



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

### Year 8 News – Mr Munro

Greetings parents of Year 8 pupils,

Welcome to the latest update on all things Year 8!

This digest provides you with the latest information and highlights of your child's activities.

#### **IEAP Day (January 30th)**

On Thursday, January 30th, we will be holding our second IEAP Day of the academic year. This special day will focus on leadership skills. Students will work in groups to plan and deliver a student-led assembly celebrating a specific cultural event. This exciting project aims to broaden their understanding of different cultures.

During the day, students will have 45-minute sessions with their tutors to plan their assemblies. They will also have the opportunity to set academic targets for the term and reflect on their progress since the Year 8 Parents' Evening.

#### **Taiwanese Student Visit (January 22nd - February 4th)**

Southfields Academy is delighted to host 30 students from Taiwan for two weeks. These students will experience British school life first-hand.

Eighteen of the Taiwanese students are in Year 8. To ensure our guests feel welcome, 18 of our most outstanding Year 8 students have been selected as buddies. They will guide the Taiwanese students around the school and help them settle in. I am confident that these exceptional students will be fantastic representatives of our year group.

#### **Student-Led Assemblies**

As part of their leadership development, students will be delivering assemblies this term. Each assembly will explore a specific cultural event, such as Eid al-Fitr, Holi Spring Festival, or Chinese New Year.

Students have been provided with helpful resources to guide their assembly preparations. I am eager to see their creative presentations and discover any budding public speakers within Year 8.

#### **Sports and Physical Education**

The new term brings the return of our exciting extra-curricular sports programme! With the change in season, we have introduced new clubs like swimming and indoor rowing, while popular clubs like trampolining and football continue to run.

All clubs are free to attend, and I encourage students to try a new sport this term.

Swimming is a compulsory part of the Year 8 PE curriculum for the spring term. Currently, the Year 8 boys are participating, and their effort and enthusiasm have been fantastic. I am confident that the Year 8 girls will demonstrate the same positive attitude.

Please ensure your child has the necessary swimming attire (costume and towel) on their swimming days.

#### **Word Millionaire at Southfields Academy**

We're thrilled to celebrate a remarkable achievement! At Southfields Academy, we utilise the Accelerated Reader program to assess your child's reading level and recommend suitable books. After reading, students take quizzes to track their progress and improve their reading comprehension. This isn't just about school success; strong reading skills are fundamental for lifelong learning.

The program also calculates the total number of words read by each student. We are incredibly proud to announce that Rayan Ennafii from Year 8 has become our first "Word Millionaire," surpassing the impressive milestone of reading over 1 million words this academic year! Congratulations, Rayan!

#### **Uniform and Equipment**

At Southfields Academy, we believe that a consistent uniform fosters a sense of community and equality. We kindly request that you ensure your child wears the full school uniform every day.

To fully engage in our diverse curriculum, it's essential that your child comes to school equipped with all necessary materials, including their reading book.

I hope this information is helpful. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions on [gary.munro@southfieldsacademy.com](mailto:gary.munro@southfieldsacademy.com)



## Thought for the Week – Leadership

“A genuine leader is not a searcher for consensus but a molder of consensus.” –  
Martin Luther King Jr.



### Creative Writing – English Department

**Over the holidays, following on from their study of A Christmas Carol, Year 10 students wrote articles about whether Christmas has lost its true meaning. Here's one of the best from Sahara Williams-Price (10SMH).**

#### The Christmas Masquerade

After Halloween and Guy Fawkes Night, from the month of December, Christmas arrives to town. In shopping centres to hospitals, decorations are practically everywhere you go. They call it ‘tradition’ but is it really tradition? Now, you could agree that Christmas isn’t the merriest time of the year, from inflation to homelessness, and the struggle to afford to live has been the most difficult yet. This is because society has been blinded by consumerism and the companies that care more about money than the wellbeing of others. This reinforces the argument that Christmas shouldn’t be celebrated. You may think it spreads joy and value just because it has become all about presents and receiving. But really its traditional roots have faded into a snowy veneer of a capitalist world, full of meaningless myths and a disconnection to its culture. Is the Grinch meaning? Does Santa show or teach something? That’s for you to ask yourself. And for me to prove.

