



# Southfields Academy Weekly Newsletter

## Week Commencing Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2023



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

### Year 11

Year 11s have become accustomed to the adage: “you reap what you sow”. In all the various schools I have taught in, I cannot recall a group of students that have embraced and acted on this timeless and cardinal truth that in order to succeed in life you have to invest your time and effort.

We see how invested students are every day in lessons and most recently, but not for the first time, during their mock exams where students congregated as early as 7AM to support one another in preparation of their exams. (see the images below). As a Year Team, we are lost in admiration for the way that they have all studiously applied themselves, rejecting an attitude of complacency and mediocrity and adopting a positive ‘can do’ attitude to their education.

With the actual GCSE exams only a matter of weeks away, I am confident that our Year 11 cohort of 2023, provided they continue to be relentless and disciplined in their pursuit of success, will do extremely well and make the school community, their parents and most importantly themselves, extremely proud. Finally, please have a warm and restful Easter break, stay safe and healthy.



### Highlight from this term

Congratulations to Qanta (11LQRA) for winning the Jack Petchey Award. She was nominated by her peers as the stand out student of the Year group.

### Role Model of theTerm

#### **SUADA**

For having an unyielding spirit of determination and hard work. She has demonstrated our half-termly theme, LEADERSHIP, with kindness and buoyancy. She is a model student and an excellent role model.



### Upcoming key dates

- Year 11 Parents Evening on March 30<sup>th</sup>. Please mark this date and protect it in your diaries. It is vital that you attend.
- Mock exams will continue next week from the 13<sup>th</sup> March -17<sup>th</sup>. The teacher strike will not affect the mock exam schedule next week. All Year 11 students will be expected to attend school on time.



## Thought for the Week

"The achievements of an organization are the results of the combined effort of each individual." – Vince Lombardi



### Science Club – Ms El Maadi

In science club this week students made paper plane launchers out of card and elastic bands.

When making paper planes you probably found that it was very difficult to throw your paper plane very far when using only your wrist. Your wrist has a much smaller range of motion than your entire arm, and it's difficult to get the plane going fast enough for a long flight.

A rubber band, however, can store quite a bit of energy in a relatively small distance when it is stretched. A launcher built with a rubber band can get the paper plane going fast over a much shorter distance, allowing you to launch it much further than you can with just your wrist.

Unfortunately not all our launchers were successful!



## Pi Day - 2023



# 3.14159265358979323846264338327

Can you memorise 10 decimal places of pi?  
If so you will win an apple pie!



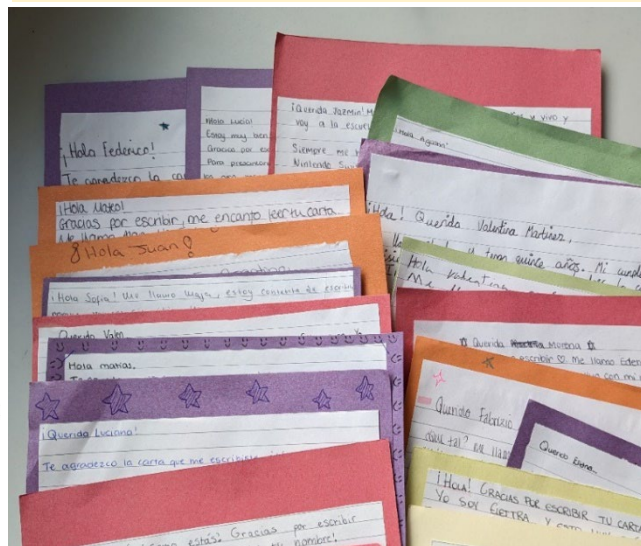
Can you memorise 100s of decimal places?  
Maybe you'll be this year's Pie Minister and win £31.41 in book tokens.

Southfields Academy Mathematics Department Pi Day 2023 – 14<sup>th</sup> March 2023

### Spanish Letters – Ms Ratkevicius

Some more letters are on their way to Argentina. Our Y10 students have finished the second round of letters in Spanish for their penfriends in Buenos Aires.

Snail mail requires lots of patience, though!

