

May 2023

## Swakeleys School for Girls

# Newsletter

Dear Parents/Carers,

I was delighted to receive positive feedback regarding our newsletter at the recent parent forum. Parents had requested information from each year group and this has been provided by our year learning coordinators and we will continue to provide year group information going forward. I am also happy to say that we have also made the newsletter printable should you wish to print a copy at home. Other items discussed at parent forum included parents evenings, strike days, culture day, clubs, google classroom, school uniform and the purpose of link books. We also discussed how to make parent forum more accessible for parents by for example changing the time and/or running the forum via zoom. As we are planning for next year it would be incredibly helpful to have some feedback from parents. To this end please complete this form: <https://forms.gle/psVDQoTZEyPP7QwZA> As a school this is the term when we plan for next year and we will be sharing some ideas with you in the next newsletter.

Aspire is one of our school values and this term we are very proud to have been able to offer work shadowing to students in Year 10 – this is not something that every school is in a position to offer. We think it is so important to get a sense of the workplace and to develop skills and confidence needed to manage successfully outside school. Please read the information about work shadowing inside and if your child is in Year 9 please do consider where they could go on a placement next year.

The newsletter will give you a flavour of some of the many events going on at Swakeleys – from sports to performing arts, to trips, visits, book clubs and house activities. I do hope you enjoy getting a sense of the energy around school and are able to talk to your child(ren) about life at school. We have finally managed to get our picnic blankets out and the students are certainly enjoying chatting on the grass at lunchtime!

If your child has started their exams then I do hope that they are going well. Students certainly seem very positive when we see them in between their exams! Long may this continue. As you know we had photographers and film makers in school on the 4<sup>th</sup> of May and we are excited to show you the film when it is ready for viewing.

I hope that you have a lovely break with your family and we look forward to welcoming your child (ren) back for the last half term of the year on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June at 8.30am when we will be working hard in classrooms and preparing for Sports Day, Lit Fest and FAB week at the end of term.

Thanks as always for your support of Swakeleys.

With best wishes



Kelda Stevenson

### Teacher of the Month

#### March

Mrs Dennis

Dr Laxton

#### April

Mr Tatla

Ms Jones

### Support Staff of the Month

#### March

Mrs Patrick

Mrs Bharat

#### April

Ms Brewer

Mrs Annett

# Swakeleys School for Girls

## Pastoral Matters

## Place2Be

We are delighted to announce that Karen Gray has been appointed as our permanent Place2Be Lead. Please2Be provide a range of counselling based services in our school including one-to-one counselling. For more details contact Mrs Gilly Hare who is the mental health lead for the school.

## Mental Health Tips

To support our PSHCE programme and Mental Health Ambassadors, pupils are being greeted by tips about maintaining good mental health as they enter the school on our Mental Health Matters board.

## Uniform Reminders

Please can you remind students about the following points. Our full uniform policy can be viewed on the web site.

- Pupils cannot wear boots to school.
- While the school jumper is not compulsory, other jumpers/hoodies may not be worn either under or over the blazer.
- False and painted nails are not allowed.
- Pupils should not be wearing false eyelashes
- Pupils must not wear fashion bracelets and necklaces.



## Attendance

Although the attendance at Swakeleys is very good compared to other schools nationally, it is important to note that attendance since covid in all schools has dropped significantly. There are many reasons for this, but at the heart of the issue is the fact that every day a pupil is not in school they are not accessing teaching and learning. Pupils attend school for only 190 days out of the year (although I am sure to them it seems like more!) and every day of absence impacts. Please do avoid booking trips and holidays in term time-these cannot be authorised. Sometimes it can be hard to manage situations where teens feel a little unwell but actually are well enough to attend-please see below our top phrases to support parents.

*I'm so sorry you are feeling unwell-let's try some breakfast and take it slowly before school.*

*I'll e mail the school so that welfare know you are feeling poorly and can keep an eye on you.*

*I understand that you are not feeling fantastic today-let's aim to rest and have a quiet evening after school.*

Please contact Mrs Skinner in welfare if you have specific concerns over any health related matters.

We have recently changed our truancy call system to a new provider. Please do notify us of any absences before 8am on a school day to avoid truancy call being sent. A reminder that any request for authorised absence must be made in writing in advance. This includes any requests for absence for days of religious observance. We will also be working with WPA from April onwards who will be providing Education Welfare Services to the school.



## Swakeleys School for Girls

# Newsletter

**Year Learning Co-ordinator: Miss Allan**

## Year 7

### Recent Events and Activities:

Year 7 had a session on Road Safety from a company who delivered an excellent and interactive session. It was excellent in teaching year 7 about road safety awareness and how to keep safe.

### Assemblies:

Mental Health ambassadors, The King's coronation, Getting involved in the school community, Oak Farm Library delivered an assembly to year 7.

