



## Parent Newsletter

Spring 2022

### Steel Pan Workshop Days

We were delighted to be able to give our GCSE music students, and some Year 9 students, the exciting opportunity of participating in a professional Steel Pan workshop this term, provided by Inspire-Works. Calypso Music is part of the Rhythms of the World area of study on the GCSE listening exam and we felt that the best way for students to gain a good understanding of this Caribbean music was to have a go!



Our students enjoyed learning a variety of Calypso and Reggae songs as a Steel Pan band, including Hot, Hot, Hot and a steel pan version of Uptown Funk. Not only did the students get the opportunity to play these incredible instruments but they also learned all about the history and context of steel pan music. It was wonderful to be able to provide a practical music workshop in the Performing Arts Centre again, and we look forward to more in the future.

### Music Showcases

Year 10 and 11 Music GCSE students have enjoyed the opportunity to perform in a recorded showcase in the Performing Arts Centre this term, presenting a wide variety of solo and ensemble performances in styles ranging from Baroque piano to Rock bands. After such a long period of being unable to perform to an audience, it was wonderful for students to share their performances with each other and then with a wider audience via a recorded version of the showcase. A huge part of being a GCSE music student here at Soham Village College is being involved in preparing for, and participating in, a range of performances from small, informal class showcases to large-scale concerts in a venue of 1000 people. For many of our students this was the first performance they had given to a wider audience, and they did not disappoint. We were so impressed with our students' confidence, maturity and resilience in their preparation for the event and indeed in the quality of the final performances. Every tutor group across the school had the opportunity to watch the recorded version of the Year 11 Music Showcase during tutor time in House Week, and this has inspired a number of students to explore the Music GCSE route, or to start learning an instrument.



## **World Book Day 2022**

### English Department

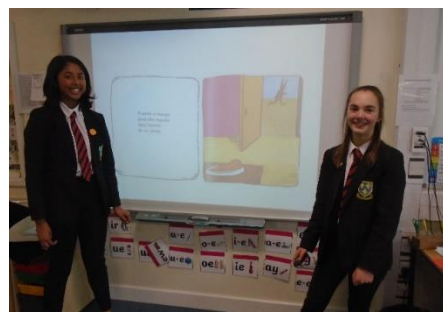
We all know how vital reading for pleasure is and the difference that reading regularly at home can make to each and every student. This term, the library and the English faculty have been celebrating World Book Day by hosting a number of events designed to promote reading. To start the celebrations, the library hosted a Harry Potter themed event that included puzzles, 'drawalongs' and 'pin the sock on Dobby' in early February.

Then, in the two weeks surrounding World Book Day after half term, all Year 7 classes visited the library during one of their English lessons to take part in a literary themed 'Who's Coming to Dinner?' and a whole-class story writing activity. All Year 7 students then got to take home a free book to read. The highlight of the celebrations was a visit from Carnegie shortlisted author Julian Sedgwick who came to talk to all Year 8 and Year 9 students about his novel 'Tsunami Girl'. The students were captivated by his story about his travels to Japan and about the events of 2011 that inspired the book. Two Year 7 classes were also lucky enough to work with him in a creative writing workshop that was based on his book 'Ghosts of Shanghai'. They worked on developing a story set in an abandoned place and produced some fantastic work. Julian's popularity was evident from the long queues of students waiting to meet him in the library at lunchtime where he kindly agreed to sign books and answer questions about his writing and career as an author.



### MFL Department

For two Wednesdays in March, a group of Year 9 MFL students went to Weatheralls Primary School to work with Year 5 pupils on a project to celebrate World Book Day. Soham Village College students Willow, Amy, Emily, Sara and Ariyaana, read the French children's book *Bon Appetit Monsieur Lapin* to Year 5 pupils and encouraged them to join in with some of the key phrases. After the story, they helped the Year 5 pupils to complete a work pack based on the book. The students showed a lot of confidence when delivering the story and all agreed it was a great experience!