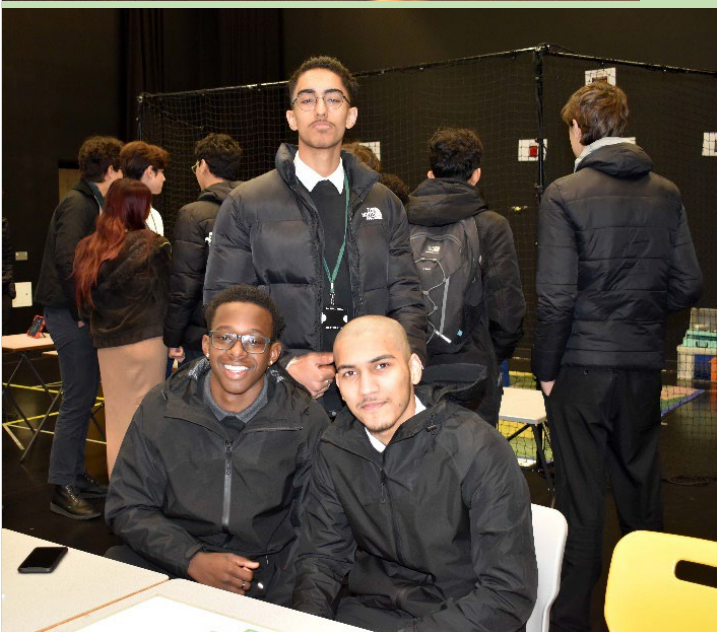
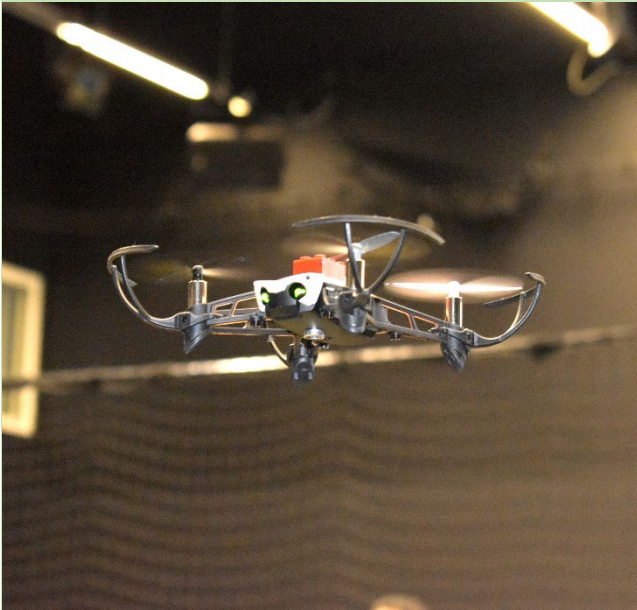




## Coding Drones Workshop - Mr Berner

On Friday, Year 12 computing students took part in an all day workshop provided by the company SkillSupply. This fantastic workshop allowed students to code physical objects, learn how they work, how they are controlled, all whilst developing essential life skills.

Coding the drones allowed students to see the real consequence of each code, doing ever more complicated and skilled movements with their drones.





## World Book Day - Ms Reynolds

Southfields Academy had a wonderful time celebrating World Book Day 2023 last week! The costumes worn by staff created a buzz of conversation about favourite books which encouraged many of our students to borrow titles from our library that they had not considered before.

The excitement of seeing Dracula teach English, to watching Mr Men characters bouncing around on the Astroturf, and then bumping into the mischievous Thing 1 and Thing 2 on the corridors was a reminder of how fun reading is.

Secret student judges are currently conferring to decide who will win the Best Dressed prizes. The results will be announced soon.

As well as fancy dress, our students were informed about two World Book Day competitions (individual and tutor group) during their registration time. Winners will be announced in assemblies soon.







**MICHAEL  
HAMILTON**  
PRACTITIONERS

**FOOTBALL  
BLACK  
LIST**

## Michael Hamilton – Football Black List

The Football Black List has become the most respected celebration of African and Caribbean achievement in the British game – with our very own Michael Hamilton being rewarded for his dedication.

Michael Hamilton, a former student of Southfields Academy, is now the AFC Wimbledon Academy Manager.

According to the Black Footballers partnership 43% of professional players in the Premier League are Black, and in the EFL 34% are from Black communities. Despite this level of representation on the pitch in the men's game – there is a worrying lack of representation in decision making positions across all areas of the game. In the women's game representation on the pitch is significantly lower but the issues of under-representation off the pitch are similar.

To help address this and pay tribute to those in influential positions – the Football Black List shines a light on those who are inspiring the next generation.



## International Women's Day – Ms Sulliman



International  
Women's Day

On Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March, we celebrated International Women's Day! As well as assemblies, tutor times activities, PSHE lessons and sporting events - staff were invited to nominate and tell the stories of women who inspire them.

These slides were shared on the screens in our communal areas throughout the day and will form a permanent display in our community so that these inspirational women can be celebrated all year round!



International  
Women's Day



### What is International Women's Day?

International Women's Day is an annual event that celebrates all the amazing things women have achieved. It is a way to show how women have and continue to influence the world. As well as celebrating brilliant women, it's also used as a day to highlight and raise awareness about issues that women have faced in the past and still face today.

Historically, women have been denied the right to vote, to work, to own property and even have personal freedom. However, because of brilliant women and men who fought against these things, women now have a lot more say in the world around us. But there are still many issues that women continue to face and fight for today.

