



# INTHEKNOW

29<sup>th</sup> March 2018

[www.smithswood.co.uk](http://www.smithswood.co.uk)



## Message from the Head of Academy

I would like to begin by thanking all of our students and staff that worked so well together last week to make the Sport Relief fundraising week the excellent event that it was. It always impresses me how much our children care about other people; this is what makes them special. Here, Year 11 students Lucy Male and Lucy Hancock summarise their experiences of this event (and also practise their article writing skills for their forthcoming GCSE English!):

### *To Raise or Not to Raise?*

*Imagine you are wheelchair bound. Imagine you cannot leave the house on your own. Imagine you are not able to walk at all. This is where Sport Relief funds can help. On the 23<sup>rd</sup> of March SWA students and staff came in non-uniform (jeans and sportswear) to raise money for Sport Relief. Students contributed 50 pence towards this valuable cause. Every single penny raised will have a positive impact on someone's life; every single penny will be used to aid people who need help; every single penny will be converted into a pound.*

Last year Sport relief raised over 50 million pounds. This is phenomenal! Wow! Smith's Wood Academy is thrilled to be a part of the community that helps vulnerable people, across the UK and the world, to live happier, healthier and safer lives. SWA is about playing a role in the community. SWA is about giving and not taking. Although many people think that money cannot bring you happiness, on this occasion, we think that it can; it can change lives and it can improve lives.

Another exciting event was a morning 6-mile walk. Students and teachers were united together in this fun community service. On their arrival back to school, they were met with medals and smiles. At lunchtime, during the Sport Relief week, students tried their hand at different sports: badminton, basketball, table tennis and cricket. To crown the week, our three dedicated students 'walked their age' (in miles!): Rupert Ryan, Jason Passco and Ann-Marie Lewis walked 13 miles; Mr Mac was not that lucky and had to complete his 48 miles. He finished it at 11pm but don't tell anyone!

One student (who did not want to disclose their name) said, "I have great respect for those people who walked an extra mile and put an extra pound in the pot, because it brings communities together. It is absolutely brilliant!"

In addition, a badminton tournament was organised where students and staff alike competed for the first place. Well done to Kirsty Pyle and Mr Hart, our reigning champions!

SWA always supports charities 100 per cent. We are proud support national and local organisations. To raise or not to raise, the choice is yours! Make it a smart decision.'

I would also like to thank those parents that attended Parents' Forum this week. We worked collaboratively together to begin to shape our behaviour policy for the next academic year; your input was very much valued – thank you.

We have ended the term this week on a real positive; many, many, Year 7 and 8 students visited Solihull ice-rink for lunch and skating as a reward for having achieved 100% attendance this half term. We plan to run a similar initiative for students in Years 7 to 10 next half term. I would like to give parents advance notice that we are planning an end of year reward trip to Drayton Manor Theme Park at the end of the summer term (only 13 school weeks away!). To be eligible to attend students will need to have at least 97% attendance since the start of the academic year or 100% for the summer term.

 SMITH'S WOOD  
ACADEMY

## Attendance Rewards Trip

Pupils in Years 7 to 10 with **excellent attendance** will be awarded with a trip to Drayton Manor on

**Thursday 19th July**

Tickets and transport will be paid for

Places awarded if you have  
at least **97%** attendance for the academic year  
or **100%** attendance for the summer term (16th April - 19th July)



I wish you all a Happy Easter and I look forward, very much, to welcoming children back after the break. All students start back on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> April. Please remember that we have an INSET day on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> April.

Mrs K Craig

**Head of Academy**

YEAR 7

- Year 7 Spring Disco – Giggle Fest! - takes place on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> April. We look forward to seeing all of the children there!
- Milestone examinations take place for Key Stage 3 students after the Easter Holiday in core subjects – see below for the examinations timetable.
- The deadline for 'Love My Pet' creative writing competition is 29.03.18. Hand in your entry to your English teacher or Mrs Morris.

YEAR 8

- Milestone examinations take place for Key Stage 3 students after the Easter Holiday in core subjects – see below for the examinations timetable.
- Year 8 and 9 - deadline for 'Stranger Sagas' competition is 29.03.18. Hand in your entry to your English teacher or Mrs Morris.
- Year 8 HPV jabs will be administered on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2018. Letters will be sent to parents concerning this, after Easter.

YEAR 9

- Year 9 Options choice deadline Monday 16<sup>th</sup> April
- Milestone examinations take place for Key Stage 3 students after the Easter Holiday in core subjects – see below for the examinations timetable.
- Year 8 and 9 - deadline for 'Stranger Sagas' competition is 29.03.18. Hand in your entry to your English teacher or Mrs Morris.

YEAR 10

No specific notices for Year 10 students this week

YEAR 11

- Year 11 GCSE Drama Deadlines and Exam dates  
Thursday 19th April - Component 3 evening performance 6pm  
Wednesday 25th April - Component 3 GCSE examination all day.  
Thursday 26th April- Component 3 GCSE examination all day.
- English - Live screening of Macbeth from the Royal Shakespeare Company will take place on 26th April for all Year 11 students. This will take place in school time but students must attend – again this is essential viewing in readiness for the examinations.
- **Post 16 Pathways** - Most Year 11 students have now applied for Sixth Form or College. If students are interested in apprenticeships they must see Mrs O'Donnell to ensure they have been provided with information as to how to apply. Do not hesitate to contact Mrs O'Donnell [odonnell.a@smiths-wood.com](mailto:odonnell.a@smiths-wood.com) if you require support.

