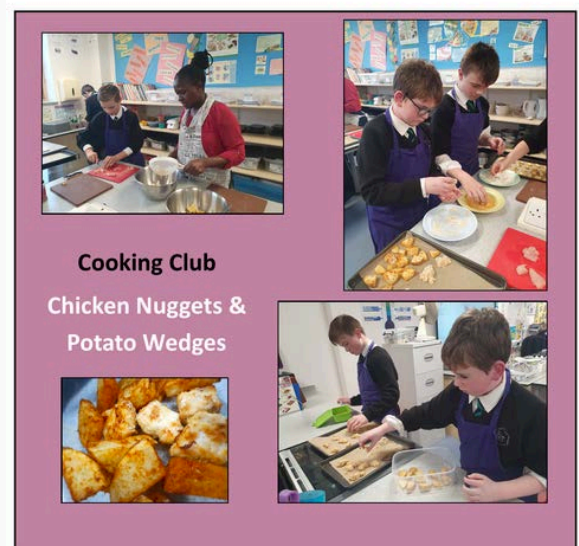
Throughout the term, Cooking Club members have been perfecting their cooking skills by making a range of mouth-watering dishes. Highlights include:

- Chicken Nuggets with Wedges
- Jam Tarts
- Scones
- Chocolate Christmas Puddings

It's been fantastic to welcome new members to the Cooking Club this term. Their enthusiasm and fresh ideas have brought vibrant energy to the group. We are also thrilled to see existing members return, eager to continue their culinary adventures.

The success of the Cooking Club this term is a testament to the supportive and creative community we have built. Ms. Dzomba, said, "I'm so proud of what our students have accomplished. Their dedication and passion for cooking shine through in every dish they create."

As the term comes to a close, the Cooking Club is already planning exciting new projects for 2025. From exploring international cuisines to hosting baking competitions, there's plenty to look forward to.





# Cooking Club Ends 2024 with Festive Family Cooking Session

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As the year ends, our Cooking Club celebrated its final session of 2024 with a heartwarming and festive event that brought together students and their families for a delightful afternoon of cooking and creativity.

Cooking Club students invited their family members—parents, aunts, uncles, and grandparents—to join them for this special occasion. Together, they cooked delicious savory Christmas trees, a fun and festive project everyone enjoyed. “It was great to have my grandma help me decorate my tree,” said Aaron, one of the Cooking Club members.

Inviting family members into the school allowed students to share what they’ve been learning and doing in the Cooking Club. It’s a wonderful way to strengthen the bond between home and school, especially as students prepare to move on from primary school.

The cooking session wasn’t just about making tasty treats; it was also about spending quality time. Family members worked side by side with students, enjoying each other’s company in a festive environment. “Cooking with my family was so much fun. We laughed a lot and made something special together,” said Dawson.

Our Cooking Club understands the importance of maintaining a strong connection between school and home. As students grow and their relationships with family members evolve, these family sessions provide a perfect opportunity to involve loved ones in their school activities. It helps students feel supported and appreciated both at home and in school.

The final family cooking session of the year was a huge success, leaving everyone with smiles and tasty creations to enjoy. The Cooking Club is proud of the sense of community and teamwork that was showcased during the event. “It was a fantastic way to end the year,” said Mrs. Randle. “Seeing families come together and participate in our activities really highlights the supportive environment we strive to create.”



# Year 10 Food Students Enjoy Educational Visit to Hickory's Smokehouse

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Our Year 10 Food students had an exciting opportunity to visit Hickory's Smokehouse, a local restaurant known for its great dining experience. This trip gave students valuable insights into how a professional kitchen and restaurant operate, enhancing their understanding of their KS4 Hospitality qualifications.

When the students arrived, the friendly staff at Hickory's welcomed them and started the tour by showing both the front and back of the house. In the back of house, students learned about stock control and stock rotation, discovering how the restaurant keeps ingredients fresh and reduces waste. They also got hands-on experience with the EPOS (Electronic Point of Sale) system, which helps manage orders efficiently.

The tour continued with an in-depth look at the ordering process. Students saw how ingredients are sourced and scheduled to meet the restaurant's needs. This helped them understand inventory management and the importance of restocking on time to keep the restaurant running smoothly.

