

October 2023

Swakeleys School for Girls

Newsletter

Dear Families,

It has been a fantastic start to the academic year – the students have been excellent in terms of their attendance, focus and attitude. Thank you at home for all of your support. The newsletter gives you an overview of some of the many events that have taken place over the last six weeks. I do hope that this information alongside the video messages that are being sent to you gives you a good sense of what's happening across school and the many opportunities that your child has to shine at Swakeleys.

At the parent event I shared some of our key improvement targets this academic year as a school and that the key thread running through this was to further develop student voice. To this end we have had pupil focus groups running over the last week and I look forward to sharing the findings with you.

Following each parents evening last year we asked for your feedback. One of the questions we asked was whether parents evenings should remain online or return to being in person. The feedback was exactly 50:50 and so after long discussions in school we have decided that in order to ensure the highest possible attendance and also ensure parents evenings run efficiently we are going to retain virtual meetings. However we will move to a new IT platform which has specifically been designed for the purpose of parents evenings. This is called School Cloud and further information will come to you in due course. One of the many benefits of School Cloud is that more than one member of a family can attend an appointment from two different locations – one person could be at home and one could be at work. As always following parents evening we will seek your views. Thank you for your support with this new initiative.

Part of further developing relationships with students involves meeting with them on a one to one basis and that took place today Friday 20th October. It is my belief that quality relationships underpin success in any school so Friday will support the continued success of our school community. After the form tutor 1:1 day it is the half term break. I hope that you and your family have an enjoyable rest over the half term and we look forward to welcoming your child back on Wednesday 1st November.

Yours faithfully



Kelda Stevenson
Headteacher



Thank you all for your support at our recent
Parental Engagement Evenings for
Year 7, 8 and 11

Teacher of the Month

September

Miss Kang
Miss Mohamed

Support Staff of the Month

September

Mrs Quick
Miss Caldwell



Swakeleys School for Girls

Pastoral Matters

Attendance

We are delighted that attendance is improving and thank parents/carers for your support. Every day of learning is important and we want to see your child as much as possible.

Pupils whose attendance drops below 95% can expect some intervention. This can include mentoring, a letter, a meeting with the school or a referral to our Education Welfare Officer. Please do encourage pupils to come in to school unless they are very ill.

Please note the e-mail address for the attendance team which is attendance@swakeleys.org.uk. We would ask that you notify us of any requests for absence in advance so that we have time to process your request. Please ensure that requests for pupils to leave during the school day for urgent medical appointments include details of the time they need to leave, and whether they can leave alone or are being collected, as well as the reason.

Please submit any medical evidence for absence via this e mail address or alternatively it can be handed in at the office for the attention of the attendance officer.

Please do not request time off for holidays or extended family visits as this cannot be authorised.

Thank you for your support.

Uniform

A reminder that blazers are compulsory school items and must be worn, along with the lanyard. Pupils can remove a blazer in class with teacher permission. Please do ensure that your child has the correct skirt/trousers. We currently have an issue with some pupils wearing bracelets to school. Please note that bracelets that contravene our uniform policy will be confiscated so please ensure your child does not wear these.

A reminder that smart watches with connectivity are not allowed in school. Mobile phones must be placed in a locked locker during the school day.

Travelling to School by Car

Please could we remind all parents once again when driving onto the school site to be mindful of other road users, local residents and pedestrians. We have received complaints of people parking across residents driveways and loud music from cars waiting outside resident's properties.

Can I politely request where possible that you make alternative arrangements to drop and pick up your child away from the school site in order to avoid congestion.

Newsletter



Swakeleys School for Girls

Newsletter

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

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:

20th October – Form Tutor We Listen Day

Year 7 Hustings week for Senator

Year Learning Co-ordinator: Miss Finnerty

Year 8

Assemblies:

Year 8 expectations, Kindness, Black History Month and Resilience

Things to celebrate

Year 8 attendance so far this academic year is 95.6%. This is 2.9% above the National average.

Fantastic support from year 8 parents for our Parental Engagement Evening.

Netball and basketball club is being very well attended by year 8.

Congratulations to our Year 8 Senators: Savannah D 8AF and Emma Z 8MC.

We have 4 soloists performing at our Swakeleys music recital on Monday 16th October:

Reem A8EB

Uma G 8JA

Lori-Ann H 8EB

Emma Z 8MC

Things to look forward to:

Half term break

School production auditions-Matilda!

Our Year 8 band will be performing at Christmas.

