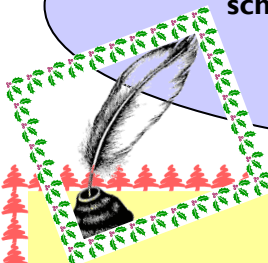


### Headlines

All pupils must do a lateral flow test before returning to school on Tuesday 4th January 2022. They will need to take a photo of the cartridge to show proof of a negative test or have a note in their link book.



### From the Headteacher's Desk

As a long first term draws to a close, we have much to reflect upon. We are pleased that we have managed a full term of teaching in school and have been able to get back to a sense of 'normality'. It was wonderful to see pupils performing music, dance and drama at our Winter Showcase event. Pupils from Y7-12 took part and the standard was superb. We were also able to host an Interfaith event with pupils from five secondary schools coming in to Swakeleys. On Tuesday, the whole of Year 7 went to the theatre to see the pantomime 'Dick Whittington' which I hear they enjoyed very much. It was also great to see over 500 pupils enjoying a Christmas dinner last week. We did this over two days as so many pupils wanted to have a Christmas lunch. Many thanks to all the staff who have been involved in all of these activities. Year 11 girls have been working hard in preparation for their mocks and Years 12 and 13 have been busy with university applications and preparation for January exams. A group of 60 Y10 pupils took part in the Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge which was of an incredibly high standard with the final yet to come.

We held our 6th Form Open Evening which was attended by almost all of our Year 11 girls. They listened to speeches in the hall and then had the opportunity to visit up to 8 taster subjects. For each subject they had a 5 minute presentation from the subject teacher and then 5 minutes from two students taking the subject to get a real insight into what it is like. Feedback has been extremely positive.

Year 8 have also started the process of choosing their options. They will sample GCSE style lessons in January. They will also have careers input to help inform them of which subjects are important in relation to which jobs.

We also had a fantastic interhouse competition with Y7 and 8 forms competing in football and netball and Y9 and 10 taking part in a netball competition. As the end of term approaches, we will be enjoying Christmas assemblies, and our non uniform day raising money for YoungMinds. Thank you all for your continued support and I wish you a Happy Christmas with very best wishes for the New Year!

**Sue Pryor (Headteacher)**

### Teacher of the month for November

**Miss Martin  
Miss Kinnane**

### Support staff of the month for November

**Mrs James  
Ms Ocakli**

### Sixth Form fundraising

The 6th Form prefects have organised two charity fundraising events that have raised over £300 this term. In October, students held their annual Halloween Dress Up Day for Cancer Research UK. In November, 6th Form students took on the staff at benchball in front of a packed Sports Hall to raise money for Great Ormond Street Hospital, with the staff team ending up as winners.

### University applications

Good luck to our Year 13 students who are making their applications to university this term. Students have applied to universities across the country in wide range of courses. We particularly wish good luck to those students who will be attending interviews at the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge and for medicine, nursing and teaching!





## Emotional wellbeing support

Further support can be found at  
<https://www.place2be.org.uk/>



The QR code can be used to  
take you to NHS support lines

**Place2Be** provides emotional and therapeutic services in primary and secondary schools, building young people's resilience through **talking, creative work and play.**

**Place2Talk** is here at break or lunchtime to support young people to think about any worries they might have.

Give it a try!

