

NEWSLETTER



We are resilient and successful
We are trusting and kind
We are diverse and respectful

Dear Families

I write to you as I can hear the rehearsals for the winter showcase taking place. The performers have shown great resilience with their rehearsals and as we know to be successful you do have to put the effort in.

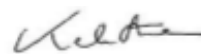
I'm so delighted by the effort that everyone has put into making Swakeleys so successful this term. The students have worked incredibly hard and this week we celebrate the 700 "zero heroes" in school who have done brilliantly in achieving our expectations around values, effort and hard work and this is why we recognise them.

Inside the newsletter you can see all the events that have taken place this half term. As always we have been into lessons to celebrate the great efforts of students and their teachers and also identify areas for improvement. I am a great believer that education is the infinite game. Because we are working with people the job is never finished. We will continually strive to improve to support your children to achieve their very best. A part of this is hearing from students about what's going well and what we can improve

– I will share the feedback from our recent student survey in the new year. As always we will be asking for your views in our parent survey next term.

Thank you for your ongoing support. We couldn't do our job without your amazing help at home. Parenting teenagers can be a challenge at times and so give yourself a pat on the back and have a wonderful holiday.

Yours sincerely



Kelda Stevenson
Headteacher.

Teacher of the Month

October

Miss Kinnane
Miss Smith

Teacher of the Month

November

Mrs Mezaour
Mrs Laguillo

Support Staff of the Month

October

Mrs Clements
Mrs Sharma
Mrs Pooley

Support Staff of the Month

November

Mrs Wilkes
Mr Edgehill



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Modern Foreign Languages

MFL Poster Competition

The Modern Foreign Languages department ran a poster competition for Year 7 on the importance of learning languages. There were several entries and all the students who took part will be awarded merits. The participating students per form were:

7DS: Aroua, Omaima, Haya, Zinab, Asta, Samira and Aaishah

7FN: Hosna, Aiza, Deyana and Chloe

7RP: Joumana, Shreyaba, Theniya, Tasnim, Anaya

7EB: Sabiha and Hiba

7MC: Sataish, Navpreet, Dea, Safeera, Maria, Linsha, Yardha and Ajra

7JA: Ekam Kaur, Uendy, and Tara

7MY: Zahra, Mahi and Jasmin

7AF: Brisa, Thisharaa and Prahashitha

Prizes were awarded to the overall winner, Aroua 7DS and the two runners-up: Mahi 7MY and Hosna 7FN. Well done, Year 7!

Mrs Edoo-Nanuck, Curriculum Leader Modern Foreign Languages



Debates Club

Mace Debating Competition

In November Kiana N(10AF), Mishall G (10DS) and Aleeza K (12H) represented Swakeleys in the first heat of the English-Speaking Union's prestigious Mace Debating Competition.



Supported by members of the Debates Club, the team put an exceptional amount of effort into their preparations. They showed impressive resilience throughout the process and were consequently successful in advancing to the next round of the competition in January!

We would like to congratulate them for their achievements so far and wish them lots of luck for the next round.

Mr E Green

Assistant Curriculum Leader for Psychology & Sociology

Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge

Congratulations to Yasmin B who represented Swakeleys at the Jack Petchey Speak Out challenge regional final! Jack Petchey is one of the largest youth speaking challenges. She shared a speech titled 'Together for change'.



Ms T Patel, Assistant Year Learning Coordinator of Year 7



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NEWSLETTER

Safeguarding Update

How can you support your child in managing the complicated world of social media?

We encourage parents to maintain open, calm conversations with their child about social media by asking curious, non-judgemental questions about what they enjoy online, who they interact with, and how certain content makes them feel. Do reinforce that your child can come to you if something worries or confuses them, and avoid reacting with anger so they feel safe sharing concerns.

Setting clear, consistent boundaries is essential: agree together on screen-free times (such as during homework, meals, and before bed), keep devices out of bedrooms at night, and regularly review privacy settings and friend lists. Modelling healthy digital habits yourself helps strengthen these expectations.

Finally, revisit these conversations often—young people's online worlds change quickly, and your guidance can grow with them.

To find out more browse
<https://www.ceopeducation.co.uk/parents/>

Mental Health In School's Team

Frances Rowe from the Mental health in Schools Team is based at Swakeleys and can support students with anxiety and low mood on a referral basis. In many cases this can be the first port of call for a young person who is struggling.



If you have any concerns about your child do approach their form tutor or YLC to discuss the pathways available to them to support with mental health.

We continue to also support students through our Place2Talk and Place2be Services.

Should my child attend school if they are ill?

It is that time of year when lots of children suffer from coughs and colds. It is sometimes difficult to encourage them to come into school, but every day of attendance counts.



Children should stay at home if they have a high temperature (they should remain off school until their temperature returns to normal), have been sick, have diarrhoea, or have an illness that makes them too unwell to participate in normal lessons. Children with mild coughs, colds, or sore throats can usually attend if they feel well enough, but you should seek medical advice if symptoms are severe or persistent.

Do support your child by asking the right questions based on the information above.

If you would like to leave medication in school this can be kept in the welfare room with a medication form [please click here to access this form.](#)

Swakeleys School For Girls
Medication to be held in school consent form

Name	Form
Date of Birth	Date
Checklist We will only accept medication packaged as follows: - Medicine in date - Dosage information - Instructions - Pharmacy label (if prescribed) - Original packaging - Storage instructions	Instructions for administration state when this should be given to the pupil.
Parent/Carer name	Parent/Carer signature
Handed in on (date)	Date that medication should be ceased. Please state expiry date for pain relief medication to be held in school.
Each time we administer any pain relief medication that you have provided we need to contact you. If you would prefer us to e mail you please give us your e mail address.	
e mail	

o No child under 16 must be given medicine containing aspirin in school unless prescribed by a doctor.
 o Maximum doses for pain relief medication must be checked and when the previous dose was taken.
 o Parents must be informed when pain medication is administered.



