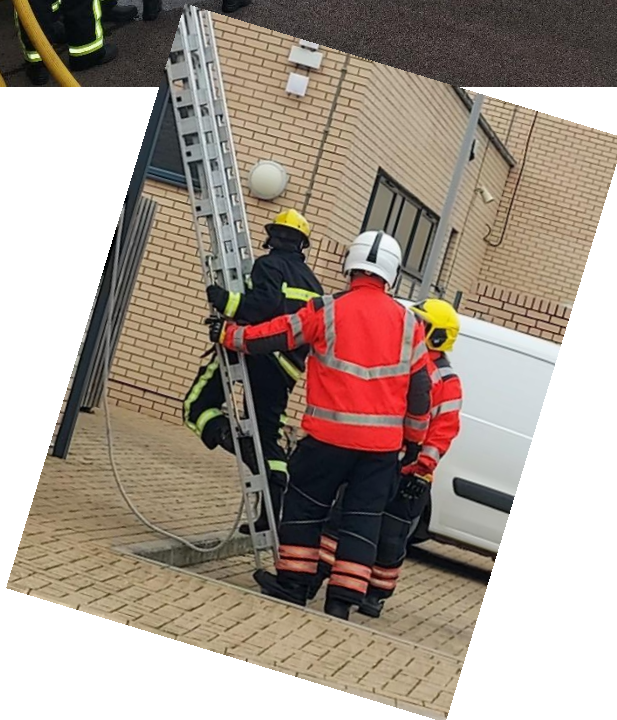




# Success @ Swavesey

Issue No.9 December 2022



## Year 8/9 Firebreak Course

In November, nine of our Swavesey VC students and two Northstowe students attended an intensive 5-day programme at Cambourne Fire Station. The aim of the course was to develop focus, build self-esteem, confidence and resilience as well as experiencing some basic firefighting skills. The students learnt how to climb ladders, use the hose, build a dam as well as how to safely and calmly use breathing equipment in a smoke-filled room. They also worked on basic first aid and resuscitation skills. The students had an amazing time which culminated in a pass out parade on the Friday where they got to demonstrate what they had learnt in front of family, friends, school staff and local dignitaries.

## Welcome

Welcome to the autumn edition of Success@Swavesey, although it is very much beginning to feel like winter. Our students have been extremely productive this term here at SVC. Our cohort of 2022 recently collected their exam certificates at our celebration evening with guest speaker and previous student, Tyler Bennett. Many also received prizes and it was great to see our ex-students settled and thriving in their post 16 choices.

We have had such a range of achievement this term. From the Cambridge Open Art Exhibition, Cambourne Firebreak course, the district cross country championships, our illuminate concerts, MFL competitions, a French language teacher award to the ongoing hard work from our race ambassadors and student leaders. It really has been a privilege to lead SVC with such hardworking and talented students across the school. More details within the pages, I hope you enjoy reading this edition of Success@Swavesey.

It only remains for me to thank all our families for their ongoing support, to make this autumn 2022 such a successful term. I wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas break.

Very best wishes

Dr Claire Mills  
Headteacher



## Visual Arts

It has been another busy term in the Visual Arts department. This has included a lively Year 7 and Year 8 art club where students have created collagraph prints of animal faces as well as making Christmas cards using the lino printing technique. These cards have been sent to patients at the Arthur Rank Hospice in Cambridge with best wishes from us all.

Hosting the Cambridge Open Art Exhibition was a highlight as it gave our students the opportunity to experience art first hand as well as helping to organise the event.

Year 9 Art students enjoyed visiting the Tate Modern with its eclectic array of art that further enriched their cultural capital. Finally, our enthusiastic Year 9 photographers relished the opportunity to spot and record the formal elements in architecture during a day out in Cambridge.



## SVC Football Frenzy

It's been a great term for all our football teams at Swavesey. All the boys and girls' teams have made it through to the 3<sup>rd</sup> round of the county cup and the semi-finals of the meridian cup.

The U14 boys' team have had an exceptional term and have made it to the 5<sup>th</sup> round of the national cup (last 32 in the country), they'll be travelling to Watford on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> Dec for their next game. Best of luck lads.

## District Cross Country Championships

Well done to all Swavesey students that competed in the district cross country championship, it's always a tough course with a nasty hill that they have to run up 2 or 3 times per race. All Swavesey students showed excellent grit and determination to complete the course as quick as they could. Four of our students excelled in their race, finishing in the top 10 and therefore qualifying for the next round, the County Championships. Good luck to you all.

## Future Sports Stars to look out for:

A huge congratulations to Crista who was invited to be part of an England National football camp and on her England debut she scored a goal against Wales in a convincing win. Keep it up Crista!



Another future superstar to watch, Isobel Mather, who spends much of her free time training in the pool. She recently competed in the British 14 – 16-year olds National Relays and has moved up to Performance 1 squad at her club (highest possible level).



VALUE OUR PEOPLE



PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE



ACHIEVEMENT FOR ALL

## Hair & Beauty

Some amazing work that our H&B students have been doing inspired by the World Cup, Halloween and of course, Christmas.