How: Email [place2be@swakeleys.org.uk](mailto:place2be@swakeleys.org.uk)

**What:** Book a 15 minute appointment with Ella

**When:** Break or lunchtime (Monday to Thursday)

**For:** Individual or small group session (up to 3 people)

**Where:** Counselling Room (Top Floor Sixth Form Building)

**shout:** text support service  
24/7 crisis text line

**Need urgent help?**



**Can't cope?**

Get free, confidential support in  
a crisis 24/7. **Text P2B to 85258**



FAQs answered at  
[place2be.org.uk/text](https://www.place2be.org.uk/text)



Text P2B to 85258

[www.giveusashout.org](https://www.giveusashout.org)

## The article below was written by one of our Year 11 students—Farah Assi

Recently a new Covid variant of the name “Omicron” that originated from Southern Africa, has made its way to the UK and is spreading rapidly. According to the Guardian one of the three most concerning pieces of data found about the new variant is the potential for it to “...erode the immunity afforded by vaccines.” This could mean that Covid vaccines already distributed will be less effective at stopping the transmission and the number of people with COVID in hospitals putting a strain upon the NHS. In response to this the government is putting in place more measures to reduce the spread and to make sure as many people as possible have their booster vaccinations.

Throughout the forthcoming weeks the House of Commons and Lords have been proposing new legislation that has now become part of UK law. The recent COP26 conference provided an opportunity for world leaders to discuss potential ways to combat the climate crisis (if it's not too late). What steps has the UK taken to improve the environment? On the 10<sup>th</sup> November the “World leading Environment Act” passed into UK law meaning that the Government will aim to clean up the country's air, restore natural habitats, increase biodiversity, reduce waste and make better use of our resources. It wants to encourage businesses to create more sustainable packaging, make household recycling easier and aim to stop the export of polluting waste to developing countries. These are just a few of the Government's aims. Let's hope they are not empty promises and that we see how much we can achieve by working on all of these things.

## Getting Involved In School Life

It has been wonderful to see clubs and activities start again this academic year. Please do talk to your child about how involved they are in school life.

### Some good questions to ask:

Are you attending any clubs/activities?

Did you participate in school council? Do you hold a position of responsibility? Have you played in a sports team/ participated in interhouse?

Have you gained any house points? What for? Have you earned any merits/ learning credits/distinctions? What for?

Do you have 96% attendance? Why is it important to strive for this?

What activities/workshops have you taken part in?

What have you been learning about in PSHCE?

Have you completed any careers activities and what have you learned from them?

What are **The Golden Rules** and how do you show you understand them every day?

## Performing Arts

### School Production 2021 - 2022



This year the Performing Arts Team will be putting on the production of "The Addams Family". This is a comical feast that embraces the wackiness in every family, features an original story and it's every father's nightmare: Wednesday Addams, the ultimate princess of darkness, has grown up and fallen in love with a sweet, smart young man from a respectable family– a man her parents have never met! Over 180 students turned up for auditions! It was great to see that students from Y7 – Y13 were keen and eager to get involved. The Performing Arts team were impressed with the high standard of dance drama and singing. A lot of talent within the school!

**Performance dates will be Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> February – please put these dates in your diary it is sure to be an event not to miss!**

Student report:

I really enjoyed our trip to see Wicked. We study "Defying Gravity" as a set work in GCSE Music. I loved seeing the actors up on stage passionately performing. The songs were amazing and I loved all of them. I saw them sing the song "I'm Not That Girl", which I performed for my GCSE Music Solo performance. It really helped me understand how to sing the song and how to put in the right emotions. I would definitely go again! 10/10



### Music Evening

On Monday 18<sup>th</sup> October twenty students from year 9 – 12 performed at the annual Music Evening to an audience of over a hundred people. This was the Performing Arts Department first event in over 18 months. It was a pure delight to see such a high standard of polished solo items. A big congratulations to all of those that participated!

**Music Exam Achievements** Congratulations to the following for their excellent results in Trinity private piano exams: Siene Meesiri and Ilayda Alla Grade 2 Piano. Alina Kadri - Grade 5 Piano

If you would like to learn an instrument please see Mrs Dennis for more information.



