



Southfields Academy Weekly Newsletter

Week Commencing Monday 12thth December



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

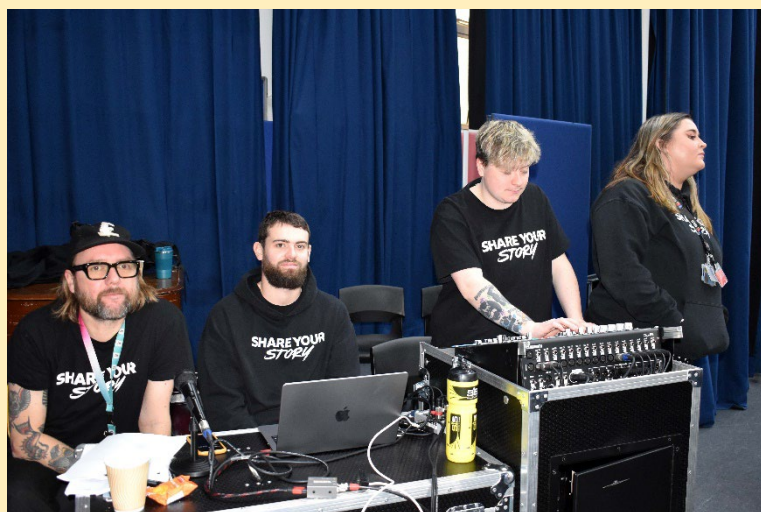
BBC 100 Share Your Story

'BBC100 Share Your Story' is part of the BBC's centenary celebrations, where they plan to visit around 400 secondary schools across the UK, reaching approx. 400,000 students.

We were lucky to be chosen as one of the secondary schools to participate and the BBC came on Thursday to deliver sessions to Year 7, Year 8 and Year 9.

BBC Ambassadors, BBC Radio 1 and CITV's "Scrambled" presenter, Robyn Richfords and BBC Early Years Apprentice, Perisha Kudhail, shared their true story with the students that covered something that they have been through and overcome. Students then had the opportunity to ask questions and to find out more about the ambassadors including their story and career. They also had the chance to share their own story in the sessions as part of BBC Young Reporter! Each session has been developed to support the PSHE curriculum in goal setting and overcoming obstacles. It also benefits the English curriculum through the power of storytelling.

The Year groups were great ambassadors for the Academy asking sensitive and insightful questions. On leaving, the BBC Crew remarked that this was one of the nicest schools they had visited and they appreciated the great level of interaction from the students.





Thought for the Week

"It's important to make sure that we're talking with each other in a way that heals, not in a way that wounds." — Barack Obama



Year 11 News – Mr Lamboi

It goes without saying that at Southfields Academy we all strive to be the best that we can be, and remain relentless in the pursuit of excellence both inside and outside of the classroom. This term Year 11s have settled swiftly into the most important stage of their academic journey so far. I have seen, in the vast majority, an unyielding commitment to want to do well in their studies. For example, the regular crowds that converge in the dining hall from as early as 7AM onwards to revise and support one another (see images below). I am filled with an immense sense of pride when members of staff comment on their work ethic and conduct around the school and there have been plenty of staff doing so.

However, this is only the genesis of what will be an exciting and demanding academic year. The next challenge is to go beyond what they have hitherto achieved and raise the bar and expectations even higher in terms of their academic performance, behaviour, mental and moral wellbeing. This will include every student (with the support of his or her parents/guardians):

1. Being 100% compliant 100% of the time
2. Being punctual to school and lessons
3. Being resilient
4. Having 100% attendance
5. Working hard in lessons, and completing classwork and homework to an exceptional level

A special thank you to Ms Gavin and Ms Cannam for their tireless efforts over the mock exam period in ensuring that our Y11 students are in school, arriving on time and are prepared for their exams.

Finally, please enjoy a warm and restful festive season, stay safe and healthy.

I wish you all and your families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Highlights from this term

Congratulations to Aleksandar (11 LNT) for winning the Jack Petchey Award.

He was nominated by his peers as the stand out student of his year group.



Role Model of the Week

Well done to Marjan for receiving the role model of the week. She can boast 100% attendance and punctuality.

During the mock exams, she was one of the students that came in early to revise with her friends every single day- that's an example of absolute dedication to her studies.



Basketball Champions of Wandsworth

Southfields U16 Boys went up against Saint Cecilia's this term to see who would represent Wandsworth in the London School Games.

We had excellent performances from our Year 11 students, Samuel Tobierre, Jazab Kang, Nicolas Rendon Suarez, and Deniel Bolea as they and the Year 10s and 9s won 49-37.