International Women's Day is an important day for us to focus on the many inequalities, gender bias, discrimination and stereotyping that exists in society today.





## Year 9 Speaking Competition - Mr Sawbridge

For the last few weeks in English lessons, students have been researching, writing and performing speeches on topics that they are passionate about. All students performed their speeches during their English lessons, and then eight finalists were selected by their English teachers to perform their speeches in assembly, which took place on Friday 3 March. There was a great variety of topics - on the importance of learning, on inclusion and solar power (to name just a few!).

It takes a huge amount of courage to stand up and speak in front of over 150 people, especially when they are your friends and classmates. Their speeches were - without exception - extremely well-researched and performed. They deserve a huge amount of credit for their courage and talent, with particular credit going to Agynes (9HRB), who was the overall winner for her speech on "What school doesn't teach us".

Well done to all those who participated!



## Year 9 Parents/Carers – Focus Group

The local Immunisation NHS Service is inviting parents/carers of Year 9 students to participate in a focus group to discuss why parents/carers are not completing consent for school-age vaccination for their child. They are interested in hearing your views.

As a thank you for participating in the focus group discussion, they are offering a £10 gift voucher. If you are interested, please contact the NHS project team on [hrch.immsserviceimprovementproject@nhs.net](mailto:hrch.immsserviceimprovementproject@nhs.net)

### Parent & Student Wellbeing Support Survey

One of our visiting trainee Education Wellbeing Practitioners is conducting some research about our community's awareness of mental health and wellbeing support available in the local area.

If you or your child would like to participate, please use the links or QR codes below to access the surveys. Thank you.

For **Students**



For **Parents/Carers**



# NHS



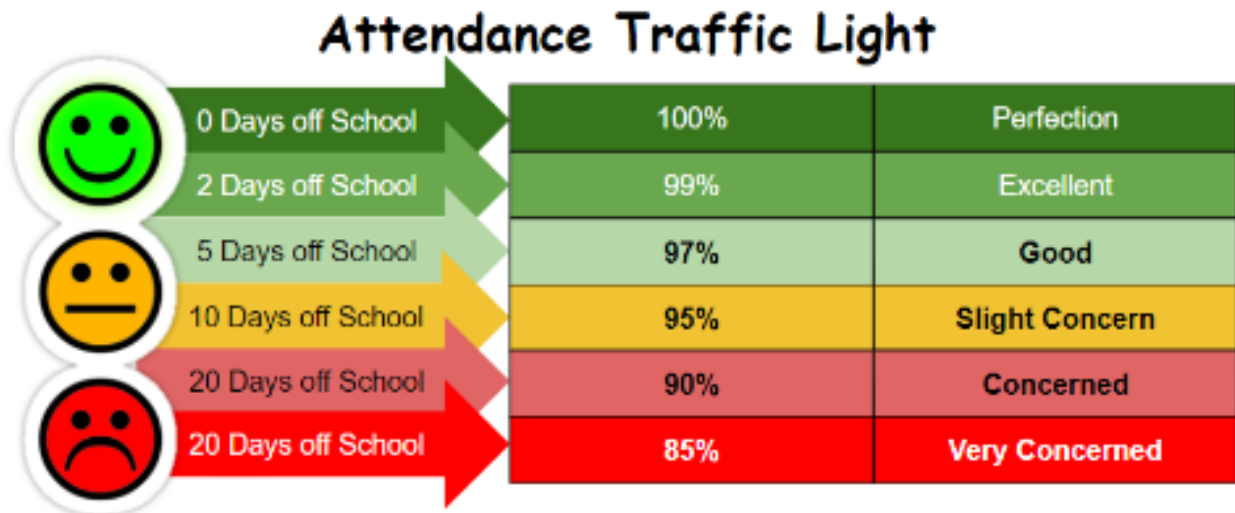
## Dates for Your Diary

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2023 – Year 8 Parents' Evening  
Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2023 – Year 11 Parents' Evening  
Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 – Academy Breaks for Easter Holiday  
Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2023 – Academy Resumes

## Missing School: What's the big deal? – Ms Nearn

When your child doesn't sleep well, has a little cold, has some anxiety or friendship wobbles, or just isn't "feeling it", it can be tempting to let them have a duvet day. In fact, you might think it's no big deal. But the facts are pretty clear: lower attendance equals lower attainment.

We all get legitimately ill from time to time. But since the pandemic, the proportion of persistently absent pupils increased from 10.5% to 22.3% in the 2021/22 school year. Research shows that students who miss just 10% of their sessions (or 39 half-days missed) will miss out on **two to three months of learning**.\* That is enough to significantly impact their education.



Schools have to regularly inform the Local Authority of any pupils who are regularly absent from school, have irregular attendance, or have missed 10 school days or more without the school's permission.

