



Southfields Academy Weekly Newsletter

Week Commencing Monday 6th November 2023



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

Year 13 News – Mr Browne

University applications

During the course of November and December, Year 13 students will be applying to university. We always encourage every Year 13 student to apply to university, as it's always good to leave Year 13 with options.

UCAS applications can be life-changing and the entire sixth form team are working tirelessly to ensure they are of the highest standard possible. Indeed, a number of Year 13 students have already completed and submitted their applications.

A great UCAS application often leads to more university offers and lower grade requirements. Our deadline for submitting university applications is 15th December. In November, we will start our WAVE (Work Apprenticeships Volunteering and Entrepreneurship) programme - which aims to broaden our students' horizons. This programme is open to all Year 13 students, but with a focus on those who are not planning on going to university. Our end goal: that every one of our school leavers has a positive destination.

Book selection event in the library – Mrs Litwin-Roberts

On Friday 20th October 2023, a group of Year 7 students took part in a book selection event in the library.

The students were invited to choose new books for the library from a wide range of recently published titles. The available books covered different genres from adventure, science fiction, comedy, historical and graphic novels to mystery, suspense, horror and thrillers.

Two specialist booksellers supplied the books: School Bargain Bookshop and Laburnum House Educational.

All in all, the students selected about 90 new books for the library. The books will be processed (catalogued and labelled) and made available to students to read and borrow in the coming weeks.

The event was very enjoyable and offered our students an opportunity to voice their different book preferences and literary tastes. I am sure that the newly selected books will be well received and very popular with our young readers.





Thought for the Week

"The single biggest problem in communication is the illusion that it has taken place." — George Bernard Shaw



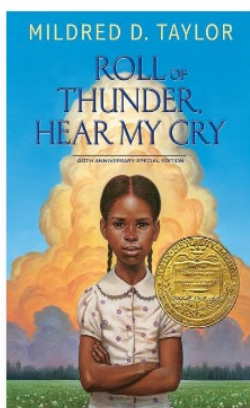
Book Recommendations – Ms Sulliman

Every week, an adult in our community recommends a book to the students via assemblies. These recorded recommendations are played to students in Y7-13 as studies show that recommendations from those known to us are more likely to get us reading! Each week, the recommended read will also be shared in the Parents' Newsletter and on Instagram, with a QR code that you can scan for more information about the book.

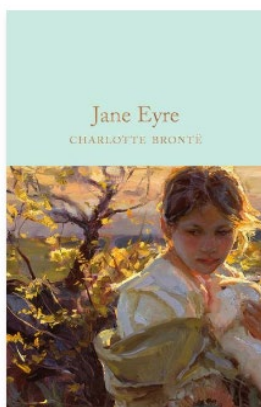
This week, **Ms Reynolds** couldn't decide what to recommend, so picked three books! She is recommending **'Roll of Thunder, Hear my Cry' by Mildred D. Taylor** because it resonated with her and she believes that the story of overcoming struggle is one that many can find empowering to read. She also recommended **'Jane Eyre' by Charlotte Bronte** and **'Noughts and Crosses' by Malorie Blackman** as interesting tales of love and loss!

As with all recommendations, Ms Reynolds has encouraged students to seek her out to discuss any of the books she has recommended, if they choose to read them!

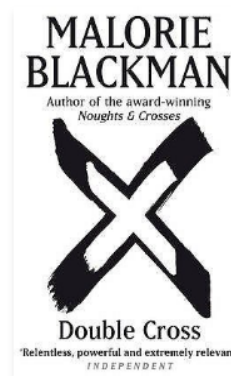
Ms Reynolds is reading
Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry
by Mildred D. Taylor



Ms Reynolds is reading
Jane Eyre
by Charlotte Brontë



Ms Reynolds is reading
Double Cross
by Malorie Blackman



Dates for Your Diary

Thursday 9th November 2023 – Prize Evening
Tuesday 14th November 2023 – IEAP Day
Tuesday 14th November 2023 – Chess Tournament
Friday 24th November 2023 – Year 12 Skills London Trip
Monday 27th November 2023 – INSET Day
Thursday 30th November 2023 – Year 10 Parents' Evening

Odd Socks Day – Mr Samuels

Odd Socks Day is an annual event that celebrates diversity and promotes inclusion. It's a fun way to show that it's okay to be different, and that everyone is special in their own way.