Winter Bazaar

Year 8 Cross Country competition 16th November



Swakeleys School for Girls

Year 9

Year Learning Co-ordinator: Miss Swayne

Recent Events and Activities:

Assemblies:

Assemblies have been on the process for Year 9 Attendance League, year 9 attendance cup and the options transfer window. Upcoming assemblies will be on punctuality and respect.

Things to celebrate:

Senator Elections

Music Evening- performed solos at music evening showing confidence and talent wrapped up in one.

Things to look forward to:

Half term break

Attendance league form winners

School production auditions & rehearsals

Year 10

Year Learning Co-ordinator: Miss Mejloumian

Assemblies:

Y10 expectations

Black History Month – George Washington Carver and Women in Sport.

House Assembly

Things to celebrate

Increase in attendance

Congratulations to our Y10 Senators - Hajar A IORP and Laura N IOMC

Congratulations to all Y10s taking part in school council and representing their form with the sub-committees and being form councillors.

Things to look forward to

Y10 students taking part in Music evening Monday 16th October. Some are performing solo and some part of a group. Others are helping out back stage.

Half term break

School production auditions-Matilda!

Winter Bazaar

1-2-1 with form tutors – pupil voice.

Shruthi	I0AF
Malika	I0EB
Mia (Back stage)	I0FN
Isabelle	I0FN
Charlotte	I0FN
Leanna	I0JA
Uma	I0MC
Rebecca (Back stage)	I0RP



Swakeleys School for Girls

Year 11

Year Learning Co-ordinator: Ms Currell

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'

Assemblies:

Assemblies have been on welcoming students 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 93.4%, well above national average.

We currently have 182 pupils with off-site privilege. This is down to pupil's excellent attendance and behaviour.

Iva T and Reem M delivered a fantastic assembly for Black History Month with a focus on 'Saluting our Sisters'. They spoke brilliantly and confidently.

Things to look forward to

Wave exams – English Language and Maths
Mock exams

SPORTS PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR





Newsletter

Performing Arts



Matilda

This year the Performing Arts Team will be putting on the production of "Matilda". This is a story of a brilliant, resilient, creative, and kind girl despite her growing up in difficult circumstances. Her parents treat her poorly, but Matilda escapes into a world of books, which puts her reading level far above the other children in her class, and she develops a bit of magical power in an effort to

defeat Trunchbull.

Just under 200 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 7th and Thursday 8th February – please put these dates in your diary it is sure to be an event not to miss!

Upcoming Performing Arts Events

Winter Showcase

Thursday 7th December

Matilda

Wednesday 7th and Thursday 8th February

Music Exam Achievements

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

Rebecca B	Grade 1 Piano	Shruthi M	Grade 3 Singing
Malika M	Grade 1 Piano	Lucy A	Grade 2 Singing
Sanuga A	Grade 4 Violin	Uma D	Grade 7 Singing

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

Performing Arts Ambassadors

Congratulations to the following who successfully applied and were awarded the position of dance, drama or music ambassador!

Music: Sarah D, Huda Q, Uma D, Malika M, Shruthi M, Charlotte W, Tanvi P, Lucy A, Anya V, Reem A, Uma G
Drama: Reem M, Iva T, Laura N, Harmony M, Semra T, Darcy H, Olivia M, Tru Li M
Dance: Rhianna G, Caoimhe W, Abigail R, Jodie M, Alice C, Savannah D, Lori-Ann H, Emily C, Lily T, Valerie J

Hamilton Trip

Hamilton was a theatrical masterpiece! I had a great time on the trip. First of all, I was amazed at the production's sheer brilliance. I was completely immersed in the world of Alexander Hamilton and the founding of America thanks to the incredibly talented cast and powerful and evocative storytelling. The characters and their struggles were made more relatable by the music, which was a seamless fusion of hip-hop, R&B, rap and conventional musical theatre. The intricate choreography and creative set design also added layers of depth to the performance, keeping me interested and in awe throughout. Furthermore, the narrative's incorporation of historical and political themes added a sophisticated and thought-provoking element that deepened my understanding of the subject.



Swakeleys School for Girls

Newsletter

Hamilton Trip Cont'd

The diverse cast added to its authenticity and the actors were incredible; they never missed a beat and kept you constantly on the edge of your seat! Complementing the dancing, stage design, and other elements that make up the show, you're left wanting nothing more. A awesome trip!

Lucy and Tanvi (Y9 Music Ambassadors)

Music Evening

On Monday 16th October thirty students from Y8 -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. A big congratulations to all of those that participated!