In January, they will advance to the tournament to see who will be the best in London.

Tree Donation for The Queen's Green Canopy Project

A lovely silver birch tree has been donated to our gardening club by the AELTC and Mayors of Merton and Wandsworth Queen's Green Canopy Project. The Queen's Green Canopy is proud to be creating a living legacy with over a million trees planted in Her Majesty's name across the nation during the first planting season, October 2021 to March 2022.

Our Principal Ms Valin along with Sally Bolton OBE, CEO of the AELTC, and Councillor Jeremy Ambache, Mayor of Wandsworth were all present to help with the tree planting ceremony.

The silver birch is a beautiful tree with white, peeling bark and an elegant canopy of leaves that flutter in the wind. As a native tree it supports more than 200 insect species and brightens spring with golden catkins before the leaves emerge. The new tree has been planted near the school entrance adjacent to St George's Park where it will boost local biodiversity, beautiful the area and provide welcome shade during the hot summer months.



Christmas Card Competition – Mr Smith & Ms Dodd

The Year 10 Graphics class took on the challenge of designing the Academy's Seasonal greetings card for this year, building off their studies of Adobe suite Illustrator and the professional work of famous Illustrators who use the program.

While only one winner could be selected, there was a number of considered and developed ideas from the class as they responded to the brief of 'designing a card focused on a winter animal in negative space'.

The winner Reggie Gooden, 10NOR will have his card printed before being signed and sent out in time for the start of the Winter Holiday.



Dates for Your Diary

Tuesday 13th December 2022 – End of Term for Years 11, 12 & 13

Wednesday 14th December 2022 – End of Term for Years 7 - 10

Thursday 15th December 2022 – Invited Students for Catch-up Exams

Friday 16th December 2022 – INSET Day

Tuesday 3rd January 2023 – INSET Day

Wednesday 4th January 2023 – All Students Resume

Wednesday 11th January 2023 – International Group Parents' Evening



Southfields Christmas Lights 2022



On Wednesday night, Southfields celebrated turning on their Christmas lights by closing Replingham Road so local shops could join in the celebrations and show the community what they have to offer. Sally Bolton OBE, CEO of the AELTC, switched on the lights accompanied by Councillor Jeremy Ambache, Mayor of Wandsworth.

To add to the festivities Riversdale, Sheringdale, St Michael's CE school choirs and Southfields Academy Musical Collective performed songs on the night. To change it up a bit The Musical Collective was playing on the main stage; a large crowd gathered in spite of the cold weather and the atmosphere was brilliant, largely due to the ecstatic reception from the number of students and staff who came to watch.

The Academy did a sterling job - our students sang for over an hour – in a specially designed musical trailer! Around 53 students from all year groups sang about 20 songs, played instruments and gathered a very appreciative audience. Although not singing traditional Christmas songs, the Collective thrilled with a smorgasbord of popular classics such as Mama Mia!

As Jenna Goldie came off stage after her performance, she remarked that 'she cried because it was such a fantastic experience'.

Many thanks to our wonderful music department, including a guest appearance by Mr Hillman, for all their hard work to support, play instruments and make this a brilliant event that our students thoroughly enjoyed.





The Queen of Southfields



A Three Act Play – Based on Real Life Events

Mr Alex Spencer



The Queen of Southfields

The Players



Aleks Bakardzhiev



Muslimyar Khan



Kohsik Rubamoorthy



Ledion Miftari



Abdul Sindhu



Gabriel Campos De Oliveira



Burley Keng Akpabio



Karmella Mendoza



The Queen of Southfields

Act I – Kings College School, Wimbledon



Once upon a time, on a cold, dark November evening, Southfields Academy chess team entered the National Schools Chess Championship for the first time in their history. Shivering, due to the weather and the overwhelming nerves, the eight players entered the Porter's Lodge of Kings College School, Wimbledon. A school with three players in the England chess team... Southfields were intimidated, very intimidated.

On an evening consisting of three matches – match 1 would be a baptism of fire. From the Southfields squad of eight players – six were selected and sat down opposite their Kings College opponents.

Shortly after, all six got back up again. Southfields had lost. All six matches. Quickly. Ruthlessly. The Kings- boys had chewed up and spat out their Southfields rivals.

Kings College School 6-0 Southfields Academy





Act II – James Allen's Girls School (JAGS)

Southfields went up two flights of stairs to their team room.
What had just happened?

Aleks said he'd blacked out. Abdul couldn't remember a single move he'd made in the match. Koshik thought he'd had a dream where he'd got checkmated in 16 moves. It wasn't a dream.

