

October 2024

Swakeleys School for Girls

Newsletter

Dear Families,

We have had a fantastic start to the academic year at Swakeleys and I very much hope that your child/ren have enjoyed their learning this half term. A reminder that curriculum guides are available for Year 7 and Year 9 on our website so you can talk to your child/ren about what they have been learning about. If your child/ren are anything like mine it can be a challenge to get any information out of them about their day - apart from the usual answer of "it was fine". Hopefully being able to ask specific questions about their lessons will be more fruitful!

A link to these curriculum guides can be found below:

Year 7 <https://swakeleys.hillingdon.sch.uk/curriculum/curriculum-guides-year-7-2024/>

Year 9 <https://swakeleys.hillingdon.sch.uk/curriculum/curriculum-guide-year-9/>

As usual at this time of year we have visited all English, Science and Maths lessons and were delighted to see many strengths of the teachers and learners in those departments. As a teaching staff we have been focusing on "review and retrieval" this half term - the Science of learning tells us that repeated retrieval of information from our long term memory cements neural connections - this is what learning is. The more often we challenge our brains to recall information the more likely it is that we will remember it.

As always there have been so many activities on offer - from Art and Photography trips to house baking competition, music evenings and extra curricular activities. I am a great believer that the more you put in the more you get out and it's wonderful to see that 60% of Year 7 students are involved in extra curricular activities enabling them to have fun, make friends and develop their character and culture.

Thank you to all those parents who attended parent events over the past half term - for sixth form, Year 7 and Year 8. On Thursday 7th November we look forward to seeing families of Year 9 and 10 students in school from 5.30pm. Half term is upon us. I hope that you have a restful time with your family and I look forward to welcoming your child/ren back at normal time on Monday 4th November.

Yours faithfully



Kelda Stevenson
Headteacher



Teacher of the Month

September

Mrs Hayes
Mrs Yates

Support Staff of the Month

September

Mrs Wilkes
Mrs Dinis



Swakeleys School for Girls

Swakeleys partners with The Felix Project to pilot a surplus food redistribution event at school this half term.



This half term we are proud to partner with the Felix Project <https://thefelixproject.org/>, a London based food redistribution charity, to support the expansion of their delivery areas into Hillingdon. We invite you to drop in to school between **10am-12pm** on **Tuesday 29th October** to take some free food home.

The Felix Project takes surplus food from supermarkets, that is near to its use by date, and drops it off at local community hubs i.e. the school. Any families who can make use of the food and want to help reduce food waste are welcome to come to the school on the day of delivery for food. Please bring your own shopping bags/boxes. Further details below:

When: Tuesday 29th October. Food can be collected between 10am-12pm on that day.

What: Depends on what stock is surplus but usually includes: fresh fruit and veg, chilled food with a use by date of the same date, dried goods with a short shelf life.

How will it work?: Open to all on a first come, first served basis. People should bring shopping bags and are able to help themselves to what they need for themselves and their families.

How much food can we take?: As we don't know exact quantities and contents, we can't pre-allocate. We ask that people take what they feel they can use and be considerate to others.

Do I need to register?: Ideally yes. You can turn up on the day, but it would be helpful for planning if you could email office@swakeleys.org.uk to let us know if you intend to come so we can try and make sure nobody leaves empty handed – or that we don't have lots left over.

Do I have to pay?: No, it's completely free.

Can I come on a different day?: No, unfortunately we have to agree that we will distribute the food on the same morning as a condition of being accepted as an approved community partner, so you can only come at the advertised times.

Can people from outside Swakeleys come?: At the moment, we would like to prioritise our own families, so are restricting the offer to Swakeleys families only.

Will this be a regular thing?: We will confirm if we will repeat this after trialling the event in October. The Felix Project will also need to be satisfied that we are a good partner.

Will food be Halal?: We don't know what food we will get so cannot confirm this (as food is whatever is surplus or near its use by date from the supermarkets), but a good portion of the food should be fruit, vegetables and dry/canned goods, therefore suitable for a halal diet. It will be your responsibility to check the packaging for any dietary requirements. This also includes for any allergies. The school takes no responsibility for guaranteeing against any allergies and any food you take is at your own risk.

Is the food good quality and safe?: Yes the food is transported in purpose made chilled vans and stored at correct temperatures whilst at school. It comes from reputable supermarkets (predominantly Ocado). The Felix Project take food safety very seriously and the school has had to qualify before being accepted onto the programme.

