



# Success @ Swavesey

Issue No.11 July 2023



It is with sadness that we have to say goodbye to Mrs and Mrs Gent. Stuart has been an English teacher at Swavesey since the start of his teaching career in 1991. He has performed a variety of roles including Head of Year, Senior Tutor and Assistant Principal. In all these roles, Stuart has excelled, and he will be remembered by all as a teacher of the highest calibre. Jo has been the PA to the Headteacher since she joined the school in 1999. She has been an invaluable support to the College in her role and we wish them both the very best in their retirement.



## Welcome

As we come to the end of another successful term here at Swavesey Village College, I wanted to express my sincere thanks for your support over the term. It has been a source of pride to see so many students achieving success both within lessons and in the vast array of activities outside the classroom. We are extremely pleased that we have returned to a full programme of trips, visits and other experiences during our Experiences Week this year. Full details of which you will find in our final edition of success@swavesey this year.

We have also been impressed by the maturity and focus of our Y11 students through a highly successful summer exam period and leavers' event. It was a source of pride to see our Y11s attend their prom as a celebration of all their hard work over the past 5 years.

On a personal note, it has been a privilege to lead SVC this year. I would like to thank you all again for your support and active participation in the school life this term, the Academy Councillors and I would like to wish you all a relaxing summer break with your families, and I look forward to seeing you all in the Autumn Term .

Very best wishes

Dr Claire Mills  
Acting Headteacher



## STEMkart

Swavesey students have been taking part in a very exciting STEM event which has been run over three lessons. Lesson one and three are in the classroom with students being taught about ergonomics, anthropometrics, and aerodynamics linked to mechanical engineering. During the second lesson students were able to put all that theory into practice and race around the school's sports hall in go karts. The event was a huge success and over 120 students were able to enjoy STEM outside the classroom.



## Colchester Zoo

This exciting trip, as part of #Learningoutsidetheclassroom, gave our Year 9s the opportunity spent their Values and Experience day in May at Colchester Zoo.

As they navigated their way around the 169 different species, they learnt about many different habitats and saw animals from around the world, from the humid habitat of our Komodo dragons to an African plain, home to white rhino, giraffes, ostrich, zebra and kudu!

## Bletchley Park

In June Year 9 students have had a fantastic time at Bletchley Park learning all about the Enigma machine and cracking some codes themselves.



Year 7 Classics Day – Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> June

By Bridie Lansdell and Kimberley Swann

“Salvete!”. That’s “Hello, everyone” in Latin and is just one of the things we learnt how to say like an ancient Roman during the Classics Day!

First, we were shown how to write our names in Greek using the Greek alphabet, then we had conversations in Latin about our ages, pets and siblings. This was followed by a true or false quiz about the Ancient Egyptians, Greeks and Romans.

The last activity before lunch involved the story of Romulus and Remus, the legendary founders of Rome and twin brothers who, according to the story, were looked after as babies by a wolf! We had to match up each part of the story (written in Latin) to its picture.

In the afternoon, we were shown pictures of paintings on vases and had to work out what story or myth was on them. We then tried to guess when in history they had occurred. It was fun because we had to work together in our groups and remember about the history of each of the objects.

Finally, we were each given a myth and had to create four ‘freeze frames’ from it. We performed these to the class and some groups chose to add in narration.

All throughout the day we had so much fun (even though it was rather warm) and we all enjoyed the day! We personally hope that the organisers will come back next year to give the new Year 7 students a day to enjoy as much as we did.



## Technology and Art Exhibition

The Technology and Art exhibition was a huge success yesterday with lots of families looking around and seeming so proud of their children’s work on display. It was great to see lots of year 6 primary school children visiting too.



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PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE



ACHIEVEMENT FOR ALL

## Anthea Bell Translation Competition

Pupils in all years enjoyed taking part in creative French, German and Spanish translation activities as part of the Anthea Bell Oxford University National Translation Competition. We are thrilled to announce our school winners: Keira, Rosie, Izzy, Felicity, Jack, Jonty and Cormac. We are very proud to announce that Cormac's German entry was awarded the Regional Prize! Many congratulations to him and well done to all who took part. Please click on the link and then East to see Cormac's achievement.

[Anthea Bell Prize 2023: Winners and Commendees - The Queen's College, Oxford](#)



## Year 9 CLIL visit to the Fitzwilliam with the Faculty of Education.

An account from Ethel on our visit to the Fitzwilliam Museum:

Our activities were separated into two sessions: we first learnt about the lifestyles of Ancient Egyptians through displays, as well as numerous new vocabulary in French, such as 'un bol', which literally means a bowl! We also learnt to use different adjectives to describe ancient artifacts, such as 'magnifique' and 'fascinant'. After break, we visited the art displays in the impressionist gallery in the museum. There, we learnt how to describe paintings, through matching up French phrases to their translations. Later, we were grouped into fours for a treasure hunt: everyone was given a slip with a phrase to put under a painting that describes it in our opinion. Finally we were taught French phrases through visiting those paintings with slips under and we learnt their meanings. It was truly a meaningful visit and I loved it!

