



Southfields Academy Weekly Newsletter

Week Commencing Monday 23rd May 2022



Ethos statement: We believe that through individual commitment, self-discipline, integrity and respect for others, we inspire everyone to learn.

Year 11 News – Mr Millington

This week Year 11 students have started to sit their GCSE's. This is the first time in two years. Students are all anxious of what to expect but at present there has been full attendance and pure positivity after the exams. There is also an enormous sense of relief that they were not so bad and what was in the papers is what they had learnt in the lessons.

This has been the culmination for both students and staff who have worked tirelessly this year for this one moment, the booster lessons and overlay timetable giving that extra support.

After the exams on the 30th June all students will be able to celebrate their success and have a dance at the Year 11 prom. One fantastic thing this year has been the initiative and independence if some students who wanted to help the whole Year 11 community. Without any teacher support a small group of Year 11s set up an enterprise activity to raise money for the prom. They bought cake and ice-lollies and sold them at a profit at break times to other students. This raised a significant amount of money.

The majority of students have destinations for next year and it is pleasing that so many are returning to Southfields. Good luck for the rest of the exams.

UKMT Junior Maths Challenge – Ms Frost

Last month a number of Year 8 students were chosen to compete in the UKMT Junior Maths Challenge. This is a national competition run by the Mathematics Trust with the purpose of 'advancing the education of young people in Mathematics.' The competition is renowned for being very tough with bronze, silver and gold certificates being extremely difficult to win.

The Mathematics department were thrilled to award the following students with their certificates this week.

Achieving bronze: Ali Ampou El Ela, Aarron Walker, Hector Weir, Nastaran Haidary, Samir Sediqi, Sophia Khan and Shayaan Farooq.

Our silver winners are Nizar Titane, Saad Dogar, Gusts Petersens, Liam Harverson and Frankie Ahern.

Gold certificates were won by Fryderyk Romanowski and Kavinran Puthuvlakan, who also achieved Best in School! A fantastic achievement, well done.

Congratulations to all of these students and to all the other students that took part. Each student receiving a certificate should keep it somewhere safe as evidence of their bravery, initiative, determination and ambition!





