



Southfields Academy Weekly Newsletter

Week Commencing Monday 2nd December 2024



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

Wilton's Music Hall - Ms Hodgson

On Monday, 25th November, our Year 12 Travel and Tourism students visited Wilton's Music Hall, where they had a guided tour and a Q&A session with the Head of Operations. They learned about the Music Hall's rich history, how it's conserved to maintain its unique character, and the wide range of events hosted there, including weddings and shows for different customer types.

The students were able to link what they've learned in lessons to real-world examples, deepening their understanding in preparation for their exam in January. This visit will also support their Events unit next year. Well done to all - you were fantastic!



Dates for Your Diary

Monday 2nd December 2024 – INSET Day

Friday 13th December 2024 – UCAS Application Deadline

Tuesday 17th December 2024 – Winter Showcase

Wednesday 18th December 2024 – End of Term for Years 10, 11, 12, 13 & IG

Thursday 19th December 2024 – End of Term for Years 7, 8, 9

Monday 6th January 2025 – New Term Starts for All Students



Thought for the Week

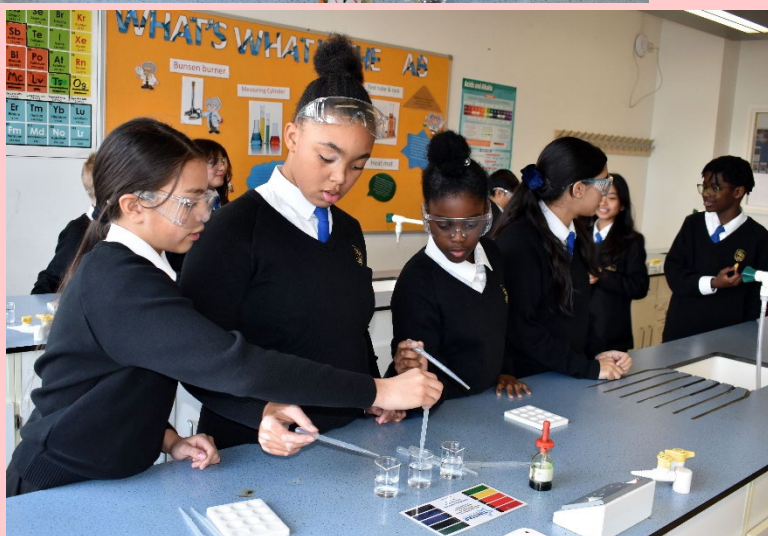
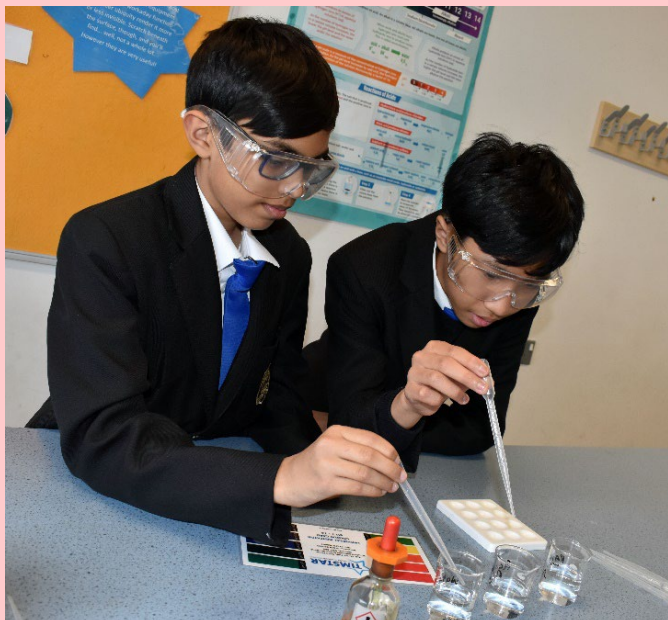
“In the rush to express ourselves, it’s easy to forget that communication is a two-way street.” — Katherine Hampsten

Science Club

This week, we tested the pH of different waters and made a splash in the process! From acidic surprises to neutral discoveries, we dived deep into the science of H₂O.

Next week, get ready for a halogen showdown! We’ll be testing the displacement reactions of Group 7 elements—who will come out on top in this chemical tug-of-war? It’s sure to be element-ary fun!

Don’t miss the chance to see chemistry in action!



