



# SAXON MOUNT SCHOOL

## NEWSLETTER

A message from Richard Preece, Executive Headteacher:

Dear Parents and Carers,

As another busy term ends, I would like to thank all of the staff for their dedication and commitment to ensure our pupils have high aspirations and enabling them on their journeys to succeed. I often have the opportunity to show visitors around Saxon Mount and Torfield School and the feedback from them is always extremely positive. I would like to take this opportunity to wish the staff, pupils and their families a very peaceful and relaxing Christmas break.

A message from Amanda Jagot, Head of School:

School Values

This term, the staff team have been working hard to reflect on our Saxon Mount Values and think about what really matters to us as a school. What values do we want our pupils to have as they move through the school and beyond, and what values do we as a staff team want to model to them. Our key values are respect, determination, honesty, kindness and tolerance.

Contact information:

Following feedback from parents, we have included contact information for class tutors and subject learning leaders to make it easier for you to contact staff directly if you have an issue regarding a specific subject or issues with homework. Please contact class tutors in the first instance if you have any worries or concerns regarding your child.

Christmas Fair:

On December 8<sup>th</sup>, we held our Christmas Fair. Thank you so much for all of the generous donations we received and to those who came to support us on the day. It is always lovely to catch up with some of our ex pupils and finding out what exciting things they are up to. The event raised around £1400, which was used to purchase Christmas presents for our pupils. I would also like to thank Carol Dobson for organising the event and to all of the staff and pupils who gave up their time to help.



Christmas with the Aliens:

Pupils from across the school put on a fantastic production of 'Christmas with the Aliens'. The pupils and staff had obviously put in a lot of work to deliver the polished performance. The rest of the school thoroughly enjoyed watching the show and many of our parents/ carers came to watch. The play was directed by Miss Soliman, with the artistic support of Mrs Anderson, Miss Finch and Mrs Deeprise. Well done and thank you to all pupils and staff involved.

Every term our children never cease to amaze me with their resilience, determination and the way they spread joy to everyone around them. This term has been no exception. They are all superstars, as are all of the staff who have helped them on their individual journeys this term, well done all.

For now, my very best wishes to you all. I hope you all have a happy and peaceful Christmas time.

Amanda

Dates for your diary:

**December:**

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup>: Christmas dinner**

**Term 2 ends**

**January:**

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup>: Term 3 starts**

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup>: Year 9 Vaccinations**

**February:**

**Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup>- Friday 14<sup>th</sup>: Carrot Wood (Year 7 and 8 residential)**

**Friday 14<sup>th</sup>: End of term 3**

**Monday 24<sup>th</sup>: INSET day, school closed for pupils**

**Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup>: Term 4 starts**

**March:**

**Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup>: School photographs**

**April:**

**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup>: Term 4 ends**

Head of School's 'Worker of the Week'

Congratulations to the following pupils who have achieved this award during term 2:

Skye Barker

James Owen

Courtney Hilden-Cull

Alice Laidlaw

Holly Bryant

Jack Cleary

Chris O'Connor

Year	<b><u>Tutor/subject contacts</u></b>		
	<b>Tutors</b>	<b>Subject Leads</b>	<b>Emails</b>
7	Toby Patton	DT	tpatton@tasmat.org.uk
	Jeremy Sankey	English	jsankey@tasmat.org.uk
8	Belinda Lombard	Food	blombard@tasmat.org.uk
	Andrew Hitch	Science	ahitch@tasmat.org.uk
	Emma Findlay	Humanities	efindlay@tasmat.org.uk
9	Gainor Patch	Maths	gpatch@tasmat.org.uk
	Adam Thompson	Music	athompson@tasmat.org.uk
10	Dominic Clark	PE	dclark@tasmat.org.uk
	Lucy Anderson	Art	andersonl@tasmat.org.uk
11	Ellie Higgins-Gooch	Creative Media	ehiggins@tasmat.org.uk
	Claire Noble	Careers	cnoble@tasmat.org.uk
	Anne Harrington	PSHE	aharrington@tasmat.org.uk
Facility	Jane Williamson	Facility Lead	jwilliamson@tasmat.org.uk

**Open Doors**

During November and December, pupils from across the school have taken part in visits to workplaces to meet employers. Over 90 pupils have visited a workplace during this term and there are more visits planned for after Christmas. These visits help to raise pupils aspirations and make them aware of the wide range of opportunities they may have in the future. We would like to thank Ashdown Hurrey Accountants, Barracloughs Opticians, Marshall Tufflex, East Sussex Highways, Sussex Wildlife Trust, NHS Bexhill Hospital, Hastings Museum, East Sussex County Council and Gatwick Airport. Thank you to all the staff who accompanied the pupils on these visits.