"Music evening was absolutely fantastic! From vocals, to piano, to cello , everyone's performances were amazing. Not only was music evening an opportunity to further develop confidence when performing , it was also wonderful to see all of the musical talent across Swakeleys School for Girls. Moreover, it was extremely rewarding after receiving an applause from the audience for our hard work and dedication. Well done to all involved !" Malika (Y10 Music Ambassador)

Careers News



Houses of Parliament Trip

"Our school trip to the Houses of Parliament was a truly remarkable experience. The staff we encountered were not only knowledgeable but also incredibly encouraging, making the day not just informative, but also a lot of fun. We had the privilege of exploring the historic chambers, which included the amazing House of

Commons and the dignified House of Lords. We were astonished by the ornate decorations, rich history and vivid colours that each had a different meaning. The pinnacle of our trip was the Law and Debate workshop. I was given the unique opportunity to chair a lively discussion, which provided a hands-on experience in understanding the parliamentary process. It was a day that left us not only more informed about our political system but also deeply inspired by the workings of democracy in action, a truly unforgettable experience!"

Sirine B 10RP"



I recently had the pleasure to visit the remarkable Houses of Parliament in Westminster, London. Stepping into the heart of British politics was a sincerely enlightening experience. Contemplating the magnificence of the architecture and the deep-rooted traditions that permeate the building, was a once in a lifetime experience. The tour around the Houses of Parliament showed a unique blend of the building's rich history, culture, and has allowed me to better understand the political processes of the UK. I personally also really enjoyed partaking in the debates workshop which featured the laws and politics of the UK. The trip was truly amazing and definitely a visit I won't soon forget."



Ciana B 10AF





Swakeleys School for Girls

Extra Curricular Activities (ECAs)

Please find attached schedule for ECAs and LRC (library) use for the Autumn Term. This can also be located on the parents section of the website and will be displayed around the school. If no specific year group is listed, then the ECA is open to all, subject to spaces. Students should speak to the member of staff responsible for the ECA to sign up. I hope to see your daughter in attendance at an ECA club!

