



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

### Biology Residential Trip - Mr Norris

From Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> to Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February, our intrepid Year 12 and Year 13 biologists swapped their classrooms for the great outdoors, embarking on an unforgettable residential field trip to Juniper Hall in Dorking. Armed with quadrats, clipboards, and an enthusiasm for all things ecological, they spent three days immersed in hands-on fieldwork and the occasional close call with an unintentional mud bath.

One of the highlights of the trip was an unusual form of snail pampering—students carefully applied snail varnish (a glamorous makeover for gastropods) to estimate and calculate local populations. In addition, mammal traps were laid out by our students and they caught a short tailed vole and a field mouse, who were safely released back into the wild the following morning. They also designed their own investigations into the impact of trampling on species distribution, demonstrating both scientific skill and an impressive nimbleness to avoid both sliding down Box Hill and dodge the randomly thrown quadrats!

Evenings were just as eventful. After days filled with data collection and analysis, students (and, yes, even their teachers) gathered around the campfire to roast marshmallows, sing songs, and tell scary stories.

The trip was a resounding success, filled with learning, laughter, and an appreciation for the beauty of the natural world. A huge well done to all our students for their enthusiasm and curiosity – a love of all things biological is alive and well at Southfields Academy!





## Thought for the Week – Leadership

“A leader takes people where they want to go. A great leader takes people where they don’t necessarily want to go but ought to be.” – Rosalynn Carter



### UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge – Mr Spencer

47 of our best mathematicians in Year 10 and 11 sat the UKMT intermediate maths challenge. 24 of them got either a bronze, silver or gold certificate.

A special congratulations to Kavinran Puthuvlakan and Liam Harverson for qualifying for the next round of the challenge called the PINK KANGAROO. This will take place in March.

#### Year 10

Nana-Osei	YEBOAH	SilverBiY
Thomas	KIENER	Silver
Sahara	WILLIAMS-PRICE	Bronze
David	KHONG	Bronze
Iryna	KULINICH	Bronze
Isadora	COMETTI	Bronze
Kavya	PATEL	Bronze



#### Year 11

Kavinran	PUTHUVLAKAN	GoldBiS
Liam	HARVERSON	Gold
Attila	HALBRITTER	Silver
Nastaran	H Aidary	Silver
Olu	Alabi	Bronze
Nizar	TITANE	Bronze
Oliver	VARNS	Bronze
Maxe	APILADO	Bronze
Kristiyan	IVANOV	Bronze
Yasaman	H Aidary	Bronze
Saad	DOGAR	Bronze
Frankie	Ahern	Bronze
Gjulio	GJOKA	Bronze
Alan	BIELECKI	Bronze
Sophia	KHAN	Bronze
Shayaan	FAROOQ	Bronze
Aarron	WALKER	Bronze



## Science Club – Mr Abdirahman

After soaking eggs in vinegar last week, we tested their strength again to see how the shell breakdown affected their durability in a messy eggs-periment.

The vinegar had certainly done egg-actly what we had anticipated, with the acetic acid seeping through the eggshell and dissolving most of it. Hardly any of the eggs survived the drop regardless of how well cushioned they were!

Science club will continue again after half term.



## Bethlem Visit – Ms Swann

On Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February, the Year 13 psychology students went to Bethlem Museum of the Mind. Students learnt about the history of mental health problems and how treatments have developed. They discussed and learnt about what it was like inside London's Bethlem hospital at the end of the Victorian era.

They also participated in a workshop on whether a depressed patient should be granted weekend leave from hospital and the implications of the Mental Health Act (1983). Students were mature throughout the day with the sensitive issues that were discussed and were excellent role models for the academy.



## Southfields Executive Learner's Club – Mr Lamboi

*Labor durus omnia vincit.*

*Hard work conquers all.*

We proudly hosted our first-ever Southfields Executive Learners' Club event, celebrating and recognizing students who have shown exemplary behaviour in lessons and within the community. These students demonstrated excellent attendance, punctuality, and embodied our values of hard work and responsibility. The event was further enriched by a visit from Ms. Valin, who expressed how impressed she was by their remarkable achievements.