Marshall Tufflex – Year 9



Sussex Wildlife Trust – Year 10



NHS Bexhill Hospital – Year 11



East Sussex Highways – Year 9



East Sussex County Council – Year 10



Ashdown Hurrey – Year 11

## **School Council Update December 2019**

This year, we have decided as part of our equal opportunities for all, to allow any member of the school population to 'apply' for the job of school council member for their class by completing a written application form. A high volume of pupils applied for the position and some of the year 11 previous school council members took part in 'short listing' for the final class vote. Elections completed we were ready for our first meeting of the academic year.

As lunch appeared to be a recent hot topic of conversation as we have just changed our school meals provider to Harrison Catering, we invited Mr Mulvenney from Harrison to come along and hear our thoughts as well as answering some key questions.



We all agreed unanimously that the food had really improved with the new catering company. Roast potatoes are no longer rock hard, but now soft inside and crunchy on the outside, delicious! We also agreed we liked the hotdog and burger options, but recognised it was essential to also eat vegetables and sides from the salad bar. We all like this too! Many of our older, bigger pupils also liked the fact that the portions were bigger and that if they were available we could have seconds. We discussed the possibilities of there being turkey or chicken burgers as a possible alternative to beef.

Several of the school council members mentioned that pupils in their tutor groups were not keen on the Macaroni Cheese dish and Mr Mulvenney helpfully said he would look at this with Mark the chef. We were pleased to have been able to discuss the important balance between food being healthy and good for us and being tasty! Mr Mulvenney set the school council members a challenge. Each member will go back to the tutor group and come up with a menu of dishes pupils would like to see. We will then return these to him and he will look at them with the chef and see if any of them could appear on the school menu, which would be great!

# Science

This term in A52 we have been learning about living and non living organisms.

Pupils have identified and described the seven life processes and looked at the main body systems: circulatory, respiratory and digestive.



Pupils have used the microscope to observe different types of animal cells and made their own model of a plant cell using sweets and jelly!



## Music

This term involved looking at the development of the keyboard in music. Year 7 have been exploring different keyboards from the past, such as the harpsichord and the water organ. They are learning about musical notation and have had opportunities to play melodies on the keyboards.

Year 8 have been listening to and talking about folk music from around the world, including Ceilidh music from the UK and Latin-American music such as Samba. Towards the end of the term, they will be learning to play the ukulele.

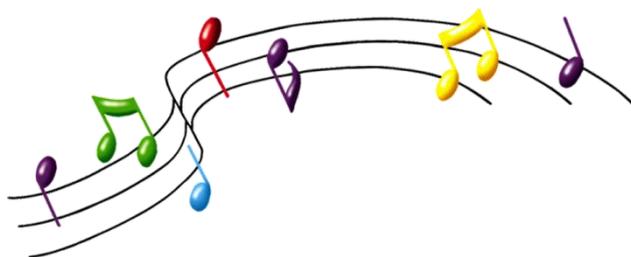


## Year 9 Performing Arts

Year 9 have been exploring different vocal skills within the performing arts industry this term. They are working towards putting together their own radio play and are looking at how to make it believable through different techniques such as making and adding sound effects.

## Year 10 Performing Arts Tech Award

The students in Year 10 have been working towards their first project exploring the work of different performance practitioners from a range of genres such as Musicals and Comedy. They are each developing a presentation reflecting on a variety of performance material, which will be presented at the end of term.



## Drama

In Drama, 7JS have been looking at scripts and playwriting. The students have been adapting the story of *The Firework Maker's Daughter*, by Philip Pullman, into a script of their own. They enjoyed developing their acting skills through playing different characters from the story.

Year 8 have been adapting the story of 'The Snow Queen' into a play through a variety of workshops. They had lots of fun thinking about portraying characters from the story, such as the evil Snow Queen and her Sprites.

## SAXON MOUNT CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCE

This year, TAS and AS2 presented the school play, 'Christmas with the Aliens'.

The children did an amazing job at making all the props, which included two aliens, a spaceship, the three king's gifts, sheep and a donkey to name a few!



The cast did a fantastic job with the performance and were so supportive of each other and ensuring that everything went well. Our two Year 10 pupils narrated the performance so well too. Overall, the performance was a massive success!

