



**Pupils return to school after third national 'lockdown'.
Great to have them back!
Over 3000 lateral flow tests carried out in our test centre!
Some fantastic work produced during 'lockdown'
House points from this term with term one banked
towards the final totals!**

- 
MY
 MALALA YOUSAFZAI
310
- 
MC
 MARIE CURIE
120/265
- 
EB
 ELIZABETH BLACKWELL
190/320
- 
FN
 FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE
345/170
- 
JA
 JANE AUSTEN
210/300
- 
AF
 ANNE FRANK
105/300
- 
RP
 ROSA PARKS
120/300
- 
DS
 DIANA SPENCER
490

From the Headteacher's Desk

Well, it has certainly been an eventful time since my last newsletter in December! We came back to school expecting to have pupils back in January and then heard that we were going into another National Lockdown with pupils and staff working from home again and exams cancelled for the second year running. It really has been a difficult time for all with COVID cases rising so rapidly and deaths reaching levels we really hoped we would not see. Thankfully, the vaccination roll out has gone well and things are looking more optimistic.

I am pleased to say that I think we did really well in lockdown 3 and were able to deliver much higher quality lessons and form time which helped to ensure better engagement amongst our pupils. We kept our programme for key worker children/vulnerable pupils going throughout, we sorted out vouchers for FSM pupils and we issued over 250 Chromebooks to help with home learning. We also followed up those who were not doing as well with their virtual learning.

On top of all this, we carried on with meetings, parents' evenings and sixth form interviews. Our Year 11 girls did fantastically well being interviewed via Zoom. I can honestly say that it was an absolute pleasure to talk to them and hear about their plans for the future.

We also set up our lateral flow testing centre in what used to be the maths block of our old school. More recently we had been using it as a Y11 café at lunchtime (see photos below). It proved to be the perfect location for our testing centre. Staffed by fully trained support staff and volunteers, we were able to test pupils and staff on site during the lockdown to reassure everyone. Since returning to school we have supervised testing of all year groups three times. We haven't had a single positive result and take up has been 88%. I really think this is a fantastic achievement and am very proud of those who have made it happen. Staff and pupils now have their own self test kits which they will use over the Easter break and from then on.

We are currently working extremely hard with Y11, 12 and 13 to determine their CAGs (Centre Assessed Grades). I am confident that we have a good process which is fair and which will allow all of our pupils to demonstrate what they have learnt and to achieve the grades they deserve. Y12 have an assessment week starting on Monday 19 April (staff training day) and Y13 have theirs starting on Monday 26 April.



We will be raising money for the mental health charity MIND on our last day of term which is a non-uniform day. Many thanks for your support over the Spring term. I hope that you all have a peaceful Easter break.

Sue Pryor (Headteacher)



Lockdown National Secondary School Video



During lockdown three of our talented musicians took part in a national lock down music recording with other talented school aged musicians. They were also joined with professional musicians from the Royal Opera House Covent Garden; English National Opera; Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra; Welsh National Opera, the John Wilson Orchestra and even the Stavanger Symphony Orchestra in Norway.

It was a brilliant project for our pupils to be involved in and that added incentive of performing with professional musicians (albeit virtually) helped to motivate them to do their recordings at home.

Congratulations to Neha (Y10), Sarah (Y10) and Claire (Y8) for taking part!

Careers news!

EtonX – Online CV Writing Course

The following girls have made great use of their lockdown time and have successfully completed the online course.

Sahabia Talukder
Jenankca
Pakeerathan
Chevonnjeet Dhillon
Laiba Saeed
Anisah Yusuf
Anushka Singh
Khushi Singh



Congratulations for demonstrating excellent skills in perseverance and self – motivation. I hope that you enjoyed completing the course.

We have over 80 pupils in Year 10 signed up to this opportunity, I look forward to many more completing the course over the coming weeks.

Mrs Laguillo

Virtual Work Experience

Salihah Haji 12X Child Care student

I was determined to get involved to get my placement and gain further work experience during the Covid-19 crisis. Especially at a time like now, it is important that we can keep engaged and involved with the community. After all, it is a great chance to make good use of the time we all have currently been through.

I came across an opportunity to do some virtual work experience with Surrey NHS Trust. As an aspiring health and care student, it was extremely appealing and I knew this was something I would enjoy. Also during this programme they cover: general practitioners, surgery, health professionals, clinical teachings and Paediatrics or Anaesthetics.

I was extremely interested in learning about new areas of medicine and coming across new terminology. After the course I have definitely gained a further understanding. Furthermore, it was fascinating to learn about the different rewards and challenges that various areas of medicine entail and particularly the effects it can have on the community. Overall I do recommend you this virtual work experience.

Virtual WEX Opportunities

I am so pleased to report that we have now had over 20 students participate in some type of virtual work experience activity! This is amazing, as I know just how competitive some of these opportunities can be. The applications range from experiences in Law, Teaching, Finance, Marketing, STEM, Journalism and Medicine. Congratulations to the following girls who have participated this term in a virtual experience opportunity.

Well done for enhancing your **employability skills** by attending these workshops. Mrs Laguillo

| | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| Amrit Bharat | Aleha Inayat |
| Ayesha Qazi | Sahabia Talukder |
| Farah Assi | Sitara Ahmadullah |
| Ikram Abdi | Lavanya Budhan |
| Kiran Haq | |
| Ojaasbini Lohani | |
| Megan Kaur | |
| Sebha Basra | |

#CodeLikeAGirl
Vodafone Work Experience



Current Affairs update—Farah Assi 10MC



Students in England have now all returned to school and whilst many have successfully adapted back into the school routine, others have found it more difficult. There is no doubt that some students across England, once hearing the confirmation of our return to school, felt excited, yet others may have understandably felt overwhelmed and anxious. Prime Minister (Boris Johnson) has now appointed Dr Alex George as a new Mental Health Ambassador and the government has pledged 79 million pounds to support youth mental health.