As a symbol of their dedication, each student was presented with an exclusive lanyard and crest. We are incredibly appreciative of their efforts, and this event highlighted how much we value their positive impact both in school and beyond.



## Creative Writing – English Department

*It's a second entry of the year this week for Isadora Cometti (10NYR) who critiques the fashion industry with skill and a wide-ranging vocabulary in this newspaper article, made all the more impressive by the fact it was completed in exam conditions. Some of the facts and statistics have not been independently verified!*

### Fast Fashion: The Thread that Unravels the World

Fast fashion is like a finely stitched garment at first glance - glossy, dazzling and irresistible. But pull at the loose thread, and everything unravels. Beneath the polished surface lies a reality woven with exploitation, environmental destruction and mountains of waste. The £5 shirt in your wardrobe might feel like a bargain, but what is the real cost? Who stitched it, where will it end up and how has it tangled our world in harm?

Would you wear a garment knowing it was carefully stitched by a young, innocent child? Most people wouldn't - but the reality of fast fashion tells a different story. Across the globe, children as young as ten are trapped in sweatshops, enduring gruelling hours of meagre wages. According to recent studies carried out by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, over 160 million children are victims of child labour, with many working in the textile industry. Imagine their lives: tiny hands gripping needles, working in poorly lit factories, deprived of education and a chance to dream. In China, textile workers earn as little as 35p an hour - barely enough to survive. These are the invisible threads of pain and exploitation hidden behind the glossy marketing of fast fashion brands. When we buy a £6 dress or a £15 haul, do we stop to ask: who paid the real price?

However, the endless devastation does not stop there. Fast fashion is also a toxic dye, seeping into the rivers of our planet. The fashion industry is responsible for 10% of global carbon emissions - more than aviation and shipping combined. Factories producing synthetic fabrics like polyester release untreated chemicals into waterways, poisoning rivers and killing aquatic life. Do we really wish to completely destroy the precious sea life for our own benefits? No sane person would desire to. Fast fashion is constantly encouraging us to create a throwaway culture and pollute our delicate, ethereal planet. However, this destructive mindset leads to a loss of sentimental value towards clothing. Throwing away clothes so easily completely removes the deep meaning associated with venerable gowns. For example, fast fashion prevents us from passing down valuable pieces of clothing to our next generation and transforming them into a cherished commodity of our heritage. If you were gifted an exquisite, precious diamond ring by your grandmother, you would want to keep it forevermore, wouldn't you?

Every stitch of fast fashion leaves an indelible mark on our planet, pushing it closer to collapsing.

And yet, the cycle continues. Social media and marketing campaigns manipulate us into buying more and more, trapping us in a web of consumerism. Platforms like Instagram bombard us with influencer "hauls" featuring piles of cheap clothing - most of which will only be worn once. The fashion industry feeds our insecurities, convincing us that happiness lies in a shopping bag or the latest trend. This creates the culture of disposability, where clothes are no longer cherished but treated as temporary items to be replaced. A missing button or a torn seam? We no longer repair - we simply toss and buy again. And the more we consume, the tighter we weave ourselves into this tangled mess of overproduction, waste and harm.

The thread of fast fashion may look smooth, but it is frayed with exploitation, environmental destruction and greed. Every purchase we make is a choice to support child labour, pollute the planet and perpetuate a culture of waste - or to say no. It is time to cut this thread and weave a brighter future, one built on sustainability, ethics, and care. Buy less. Buy second-hand. Repair, reuse, and resist the lure and temptation of fast fashion. What kind of world do you want to leave behind - one beautifully woven, or one torn apart by fast fashion? The choice, as always, is yours.

### Dates for Your Diary

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  
Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2025 – Year 11 Parents' Evening  
Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2025 – INSET Day  
Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2025 – Academy Breaks for Holidays  
Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2025 – Summer Term Starts