



# Southfields Academy Weekly Newsletter

## Week Commencing Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2024



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

### Jack Petchey Wandsworth Achievement Awards Programme 2024 - Stella Gbolonyo

On Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024, I had the pleasure of attending Wandsworth Civic Suite for the Jack Petchey Foundation Achievement Awards. The Jack Petchey Foundation was set up by Sir Jack Petchey to inspire and motivate young people across London and Essex to do their best and reach their full potential. Several schools within the Wandsworth borough attended the programme. The event started with an opening speech by VIP guest speaker Councillor Juliana Annan (The Mayor of the London Borough of Wandsworth) and it was just an incredible evening.

A huge well done to the students below. Each young person was recognised and voted by their peers for the inspirational work they do at Southfields Academy (and beyond):

Chahd Sabra Y13  
Abdulqadir Hassan IG  
Nathan Lodge Y12  
Taiyon Harper Y8  
Scarlett Spencer Y10  
Rumaisa Arshad Y9  
Rakaiya Atikpakpa Y9  
Codi Weston Y10  
Melanie Tapia Spinola Y11

As an academy, we were also thrilled to celebrate some of our exceptional staff who were honoured with the prestigious Jack Petchey Awards. These remarkable individuals have demonstrated, dedication, and positive contributions to our community. Thank you to our Leader Award Winners, Ms Hughes and Ms Millward. The evening would not have been complete without two special performances from Mr Gumble, Melody Stanley Y10, Ruxandra Barabas Y12 and Scarlett Spencer Y10. The audience were blown away!

Did I mention we have amazing students at Southfields?!

We are incredibly proud of all these students and know they will continue to inspire, motivate and achieve great things. In the famous words of Sir Jack Petchey, **"If you think you can, you can!"**- Our phenomenal students have definitely demonstrated this!





## Achievement Awards continued....







## Thought for the Week

"Leadership is not about titles, positions, or flowcharts. It is about one life influencing another."  
— John C. Maxwell



### Dons Local Action Group – Ms Sulliman

During the Christmas period, staff across the academy *donned* their most Christmassy of jumpers for our annual Christmas Jumper Day!

Today, we were pleased to welcome in Rob and Ursula from the Dons Local Action Group and present them with the cheque for funds raised. We were very proud to raise money for an amazing local charity that provides food, household goods, furniture and appliances to those in need.

We look forward to fundraising for them in the future!



### Wandsworth Inclusive Indoor Rowing – Mr Miller

Over 50 young people from Wandsworth Schools competed in the annual Wandsworth Inclusive Indoor Rowing at Southfields Academy on 31st January 2024. The event, organised by the Wandsworth School Games in partnership with Enable Leisure & Barn Elms Boat House, saw over 54 young people from Southfields Academy, Burntwood, Linden Lodge, Paddock and Garratt Park demonstrating their rowing skills.

In each race, 5 students from different schools raced to see how far they could row in two minutes. It was fantastic to see so much hard work and effort going into each race in front of an excited crowd of fellow rowers. Everyone who participated enjoyed themselves and left the event with bright smiles.

Miss Lanning from Southfields Academy said 'It was great to see the following Southfields' students taking part & rowing well, particularly in the team relay races where they showed a huge amount of team spirit.

Cora, Safa, Billy, Lucas, Faisal, Riley and Ra'Am congratulations for representing the school in such a positive way'.





## Year 9 Options

On Tuesday the Year 9s arrived at the black box for the Options Fayre. The purpose of the fayre is to show students what subjects, some of which they might not have considered, are available to them, what they will study in these subjects and which career paths they could choose to go down after leaving 6<sup>th</sup> Form!

The students took full advantage of the opportunity to interview subject teachers and research their options, demonstrating independence, curiosity and a thirst for knowledge.

To follow on from this on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March is the Year 9 Parents' & Options Evening.





## Student Visit from China – Ms Marshall

Across two separate weeks, 50 students from China are spending the week at Southfields Academy. Each of the students in the group, ranging from Year 7 to Year 12, are shadowing a Southfields student so that they get to experience life as a student, in all its glory!