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Mrs G Hare, Deputy Headteacher

NEWSLETTER

House System Highlights

Autumn Term

Our House System as strong as ever and is in its 14th year! EM and MC lead the role of honour with 4 stars each, then JA with two stars, AF, FN and RP all have one star leaving MY and DS yet to win overall...could this be their year?

It has been a fantastic term for our students and staff all taking part into a whole host of exciting events that have brought energy, creativity, and plenty of friendly rivalry to school life:

- **Staff House Badminton** was the first staff event which had over 70 staff playing and supporting. This was swiftly followed by our first **staff Great House Bake Off** of the year – the bake was Focaccia and Mrs Withers from MC came in first!



- **House Poetry** kicked things off for students with some amazing entries, giving our budding writers the chance to shine to the National Poetry theme of 'Play'. The winning entry was written by Alicia D-A in 11AF



- The Key Stage 4 Great House Bake Off served up some mouth-watering masterpieces in the form of Profiteroles with our expert and well-practiced judges Mrs Stevenson and Mr Hayden judging the MY bakers to be the winning House.



- Our younger students showed off their sporting skills in **Interhouse competitions**: Year 7 and 8 battled it out in netball and football whilst Year 9 and 10 teams competed in netball.
- At the **Winter Bazaar**, Houses paired up to run stalls, spreading festive cheer and teamwork and all raising money for charity.
- December brings something brand new — the **House Spelling Bee**, open to both staff and students. And for staff, the **Christmas Great House Bake Off** promises plenty of fun (and Yule Logs!).



- In January, we'll welcome back one of the most anticipated events of the year: **House Talent**, always a crowd-pleaser!

And the excitement doesn't stop there! Coming up later in the year, we have:

- House Uno
- House Chess
- House Debating
- House Literacy & Numeracy
- Key Stage 3 Great House Bake Off
- More Staff Bake Offs
- And, of course, the grand finale — Sports Day!

The House System continues to be a brilliant way for students and staff to connect, compete, and celebrate their talents. With so much still to come, we can't wait to see what the rest of the year holds!

Mrs C Devereux (i/c the House System)



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NEWSLETTER

House System Highlights (Cont'd)

House Spelling Bee



On Friday 5th December we held the inaugural House Spelling Bee competition for Years 7 - 10 and staff which was a resounding success.

Students and staff rose to the challenge, spelling words chosen by a random spin-the-wheel system. The atmosphere was tense, with competitors battling it out round after round.

The competition was fierce and as you can see from the results tables below the leaders were neck and neck in most groups with the winners decided from a spell off. The Year 9 competition was so fierce that even after two spell offs we still didn't have a winner as they were both so good!

Congratulations to all those who took part.

Final Result table

	7	8	9	10	Staff	TOTAL
MC	16	16	20	20	8	80
DS	16	16	20	12	3	67
FN	12	12	No entry	16	20	60
EB	12	20	8	3	16	59
JA	8	16	3	12	16	55
AF	8	12	12	3	20	55
MY	8	8	No entry	20	16	52
RP	8	3	12	16	12	51

Group Results

Year 7

Harsimrat K.	MC	1st	After a Spell Off
Rayhan A.	DS	2nd	
Farida H.	FN	3rd	
Mahi S.	EB		

Year 8

Dunya Y.	EB	1st	
Sanaya C.	DS		
Fatemeh R.	JA	2nd	
Charlene A.	MC		
Lina N.	FN		
Poppy G.	AF	3rd	

Year 9

Hannah B.	MC	1st - still tied after two correct	
Prabhanjana V.	DS	Spell Offs!	
Jasmina K.	RP	2nd	
Sana A.	AF		
Sophie B.	EB	3rd	

Year 10

Radiya S.	MC	1st	After a Spell Off
Saavi S.	MY	2nd	
Hoda A.	FN	3rd	
Zohour E.	RP		

Staff

LAU	FN	1st	After a Spell Off
BE	AF	2nd	
KB	MY		
MS	JA	3rd	
JM	EB		

Mrs C Devereux (i/c the House System)



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Behaviour Update

Zero points, 39% more Heroes!

We are delighted to share that 693 students across the school achieved zero behaviour points during the autumn term — an incredible milestone! Even more impressively, this figure represents a 39% increase on last year, showing the huge commitment our students have made to upholding our school values.

As we look ahead to the spring term in January, all points will reset, giving everyone a fresh start. We can't wait to see how many Double Zero Heroes we'll celebrate next term too!

Has your child received a golden ticket?

Another highlight of our Praise and Reward programme is Hot Chocolate Friday. Each week, students spotted "doing the right thing" are invited to join Mrs Stevenson and Mr Hepner for a well-earned hot chocolate at break time. Whether they are showing resilience, success, trust, kindness, diversity, or respect, these students embody the very best of our school values. It's a wonderful way to celebrate the key pillars of the Swakeleys community and recognise those who make a positive difference every day.



Swakeleys Against Bullying (SWAB)

Our SWAB team (Swakeleys Against Bullying) made a significant contribution to Anti-Bullying Week in November, leading an inspiring whole-school assembly, spreading kindness through peer-created kindness cards,

and championing Odd Socks Day to celebrate the fact that we are all unique. The team is available to support students every lunchtime in Room 014, offering a safe space to discuss any concerns. Having benefited from extensive training, our SWAB members are skilled in active listening and are able to identify low-level safeguarding concerns, making them an invaluable part of our school community.