### Swavesey Village College Race Ambassadors

Our Race Ambassadors have been busy this term.

They delivered a Presentation on what the race ambassadors are about and their influences around the school.

They kicked off Black history month with a presentation which was delivered to the whole school.

The remembrance service this year was focusing on the contribution of civilians and those from South Asian and Black heritage. The race ambassadors were involved in reading the stories of a few people during the service.

They are now planning a culture day, which will take place next year, food will be prepared for all to enjoy from different countries, more details will follow in the new year!



## Modern Foreign Languages:

Some of our fantastic Yr9 students have been participating in the GCHQ National Language Competition from Monday 14<sup>th</sup> to Friday 18<sup>th</sup> of November. These students dedicated so much time and effort to cracking codes and puzzles both during school and even *after* school.

We were so lucky here to have six teams of absolute brainboxes working together to solve all sorts of puzzles, using both their excellent linguistic skills and problem-solving abilities. They worked with codes written in a multitude of foreign languages, such as German, Polish and Arabic; various sign languages; morse code, *alien* languages and even practised their lip-reading skills.

It was such a fascinating experience to watch these teams working together, celebrating together and growing – as intellectuals – together. The sheer enthusiasm with which these students handled each challenge, and the utter finesse with which they overcame them is a beautiful thing to see.

The language department at Swavesey would like to congratulate everybody involved. We hope this experience has shown our students that languages can contribute to the development of invaluable life and problem-solving skills, and we hope that this amazing opportunity has encouraged them to view the study of languages with new eyes.

Well done Elodie, Kaidon, Tina, Archie, Lukas, Cormac, Daniel, Archie, Eden L, Sum Tin, Charlie, Harry, Ellie, Christopher, Charis, Ana, Jamie, Edward, Thomas, Eden G, Carmella, Amy, Sashily, Tamsin, and George!

We were particularly proud of team #BraveGiftedSparrow team who finished top 12 in the country! This was such an incredible achievement.



## European Day of Languages September 26<sup>th</sup>

We invited students to take part in a national creative writing poetry competition organised by ALL (Association for Language Learning) “Outside my window” to celebrate European Day of Languages in September. The response from students was fantastic with numerous entries in French, Polish, Spanish, German, Arabic, and Italian. We are very proud to say that our school received a commendation for the number and quality of our school entries. We are also pleased to announce that one of our school entries was a winning entry. Well done Eleonor and Elizabet for a splendid joint entry.

## Stephen Spender Youth Prize 2022

We are pleased to say that Elizabetta’s Italian translation entry of the poem La Tartuga in English received a commendation. Also, the Stephen Spender Trust has offered a day of translation workshops to our school in recognition of our school’s yearly participation in Stephen Spender Prize. We are looking forward to hosting 2 workshops for Yr8 and Yr9 in the new year.



## Language Nut October World Competition

Thank you to all the students for participating in this year's World Language Nut Competition which took place throughout the month of October. We are super proud to say that Swavesey ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> best school in the world thanks to all the students who competed fiercely!

Particular shout out goes to Penelope (23<sup>rd</sup>), Dan (24<sup>th</sup>), Armelle (34<sup>th</sup>) and Elliot (35<sup>th</sup>) in year 8 who did extremely well and came in the top 50 in the world of 193,039 students in 52 countries.

They have won a £10 Amazon voucher!



## French Language Teacher Award

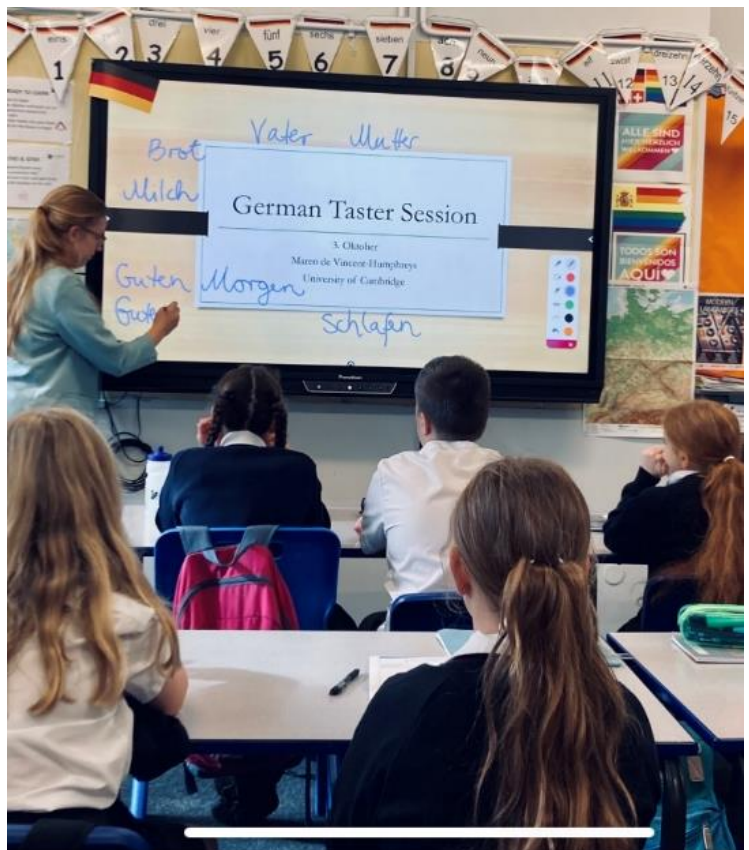
We are very proud to say that Madame Stewart was a finalist in the national French Teacher Awards, 2022, hosted by the French Institute in London. She reached the final three and was given a prize to recognise her hard work and dedication to teaching French. Bravo Madame!