But we had to move on. Mr Hillman gave a rousing speech about battles won and lost through history and Southfields were ready to go again. This time against James Allen's Girls School. JAGS, would hopefully be more amenable opponents.

Burley and Karmella came in for their first games. Abdul and Gabriel sitting out this one.

Six closely fought matches ensued. We lost five. But on Board 2, Muslimyar won! Muslimyar won! Southfields had won a chess board at the National Championship. There was no stopping us now.

James Allen's Girls School 5-1 Southfields Academy



Act II – James Allen's Girls School (JAGS)



James Allen's Girls School 5-1 Southfields Academy



Act III(i) – Ark Greenwich Free School

The mood in the team room had changed.

Now the talk was chess-tactics and opening-preparation. The nerves had all gone. It was business time.

Muslimyar's manipulation of his knights had gripped a nation, and more was to come.

The third and final match of the evening. Ark Greenwich the opponents.

Koshik and Ledion rotated out. Abdul and Gabriel came back in.

The Southfields-Six sat down one last time. Shook their opponents hands, and started the clocks.

Gabriel – the Angel Gabriel – sent from the Chess Heavens – is on board 4.

5 minutes into his game – Gabriel shouts out “checkmate”. Shakes his opponents hand. Stands, raises both fists in the air – pumps them. Then runs to the other side of the room and gives Mr Spencer a big bear hug. **Southfields 1 – Ark Greenwich 0.**



**Act III – Ark Greenwich Free School****Board 1 - Aleks Bakardzhiev****Board 2 - Muslimyar Khan****Board 3 - Abdul Sindhu****Board 4 - Gabriel Campos De Oliveira****Board 5 - Burley Keng Akpabio****Board 6 - Karmella Mendoza****Act III(ii) – Ark Greenwich Free School**

The action then moved to board 2. Muslimyar fresh from his win in the previous round delivers another brutal assault on his opponent. Checkmate. **Southfields 2 – Ark Greenwich 0.**

Aleks – on board 1 – our strongest player – the Bulgarian Beast – does not want to miss out on the party. He activates his rooks and delivers another deadly blow. **Southfields 3 – Ark Greenwich 0.**

We need 1 more win (or draw) to take the match.

Board 3 – Abdul – fights hard but loses to a knight fork. **Southfields 3 – Ark Greenwich 1.**

Board 5 – Burley – coat on. Laser-focused. Could he lead the team to victory? Down a pawn he tries a winning manoeuvre but is out-done by a foxy opponent. **Southfields 3 – Ark Greenwich 2.**

Board 6. Board 6. It's all come down to this. Karmella Mendoza. A year 7 student – who a week ago said she didn't want to play. Too inexperienced she said. Too nervous she said.

Cajoled by tutor Ms Bensalah and HoY Ms Frost. She was there. She was in the spotlight.

**Act III(iii) – Ark Greenwich Free School**

Every other match in the tournament had finished. 50 people crowded round one board. The usual silence at a chess match was replaced with increasingly excited hushed whispers; then oos and aaahs as pieces got swapped off.

It came down to a queen v rook endgame (see picture). Karmella was down but not out. With her lone white rook, she cleverly tricked her opponent and there was no way out.

Karmella Mendoza – The Queen of Southfields – had just delivered the fatal blow. **Southfields 4 – Ark Greenwich 2.**

The people there that day will never forget what they saw.

The Mighty Ducks, meets Cool Runnings, meets The Queens Gambit.



ZSL London Zoo – Ms Hodgson

On the 2nd of December, the Year 12 Travel and Tourism students enjoyed the day at London Zoo. They saw a variety of animals including penguins, lions, gorillas, tigers, lizards and butterflies. They also gained an insight into the Zoo's vision of addressing conservation challenges and their efforts to protect habitats in the future.

They all behaved exceptionally well and had a wonderful and fun day out.



School Uniform Dates

Our school uniform service providers, Stitch Design, will continue to be on site on alternate Wednesdays for the immediate future.

The shop will be open on Wednesday 4th January 2023, and every 2 weeks afterwards during the spring term.

All orders placed online prior to the end of the previous Sunday will be packed on these days.

The quickest, cheapest and most secure way to receive uniform is to select the free 'Deliver to Southfields Academy...' option. This will be available to collect on the displayed day, or will be distributed directly to your child, if not collected.

If the 'Deliver to Billing or alternate address' option is requested, you should allow a further week.

Academy Christmas Tree

The Academy Christmas tree is now beautifully decorated and sitting in the foyer. We would once again like to thank Pines and Needles @pinesandneedles for their kind donation of the tree.