Uniform Reminders:

Please note that hair colour may only be a natural shade. Students will be asked to remain in alternative provision until the hair colour is returned to a natural shade.

Fake nails and eyelashes:

A reminder that both of these items are not part of the school uniform and your support in reminding your child to remove these items for school is much appreciated. Any child who refuses to remove these items will be asked to remain in alternative provision until they have been removed. We appreciate that such accessories will be appealing over the holiday break but must be removed before returning in January.

Loaned Uniform

We hope that you and your child have found the uniform loan shop beneficial. We have some items that have not been returned to us and we would be grateful if all loaned items can be returned before the end of term. If you have any queries regarding our loan shop please do not hesitate to contact the main office.

Mr L Hepner, Deputy Headteacher



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NEWSLETTER

YEAR 7

Year Learning Coordinator Miss Allan

Recent Events and Activities:

- Year 7 Hustings week for Senator, well done to all Year 7 students who ran for Senator & congratulations to Dayna M 7JA & Farida H 7FN for becoming our two Year 7 Senators.
- Odd socks day to raise awareness for anti-bullying week
- The Winter Bazaar was a great event for our school community
- School Council
- Christmas Pantomime
- Zero Hero Assembly to celebrate all students in Year 7-11 who have zero behaviour points. Well done to the 144 year 7s who achieved this!
- Well done to Year 7 for achieving 37,873 merits as a year group!!
- The Winter Showcase which showcases the talents of our students in drama, dance & music
- Year 7 took part in the languages department poster competition, there were many fantastic posters and the winners were:
 - 1st place – Aroua B 7DS
 - 2nd place – Hosna A 7FN
 - 3rd place - Mahi K 7MY

Assembly topics in Leadership and YLC assemblies:

House Assembly, Anti-Bullying Week, Communities, Celebrations Assembly, Friendships, International Day for the elimination of violence against women, International Day of Persons with disabilities, End of Term Review

Things to look forward to in the next half term:

- Year 7 can continue to attend a wide range of extra-curricular activities – please see the timetable on the website in January
- Careers Focus Fortnight & Careers Fair
- House Talent Week
- School council
- House Assembly week
- Dance evening
- School production of High School Musical

Year 7 have really settled into Swakeleys School and they should feel proud of what they have achieved in their first term at Swakeleys. It has been fantastic to see so many Year 7s demonstrating our school values, attending extra-curricular activities, making progress in their lessons and taking part in house events. I wish Year 7 and their families a lovely and restful Christmas and look forward to seeing what Year 7 achieve in the New Year.

Miss H Allan



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NEWSLETTER

YEAR 8

Year Learning Coordinator Mr Gray

Recent Events and Activities:

- Year 8 Inter-house – Overall Winners- 8RP, Netball Winners – 8DS, Football Winners – 8MY
- 50 students visited Warner Bros. Studio Tour London – The Making of Harry Potter
- Karaoke & Pizza Afternoon
- Zero Hero assemblies to celebrate all students in year 7-11 who have zero behaviour points. Well done to the 124 Year 8 students who are Zero Heroes!
- Year Group Celebration Assembly
- The Winter Showcase which showcases the talents of our students in drama, dance & music
- Guest Speakers for International Day of Persons with Disabilities
- Anti-Bullying week – Odd Sock Day

Assembly Topics in Leadership and YLC Assemblies:

- Year 8 Options Assembly
- House Assembly
- Diwali
- Banter vs Bullying
- Black History Month – Student Led
- SWAB (Swakeleys Against Bullying)
- Year 8 Aspirational Programme
- Modern Foreign Languages
- Christmas
- End of Term Review

Things to celebrate

- The launch of our exciting new initiative – Year 8 Aspirational Programme
- Congratulations to Aliyah M – 8MC for winning the Jack Petchey Achievement Award (Sept-Nov). Aliyah has won £300 for the school and can decide how the school spends this money.
- A huge well done to the students who planned and delivered assemblies this term: Bluebell B& Bethany M– 8MC, Rahima O – 8AF, Qeti S -8FN, Ivana L, Khushdeep K, Siyana S & Anika P – 8MY
- A huge congratulations to our stars of the week for winning a “jump the queue” pass for the canteen this half term: Avvai K – 8RP, Asees N – 8FN, Darcie C – 8MC, Sofia R – 8FN, Charvi V – 8EB, Imogen S – 8FN
- Congratulations to all who participated in the House Spelling Bee. 1st - Dunya Y - 8EB. 2nd - Sanaya C - 8DS, Fatemeh R - 8JA & Charlene A - 8MC. 3rd - Lina N - 8FN & Poppy G - 8AF

Things to look forward to in the next half term:

- 5th January – Year 8 Options Taster Lesson Fortnight
- 12th January – Amazon ‘Think Big’ Workshop
- 12th January – Dry Run of Options Choice – Google Form
- 14th January – Year 8 Parents’ Evening
- 24th January – GCSE Options Form given to students – Deadline 4th February
- 27th January – Movie afternoon for form Attendance League Winners and YLC Stars of the Week
- 3rd, 4th, 10th & 11th February - Form Breakfast with Parents

Mr T Gray



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NEWSLETTER

YEAR 9

Year Learning Coordinator Miss Currell

Recent Events and Activities:

- Progress check 1 emailed home
- Interhouse

Assemblies

- Assemblies have been on
- behaviour
- Global Academy
- Progress meetings and anti-bullying week

Upcoming assemblies will be on celebration and careers.