### **Design & Technology**

The Community Warriors have been busy making bird houses, hedgehog houses and planters for Fordham Primary School's vegetable garden. In March they took their finished projects over to Fordham and spent the afternoon weeding, putting up new signs and turning over the soil in the raised beds. The Warriors were an absolute credit to Soham Village College and the primary school students and teachers were very pleased with the newly "spruced" up garden and new garden donations. If your child would like to get involved in their next project, they should go along on Thursdays after school in L1.





## GCSE PE Climbing Trip

It was a welcome return to Grafham Water for Soham Village College students after a year's absence to take part in our annual three-day GCSE PE climbing trip.



The trip was a residential, which comprised of two days on Grafham Water climbing wall and a full day at Pinnacle Climbing wall in Bedford. This trip is always a popular event with our students and gives students taking GCSE PE a chance to try an activity they might not usually take part in and at the same time allows the students to gain a mark for one of the three practical activities they need as part of their GCSE PE.



The students worked really learning the various techniques and knots needed to both climb the various walls and also belay each other.

Students were also involved in abseiling and given the opportunity to speed climb using the hydraulic belay and electric timer at Pinnacle climbing centre. Seb Grove was outstanding at this and managed to finish his climb in 15 seconds, a full 6 seconds faster than his nearest opponent.



As always, the behaviour was exemplary and although the climbing was physically draining, everyone thoroughly enjoyed the three days and achieved an early practical mark towards their GCSE PE qualification.





## PSHE Day

On Wednesday 9 February the college staged its first full PSHE day in nearly two years! All students were off timetable to take part in a variety of activities throughout the day. Year 7 learnt the value of teamwork with activities run by the PE department in the Ross Pears Sports Centre while Year 8 spent the day looking at the issues surrounding drug and alcohol abuse. This was also the time for Year 9 to participate in their annual World of Work day with specialist sessions ranging from law and forensics to gaming and food preparation. Year 10 continued their work completed in Year 9 on Relationship and Sex Education looking at aspects of sexual bullying and domestic violence while Year 11 had the opportunity to take part in a mock interview with members of the local business community. We were also able to invite in a theatre company to perform 3 shows for different year groups on "County Lines" and Cambridge Regional College sent several members of staff to deliver topics on a variety of courses. All our guests/visitors commented on the excellent students the college has and their willingness to return in the future!

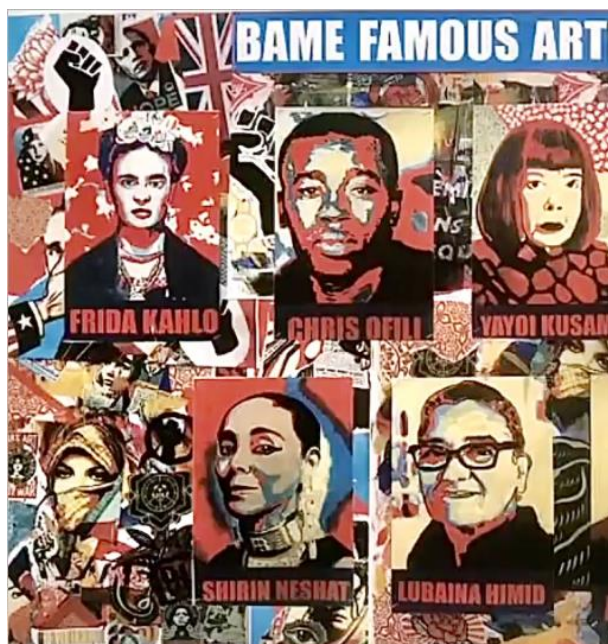




## BAME Displays

The artwork made by our fantastic Year 9 students on the Able Gifted and Talented day is starting to be hung up around school. The first display in the Art block features famous BAME artists including Frida Kahlo, Ai Wei Wei, Chris Ofili and more. The second is outside the humanities office and features Historical BAME figures. More will be put up outside Beechurst Hall soon with people of note from BAME backgrounds in other subject areas.

We hope these displays will encourage our students to research these outstanding people and promote equality even more in our school.



## Bronze Art Award

Our Year 8 Bronze Art award students have passed their course and will soon receive their certificates for their hard work.