The first group, last week, were welcomed with a special assembly with their buddies. Ms Marshall led the assembly and they had a special welcome from Ms Valin. Following a short tour, they attended lessons, break clubs and assemblies with their buddies. They also had a bespoke schedule of activities as part of a personalised IEAP Day. Their week ended with a farewell assembly delivered by Ms Valin, where all students received a participation certificate.

Feedback from Southfields students and staff has been extremely positive - with them all commenting on how enthusiastic and resilient the Chinese students were. In fact, a number of Southfields students have volunteered to support the visitors having come across them around the Academy! By hosting the visitors, students have been able to practise and develop their communication and leadership skills. Perhaps even more pleasingly, the Chinese students and their accompanying teachers have shared how enjoyable they found the visit.

The second group of students will be with us for the final week before half term (w/c 5th February), and will have a similar week as the initial group. After the visit to Southfields, each group of visiting students are going on to visit other cities and schools in the UK and Scotland.





## Dates for Your Diary

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2024 – Year 7 Parents' Evening

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2024 – INSET Day

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2024 – Half Term Holiday

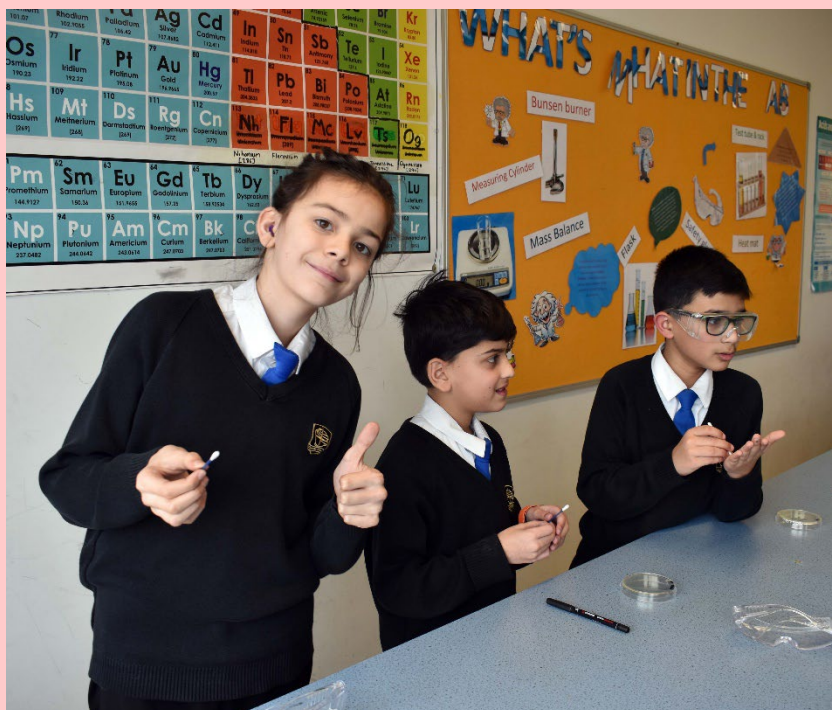
Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2024 – Academy Resumes

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2024 – Year 9 Parents' & Options Evening

## Science Club – Ms El Maadi

This week science club became Microbiologists. They investigated how clean their hands and phones are. They used a swab and some petri dishes to take a sample from their hands or phones. These samples will go in an incubator and next week the students will get to see what kind of bacteria (if any) is present.

Bacteria like a temperature of around 37 degrees Celsius. Schools can only grow bacteria at 25 degrees Celsius so nothing harmful will grow!





## Theatre Season @ IG

1,2,3.. and it's theatre season at IG. As the term draws to an end, we thought it might be a good idea to spruce things up and take just over 50 history IG students out for a cultural experience to the theatre to see a play called ***The Most Precious of Goods*** at the Marylebone Theatre in Baker Street.