Things to celebrate

- The Stars of the Week have been: Mia MC, Leeza RP, Mariam DS, Karys JA and Madonna MY.
- Congratulations to the 20 students who performed excellently at the Winter Showcase! It was also great to see other year 9s there to watch all the performances.
- Congratulations to the 127 students who have zero behaviour points for the first term! Well done!
- A fantastic first term with the GCSE options.
- Many students took part in various House events.
- A fantastic contribution from Year 9 at the Swakeleys Winter Bazaar.

Things to look forward to

- Celebration assembly
- Christmas holidays
- Careers fair
- Progress meetings

Upcoming Key Dates:

Spring Term 1	Mon 5 th Jan - Friday 16 th Jan Wed 14 th Jan Wed 11 th Feb	Return back after Christmas: Careers fortnight Careers Fair Progress Check 2 emailed home
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Miss K Currell



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NEWSLETTER

YEAR 10

Year Learning Coordinator Mrs Finnerty

Recent Events and Activities

- YLC Assemblies
- House Assembly
- Remembrance Day
- Importance of punctuality and organisation
- Year group updates
- Year 10 celebration assembly: Monday 15th December

Things to celebrate

- A fantastic contribution from Year 10 at the Swakeleys Winter Bazaar.
- Great contributions from the students who took part in our School Council. Siwar A 10FN, Lara R10RP, Zara K 10DS and Yasmin B 10DS prepared and delivered a debate.
- Many of Year 10 took part in the Interhouse netball competition and the House Spelling Bee.
- Congratulations to our 144 Zero Hero's who achieved zero behaviour points this term.
- Excellent performances from many Year 10 students at the annual Winter Showcase-well done!
- Congratulations to the Swakeleys Debate Team who won in the first heat of their competition. The main speakers were Kiana N 10AF and Mishall G 10DS. The debate consists of mostly Year 10 students.
- Yasmin B 10DS won the Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge at the regional stage-an amazing achievement!
- YLC Stars of the Week have been celebrated: Kyla-Rose D10DS and Yasmin B 10DS.

Things to look forward to

Careers Week: WB 5th January

House Talent: WB Mon 19th January

FAB trip assembly 2nd February

School production: High School Musical! 11/12th February

Reminders:

- Students need to be entering the school building at 8.30am ready for registration at 8.40am. It is imperative that students are on time and are ready to learn every day.
- Attendance: Our target is 96%.
- Please check the school uniform and equipment guidance to ensure students are prepared for the start of the next half term.

The Year 10 team would like to wish all of our Swakeleys families and friends a peaceful Christmas break and a very Happy New Year have a lovely half term break. We look forward to welcoming you back on Monday 5th January 2026.

Mrs L Finnerty



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NEWSLETTER

YEAR 11

Year Learning Coordinator Miss Mejloumian

Recent Events and Activities

- Half-term
- Mock 'WAVE' exams completed
- Mock Exams completed
- Swakeleys School 6th for Open Evening
- Winter Bazaar
- Winter Showcase
- School Council

Assemblies

- House assembly week
- Exam practices
- School Values
- Celebration Assembly

Things to celebrate

- We hope that you enjoy watching our video updates, find them informative and give you an insight into what Y11 experience.
- Completing the WAVE and mock exams.
- Celebrating Zero Hero Awards for 156 Y11 students who have had no behavioural points.
- Celebrating 58 students with 100% attendance and 63 students over 97+% attendance
- Outstanding behaviour amongst our Y11 students.

Things to look forward to

- Christmas Holidays Monday 22nd December 2025 until Friday 2nd January 2026

Mon 5th Jan
Wed 7th Jan
Fri 9th Jan
Tues 13th Jan
Wed 14th Jan
Fri 16th Jan
Mon 19th Jan
Thu 22nd Jan
Sat 7th Feb
Thu 5th Feb
Mon 9th Feb

Return back after Christmas: Careers Week 1
1-2-1 careers mock interview day
Sixth Form application for Swakeleys deadline
Sixth Form @ Swakeleys Taster Day
Careers Fair: Current progress check 2 emailed home
IAG session p4, MOCK RESULTS p5 – leave by 3pm
Targeted post mock attendance & progress support meetings (TAPs 3)
PARENTS EVENING 4pm-7.30pm (online)
In school intervention for subjects to book
Last Rec PE session – these now become study sessions
Interviews for 6th Form for the next two weeks

Miss S Mejloumian



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NEWSLETTER

Geography Awareness Week



This term, our school celebrated Geography Awareness Week (17th–22nd November). This year's theme focused on National Geographic Explorers and how they use maps to solve the world's most pressing problems — and the activities hosted during the week received plenty of positive feedback!

Students were invited to Room 216 on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday to take part in a range of challenges. From fast-paced quizzes to exciting geography games, each activity tested our quick thinking and problem-solving skills in a fun, light-hearted way.

The room was constantly buzzing with enthusiasm for geography, and the friendly competition during the quiz on Monday and the games session on Tuesday made it even better.

The geography trivia lasted for a duration of 2 weeks, with students grabbing the opportunity to win a limited edition spinning-globe geography pen! The Geography Quiz was hosted on Monday lunchtime, by Miss Patel, and indeed it was very engaging to take part in! One of the most popular parts of the week was the Geography games. There were a range of excellent games on offer- from snap to 'mapominoes' (literally- map domines!), there was something for everyone. My friends and I were particularly testing our memory skills while playing a memory game with the snap cards!