Creative writing – The English Department

As part of our study of Dickens' "A Christmas Carol", Year 10 students have been writing descriptions of a "day in the life" of a poor person in Victorian England. Muhammad Anwar (10ATY) has written a vivid account of a factory worker's daily routine.

The loud ringing sound of the factory pierced the cold morning air, pulling me up from my restless sleep. I rubbed my eyes, trying to shake off the chill that had clogged my bones. I heaved myself out of bed. The room was dark and damp; water drops dripped from the ceiling like grains of sand in an hourglass. I was crowded with faces of misery and expired bodies of my fellow workers, who were stirring from their dreams - dreams that were often our only escape from the grinding misery of reality.

I stumbled into the factory just as the overseer barked out orders. The air inside was thick with smoke and the deafening roar of the machines sounded like trumpets. My hands moved mechanically as I fed thread into the spinning frame. Hours passed, though they felt like eternity, and the sharp pain in my back grew unbearable, crippling my spine. My fingers, red and raw, screamed in protest, but stopping meant punishment - sometimes a beating, sometimes a loss of a day's wage. I would be more than happy to be caught behind bars or hug death itself rather than to endure pain in this factory, but we have families - I have a family - that relies on my pain and suffering to be fed bread and to be able to see the next day.

By midday, I sat in the shadowy corner of the factory, eating a dry crust of bread. I tried not to envy the overseer as he enjoyed a hearty meal over at his desk; he glanced and then glared at my poor figure and laughed aloud with his overseer mates. As of now, I had got used to it, so I let my mind wander - wander in my daydream: I lived in a bright, cozy house with soft rugs and a warm fire, my stomach was full, and laughter filled the air. But then the factory bell jolted me back to reality, and the fantasy faded like smoke.

The afternoon dragged on, each second feeling heavier than the last. My arms ached from lifting the heavy loads and my feet felt as if they were sinking down the Earth, my lungs burned from endless labour and my stomach roared like a grizzly bear at the brink of death from starvation.

'Ring!'

The bell finally rang, signalling the end of the day. I shuffled out with the others, too tired to speak. I had stolen some leftovers that I instantly devoured when out on the dark, freezing streets and I heaved myself home, thinking of the damp walls of my room that would offer no comfort.

Collapsing onto my straw mattress, I stared at the ceiling; another day of torture, another night of restless dreams. I wondered if tomorrow would ever be different, but deep down, I knew the answer. For people like me, tomorrow was just another day in the endless grind of survival.

Winter Showcase – Ms Jaffer

We are pleased to announce that the Winter Showcase is back for 2024! This will once again be a celebration of the incredible creative talents of our students across all year groups.

Please join us on Tuesday 17th December for our celebration of Art, Design, Drama and Music. Tickets are free and can be obtained from the ADT department from Tuesday 3rd December, please ask your child to see Ms Jaffer in B037 to get them.

There will be refreshments to buy at the event and lots to see and enjoy, we look forward to seeing you there!



The Southfields Academy

WINTER SHOWCASE

Join us for a celebration of creativity

TUESDAY 17TH DECEMBER
4:30-6:30
ASSEMBLY HALL

TICKETS ARE FREE
REFRESHMENTS WILL BE
AVAILABLE TO BUY AT THE VENUE

IG Farm Visit – Ms Hillary

Recently a number of students from the International Group had the opportunity to participate in a residential trip to Jamie's Farm in Hereford. Here, they swapped their phones for pitchforks and enjoyed a range of activities from feeding and caring for the animals to carving pumpkins, chopping wood and gardening.

The experience not only gave the students the chance to spend a few days out of London, but also develop some key social skills and receive some therapeutic support.

The students embraced every challenge with courage and never backed down even when things got tough - the challenging walk across the South Downs was a real success. The students returned to school eager to share their experiences:

- *My favourite moment was going on the walk to the mountain and running and running! - A*
- *For me, the campfire and the dancing was so nice! - D*
- *Cooking, campfire, feeding the animals and I wanted to kidnap Polly (the goat) because I loved her so much - I*



Poetry Winner – Mr Munro

Congratulations to Laci-Jai Hawkins (08FRH) who has written a poem that has been chosen to be published! Laci entered a competition called "The Beautiful Truth" which was organised by The Young Writers. Laci's poem, "Sunset", will feature in their new release, which is called "The Beautiful Truth - Inner Voices", and a copy of the piece of writing will be kept in the British Library archives forever!

The book will be released in January 2025 and a copy will be in the school library for pupils to read, and hopefully be inspired!