Will the food be cooked: No, you will have to cook the food yourself.

Will we be able to get in to school: Yes we will open the school gate and set up the food crates at the front of the school.

Can I come into the school for any other reason: No, the school is closed for half term, the only reason for coming should be to collect food.

More information can be found on their website: <https://thefelixproject.org/>



Swakeleys School for Girls

Free courses for parents

We are delighted that we are now able to give parents/carers access to a wealth of free courses via The National College. These courses include certificates in online safety for parents, as well as short courses for parents on some of the major online platforms used by teens. To sign up visit <https://v2.nationalcollege.com/enrol/swakeleys-school-for-girls> and enrol as a parent/carer.

Recommended courses for the Autumn Term

Annual; Award in Online Safety for Parents and Carers

What parents and educators need to know about TikTok

What parents and educators need to know about Roblox

Attendance

We are delighted that our attendance continues to be well above the national average. Thank you for encouraging your children to be in school every day. As cold and cough season approaches please remember that we are able to store medication for your child in welfare. This includes pharmacy bought products and painkillers. Please hand it in along with the medication form from the website to welfare. The form can be found at <https://swakeleys.hillingdon.sch.uk/about-us/pastoral-information/>. We really want to support attendance. If your child says they are too unwell to attend please ask the following questions.

- Do they have a high temperature?
- Have they been sick?
- Do they have an upset tummy?
- Do they have a positive covid test?

If a pupil is very unwell at school we will contact you.

To notify us of any absences please email attendance@swakeleys.org.uk. This includes any appointments. We acknowledge that some medical appointments may have to take place during the school day, but please do not make routine appointments in school time.

A reminder that travel abroad should be made during the school holidays.



Staff Spotlight

Mrs Venner is our Family Liaison Officer. Her role in school is to work closely with families. She can advise parents on services available within the school and more widely in Hillingdon, to support parents and family life. Mrs Venner is also part of the team who carry out home visits when required.

Attendance Focus—Students Perspective

Since September my attendance has been 100%, which is a massive improvement in comparison to last year. Due to the fact this is my last year of secondary school, having my GCSE exams and additionally having an attendance mentor, I've been pushed to achieve this.

I wouldn't have thought this would help me so much but it has. In school I'm not having to catch up on any lessons I had previously missed. I've not been confused in lessons either, with the lack of confusion I feel so committed and more focused in all aspects. If you ever feel as though you could be attending school when you aren't then I really advise you to as it's so beneficial.

As well as intrinsic awards like faster progression in lessons I've also been awarded extrinsically. For example I've achieved a distinction and so many merits- because you get 5 every week for 100% attendance. Teachers have also congratulated me for this, although it's only been half a term, this really motivates me to stay in school. **Sadie R**





Swakeleys School for Girls

Hillingdon Hospital Art Community Project

Sanvi S 9RP, Akshruthi S 9RP, Arlene T 10FN and Theodora D 10MY, created amazing A3 collages for Hillingdon Hospital - Children's Pediatric Department, in the summer term of last academic year. We are eagerly waiting to be sent photos of the work framed and up on the walls of the hospital. Well done and a big thank you ladies!!!



Performing Arts

Swakeleys Performing Arts Department hosted their first event of the year on Monday 14th October; Music Evening. The evening was a resounding success, celebrating the diverse talents of our students and fostering a sense of community. The hard work and passion of everyone involved were evident, and it was a joy to witness such a range of performances. We look forward to sharing more of our students' hard work and talent at future events! Save the date; Winter Showcase on 12th December!





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Music Achievements

Performing Arts staff would like to congratulate the following on their recent Music Examinations:



Shruthi M – Grade 4 Singing
 Lucy A-W –Grade 3 Singing
 Uma D – Grade 8 Singing
 Uma D - Grade 7 Cello
 Keerththana N – Grade 2 Piano
 Megan S – Grade 4 Piano
 Malika M – Grade 3 Piano
 Claire G - Grade 7 Flute



MFL

The Modern Foreign Languages department ran a poster competition for Year 7s on the importance of learning languages. There were several entries and all the pupils who took part will be awarded merits. The entries were of such a high standard that we couldn't decide on a single winner.

So, we awarded prizes to: Elodie O-M, Sahana M and Seerat G from 7EB.