# Experience Week at Swavesey Village College 2023

Our Experience week returned this year with energy and adventure as students in Years 7 – 9 enjoyed a change in activity, a change in context and a change in challenge!

## YEAR 7

Half of our Year 7 students and staff braved the elements and embraced nature at Cuffley Camp, rock climbing, campfires and camouflage!



The rest of our Year 7 students have been on a wonderful carousel of activities:

African Djembe drumming workshops, steel pans workshops, Distance Challenges, Fahey Fitness (!) Diversity and Environment PLEDGES, Screen printing and House Charity Work! On International Town Crier day they competed against each other to perform the best Town cry... bells included. They learnt some basics expected in the Duke of Edinburgh Awards Scheme, putting up tents on the field and practising orienteering/directions. There were ghost puzzles to escape from and rounders challenges to be met... and many took over Cineworld and watched Matilda together!





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## YEAR 8

Some of our Year 8 students had a fantastic (early) start to the week as they headed to North Wales to the beautiful Eryri National Park. The stunning Welsh coast shone brightly as they explored the coast, the mountains and slate mines.



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Year 8s not on residential trips had a fab day out at Grafham Water – exploring the Anglian Water and environmental aspects whilst having a walk and picnic together too! 120 of them also had a blast on the laser tag Rumble (not all at the same time!)



## Year 8 Normandy

On Monday we woke up at 3:00am to leave school at 4:00 am! We got on our coach and started our day long drive. We got to the port at 6:00am and luckily whizzed through passport control and made our way onto the ferry! On the ferry we got served a free breakfast and drink while we enjoyed looking at the sea views. Then we arrived in Dunkirk, and we were on the road again. After a few hours we stopped at our first French service station. It even had a river with fish in it. After lunch we were on the road again to Normandy! After a long day we finally arrived at Centre de Vacances in Bernières-sur-Mer. We got served a very French dinner – un croque monsieur - a cheese and ham toastie, it was time to head to the beach!

After a relaxing night we had a bright and early start and a typical French breakfast. First, we made our way to the cheese factory (fromagerie) for a tour around the factory and a cheese tasting. Next, we went to the city of Caen where we ate at a restaurant and got to order our own lunch. In the afternoon we explored the town, and we spotted Sephora! After having a great time in Sephora, we explored the beach town and we found lots of pretty bracelets, which we bought using our French!

On Wednesday we went to the markets we saw loads of stalls and it was nice to experience the French culture; we bought more bracelets there and we also had crepes and waffles! Then we had a sit down outside the cathedral and had our packed lunch – a delicious baguette with ham and cheese. In the afternoon we saw the Bayeux tapestry that was a great experience. Then we saw the military memorial from WWII. And then we explored a typical French supermarket where we bought lots of French food and it was nice to see the different French foods. We stopped in Arromanches and really enjoyed learning all the history of the D-Day landing beaches. After dinner at the centre, we took a walk along the sunset lit beach and got treated to an ice cream and walked back along the beach front. On day 4 we made our way home tired but happy.

*By Ava and Phoebe.*

“My highlight was buying crepes and ordering it all in French toute seule”

“My highlight was buying bracelets at the market”

“My highlight of the France trip was going to the market and getting matching bucket hats with my friends “

Many thanks to Mr Bennet, Madame Monument, Madame Pichout for accompanying the trip and Madame Stewart for organising such a great trip for us to experience the French culture and practise our French.



