

December 2022

## Swakeleys School for Girls

# Newsletter

Dear Everyone,

It has been an exciting half term at Swakeleys with so much for your child to be involved in! I'm sure you agree with me around the many benefits to students of attending trips. Trips enhance student understanding of what they learn in lessons and are also fun – creating lasting memories for our pupils. This term within the performing arts sphere students have seen "Women in Black", "Six" the musical and the "Bright Sparks Orchestral Concert". Focusing on student aspiration is an important part of our purpose at Swakeleys and to this end we encourage students to visit universities and this term we have had trips out to Oxford and Brunel Universities. We do appreciate that some of our trips come with a cost and thank you for supporting the school with this. Thank you also to the staff whose enthusiasm make these trips possible. There have been plenty of opportunities for pupils to display their PE talents with sporting tournaments, trips, climbing trips and we had group of pupils who did a fantastic job at supporting a primary PE tournament here in late November. The organiser of the tournament said "We had primary teachers making a point of telling us how good the student leaders were and thanking them for how well they dealt with their pupils".

Oracy and public speaking have many benefits including improving academic performance, they support wellbeing and confidence, to access employment and enable pupils to thrive in life beyond school (this information comes from a report by the Oracy All Party Parliamentary Group). Oracy is a big focus at Swakeleys where this term we have run the Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge for students in Year 10. Students had a workshop and then presented their speeches. ***It was amazing and really helped me to boost my confidence. It was such fun, I was so surprised that I got through and felt so much more confident.*** Alishba A, Year 10.

Oracy is also a big focus of student leadership at Swakeleys and this half term was my first experience of student council in action. The way that student leadership runs at Swakeleys is as follows: Each form group has a rep for one of the school council groups – teaching and learning, uniform/transport/canteen (UTC), environment, diversity, oracy, finance and public relations. They feed their views into the Swakeleys School Consultative Committee who elect a chair and the chair and I meet to discuss the issues that have been raised. On Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November representatives from all of the committees met in the main hall and talked through issues raised and then there was a debate – on this occasion the debate centred on plastic surgery. I was so impressed with the way that the students conducted themselves and with the quality of the discussion. The issues that students raised were discussed at our leadership group on the 29<sup>th</sup> November and we are already making headway with some of the ideas proposed by students.

Year 11 have had a busy half term with wave exams in English and Maths, mock exams in all other subjects and sixth form open evening. We already have over 100 applications for 6<sup>th</sup> form @Swakeleys. Year 11 parents evening takes place in January and we look forward to sharing positive news with parents at that point. Spring term is when parents evenings also take place for Year 8, 9 and Sixth form. We are using zoom and will send out all information at least 2 weeks in advance.

As I sign off we are putting the finishing touches to our Christmas Dinner and we hope that offering a halal and vegetarian option means that as many students as possible can join us. Can I thank you again for all of your support this term. I feel so lucky to be headteacher of this wonderful school and I wish you a very restful holiday with your family and friends.

**With best wishes for 2023,**



Kelda Stevenson



## Swakeleys School for Girls

Congratulations to Anushka in Year 12 who has been accepted onto the STEM Smart programme at Cambridge University. STEM SMART is a free, 17-month programme\* to support students in raising their attainment at school and develop their confidence to apply to study physical or biological sciences or engineering at top universities.



### Launch Trip to Oxford University



On Tuesday 1st November, 12 of our Year 9 & 10 pupils were fortunate to visit Oxford University as part of their launch trip of the Scholars Programme. It was a fantastic experience and we were delighted to bump into a former student currently studying at Wadham College. Please read an account of the day from one of our scholars.

*The launch trip to Oxford University was a prodigious experience that broadened our knowledge of University style work such as their grading systems. We learnt a lot about the different courses you could take and took part in an exemplar tutorial where we learnt several memory techniques. During the visit we were also introduced to life at the University of Oxford and what it would be like if we were to go there. Overall it was a really enjoyable and new experience.* **Leen S. Year 10**



### Fame 2023

This year the Performing Arts Team will be putting on the production of "Fame". Set during the last years of New York City's celebrated High School for the Performing Arts in the early 1980s, *Fame JR.* is the bittersweet, but ultimately inspiring, story of a diverse group of students who commit to four years of gruelling artistic and academic work. With candor, humour and insight, the show explores the issues that confront many young people today.