They will also receive a Headteacher's distinction.

Well done, girls!

Geography



GEOGRAPHY AWARENESS WEEK

Want to win a prize?
 Find the trivia question in your form briefing notes.
 Write your answer on the answer card outside of Hums office.
 Hand in to Ms Patel for a chance to be a winner.

JOIN US IN CELEBRATING GEOGRAPHY AWARENESS WEEK
 TO UNCOVER THE BOUNDLESS WONDER OF OUR WORLD,
 AND RECOGNISE THAT EVERY STEP WE TAKE, EVERY PLACE
 WE VISIT AND EVERY CHALLENGE WE FACE IS
 INTERCONNECTED THROUGH GEOGRAPHY.

DAY 1: MONDAY
18TH NOVEMBER

PARTICIPATE IN A
 GEOGRAPHY HUNT
 AROUND SCHOOL!

DAY 2: TUESDAY 19TH
NOVEMBER

GET YOUR CREATIVE
 BOOTS ON AND JOIN
 US IN CREATING
 FLAGS!

DAY 3: WEDNESDAY 20TH
NOVEMBER

BE QUICK ON THE SPOT
 TO GUESS WHAT IT IS,
 WHERE IS IT AND WHO IS
 IT.



Swakeleys School for Girls

Young Geographer of the Year Competition 2024

**Royal
Geographical
Society**
with IBG
Advancing geography
and geographical learning

Kindly supported by

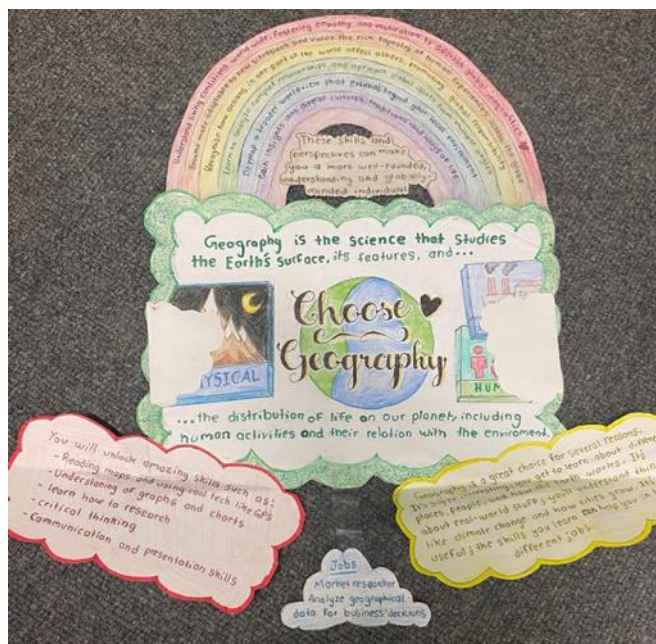
Geographical

The theme for the Young Geographer of the Year competition 2024 is:

Choose Geography



This year, the Swakeley's geography department were lucky enough to have 19 students across years 7-10 enter the Royal Geographical Society's 'Young Geographer of the Year' competition. The theme of this year's competition was 'Choose Geography.' Students were required to produce a poster outlining the importance of choosing geography at school, in future study and in the workplace. They were required to link geographical skills to real people and jobs that make a difference. In a time where it has never been better or more important to study geography, our enthusiastic young geographers really took the time to reflect on the value of this subject and the relevance it will have to their lives in the future - as geographers work in a wide range of careers and employment sectors. Plus, they got to showcase which parts of geography they find most interesting to study and why!



We wait now to see if any of our budding geographers have made it as runner ups or winners in this nationwide competition – good luck to you!

Well done to the students who took part; some of their beautiful work can be seen here in the newsletter and also on the display board in Room 216 – come along and take a look and see why geography is the best subject!

