



## WINTER EDITION



As our thoughts are now turning towards Christmas it is always good to look back on the first term of the school year.

In September we welcomed our largest ever Year 7 intake and it has been a joy getting to know them and seeing them grow in confidence as they settle into secondary school life. Similarly, our Sixth Form continues to grow and flourish and we value the leadership and support that they provide to pupils throughout the school.

Our 3G pitch is adding a new dimension to our PE curriculum and it is great to see our local community using our facilities in the evenings. In school, our students are benefiting from our refurbished – and greatly improved - Dining Room facilities.

However, the most important part of our school are the students themselves. This term they have showcased their considerable talents through our production of 'Legally Blonde'. Their confidence and professionalism was extremely impressive and they received a rapturous reception from their audience (quite rightly!). It was also really important for us to re-introduce our Christmas Party for the older members of our local community. Covid had prevented this event from taking place for the last two years so it was fantastic to resume normal service. Our students did a fantastic job providing a range of entertainment and in catering for the event and chatting to our visitors. A great time was had by all!

It is wonderful to see so many of our students signing-up for the Duke of Edinburgh Award at Bronze and Silver level. Having listened to our Sixth Form students talking about the impact it has had upon them as individuals and leaders, it has reaffirmed my view that this is one of the most important aspects of our wider curriculum.

I hope everyone gets to enjoy a peaceful and healthy Christmas and I look forward to welcoming all of our students back to school in January.

Best Wishes,

Mark Guest  
Headteacher



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# 3G PITCH OPENING

After a long 3 years of waiting, we were finally able to officially open our brand new 3G pitch to our students and then in October it was open for external bookings!

It is a great success and the children are benefitting massively from this facility.



**If you have any old football boots that no longer fit your child or they do not use, we are accepting any donations to use as spares for those children who do not own any.**





# OTHELLO DRAMA TRIP

On 23rd September, our Year 11, 12 and 13 drama students ventured to The Curve Theatre in Leicester where they saw Frantic Assembly's adaption of Shakespeare's Othello.

This modernised production was outstanding and has provided the students with lots to write about in their exams.

Thank you to all of the students for representing the school so well.

**Miss Burrough, Miss Scorrer & Mrs Jex**





# MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

At the end of September, our wonderful Sixth Form Student Leadership Team arranged a Macmillan Coffee Morning for their fellow Sixth Formers.

Thank you to everyone who made cakes – (Mrs Connolly's Brownies were a huge success)! Thank you also to everyone who bought some cakes and coffee this morning - it was a fantastic event!



**Thank you to Isobel, Olivia, Hannah, Steven, Carys and Dan for making it all happen!**

**All together,  
they managed to  
raise over £100  
for the charity!**





# CONSTRUCTION WEEK



On Thursday 29th September, we took Year 9 and 44 of our Year 10 students to Lincolnshire Showground for Construction Week!

There was a variety of activities for our students to get involved in, including plastering, building and scaffolding, which all gave them an insight into what a career in construction would be like!

We would like to thank Lincolnshire Showground for allowing our students to take part in the events !





# SILVER DofE EXPEDITION

On 30th September, nine Year 13 students completed their Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award expedition last weekend by hiking independently through the Lincolnshire Wolds for three days, camping each night.



They were assessed on their navigation, camping and first aid skills and enjoyed the opportunity to explore the countryside and develop their independence.

Thank you to Mr Fowler and Miss Graves for supporting all students through their Duke of Edinburgh experience.



# KEEP UP TO DATE...

## MEDICINE

If your child requires any medication throughout the academic year, we can store this in the school office and give it out as and when your child requires it.

For this to happen, it is important that you complete and return a medical form beforehand, which are kept in the school reception.

If you require any more information about this please call us on 01400 272422.

## Parents Evening

A reminder that:

- ◇ Year 9 Parents Evening will be held on Thursday 12th January.
- ◇ Year 11 Parents Evening will be held on Thursday 26th January.
- ◇ Year 12/13 Parents Evening will be held on Thursday 9th February
- ◇ Year 9 Options Evening will be held on Thursday 2nd February

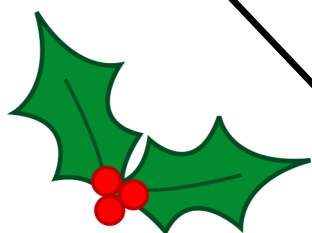
## Keep Us Informed

Please make sure we have up to date contact information in the event we need to speak to you during the school day.

If your child is absent from school or has a medical appointment, please call us and leave a message by 9am on the same day. Messages can be left by:

- ◇ Dialling 01400 272422

Alternatively, you can email [attendance@swracademy.org](mailto:attendance@swracademy.org)







# Term Dates

**Tuesday 3rd January 2022—INSET  
DAY**

**Wednesday 4th January 2022—Start of Term 3**

**Friday 10th February 2023—End of Term 3**

## Lost Property

If your child has lost any of their personal belongings (PE kit, school bag, water bottle etc) these will be stored in the bag racks until collected.

