



Southfields Academy Weekly Newsletter

Monday 15th December 2025



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

Year 7 News – Ms Watkinson

This term has been a jam-packed one for our Year 7 cohort! They had their first IEAP Day with their form tutors working on a homework target, a leadership target and a career target. The feedback from form tutors was exceptional and the students spoke with passion about future careers, had created comprehensive leadership plans, and their homework timetables have made an improvement in the quality of their homework.

Leadership activities are taken place up until Christmas and into the Spring term on return in January and I look forward to seeing the students leading these activities and having lots of fun whilst leading these activities!

Year 7 also participated in a successful Parliament week! They learnt about how democracy, how general elections work and about what an MP is. I saw some excellent discussions during AM registration amongst the students and some brilliant answers to the questions. I was particularly impressed with Sienna King Hamilton 7HUH who showed her knowledge and understanding of Parliament in her class discussions!

I want to congratulate the following Year 7s who have made an outstanding start to their academic life at Southfields and have had their effort recognised by Heads of Departments at the Prize Evening in November.

- Oliver Reterski (3D Design and Singing)
- Isabelle Barnham (Art)
- Soufia Nori (Computing, Maths and RE)
- Amelie Epitme (Drama)
- Meg King (English and PSHE)
- Clara Leech (Graphic Design and Head of Year Award)
- Muneeza Menon (History)
- Kamil Aktas (MFL)
- Dana Alamuatani (Music)
- Shayan Shahbaz (Head of Year Award)
- Shaan Tejan Cole (PE)
- Mitchell Boreham (Science)

I would like to end this update by saying how superb the Year 7s have been this term. The lead up to the Christmas break can be challenging due to fatigue, but the Year 7s are continuing to demonstrate their positive attitude towards learning and their incredible manners.

I am looking forward to our end of term awards assembly next week where even more prizes and certificates will be awarded to the students!

Dates for Your Diary

Wednesday 17th December 2025 – End of Term for Years 7, 8 & 9

Thursday 18th December 2025 – End of Term for all other students

Monday 5th January 2026 – Academy resumes

Thursday 15th January 2026 – Year 13 & Year 12 L2 Parents' Evening

Thursday 22nd January 2026 – International Group Parents' Evening

Thursday 22nd January 2026 – IEAP Day 2

Friday 30th January 2026 – INSET Day





Thought for the Week

'You never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view.'
Harper Lee



Science Club – Mr Ahmad

Science Club has spent the last two sessions designing, building, and painting our own volcanoes. We ended up with some very artistic craters. After all that crafting and creativity, this week was the moment everyone had been waiting for... eruption time!

To set off our volcanic explosions, we used a simple mix of sodium bicarbonate and ethanoic acid. It's not quite the same as the molten magma inside real volcanoes, but using the real thing would have pushed the temperature a little too high — and probably set off more than just the pupils' excitement.

As soon as the mixtures were poured in, the volcanoes came alive. They fizzed, foamed, and bubbled over as if they'd had a very dramatic week indeed. Some eruptions were gentle, others went full Hollywood action scene, and one even erupted sideways for reasons that remain a complete mystery to science.

By the end, the tables were covered in colourful "lava," the students were covered in pride (and maybe a bit of sodium bicarbonate), and everyone agreed it was an explosive success.



Creative Writing – English Department

This week, we continue to share student writing which has been published in a collection of very short stories called The Grim Tales. These two contributing Y8 students – Issaiah Kone (08RBT) and James Irvine-Dyer (08NOR) – cleverly examine the characteristics of a villain, and ask the question: are villains always the bad guy?

The Hated Hero

Long ago, in a time of trouble and despair, humans prayed to the gods for a hero; someone who would end this evil suffering they had to go through. So the gods sent me, Darkeria. It all went wrong.

They called me a villain. They called me a monster. They said I should die and suffer in hell. The people I have protected have left me, betrayed me. Now I am awakened by fury, and if I must, I will take back all I have given the world. I am what they made me: the villain. I will cause trouble no matter what. I am Darkeria.

Issaiah Kone

The Beast Inside

Many people believe that all villains are pure evil and psychopathic. But sometimes, that isn't the case. Some 'villains' are falsely imprisoned people who get made to look like monsters, or people who seek revenge on the real villain or who need to get back what the real villain took from them. Like Oliver, now known as 'the Claw,' the infamous killer.