First, we need to consider the importance and message of the holiday. The true meaning of Christmas is the celebration of the Saviour, Jesus Christ and his birth. Although the holiday itself originates in pagan rituals, the birth of Christ and hope to Christians that he will return, is the original message of Christmas. For Christians, the rapid secularisation of the holiday is disrespectful to their religion, mocking a religious figure. Whether you believe in Christianity or not, everyone should respect everyone’s individual opinions and acknowledge discrimination, which has been apparent for centuries. A celebration that should be for people supporting Christian values should strictly stay that way, exactly the same as ‘Eid’ or ‘Diwali’. Wikipedia states that the significance of Christmas is the commemoration of the nativity of Jesus. Not Santa Claus or any other mythology that is trying to supplant Jesus.

This has led to a decline in the percentage of adults who celebrate Christmas as a religious holiday - currently 65% and in 2013 was 61%, shown in a 2017 study by the Pew Research Center. Most people around the world have begun to follow the secular direction; the more religious aspects of Christmas have become less prominent in the public sphere, influencing their private lives. Now, only a shrinking majority believe the biblical account of the birth of Jesus depicts real life events.

Despite that, while there are those that believe in that sentiment, that doesn’t mean that people don’t want to melt the frosty layer of worthlessness that has engulfed Christmas. A new study from LifeWay Research found that 65% of Americans believe that ‘Christmas should be more about Jesus’. The links with the idea that Christmas has been taken over by capitalism; from a religious celebration into a glorified season for capitalism.

Companies take advantage of the season of giving by turning a profit off anything they can. Numerous religious philosophers have expressed that capitalism goes hand-in-hand with secularisation, criticising the social effects it has: materialism and greed. From the influence of Coca-cola on the Santa mythos, to the annual John Lewis advert, these companies take extreme measures to disguise the rocketing seasonal sales. These decorations, movies, adverts and gifts do nothing but cloud Christmas values under a dreary fog of all things commercial, brainwashing us with marketing.

What is it going to take to acknowledge and leave a holiday behind that is only tearing society apart, only beneficial for the businesses? Some may argue that Christmas is about family, gift-giving and receiving. About leaving cookies for a random man that knows everything about you. But that’s only because of what we have seen and all we have known from most people around us. Under the ‘togetherness’ and ‘generosity’ is over 300,000 people in England alone that are likely to spend Christmas homeless, including 161,500 children. These are the statistics they hide. And these are the effects. Greedy companies and foolish government investments, wasting electricity for homes on strings of light on the street.

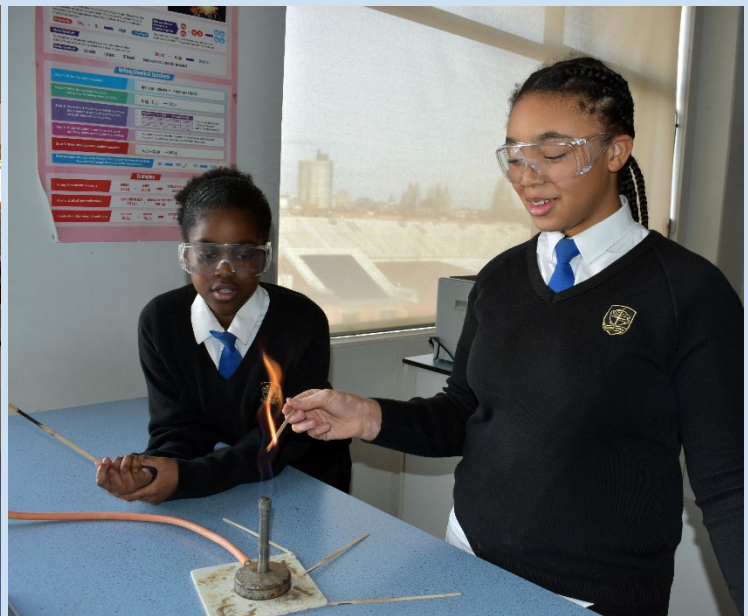
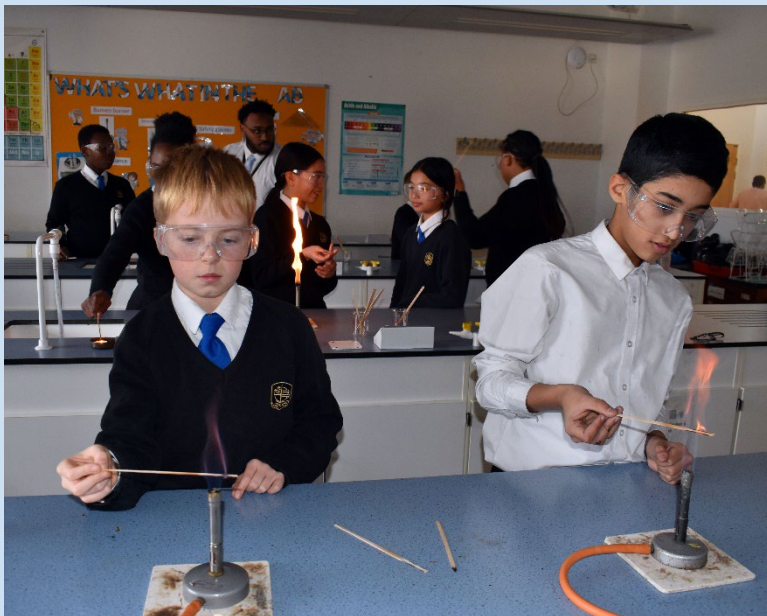
Although Christmas is losing its roots, it has positives and to some extent, you could say that Christian values have been adopted into people’s own traditions. Who is to say that you can’t make your own? Just a respectful, generous and sustainable one. One that defines your ‘festive cheer’.