Science Club - Ms El Maadi

This week in science club, the students learned how to make their own decorations out of (sugar) crystals. They made whatever shape they liked out of pipe cleaners and made a solution of water and sugar, stirring, until the sugar no longer would dissolve.

They then placed the pipe cleaners in the solution. The hope is that by Friday crystals will form and the students will have a nice decoration for the house..... hopefully!



Help for families

- **Free school meals** are available for all children in reception and years 1 & 2 of state-funded schools, as well as for families receiving benefits. Check with your child's school directly
- **Help with uniform costs** for children entitled to free school meals and starting reception or a new school
- **NHS Healthy Start Scheme** may help you buy healthy food and milk if you are on a low income and over 10 weeks pregnant or have a child aged under 4
- **Free early education** and childcare for eligible children aged 2-4

Help with food

- **Wandsworth Foodbank** has welcome centres in Battersea, Clapham Junction, Furzedown, Nine Elms, Putney, Roehampton and Southfields. Local agencies such as schools, Citizens Advice or housing associations can refer you to your local centre

Get advice

- **Citizens Advice Wandsworth** is a local charity providing free, independent, confidential and impartial advice on a range of issues including benefits, employment, housing, debt and tax. They can also help with advice in other languages. Find out more at cawandsworth.org/get-advice or call **freephone 0808 278 7833**
- **Thinking Works** can provide energy saving advice for Wandsworth residents with a Winter Warmth home visit or telephone session
- **Step Change** is a national debt charity which offers free debt advice and support to help people get their finances back on track
- **Work Match** is the council's employment service offering advice, training and support to help you find work with a wide range of employers in Wandsworth

More at wandsworth.gov.uk/hub or call **freephone 0808 175 3339**

Message from the council Leader

Dear resident

The Cost of Living crisis is hitting Londoners hard. Too many local people are wondering how to make ends meet this winter.

Wandsworth Council is on your side and here to help residents cope during this challenging time.

We want to create a fairer Wandsworth, so we've allocated £5 million to provide a Cost of Living support package for residents – the biggest of any council in London. The funding for this has come from council reserves so that we can keep the same low Council Tax, an important step because Council Tax hits those on low income the hardest.

Our Cost of Living measures include:

- £150 winter Cost of Living payment to all eligible households
- A network of Warm Spaces open across the borough
- £1 million fund to help residents experiencing hardship
- Free school uniforms for hard-pressed families
- £200,000 fund for community organisations helping residents

Please get in touch to make sure you get the support you need. Call our hotline today on **0808 175 3339** and our advisers will help. Our online Cost of Living hub can also direct you to the support that's available from the council and our partners.

Let's look out for each other in the difficult times ahead.

Simon Hogg

Leader of Wandsworth Council

More at wandsworth.gov.uk/hub or call **freephone 0808 175 3339**

Cost of Living Support

YOUR GUIDE FROM
WANDSWORTH COUNCIL –
HOW TO GET HELP AND ADVICE



More at wandsworth.gov.uk/hub
or call **freephone 0808 175 3339**



Warm Spaces

Wandsworth Council is providing a network of **Warm Spaces** across the borough where you can get a hot drink, access the internet or just keep warm for a few hours.

Libraries, children's centres, community centres and venues managed by the local voluntary sector are all opening up to provide warm places to spend time.

As well as a warm welcome, you'll be offered hot drinks, snacks and in some locations a range of events and activities.

All libraries also offer free internet and computer terminals so you can get online to find further help and advice.



Help with household bills

- One-off crisis payments in the form of vouchers for food and fuel are available through the council's **Crisis Assistance** scheme
- The **Warm Home Discount Scheme** could reduce your winter electricity bill by £150
- If you're on a low income you may be eligible for **Council Tax reduction** or a **Discretionary Housing Payment** to help with costs
- **Winter Fuel Payments** of between £100 and £300 can help pensioners pay heating bills. Plus, an extra one-off £300 Pensioner Cost of Living Payment is available this winter

More at wandsworth.gov.uk/hub or call **freephone 0808 175 3339**

A warmer welcome

An enhanced offer for children and families, delivered from our children's centres.

Our winter offer

During the Cost of Living Crisis Wandsworth Council are offering Warm Spaces these are local places where families and their children (0-5) can come for free.

These buildings offer a warm, safe, welcoming place, hot drinks, food and a range of activities to support families.