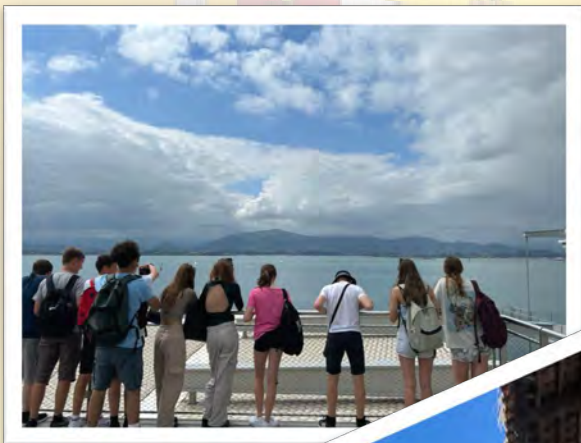
## Year 9 Cantabria

After a 4 year hiatus the year 9 Spanish cohort returned to Cantabria for an incredible week filled with different activities. We enjoyed lots of sightseeing in the cities of Santander and Bilbao, and some more chilled afternoons in Santillana del Mar and Comillas beach. We were also lucky to visit Cabárenco park, a safari/zoo where the animals had so much freedom to roam around. Perhaps the most gruesome aspect was at museo de la tortura, where students got to look at replicas of common torture implements used in the Spanish Inquisition – suddenly a 4am meet-up to catch the plane didn't seem quite so terrible! The students took every opportunity to enjoy traditional Spanish dishes like churros con chocolate, tortilla, rabas and even fresh produce they brought themselves from the markets (as well as a fair few packets of Lays!). Myself, Mrs Draper, and Mr Mackintosh were so impressed with our students; they really threw themselves into discovering the culture, and they were fantastic at trying their hand at speaking Spanish in restaurants and shops. Some even managed to make friends with the locals!

Ms O'Donnell, SL Spanish

*"I really enjoyed the Spanish trip because we did a variety of activities, including going to the beach, a safari park, and visiting a traditional Spanish market. My favourite activity was going to the market because ordering food there really improved my Spanish. The hotel staff were also very welcoming. Thank you to you all the teachers for organising and coming on the trip with us"*

Carmella, year 9





Our Playground Project Year 9s spreading the new bark and cleaning the playground equipment at Swavesey Recreation Ground.

### Year 9 and 10

The Army visited the school and a small group of year 9s and 10s had the opportunity to take part in team building exercises.



### Years 8, 9 and 11

A group of students were off to the West End to enjoy The Wizard of Oz! Just Because, because .... the magical land of Oz – the lights and stars of the West End inspired our Performing Arts students (along with Ashley Banjo!)



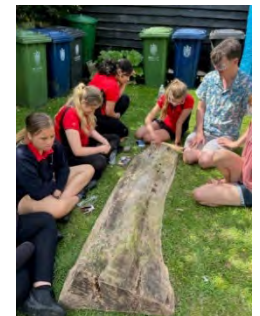
## The Centre for Computing History

Amazing times were had by all at the museum in Cambridge as Years 8 & 9 students were given an insight into the history and uses of Computers (The staff were transported back in time to the tech of their youths too!)



## Sustainability

We were so fortunate to have local Cllr Volluthun to help a group of students and staff in discussions and projects to do with sustainability. Rachel spent so much of her time with them focusing on how to develop sustainability in the local area and then together they produced a bench, re-using wood. Great community and environmental values instilled in our students!



## Romeo & Juliet

Year 9 spent a day exploring beyond with Romeo and Juliet with an shortened adaptation folowed by a cinema afternoon fo the film. They particulaly enjoyed the death and gruesome bits in contrast to the love and balcony scenes!



## Maths Paris Trip

During the Easter holidays, 43 Year 10 students had a fantastic time away on the Maths Paris trip. One day was spent at Disneyland Paris, with students enjoying the rides, meeting the characters, and staying to watch the drone display and fireworks over the Disney castle. Another day was spent exploring Paris, visiting the Eiffel tower, Pei's Pyramid, and a Maths exhibition. This also gave students the opportunity to see some real-life applications of Maths. Topped off by a river cruise on the Seine. A brilliant time was had by all, with lots of memories made.



## Science Project

The winning team of this year's KS3 Science projects competition was invited to compete in the Meridian Trust Science Fair Final at Sawtry Village Academy. Our Year 7 team made up of Zack, Ethan, Henry and Alexander had an enjoyable morning viewing the projects that teams from other schools had completed. After presenting their findings, our team were commended on their hard work and finished in 4<sup>th</sup> place.





## Women In Engineering WEBTEC, St Ives Visit

On the Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April the Technology department visited WEBTEC engineering. We wanted to encourage more women to choose Engineering, so we decided to take ten of our Year 9 and 10 girls along to the company. During the visit we were taken around the building and shown different departments within the company showing different types of engineering jobs the girls could choose to do in the future. Information and knowledge gained during the trip will help the students with their NEA and theory for exams next year.

The visit was excellent, and it was obvious that WEBTEC had spent time planning the morning and making sure we had the best experience possible. We will make this an annual event and I am pleased to have a new industrial link.



## Trust Performing Arts Showcase

Swavesey Performing Arts music students shone at the Key Theatre this month as part of the Meridian Trust Performing Arts showcase. Our St Cecilia Choir joined the massed Trust Choir, our KS4 Band joined formed crucial part of the MT Jazz Orchestra and Daisy H performed an exceptional solo as the winner of the last Meridian Trust's got Talent.

We were so proud of them all and it was great to work alongside our other Trust performers!