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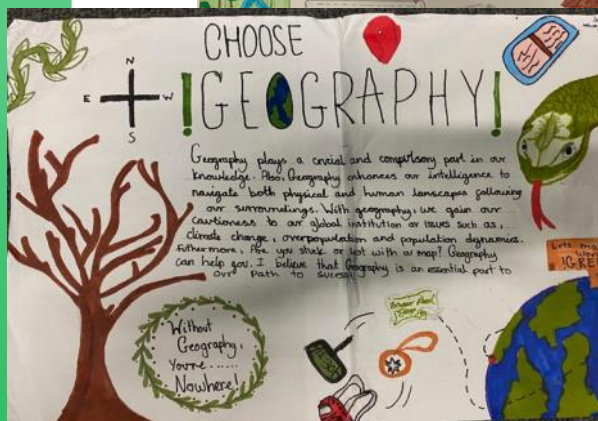
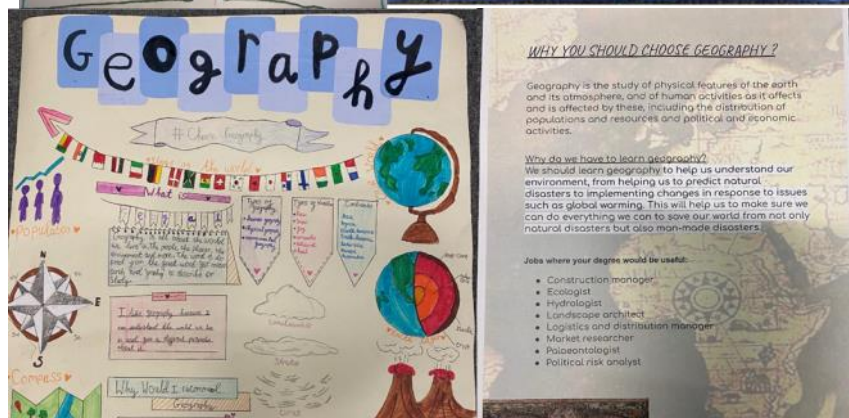
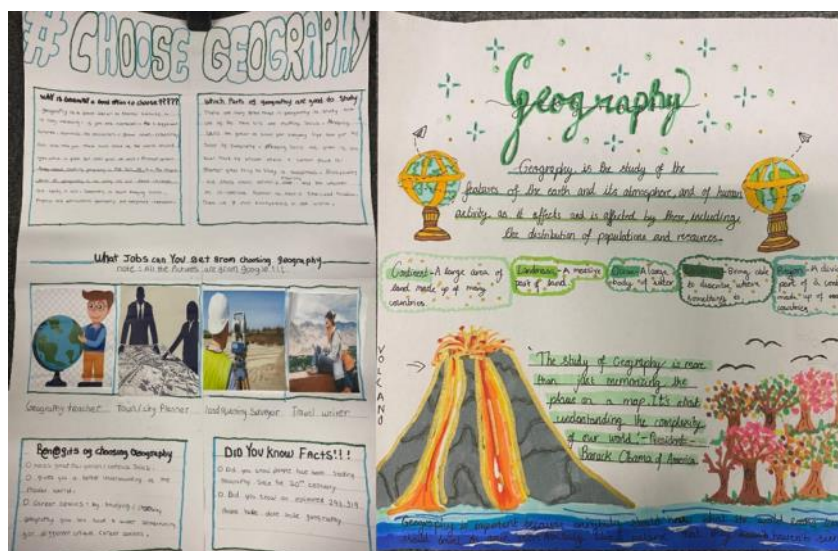
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Well done to our entrants for this year:

Nabeela A, 7DS
Feyza D, 7DS
Carmel W
Daania B, 7DS
Fatimah H, 7MC
Sanaya C, 7DS
Akshayaa P, 7MC
Chloe S, 7DS
Bluebell B, 7MC
Denisha D, 7JA

Rhea R, 7JA
Charvi V, 7EB
Hibba Mariam I, 7MY
Gia S, 7AF
Sabrina B, 8MC
Muskan P, 8RP
Anuj K, 10AF
Lalith Nirupamaa M, 10DS
Safiyah B, 10MC

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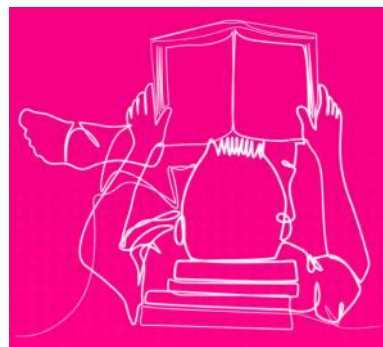
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Reading Corner

Readers are leaders!

As part of our programme to encourage reading for pleasure, you will have received reading lists and some information about the benefits of reading.

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 lots of 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/>

At the moment, Miss Parker is recruiting paired readers from years 10 and 12 to support other pupils and help them improve their reading. 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 the first 'Reading Corner' slot. Please look out for more information about reading in the next edition!