A highlight of the visit was interviewing different staff members about their job roles. From chefs and kitchen assistants to servers and managers, each interview showed the diverse responsibilities and teamwork needed in the hospitality industry. These conversations broadened the students' perspectives and inspired many to consider careers in hospitality.

In addition to the tours and interviews, students took part in a practical bar challenge. This activity tested their ability to measure ingredients accurately and set tables quickly, encouraging precision and speed under pressure. The friendly competition was a hit, with students excited to use the skills they've been learning in their classes.

The day ended with a delicious hot breakfast, giving students a chance to relax and reflect on their experiences. Sharing stories and discussing what they learned helped reinforce the day's lessons and showed how their studies apply in the real world.

Overall, the visit to Hickory's was a tremendous success. It gave our Year 10 Food students a deeper understanding of the hospitality industry. The hands-on experiences and interactions with professionals enriched their education, providing practical knowledge and inspiration for their KS4 Hospitality qualifications.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Hickory's Smokehouse for hosting our students and supporting their academic and professional growth. We look forward to more enriching experiences in the future!



# Brierley Primary Visits SWS Food Department for a Sweet Collaboration

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Last half term, the SWS Food Department welcomed students and staff from Brierley Primary for a fun-filled cooking session. Led by Mrs. Randle and Mrs. Coombs, along with our amazing SWS student helpers, the visit was a delightful opportunity for Year 4 Brierley children to enjoy some baking.

The Brierley Primary students started their baking project in their Design and Technology (DT) classes. They were excited to continue their baking adventure in our well-equipped kitchen. “We were so happy to see the kids so enthusiastic about baking,” said Mrs. Coombs. Their energy made the session even more enjoyable for everyone.



Under the guidance of Mrs. Randle and Mrs. Coombs, the students learned how to measure ingredients, mix dough, and shape their biscuits with creative designs. Our student helpers were there every step of the way, offering tips and making sure everyone had a great time. “Cooking with the Brierley kids was awesome,” said Maya, one of our student helpers. “It was great to see them so engaged and having fun.”

The visit was a huge success, fostering friendships and building a sense of community between the two schools. Mrs. Randle expressed her gratitude, saying, “We had a wonderful time hosting the Brierley Primary students. It was inspiring to see their passion for cooking and their willingness to learn.”

We hope to welcome the Brierley Primary students back to our kitchen soon for more collaborative cooking fun. These visits not only enhance the students’ culinary skills but also strengthen the bonds between our schools.

 **Brierley Primary School**  
3h · 🌐

**Year 4:**  
On Thursday, not only was it Christmas Jumper Day, but year 4 visited SWS to make biscuits as part of their DT unit of work.  
The children weighed and measured out the ingredients and followed a recipe to make a basic biscuit.  
A big thank you to SWS for allowing us to use their food tech room as well as Mrs Randle, Mrs Coombs and the SWS pupil helpers for all their assistance in making the afternoon such a memorable experience.  
Next week, the children will be taste testing and evaluating their biscuits as well as suggesting improvements they could making their improved winter themed biscuit.

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1 comment 1 share



**Brierley Primary School**  
3 HOURS AGO

# Food Department Wins 2nd Year Christmas Classroom Door Decoration Contest

We are thrilled to announce that the Food Department won first place in the 2nd Year Classroom Door Decoration Contest for the second year in a row! We are very proud of our students and loved decorating our door to add to the Christmas spirit in school.

“We’re thrilled with the win,” said Mrs. Randle. “We love decorating our classrooms and celebrating events throughout the year, so creating a Christmas door again was something we looked forward to.”



# Joyful Christmas Baking Activities in the Food Department

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Our students had a fantastic time baking for Christmas. They enjoyed making delicious shortbread biscuits, crafting festive sausage wreaths, and decorating beautiful yule logs. From mixing and shaping dough to adding colourful decorations, every activity was filled with joy and creativity.

The Food Department loved seeing the students work together and share their holiday spirit through baking. It was a wonderful way to celebrate Christmas, spread cheer, and develop valuable cooking skills. Everyone had a great time creating tasty treats and festive decorations, making this Christmas season truly special!