See overleaf for locations



Find your nearest warm space at
wandsworth.gov.uk/warm-spaces



A warmer welcome

Battersea

- 1 York Gardens Children's Centre
SW11 2UG
Opening hours: 9am to 3pm
- 2 Yvonne Carr
SW8 4HT
Opening hours: 9am to 6pm

Roehampton

- 3 Eastwood Children's Centre
SW15 4HR
Opening hours: 9am to 6pm
- 4 West Hill in the Park
SW18 4AS
Opening hours: 9am to 4pm

Tooting

- 5 Smallwood Children's Centre
SW17 0TW
Opening hours: 9am to 6pm
- 6 Franciscan Children's Centre
SW17 8HQ
Opening hours: 9am to 6pm



Southfields Library

Newsletter December

Unbelievable, it's already that time of the year!
Irrespective of which festivals we celebrate,
December is filled with joy
and quality time with family and friends.
We want to take the opportunity to thank you all
for your support and for joining our events,
adult groups and clubs.



Take part in one of our Adult Reading Groups

- The Quirky Reading Group
(Share reading experience)
(1st Tues of the month at 2pm)
- Wednesday Reading Group
(2nd Wed. at 5.30)
- Saturday Reading Group
(3rd Sat. at 11 am)



Ask at the desk for your copy of the book
currently being read by the group!

Digipals

Wednesday 21st of December

10:30— 12:00

If you need help with technology,
drop by for a free session of friendly support!
No need to book!



Children's Activities

Share stories and songs with children
from an early age in our library.
Develop their language and social skills while
meeting other parents and carers.
FREE—No need to book in advance!

Baby Rhyme time (under 2yrs)

Every Wednesday at 9.30 am

Baby Story Time (2– 5 yrs)

Every Friday at 9.30 am

BOARD GAMES CLUB

Every Tuesday 4—5pm

This club is getting bigger and bigger!
Play with other children using a broad selection
of games: Chess, Scrabble, Uno and more!
Fun is guaranteed.

Free—Just drop in and join

LEGO BUILDERS

Every Tuesday at 4—5pm

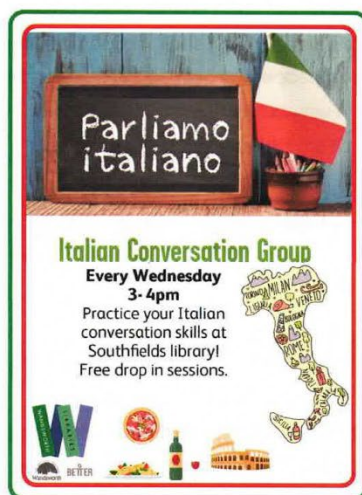
Build big, bright and better with other children
at our new **Lego club!**

For children aged 5+

Children under 8 must be with a responsible adult.



Join our Italian Conversation Group,
learn new phrases and make new friends.
No prior knowledge is required
to participate in this free and friendly group.



English Conversation Group

Every Friday at 10am

Want to practise and learn more English
in a supportive group? Join us every Friday.
Through discussions, exchanging ideas and taking
part in group activities we will help you
become more confident in speaking English.
For more information speak to a member of staff.



ORIGAMI SATURDAYS

Do you know that on Saturdays at 10:30
children can learn how to create origami?
Get creative and join us to make some cool stuff,
meet new people and have fun with paper folding!

Every Saturday at 10:30—11:30am

For children aged 6—12 years old



I.T. Coding Workshop

Saturday 17th December

12:30—2:00pm for children 6—10 yrs old

2:00—3.30pm for children 10+ yrs old

Southfields Library in partnership with **Logischool** are
happy to offer a free introductory coding session!

Spaces are limited to a maximum of 15 coders
per session, please book your place!



Coffee Morning

Every Tuesday at 11am



With the cost of living rising and the
weather getting colder, come to the
library for a free warm drink and
biscuit. It's also a great way to learn
about what's happening in the
library and to make new friends.

Opening Hours

Monday — Closed

Tuesday—9.00am - 7.00pm

Wednesday—9.00am - 7.00pm

Thursday — Closed

Friday—9.00am - 5.00pm

Saturday—10.00am - 2.30pm

Sunday — Closed

Christmas Opening Times

Please note

Christmas Eve 10am-1pm

Christmas Day Closed

Boxing Day Closed

Tues 27th Dec Closed

Wed 28th Dec 9am-7pm

Thurs 29th Dec Closed

Fri 30th Dec 9am-5pm

New Year's Eve 10am-2.30pm

Mon 2nd Jan Closed

Tues 3rd Jan 9am-7pm

Special events

All our activities are free!



NEW BOOKS



300 Wimbledon Park Rd

Tel:020 8780 1945

<https://www.better.org.uk/library/london/wandsworth/southfields-library>