The death of Sarah Everard has been a recent event that demonstrates the dangers we still face in our society. As a result of this, the Government have resulted in enforcing “immediate steps” aimed at improving safety for women and girls. According to the BBC there is an additional ...“25 million pounds for better lighting, CCTV as well as a pilot scheme which would see plain-clothes officers in pubs and clubs.” Campaigners say that the ...“money is not enough and call for institutional changes.”

Some say that the vaccine rollout has been extremely successful due to the fact that half of UK adults have now received the first vaccine dose. On the other hand, one scientist who advises the Government has urged caution and said that the country is not “out of the woods yet.” This is due to the fact that across Europe, the numbers are steadily increasing which has previously correlated with numbers in the UK increasing. This same scientist also told Sky News that even though we are “not completely done with the virus, things are now headed in the right direction only slower.”

DofE in lockdown

At Swakeleys, we run a DofE Award programme for specific year groups. This is an award that is all about setting personal challenges and pushing personal boundaries which can improve students' self-esteem, test their resilience and build confidence.

Students in Y10 and Y12 have been completing their Duke of Edinburgh Award sections which focus on skills, physical and volunteering aspects. And they've been especially busy adapting these to suit lockdown! Some of the exciting things they've been up to are cooking new dishes for the family, learning to roller-blade, taking up running, knitting, hosting zoom sessions to help young children read, rubbish picking in their local area... and many more!

'As part of my DofE volunteering section, I have been volunteering at my local Cub Scout group, although this has mainly been on Zoom, it has given me great knowledge and skills to not only develop my communication skills but my 'thinking outside of the box' skills. Due to this mainly being on Zoom, finding activities that the children can do at home as part of the badge work has been different, but a nice challenge. It is so nice to see all the cubs faces once a week, when they tell me what they have been up to. Volunteering has allowed me to expand my knowledge and would definitely recommend.'

Y12 student Lily Thomson

UCAS update

Congratulations to our Year 13 students, who have received 400 UCAS offers from 77 universities throughout lockdown. A special mention for our successful applicants to Oxford, Cambridge and medicine, who had to complete their interviews online are now holding 10 offers between them. Good luck to all students with securing the grades they need for their apprenticeships, jobs and university places this summer!



London Youth Games

During lockdown Uma Daurka successfully entered and won the Most Valuable Player award for London Youth Games Dance tournament. She won this for her performance and video submission for the topic 'Bollywood'. Well deserved - congratulations Uma!

Bella Smith also successfully entered and won the Most Valuable Player award for the 'Latin' competition. Fabulous work - congratulations Bella!

Both students have won prizes from Nike. Fantastic to see Swakeleys' Dance students doing so well at the London Youth Games!

Year 9 Poems inspired by the study of the Conflict poetry Unit

Poppies, Poppies, and Poppies
What a beautiful sight, the deep
Rich red colour in the sky; anger, frustration,
Blood, and soon to follow death.

The signs of the time, the Dead is upon our living souls
Following us one by one,
The silent and harsh cries...
The terror as the Poppies flies,

The soldiers singing, joyful in their boots
Gunshots, wounds, and no more tears left to cry
One soldier down another next to follow
Poppies, Poppies, and Poppies left to fly

Row on row, tear on tear
The Poppies signify the bravery despair,
The sun has risen, dawn creeping up
The silent souls levitating up

Poppies, Poppies, and Poppies
Poppies that fly amongst the daring and heroic
Tick Tock Tick Tock
Now the Poppies that Fly, high in the sky
We wish you well,
no pain or tears,
just paradise that is near...
Shivani Dhamu

People gather in Trafalgar square
To celebrate those who fought and care
The poppies blow to make us remember
Those who made our world feel safe and
tender
England herself has reassured
The thousands who rest near her ford'
Mother nature has created life
Where hope was lost yet soldiers still fight
Down in the ground, 6 feet under
The soldiers are begging us to remember
Remember those who died for you
Remember those who loved their families too
Remember they did this to make us feel
Safe and secure near our parks and fields.

Isabelle O'Sullivan

Lovely Lockdown Work

Avista Yusuf PSHCE (right)

Amatullah Gonzales PSHCE
(below right)

Esha Gill PSHCE
(below left)



THANK
You!

It was quite an enjoyable
task.
I hope you are also having a
wonderful time and are making
space for relaxation in your busy
schedule! :)
More beautiful!

-Amatullah

UNIFORM

Please ensure that pupils are in the correct uniform including shoes by the start of the summer term. Please check the length and style of skirts and ensure that trousers are the correct fit.

- Plain black A-line or pleated school skirt; no more than 3 inches (8cms) above or below the knee. (Not clinging lycra or skirts with slits). For Year 7, 8 and 9 in 2020/21 there is a compulsory standard double pleat skirt available from W and S Sports.
- Plain black straight leg, loose fitting school trousers with no buckles/other fashion accessories or visible labels. No stretchy material. Not hipsters. For Year 7, 8 and 9 in 2020/21 there is a choice of two styles of uniform trouser that are compulsory and are available from W and S Sports.

Full uniform requirements and supplier details can be found at

<https://swakeleys.hillingdon.sch.uk/about-us/school-uniform>

Tuesday 20 April 2021

Monday 3 May 2021

Monday 31 May - Friday 4 June 2021

Summer Term begins for all pupils

Bank Holiday

Half Term