Students enjoyed days at the Fitzwilliam working with gallery curators and specialists on animations, clay and making miniatures. They also visited the Botanical gardens.

Students were enthusiastic, polite and courteous on each trip and really enjoyed themselves.

## Babylon Gallery

Our students recently had their work exhibited at the Babylon Gallery in Ely. Students whose work was selected were:

### KS4

Will Slezacek  
Faith Gilbey Jones  
Finely Froment  
Eryn Morely  
Sonia Bersan  
Bethany Wood  
Logan Bye  
Charlie Butcher  
Neve Palmer  
Viktorija Zvaigzdyte

### KS3

James Wright  
Laura Lowe  
Paige Cornwell  
Isabella Miranda  
James Rowlingson  
Fanny Poza Denton  
Millie Smith  
Lizzy Fordham  
Gryta Zvaigzdyte

The quality of the work was outstanding and students should be very proud of their hard work. Students will receive certificates soon to celebrate this achievement.

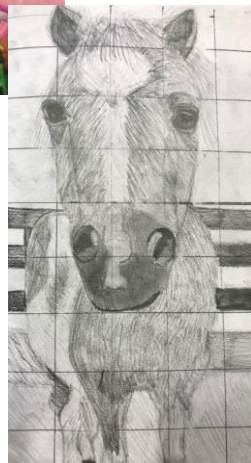




## Artbytes Exhibition

The art department have recently signed up to the Artbytes program which is a NEW, national programme for primary and secondary schools, combining an inter-school art competition with a virtual gallery. Thirty Year 9 students have been selected to be a part of the inter-school competition. After a shortlisting panel and an online public vote, the winning artist from each school sees their work displayed in a virtual gallery. Hopefully in June there will be a celebration event at a high-profile cultural venue, which is also available to schools to stream in the classroom or assembly. Regional winners are announced, certificates and prizes are presented, and the virtual gallery goes live for everyone to see.

Congratulations to the Year 9 students whose work has been selected to represent SVC for the upcoming Art Bytes Exhibition. There will be an exhibition at the Histon & Impington Gallery Space on 2 April.



## Year 10 London Trip

Our Year 10s visited the Saatchi gallery on Monday 28 March. Students spent the day doing workshops with gallery curators and artists, alongside guided tours and gathering research for their coursework.

## Years 10 & 11

Our Year 10 and 11 art students are working very hard in preparation for their upcoming art exams. We cannot wait to see the final outcomes after months of hard work and planning. Below are some pieces students have completed in preparation for their exams.



## Careers Activity Round Up Spring 2022

### Year 11 Mock Interviews

After a 2-year absence, it was wonderful to be able to hold mock interviews for our Year 11s. 24 ex-students, parent helpers and local business contacts gave up their day to play the role of interviewers. For many students, this was their first experience of a formal interview and whilst some were naturally nervous, the feedback from interviewers was extremely positive and many students were praised for their stories of success so far and for their future plans.



### Year 11 Apprenticeship workshop

15 students took part in an apprenticeship workshop run by AIM Apprenticeships, in which they learnt about how to research apprenticeship vacancies and areas to focus on during the application process. More students each year voice an interest in considering the apprenticeship route, and so these workshops provide a good level of support for students at this important time.

### Year 10 & 11 Virtual work experience

Our connection with the Springpod Virtual Work Experience programme continued, with many students taking part in their chosen programme during the February half term. Feedback continues to be positive. The next round of programmes take place in the Easter holidays, with students able to register now <https://www.springpod.com/virtual-work-experience/search?status=Open>



### Year 11 Caius College visit

29 students visited Caius College in Cambridge, to see the opportunities open to all at such a prestigious college. The group got first hand insight into application, study and life in one of the world's foremost Universities. As well as touring the grounds (seeing Dr Stephen Hawkins' former office), the exceptional library and enjoying lunch in the main Hall, students got to speak to a number of undergraduates from similar backgrounds which now make up 76% of total admissions. We hope this is the first event in many as SVC forges closer links with Caius College.



