

# HALF TERM NEWSLETTER



Swiss  
Cottage  
School  
Development &  
Research Centre

Inclusive  
Nurturing  
Inspiring





# Lower School

The start of the Autumn Term has been a wonderful period of settling in to our new classes and rooms in the Lower School. We have created lovely, engaging learning environments for our pupils. Teaching teams have created visions for each of the classes based on real-world learning, creativity and communication.

Pupil successes have been huge through the transition period at the start of the year. Pupils have returned to their 'normal' school timetables using their personalised communication methods, working on their sensory and physical needs, and a brilliant return to swimming, which we know all families and children have enjoyed!

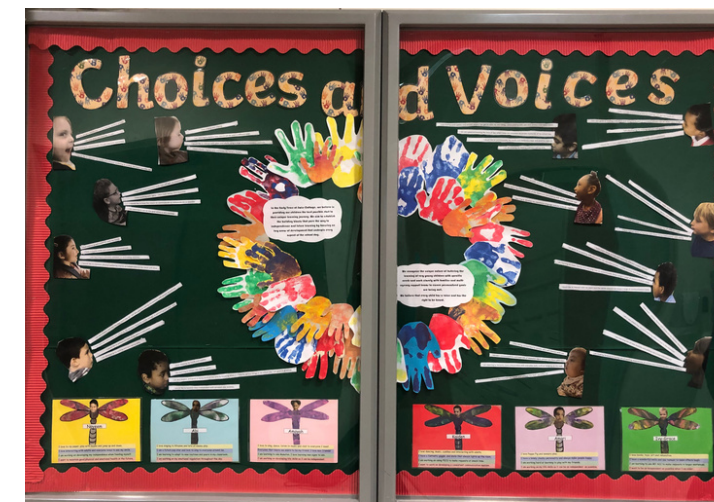
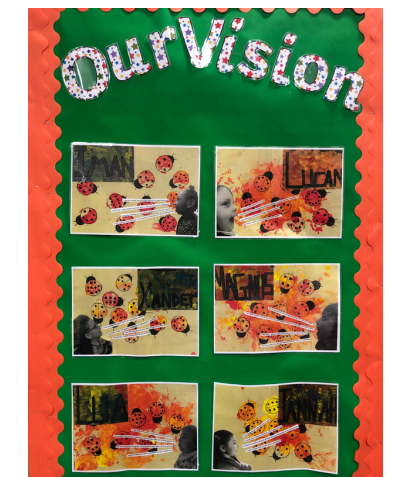
All pathways have engaged in the school's cross-curricular theme of 'Ourselves'. In the Informal and Early Years Foundation Stage Pathways, the pupils' engagement with their sensory stories, outdoor spaces and music has been a highlight. Pupils on the Semi-Formal Pathway are engaged with their messy and sensory play with an understanding of the world; and pupils who are in mixed semi-formal and formal classes have engaged in lessons on the Earth's health and the climate.

Literacy and communication is at the heart of learning across all pathway with classes also using the school library located on the 2nd floor. We are continuing to use Evidence for Learning to share the learning journey with you at home and to inform classroom and pathway level developments.

Thank you to those who were able to join the Family Learning Week and our first Early Years Family Coffee Morning, alongside the many individual conversations. We are learning more and more of what our Swiss community wants for our pupils – all of which is setting the scene for the work that comes next.



- **Aditi** (Assistant Principal of Lower School)





# Upper School

Well done to everyone in Upper School for a fantastic start to the new academic year. It has been wonderful having the whole school community back together. Highlights from across the Upper School are a reflection of the personalised curriculum linked to Preparation for Adulthood.

Classes across the Upper School have engaged in lessons to explore the inspirational people their class is named after. Through the school's cross-curricular theme of 'Ourselves' pupils in the Informal Pathway have also engaged in lessons focused on the different senses and sounds.

In the Semi-Formal Pathway pupils have engaged in learning about emotions and zones of regulation, as well as preparing for returning to the community next term by role playing similar activities in the school.