## Science Club – Mr Abdirahman

This week, we lit up the lab with vibrant flame tests, turning science into a rainbow of colours! It was a *blazing* success, and everyone was fired up with excitement.

Next week, we're diving into the world of osmosis. Watch as cucumbers take on different solutions and their weights change like magic—science is about to get *refreshingly* cool!

Don't miss the flow of fun and discovery—see you next week!



### Dates for Your Diary

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2025 – International Group Parents' Evening

Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2025 – IEAP Day

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2025 – Year 7 Parents' Evening

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2025 – Academy Breaks for Half Term

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2025 – INSET Day

Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2025 – Students Resume

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2025 – Year 9 Options Parents' Evening

## EXTRA CURRICULAR / STUDY SUPPORT – Spring Term 2025

Day	Subject	Support/activity	Venue	Teacher	Year information	
<b>Monday</b>	PE	Dance	Dance Studio	Ms Lanning	Break 2	
	PE	Basketball (Years 7 – 9)	Sports hall	Mr Sia	Years 7 - 9	
	PE	Strength and Conditioning	Fitness Suite	Mr Saysell	Years 9 - 13	
	PE	Dance	Dance studio	Ms Lanning	Years 7 - 9	
	PE	Netball	Courts	Ms Lenton/ Westwood	Years 7 - 10	
	PE	Football (Year 9)	Astro	Mr West	Year 9	
	PE	Football (Year 10)	Astro	Mr Boyce	Year 10	
	<b>4 – 5.30pm</b>	PE	Football (Year 11)	Astro	Mr West	Year 11
	<b>3.55-4.45pm</b>	PE	Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu	Activity studio	Mr Hillman/Robertson	KS 4 & 5
	<b>4.30-6pm</b>	PE	AFC Foundation – 6 <sup>th</sup> Form	Astro	AFC Coaches	Selected
	Music	GCSE and Band club	Music dept	Mr Q	Break 2	
	Science	Science Club	Labs	Mr Abdirahim	Years 7 & 8 (Break 2)	
<b>Tuesday</b>	PE	Trampolining	Activity Studio	Ms Lanning	Years 7 - 10	
	PE	Pickleball	Sports hall	Ms Nearn	Years 7 - 10	
	PE	Basketball	Sports hall	Mr Sia	Years 10-11 Break 2	
	PE	Strength and conditioning	Fitness suite	Ms Lenton	Girls only	
	PE	Year 12 / 13 Booster	D080	Ms Nilsson	Year 12 & 13	
<b>4.30-6pm</b>	PE	AFC Foundation – 6 <sup>th</sup> Form	Astro	AFC Coaches	Selected	
	ADT	Art club	B155	Ms Preston	KS 3 students	
	ADT	Photography club	B156	Ms Darby	KS 3 students	
	English	Fantasy Forum	D278	Mr Carmo	Years 7 - 11 (Break 1)	
	Music	GCSE and Band club	Music dept	Mr Q / Mr Pinder	Break 1 & Break 2	
	Wellbeing	Board & card games Club	D180	Ms Nearn	Years 7 - 9 (Break 2)	
<b>Wednesday</b>	PE	Pickleball	Sports hall	Ms Nearn	Break 2	
	PE	Badminton	Sports hall	Mr Sia	All Years	
	PE	Girls Football Practice	Astro	Ms Lenton	Girls only	
	PE	Indoor Rowing	Fitness Suite	Ms Maunder	Year 10 students	
	PE	Muay Thai	Activity Studio	Mr Robertson	All Years	
	ADT	Homework club	B147	Mr Smith	KS 3 students	
	Coding	Coding club	D183	Ms Gittins	KS 3 students	
	PSHE	Drop in for a Chat / support	D388	Ms Molloy	All Years (Break 1)	
	<b>Thursday</b>	PE	Basketball	Sports hall	Ms Nilsson	Break 2
PE		Strength & Conditioning	Fitness suite	Ms Fox / Naylor	Years 9 - 13	
PE		Muay Thai	Activity Studio	Mr Robertson	Years 10 - 11	
PE		Volleyball	Sports hall	Mr Boyce	All Years	
PE		Football (Year 8)	Astro	Mr Munro	Year 8	
PE		Football (6 <sup>th</sup> Form)	Astro	Mr Markland	6 <sup>th</sup> Form students	
PE		Swimming (Boys)	Pool	Ms Nilsson	Years 7 – 9 boys	
Coding		Coding Club	D183	Ms Gittins	Year 10 students	
Crochet club		Crochet club	A131	Ms Hoy	All Years (Break 1)	
English		Reading Titans (Break 1)	D284	Mr Sawbridge	Year 7	
History		Warhammer	A123	Mr Hillman	All Years	
Music		GCSE and Band club	Music dept	Mr Pinder	Break 2	
PSHE		Social Science research club	D385	Ms Hine / Ms Hill	KS 5 students	
Wellbeing		Board & card games club	D180	Ms Nearn	Years 7 - 9 (Break 2)	
<b>Friday</b>		PE	Futsal (girls only)	Sports hall	Ms Lenton	Break 2
	PE	Football (Year 7)	Astro	Mr Robertson	Year 7	
	PE	Indoor rowing (Year 9)	Fitness suite	Ms Maunder	Year 9	
	PE	Dance booster (Year 10)	Dance studio	Ms Lanning	Year 10	
	PE	Booster (GCSE)	D080	Mr Sia	Year 11	
	Pride	Pride Club	A131	Ms Hoy	All Years (Break 2)	