If your child leaves an item on their bus:

**Blackcat** - the property should still be on the bus when they get back on it in the evening.

**Stagecoach** - the property will go back to the bus station and will need to be collected from there by parent/carer.

## CONTACT US...

If you have any queries you can give us a call on 01400 272422

Or

You can email us at [enquiries@swracademy.org](mailto:enquiries@swracademy.org)

# ACHIEVEMENTS

## A Vision Of Poets

Early in autumn, fifteen of our students submitted entries for the Lincolnshire Schools Poetry Competition which is run annually by the Willoughby Memorial Trust. This year, to coincide with National Poetry Day 2022 the theme was 'The Environment'.



The quality of the poetry was outstanding and one student, Lycia Abbott, beat hundreds of others to win first prize in the Key Stage 3 category.

A Rewards Breakfast was held at school to celebrate the students' efforts and to hear some of the fantastic poems. All our students' poems can be read below.

<http://www.willoughbygallery.com/page15.html>

## Geography Club

Geography Club took part in a competition to design a flag to be taken to Antarctica to highlight the importance of this area of the world and the threats it is facing.

During Geography Club, they learnt about Antarctica, its importance and how world issues are impacting the region. Their flag was asked to be bright, to stand out against the snowy backdrop and to include their school logo. The students put in all of their efforts to produce some fantastic flags!

This effort paid off, as Sir William Robertson Academy reached Antarctica and a research scientist has proudly displayed their flag in this extreme environment. The photo was taken to coincide with Polar Pride.





# 'PROJECT X'

At the end of November, we took 10 Year 8 students to RAF Waddington to compete in Project X. They had to design an aircraft to drop two 'care packages' to downed pilots.

They designed and built 'Eggie the eagle' - the thinking behind the eagle was that it wouldn't be noticed by the enemies so would not be shot down! They also had to do a dragons den type presentation to 5 high ranking RAF officials.



We were also visited by his Royal highness the Earl of Wessex (Prince Edward) who presented the trophy to us!

They had a play with driving drones through VR headsets, a VR controlled spitfire simulator, fire engine tour/visit and life craft survival experience.

A great day was had by all, thanks to Miss Gage and Mrs Parsons for your huge part in the project.

A really big well done to all the students and to Mr Jex for his engineering and unnerving releasing of Eggie!



# PE ROUND UP

## Year 7 Boys Rugby Tournament



On 9th November, our Year 7 Boys had their first taste of Newark Rugby Club's Interschool matches!

Having done a quick fire rugby day earlier on in this Autumn term, the boys were somewhat ready for the challenges of the other local schools. The boys stepped up to the challenge and produced brilliant performances, winning 3 matches and drawing a highly competitive

## Year 8 Girls Rugby

On 16th November, our Year 8 girls went to Newark Rugby Club for their first festival of the year and played brilliantly!

There were some excellent examples of confidence, respect, fearsome tackling and exceptional passing and at-



## Team in the Spotlight

The Year 10 girls netball team have loved their netball since joining SWRA and have been totally committed to practice every year!

Despite this, success has not always been in their favour and with the pandemic putting a stop to many matches over the past couple of years, they were delighted with their first win as a team against KSHS, with a huge 11-4 score line!

Their enthusiasm and resilience is something to be admired and we are very proud of you all, well done!



## Just Dance House Matches



We held our Just Dance house matches before the end of term, where students worked in their houses to replicate, recreate and redesign the classic 'Footloose' Just Dance routine!

Students were encouraged to let their imagination and creativity run wild, and unleash their inner dancer! The performances were 'fab-u-lous' and there were some excellent examples of teamwork, leadership and some very talented performers!

The winning houses were...

7S – Lancer

7N – Lancer

8S – Chitral

8N – Dragoon

9S – Dragoon

9N – Dragoon

## Year 7 Cross Country



The Year 7 girls have enjoyed cross country running this term during their PE Lessons.

They have been developing their stamina and working on their resilience.





# CHARITY FOOTBALL MATCHES



On Wednesday 19th October lunchtime, we held a YEAR 12 vs STAFF football match to raise money for the Ukraine Crisis Appeal!

The total money raised from yesterday's event was £263.07.

Well done to the NCS students who organised the event and thank you to everyone who donated!

On Wednesday 15th December, we held a SIXTH FORM vs STAFF football match at lunchtime to raise money for Samaritan's Purse International Relief

This event raised over £150 for the charity!

Well done to the Sixth Form students who organised the event and thank you to everyone who supported!



The extra effort our students put into extra curriculum activities to raise money for charity is amazing and really appreciated.





# CHRISTMAS QUIZ

As part of the Sixth Form NCS programme, base 12C hosted a Christmas Quiz to raise money for Barnardo's to help families who are struggling at Christmas time!

