

Dates for your diary

- **1 April**
End of Spring term
- **19 April**
Summer Term begins
- **20-23 April**
Year 11 GCSE Art exams
- **26-30 April**
Yr 11 GCSE Languages Oral exams
- **28 & 29 April**
Yr 10 Drama Devised Performances
- **3 May**
May Day
- **4-7 May**
Yr 10 Exams
- **9 May**
Sawston Fun Run
- **13 May**
Yr 7 Parents' Eve
- **15 May**
CRC Open Morning
- **18 May**
GCSE Exams begin
- **20 May**
Yr 10 Parents' Eve
- **31 May – 4 June**
Half Term

Dear Parent

Well, here we are: the end of another term and a school full of principals, no matter how you spell it. I was delighted that our governors chose to appoint Mr Culpin as my successor. He is most definitely the man for the job, as the universally enthusiastic response from staff, pupils and parents has indicated. For all of us, it means that the school will move forward without missing a beat. Jonathan has been an exceptional deputy headteacher; I am confident that he will be an exceptional Principal and lead SVC flawlessly into its next chapter.

Uniform

You will no doubt receive our glossy Fountain magazine contemporaneously with this shorter than usual newsletter but there were one or two issues I thought it wise to draw your attention to, uniform primary among them. As we move towards the end of the school year, it is often the case that the standard of uniform slips. Can I urge you, please, not to buy shoes that don't meet our criteria: conventional, black leather-type shoes with no logos, stripes or coloured laces. No boots or trainers may be worn; there has been a growing trend for pupils to wear canvass shoes; if parents don't buy them, pupils can't wear them – a simple equation; we should greatly appreciate your cooperation in ensuring that your young people come to school dressed according to the established code.

Further, with the (hopefully) warmer weather, sweatshirts are discarded and left at home, while trendy jackets top polo shirts. The rule is clear: polo shirt, then sweatshirt, then jacket. It's the jacket that is left off if the temperature rises, not the sweatshirt.

Congratulations to ...

- Georgina Schwiening who represented Cambridgeshire at the English School Cross Country Championships in Manchester and came 35th out of the 300 entrants in her age group; even more impressive, Georgina also entered the National Duathlon Championships and came second. This is a particularly gruelling competition which has a running leg, a cycling leg, followed by another running leg. As Miss Brown summed it up, 'Georgina's a little star'
- our musicians for an outstanding concert at West Road – the range and quality of talent on display was deeply impressive; and
- our Year 11 dramatists for their impressive scripted performances.

Year 11

It's that time of year when the pace accelerates for our Year 11 pupils and they realise that their days at SVC are numbered – quite specifically, as it happens: they 'leave' us formally on 14 May when we will celebrate their time

at SVC with a barbecue on the field and other pupil-chosen entertainments. They are a terrific group of young people and our fingers are firmly crossed for them that they achieve their potential and are able to celebrate their examination achievements on 24 August when they will join us in school to learn their results. In the meantime, they can look forward to their ball on 3 July and the lazy weeks when they have the longest summer holiday of their lives.

Mrs Bucklow will be writing to Year 11 parents more fully.

Human Careers Library

As part of our commitment to providing our pupils with impartial, up-to-date and good quality careers education we are asking parents and governors if they would be willing to take part in interviews with pupils in school to talk about their area of work. We already have the contact details of those of you who volunteered to participate in our trust conference this coming July. If you are comfortable with it, we shall transfer your details to our Information, Advice and Guidance database and contact you when an opportunity arises. Our aim is to create a vibrant and relevant 'Human Careers Library' to provide our pupils with information on a variety of careers and areas of employment.

We would hope that you could take part in different events that we hold throughout the year, usually on PHSE days; any small amount of your time would be appreciated.

If you are interested in taking part, please telephone or email Mrs Young, our Librarian and Careers Coordinator, with your details and we will contact you with further details in due course. Her telephone number is 01223 712777 extension 829 and her email address is hyoung@sawstonvc.org.

Bellbird School

Those of our pupils in Years 7,8 and 9, who are former pupils of the Bellbird, will no doubt be thrilled to know that they have been invited to visit the new school that has only recently opened. As Mrs Corral, Headteacher of Bellbird said, 'They were part of all the planning and decision-making and I did promise them they could come back to have a look at all their work'. Everyone is welcome to visit the new school at the following times: Saturday 24th April 9.00 to 10.30am or Monday 26th April 6.00 to 7.30pm. Our warmest congratulations go to Mrs Corral and her team for helping to design and build such a beautiful school.

Pupil voice speaks

Our model of pupil leadership is ever more successful and offers our young people – a significant number of them – opportunities to contribute increasingly to the direction of the school's work; for example, last week, our first team of pupil lesson observers sallied forth to work with volunteer teaching staff on assessing lessons. We were delighted, therefore, by the involvement of our young people in the prestigious conference run by the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust (SSAT) and the National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts (NESTA) in London recently. Hannah Ritchie and Lewis Grace spoke with eloquence and confidence – and to great acclaim from conference delegates – on the work of the wider pupil team on 'Creating a Global Village'. Miss Haworth, whose initiative this was, accompanied Hannah and Lewis and reported that they had 'received many compliments after their presentation – one even stating that they were the best presentation of the day! It was all-in-all a very interesting day; lots of innovative ideas were shared, inspiring myself and the pupils'.

Further acknowledgement of this work came in the form of the weighty SSAT publication which contained the article about our pupils' work on creating a global village. It is a well-written, well-reasoned and impressive article, capturing the project in detail. Emily Cowling, Lauren Hill, Hannah Long and Hannah Ritchie deserve our thanks for gaining national recognition of their work, and, of course, of our school, and our praise for an outstanding achievement.

Happy Easter

May this festival of joy and renewal bring you peace – and chocolate.

June Cannie
Principal