



Success @ Swavesey

Issue No.20 July 2026

Welcome



Welcome to the Summer edition of Success@Swavesey. This term has been jam packed with high quality learning, activities and celebrations of success.

We were really proud to be awarded the Parent Friendly Schools Gold Award this term. As the first secondary school in the country to achieve the Gold Award, Swavesey Village College is setting a national benchmark for parental engagement and community partnership, demonstrating the impact that strong relationships between schools and families can have on young people's success and wellbeing. This award demonstrates the school's pursuit of excellence, we recognise that whilst this resonates for the vast majority, we understand that there is still work to do in improving the experience for every family in our community.

We also achieved the Learning Outside the Classroom Gold Award this term.

Over 90% of the Year 7 cohort travelled to Lille in June. This is always a fantastic experience and for many students it is their first trip to another country. Ordering their own food in French and walking around the historic old town makes this a very memorable day.

We have just had our annual Experience Week. This year we saw residential trips to Berlin, Barcelona and Normandy as well as Year 7 Camp and a host of other local day trips. Our Year 10 students have completed their week of Work Experience. I know from talking to students that this has given many a real taste of the world of work and has focussed their ambition for their future plans.

The Key Stage 3 Art and Technology Exhibition was a great success, as was the Year 11 Art and Photography GCSE exhibition. Good luck to all of our Year 11 students when their results are published in August!

Finally, we have seen many performances from the Performing Arts including the Meridian Trust Showcase and Summer Soiree events this month. It is always magnificent to see the quality and creativity in these performances.

I hope you enjoy reading this edition of Success@Swavesey and I would like to wish you all a peaceful and relaxing summer break.

Very best wishes

Jim Stavrou
Headteacher



Learning Outside the Classroom

We are proud to announce that SVC have been awarded GOLD for the Learning Outside the Classroom Mark.

This award recognises the extraordinary number of clubs, trips and activities that take place for our students that encourage 'beyond the classroom/desk' learning experience.

This has also ensured that we reflect on our college and Trust values of Achievement for All and Extending the Boundaries of Learning, whilst making memories for our students. A huge thank you to all staff, parents and students who work together to ensure that active learning is embedded in SVC culture.



Diamond Award

Throughout the year, students have accumulated Curriculum Credits through consistent effort, positive behaviour, excellent attendance, participation in enrichment activities, and contributions to the wider school community. Reaching the 100CC milestone is a significant achievement and demonstrates a sustained commitment to our school values.

This year saw a record number of students achieving over 100CCs, therefore the number of students invited to the Diamond Award activity morning had to regrettably be curtailed.

Invited students were offered the opportunity to take part in a T-shirt printing workshop with Miss Robinson, or to try Pickleball, a new sport with Mr Hodgkinson.

All students had a great morning creating personalised t-shirts or getting to grips with the fast-paced game of Pickleball, then cooling down with a well-deserved ice lolly.

Congratulations to every one of our 100+ achievers. We look forward to seeing what they accomplish next and encourage all students to continue striving for excellence in the year ahead.