## Staff Christmas Bake-Off Ends the Term with Sweet Success

The SWS community enjoyed a delightful and festive event: the Staff Christmas Bake-Off. Organised by Mrs. Randle, Mr. Mellor, and Mrs. Coombs, the challenge invited staff members to team up with two students each and create a delicious Christmas sweet treat using only written instructions.

The bake-off was designed to test both cooking skills and teamwork. Each team received a set of written instructions that they had to follow to make their Christmas creations. “We wanted to encourage collaboration between our staff and students while adding a fun, competitive twist to the holiday season,” said Mrs. Randle.

The competition was fierce, with many teams trying their best to win. The judges had a tough time choosing the winners because all the entries were so good. In the end, first place went to Mrs. Coleman’s team, second place to Mrs. Flood’s team, and third place to Miss Bartlett’s team.

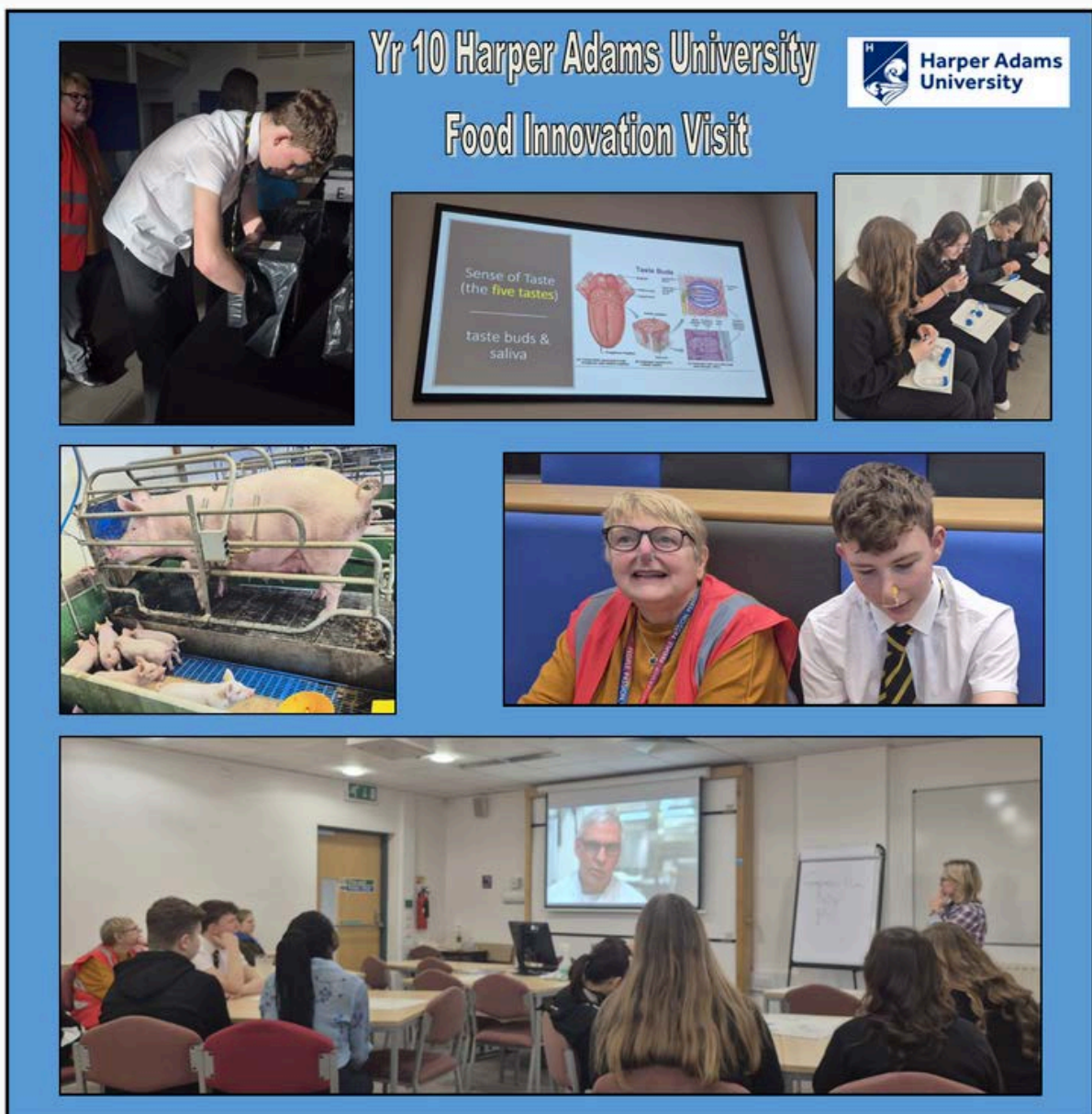
The bake-off showcased the culinary talents of both staff and students and fostered a sense of community and holiday spirit within the school. “It was a wonderful way to celebrate the end of the term,” said Mr. Mellor. “Seeing everyone come together and enjoy the process was great.”