Year Learning Co-ordinator: Miss Allan

Year 7

Recent Events and Activities:

Year 7 Character & Culture and Team building Day

Hustings elections for Senator for years 8-13 which year 7 voted in

Form Tutor We Listen Day

Assemblies:

What does it look like to be a Swakeleys student?, How to have the best start in year 7

House Assembly, Black History Month, Character & Culture

Things to look forward to:

Year 7 Hustings week for Senator

Winter Bazaar 20th November

School Council

Attendance League winners being announced

Christmas Pantomime

FAB week



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Year Learning Co-ordinator: Ms Currell

Year 8

Recent Events/Activities:

Expectations & Rewards
Resilience
Hygiene

Assemblies:

Assemblies have been on expectations and rewards, resilience and hygiene. Upcoming assemblies will be on Black History Month and House assemblies.

Things to celebrate:

Year 8 have had an excellent start to the school year.
Year 8 Parental Engagement Evening was a great success. Information given out on the night was emailed out to all parents.
It was great to see so many year 8 pupils audition for the school musical!

Things to look forward to:

Half term break,
Options process begins
Winter Bazaar

Upcoming Key Dates:

Mon 4 th Nov	Return back after half term Introductory letter sent home regarding options
Thu 21 st , Fri 22 nd Nov	School closed to pupils for Inset
Mon 25 th Nov	Introductory Options assembly with Mrs Devereux
Wed 27 th Nov	Option course book issued to students
Mon 2 nd Dec	Taster sessions sign up
Wed 11 th Dec	Progress Check 1 emailed home
Wed 18 th Dec	Year Group Celebration Assembly

Year Learning Co-ordinator: Mrs Finnerty

Year 9

Assemblies:

Year 9 expectations, Year 9 option changes, Staying safe on public transport-delivered by our school SSO, Mental health matters, How to be organised and the importance of it in our lives. Black History Month

Things to celebrate:

Year 9 attendance so far this academic year is 93.9%. This is above the national average and we strive to reach 96%.
We have seen an increase in students in Year 9 attending Extra-Curricular clubs. Congratulations to our Year 9 Senators: Savannah Davidson 9AF and Siwar Alabdullah 9MY.
Positive feedback about the GCSE options that Year 9 students have recently started. Staff are very impressed with their classes!
We saw many Year 9's audition for Bussy Malone-good luck!

Things to look forward to:

Year 9 parental Engagement Evening: Thursday 7th October 2024.
You can confirm your attendance here: <https://forms.gle/xFK7ebuDSPi8FCv5>

School production: Bussy Malone!

Winter Bazaar: Wednesday 20th November.

Year group celebration assembly: Tuesday 17th December

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 9 team hope all of our Swakeleys families and friends have a lovely half term break. It has been a fantastic start back this academic year! We look forward to welcoming you back on Monday 4th November.



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Year Learning Co-ordinator: Mrs Khan

Year 10

Assemblies:

A fresh start, The important of community and clubs, A presentation from the Police: violence against women
Talent show

Things to celebrate:

Congratulations to our newly elected senators: Zineb Sallem and Alicia Djan!
Congratulations to our YLC stars of the week: Amira Naidoo, Hana Kajtazi, Advika Walia, Zinab Sallem
Congratulations to Lucy Crawley who has been scouted and has try outs next week for the U15 England National football team! - we wish her all the very best!!
Well done to Hana Kajtazi who sang in assembly!
Well done to all pupils who have auditioned for Bugsy Malone!
Well done to 10AF our best attending form this half term-**97.2%**!
Really useful form tutor 121 day!
Great start to year 10- well done all!

Things to look forward to

7th November Jack Petchey speak out challenge
Year 10 Parental Engagement Evening Thursday 7th November
Year 10 Parents' Evening Wednesday 27th November
12th December- Winter Showcase
Multiple daily clubs!

Year 11

Year Learning Co-ordinator: Miss Mejlounian

Recent Events and Activities:

Photo Day
Parental Engagement Evening
Off-site privileges
English and Maths – How to learn and revise
Kevin Hayes 'Y11 Learning to Learn Day'
Form tutor 1-2-1 day

Assemblies:

Assemblies have been on welcoming them back, attendance, careers, Black History Month and exams.
Upcoming assemblies will be on Careers from ASK and celebration.