### Things to celebrate

As a year group year 7 have 55,899 epraise points

Many year 7s have been awarded merits and Head teacher distinctions this term by their teachers

Year 7 played in the Netball League final

### Things to look forward to

FAB Week

Sports Personality of the Year

School Council

Sports Day

**Year Learning Co-ordinator: Miss Mills**

## Year 8

### Assemblies

Attendance, The importance of sleep, Homework , World food

### Things to celebrate

This term year 8 have been leading assemblies with pupils in 8AF, 8MY and 8JA delivering topics such as 'The importance of sleep', 'Homework' and 'World foods'. These assemblies have been well planned out and delivered confidently by many pupils in year 8. We look forward to the remaining forms across year delivering assemblies on topics they find interesting.

### Things to look forward to

GCSE Options confirmed on – **Friday 19<sup>th</sup> May**

Junior Borough Athletics – **Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> June**

Middlesex Athletics Championship - **Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> June**

Sports Day – **Friday 16<sup>th</sup> June**



## Swakeleys School for Girls

### Year 9

**Year Learning Co-ordinator:** Ms Mejloumian

**Recent Events and Activities:**

STEM event at Brunel University

School Council

Interhouse sport

**Assemblies:**

Be KIND!, Human Rights, Discrimination, Bullying, Attendance league - £10 Starbucks voucher prize draw each week

**Things to celebrate:**

Sports Leaders Awards – Leading and teaching Y3 & Y4 how to participate in Sports Hall Athletics.

Increase in attendance

Completion of internal exams

**Things to look forward to:**

Hillingdon Dance competition for the London Youth Games

Interhouse rounders

Swakeleys Festival of Literature on 18<sup>th</sup> July

Sports Day on 16<sup>th</sup> June

### Year 10

**Year Learning Co-ordinator:** Ms Currell

**Recent Events and Activities:**

Mock results

Work Shadowing

Geography Field Trip

**Assemblies:**

Assemblies have been on the process for Year 10 Attendance League, Prefect applications and interviews and PE options for year 11. Upcoming assemblies will be on truancy and year 11.

**Things to celebrate:**

Work Shadowing – it was fantastic to hear about the different experience pupils had. Pupils really loved the opportunity to go into the work place and get a glimpse of what the world of work is like. Congratulations to those that went out and were a true testament to the values of Swakeleys.

Year 10 team at the Senior Borough Athletics: Congratulations to Ibukunoluwa A, Jaipreet B, Angel B, Grace G, Caitlin H, Honour K and Natalia R. You made the school incredibly proud and we wish those on to the Middlesex Championships the best of luck!

**Things to look forward to:**

Half term break

Attendance league form winners

Swakeleys Festival of Literature

FAB Trips



## Swakeleys School for Girls

### Year 11

**Year Learning Co-ordinator: Mrs Khan**

**Recent Events and Activities:**

Easter school, interventions, revision sessions, focus on next steps- careers interviews and deciding what will be doing next year.

**Assemblies:**

Revision assemblies and focus on well being

**Things to celebrate:**

A certain number of exams sat!

**Things to look forward to:**

Prom, yearbook and hoodies

End of exams

A long summer

A level courses

## SWAB – Swakeleys Against Bullying



If you are having issues and want to speak to one of our SWAB team put your name and form in the SWAB box outside welfare and one of our team will contact you! Or speak to the SWAB members (look out for their badges) or see Miss Hanlon





## Swakeleys School for Girls

### Modern Foreign Languages Department

#### Visit by Onatti players – Thursday 27 April 2023

On Thursday 27 April, the Modern Foreign Languages Department hosted the Onatti Players for a performance of the play 'Im alten Saloon'. All year 9 and 10 students studying German came to watch as the actors performed a story set in a bar in the days of the Wild West. The audience was gripped by the many costume changes and twists and turns in the plot, including card tricks, a hold-up, a talent show and even



the birth of a baby! Diva A (10MY) did a great job in the role of bar tender, Shannon J (10JA) played a mean game of 'snap' and there was further audience participation from Alexandra C (10AF) and Laura N (9MC) who formed the jury judging the talent show entries. Some of the audience might have been concerned that they would not understand, as the performance was entirely in German, however, they needn't have worried as the performers were very engaging and their acting talent ensured that everyone was able to follow the storyline without difficulty. I think that the students enjoyed the performance and we look forward to welcoming the Onatti Players again in the near future.

Ms Brewer

The play 'Im alten Saloon' was a very interesting and entertaining play. Although students may not have been able to understand what the actors were saying word for word, the actors were able to portray that through their actions and they brought a great stage presence, filled with enthusiasm! The play was also very comical and I would love for there to be more German plays happening in Swakeleys in the future.