# Harper Adams University Visit

Our Year 10 food students had an exciting opportunity to visit Harper Adams University. During their visit, they engaged in sensory testing exercises, where they had to guess different fruits without seeing them. They also explored how smell affects taste by trying jelly beans with and without a peg on their nose—realizing that without their sense of smell, the flavours were almost undetectable! The students also collaborated with the university team to design a new McDonald's breakfast, fostering creativity and innovation. After lunch, they enjoyed a full campus tour, learning about the wide variety of courses and the impressive farming facilities that Harper Adams offers.

"It was amazing to see how much our sense of smell affects taste! The experiments really opened my eyes." – Year 10 Food Student, Connor.



# Celebrating Chinese New Year

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Embracing cultural diversity is a key part of our Food curriculum. This year, we were thrilled to welcome Chef Leon Tam on Chinese New Year. He provided a fantastic demonstration for our Year 10 students and cooking club members, teaching them how to prepare an authentic Chicken Chow Mein. "Cooking with Chef Leon was an unforgettable experience! Learning about Chinese traditions while cooking was really fun." – Jake, Cooking Club Student. Students not only learned valuable cooking skills but also discovered more about Chinese culture.

This year marks the Year of the Snake, and students had fun finding out their own Chinese zodiac animals and the traits associated with them.

## Year 11 Practical Exams

Our Year 11 students successfully completed their practical exams, demonstrating their outstanding culinary skills. While we cannot share images of their final dishes, we can proudly say that their professionalism, creativity, and presentation were of a restaurant-quality standard. The students each created two dishes that met their given brief, impressing both staff and examiners. "I was nervous at first, but once I started cooking, I felt really confident. It was a great experience!" – Year 11 Student, Stacey



Keeping with our regular cultural and commemorative celebrations, we recognise that food plays a central role in bringing people together. It is important for us to share this with our students, as it is all part of the learning process.

In Key Stage 3, Year 7 students made heart-shaped pastry pizza-style treats, while Year 9 students created pastry envelopes of love filled with either jam or chocolate spread. Year 10 students enjoyed making biscuits or heart-shaped pizzas. This fun activity allowed students to celebrate the occasion while continuing to develop their culinary skills.

"Celebrating these events and decorating our Food rooms is important for bringing our school community together. It fosters a sense of belonging, encourages teamwork, and makes learning more enjoyable." – Mrs. Randle, Head of Food



## Cooking Club

Cooking Club has continued to flourish. Students have made Chicken Stir-fry to celebrate Chinese New Year as well as working with Chef Leon Tam to make Chicken Chow Mein. They also enjoyed sampling and making a tomato and spaghetti-based dish with the offshore mussels. Additionally, students showcased their decorating techniques by making Valentine biscuits. It is fantastic to provide our budding chefs with these extra opportunities, and we are delighted that they choose to spend some of their own time cooking with us. "I love being part of Cooking Club! It's a great way to learn new recipes and have fun with friends." – Edward, Year 8 Cooking club Students.



# Mighty Mussels Project

We were delighted to be one of only 200 schools to receive a special delivery of offshore mussels. Students from various year groups had the unique experience of cooking and tasting fresh shellfish. It was wonderful to see them explore new ingredients, and many were pleasantly surprised by the taste! Providing hands-on opportunities like these is

something we take great pride in as a department. "I never thought I'd like mussels, but they were actually delicious! I'm so glad I tried them."  
 – Toby, Year 9 Student

A huge thank you to @FoodTeachersCentre, @FishmongersCo, @OffshoreShell, @dfdsgroup, and @RTShellfish for making this opportunity possible



Thank you for supporting our Food Department and making this term a great success! Stay tuned for more exciting events next term!