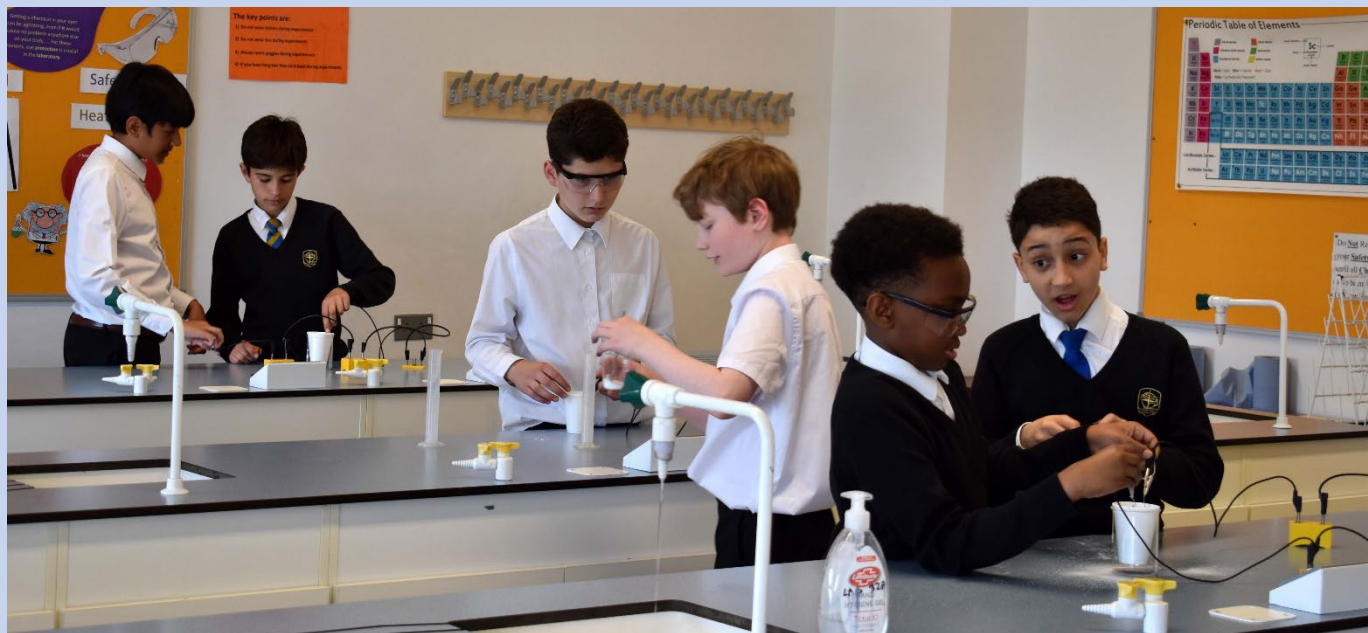
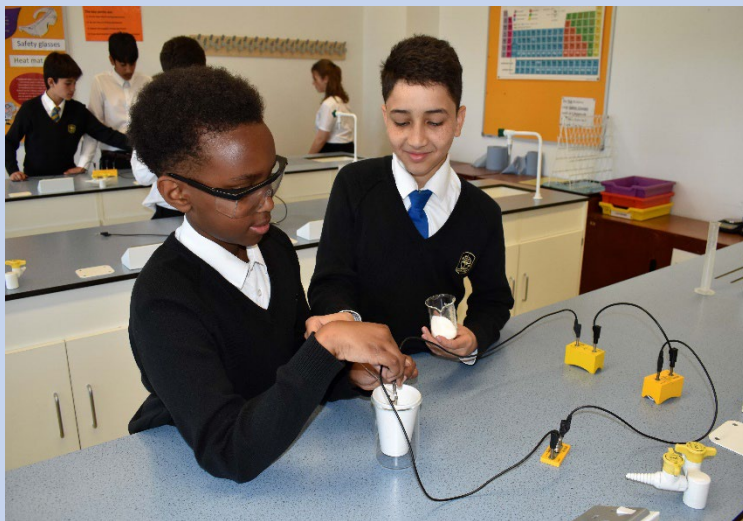
Thought for the Week

Seizing the initiative can make all the difference between winning and losing. –
Thomas M. Davis

Science Club – Mr Clarke

In this week's science club, students investigated whether water conducts electricity. This is a common misconception in the population - water does, in fact, **not** conduct electricity! However, "ions" - charged particles that are free to move around - *can* conduct electricity.

Most water has at least some ionic content, so can conduct electricity to some extent. In this electrifying experiment, students added drops of concentrated salt solution to distilled water - water that contains no ions - and observed how much a bulb lit up as a result. Many thanks go out to the science technicians for this one, who gave us the distilled water free of charge!



Dates for Your Diary

Friday 27th May 2022 – Academy Breaks for Half Term

Monday 6th June 2022 – Academy Resumes

Friday 17th June 2022 – IEAP Day

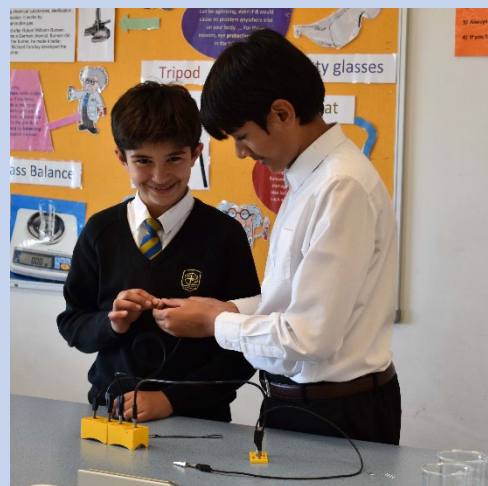
Monday 27th June 2022 – Year 10 Mock Examinations Begin

Thursday 30th June 2022 – Year 11 Prom

Friday 1st July 2022 – INSET Day

Monday 4th July 2022 – Platinum Jubilee Bank Holiday

Thursday 7th July 2022 – Year 13 Leavers' Prom





Horsepower in King George's Park - Ms Breen



A group of students went on a trip to see an unusual sight in nearby King George's Park - working shire horses in action. The students were learning about biodiversity and traditional methods of cultivation. The horses, who were pulling a mower to cut the grass, were helping to prepare the area for wildflower beds that will be planted soon. The flower beds will provide habitat for wildlife and attract pollinators, such as bees and butterflies, to the area.