Shruthi M – Year 9



### Music Exam Achievements

Congratulations to the following for their excellent results in music exams:

Mia Byrce Grade 1 Piano

Uma Daurka Grade 6 Cello

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

### Summer Festival 2023

The Performing Arts department will be holding their annual "Summer Festival" performance on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> June at 6pm in the main school hall. Students are already busy preparing performances in dance, drama and music. All students and parents are warmly invited to attend!



## Swakeleys School for Girls

### Shakespeare Schools Festival - Macbeth

Our talented Year 10 and Year 9 Drama students performed "Macbeth" at the Beck Theatre on Tuesday 21st March. An outstanding Shakespeare performance! Well done to Ms Ellis (director) and all those involved.

### Emerging Talent Competition – Hillingdon Borough

Hillingdon Music Service hosted a competition for emerging young instrumentalists/vocalists performing music from any classical culture or background. Two students from Swakeleys reached the Grand Final – Sarah Doggrell (Year 12) and Reem Alessa (Year 7).

Young people from around the borough auditioned to obtain a sought after spot in the final performance. Sarah Doggrell won her category with a performance of Lullaby (Yiu) with such delicate touch and musicality that it was spellbinding!

Congratulations to both students that took part!



Emerging Talent 2023  
 Adjudicator: Rosie Amell, Senior Music Producer – Classic FM  
 Sarah Doggrell, Piano – Swakeleys School for Girls  
 Lullaby (for Edna Trident Hornbryce) – Raymond Yiu

- really conveyed the drum of the piece.
- made it your own, without sacrificing accuracy.
- left hand rhythm works like an anchor through the piece - make sure it doesn't drift
- good use of pedal & dynamics





## Swakeleys School for Girls

### English Department

#### Looking Forward to LitFest 2023

Preparations are beginning for the fourth literature festival at Swakeleys, which takes place on the 18th of July.

In the past, we have had speakers from a wide variety of backgrounds including slam poets, published authors and even ex-pupils!

This year's themes are **reading and diversity**. We are passionate about books at Swakeleys, and keen to encourage our pupils to recognise and indulge in the many benefits of reading. This year we also wish to promote and explore diversity when making reading choices.

The English department are currently running a competition, where pupils are invited to devise a slogan for the literature festival, based on the themes above.

On the day, we hope to have some workshops outside (weather dependent), and think that it will be a great way to spend a day in the last week of term.

Any pupils who wish to help with the preparations should see Ms Pimbert in her office next to room 108, before half term.

#### Proudly embracing diversity in English lessons

Our very own Miss Ellis, who has championed reading and diversity this year, was recently contacted by Kwame Kwei-Armah, the playwright of *Elmina's Kitchen*. He had recorded for her a personalised message organised by her year 13 pupils, who have been studying the play.

Currently creative director of the New Vic Theatre, Kwame used to be in the TV series *Casualty*. The play was the first written by a black British playwright to be performed in the West End.

**What a great way to celebrate their A-level journey!**



#### KS4 Book Club



This term we have been reading the debut fiction novel 'The Dark Lady' by award-winning hip-hop artist and founder of The Hip-Hop Shakespeare Company, Akala. Set in Shakespeare's London, it follows the story of orphan Henry as he attempts to find out his true identity.

"The Dark Lady was an entirely new genre for me. It is based on the genre of magic realism and set in 17<sup>th</sup> century England. It vividly displayed the lives and behaviours towards people of different races in that era. Overall it was an enjoyable and intriguing read" Kashifa Zahid IIMY

Our final book of the year is the romance novel, 'The Summer of Us' by Cecilia Vinesse.

**Miss Ellis**

#### Paired Reading

I would like to say a big thank you and good luck to the year 13 students who have assisted with the paired reading programme this year. Once a week during form time they have listened to some of our year 7 students read with great enthusiasm, and have truly been an inspiration to their young mentees. I know the year 7s will really miss them.

If you are in year 12 and would like to be a part of the paired reading programme when you return from your AS exams, please see Miss Ellis in the English department.





## Careers News

Congratulations to **Christiana W-R 10EB**, **Israa K J 10RP** and **Shivani P 11RP** who have all been accepted on the excellent Fantasy Wings programme.

Fantasy Wings, has offered our school three fully subsidised places to the above pupils, who were successful in the application process. The programme aims to give **Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic** people and **Women** a platform to enter and excel in the **Aviation** industry or become commercial airline pilots through expert-led workshops, conferences, mentoring and real flight training.

Congratulations for being selected and good luck with the programme.

**Mrs Laguillo**

I am delighted to report that two of our Year 10 pupils; **Sarah T 10EB** and **Muscaan B 10EB** were successful in their application on the very competitive **Startup Sherpas work experience**. This has been a 7 week programme consisting of weekly challenges to develop and innovation and employability skills. This is the first time that a WEX programme has actually offered payment (£150) to participants for demonstrating these key skills and completing the programme. Well done!