The Library is Open Mon-Fri. 7.30 – 3.30pm.

HSC - Homework Support: Every day break 1 and period 6 on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

International Group Homework club – Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday P6.

Sociology – Individual drop in and break time revision sessions when required – Years 12 & 13.



No students should be on site unsupervised.



## Crochet Club - Ms Hoy

Crochet Club has returned with a fantastic start to the year.

This week, students focused on mastering the granny square, an essential project for beginner crocheters.

Many students had taken yarn and crochet hooks home over the winter break and returned with newfound confidence after watching countless YouTube tutorials.



Wandsworth  
**COMMUNITY  
SPACES**

## OPEN DOOR COMMUNITY CENTRE

From 6th January - 27th March 2025  
(Every Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays)

**FREE**



For the full timetable  
with dates & times  
please visit our website

- Hot food & after school home work club
- Warm space with hot drinks
- Work place with free wifi
- Local support drop in
- Family & Half term activities

**NHS**  
South London  
Children and Young  
People's Community  
Immunisation Service

### Missed your flu vaccine?

**Live or attend school in the borough  
of Wandsworth? Aged 4-16?**

Come down to a flu catch-up clinic and  
protect yourself this winter!

Saturday 18 January 2025,  
10:00 - 13:00  
Fayland Children's Centre  
SW16 1SY

**No appointment necessary.  
Please call 020 3903 3374 for  
more information.**

📍 Keevil Drive, Beaumont Road, London, SW19 6TF  
🌐 [communityvenues@enablelc.org](mailto:communityvenues@enablelc.org)



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# WANDSWORTH SEND LOCALoffer



Information and links about support, services, and advice for families with a child or young person with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities aged 0 up to 25 years old.

Visit the link below or scan the QR code.

[wandsworth.gov.uk/lo](http://wandsworth.gov.uk/lo)



## WAND Cards

For eligible children and young people aged 0 up to 25 with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities.

They provide a range of benefits including discounts and concessions at local activities, leisure centres and parking.

Visit the link below or scan the QR code.

[wandsworth.gov.uk/wandcard](http://wandsworth.gov.uk/wandcard)



CS2017 (2.24)



web: [wandsworth.gov.uk/lo](http://wandsworth.gov.uk/lo)  
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