



# Southfields Academy Weekly Newsletter

## Week Commencing Monday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2022



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

### Inclusion Conference – Ms Sulliman

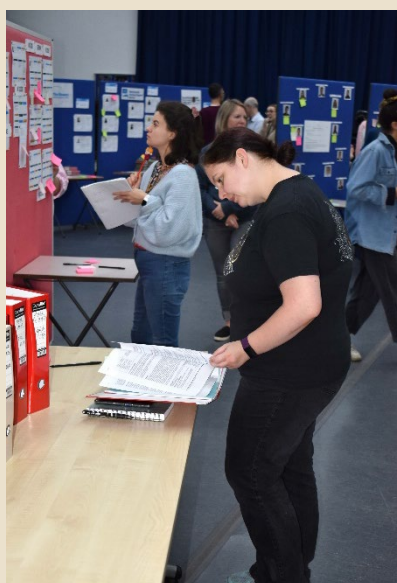
During staff INSET day on 7<sup>th</sup> October, the SEND Team held the annual Inclusion Conference for all staff to attend. Led by the SEND Leadership Team and supported by all teaching assistants, every member of teaching staff attended a conference where all students with an SEND need could be discussed.

As part of our whole school approach to meeting SEND needs, many students with needs met with a teaching assistant to complete a Pupil Passport prior to the conference. During this session, TAs compiled information on what the student enjoys, finds difficult and what they find supportive in a classroom. These student-led documents were then displayed by Year group on INSET day so that staff could read them and also speak to the key SEND staff that works with the student. Teachers were then able to add their own strategies in a collaborative and cross-curricular approach to support.

It was lovely to hear teachers discussing what works best to support the students and for teachers to have an opportunity to speak to the teaching assistants, who will often spend a lot of time with students across a range of subject areas.

The end result was that all Pupil Passports could be added to with additional teaching strategies that support our SEND students.

The Inclusion Conference is an important and valued part of staff continued professional development and ensures that all teachers in our academy are focusing on the needs of our SEND students.







## Thought for the Week

"The best speakers in the world are the best storytellers. They have a gift to not only tell a great story, but also share a lot of the details that many others wouldn't."

Larry Hagner



## PE Sporting Success



### Y7 Girls football team

Well done to our Y7 girls who played against George Green school on Thursday 20th. This was the first fixture away for the team and the girls did their very best. After 40 minutes of play it all came down to penalties. The girls did some great shots and our GK made some great saves. However it finished 5-3 to George Green.



## Year 11 - Caribbean-Style Fish with Sweet Potato Mash – Ms Ancilotto

Well done to the Y11 Hospitality and Catering (Ms Ancilotto) students. This week they have worked on three different preparations within the same lesson: crumbed fish, sweet potato mash accompanied by a fresh tomato and spring onion salad. They even had time to work on their presentation, using some professional skills such as piping and quenelle.





## News from the world of Science – Dr Kruppa

If you own a cat or a dog, you will know that animals like to play, just like humans. Play involves an activity which may not seem to have any other motive than the sheer pleasure we gain. So why do animals engage in play and why do they enjoy it? We think it is because play, especially in young animals, helps them to learn important life skills, like how to find food or how to defend themselves. But up until now, we believed that play was restricted to the more intelligent animals such as birds and mammals. Insects, we thought, were just too unsophisticated to learn in this way and instead relied on pure instinct. We will now have to change our opinion on this, because of work carried by scientists at the University of Queen Mary, London. They gave pea sized footballs to bumble bees and discovered that they enjoyed playing football.