Joey and William, the horses, live in a herd with 13 other shire horses who also are working animals. Some other facts about them:

- They can pull up to six tonnes between them (the weight of a small car).
- They can work up to six hours each day but have regular rests while working, especially if it is warm.
- They need to eat 10kg of food to remain healthy and strong.
- They eat grass in their field and also have oats and chaff (crop seed casings) for additional nutrition.
- They can only drink water before they work or when they have cooled down properly, as otherwise they get stomach cramps.
- They are one of the biggest horse breeds - Joey and William are around 17 hands high.
- A young horse like William, is always paired with an older horse so that they learn the ropes and how to behave.
- When not mowing or ploughing fields, the horses work at Hampton Court Palace giving carriage rides, but apparently they find this a bit boring and prefer field work.
- Last week they met the Queen at the Windsor Horse Show.

Students asked interesting questions and were given information about careers that involve working with animals. The top tip for anyone wanting to work with animals was to find a local city farm, petting zoo or stables and offer to volunteer to get some experience.

At the end of the visit, and during the horse's rest break, all students had the opportunity to get close to the gentle giants and meet them properly.





Old Vic Theatre Collaboration – Ms Perera



Well done to the Year 10 drama BTEC and GCSE students for their final collaboration with the Old Vic theatre.

The students showed great levels of professionalism and creativity when working with the Old Vic facilitators whilst creating the set design of **47th**. A performance based on predictions of Kamala Harris as 47th president of the United States, as well as dealing with Donald Trump's potential re-election. Students vision captured their understanding of the white house and congress but later they were able to see the official set design on the revolving stage at the Old Vic theatre.



Our partnership with Old Vic Schools Club Programme has catapulted the students' creativity and understanding of production and design. We look forward to next year and future collaborations with the



What is Resilience? – Ms Nearn



What is resilience? Are we born with it or do we develop it? And what do palm trees have to do with it?

Resilience is the ability to recover from difficulties or setbacks. On a physical level, resilience looks like healing (our bodies do it without any instructions); on an emotional level, resilience looks like the ability to bounce back after an upsetting experience or stressful situation.

It turns out; we can learn a lot about resilience from palm trees.

Palm trees are well known for their ability to survive monsoons and hurricanes. This is because they have flexible trunks that can bend 40-50% without breaking, and leaves like giant feathers that move with the wind. But the really cool thing about palm trees is their root systems. When storms rage, the trees direct the energy of the wind into their roots to stimulate growth and help them grip the earth more firmly. In other words, they literally NEED storms to develop strong roots.



This is true in life too. Without facing challenging or upsetting situations, we would never have the chance to build our mental and emotional resilience. Think of it as weight lifting for the mind and heart! We need these “storms” to reach our potential.

As parents, it is tempting to try to protect our children from the things they find hard (“Here, let me do that for you!”), but being overly helpful robs children of the chance to develop their inner resources and build strong “roots.” Equally, by denying their struggles (“You have nothing to complain about!”), or diminishing them (“It’s not that bad...you’ll be fine!”) you risk alienating them or turning them brittle and vulnerable to storms. A balance of support and challenge must be struck.

What is your relationship with “storms” in your own life? How have the hard things you’ve gone through helped you to develop strong roots? Give it some thought, then think about how you can pass your wisdom onto your children so that they can grow into resilient, storm-strengthened adults.

COMMUNITY JUBILEE PARTY

THURSDAY 2ND JUNE 2022 12 - 6PM @ DEVAS CLUB, SW11 5EN

Join us to celebrate
the Queen's Platinum
Jubilee

Live Music
Performances
Face painting
Tombola
Bouncy Castle
Creative Stalls
Food from our amazing chefs



For more information or if you would like
to be apart of our celebrations please
email
lan@devasclub.org



Devas

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like it's
1952



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