A few years ago, around 2019, he was out with his parents when they got surrounded and robbed at gunpoint by a local street gang. Although they gave the gang everything, they still found a reason to shoot. Oliver swore revenge.

James Irvine-Allpress

Futures Fair – Ms Shah

14 Students from Year 12 had the opportunity to attend the **Futures Fair** (Medical Careers) held by St Georges City University Campus in Tooting on Wednesday 26th November.

Students had the opportunity to meet and question practitioners from various disciplines including Paramedics, Midwifery, Nursing, Occupational Therapy, Biomedical Science, Psychology, Radiotherapy & Oncology and Clinical Pharmacology amongst others. They learned so much about all the career pathways in their area of interest.

On Wednesday 10th December 6 students will attend a follow on event based on a 'Dragons Den' style format. We will let you know how they get on next week!



Start stirring those ideas... what dessert could steal the spotlight?



MFL COOKING COMPETITION

Dessert Edition

MAKE A TRADITIONAL DESSERT FROM YOUR FAMILY'S COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

Deadline:
12th January
2026

YOU WILL HAVE TO:

- COOK AT HOME AND PREPARE ONLY ONE SLIDE TO SUBMIT ON YOUR MFL GOOGLE CLASSROOM

INCLUDE:

- YOUR NAME AND TUTOR GROUP
- THE NAME OF THE DISH
- THE COUNTRY
- AT LEAST TWO PICTURES: ONE OF THE PROCESS AND ONE OF THE END RESULT
- LIST THE INGREDIENTS AND THE INSTRUCTIONS IN ENGLISH

EVALUATION CRITERIA:

- PRESENTATION and PLATING OF THE DISH
- CLARITY OF INSTRUCTIONS

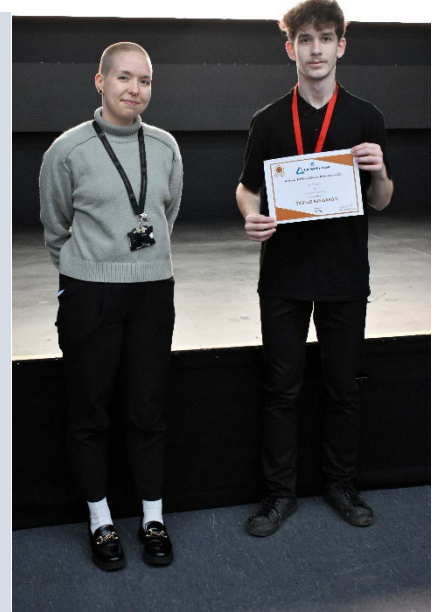
Senior Kangaroo Challenge – Ms Felbinger

Following his Gold certificate in the Senior Maths Challenge last half term, Raul Chindris in Year 13 has competed in the follow on round - the Senior Kangaroo - a few weeks ago.

In this challenge he has solved another set of logic based number, algebra and geometry problems.

With a total of 45 points, Raul has received a **Bronze Certificate**. Well done!

A few example questions from this year's Senior Kangaroo Challenge:



3. In a sum of five three-digit numbers $'ABC' + 'BCD' + 'CDE' + 'DEA' + 'EAB' = 2664$, the letters A, B, C, D and E represent digits, which are not necessarily distinct.

What is the value of $10(A + B + C + D + E)$?

4. Kitty claims that for every positive integer n , the product $(5n + 1)(6n - 1)(n^3 - 2)$ is not divisible by 7.

What is the smallest three-digit value of n which is a counterexample to Kitty's claim?

5. The integers a, b , and c are such that $1 \leq a \leq b \leq c$ and $abc = 2^{16}$.

What is the largest possible value of b ?

Park Plaza Visit – Ms Hodgson

This week, our Year 10 Travel and Tourism students had the exciting opportunity to visit the Park Plaza, Waterloo. They enjoyed an exclusive tour of the hotel, followed by an engaging Q&A session with the General Manager. Throughout the visit, students asked thoughtful questions and demonstrated exemplary behaviour, making the school proud.