### Christmas Card Competition winners

Tyia Chandrakumar 10MC  
Charvi Natheeswaran 7RP



### Year 10 Enterprise -Baubleastic



### Attendance Updates

We know how important attendance is and put in many measures to support pupils. Staff will often speak to pupils about their absence, even in cases where they have been ill or off school for an authorised reason. Some pupils may receive regular attendance mentoring sessions for encouragement from our pastoral team. In the event of covid-related absence, pupils who are well enough should access work on google classroom to ensure continuity of learning. Pupils who are not experiencing Covid symptoms are encouraged to attend school and all pupils should aim for 96% attendance.

Group	% Attend	
Year 7	97.9	Excellent
Year 8	94.8	We would like this to improve
Year 9	94.2	We would like this to improve
Year 10	93.5	We would like this to improve
Year 11	96	Excellent

### Uniform Reminders

Coats must be navy blue/black with no large logos. Hoodies are not allowed. Coats and scarves must not be worn in the building.

Any pupil wearing a hijab or headscarf must secure it for health and safety reasons. They must be secured with a secure wrap, a knot or a safety pin/clip. Tossing it over one shoulder or wearing it completely loose is not secure. Ordinary pins are not allowed.

Any pupil who has a legitimate issue with a uniform item should bring a letter from home and see their YLC for a red card until the issue can be rectified.





## Interhouse

This term saw the start of interhouse sport with Y7&8 taking part in either a netball or football tournament and Y9&10 representing their house in a netball tournament. All competitions were extremely competitive and we saw an incredible display of sportsmanship across all competitions. A big shout out to the pupils representing 8JA in the netball competition and 8DS in the football competition who won every game - an amazing achievement. Both the year 9 and 10 competitions turned out to be equally successful with representatives from each form turning up to play in pretty chilly conditions. It was absolutely fantastic to see such a high quality of netball across both year groups.

### Overall results:

Y7: 1st - JA, 2nd - RP, 3rd - MY

Y8: 1st - JA, 2nd - DS, 3rd - FN

Y9: 1st - MC, 2nd - FN, 3rd - RP

Y10: 1st - EB, 2nd - MC, 3rd - FN

## Netball

Finally netball is back! After a year of no netball, it has been absolutely incredible to have years 7-10 back training and competing. The level of competition across all years has been absolutely outstanding, particularly with all years groups having not competed in over a year. A massive well done to all the girls who have shown a tremendous effort in training each week.



## Cross country

Last week saw the second cross country competition of the year, the cross country championship. Swakeleys had 16 competitors running in the junior, intermediate and senior races, all of whom put in extremely impressive performance in very frosty conditions. An extremely incredible performance from Edey Kestell, Summer Knight and Lucy Crawley finishing in 1st, 3rd and 4th respectively all running 2km in just under 9minutes 30seconds! We look forward to seeing how these girls will get on at the Middlesex Championship representing Hillingdon alongside Asmaa Abdirahman and Natalia Radomska who also qualified. A massive well done to everyone who took part.



## Monday lunchtime Netball club

Netball is a fun and enjoyable activity for Years 7-10 to do on Monday lunch time. This year we have been assisting Mrs Violet coach the Year 7s the basic netballs skills needed to be able to play the game. Year 8s have also started to come along recently and there are a number of Year 9 squad members too, so we all help with the basic skills at the beginning before we are organised in mixed ability teams.

If you don't know already, there are 7 players in a netball team and each week there have been enough players to have at least 3, sometimes 4 teams so that has been brilliant to see!

Joining in netball or any type of club here at Swakeleys helps you to learn new skills such as social skills, teamwork and discipline, which are all transferable skills in everyday life but the best thing about it in our opinion is you have fun and make new friends. So, if you haven't tried netball and want to come along, we'll see you at 12:30 in the Spring term.

Katie Card & Amelie Egan 10EB

## Spring Term starts

4th January 2022 (all pupils)

## Year 8 Parents' Evening

13th January 2022

## Year 11 Parents' Evening

19th January 2022

## Extra Bank Holiday

21st January 2022

## 6th form Parents' Evening

3rd February 2022

## Half Term

14th - 18th February 2022