Newsletter

Extra Curricular Activities and LRC Use (AUTUMN TERM)				
	Club and Year Group	Day and time	Venue	Staff
M O N D A Y	GCSE Art Club	Mon-Thur Lunch 12.30 - 1.05pm	102	Miss Hack
	KS3 Art Club	Monday Lunch 12.30 - 1.05pm	115	Mrs Kumar
	Law Society	Monday Lunch 12.45 - 1.10pm	105	Ms Shah
	Vocal Group	Monday Lunch 12.25 - 1.05pm	010	Mrs Dennis
	Basketball (Y7 - 11)	Monday Lunch 12.30 - 1pm	Sports Hall	Mrs Manchorova
	KS4 Dance (Y9, Y10, Y11)	Monday Lunch 12.25 - 1.05pm	SH3	Miss Coking
	Maths Club	Monday Lunch 12.25 - 1.05pm	208	Ms Molent
	Book Club (Y7)	Monday week A 12.45 - 1pm	103	Ms Jones
	Debate Club	Monday Lunch 12.40 - 1.10pm	008	Mr Hepner
	Guitar/Ukulele	Monday Lunch 12.25 - 1.05pm	009	Miss Ellis
	Stage Bound (Y9 Drama)	Monday Lunch 12.25 - 1.05pm	003	Miss Swayne
	LRC (Y7 & 9)	Lunch	LRC	Mrs Basra
	LRC (All Years)	After school 3.20 - 4.30pm	LRC	Mrs Basra
	Team Netball (Y9 - 11)	After school 3.30 - 4.30pm	Sports Hall	Miss Kinnane/Ms Molent
T U E S D A Y	School Production (All Years - starts in Nov)	After school 3.20 - 5pm	Hall	Mrs Dennis
	Enterprise Club (Y9 & Y10)	Tuesday Lunch 12.30 - 1pm	118	Mr Bakhtiani/Mrs Arnold
	MFL Poetry Club	Tuesday Lunch 12.35 - 1pm	004	Mrs Hassani
	GCSE Photography	Tuesday Lunch 12.30 - 1.05pm	116	Ms Wahid
	GCSE Art Club	Mon-Thur Lunch 12.30 - 1.05pm	102	Miss Hack
	Upper Vocals (Y9+)	Tuesday Lunch 12.25 - 1.05pm	010	Mrs Dennis
	KS3 Dance Club (Y7 & Y8)	Tuesday Lunch 12.25 - 1.05pm	SH3	Miss Coking
	"9 IT" (Y11 Drama)	Tuesday Lunch 12.25 - 1.05pm	003	Miss Swayne
	Instrumental/Band	Tuesday Lunch 12.25 - 1.05pm	009	Miss Ellis
	GCSE Trampoline (Y11)	Tuesday Wk A Lunch 12.30 - 1pm	Sports Hall	Miss Peace
	Multi-sports (Y7)	Tuesday Lunch 12.30 - 1pm	Sports Hall/NC	Miss Peace/Miss Kinnane
	Languages Club KS3/4 (German) - October	Tuesday Lunch 12.30 - 1.00pm	006	Mrs Brewer
	Science Astronomy Club	Tuesday Lunch 12.50 - 1.15pm	221	Miss Mohamed
	LRC (Y8 & 11)	Lunch	LRC	Mrs Basra
W E D N E S D A Y	LRC (All Years)	After school 3.20 - 4.30pm	LRC	Mrs Basra
	Self-defence (Y7 - 11)	After school 2.30 - 3.30pm	SH2	Miss Stroud/Mrs Manchorova
	GCSE Art Club	Mon-Thur Lunch 12.30 - 1.05pm	102	Miss Hack
	Meditation for Mindfulness	Wednesday Lunch 12.25 - 12.55pm	204	Mrs Tooker
	Swakeleys Squad (Audition Only)	Wednesday Lunch 12.30 - 1.05pm	SH3	Miss Coking
	Keyboard Club (Y7 & Y8)	Wednesday Lunch 12.25 - 1.05pm	010	Mrs Dennis
	Lego Club (Y7 & Y8 - invite only)	Wednesday Lunch 12.25 - 1.05pm	107	Mrs Morning
	Shakespeare Schools Festival (Invite only)	Wednesday Lunch 12.25 - 1.05pm	009	Miss Ellis
	Foreign Film Club	Wednesday Lunch 12.35 - 1pm	007	Mr Kreker/Mrs Remtula
	Science CREST Club (Y7 - 11)	Wednesday Lunch 12.50 - 1.15pm	222	Ms Nandhra
	Languages Club KS4 (French/German) - October	Wednesday Lunch 12.30 - 1pm	006	Mrs Brewer
	Archery Club (Y7)	Week A Wednesday Lunch 12.25 - 12.50pm	SH2	Mr Try
	Book club (Y10 & 11)	LAST Wednesday of each half term 12.30 - 1.10pm	104	Miss Ellis
	LitSoc (Y12 & 13)	Wednesday Lunch 12.35 - 1.05pm	57	Ms Pimbert
T H U R S D A Y	English Ambassadors	Wednesday Lunch 12.40 - 1.10pm	104	Miss Ellis
	The Hangout Club	Wednesday Lunch 12.45 - 1.10pm	105	Miss Austin/Ms Shah
	Badminton (Y7-11)	Wednesday Lunch 12.30-1pm	Sports Hall	Miss Peace
	Film and Television Club	Wednesday Lunch 12.30 - 1.00pm	014	Miss Sebley
	LRC (Y7 & 10)	Lunch	LRC	Mrs Basra
	LRC (All Years)	After school 3.20 - 4.30pm	LRC	Mrs Basra
	First Aid Society (Y12 & Y13)	After school 3.20 - 4.20pm	515	Mr Try
	Team Netball (Y7 - 8)	After school 3.30 - 4.30pm	Sports Hall	Miss Peace
	School Production (All Years - starts in Nov)	After school 3.20 - 5pm	Hall	Mrs Dennis
	GCSE Art Club	Mon-Thur Lunch 12.30 - 1.05pm	102	Miss Hack
	GCSE Photography	Thursday & Friday Lunch 12.30 - 1.05pm	116	Mr Riches
	GCSE Y11 Art club	Thursday Lunch 12.30 - 1.05pm	101	Mrs Kumar
	KS4 Dance (Y9, Y10, Y11)	Thursday Lunch 12.25 - 1.05pm	SH3	Miss Coking
	Percussion Club	Thursday Lunch 12.25 - 1.05pm	009	Miss Ellis
F R I D A Y	Languages Club KS3/4 (French)	Thursday Lunch 12.30 - 1pm	006	Mrs Brewer
	Y8 Actors Anonymous	Thursday Lunch 12.25 - 1.05pm	003	Miss Swayne
	GSA-Gender and Sexuality Alliance	Week B Thursday Lunch	511	Mrs Hare
	Geography Film Club/Ambassadors	Thursday at 12.30 - 1pm	215	Miss Lyons
	Netball (Y7 - 11)	Thursday Lunch 12.30 - 1pm	Sports Hall	Mrs Violet
	EAL Club	Thursday Lunch 12.45 - 1.15pm	118	Ms Huang
	Crochet Club (Y9)	Thursday Lunch	206	Mrs Johal, Miss Raza,
	Mindfulness	Thursday Lunch	108	Ms Currell/Miss Sebley
	LRC (Y8 & 9)	Lunch	LRC	Mrs Basra
	LRC (All Years)	After school 3.20 - 4.30pm	LRC	Mrs Basra
	Science Club (Y7 & Y8)	After school 3.20 - 3.50pm	223	Ms Kantak
	GCSE Badminton	After school 3.30 - 4.30pm	Sports Hall	Miss Peace
	School Production (All Years - starts in Nov)	After school 3.20 - 5pm	Hall	Mrs Dennis
	GCSE Photography	Thursday & Friday 12.30 - 1.05pm	116	Mr Riches
	D of E (KS4)	LAST Friday of Half Term Lunch 12.25 - 1.05pm	SH3	Miss Coking
F R I D A Y	Dramatic Dreams (Y10)	Friday Lunch 12.25 - 1.05pm	003	Miss Swayne
	Y7 Centre Stage (Year 7)	Friday Lunch 12.25 - 1.05pm	009	Miss Ellis
	Football (Y7 - 11)	Friday Lunch 12.30 - 1pm	Sports Hall	Miss Kinnane
	ISOC	Friday Lunch 12.40 - 1.05pm	Rm 118	Mrs Saeed/Miss Raza
	Coding Club (Y7 & Y8)	Friday Lunch 12.30 - 1pm	015	Mrs Vasanthakumaran
	LRC (Y10 & 11)	Lunch	LRC	Mrs Basra
	LRC (All Years)	After school 3.20 - 4.30pm	LRC	Mrs Basra