VALUE OUR PEOPLE



PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE



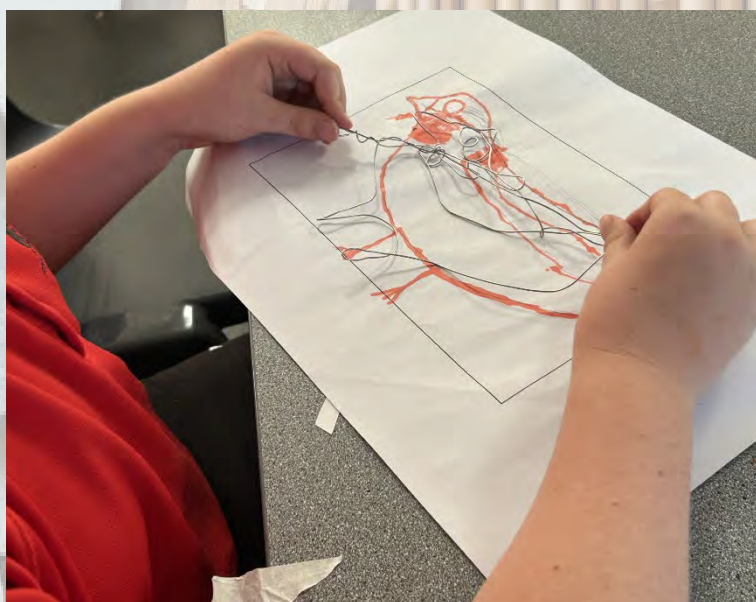
ACHIEVEMENT FOR ALL

Visual Arts and Technology Department

The Visual Arts and Technology Department has been a hive of activity this summer term. Following the successful GCSE Art and Photography exhibition, the Technology, Computing and Visual Arts display showcased an eclectic selection of work by many students from all year groups. Students proudly shared their high-quality individual pieces with their families and showed them the classrooms where they learn. It was fabulous to hold a cross-disciplinary event that demonstrated how these subjects are linked and how important they are to the curriculum, with the development of creative ideas and the honing of skills at the forefront.

To name just a few, the display included KS3 graphic design, game-making, pencil boxes, pewter accessories, table tennis bats, phone stands, portrait drawings, clay birds and watercolour paintings. For KS4, students produced interactive media products, coat hooks, wooden stools, dormouse boxes, engineering squares and toffy hammers, while biomimicry lights lit up the rooms and Memphis clocks kept an eye on the time.

In other news, during Experiences Week, students in school enjoyed making painting T-shirts, as well as making wire birds and dog sculptures, which concluded with a Crafts-style Dog Show. The best sculpture prize was awarded to Year 8 student Toby O.



Dorset Walk

The Malcolm Whales Foundation Dorset Walk appeared in the Swavesey calendar for another year, and it was a great success. A total of 44 students and 4 staff travelled down to Dorset to walk with 40 miles of the Jurassic Coastline, raising money for those who have been affected by cancer. Students were amazing throughout the trip, walking in the intense heat and taking the challenge completely in their stride, demonstrating excellence determination and resilience. Swavesey contributed to the £10,000 raised (and rising) across the weekend. Roll on next year!



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10 Hours of Sport

Swavesey got involved with The Malcolm Whales Foundation 10 Hours of Sport, for another year, and it was a great success. 85 students from years 7 and 8 completed the 10 Hours, even in the intense heat and raised a total of £2000 for the charity. This will help young people and their families who have been impacted by cancer.



Lille

This year the annual Year 7 trips to France had a new venue. The students travelled to Lille, close to the Belgium border. Students also got to experience the 'Chunnel' rather than the ferry this year. Students had a blast in Lille enjoying the sights, sounds and food!

They were brilliant in their behaviour and positive attitude throughout 2 very long day trips!

Bravo!



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ACHIEVEMENT FOR ALL

Science Fair

The Science Department are very proud of the hard work that Year 8 put into their Science projects this year. The winning three teams from each class were able to showcase their findings to parents and staff in our annual Science Fair. It was great to see the passion that students had when answering questions and explaining what they had discovered to our visitors.

After the votes were counted, we were delighted to invite two winning teams to attend the trust-wide competition. Congratulations to Winter, Athira, and Bronwen for their excellent project exploring which material is best suited for shopping bags.

A special mention also goes to Thavanesh, Harry, and Rion for their impressive project on hydropower, which was extremely well received by the other students and voted as one of the favourites of the day.



Year 10 Careers Day

We were really proud of our Year 10 students who took part in a Careers Day, as part of our Values and Experience Day.

We are always very grateful to the amazing parents and local professionals who give their time to give 1:1 mock interviews and feedback, and give talks about their work place.

Thank you!

A brilliant future focus day for all!



EXTENDING THE BOUNDARIES OF LEARNING



A HIGH-QUALITY LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award

Nearly 60 Yr.10 students completed their DofE Silver expedition in the Peak District.

The students walked around 45km over 3 days (from routes they planned), camped overnight in different locations and were self-sufficient throughout.

Working in groups, the students demonstrated excellent determination and resilience throughout in varying weather conditions and challenging terrain and were a credit to themselves and the school.



