



Southfields Academy Weekly Newsletter

Monday 29th September 2025



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

Year 9 News – Mr Munro

Hello and Welcome to a New School Year!

I hope you and your family had a restful and happy summer. It's great to have everyone back and to begin our first newsletter entry for Year 9.

Year 8 End-of-Year Celebrations

We wrapped up the last school year on a high note with a range of fantastic celebrations. Our Sports Day was a huge success, with all students participating in their events and showing incredible support for their tutor groups. It was wonderful to see the year group come together so collaboratively and joyously.

Following Sports Day, students enjoyed their end-of-year trips. We had a reward trip for students with the best behaviour, who celebrated with mini golf and Krispy Kreme doughnuts. The next day, students went on a variety of exciting tutor trips to places like the cinema, Go Ape, and Flip Out. Both students and staff had an incredible time on these outings.

To close out the year, we held our achievement assemblies where students were recognised by their teachers and heads of year for their hard work. The final celebration was a year-group party with games like musical chairs, which the students loved. Their impeccable behaviour throughout the final week showed just how much they deserved these positive experiences.

Welcome Back, Year 9

The new school year is in full swing! Year 9 marks a significant step for students as they will soon select their GCSE options. With this increased demand, it's crucial for them to be organised and ready for their education. Please continue to ensure your child has the correct equipment, including pens, calculators, and reading books, every day.

We are already three weeks into the term, and I have been so impressed by the maturity and fantastic start the Year 9 students have made. Staff have shared countless positive emails and shout-outs, which I have been proud to share in our assemblies. The consistent message is clear: "Keep it up!"

Focus on Effort

This term, our main focus will be on effort. We want to ensure students are giving 100% in all their subjects, not just the ones they are considering for GCSEs. At the end of Year 8, 73 students demonstrated 100% good or outstanding effort across all 13 subjects, a great improvement from the start of the year. I am hopeful we will see this number increase even further as we move through Year 9. Remember, effort will be a key factor in securing their desired GCSE options.

Extra-Curricular Activities

A new year brings new extra-curricular clubs! Please encourage your child to look at the available clubs and to try something new. We have some popular clubs returning, like football and basketball, as well as new offerings like gymnastics. These clubs are a fantastic way for students to de-stress and relieve the demands of Year 9.

Work Shadow Day

You will soon receive letters about our upcoming Work Shadow Day, a one-day event on November 13, 2025. On this day, your child will attend your or a family member's place of work to experience the world of work. We encourage as many students as possible to participate in this valuable opportunity.

Key Dates

January 12th - 23rd: Year 9 Assessment Weeks

January 19th - 23rd: Year 9 Options Week

March 4th - Year 9 Options and Parents' Evening

March 5th - Year 9 Options Deadline

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at gary.munro@southfieldsacademy.com.

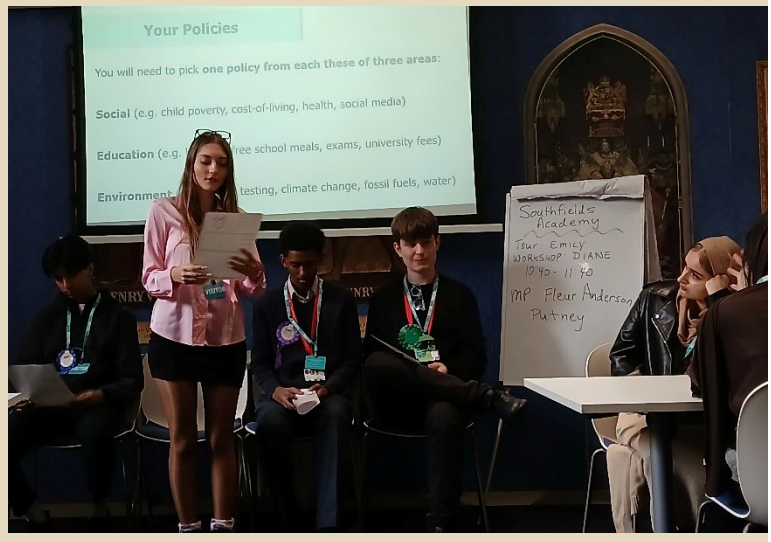


Thought for the Week
 'Be kind, for everyone you meet is fighting a harder battle.'
 Plato