The play was mainly performed by Olivier Award-winner **Samantha Spiro**, who is currently in the acclaimed movie *One Life* with Anthony Hopkins and who recently starred in the Netflix hit *Sex Education*. Together, with cellist Gemma Rosefield who performed a live score; they brought to the stage Jean-Claude Grumberg's best-selling French language novella, ***The Most Precious of Goods***.

Story telling at its most profound, this stage adaptation was directed and translated by Nicolas Kent and opened at the Marylebone Theatre on 23 January 2024, to coincide with National Holocaust Memorial Day on 27 January. Told with a fairy tale-like lyricism, this gripping story of love and hope, set against the terrible backdrop of the Holocaust, reminds us that humanity can be found in the most inhumane of places.

*Winter 1943, a forest in war-torn Eastern Europe: a poor woodcutter's wife finds a little bundle thrown into the snow from a moving goods' train. It contains something for which she has always yearned, but...*

Our students were not only able to witness this unique performance as the theatre piece was read as a story to the audience through the powerful acting of Spiro, who was able to project an array of prominent themes such as humanity, love and sanctuary through the simple power of storytelling- but much of it was left to their imagination!

Post show, we stayed for the Q&A session and our students asked about the creative choices the Director, Nicolas Kent, had made in choosing how the play was performed and his own relationship with the French playwright Jean-Claude Grumberg, a Holocaust survivor. It was also a great opportunity for students to hear about the life of Anne Frank from *Gillian Walnes Perry M.B.E. (Author of The Legacy of Anne Frank)*.

Next week, thanks to our Jack Petchey Award winner, Abdulqadir Hassan, another group of lucky IG students will enjoy the hit musical Hamilton and go on yet another theatre trip as part of the IG theatre season.



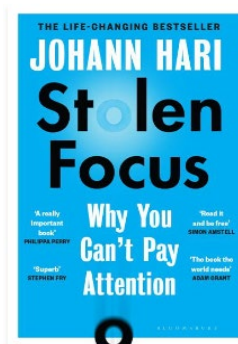
*Nicolas Kent, Gillian Walnes Perry M.B.E and the Marylebone Theatre Director*

## Staff Book Recommendations – Ms Sulliman

This week, **Mr Whitfield** recommended **‘Stolen Focus’ by Johann Hari**. **Mr Whitfield** shared that he was inspired to read this piece of non-fiction because the author shares his tale of switching off and detaching from the information bombardment that is all too frequent in the modern world. The book leans into research about the impact of technology overload and interweaves the real life experiences of trying to detox entirely from technology for six months!

**Mr Whitfield** found it funny, interesting and inspiring and as with all recommendations, he has encouraged students to seek him out to discuss **'Stolen Focus' by Johann Hari**, if they choose to read it!

Mr Whitfield is reading  
Stolen Focus  
by Johann Hari





## MFL – Where are we all from?

The different year groups worked on collaborative maps to find out where their classmates and their families are from. Y8 added 96 pins, Y9 added 104 and Y7, 116 pins!

### Year 7 Map



### Year 8 Map





## Year 9 Map



12-16  
FEBRUARY

# CAMP GREEN HORIZONS



Supported by St Walter St John Educational Charity

Are you a budding environmentalist?  
Would you like to learn more about the  
natural world this half term?

Join us at The Farm for a jammed pack week of...

**Crafts | Games | Gardening  
Debates | Critical Thinking | Climate Action**

10.30am - 1.30pm daily  
Ages 10 -16 years are welcome  
Free for all attendees

CAMP



For more info and to sign up please email:  
[education@vauxhallcityfarm.org](mailto:education@vauxhallcityfarm.org)

Vauxhall (City) Farm Limited: 01524041  
Registered Charity No. 281512

## Year 12 and 13 Mathematics Careers Workshop – Mr Spencer

This week 60 of our Year 12 and 13 Mathematics A-level students attended a workshop with Deutsche Bank and Wiser Futures.

We learnt about degree apprenticeships that Deutsche bank offers and other general interview skills.  
Thanks to the students for their mature approach and excellent questions to our visitors.