The quiz took place in extended base on Friday 16th December and everyone was invited to take part - there were prizes for the winners!

The total amount raised was £142.50!



# FOODBANK

After the incredible generosity our community has provided over the last two years and during this Christmas period, we wanted to give something back to those who truly need it!

This year we collected donations for Newark Foodbank. We have chosen this particular charity due to a large proportion of our pupils residing from the Newark area.

Each base group was assigned one item of which the charities are in short supply of.

On Friday 16th December, we had a visit from the Newark Foodbank to collect our donations. We are thrilled to announce we have collected 431.9kg of donations.



# LEGALLY BLONDE PRODUCTION

OMIGOD YOU GUYS!! Sir William Robertson Academy's production of Legally Blonde was a huge success. The musical was performed from 7th - 9th of December 2022 and showcased the academy's talented students, ranging from Year 7 to Year 13. The production was co-directed and choreographed by Miss B Burrough (Head of Performing Arts) and Miss C Scorrer (Teacher of Drama and Dance).

"The cast have continued to impress me with their sheer talent and resilience throughout the rehearsals and final shows. It truly is the best job in the world. Thank you to each and every one of our 65 cast members – you made the show unforgettable and, just, so much fun!" (Miss Burrough)

Legally Blonde explores the transformation of Elle Woods, a love-struck sorority sister turned lawyer. Elle appears to have it all but her life is turned upside down when her boyfriend, Warner, dumps her so he can attend Harvard Law. Determined to get him back, Elle ingeniously charms her way into the prestigious law school. While there, she struggles with peers, professors and her ex. With the support of some new friends, though, Elle quickly realises her potential and sets out to prove herself to the world.

"It was truly awesome and mesmerising. They were polished and professional, singing was stunning and choreography had us transfixed. Congratulations to all of you. I don't know how the shows keep getting better, but they do. I left with a little bit of magic in my heart and their utter joy left me with a little tear." – Satisfied audience member.

Congratulations to the lead cast, led by the wonderful Chloe Richardson (Year 11) who played Elle Woods. Chloe's performance was captivating, funny and professional. Chloe was joined by the talented Daryl Smith (Year 13) who played the unassuming love interest of Elle, Emmett Forrest. The role of 'unlucky in love' Hairstylist Paulette was undertaken by Emily Hodder (Year 10) – and was a standout comedic performance! George Grevatt (Year 12) shone in his roles of 'sleazy' Professor Callahan and 'Walking Snack' Delivery Guy, Kyle. The role of 'heartbreaker' Warner Huntington was played brilliantly by James Statham (Year 12). Warner's fiancée and Elle's nemesis, Vivienne Kensington, was played by the gifted Evelyn Shaw (Year 13). Elle's Greek Chorus were responsible for some show-stopping choreography: Serena was played by Romilly Cozens (Year 11), Margot was played by Daisy Rivett (Year 11), Pilar was played by Isabel Cropper (Year 13) and Spencer was played by Aidan Shaw (Year 11). Congratulations are also in order for Jasmin Maksymiw (Brooke Wyndham), Grace Costello (Enid), Rebecca Pappini (Chutney), Harry Grainger (Dewey and Carlos), Bridget MacFarlane (Elle's Dad and Nikos), Pippa Winter (Sales Manager and Chorus A), Eleanor Winter (Sales Woman and Chorus A), Olivia Hawkins (Kiki the Colourist and Chorus A), Wyen Seliti (Kate), Rhys Vaughan (Professor Winthrop and Aaron), Summer Mita (Sundee Padamadan & DA Joyce) and Elliot Nurse (Grandmaster Chad).









# OAP CHRISTMAS PARTY

On Monday 12th December, we hosted our annual OAP Christmas party. A group of our students worked alongside Simon Farr from The Red Lion at Caythorpe to prepare food for our visitors which included parsnip soup, a range of sandwiches and a selection of sweet treats!

The meal was followed by a game of bingo hosted by our sixth formers and our very own Santa and Elf (Mrs Brewin and Mrs Mower) handed out presents which were kindly donated by our students!

Thank you to everyone involved who helped make this a wonderful afternoon!





# CHRISTMAS DINNER DAY

On Thursday 15th December we had our annual Christmas Dinner Day.

It was very popular, as ever, this year and the children enjoyed eating with their Year groups whilst listening to Christmas music.



## OXFORD INSPIRATION



We were absolutely thrilled to welcome back alumna Alethea Meachem on 17th November to speak to our Year 13 students about life after Sixth Form at university.

Alethea was the first student since the establishment of SWRA Sixth Form to attend Oxford university where she is thriving reading French and English Literature. She passed on some wise words to Year 13 about work-life balance, societies and opportunities, and advice about moving away from home.

It was brilliant to host Alethea back in school and we wish her all the best with her move to Belgium for her time studying abroad!



Sir William Robertson Academy

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