### Year 9 Subject Taster Sessions

Year 9s took part in a day of practical sessions designed to support them with their GCSE choices and beyond. Cambridge Regional College ran a range of subject sessions to demonstrate the types of courses available there, ranging from Cookery and Hair & Beauty to E Sport Gaming and Art. Students then chose 1 subject they were considering taking at GCSE and spent 3 hours involved in an interactive activity relating to that subject. Some of the activities were supported by local employers.





## UKMT Maths Challenges

Maths students from Year 10 participated in the Intermediate Challenge on Wednesday 2 February. Our school was awarded 2 gold certificates, 7 silver certificates and 13 bronze certificates. Congratulations to all the participants!! We are now eagerly awaiting the results of the Pink Kangaroo Challenge.

### Student Voice – UKMT Challenges

I took part in the UKMT maths challenge recently. Me and roughly 40 other students had to go into the hall and sit the test made up of around 25 questions all to challenge us and make us think. The paper started off smoothly but then got quite tricky. When we got our results back we had been given a different colour certificate depending on how well we had done with Gold certificate achievers moving on to the second stage which was named the UKMT Pink Kangaroo Challenge.

Two students managed to do this which were myself and Dylan. We had to sit this paper a couple of weeks later. I was certainly surprised by the difficulty of this challenge compared to the previous test and all of the questions were even harder. However, overall I really enjoyed my experience and wait to receive our results on the Pink Kangaroo Challenge.

Many thanks, Finley Froment – Year 10

### 7KD Fundraising Challenge

In January, 7KD set themselves the challenge to walk, run, swim or bike 250km for their House Turner charity, the Arthur Rank Hospice and raised money through a Just Giving page. They completely excelled and managed to achieve a staggering 1417km in total and raised over £300! They are very proud of their efforts and offer huge thanks for your generosity in supporting this brilliant charity.



## Year 8 Coding Competition

Congratulations to James Wright, Logan Simpson, Zia Kurdie, Tabitha Wall, Anna Munday, Sam Lomax and Ben Runyon for representing Soham Village College in Rotary Club Year 8 Coding Competition at Cambridge University.

The teams had to write computer code to a number of super challenging problems using Python.



## Red Nose Day

The final total raised by students on Friday 18 March for Comic Relief was almost £1,200. Thank you to parents/carers for all your support.





### **Student Voice - The Future Group**

The Future Group is a student-run organisation that was started to raise awareness within school and help contribute to the preservation of you or your children's future. Open to all year groups, it is a place where students can make a difference in our community. We have been lucky enough to have a large group of students who want to be part of the team to make change happen.

Our main focus right now has been promoting the planting of trees in gardens and our local community; and encouraging the use of Terracycle, a company that offers free recycling programmes all over the country.

For the last 5 months, we have been working towards starting a recycling campaign at our school which involves having recycling stations at different places at Soham Village College. We did this by producing an informative assembly video, which talks about many of our recent projects, including the recycling campaign. We have promoted this through a 'Go Green' House week at school this term. We introduced our group to the school and as part of this week-long promotion, students across the whole school have now been encouraged to set up recycling stations in their classrooms for everyday items (milk bottle tops, ring pulls, crisp packets, batteries and inkjet cartridges). This will mean that recycling is more available and pollution is minimised.

We have also launched a canary campaign (origami canaries with climate facts to spread around the school) that raises awareness to the crisis we are facing, and have been facing, for the last 42 years. Did you know that in 8 years' time, the effects of climate change will likely be irreversible? This will be when most of Soham Village College are at university, when they have barely started to figure out their future.

There are small, seemingly insignificant things you can do to help. What we want to do is encourage a culture within school where students see the value and benefit of recycling and know that they are doing their bit to help our planet. We want students to think about their actions - The next time they brush their teeth, did they turn the tap off? The next time they leave a room, did they ask themselves, 'did I turn the light off?'? The next time they see a recycling bin, did they use it?

To contact us with further ideas or enquiries, please email;  
[FutureGroup@sohamcollege.org.uk](mailto:FutureGroup@sohamcollege.org.uk)



We have the ability to write our own future.  
The Future Group.