**EARN £150**  
GAIN WORK EXPERIENCE  
LEARN INNOVATION SKILLS!  
STARTS MON 27TH MAR,  
SCAN QR CODE  
AND APPLY TODAY  
HAVE YOUR SAY IN  
THE FUTURE OF RAIL TRAVEL  
 **LNER**  
**STARTUP SHERPAS.**

## Year 10 Work Shadowing (May 2<sup>nd</sup> 2023 – May 5<sup>th</sup> 2023)

We are delighted to report that this is the year we finally managed to reintroduce some form of work experience for the large majority of our Year 10 pupils. Since COVID, it has been a real struggle to find businesses willing to take on the challenge of finding placements for school pupils or businesses willing to accommodate pupils on work experience.

This year we have been able to introduce our own version of work experience in the form of **Work Shadowing**.

**192** of our Year 10 pupils spent four days experiencing the world of work from Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May through to Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May, in a variety of different work placements. Many of the placements had been sourced by the pupils themselves in businesses that were connected in some way to family members or close friends. We are so grateful to all the parents / carers, family friends, local schools, local libraries, businesses and SCS Railways for supporting the work shadowing process this year.

The feedback from the students has been super positive and so many of them have come back with great stories about their work days and the skills that they have developed. Many now have a better appreciation of how tiring work can actually be!

Below are some pictures and quotations to give you a flavour of some of the placements of work our Year 10 pupils were lucky enough to experience.



## Swakeleys School for Girls

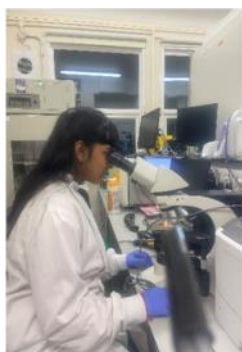
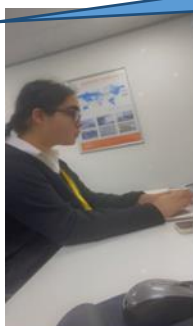
### Year 10 Work Shadowing (Cont'd)

"I found work experience an enjoyable and memorable time, giving me a chance to see how it will be like in the world of work for the future. I was also able to pick some good habits along the way like arriving early to my work place." **Yashal J 10FN**

"I enjoyed myself and it was a great experience, I learned a lot of new skills which I can take out into the real world and into the work place, I wish it was for longer!"

**Mehreen M 10MY**

"I thought the Work Experience was amazing. It was so interesting to see what our families and friends do whilst we are at school and how challenging it can be sometimes." **Amarleen A 10DS**







## Swakeleys School for Girls

"I just wanted to send a quick email to say that it was a pleasure to have Zoe with us for her work experience placement last week. She was a great help, and as a team we were all impressed with how proactive, helpful and pleasant she was" **Esha C, Oak Farm Library**

"I am writing to convey my feedback on Alishba. I was initially hesitant about having a student for a week, as we are a very busy team. However, Alishba was an absolute star. She was very helpful, mature and brought up novel solutions for the recruitment of participants. She worked very hard while she was here and made a positive contribution. She completed necessary tasks while working independently and producing a high standard of work.

I found her to be very mature and hardworking for her age and have told her that I would absolutely love to have her anytime due to her maturity and work ethic. She has all of the attributes of the type of person I would hire in the future."

**Sabrina K at Imperial College London**

### PE

#### Senior Athletics Borough Championships

On Wednesday 10th May our year 9 and 10 athletics team represented the school at the Borough Championships. Both teams done extremely well! Congratulations to the following students for medalling at the competition; Christana (10EB) 1st place in high jump and 2nd in 300m; Natalia (10FN) 2nd in 1500m; Ibukun (10JA) 1st place in the 100m; Honour (10MC) 1st in discus and the relay team made up of Jaipreet (10MC), Ibukun, Christana and Natalia came 3rd.

A great result all round and congratulations to those that will be invited to attend the Middlesex championships.



#### London Youth Games Festival

Our year 9 sports leaders were invited to run the London Youth Games Festival after demonstrating excellent leadership skills at other events earlier in the year. During this event the leaders taught and officiated local primary school children to compete in different athletic events. All leaders were a credit to the school demonstrating excellent leadership, organisation and communication skills towards young children which enable them to have really fun day!





# Swakeleys School for Girls

## Term Dates 2022 – 2023

### Summer Term 2023

#### Half Term

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

#### Term starts

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June**

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

#### Term ends

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2023 at 12.25pm

### Autumn Term 2023

#### Term starts

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

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2023 (INSET Day)

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2023 (Yr 7 Only)

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2023 ( school open to  
all students)

#### Half Term

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> October to Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> October  
2023

#### INSET Day

23<sup>rd</sup> November 2023

#### INSET Day

24<sup>th</sup> November 2023

#### Term ends

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2023

# Newsletter



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