Swakeleys School for Girls

Newsletter

Term Dates 2023 – 2024

Swakeleys School for Girls

Autumn Term 2023

Term starts

Monday 4th September 2023 (INSET Day)

Tuesday 5th September 2023 (INSET Day)

Wednesday 6th September 2023 – (Y7 only)

Thursday 7th September 2023 - (School open to all students)

Wednesday 11th October (INSET Day)

Half Term

Monday 23rd October to Tuesday 31st October 2023

23rd November 2023 (INSET Day)

24th November 2023 (INSET Day/marketing/planning day)

Term ends

Wednesday 20th December 2023

Spring Term 2024

Term starts

Monday 8th January 2024

Half Term

Monday 12th February to Friday 16th February 2024

Term ends

Thursday 28th March 2024

Summer Term 2024

Term starts

Monday 15th April 2024 (INSET DAY)

Bank Holiday

Monday 6th May 2024

Half Term

Monday 27th May to Friday 31st May 2024

Term ends for students

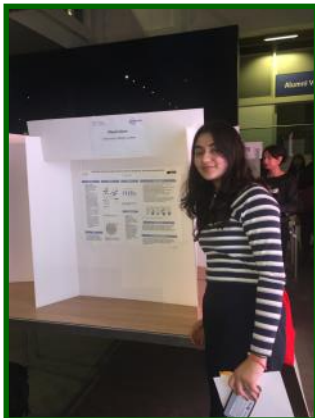
Friday 19th July 2024



Swakeleys School for Girls

Nuffield Research Placement - Celebration Event Imperial College London

Two of our Sixth Form pupils, Khushi and Megan successfully completed their Nuffield Research Placement, and were invited to attend a celebration event on Thursday 12th October at Imperial College London. The NRP programme provides engaging, hands-on research projects, for sixth form pupils, to have the opportunity to make a meaningful contribution towards the work of a host organisation through a well-supervised but independent research collaboration. Both girls spent their summer holiday enhancing their university application and career prospects by attending the Nuffield Research Placement. This was a fantastic opportunity for our pupils to apply their skills and knowledge learned at school and work alongside researchers and industry professionals. Both of them describe their experiences below.



Through my Nuffield Placement I received the opportunity to partake in cutting-edge research, at UCL, regarding Neonatal Hypoxic Ischemia. Neonatal Hypoxic Ischemia impacts infants and can be the cause of many neurological conditions. Working alongside PhD students I was able to conduct my own research on neonatal mice brain and the white blood cell count in it. Moreover, I made my own academic poster, wrote a report and gained practical lab and research skills, that were invaluable. KA 13S

I was fortunate to be awarded a work placement at Nuffield Research that took place at Brunel University. I researched the depictions of housework on the stay-at-home girlfriend trend, on TikTok, supervised by a PhD student. During this placement, I was taught how to do a deep analysis of qualitative data which I was able to apply to my research, and improve my report etiquette by writing a twelve-page report and poster MK 13H