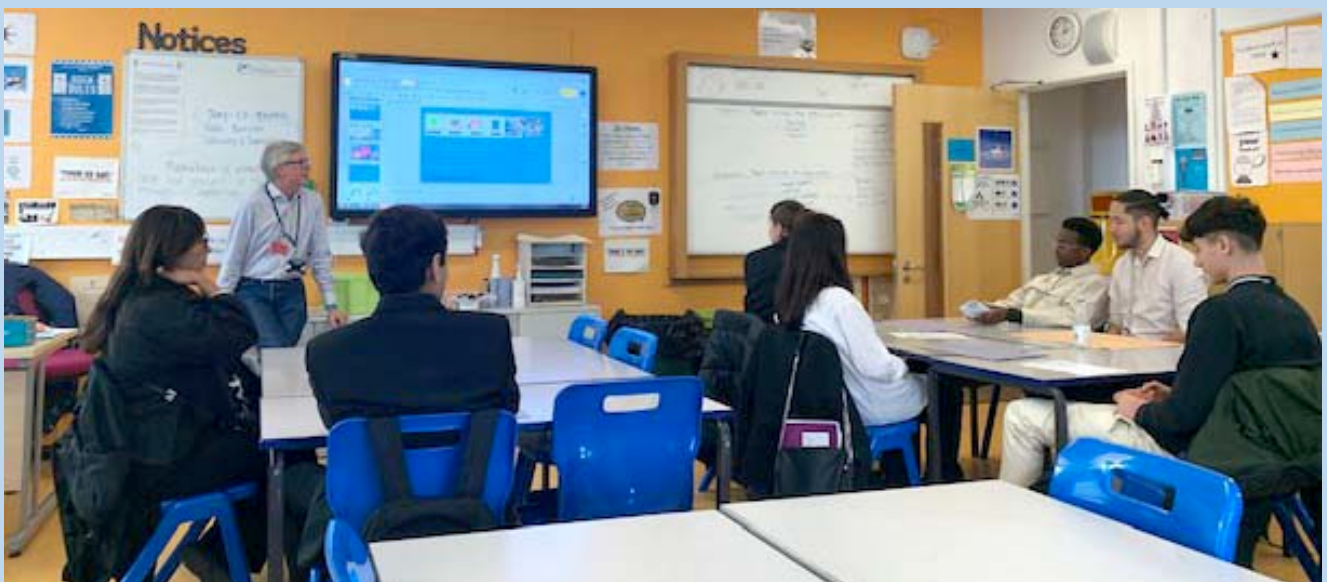


The scientists worked hard to prove that the bees were really playing and not for example simply mistaking the balls for food. Bees are known for the complicated tasks they perform, such as pollinating flowers, so the play may help them gain these life skills. It turns out that bees are even more amazing than we thought. And what a great job it would be to watch bees playing football.

## IG GCSE Citizenship students talk to local Cllr Guy Humphries – Ms Molloy

In period 5 on the 2nd November we had Cllr Guy Humphries come and talk to us about the practicalities of being a local councillor; how they get their budget and the services they provide. The students in turn delivered their presentations on what they thought were local issues within their ward. They raised insightful questions, ranging from fly tipping, increased fox numbers and dog fouling to pollution.

Guy has a history with the school, serving as a governor a decade ago and he was thrilled to be invited back. This session really brought the subject matter to life and we were very grateful for Guy's time, enthusiasm and knowledge.



## Wandsworth Civic Award Winner – Ms Breen

Former Year 13 student, Nadia Sasac, was nominated for a Wandsworth Civic Award for her voluntary work supporting the Ukrainian students the Academy has taken in since the war in Ukraine started in the spring.

We were delighted to hear that Nadia had won the award which was presented to her at a ceremony at the Town Hall.

The Academy has worked hard to ensure the Ukrainian children have been warmly welcomed. An important part of this welcome was provided voluntarily by Nadia, who is Ukrainian herself but who has lived in the UK for four years. Although at the time Nadia was preparing for her final Year 13 qualifications, she devoted much of her spare time to ensure that all of the young Ukrainian students felt supported and a part of the Academy community. Nadia was a focal point for the group i.e. someone who was able to communicate well with them in their home language and who ensured that they didn't feel isolated and were able to benefit as much as possible from their education here. Nadia has also provided a sympathetic ear as each student began to feel comfortable enough to share their stories, fears and experiences of the war.

Nadia created a mini-Ukrainian network and community so that the students could chat, socialise and feel relaxed in their new surroundings which was vital for their well-being. She also organised familiar activities and games from home for them to keep them occupied and to help improve their English language skills. Nadia reported that during her time with the students they grew and blossomed from the tearful young refugees they were on arrival to the confident, fully integrated members of the Academy community they are now.



## Year 12 News – Ms Hess

The Year 12 students had quite a busy beginning of the year with external agencies coming in to run teambuilding sessions, trips and a careers fair. Our students are being praised as they have settled really well and the teachers have been impressed with their behaviour around school and the effort they have shown in lesson. This year we are aiming to develop our students as leaders and to ensure they are contributing as members of the Academy. So far they have supported at Parent Evenings, assemblies, break duties and running activities for KS3 students.

### Meet the tutor

Our Meet the tutor event was once again virtual on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> October. Parents met with tutors to discuss the progress of their children and any concerns. All parents also received a report on MCAS regarding the Induction checkpoint.

We look forward to seeing all of the successes that this half term will bring for our students.

## Dates for Your Diary

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2022 – IEAP Day

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2022 – Year 12 Vocational Mock Exams Begin

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2022 – Year 13 A Level & Vocational Mock Exams Begin

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2022 – Year 10 Parents' Evening

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2022 – Year 11 & International Group Mock Exams Begin

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2022 – Students Break for Christmas Holidays

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2022 – INSET Day



## Wandsworth Wellbeing Service

Wandsworth Education Wellbeing Service are running free workshops for parents / carers of all secondary school students. So far, the workshops have received very positive feedback from parents – please scan the QR code or follow the web address to sign up.



## Education Wellbeing Service



### Upcoming Events For Secondary Parents 2022/23 Supporting your teenager's mental health webinars

**22ND,  
26TH OR  
27TH  
SEPT**

Mental Health during the teenage years -  
an introduction and overview  
For year 7 & year 8 parents

**9TH,  
10TH OR  
15TH  
NOV**

Supporting your teen through emotional  
storms - emotion regulation skills and  
strategies  
For all secondary school parents

**26TH,  
30TH OR  
1ST  
JAN/FEB**

Understanding and supporting anxiety  
during the teenage years  
For all secondary parents

**13TH,  
16TH OR  
17TH  
MAR**

Supporting and managing exam and  
assignment stress: top tips and ideas for  
parents  
For all secondary parents - year 11 and 13 focus

**4TH,  
9TH OR  
11TH  
MAY**

Understanding and supporting teen sleep:  
an overview of the research and  
recommendations  
For all secondary parents

We also provide free 1:1 support programmes for parents to support with their child's anxiety or behavioural challenges. Speak to your school to find out more



Scan QR code with your phone's camera to sign up for free via eventbrite or  
search:

[www.eventbrite.com/cc/secondary-parents-nhs-wellbeing-workshops-725989](https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/secondary-parents-nhs-wellbeing-workshops-725989)