



Southfields Academy Weekly Newsletter

Week Commencing Monday 27th March 2023



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

Geography Field Trip – Elliot and Matthew (Year 12)

Day 1: On Monday 6th March a group of Year 12 and 13 Geography students left their classrooms at Southfields Academy and headed to the New Forest National Park. The 2 day educational trip would allow them to carry out practical fieldwork investigations to aid their geography knowledge.

When visiting the New Forest we took part in a range of activities which not only we had fun but helped to aid our fieldwork. On the first day we got stuck in right away, put on our waders and began our work in the streams. In doing so, we measured the width and depth of the bank as well as testing for the velocity of the water. We did this at three different streams and gathered data at all three points before Mother Nature took its toll with a storm hitting as we began to pack up.

Day 2: We began a hike where we set off around 10 am and reached back to the hostel at around 2pm. On the hike, we saw much wildlife as well as having a stop off at the village where most of us had a look round the shops and bought some fudge. We later returned to do some human geography coursework and tried to compare the village today as it was to in the past, taking photos and doing surveys.

Day 3: And there was one final activity to do before heading home. We visited an arboretum where we collected our last pieces of evidence on physical geography and got to smell some citrus Douglas firs and measure how much carbon is stored in the trees.

On our trip, I learned many things such as how to measure the angle at which you can see the top of the tree and how a village can change. I learned how the village is notorious for being haunted and why shops are based around a Halloween theme.

Some of the highlights of the trip were playing hide and seek in the pitch black, Charlie falling in the river, trying to find people with lights as well as watching people fall flat on their back in the stream. Another highlight was the photograph challenge where we competed for the best replication of a photograph in the past.

All of the students and I really enjoyed the trip and we all thank the teachers for setting it up. It was a great experience and I recommend future Year 12s to attend this trip.





Thought for the Week

When we succeed, we succeed because of our individual initiative, but also because we do things together. **Barack Obama**



Dates for Your Diary

Thursday 30th March 2023 – Year 11 Parents' Evening
Friday 31st March 2023 – Academy Breaks for Easter Holiday
Monday 17th April 2023 – Academy Resumes
Monday 1st May 2023 – Bank Holiday
Wednesday 17th May 2023 – Year 7 Parents' Evening

Year 13 News – Mr Browne

Changes to university student finance in the England

Student loan repayments are rising for the next cohort of students in England as the repayment threshold is to be dropped and the repayment period is increased.

Most education experts think the changes will make low to middle income graduates significantly worse off. Any student starting on an undergraduate university course on or after 1 August 2023, will be subject to the new 'repayment plan 5'. This means students will pay 9% of their income over the new lower repayment threshold of £25,000 a year. This means students will start paying their loan back at a lower level and monthly payments will be higher at every level. (The previous threshold was £27,295.)

The length of the repayment period is also changing from "until the loan is cleared" or "30 years" (whichever comes first), to "until the loan is cleared" or "40 years" (whichever comes first). As many graduates are unlikely to pay off their loans that means that most students will effectively pay a lifetime "graduate tax" (on top of income tax, national insurance etc.).

The new schemes does reduce the interest payable on loans to just the rate of RPI (Retail Price Index) inflation (it was RPI inflation plus 3%). This is an improvement for students who are worried that interest payments conflict with their religious beliefs.

Overall, however, students (especially those who are eligible for full maintenance loans) can expect to pay back more money over the course of their lifetime.

Business Studies Tournament – Mr Munro

On Friday 17th March, our Y12 L2 business students organised and ran a football tournament for our Y7 students to participate in. The Y12s were in charge of promoting the event, which consisted of creating and displaying posters, delivering presentations and handing out/collecting in reply slips.

The Y12 students conducted themselves with maturity throughout the promotion of the tournament.

On the day of the tournament, the Y12s had over 40 Y7 students in attendance. The Y12s then had to organise them into teams and explain the rules of the tournament. Once the tournament was under way, the Y12 students had to officiate the games, monitor equipment and manage the league table.

The tournament was a success, with all Y7 students enjoying themselves and applauding the Y12 students to show their appreciation and on the success of their tournament.

The Y12 students now have to create certificates and hand out medals in an assembly, which will then enable them to complete coursework regarding the success of the event.



PGL Residential Weekend - Ms Gbolonyo

On Friday 17th March Ms Gbolonyo, Ms Boothe, Mr Clarke and Ms Ellis-Marshall took 40 Year 8 and 9 students to Marchant Hill, Surrey for the weekend. In the words of our students "What a brilliant weekend!"

The aim of the weekend was to focus on personal development, leadership, teamwork and communication skills through having fun.

On arrival, students settled into their rooms, had dinner then took part in their first challenge in the woods called 'ambush'. This challenge required students to work as a unit. The fun didn't stop there. Students had a jam-packed weekend full of activities. This included:

- Giant swing
- Rifle shooting
- Archery
- Climbing
- Zip wire
- PGL tournament
- Climbing
- Jacob's ladder
- Problem solving challenge

I am very proud of each and everyone of the students as they took part in every challenge and in some cases even conquered their personal fear of height. Students encouraged one another, celebrated each other and demonstrated our core values throughout!

The catering staff also shared positive feedback that all students were incredibly polite and well mannered.

On the way home student shared the following feedback:

"I really enjoyed the giant swing"

"I enjoyed sharing a room with my friends"

"I enjoyed challenging myself"

"Thank you for organising the PGL trip and taking us away for the weekend"

"I am so proud I got to the top of Jacob's ladder"

Thank you to all the staff and students for making this a memorable weekend.







Science Club

This week the students remade catapults using a new design. This design was much better at launching the paper airplanes.

The students had to try to launch their paper airplane at a balloon and try bursting it. I think we will have to work on it a bit longer!

The students are very excited for the upcoming science club trip to the natural History Museum this Friday.