Laci is also in contention to win further prizes for this piece of writing! Congratulations again, and good luck Laci!



WANDSWORTH FOODBANK

If your income isn't covering the cost of essentials like food, local organisations can refer you to **Wandsworth Foodbank** for emergency food, support and advice. Ask the person who gave you this leaflet, or scan this QR code, or visit wandsworth.foodbank.org.uk/get-help



You can also call **Trussell Trust's** free helpline on **0808 208 2138** (Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm, closed public holidays). You'll talk confidentially to a trained adviser who can refer you to your nearest food bank.

IF YOU'RE FEELING STRESSED OR ANXIOUS

Talk Wandsworth offers free NHS support and confidential help for problems such as stress, worry and low mood. For help, phone **020 3512 6264**, visit talkwandsworth.nhs.uk or scan this to self-refer online.



Whatever you're going through, a **Samaritan** will face it with you. You can call them on **116 123** or email jo@samaritans.org. They're here 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

DOMESTIC ABUSE ADVICE AND SUPPORT

The **One Stop Shop** is a free drop-in service providing legal advice, information and support to local people experiencing domestic abuse. No appointment needed, just pop in:

- **Mondays** 10am-12pm at St Mark's Church, Battersea Rise, SW11 1EJ (closed on Bank Holidays)
- **Wednesdays** 10am-12.30pm at 166 Roehampton Lane, Roehampton, SW15 4HR

Or you can phone to speak to an adviser on **020 3879 3544** (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm).

COST OF LIVING ONLINE HUB



Wandsworth Council has put together lots of useful information to help residents with the cost of living.

Scan this QR code or visit wandsworth.gov.uk/hub, or call freephone **0808 175 3339** to speak to an advisor.

ONLINE BENEFITS CALCULATOR

Many people across the UK are missing out on benefits payments that they're entitled to. Check you're receiving everything you're entitled to by scanning this QR code or visiting turn2us.org.uk



CITIZENS ADVICE WANDSWORTH



Citizens Advice Wandsworth offers free, independent and confidential advice. Scan this QR code, visit cawandsworth.org/get-advice or phone their free AdviceLine on **0808 278 7833** (Mon-Fri, 10am-4pm).

HELP WITH DEBT & MONEY PROBLEMS

If you're struggling with debt, you can contact **South West London Law Centres** for money advice for free on **020 8667 9252**, or visit swllc.org/get-advice/debt/ for more information.

Crosslight Advice also provides free debt and benefit advice. Visit www.crosslightadvice.org/help or phone **0300 373 1180** (open Mon-Fri, 9:30am-5pm).

ADVICE FOR OLDER PEOPLE

Age UK Wandsworth is a local, independent charity working in the community to support older people and their carers - including by providing benefits advice. You can phone them on **020 8877 8940** or email advice@ageukwandsworth.org.uk



HELP FOR LOCAL PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HARDSHIP

A quick guide to local sources of help, for people who live in Wandsworth Borough

Updated June 2024

This leaflet is being shared by local community organisations across Wandsworth, to help local residents. For more copies, please contact info@wandsworth.foodbank.org.uk

FOOD, FUEL & RENT GRANTS FROM WANDSWORTH COUNCIL

If you are a resident of Wandsworth Borough (including in temporary accommodation) and you're in hardship, you can apply for support grants from **Wandsworth Council**. These are grants not loans, so you won't need to pay them back. They're not available to people with no recourse to public funds.

CRISIS GRANTS FOR FOOD & FUEL



You can apply for and receive up to 3 crisis / community care grants per year (April-March). Crisis grants include:

- Supermarket vouchers
- Prepay gas/electricity vouchers OR extra supermarket vouchers if you pay for energy by monthly bill or are a British Gas customer.

GRANTS FOR WHITE GOODS & FURNITURE



You can apply for a community care grant for white goods (eg cooker, fridge) and essential furniture, if you're on a very low income. Unfortunately Wandsworth Council is unlikely to help if an appliance has broken because it's old or through normal wear and tear.

GRANTS TO HELP WITH RENT



You can apply for a Discretionary Housing Payment (DHP) if you're receiving Housing Benefit or Universal Credit housing element, and need extra help with housing costs because your benefit doesn't cover your full rent.

To find out more or apply, scan this QR code or visit wandsworth.gov.uk/housing/benefits-and-support/discretionary-support-grants. Or phone Wandsworth Council's Cost of Living hub (left).