We live in a society with an unequal playing field, with many families facing economic and social hardships. During Covid, disadvantaged pupils were less likely to have access to study space, computers, and educational materials\*\*, and as a result they fell further behind their more privileged peers. Yet schooling can only equalise opportunities if children are present in the classroom.

Beyond the obvious, regular attendance has many advantages:

- Opportunities for social-emotional learning and for building self-worth
- Students gain confidence and increase their risk-taking in learning when they are regularly at school
- Attending school even when they don't feel like it teaches kids to do hard things - it builds "grit"
- The inner critic settles down when kids are busy and engaged. (Humans need purpose!)

Learning is a building process, and it is important not to miss any of the steps. Consistency is the key to success! Please keep that in mind next time you are tempted to keep your child home from school.

\* [London School of Economics Blog](#)

\*\* [Elliot Major, Eyles, and Machin, 2021](#)

## Have You Got an Anxious Child?

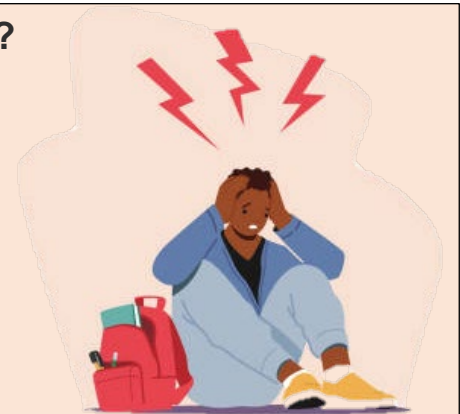
Need some advice on talking to your child about anxiety or mental health?

The Lily Project is offering a free webinar sharing the research behind why kids today are so anxious, and how to manage post-pandemic stress.

When? March 23rd, 2023

Time? 12:00 till 13:00 (GMT)

Register here: [Lilly-Jo Workshop](#)





# Education Wellbeing Service Parent Webinar

## *Supporting and Managing Exam and Assignment Stress*

Exams and Assignments can be a time of stress and challenge. This workshop is for parents and carers, with ideas and advice for supporting and managing exam stress during the upcoming exam season.

It will explore:

- *What is exam stress*
- *Our bodies and brains under pressure*
- *Ideas for managing stress in the moment*
- *Ideas for maintaining healthy balance during the exam season*
- *How to be a supporter  
and sharing of resources to take forward.*

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**The Webinar will run on three dates:**

**13th March 7-8pm**

**16th March 7.30-8.30pm**

**17th March 1-2pm**

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*To reserve your place, copy this link or scan the QR Code below*

<https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/secondary-parents-nhs-wellbeing-workshops-725989?utm-campaign=social&utm-content=attendeeshare&utm-medium=discovery&utm-term=odclsxcollection&utm-source=cp&aff=odclsxcollection>





## Wandsworth Fostering Information Evening – Save the date!

Would you like to change the future for local children and young people in your community? Foster Carers are ordinary people who provide something extraordinary to the children and teenagers they look after.

Wandsworth children and young people come into foster care because they are unable to live with their own families.

You don't need any formal qualifications to be a foster carer, we provide a comprehensive training package from pre -approval training to specialist courses which are timed to suit you around school picks ups, drop offs, evenings and weekends.

Our foster carers work full time, part time or stay at home. They are single, married, co-habiting; from the straight or LGBTQX community and they range from age 29 to 84. They speak many different languages and they rent or own their own homes.

We are urgently looking for individuals and families who are interested in providing a temporary or permanent home for teenagers.

If you're interested in learning more about Fostering for Wandsworth, please join us for an in-person information evening. It will be held on:

**Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2023 6-8pm**

**Falcon Grove Social Services Family Centre**

**10 Falcon Grove**

**Upper Tooting**

**SW11 2ST**

To register your place please email us [fosteringrecruitment@wandsworth.gov.uk](mailto:fosteringrecruitment@wandsworth.gov.uk) or call us free on 0808 175 3327. You can also fill in the form on [fostering.wandsworth.gov.uk](https://fostering.wandsworth.gov.uk) or message us through our fostering for Wandsworth facebook page. If you can't join us in person please do still join us virtually, contact us and we'll forward you the link for the meeting.

If you know someone who would like to become a foster carer, perhaps a friend or neighbour please spread the word for us and give them the details of this event.

We look forward to meeting you,

Trudy, Amie, Alicja, Hadia and Nicky – Wandsworth Fostering Recruitment and Assessment team



## Child Exploitation Guide – Wandsworth Council

The Local authority has published an information guide for parents about child exploitation [https://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/public-health/public-health-publications/exploitation\\_support\\_pack/](https://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/public-health/public-health-publications/exploitation_support_pack/)