Over 180 students turned up for auditions! It was great to see that students from Y7 – Y11 were keen and eager to get involved. The Performing Arts team were impressed with the high standard of dance drama and singing there is a lot of talent within the school!

Performance dates will be **Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February** – please put these dates in your diary it is sure to be an event not to miss!

**Mrs C Dennis**



## Swakeleys School for Girls

### A Day in the Life of "Fame"

I am currently a part of the main cast in 'Fame' and so far, it has been a very enjoyable and exciting experience. I have enjoyed branching out to students across the year groups and rehearsing with both old and new friends, readying ourselves for an exciting goal. It's a great opportunity for me to explore something I love- the performing arts. Meeting with the dancers to stage the show has been a highlight for me, because even this early in the process, you can really see the show coming together and it's great to see what other groups of people involved have been working on in the past couple of weeks. Taking part in the school production has built my confidence and developed my singing and acting skills. Overall, I have really enjoyed the chance to be a part of 'Fame' and am very much looking forward to the show in February.

**Uma D. (Year 9)**

### The Woman in Black Trip



*On Tuesday 1st November GCSE and A Level drama students went to see "The Woman In Black." It was an amazing performing which only used 3 actors! The way they used sound to create a scary atmosphere was very successful, they used silence and then a loud bang to shock the audience. I would definitely recommend seeing this play!*

**Karina S. (Year 11)**

### Six Trip

From flashing lights to some incredible music, "Six" was everything. But most of all it was different, different to most musicals I've seen, a unique sound that isn't common in the West End. There was a live band consisting of four instruments onstage and six Queens each telling their story through a song. My favourite songs included "Hans of Holbein" and Jane Seymour's "Heart of Stone" – it was an amazing experience!



**Huda Q. (Year 12)**

### Music Evening



*On Monday 17<sup>th</sup> October twenty students from Year 9 to 13 performed at the annual Music Evening to an audience of over a hundred people. It was a pure delight to see such a high standard of polished solo items. There were fairy lights and music themed cookies and cupcakes which were enjoyed whilst watching some incredible performances. The evening featured a wide range of performances which highlighted how far students have come in their music experience and what is yet to come in the future! These ranged from Les Misérables to Amy Winehouse, from a range of different composers on the piano, to a cello performance and so much more... Well done to everyone who performed!!*

**Sarah D. (Year 12)**





## Swakeleys School for Girls

### Football:

The U14s team participated at their first tournament of the year. With it being the first time they have played with each other, they were able to get a win or a draw in most of the games they played. Congratulations to the football team for being so positive and playing well. Good luck in the next tournament!

### Cross Country:

The cross country team have had some amazing results across all year groups. Especially Samira H. who placed 21st out of 80 girls for year 7. Year 8s, Edey K placed 2nd and Lucy C. placed 5th and finally in our senior team, Natalia R. Year 10 placed 3rd with only 1 shoe for the majority of the race whilst Evie S. Year 11 finished 5th. Well done to the whole team and those that have been selected to represent Hillingdon in the county competition.



### Netball:



Congratulations to the Y10 netball team who put on a superb performance during the Borough Tournament this half term. Unfortunately they just missed out on the knock out stages due to goal difference. All netball teams have started well in their league matches. Good luck for the rest of the season

### Sports Leaders:

There have been lots of leadership events for our sports leaders to get involved in this half term. Well done and thank you to all of the sports leaders who officiated during the Y7 and Y8 inter-house football and netball tournaments - both were a great success.

Our Y9 sports leaders were also invited to the Hillingdon Primary Sports Hall Athletics competition where they were in charge of officiating, timing events and recording scores. The event organiser was very impressed with their high standards and has invited them to officiate in the next round of competitions at The London Youth Games. Well done to Elsie-May C, Nada Asaban N, Be-Be Jasmine N, Rebekah T, Tia G, Lana B, Vivien L, Jayah C, Maya A -W, Shania M and Faith B.



**Mrs K Mannion**



## Swakeleys School for Girls

### Geography Awareness Week: 14<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> November 2022

Geography Awareness Week was a fantastic event this term. Lots of people turned up for the activities and it was filled with geographical fun!! The biggest turn out was at the Blooket Quizzes where students could earn learning credits and merits. We are very proud of how Geography Awareness Week turned out and will be celebrating this every year!