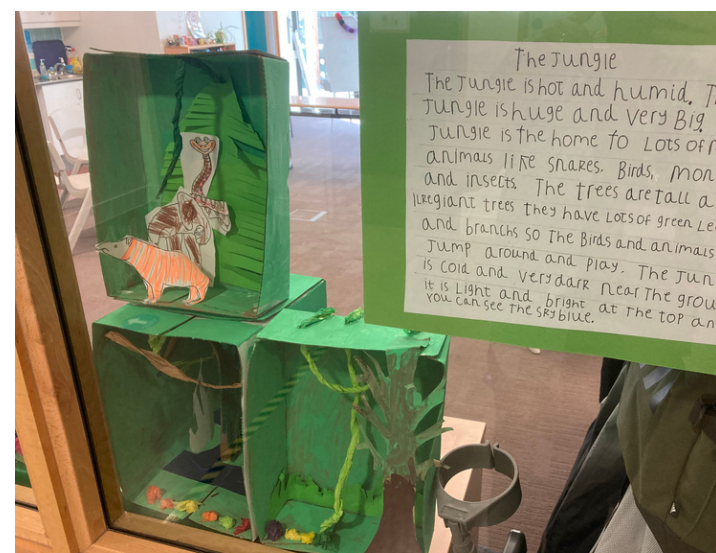
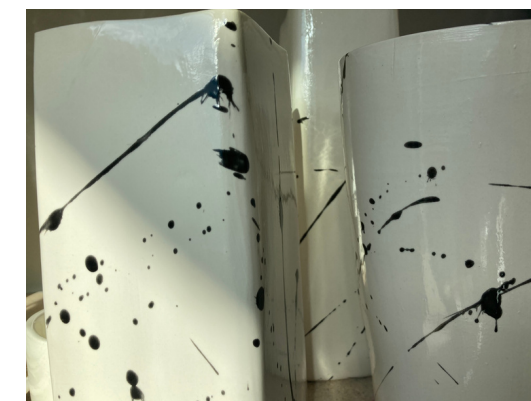
Pupils in the Formal Pathway have been learning about the rainforest, the different animals that live there and the ecosystem.

In Post 16 pupils have started the new year with their work experience in the school's personalised 'EmployMENT Pathway'. This included creating pottery items and greetings cards that are available in their online shop: <https://employme-card-design.myshopify.com>

A workshop also took place for families in the 16-19 Pathway with the Camden Learning Connexions Advisor to understand the pathways beyond Swiss Cottage School. We also enjoyed seeing many of you during the Family Learning Week. We look forward to working closely with you over the next half term.



- **Matthew** (Assistant Principal of Upper School)





# Family Learning Week

Family Learning Week is a very special feature of our school. The aim of Family Learning Week is for every family to have the opportunity to join a lesson in the classroom.

We want you to know what the classroom environment feels like, how learning is structured, and the communication strategies that are used through the lesson activity.

It is such a good opportunity to see your child with their friend's in class as you take part in the learning. 116 families came to the school from 26 of the 30 classes during the focus week, with 4 classes scheduled for after half term.

# Updates to the Website

We have added a 'Pupils' tab to our school website, where you'll find the pupil art gallery, showcasing some of the fantastic creations from across the school this term.

You can also access the EmployMENT Pathway Card & Design shop, where you can browse their wide range of handmade Greeting Cards and Enable Arts Ceramics.

Throughout the academic year, we'll use this area to post updates from the Student Council and Assemblies.

**[Click here to explore the new 'Pupils' tab.](#)**



# Black History Month



# Parent Council

We appreciate the demands on your time and are always amazed at how much time you share with us as a school team. We are focused on making the school your hub as we move through the pandemic and are renewing the focus of the Parent Council this year with that in mind.

The role of the Parent Council during this term will have a great impact as we plan our first school-based event for families before the Winter Holidays. We are really pleased that parents from the following classes have confirmed their involvement as the Parent Council through the role as Classroom Representatives.