- Science Club – every Wednesday – except 13<sup>th</sup> June 2018 - from 3.10pm-4.00pm in S7
- KS 3 Creative Writing Drop-in Club is held every Friday in CA2 with Mrs Morris
- GCSE English as a Second Language drop in sessions are held on Monday in CA2.
- Watch this space: Poetry on Prescription is coming to the Lower School library soon.
- Open-to-all sports activities after school February/March:

Mondays - fitness, archery, girls' football

Wednesdays - trampolining, swimming, fitness, table tennis, badminton, netball, Duke of Edinburgh

Thursdays - boys' football (Years 10/11), indoor cricket

Fridays - basketball, boys' football (Years 7/8/9), badminton by invitation

#### **ADVANCE NOTICE**

**OUR ANNUAL AWARD CEREMONY WILL TAKE PLACE ON MONDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> JULY AT 7.00PM – PLEASE ADD THE DATE TO YOUR DIARY**



## SOLIHULL SCHOOLS PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION

Earlier this term Smith's Wood Academy was invited to take part in the fourth annual Solihull Schools Public Speaking Competition that was held in Solihull Council House. This is a very prestigious competition that aims to encourage young people to play a more prominent part in public life by having the experience of speaking on a public platform.

Smith's Wood had four candidates. Each of the strong candidates were able to formulate ideas on topical subjects and deliver their inspiring speeches to other students and a panel of judges. Serena Bobozo-Tshibaka, Clara Ingram, Sophia Essex and Charlotte Griffin (who represented SWA last year) expressed their keen interest to take part in this event and Serena and Sophia were chosen to advance to the semi-finals.

Here, Serena (year 9) summarises her experiences of the event:

*Whilst preparing for my speech I gained a lot of confidence and I managed to express what I feel and know about the issue of immigration. Working on this project, I have definitely improved my speaking skills which I know will be useful for my GCSE. I would also encourage other students to play a more prominent part in the Academy by participating in different types of competition on offer.*

Serena delivered her powerful speech on immigration in the UK. This is an issue that many people would shy away from, yet Serena was skillful enough to create a speech that held the attention of not only the judges, but the contestants themselves. Her personality shone through her speech: she regarded this difficult issue with tact and care. Serena's delivery was calm and compelling, despite that fact that she was competing against older candidates.

SWA is very proud of the girls' achievements and have faith that next year we will be the winners.

### 2018-2019 TERM DATES

Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September 2018	INSET DAY 1
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> September 2018	INSET DAY 2
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> September 2018	Autumn term 1 begins
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> October 2018	End of Autumn term 1
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> November 2018	Autumn term 2 begins
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> November 2018	INSET DAY 3
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> December 2018	End of Autumn term 2
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> January 2019	Spring term 1 begins
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> February 2019	End of Spring term 1
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> February 2019	Spring term 2 begins
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> April 2019	End of Spring term 2
Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> April 2019	Summer term 1 begins
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May 2019	INSET DAY 4
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> May 2019	May Bank Holiday
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> May 2019	End of Summer term 1
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June 2019	Summer term 2 begins
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> July 2019	End of Summer term 2
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July 2019	INSET DAY 5

- The next meeting of the PTA takes place on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> April at 6.00pm. All welcome to attend.



- We would much rather encourage and reward students for good attendance. However, please do be aware that when these incentives fail to improve attendance then we will begin to take legal action. This is not a step we wish to take but will do so if necessary; unfortunately, the outcomes can be quite severe. For example, a recent Birmingham court outcome (9.2.18) was as follows: Parent failed to attend court and a fine was issued – Band B £293.00. Court costs £600.00 plus victim surcharge £30.00 totalling £923.00 with 28 days (collection order) to pay. **Children need to be in school to succeed. Please support us in supporting your child to achieve well and be happy at school.**
- Please find below a summary of outcomes from attendance cases that were taken to the Magistrates Court on 16<sup>th</sup> March:
  - Case 1: the defendant failed to attend court. Case proved in their absence. Total fine £600 to be paid in full within 28 days.
  - Case 2: defendant given credit for guilty plea. Total fine £425
  - Case 3: the defendant failed to attend court. Case proved in their absence. Total fine £600, to be paid in full within 28 days.
  - Case 4: the defendant failed to attend court. Case proved in their absence. Total fine £600, to be paid in full within 28 days. X2 children total £1200.
  - Case 5: the defendant failed to attend court. Case proved in their absence. Total fine £600, to be paid in full within 28 days.
- This week many of our Year 7 and 8 students have visited Solihull ice-rink for lunch and skating as a reward for having 100% attendance this half term. We plan to do the same for each group at the end of next half term.

**Year 7, 8 and 9 examination timetable**

	Period 1	Period 2	Period 3	Period 4	Period 5
<b>Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> April</b>	<b>Yr7 Maths</b> Paper 1 50 mins		<b>Yr 7 Maths</b> Paper 2 50 mins		<b>Yr 7 Science</b> Paper 1 50 mins
<b>Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Year 7 English</b> Lang paper 1h 45 mins		<b>Yr 7 Science</b> Paper 2 50 mins		<b>Y8 Maths</b> paper 1 50 mins
<b>Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Y8 Maths</b> Paper 2 50 mins		<b>Year 8 English</b> Lang paper 1h 45mins		<b>Y8 Science</b> Paper 1 50 mins
<b>Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Y8 Science</b> Paper 2	<b>Y9 Science</b> Paper 1 50 mins	<b>Y9 Maths</b> Paper 1 90 mins		<b>Y9 Science</b> Paper 2 50 mins
<b>Friday 27<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Yr 9 Maths</b> Paper 2 90 mins		<b>Y9 English</b> Lang paper 1 hour		