



Swakeleys School for Girls

Dear Everyone,

It has been a fantastic first half term at Swakeleys and I have been blown away by the enthusiasm of the school community. A real focus for us as a school has been to connect with our families and we were so happy to see so many of you at the parental engagement events over the past few weeks. After each session the slides were shared on the parent page of our website and we wrote home with key questions that were raised during each of the events.



During September we celebrated the life of Queen Elizabeth II and created our "poetree" (pictured left). It displaying poems written by our students regarding the death of the queen and their views of the monarchy.

On the 15th September we held our busy annual open evening and the student helpers were an absolute credit to the school – they are a key reason why families choose Swakeleys for their daughters.

As you know leadership is very important to us at Swakeleys and we have now elected our senators, you can see their picture overleaf – it was a very competitive election process and all students who put themselves forward should be incredibly proud of themselves. We have elected our student council representatives from each form

group and will start meeting with them after half term to seek their views.

Students in Year 11 have had the opportunity to attend activities such as cross fit, Pilates and Zumba. Maintaining a link to exercise is so important for us all and particularly during exam years and we know the Year 11s are loving "recreational PE".

In the classroom we have been carrying out our annual reviews of the provision in Maths, English and Science and all students have had an opportunity to provide their views on their lessons. I have been so impressed by what is happening in the classroom across Swakeleys and how much the students are engaged in their learning. We review all of our curriculum areas over the course of each year and your daughter always has an opportunity to feed in her views.

We have celebrated black history month with a student led assembly and activities during lessons and we are looking forward to celebrating the end of the half term with a Halloween themed mufti day on Friday 21st October.

As you know all students at Swakeleys are proud members of one of our eight houses and we kicked off our house competition for 2022/23 with house assemblies during the week of 26th September complete with our mascots. Clubs are in full swing and the club timetable can be found on the [parent page of our website](#). We encourage all of our students to get involved – learn new things and make new friends.



Can I extend my thanks to you for all you do to support at home. The student behaviour has been excellent and we know that a large part of this is because of your high expectations as parents. I do hope that you have a lovely rest over the half term holiday and just a reminder that we are back to school at normal time on Monday 31st October.

With best wishes,
Kelda Stevenson



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Pastoral Matters

Attendance

Please be aware that all pupils should be attending school every day unless they are genuinely unwell. All absences must be covered by a note and contact must be made with school by telephone on every day of absence. Medical evidence must be provided in the case of all absence longer than 5 days.

Please note the following absence **cannot** be authorised for the following reasons:

- Holidays taken in term time
- House moves
- Day trips/long weekends
- Waiting at home for workmen
- Looking after other family members
- Taking siblings to school
- Requests for travel abroad to visit family

Research shows that absence from school has significant impact on academic progress. Please help us by encouraging your pupil to attend if they feel slightly under the weather. Welfare will be able to send any child home who feels genuinely unwell and is judged unable to complete the school day.

Your child's attendance target is 96% or above. Pupils may receive attendance intervention and support if their attendance drops below the target.

Uniform

Please do support us by checking your child's uniform each day. If there is a genuine reason why a pupil cannot be in uniform e.g. broken shoes, please provide a note. They should present this note to the Year Learning Co-ordinator who will process a red card excusing them for a specified period of time. As uniform is a zero tolerance issue please do follow this process to avoid pupils getting detention.

Mental Health

Pupils are currently focusing on health and wellbeing during PSHCE. At Swakeleys we want to provide as much support as possible and encourage pupils to keep both physically and mentally healthy. For those pupils needing extra support we can provide the following:

- Clubs and activities programme
- Named point of contact-Form Tutor
- Access to a learning mentor
- Pupils can self-refer to Place2Talk (up to 3 sessions)
- 121 Counselling at Place2Be
- Signposting to online mental health support
- Appointment with a Hillingdon school nurse

You may be advised to contact your GP if the school feel that medical intervention is required.

In PSHCE we continue to encourage pupils to participate, take regular exercise, get outdoors, eat healthily and reduce screen time. There is also a focus on being a member of the school or wider community, participation and healthy friendships.

We can also provide support for families who wish to access early intervention services within the borough. Please contact us if you are experiencing stress or difficulty and we can arrange a Stronger Families assessment to support. We can also refer you to Brilliant Parents who run an excellent programme of parent champions.



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Senators

We are delighted to announce our new Senators in year 8-11 who were elected by their peers and teachers on Friday 23rd September. They will have the important responsibility of representing the student voice of their year group this academic year. We know that they will support with driving our high standards within the school. We wish our new Senators all the very best in their new exciting roles:



Year 8 Senators

Maryam Sajid Ali 8DS
Bella Mensah 8MY

Year 9 Senators:

Ciana Baptiste 9AF
Aaliyah Grant 9MY

Year 10 Senators:

Diva Ahmadyar 10MY
Muscaan Basra 10EB

Year 11 Senators:

Aniqa Choudhury 11AF
Sumaya Mohamed

SWAB – Swakeleys Against Bullying

**ONE
KIND
WORD**

#ANTIBULLYINGWEEK

↓

This Anti-Bullying Week,
let's come together and **reach out**
to stop bullying.

**REACH
OUT**



**Monday 14th to
Friday 18th November**
#AntiBullyingWeek
#ReachOut

We're holding
Odd Socks Day

for Anti-Bullying Week

If you are having issues and want to speak to one of our SWAB team put your name and form in the SWAB box outside welfare and one of our team will contact you!



The House System



We are now in the 11th year of our House System, with eight Houses all named after inspirational women. Every member of the school community is in a House and event run for both students and staff throughout the year. Each House also has a mascot which regularly makes appearances throughout the year!

In September, staff took part in a House Badminton competition, the results of which you can see below!

OVERALL POINTS		
1 st	MC	211
2 nd	JA	185
3 rd	FN	178
4 th	MY	87
5 th	EB	86
6 th	DS	85
7 th	RP	84
8 th	AF	52



Below is information about events for the House competition this academic year. Please encourage your daughter to involved.

HOUSE EVENTS 2022-2023

Ongoing events	When	House points on offer
House attendance	All year & awarded weekly	1 st place 80pts down to last place 10pts
House Assembly weeks: These will be delivered as year group assemblies	House Assembly 1: Week comm. 13 th September House Assembly 2: Week comm. 14 th November House Assembly 3: Week comm. 30 th January House Assembly 4: Week comm. 24 th April Final Assemblies 5: Tues 11 th , Wed 12 th , Thurs 13 th & Fri 14 th July	

Proposed events	When	House points for each event
House Talent: Sing/Dance/Drama & more in one HUGE competition!	Auditions: Mon 16 th -Thur 19 th Jan Finals: Friday 20 th Jan	Finals: 1 st 100 pts, 2 nd 80 pts, 3 rd 60 pts Also points for all those who enter
House Debating: All during lunchtimes	Week comm. Mon 27 th Feb: Heats & the final on Friday	Finals: 1 st 100 pts, 2 nd 80 pts, 3 rd 60 pts Also points for all those who enter
Interhouse Sports Weeks	Week 1 comm: Mon 7 th Nov Week 2 comm: Mon 15 th March Week 3 comm: Mon 16 th May	1 st place 80 points down to last place 10pts
House Sports Day	June/July - date tbc	Whatever points you earn you get!
House Literacy/Numeracy	Wed 28 th June at lunchtime	1 st place 80/60pts down to last place 10pts

ALL staff are in a House and also have competitions throughout the year to earn House points.



Staff wear house colours on Friday to earn points too!

House points close on Thursday 30th June at 1.30pm!