Lower School: Caterpillar, Ladybird, Dragonfly, Blossom, Lily, Primrose Class Representatives  
Upper School: Ellie Simmonds, Gandhi, Greta Thunberg, Rosa Parks Class Representatives

It is great to have representatives across all 5 curriculum pathways to help us shape plans together for our very special community of families. We will have updates for all families after the half term!



- **Becky**  
Vice Principal

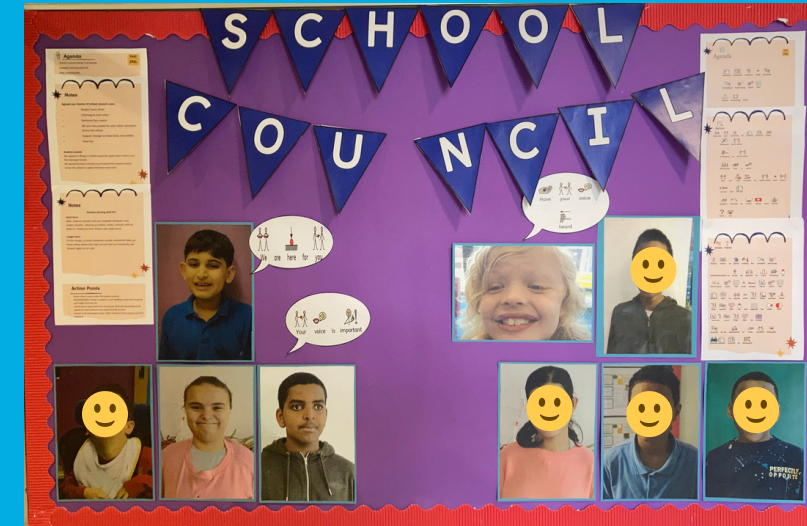


- **Mia**  
Vice Principal

# Full Governing Board Meeting

The first governing board meeting of the year took place this week. The meeting scrutinised the school's 2020-2021 data analysis following the Camden LA Standards Meeting alongside the July 2021 Challenge Partners Quality Assurance Review. Both confirm the school as Leading in All Areas. **[Read the full report here.](#)**

The meeting also explored the School Development Plan, Quarter 2 Budget, Formal Partnerships, PFI, and policies. Our new staff Governor Matthew Granados also updated the board on the Camden Governor's Conference which featured Camden's new Education Strategy. **[Meet our governors here.](#)**



# Student Council

Our Student Council has had two engaging meetings with class representatives from across the pathways represented bringing their views to the Senior Leadership Team.

The first topic they brought to the table was ideas for more resources for outdoor learning spaces. The school funded additional resources for outdoor learning spaces and the impact of this is already being felt across the school.

A great example of pupil voice in action!



# Unique Art Awards

On Saturday 4th September, Elyse and Tousif represented Swiss Cottage School at the Unique Arts Award ceremony, in Kensington.

They attended a formal sit-down dinner, where the prizes were announced. Our group entry consisting of clay self-portraits made by over 20 different students won Gold in the sculpture category and Bronze overall winner! We won £1000 towards the arts department and £300 in art material vouchers.



# National TES SEN Show



We are in a formal partnership with Evidence for Learning - the system the school uses to share the learning journey with families. Evidence for Learning was a key exhibitor at the National TES SEN Show in London. Our very own Matt Granados and Katy Henry presented and demonstrated the use of Evidence for Learning. They showcased the ways we use the system, how it gives families a way to share key moments of learning with the school, and how the system is at the heart of our planning, teaching, and progress systems. Such a privilege to give our experiences as the Evidence for Learning network involves over 600 schools across the country!

# Challenge Partners 10-year Anniversary



We are a member of the Challenge Partners national organisation, which is the outcome of the significant impacts from the government initiative 'London Challenge 2003-2011' on reducing educational inequalities. The 10-year anniversary of the organisation was marked at an event in Parliament at the House of Commons. The speakers for the event were Sir Jon Coles, Sir George Berwick, Dame Sue John, Kate Chaatwal OBE, and our Principal Vijita Patel. It is a reflection of the school as a Centre of Excellence committed to system leadership for inclusion.