Caitlyn-Lily R (8AF) commented on her experience of the great week. She said, "My experience was fantastic- On Tuesday there were geography themed games which I enjoyed with my friends, and I got 3 awesome globe pens during the week! It was really fun. I'll be sure not to miss it next year when it comes around!"

Overall, the event was a huge success — fun, educational, and a great way to bring people together. If next year's Geography Awareness Week is anything like this one, none of us will want to miss it. And finally, I would like to say one BIG thank you to the geography department for hosting such a successful and fun week! We had a great time and I am looking forward to next year's Geography Awareness Week!

Safiyya B (11MC)



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NEWSLETTER

Careers Fortnight

Dear Families,

When we return in January, we will be launching straight into our annual Careers Focus Fortnight. This is an exciting opportunity for students to explore different pathways, develop their aspirations, and gain valuable insights into the world of work. Please find a programme of the events that will be running throughout the fortnight for your child.

Mrs P Laguillo, Assistant Headteacher - Achievement

Calendar of Events during Careers Focus Fortnight January 2026				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
5 January	6 January	7 January	8 January	9 January
Launch Step in to the NHS competition (Year 7&8)	Hall assembly on careers (Year 7&8)	1-1 Mock Interview day HALL (Year 11)	Hall assembly on careers (Year 11)	Hall assembly on careers (Year 9&10)
Year 8 Taster sessions (Media P2 & Sociology P4) Canteen	Year 8 Taster sessions (Health and Social Care P1 & Psychology P3) Canteen	Year 8 Taster sessions (Citizenship P3 and Childcare P4) Canteen	Year 10 KCL MFL talk about careers in languages (P4 & P5) HALL	Year 8 Taster sessions (Business P2) Canteen
Green Careers Display				Science Made Simple (work shop) for all KS3. 3 workshops (P3-P5) HALL
Alumni Display				
12 January	13 January	14 January	15 January	16 January
Year 8 AMAZON – Think Big Mobile STEM workshop LRC	Year 8 Options Careers Coffee Morning (Parents) HALL	Careers Fair Day	Year 10 & 11 SEND trip to Uxbridge College (P1-P3) Offsite	TALK Geography with Katie Underwood & Hannah Alchibini- Alumni Year 8: P1 Year 9-11: P2 HALL
Women in Engineering workshop (Year 9&10) Offsite SCS Railways Acton	6 th Form Taster Day (Year 11)	P1 – Year 10 P2 – Year 11 P3 – Year 8 P4 – Year 9 P5 – Year 7	Year 10 Maths Talk "Mathematics, Creativity and Confidence" (P4&5) HALL	Year 11 IAG session (P4) Year 11 Mock results (P5) Hall
SEND Careers lunch	Year 9-11 Careers in Hospitality Talk Stephen Travis (P4)	Insight workshops & Speed networking (Year 10 & 11: P3-P5)		

*Blue – new events for this year / *Red TBC

Events taking place across the whole fortnight:

- 'Step into the NHS Competition'
- Careers focused PSHE Lessons across ALL year groups
- Subject department participation in careers events across the fortnight through displays, homework tasks, guest speakers, careers activities / competitions in lesson
- Year 8 Taster lessons for all option subjects

Swakeleys at Westminster Abbey

On Friday 5th December I was privileged to attend the Royal Carol service at Westminster Abbey hosted by the Princess of Wales. Karen Gray, our Place2be Lead, and myself were invited to attend this beautiful candlelit service as representatives of our school in recognition of the wonderful work that Place2be does in supporting mental health in the Swakeleys community.

We were treated to readings by Chiwetel Ejiofor, Kate Winslet and Joe Locke and some wonderful vocal and dance performances. The focus of the event was kindness, and showing love to others. It was a magical occasion and we sat surrounded by many people who have supported their communities, living our value of kindness in so many wonderful ways. The concert will be televised on Christmas Eve.

We are proud to be a Place2be School and to offer a full range of services for students seeking support with mental health. It was an special experience to be surrounded by so many kind individuals who have given so much to others. The Princess of Wales summed this up in her Christmas message when she said it was a "moment of collective togetherness, a chance to celebrate the spirit of community and service."

Mrs G Hare, Deputy Headteacher



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NEWSLETTER

Reading Corner

Readers are leaders!

Hello again from Reading Corner, where we update you about what we are doing to support all forms of reading here at Swakeleys!



As part of our programme to encourage reading for pleasure, please see the links below that will take you to some age appropriate and diverse reading lists for your child. Selecting some books from these lists will support your child in developing their reading skills, as well as strengthening their love of reading. Hopefully the holidays will offer a bit more time to get started!

[Year 7](#)

[Year 8](#)

[Year 9](#)

[Year 10 & 11](#)

[Diverse Reading List](#)

Statistics show that reading regularly, either fiction or non-fiction, can have a dramatic impact on the attainment and well-being of individuals, so we are very keen to encourage our students to read regularly and widely. The reading agency has completed much research into these benefits and there is more information on the website to underpin this claim.

Below is the link to their website if you would like more information.

<https://readingagency.org.uk/>

Miss Parker has recently recruited paired readers from years 10 and 12 to support other pupils and help them improve

It is a wonderful opportunity to 'give back' to our Swakeleys community, and really does encourage pupils to support one other.

We hope you enjoyed this Autumn term 'Reading Corner' slot. Please look out for more information about reading in the next edition!

Ms V Pimbert, Assistant Headteacher

Music Mark of Recognition

We are very proud to announce that we have been awarded the school Music Mark status for Dedication and Improvement.

The award from Hillingdon Music Service is given in recognition of the school's dedication to creating progressive and effective music education in our school.