One student summed up the experience perfectly: *"Miss, I wanted to vlog the day, but I haven't because I'm enjoying myself too much."*



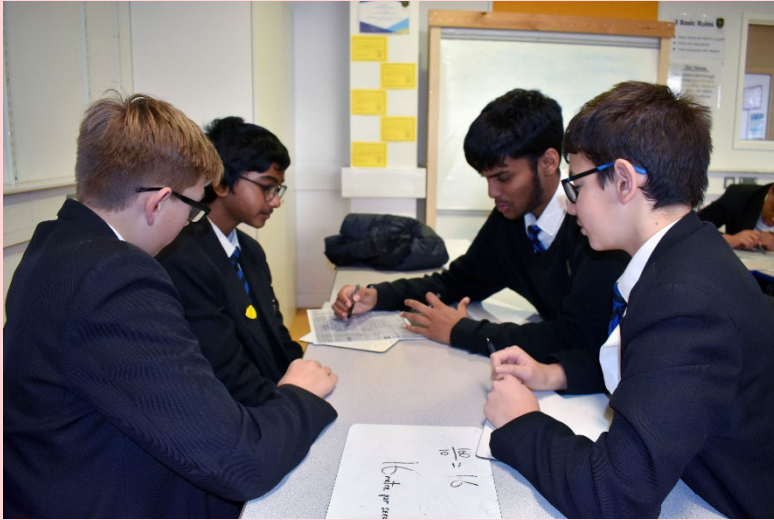
GCHQ Christmas Challenge 2025 – Computer Science Mr Shillingford and Mathematics Ms Ahmad

What an incredible day! On Wednesday, December 10th, our amazing students from Key Stages 3, 4, and 5 jumped into the thrilling GCHQ Christmas Challenge!

Working in dynamic teams, our budding codebreakers tackled seven truly fiendish puzzles! Their ultimate mission? To uncover a top-secret hidden message! The students were absolutely fantastic—showing intense engagement and stellar teamwork throughout the competition.

Not only did they test their wits, but they also learned all about the vital work GCHQ does and discovered why puzzle-solving is such a crucial skill for future careers in intelligence and security.

A huge well done to every single student for their enthusiasm and dedication! They were thoroughly engaged and worked brilliantly together!



Road Safety – Ms Swann

This week, all of the Year 7 students had road safety sessions in their PSHE lessons delivered by S.A.M.E academy. These sessions were based on road safety education & driving awareness in the form of interactive workshops and presentations.

The sessions discussed a range of topics relating to road safety education, group travel, behaviour, distractions, peer pressure, social media and much more. The Year 7s were brilliantly behaved, listened well and participated in a mature and engaged way.



Year 8 Parents Evening Feedback – Ms Gbolonyo

A huge thank you to all parents and carers that attended Year 8 Parents' evening last month.

The feedback was overwhelmingly positive. The Year 8 team would like to thank all parents and carers for their on-going support and engagement.

Please see below for a selection of comments shared.



“Teaching!”

“Teachers are great and easy to talk to.”

“Wide range of extra-curricular activities.”

“Communicating!”

“Pastoral care!”

“Good at helping students”

“Individual support2

“Pastoral support”

What are we doing well?

What three words describe Southfields Academy?