To participate in Odd Socks Day, all you need to do is wear two different socks to school. Any kind of sock will do, as long as they don't match!

This year, Odd Socks Day is taking place as part of Anti-Bullying Week and will happen on **Monday 13th November**. Bullying is a serious problem, and it can have a devastating impact on children's lives. Odd Socks Day is a way to show that we stand together against bullying, and that we celebrate everyone's individuality.

We encourage all of our students to participate in Odd Socks Day. It's a great way to have fun, show your support for diversity and inclusion, and stand up against bullying.

Year 10 Visit Hampton Court – Mr Saysell

Our Year 10 History students had a wonderful experience visiting Hampton Court Palace. Exploring the historic Tudor palace, pupils admired the kitchens, the grand Great Hall, and the beautiful gardens.

Their engagement was impressive as they asked insightful questions and absorbed the historical context. This trip will definitely help develop their sense of period during Tudor times.

It was a highly enriching day, and I am delighted that our students conducted themselves impeccably and enjoyed the trip.



Year 11 Talk – Ms Molloy

Year 11 PSHE students received a talk from Mary Cunningham, Work and Pension Department, on the importance of CVs.

This is to support students constructing their National Record of Achievement (NRA), which is a folder all Year 11 students complete nationally.

It contains a record of their achievement while at Southfields Academy, as well as a reference from their tutor and a CV.

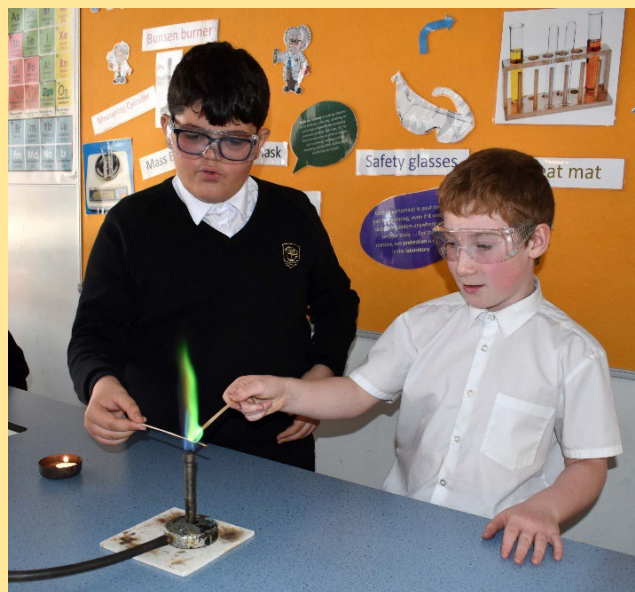
Students will be putting this folder together in the next terms and have been told to keep any achievement awards gained and time will be given to update the CV they did in Year 11.



Science Club – Ms El Maadi

This was Southfields first science club of 2023. It was great to see all the new Year 7s joining science club and their enthusiasm for science outside the classroom. They tested different chemicals to see what flame colour they produced. They then could identify what chemical they had used.

Students that attend science club regularly and keep their rewards card safe will be entered for prize draws and will also be able to attend a trip in the spring term.



October: Black History Month

In the true spirit of Black History Month, students in the International Group have been learning about different Black communities around the world. A global exposure for learners is almost the norm in the International Group and not only exclusive to October. For example, the beginners in English group learnt about the *Kombai People* of Papua New Guinea.

In October, as part of the IG assembly, we also celebrated the Black History Month but with a different twist. A very insightful presentation was prepared, by a member of the IG team, Mr Marks. The presentation not only encompassed this year's "sisterhood" theme but went onto showcase how learning about Black history is all around us, and is possible in many ways- through reading the works of Black authors such as Anita Anand and Maaza Mangiste or by visiting the Tate Modern and enjoying an uplifting exhibition by an array of African artists under the title of "*A World in Common*". The assembly left us all with "a learning expo" of how to learn all about Black History in our own chosen way!