Congratulations to the Performing Arts Department!



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NEWSLETTER

Winter Bazaar

This term, our school community came together for our annual Winter Bazaar; an evening filled with festive stalls, games, treats, music and plenty of seasonal cheer. Students, families and staff all played a part in creating a joyful atmosphere, and it was wonderful to see so many of you joining in, exploring the stalls and supporting the event.

After finalising the details, we're delighted to share the results.



Thanks to your incredible support, we raised £4,632.25, with expenditure of £2,440.24, giving us a fantastic profit of **£2,192.01!**

We're even more pleased to say that this profit will go to three charities chosen by our student committee: Save the Children, RSPCA, and WWF.



We have shared these results with students and families so we can all celebrate the positive impact we've made together.

A huge thank you to all families and students who attended, took part and contributed to the success of the evening. Your participation made the event truly special.

Here are the house points collected through stall sales on the night:

- EB/AF – 100 points
- FN/MC – 80 points
- MY/RP – 60 points
- JA/DS – 40 points



Congratulations to Houses EB and AF for collecting the most tokens!

Thank you once again for making this year's Winter Bazaar such a memorable success. We look forward to welcoming you back for an even bigger and more exciting event next year!



Warm wishes, Miss G Gowrikanthan



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NEWSLETTER

Performing Arts

Winter Showcase

Our Winter Showcase event took place on Thursday 11th December. Students across Years 7-13 from both clubs and GCSE classes performed fabulously showcasing their acting, dance and musicianship skills!



Miss C Coking, Curriculum Leader Performing Arts



NEWSLETTER

PE Update

Inter-house Sport – Netball and Football

This term's inter-house sports competition brought together students from Years 7 - 10 in which high levels of teamwork, friendly rivalry, and house pride were shown. Congratulations to all who took part and who showcased great skill, determination and sportsmanship which created a very enjoyable atmosphere. A big thank you to our Year 9 and 10 sports leaders who did a fantastic job umpiring the netball and football matches to ensure it was a fair competition.

Year 7 overall winners	FN
Year 8 overall winners	RP
Year 9 netball winners	AF
Year 10 netball winners	EB
Team of the competition	9EB netball

A few photos from the competition:



Y8 Netball (1st DS, 2nd RP, 3rd MC)



Y9 EB vs JA Netball



Y8 RP vs JA Football

Borough Cross Country

The Borough Cross Country Championships took place on the 9th December, bringing together schools from across Hillingdon for a challenging and exciting day of competition with over a 100 runners in each category. Our school teams performed exceptionally well, showing determination, endurance, and true sporting spirit throughout the event.



We still await the results of the team competitions but a huge congratulations to Edey (11EB) who won the individual senior girls event and will progress onto the next stage, The Middlesex Cross Country Championships.



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NEWSLETTER

PE Update

Borough Netball

The borough netball league is now well under way, with all year groups proudly representing the school in their first league matches of the season. The teams have shown great commitment, teamwork, and determination as they take on schools from across the borough. A huge congratulations to our new Year 7 team, who made an outstanding start to their league campaign with a convincing win in their first match. It's fantastic to have two teams representing Swakeleys in competitive matches in the borough for Year 7 and 8. Well done to all our netballers—keep up the great work!



Y7 vs Vyners: Win

Player of the match, Demi (7MC)

Players player of the match, Maryam (7MY)

Y9 vs Vyners: Loss

Player of the match, Ella (9JA)

Players player of the match, Chloe (9AF)



Y7A vs Bishophault A: Loss

Player of the match, Chloe (7FN)

Y7B vs Bishophault B: Loss

Player of the match, Aatikah (7JA)



Y7A vs Bishophault A: Loss

Player of the match, Chloe (7FN)

Y7B vs Bishophault B: Loss

Player of the match, Aatikah (7JA)



A special mention to the year 10 netball team who competed in the borough tournament this month. The team showed excellent resilience and team work against tough opponents and their performances improved as the tournament progressed.

Player of the tournament, Bethany (10MY)

Players player of the tournament, Sofiyah (10EB)

Mrs K Peace Curriculum Leader PE



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NEWSLETTER

Business Enterprise Event

Winter Bazaar

Y11 student helpers: Bahar, Janisha, Sade, Samreet, Amna, Sanuga, Leanne, Risha, Ahana, Janusha.

Team 1 - Bracelets

Coming up with the idea of charm bracelets was fantastic! We provided personalised bracelets with customisable charms. We completely sold out in 1 hour. This experience has allowed us to develop our teamwork skills, improve our communication and allowed us to be creative. (Team leaders: Salma, Samira, Zaina, Jasmine).



Team 2 - Every day goodies

At this year's Winter Bazaar, we created and sold our own goodie bags with spoolies and hair clips. The project gave us the chance to use a range of skills, from planning and designing our bags to organising our stall and managing our time effectively. We also developed our communication skills by interacting with customers, answering questions, and confidently promoting our goods. Working together strengthened our teamwork and problem solving skills, especially as we prepared everything in a short amount of time. Seeing people enjoy what we made was such a rewarding moment. (Team leaders: Suman, Abigail)



Team 3 - Christmas goodie bag

Our group created a festive goodie bag, containing fun miniature toys, which bring extreme joy to both kids and adults faces! The bags being Christmas MYSTERY goodie bags, enhanced extreme interest in purchasing what we were selling. We managed to sell out completely in less than 25 minutes! This experience has allowed us to be creative and taught us teamwork skills. We really enjoyed this experience! (Team leaders: Thilaksha, Mathuska)



Team 4: Bath bombs

At this year's winter bazaar, we repackaged and sold a variety of different scented bath bombs, of varying colours wrapped in luxurious Christmas wrapping. They took around 3 days to fully wrap and tie them with the cold ribbon for added decoration. We managed to sell each and every one by the end with very satisfied customers. During this experience we learned teamwork skills and how to communicate with customers. We really enjoyed our experience. (Team leaders: Jayah and Diana).