Respect, Courage & Kindness

Excellent care & safe

Organised, welcoming & understanding

Helpful, engaging & sociable

Fun learning & enjoyable

Good, fair & kind

Fantastic, great & positive

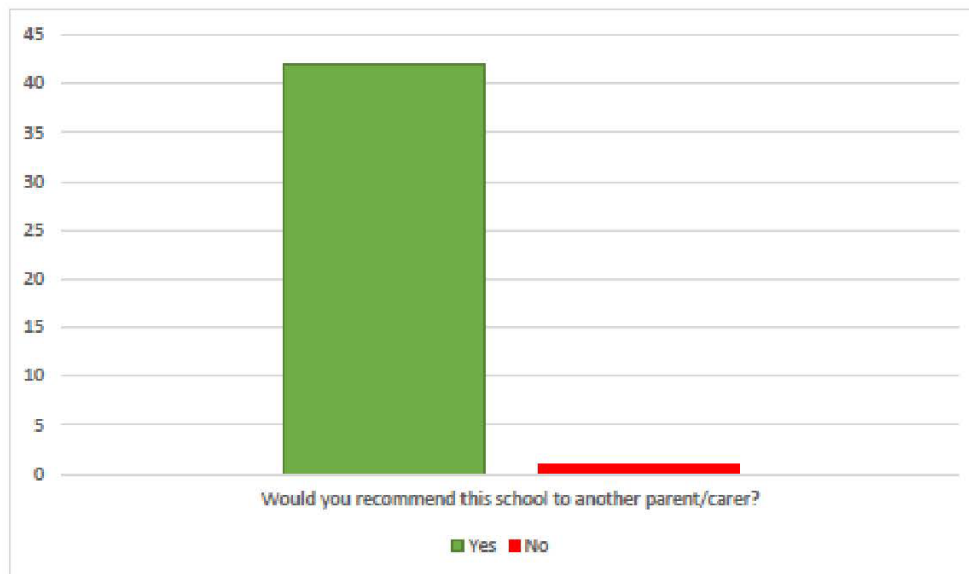
Caring, nurturing & supportive

Welcoming, wholesome & wonderful

Southfields is the best school in the UK

Parent Voice Continued....

12. Would you recommend this school to another parent / carer?



KS3 Council Reps and Tutor Reps Charity Fundraiser

This term I have been working alongside KS3 Council reps and year tutor reps to discuss projects they would like to implement.

On Monday 15th December 2025, the KS3 Council reps and Year 8 tutor reps will be selling Christmas cards and thank you cards in the ADT court yard during break 1 and 2. Students can purchase as many cards as possible to distribute to friends, teachers and family members. All cards cost 50p. All donations will go to a chosen charity selected by the KS3 student council team.

Internships Work Conference 2026 Tuesday 24th February 2026 - Online

This national event celebrates four years of progress in supported internships which means more young people are accessing high-quality supported internships – opening doors to employment, independence, and greater choice and control over their futures.

The conference will feature a series of short, engaging sessions to spotlight the voices of young people, families, job coaches, employers, and local authorities.

Sessions include:

10:00 – 12:30: Internships work because young people do

14:00 – 15:00: Insights from the pilot

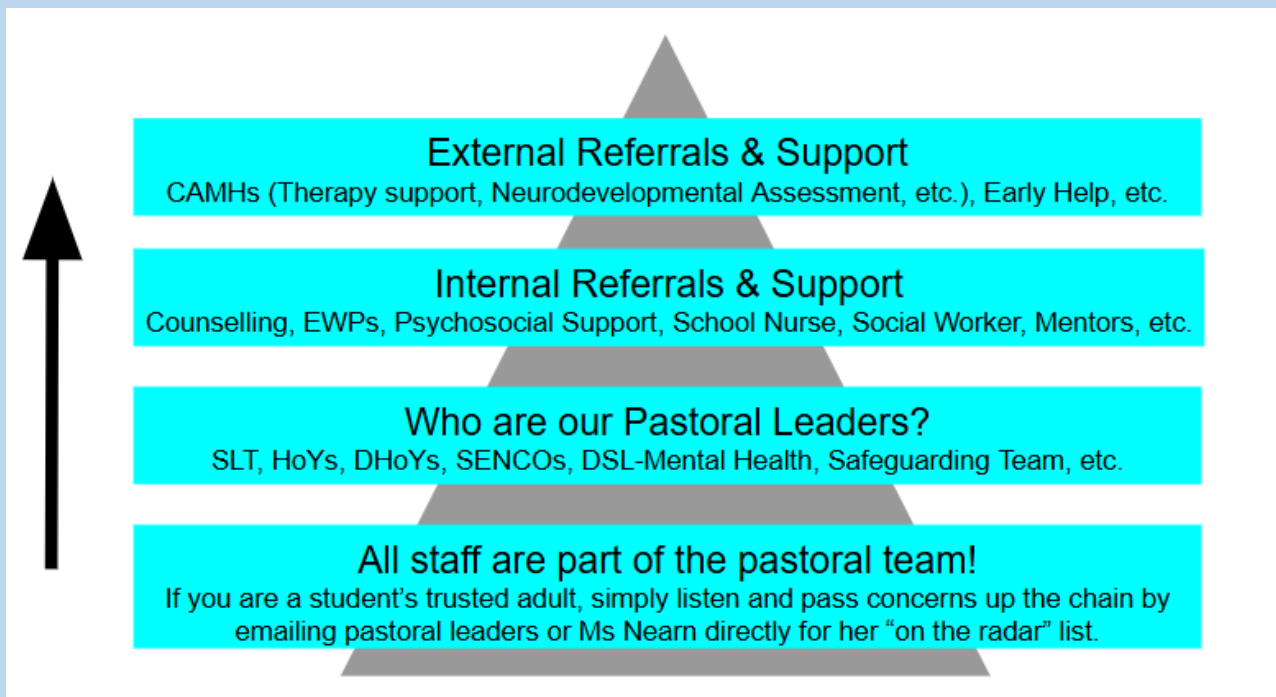
18:00 – 19:30: Helping families navigate supported internships