Parliament Tour and Workshop – Ms Atley

On Tuesday 16th September Year 13 politics students visited Parliament for a tour and workshop to support their A level studies. Fleur Anderson MP for Putney came to speak to the students about how she became an MP and about campaigning. This gave them a real insight into the life of an MP.

Thank you to Mr Williams and Ms Morcet who accompanied us on the trip and to all the students to making it a memorable day out.



Student Success in Challenging Tasks – With a Tasty Twist! – Mr Arthur

This week, students have shown fantastic focus and determination while working through some particularly challenging tasks. Their resilience and teamwork have been truly commendable. Big thanks to Ms Allen, Ms Brown and Ms Stevens.

Adding to the excitement, a special pizza-themed lesson brought an extra dose of enthusiasm to the classroom! With the support and encouragement of Ms Gavin, Ms Hughes, Ms Stevens, and Ms Cannam, students not only engaged brilliantly with the activity but also enjoyed a fun, hands-on learning experience. Their guidance made the lesson even more enjoyable, and the students' smiles said it all!

Special mention to Mr Sahar for his support with last-minute ingredient requests, and to **Mr Smith**, who has been instrumental in helping both me and the students transition smoothly back into creative cooking.

Thank you to all staff who support the SSC through emails or other avenues and are involved with making student learning both meaningful and memorable! The SSC would not be what it is without you all.



Creative Writing – English Department

For this week's newsletter entry, it's another one from Year 11 by Sahara Williams-Price (11CSG). This charming story is all the more impressive for having been written in an English exam!

The blizzard roared and the wind intensified, lifting the snow and creating a gargantuan, frosty tyrant. The sky that was once blue transformed into a white blanket.

Zari's hands lost all sensation; it felt like a chilling burn, like lava and ice. They were covered in networks of veins, rushing blood to her body for warmth. She was hopeless. A tear trickled down her dusty-blue cheek – it immediately froze into solid, looking as if shattered glass were glued onto her face. She stared into nothing, just eternal white, as her lips shivered uncontrollably. She couldn't tell if that was the cold or the fact she was left rooted to the spot. Afraid. Isolated.

Just as she looked up to her surroundings again, her eyes focused on something in the distance. Something.... Shining gold. This something started pacing towards Zari. Zari didn't know whether she wanted to scream for help or be quiet. An unusual paroxysm of relief and warmth took over her small, fragile body, as the creature came closer. It was not recognisable.

Its broad, golden mane still maintained its perfect, luscious shape and colour; it was almost like it repelled any snow or sleet in the blizzard. To Zari's surprise, she witnessed a lion on a remote island, with arctic weather. This species didn't even live there.

Before Zari could even react, the lion gracefully shook the snow off its huge, furry paws and swept Zari from her feet. Zari had the time of her life and all the chill immediately left her body. She rode the lion just like her rocking horse at home and the lion navigated her back to her village. The lion carefully helped her climb off its back. Zari's lips no longer shivered; they only tugged the corners of her mouth.

Zari went to pet the lion but it vanished within a blink of an eye.

Her parents were elated to see Zari home and greeted her with tears, a tight hug and a telling-off, to not wander off again alone. But, Zari was still perplexed.

"Why did my friend leave me?" she asked herself, as her smile also left her. She rushed to her family to tell them about the lion but to no surprise, no one believed her. Instead, she wrote about it in her journal, with the day "5 December 1996", and sadly flipped the page.

"Mum, is the story finished?" asked Jake.

"Yes, bedtime now, Jake," replied Zari.