### **Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award**

The first Duke of Edinburgh expedition since the pandemic, took place recently. All students were fantastic in an unusually warm March expedition. The smiles and cheers were all well-earned! Well done to all involved!



## Student Voice - Superglue 1

Here at Soham Village College we pride ourselves on our tremendous performing arts facilities, this is why when the National Theatre said that "Superglue" (by Tim Crouch) was going to be the next Connections play, we just couldn't wait to dive in and begin adapting the script into our own perspective. Due to Covid impacting the performance rate for the past few years this meant that students were particularly eager to audition for the roles of the many characters Superglue has to offer us.

What is "Superglue" about?

Superglue is a play written by experimental playwright, Tim Crouch. In this play we follow the misadventures of a group of climate activists who have gathered together for the funeral of their dear friend Mags, who unfortunately died during one of their protests. The idea is that all the characters are in their late sixties yet the actors playing them are all young (meaning they don't get to walk around with a stick or put talcum powder in their hair). This allows the young people to represent what the older people are going through during this time and how they feel as if they still have a lot more to give to stop climate change.

PACT Theatre has been working on Superglue since the 12 October 2021 and many of us would say it has been an uplifting experience for everyone involved. It all began with our Monday rehearsals where we gave feedback to each other and let our imagination let loose as the cast list was put up. After finding out who we got casted as, we then grew the identities of the selected characters to not only be names on a page but to be able to open a window into a realistic view of their lives and how they feel about the whole situation. As we began to act without scripts it was clear everyone grew a bond with their characters and their antics.

From my point of view working backstage it gave me the opportunities I didn't think I was ever able to do and working with such talented people. Even working with people older than me because they gave a view into the play I didn't see myself and how much enthusiasm they had shown into the play.

This play was such an eye opener into climate change and how it's not only affecting Earth but affecting us. I definitely recommend going to see it.

Kara Palmer  
Year 10



## Student Voice - Superglue 2

Since October 2021 a group of talented students have been rehearsing a play called Superglue by Tim Crouch. It is about a group of elderly climate change protestors who have come a woodland burial ground to say goodbye to a friend who died during a protest march. Everyone involved absolutely adores the play and has loved performing it. Due to Covid, this is the first show in three years that we have been able to perform and there is not a better play to use. The performances at the PAC have gone brilliantly and we are all very excited to be able to take their play and perform in the Garage Theatre on the 28 April as part of the National Theatre Festival.

Keira-Ann Youens  
Year 11



## Friends of Soham Village College

The Friends of Soham Village College hosted a Mothers' Day cream tea and guided painting event on the weekend leading up to the special day. There were some wonderful pieces of art work created and lots of fun had by all who attended. The pictures capture some of the atmosphere and creativity of the day.



## Reporting a Student Absence

A reminder that if you are e-mailing to report a student absent, the e-mail address is [attendance@soham-college.org.uk](mailto:attendance@soham-college.org.uk).

From next term, the e-mail address [sdurrant@soham-college.org.uk](mailto:sdurrant@soham-college.org.uk) will no longer be available.

## New Chartwells Menu and Tariff Information

Please see attached the updated menu and the tariff information starting next term. Please note that the free school meal allowance will be increased to £2.45 to allow students access to the meal deals.



Food Union Tariff  
Soham SS22.pdf



Soham Menu  
SS22.pdf

## Panathlon Finals

Seven students competed in the Panathlon Finals in St Ives in March. The students participated in a wide range of activities before the competition including Boxercise and Archery. The team did exceptionally well and came second in the competition out of seven schools, taking home a silver medal, certificate and trophy.



## Lost Property

Please can uniform and any other items brought into school, be clearly labelled with your child's name. This helps Student Services get it back to students if it gets lost. There is an area outside Student Services for lost property, so if you have something missing, please ask your child to check there first. At the end of each half term, the lost property area will be cleared. If you do think your child has anything missing, please make sure you ask them to check there thoroughly. Thank you.

## Back to School Reminder

A reminder that the new term will commence at 8.30am on Tuesday April 19 2022 for all students, which will be a week B.