Thank you to parents who attended. The reports were that you all had a great time and thoroughly enjoyed it.



Special thanks to: Mrs. Anderson, Miss Finch, Miss Deeprise, Miss Jagot and Miss Higgins for all their help with the performance.

# PSHE

Year 7 for Term 2 have been looking at 'Themselves' and what makes them special.

As part of Emotional well-being it is important for students to recognize that we are all special and unique. A good place to start is finding positive thoughts about ourselves and our feelings.

Year 7 were asked to think of 5 things they liked about Themselves.

Here are some examples of the great things they said about Themselves:

*I am always good*

I can cook my own food

Helping others

I'm always Kind

I'm Clever

I am a good friend

I am funny

Good with computers

I am smart

I am Sassy

I'm Wonderful

I like Me.

I'm Intelligent

I'm Handsome

I am awesome

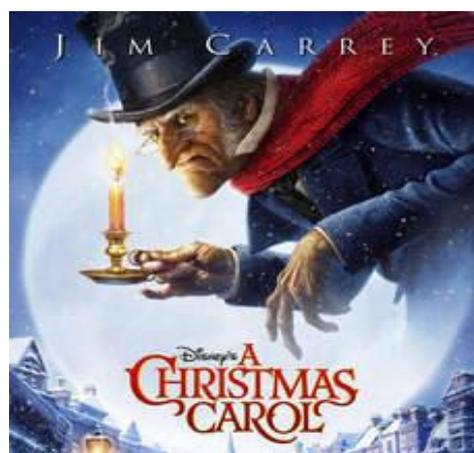
I am good at Football

Always being Happy



## Key Stage 4 English

Students in **Year 10** are studying '**A Christmas Carol**' by Charles Dickens as part of the study of a classic 20<sup>th</sup> Century Literature. This Christmas story follows the haunting of Ebenezer Scrooge which leads him to change his selfish ways and to think of others, truly beginning to live out the spirit of Christmas.



**Scrooge** as seen in the Disney film adaptation after his transformation (*top*) and as the tight-fisted miser before his change in the George Scott film adaptation

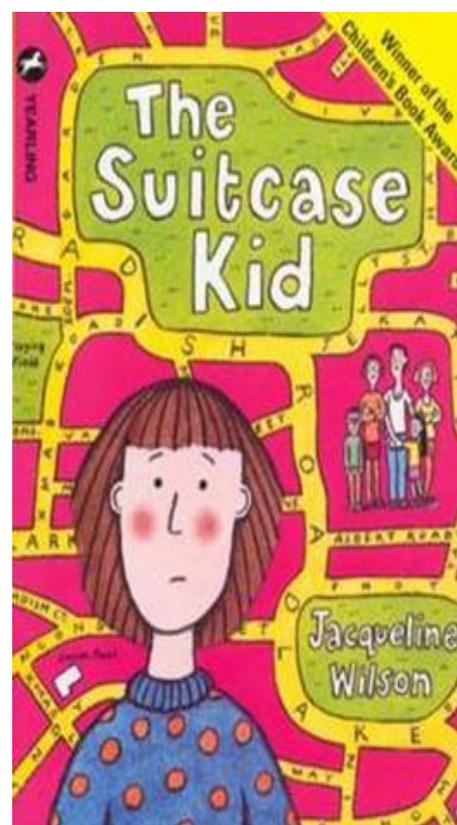
**Year 11** students have been reading a range of story extracts and non-fiction texts, learning to answer questions effectively, developing exam technique in preparation for next summer. They have also been honing their writing skills - planning and writing short stories, letters and articles.



**THE TWITS**  
Illustrations by Quentin Blake

**Year 7** – have enjoyed studying the story of ‘**The Twits**’ by *Roald Dahl* - a hilarious romp of a read through the lives of the two vile, disgusting characters, their misadventures and the tricks they play on one another.

**Year 8** – have just finished reading and studying ‘**The Suitcase Kid**’ by *Jacqueline Wilson*, an author whose prodigious output of stories have enthralled and entertained and proved thought provoking for readers for many years. The story follows the very complicated life of Andy (Andrea) an only child who has to come to terms with her parents’ divorce, the new partners they have, and all the many siblings she then inherits as a result – all whilst still being in denial about her parents break up...



**Year 9** - have studied ‘**The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas**’ by *John Boyne*. This story charts the unlikely friendship of innocent Bruno (son of the commandant of a Nazi concentration camp) and Shmuel (a Jewish boy in the camp) and tackles the themes of innocence, discrimination and prejudice.