Mr Allen, one of our Duke of Edinburgh Leaders at Swavesey Village College, was lucky enough to have been invited to attend a 70th anniversary celebration of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award at Buckingham Palace on the 22nd May, where both students who have gained their Gold Award during the year and providers of all degrees of the award were invited to celebrate the running of the programme.



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ACHIEVEMENT FOR ALL



ENGLAND HANDBALL

Article from the England Handball Association

Swavesey Village College has quietly become a fantastic school pathway for young handball talent with national finals appearances, England Futures call-ups, and a GB international already on the books. Five years ago, handball was already on the timetable at Swavesey Village College. The department hadn't introduced it; it had inherited it. But what the PE staff recognised was potential: a sport with pace, physicality, and a natural appeal to young athletes.

The Head of PE arrived with first-hand experience of the game. What followed at Swavesey has exceeded even those early ambitions. *"In 2024, our Year 8 Boys made it all the way to the National Schools Final, finishing runners-up to a talented St Thomas Apostle side."* That run to the final proved to be a turning point. Handball's profile at the school surged. A weekly club was established, giving pupils a regular space to develop their skills, and competitive entries into the National Schools Competition became a fixture in the calendar valued not just for the results, but for the experience of high-level play that is hard to replicate in any other setting. It is the quality of individual talent now coming through Swavesey that has caught the attention of the wider handball community. Several of the boys who featured in that 2024 final are now competing at the Under-15 level, and the school has high hopes for another strong showing in this year's National Schools Competition. The girls' game at Swavesey is developing with equal promise. Several players have already entered the England Development Pathway.

What gives Swavesey's programme its durability is the connection it has built with clubs beyond the school gates. Cambridge Handball Club and Bishop's Stortford Handball Club have become the natural next step for pupils who want to push themselves further, providing the coaching environment and competitive structure that school sport alone cannot offer. *"If we want to give our pupils real opportunities to play at a high level, those club links are absolutely key,"* says the Head of PE. The results speak for themselves: players joining clubs have developed at a markedly faster rate, and the England pathway call-ups have followed. With the Under-13 Boys having just qualified for the East Regional Finals, a thriving weekly club, and a cohort of genuinely elite young players moving through the school, Swavesey Village College's handball story is far from finished. It looks, in fact, very much like it is just beginning.



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ACHIEVEMENT FOR ALL

Handball National Finals

Our U15 Boys Handball team became **National School Champions**. The boys played to such a high level throughout the competition, winning 15-0 in the Regional Final, before dominating teams in the National Finals to lift the trophy. This has been quite a journey for the team, having come 2nd at U13 level and last year reaching the quarter finals playing up a year. Although the final lasted 15 minutes, the win has been years in the making and shows what can be achieved when a group of individuals works well as a team. We would argue this is the best team we have ever had in sport and are so proud of the boys and their incredible achievement!

The girls' competition followed the boys' and our girls won their first game 5-4 with some excellent Handball on show! They reached the Quarter Finals but then came up against a strong team (who finished 3rd overall) and a goalkeeper in fantastic form. But **top 8** in the country is an excellent achievement and makes this team the best girls' Handball team we've ever had! Most of the team will get the chance to compete again next year, so it will be exciting to see how far they can go in a year's time!



Meridian Trust Athletics

Congratulations to all the Swavesey Athletes who took part in the Meridian Trust Athletics Meet. We had some fantastic performances finishing in 2nd position overall (just 30 pts behind the leaders). A special mention to the year 8 and year 10 teams who both won their competition with the year 7&9 teams finishing in 2nd.



Sports Tour

Over the Easter Break, 60 students from our Football and Netball teams went on Sports Tour to Salou in Spain. The students had a great time, experiencing some excellent coaching, tournament practice as well as Portadventura Theme Park, and a sightseeing day in Barcelona. What a fantastic week we had!



Experience Week 2026

"To have something, to try, to feel.

Practical contact with and observation of facts or events.

An event or occurrence which leaves an impression on someone. The process of living through an event or events, you learn by experience. The skill or knowledge gained by doing. Something someone has done or lived through."