Please use this link to book your place today:

<https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=uc24UbDrdEqOZ9HMRiI95-Mw2vKsnnRFo873PZVD6R1UOEK3SjRMWkhWSDIKVURLT1M5VEM4RUI5RCQIQCN0PWcu&route=shorturl>

Student Support @ Southfields Academy – Ms Nearn

We want students to have the best school experience possible by supporting their emotional and mental wellbeing. The foundation of this support is our belief that *all staff are part of the pastoral team*. Students are therefore encouraged to speak to any adult they like and trust, with concerns being passed up the chain so they may access the appropriate support.



Your child's tutor is always the first point of contact if you would like to pass concerns from home, or flag potential vulnerabilities. Once a concern has been raised (either by parents/carers, staff, peers, or the students themselves), students are invited in to speak with Ms Nearn, our Designated Senior Lead for Mental Health. Together they explore what the issue is and what intervention would be the best fit. A referral is then written and passed to the SEND team. Once an intervention is agreed and scheduled, we do our best to avoid removing students from key lessons.

We have a broad range of interventions available at school. In addition, the Education Wellbeing Service offers webinars for parents throughout the school year on various topics. Please see below for their spring term offerings.

For help over the Christmas break, please see the list of local and national helplines and support services on our [website](#).

The SWLSTG Education Wellbeing Service is offering lunchtime and evening parent Webinars across the year to help support your child's wellbeing and mental health.

You can sign up to any of their free webinars by copying this URL:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/secondarycollege-parents-wellbeing-workshops-725989?utm-campaign=social&utm-content=creatorshare&utm-medium=discovery&utm-term=odclsxcollection&utm-source=cp&aff=escb>

If your child is interested in 1:1 sessions with our in-school NHS Wellbeing Practitioners to help with worries, low mood or anxiety please contact your child's tutor.



Upcoming Events For Secondary Parents Spring Term 2026

Supporting your teenager's mental health webinars

We also provide free 1:1 early help support programmes for young people to support with anxiety or low mood. Speak to your school to find out more.

12TH JAN 26
1 PM - 2 PM

Screen Time, Social Media and gaming - what parents need to know

14TH JAN 26
7 PM - 8 PM

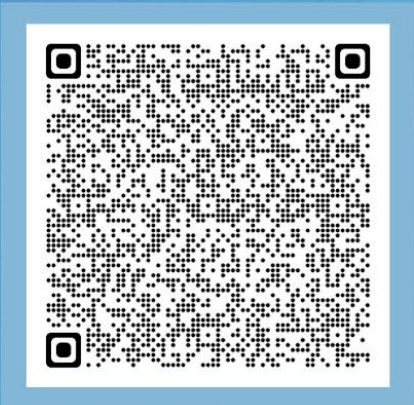
9TH FEB 26
7 PM - 8.30 PM

Supporting Siblings of Children with SEND

10TH FEB 26
1.30 PM - 3 PM

To view further event details and descriptions, and to book on to any of the webinars, please scan the QR Code or follow the link to our Eventbrite collection.

[Click here](#)



Upcoming Events For Secondary Parents Spring Term 2026

Supporting your teenager's mental health webinars

We also provide free 1:1 early help support programmes for young people to support with anxiety or low mood. Speak to your school to find out more.

16TH FEB 26
7 PM - 8 PM

Supporting your
teenager with Exam
Stress (Years 11-13)

17TH FEB 26
1 PM - 2 PM

9TH MAR 26
1 PM - 2 PM

Conflict,
Communication
and Compromise -
the teen years

12TH MAR 26
7 PM - 8 PM

To view further event details and descriptions, and to book on to any of the webinars, please scan the QR Code or follow the link to our Eventbrite collection.

[Click here](#)