#### Hot Topic: Climate Change

Climate change refers to long-term changes in global temperatures and other atmospheric properties. The climate has changed throughout Earth's long history, but at this time, human activity is considered a significant contributor – something addressed at the recent COP27 conference. Global temperatures are rising faster than ever before. Everyone can do their bit to slow down climate change!

Climate change can have an impact on our health, ability to grow food, housing and safety. Coastal residents are already more vulnerable to the effects of climate change. Long droughts are putting people at risk of starvation, and conditions like sea level rise have advanced to the point where entire towns have had to relocate.

Some climate change solutions include reducing emissions, adapting to climate impacts, and financing necessary adjustments.

WRITTEN BY: LEKSHMI, SURUTHIGA, SAHAR, MAHI AND SUJA





## Swakeleys School for Girls

### School Council

On Tuesday 22nd November we were absolutely delighted to host our first full school council of the year. Pupils exercised their debating skills debating the motion, "This house believes that cosmetic surgery should be banned" and we saw student voice at its best observing our subcommittee members feedback from their meetings. We are also delighted that our senators, subcommittee chairpersons and form councillors were formally recognised in the school council meeting. We look forward to our next school council meeting in January!

**Mr L Hepner**

### Tree Planting

Students between years 7-13, plus members of staff had the opportunity to plant trees sourced by Ms Ellis from The Conservation Volunteers - 'I Dig Trees' campaign, which aims to plant carbon-busting trees for local green spaces for the OVO Energy's Planting Promise.

Eco Green Goddess students which are part of the Gold DofE programme have been landscaping prior to the event. Students planted most of the 250 trees ordered which can be seen alongside the Highfield fence. Well done to all those who got involved - it was a lot of hard work and a lot of laughs were had!

**Miss C Coking**



### **Teacher of the Month**

**October**

Miss Mohamed

Ms Samuels

### **Support Staff of the Month**

**October**

Miss Nettle

Mrs Pooley



## Swakeleys School for Girls

### Winter Bazaar

Thank you to everyone who attended the Winter Bazaar. Particular thanks to all those who helped out. Please see below house points according to the house winners.

**MC** and **EB** - 500 points

**JA** and **RP** - 400 points

**DS** and **AF** - 300 points

**FN** and **MY** - 200 points



**In total you  
raised £2,578.17  
for your school  
and a great time  
was had by all!**







## BBC visits the Swakeleys School

To mark its centenary in 2022, the BBC has launched a project called 'Share Your Story', a special series of interactive assemblies for 250,000 secondary school students across the UK. We were delighted that Swakeleys School was chosen by the BBC to host an event on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2022.

Built around the theme of storytelling and central to the BBC's core mission to 'inform educate and entertain', the project brings together a diverse group of 100 BBC

'Storytellers' into schools across the UK to talk to pupils about their personal journeys, setbacks and successes. Storytelling is incredibly important to a whole range of different careers, such as Marketing, News/Sport reporting, Law, Entrepreneurship, Design and so much more.



This fantastic event was led by Mary Mandefield, who shared her story about how she became a TV & radio presenter working across a number of high-profile BBC outlets. She was joined by 3 excellent panellists; BBC journalist and reporter Nicola Hasler, Jystyna Gosch who runs her own production company & artist Livi Hecht who makes amazing macrame for a living.

This was a highly interactive and engaging event that really served to inspire our pupils and consider careers in the creative industries. Pupils were also able to ask questions and share their own stories.

On behalf of all the staff and pupils at Swakeleys School, we would like to say a huge thank you to the BBC for choosing to come to Swakeleys School to put on this impressive event. What was especially notable was the relaxed environment the BBC team created and how this helped our pupils feel confident in asking questions and talking about their own experiences. It was genuinely thought-provoking and really helped focus the minds of our pupils on the vast array of opportunities open to them in the future. Thank you to everyone who helped make it happen.

**Mrs P Laguillo**







# Swakeleys School for Girls

## Term Dates 2022 – 2023

# Newsletter

### Spring Term 2023

Term starts

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2023

Half Term

**Monday 13<sup>th</sup> to Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2023**

Term ends

Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023

### Summer Term 2023

Term starts

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2023 (INSET DAY)

Bank Holiday

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2023

Half Term

**Monday 29<sup>th</sup> May to Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2023**

Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2023 (Well Being Day  
School Closed to students)

Term ends

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2023

### Autumn Term 2023

Term starts

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2023 (INSET Day)

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2023 (Y7 only)

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2023 (all year

groups)

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