Things to celebrate:

Year 11 have made an absolutely fantastic start to the year. They're showing real maturity and focus!
Attendance is looking positive for the year group. Attendance for year to date is 95.07%, well above national average.
We currently have 176 pupils with off-site privilege. This is down to pupil's excellent attendance and behaviour.
As part of the Character and Culture week we had a day where students came in for a 1-2-1 meeting with their form tutor which was extremely positive and beneficial for both the student and the form tutor.

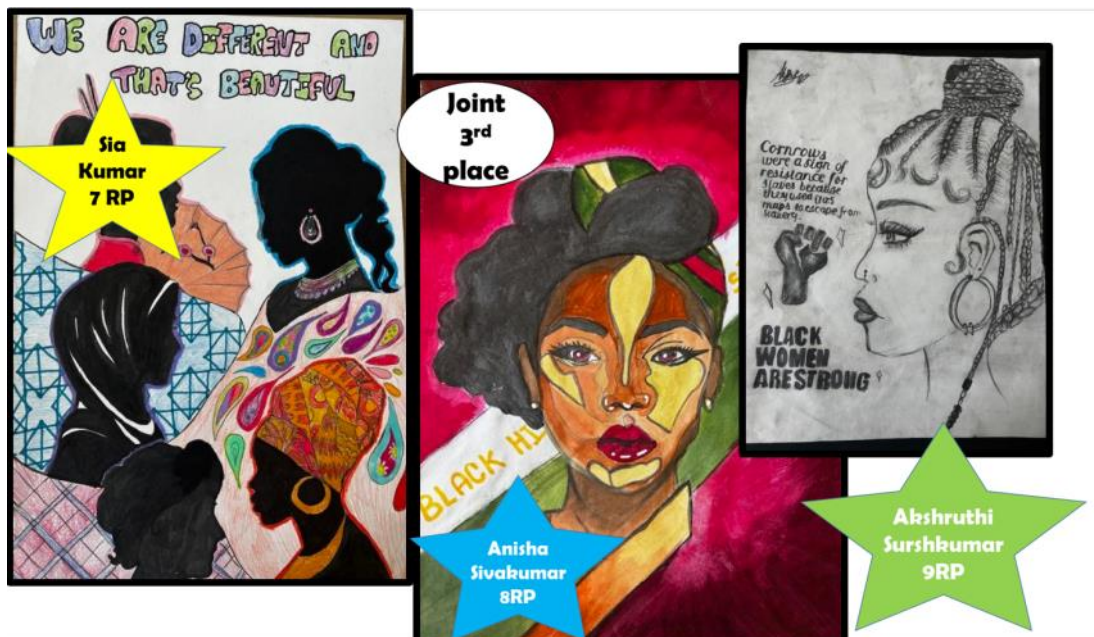
Things to look forward to

Wave exams – English Language and Maths
Mock exams



Black History Month Art Competition

Well done to all students who entered our Black History Month Art competition. There were some very talented entries which made choosing the winners a very difficult decision. Congratulations to all the winners listed below:





Swakeleys School for Girls

Term Dates 2024-25

Autumn Term:

Half term: Thursday 24th October – Friday 1st November 2024
 Monday 4th November (all students return to school)
 Thursday 21st November (**training day**)
 Friday 22nd November (**training day**)
 End of term: Friday 20th December 2024

Spring term:

Term starts: Monday 6th January 2025
 Half term: Monday 17th – Friday 21st February 2025
 End of term: Friday 4th April 2025

Summer term:

Term starts: Tuesday 22nd April 2025 (**training day**)
 Half term: Monday 26th – Friday 30th May 2025
 End of term: Friday 18th July 2025

Events

Thursday 14th November SEND Coffee Morning 9-10.30am.

Coffee morning for parents with daughters at Swakeleys School with Autism.
 More details to follow.



Polite Reminder for Parents

Please could we again remind parents to be considerate when dropping your children to school. We regularly receive complaints from the residents of Clifton Gardens and Pole Hill Road. Please could we ask parents to be considerate about where you stop to drop off your children and where you turn your car around as we have received complaints about parents blocking the road for other cars and buses.

Please consider the map (link below) for alternative locations to drop your child off in the mornings and where possible encourage them to walk.

<https://swakeleys.hillingdon.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Swakeleys-A4-Web-Map-v4.pdf>



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