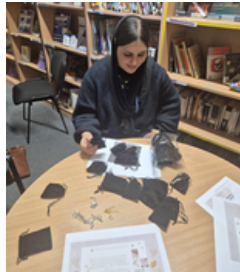


NEWSLETTER

Business Enterprise Event

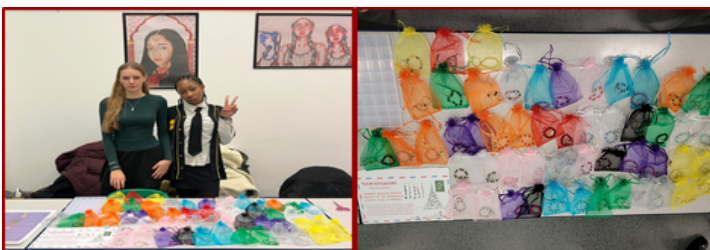
Team 5: Necklaces

I took charge of leading the necklaces stall at the Winter Bazaar. I set up stalls, arranged merchandise, and engaged with shoppers. From flower pendant necklaces to planet pendant necklaces. I have learnt creativity and independence. I sold out in 30 minutes and my stall was very successful. (Team leader: Sarah N)



Team 6: Keychains

For our business enterprise winter bazaar we organised a stand selling DIY multipurpose beaded keychains (which you could attach to your bags, lanyards or pencil cases). These were handmade over the course of a few weeks. We made matching sets which you could buy for 4 tokens and you could have bought singular ones for 3 tokens. Hence there was an amazing deal for the matching sets for you and your besties. Towards the end of the evening we put a sale on all our products to maximise our sales revenue. The matching ones were made in the same colour beads but of varying metals (silver charm beads and the gold). We put them into the bags of matching colours and styles to make them more attractive. We showed amazing communication skills between the customer and us [sellers]. We sold out which we were incredibly happy about. (Team leaders: Tyarah and Ksenija)



Overview of enterprise event:

Every team's stall at the Winter Bazaar sold out. The event proved to be a great success, generating a total revenue of £428.13. After covering costs, the total profit amounted to £246.91. The impressive sales figures reflected the hard work and creativity of the students, as well as the high demand for their unique, festive offerings. The funds raised will go towards supporting charities: Save the children, RSPCA and WWF, making the event not only a fun and festive experience but also a valuable contribution to charities and to the school community. Everyone that took part was truly grateful for all the support and encouragement that they received throughout the event and for the opportunity to learn so much throughout the process.

Mrs A Arnold Curriculum Leader Business Studies

Therapy Dog - Bella

Dr Laxton and the SEND team would like to officially welcome its newest member, Bella, our therapy dog.



Bella will be visiting the school for sessions with some students starting in December and throughout the rest of the year. She is a four year old golden retriever and fully qualified therapy dog, who also happens to belong to Mrs Needham, one of our TAs.

We are looking forward to welcoming her into the school and the benefits she will bring to our students (and staff!).



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NEWSLETTER

Update from London Borough of Hillingdon

Bookings Now Open for Hillingdon's Winter HAF Programme



Hillingdon Council are delighted to announce that bookings are now open for Hillingdon's Winter 2025/26 Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme.

This funded programme is available to school-aged children from Reception to Year 11 who are eligible for benefits-related free school meals. Discretionary places may also be available for vulnerable children who do not meet the Free School Meal criteria. Professionals can request these places by completing our online form:

Discretionary Place Request Form

Children and young people can enjoy:

- Healthy meals every day
- Fun, creative, and physical activities
- Food, cooking, and nutrition activities
- Opportunities to learn new skills and make friends

This winter's activities include:

- Sports sessions
 - Creative arts programmes
 - Multi-activity camps
 - STEM workshops
 - SEND-friendly activity camps
- ...and much more!

Full details, including how to book and provider contact information, can be found at:

www.hillingdon.gov.uk/haf-programme

If you need help or have any questions, you can contact us via:

Email: hafprogramme@hillington.gov.uk

Phone: 01895 277881

Education & SEND Parent Event

We are excited to announce the Education & SEND Parent Event taking place on:

Date: Monday, 26 January 2026

Time: 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Venue: Civic Centre, Uxbridge

This event is a fantastic opportunity for parents and carers to:

- Hear from key services including SEND Advisory Team, Children's Integrated Therapies, SENDIASS, Parent Carer Forum, Local Offer, Family Hubs, and more.
- Access valuable information and support around SEND and education.

Spaces are limited and will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

Parents can register using the link below:

[Register Here](#)



SAVE THE DATE! 

Education & SEND

Parent Event 26th January 2026

10.00am - 2.00pm
Civic Centre Uxbridge

Come hear from:

- SEND Advisory Team
- Children's Integrated Therapies
- SENDIASS
- Parent Carer Forum
- Local Offer
- Family Hubs

Don't miss out on this exciting event! Spaces are limited and will be offered on a first-come, first-served basis. Reserve your place today by completing the form below.

And much more...

Register Now: [Click Here](#)

Registration for the SEND & Education Parent Event



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NEWSLETTER

Update from London Borough of Hillingdon

Government launches national conversation on SEND

Government acts on commitment to make sure parents play a central role in helping shape the future Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) system, as it sets ambition to deliver the biggest national conversation on SEND in a generation.