# The Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment

## Onsite Workshop to Launch 3 year Project

The school has worked with 'The Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment' in previous years and are beginning a new 3 year project. This is with the elite level musicians working with our classes to explore and create musical compositions. We were pleased to host three of the musicians with Upper School classes to inform the planning of the 3 year project.

This was our first group of professional visitors on the school site. We trialled this at the 4th floor conference room and it was a huge success. We look forward to planning more Arts Organisations at the school for the blended community learning aims. You can find out more about the amazing musicians here: <https://oae.co.uk/>

# NHS Vaccination Programme for 12–15 year-old pupils

An incredible team from the NHS were at the school on 21st October to complete vaccinations for pupils that had consent from their parents for the COVID-19 vaccination. Families came in to support the vaccination process.

This process was coordinated and led by the NHS nationally, and was run by the NHS School Nursing Team. We had the most wonderful group of sensitive volunteers at the school helping the pupils and their parents.

If any parents want a COVID-19 vaccination for their child aged 12 and up, please contact your GP and explain your child's special educational need so that this can be organised in a way that is supportive.







# Other Highlights

## Apple Distinguished Schools Status:

Swiss Cottage School was invited to enter a comprehensive whole school assessment towards Apple Distinguished Schools Status. We are proud to confirm that Swiss Cottage School was successful in this yearlong assessment process. We will be joining 535 schools across 32 countries with this status, which currently only includes 42 schools across the United Kingdom. The 'champion' status is a platform for the school's role in promoting EdTech and inclusive education through our approaches with technology with the Apple Distinguished Schools strategy.

<https://www.apple.com/uk/education/k12/apple-distinguished-schools/>

## Quality in Careers Standard - Gold Award:

The school was also completed a full assessment and received confirmation that we meet the Ixion Gold Award for the Quality in Careers Standard. This assessed our Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG) provision. We are accredited as fully meeting all the accreditation criteria incorporating the national Gatsby Benchmarks. The final assessment report concluded with the summary statement that: "The way in which CEIAG is consistently embedded into students' experience of school life is exemplary. Of note also is the staff's reflective practice applied to CEIAG and the very strong sense of teamwork, by which new methods for enhancing employability and linking employers to the school has been developed, whilst retaining the need for specifically tailored provision".

<https://www.qualityincareers.org.uk/>







**Fun day out** for disabled people and their families.

**Talacre community sports centre**

Saturday 30 October 2021 **10:30am to 2:30pm**

**All children must be accompanied**

**Come and try**

**Lots of fun activities for young people aged 8 to adult**

**Activities on the day will include:**


- Gymnastics
- Football
- Athletics
- Basketball
- Boccia
- New Age Curling
- Wheelchair Roller Sessions
- Adapted bikes
- Trampolining and rebound therapy

You can visit our information stalls to find out about disability sport opportunities and other disability services in Camden.







[Click for more information](#)



**FREE COURSES FOR EVERYONE 18+ WHO LIVES OR WORKS IN CAMDEN & ISLINGTON**

## Staying Sane as a Parent: maintaining your wellbeing in the context of parenting

A two session online course on Thursdays  
4, 11 November 2021, 11am-12.30pm



Do you find parenting stressful at times?

Would you like to learn more about how to look after your mental health whilst raising children? If so, you're not alone!


Parenting can be hard for all of us. This course will show you how to be kinder to yourself when you feel guilty or stressed and will teach you some skills you can use in your day-to-day life as a busy parent.

You will also be able to share ideas with other parents about how to survive and thrive, even on the bad days.

How to enrol

Register online [www.candi.nhs.uk/recoverycollege](http://www.candi.nhs.uk/recoverycollege)

Find out more 0203 317 6904 [recovery.college@candi.nhs.uk](mailto:recovery.college@candi.nhs.uk)



[Click for more information](#)