## German Unity Day

We enjoyed celebrating German Unity Day back in October. Lots of fun was had in school to mark the occasion: the canteen put on a special menu, and we had a visiting lecturer, Maren, from Cambridge University who delivered a fun German taster lesson to year 7. Congratulations to the winners of the mug competition:

Ró and Daisy





## Performing Arts Department

We have had an amazing term which has taken us to all corners of the creative world.

We had a great time involved again this year in the Cambridge Festival of Drama, with our vibrant and passionate adaptation of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at the ADC Theatre in Cambridge. We were the only youth group to take part and were incredibly proud to have performed on the professional stage again. Huge congratulations to all that took part.

Our annual Showcase *Illuminate* took place in the first week of December - three nights of sharing the joy of Performing Arts in Drama, Dance and Music through performances curricular and extra-curricular. A fantastic week and exciting way to celebrate our students' wealth of dedication to the arts. We are very proud of the students' hard work for the showcases - WELL DONE!

We have also started planning our Spring musical production, *SHREK*, with 250 students already signed up to be involved in some way!

We look forward to the new year and rehearsals, costumes, set (and more) together .... and then to welcome everyone to our new swamp!

**SHREK**  
THE  
MUSICAL



## End of Term Update from Mark Woods, Chief Executive Officer of Meridian Trust



Autumn is my favourite season. There are many reasons for this but for me the start of a new school year, welcoming new staff and students who always bring renewed energy and hope is wonderful. In addition, the evocative events and smells, the welcome respite of a half-term break that seems to always coincide with good weather, the promise of winter concerts and finally being able to retain some optimism for another sporting season are other key factors.

Within the Trust, the term so far has been a busy one. In the summer, we were delighted to have our plans approved for Northstowe Learning Campus to become our first all-through school. The plans for the additional secondary facilities, primary education building and post-16 will be submitted to planners imminently. Especially exciting are the plans to make the post-16 and primary all-inclusive, which will extend the capacity of Martin Bacon Academy and provide the clearest opportunity yet for us to live our values for the benefit of young people.

Weldon Village Academy in Corby is accelerating towards its opening date in September 2023. The building is now water-tight and fantastic to walk around. We have been thrilled by the response of the local families and are almost certain that our first Year 7 will fill its capacity of 120 students. We are proud to have appointed a new Principal, Mr Matt Norris, who is currently the Deputy Headteacher at Hampton College. With a strong track record of driving improvement throughout his career, Matt has demonstrated his impact in roles including Head of English, Assistant Headteacher and School Centred Initial Teacher Training Director.

This brings me to an aspect of our work that often goes unnoticed - the training of new teachers. All Initial Teaching Training Providers have had to undertake a rigorous reaccreditation process. After a considerable amount of hard work, the team have now successfully achieved this and are training over 120 new teachers for next year. After years of nationally missing recruitment targets, we need success like this more than ever to ensure great teaching within the Trust but also in the communities we work in.

This is an incredibly tough time for all of us. The current cost of living crisis is having a direct impact on schools with our energy costs spiralling, unfunded pay rises and similar recruitment challenges to so many other businesses. We are already seeing the impact on families and mental health emerging in our schools, and we need to focus on the values of tolerance, patience and mutual support. Schools are hugely complex social organisations in which it is inevitable that things will go wrong or be difficult at times. We will do our very, very best to provide all we can. If things are not working out the way they should, please do let us know and work with us supportively to find the best solutions.

I am writing this sitting in the back of a session being led by our Trust Secondary Director of English with our Headteachers. The growth of the Trust enables us to bring large communities of experts together to improve our curriculum and outcomes for students. We have recently increased the SEND support from the core trust available to schools. The levels of need have spiked post-pandemic and this resource is having a huge impact in supporting Headteachers.

Since our merger earlier in the year, a phenomenal amount of work has been done to align, share and further improve our primary curriculum. Early indications from students, staff and even Ofsted feedback have shown that this is really working!

Although the summer now seems a long time ago, we were very pleased with the outcomes for young people achieved across the Trust. With so many young people taking so many exams/qualifications we know that there will be areas we will need to work to improve, and we experience the outcomes of each individual with them.

When the time comes, enjoy the end-of-year break. But most of all, be as kind and understanding to others as you would have them be to you.