[Government launches national conversation on SEND - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-launches-national-conversation-on-send)

There are several ways to get involved:

- Sign up to attend a regional engagement event [here](#).
- Sign up to attend an online event [here](#).

Hillingdon Libraries World Book Day Festival 2026

To celebrate World Book Day and the National Year of Reading, Nathanael Lessore will be doing a virtual session for KS3 students.

See poster below for more details and how to book your free spaces.



HILLINGDON LIBRARIES
WORLD BOOK DAY FESTIVAL

NATHANAEL LESSORE

Virtual Session
Tuesday 24 February 2026
2.00pm to 2.45pm

Join Nathanael Lessore to chat about his timely and widely acclaimed novel **What Happens Online**. The novel is a big-hearted tale of one awkward teenager's split life between reality and the internet.

Nathanael writes diverse characters and uses his south-east London childhood in a positive light. All three of his books for children and young adults are award-winning.

Suitable for: Yr6 / KS3

For more information and to book your free space, please email: gday@hillingsdon.gov.uk

WHAT HAPPENS ONLINE
NATHANAEL LESSORE

Missed their school flu vaccination? There's still time to protect your child this winter

Flu cases are rising locally and can be more serious during this cold weather. The NHS is reminding parents that the free NHS flu vaccine is still available to school-aged children. Flu is often unpleasant illness for children but it can also have much



more serious symptoms such as high fever, coughs, aches, and in some cases complications like pneumonia or ear infections.

Children do not build up natural immunity to flu and the viruses change every year, which is why children need one very year. The nasal spray vaccination is the safe and effective way to ensure they have the protection they need. Vaccination doesn't just protect your child - it helps keep the whole community safe. By being vaccinated, children are less likely to pass flu on to those who are more likely to become seriously ill from the virus.

There will be another opportunity for your child to have their vaccination at school, so look out for their consent form. If they do miss out, you can book a catch-up at: www.schoolvaccination.uk/catch-up-clinics

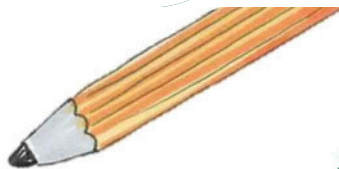
Other groups are eligible too, including people over 65 and those with certain health conditions. To find out more you can visit: www.nwlondonicb.nhs.uk/fluCOVID

If you have any questions or concerns, talk to your GP or local pharmacist.

NEWSLETTER

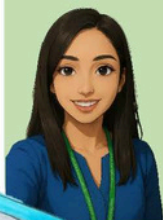


Maths Newsletter

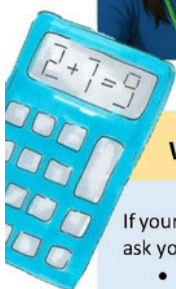


Spring Term – January 2026

NOTE FROM THE TEACHER



Dear Parents and Guardians,
Happy New Year! I hope you and your families enjoyed a restful and joyful break over the holidays. As we begin a new term, I want to take a moment to thank you for your continued support in your child's learning journey in maths. Through this newsletter, I hope to share practical ideas and resources to help your child build confidence in maths at home. By working together, we can help every child feel motivated and successful in their learning. Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter, and please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions. Best wishes, Mrs G Kang.



WHAT TO DO WHEN YOUR CHILD IS STUCK?

If your child is stuck on their homework or a maths problem, perhaps ask your child some of the following questions:

- "What do you know already?"
- "What are the keywords in the question?" If this is printed out, "Have you highlighted or underlined the keywords?"
- "Where's your maths book? Have you checked your notes?"
- "Can you show me the part where it started to feel tricky?"

When children talk about a maths problem with someone else – whether it's a classmate, teacher or parent – it helps to build shared understanding and confidence in their reasoning. Through discussion, they learn to explain their thinking, spot connections they might have missed, learn from others and make sense of ideas together.

If you know the answer, I would suggest guiding your child to the solution, as this will encourage their thought process to work out problems independently. If you do not know the answer, try watching a video. For example, SPARX Maths have 'support videos' associated to each question. I would suggest watching the video together and collaborating thoughts to find the solution. Please don't feel discouraged if the solution cannot be found, some questions can be very tricky. At this point, please ask your child to seek help from their maths teacher. Afterwards, allow them to explain the solution to you to reinforce their understanding.

Building good habits is a gradual process that takes patience and time. With your support, your child can grow into an excellent problem solver and brilliant mathematician – and they will also come to appreciate and feel grateful for your guidance.

ASSESSMENT DATES

Year 8
25 th February
Year 9
w/c 19 th January
Year 10
w/c 12 th January
Year 11
w/c 2 nd February

SPARX SHOUTOUTS

1	Elizabeth 9JA
2	Thisharaa 7AF
3	Prabhanjana 9DS

At the time of writing, congratulations to the highest XP earners on SPARX Maths!



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NEWSLETTER

Term Dates 2025-26

End of term:	Friday 19 th December 2025 (half day)
Spring term:	
Term starts:	Monday 5 th January 2026
Half term:	Monday 16 th – Friday 20 th February 2026
End of term:	Friday 27 th March 2026 (half day)
Summer term:	
	Monday 13 th April (training day)
Term starts:	Tuesday 14 th April 2026
Bank Holiday	Monday 4 th May 2026
Half term:	Monday 25 th – Friday 29 th May 2026
End of term:	Friday 17 th July 2026 (half day)

[Click here to view the 2026-2027 Term Dates](#)



783



822



796



779



1008



911



939



857