"You were so brave, mum. Goodnight, I love you." Zari smiled. It was 5 December 2025 and the story still didn't leave Zari. It only taught her that you can always find your bravery, even while in the middle of a storm.

Dates for Your Diary

Thursday 2nd October 2025 – Open Morning

Tuesday 7th October 2025 – Open Morning

Thursday 9th October 2025 – Open Evening

Friday 10th October 2025 – INSET Day

Tuesday 14th October 2025 – Open Morning

Wednesday 15th October 2025 – Open Morning

Thursday 16th October 2025 – Open Morning

European Day of Languages – Ms Ratkevicius

Throughout Europe, 700 million Europeans are represented in the Council of Europe's 46 member states and all are encouraged to discover more languages at any age, as part of or alongside their studies. This stems from the Council of Europe's conviction that linguistic diversity is a tool for achieving greater intercultural understanding and a key element in the rich cultural heritage of our continent. The Council of Europe, therefore, promotes plurilingualism throughout Europe.

At the Council of Europe's initiative, the European Day of Languages has been celebrated every year since 2001 on 26 September - together with the European Commission.

To mark the occasion, we're inviting all students to participate in a poster competition!



The poster features a colorful illustration of diverse children and adults celebrating. The text reads: "LANGUAGES OPEN HEARTS AND MINDS! European Day of Languages 26 September". Logos for the European Centre for Modern Languages, the Council of Europe, and the European Commission are visible.

MFL Poster Competition

Create a **poster** illustrating the 25th anniversary motto of the European Day of Languages "Languages open hearts and minds!". This reflects that learning languages harnesses both the emotions and the brain. As well as potentially boosting brain power and connecting people, learning languages can facilitate the exchange of ideas, emotions, and experiences – strengthening empathy and respect for different ways of life.

You can use symbols, quotes and artwork to convey messages and let your creativity run wild! Just make sure you **include your name and your tutor group!** The best posters will be uploaded onto the European Day of Languages website for a chance to win a prize.

Deadline: 6th October

While we are on the subject of languages... Year 7, remember we are looking for some new Language Ambassadors!



The poster is decorated with colorful speech bubbles containing the word "Hello" in various languages: Arabic (مرحبا), Chinese (你好), French (Bonjour), German (Hallo), Italian (Ciao), Japanese (こんにちは), Korean (안녕하세요), Spanish (Hola), and Urdu (ہیلو). The central text reads: "Would you like to become a Language Ambassador? Check your Google Classroom or ask your teacher for details. Deadline to hand in your application: 17th October".

Education Wellbeing Service

Helping Your Young Person Feel Confident, Calm & Supported

Support For Students & Parents

WHAT WE OFFER

- Friendly 1:1 wellbeing support in their school
- 6-8 weekly individual sessions with practical tips they can use straight away
- Online resources and videos to boost their wellbeing
- Free Parent webinars on adolescent wellbeing

- Better sleep and more energy to get through the day
- Feel more confident in social situations and with friends
- Learn ways to manage worries, stress, and low mood
- Stay focused and feel more motivated

HOW IT HELPS

WHAT STUDENTS SAY

"It was simple and easy to understand and it was more like you were chatting to a friend."

"They helped me learn to avoid being anxious and they helped me know solutions to stop anxiety if I ever feel anxious."

To refer to our service, speak to your teen about reaching out to their **tutor, Head of Year, or school wellbeing lead**

We have an Eventbrite page where parents and carers can **book upcoming workshops and webinars**

HOW TO ACCESS SUPPORT

Visit our **YouTube** channel for our wellbeing videos



SCAN ME



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Speak to your tutor, head of year, or school wellbeing lead

Scan the QR code to sign up directly

Visit our **YouTube** channel for our wellbeing videos.



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HOW TO ACCESS SUPPORT

For more information, please go to:
<https://swlstg.nhs.uk/education-wellbeing-service>,
or email the team at EWSinfo@swlstg.nhs.uk