Chess Tournament Tuesday 14th November IEAP day



09:00-12:00 Canteen 6th form area

**Please sign up on the sheets outside Mr. Spencer's classroom – A222.
Please arrange your IEAP day interviews before 9am or after 12.**



Supporting Your Child Through Their Exams – Ms Nearn

Being a teenager is tough enough; adding exams to the mix at such a crucial stage of development can bring challenges to the entire family.

Thankfully you don't have to be an expert in revision techniques or have in-depth knowledge of their subjects - that's up to them. Your job is to provide the best "soil" (appropriate practical and emotional support) for them to grow from to become capable adults.

Of course the right "soil" means healthy meals, plenty of sleep, access to the right technology, and a non-stressful space for them to work in. (If your household is too hectic, send them to the library!) It also means boundaries, such as making sure their social life/job doesn't interfere unduly with their revision.

From an emotional/psychological perspective, here are 10 tips for supporting your child:

1. Believe that they want to do well and have the ability to do so - it will rub off on them.
2. Your child is taking exams, not you. Let them take responsibility for how and when they revise. You can offer to help create a revision timetable, but don't do it for them.
3. Encourage them to tick off tasks as they complete them - it is motivating to see our progress, and builds positive momentum.
4. Show an interest in how the revision is going. Talk through any difficulties, but be flexible. If they miss a session they can make it up.
5. Strike a balance between being overly supportive and overly challenging.

Helpful	Unhelpful
You've been very focused for the last hour – well done.	You've only done an hour? That's not good enough.
What's your plan for revision this weekend?	Are you going to waste the whole weekend like usual?
Would you like some help creating your timetable?	Here, let me make a timetable for you!
I see that you're having trouble getting started. Would you like me to quiz you with your flashcards?	You're just messing about and not getting anything done! You're so lazy!
No matter how your exams go, I'm proud of you for trying.	If you fail your exams your life will be a disaster!

6. Be interested in the subjects they are studying. Find out what they do in them and what they feel confident/less confident about.
7. Encourage them to talk through their learning needs with their teachers, to take up opportunities for extra help, and to attend extra revision sessions.
8. After an exam, ask how it went but don't insist on a long postmortem. Adopt an attitude of 'tomorrow is another day' if things go badly.
9. Let them have their own dreams and ambitions. Trying to steer kids in a particular direction based on your own agenda can breed resentment and rebellion, and is disrespectful of their autonomy. Be curious about your child and their unique gifts; support their interests and goals and watch them thrive.
10. If they get angry or upset, don't take it personally, and don't retaliate. The teenage brain is a curious and volatile thing, prone to outbursts and irrational emotions. It will mature and grow, and so will they!



To learn more about teenage brain development, we recommend 'The Incredible Teenage Brain: Everything You Need to Know to Unlock Your Teen's Potential' by Bettina Hohnen.

Need more tips on supporting your child's emotional or mental wellbeing? Download our free booklet:



Parent Governor/s Required

We are currently seeking a Parent Governor/s to join our governing board. The role is a varied and important one, in supporting the academy to run effectively.

The function of the Governor role is strategic rather than operational and would involve attending meetings approximately three times a year. Although it is a commitment and a responsibility, training is available via the Local Authority, which we can arrange.

No special qualifications are needed to be an effective Governor but the most important thing is to have a keen interest in the Academy. The role offers a Governor the chance to see first-hand the impact they can make in improving education for all of our students.

Thank you to the Year 7 parents who have already put their names forward to be considered for the role. If other parents across the school would also like to be considered, please contact Margaret.breen@southfieldsacademy.com by **Friday 17th November 2023**.

Lost Property

Already this term we have accumulated a huge pile of lost property including blazers, shoes, trainers, coats, jumpers and other items. None of these are labelled so we are unable to reunite them with their owners.

Please ensure all your child's possessions and uniform/shoes/trainers are clearly labelled so that they can be returned to them if an item is lost.

Thank you for your support.