

NEWSLETTER

❤️ 14 FEBRUARY 2025 ❤️

HALFWAY THROUGH YEAR 12

It seems almost unbelievable that we are already halfway through this academic year. To celebrate, we have an extra long newsletter this week!

We are all immensely proud of how far our students have come, and indeed of our school as a whole. Our Year 12s are real ambassadors for SuMS, and they never fail to demonstrate our school values, especially when representing SuMS to potential new students, important visitors or parents and carers.

Our Values



HALF-TERM BREAK

We know that many of our young people are looking ahead to the forthcoming Progress Checks. We would really encourage them to spend no more than 3 hours per subject preparing, and to use the rest of their time to rest and recharge by doing things that they love.

If your young person is doing their Duke of Edinburgh Award with us, they could also invest some of their time off in making progress with it, whether finalising their sectional activities or uploading some great evidence to demonstrate their progress so far!



STUDENT-LED ACTIVITIES

Last week marked SuMS' second meeting of FemSoc, a safe space for students and teachers to share experiences of gender inequality and discuss gender issues faced by communities around the world. Last week's discussion was on the topic of Donald Trump's new policies and their implications for women. The meeting was a great success, as members engaged in lively conversations, sharing their varying perspectives on Trump. It was really inspiring to hear the passion with which students spoke and explored different viewpoints. Next on the agenda is International Women's Day!

Last Thursday the Financial Times Student Advocates organised a scavenger hunt centred around current political events. Participants navigated the school in search of hidden clues, solving riddles and answering questions based on articles to advance through the challenge. The event encouraged critical thinking, teamwork, and a deeper understanding of contemporary political issues. Congratulations to Nicola, Lillia, Kabelan and Santi for their impressive performance and well-deserved victory!

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STUDENT-LED ACTIVITIES, CONTD.

This week the Student Council has raised an astonishing £189.00 through the sale of roses! The students set up a project which enabled any young person at SuMS to send a rose to someone else (as long as they gave their consent) to thank them for their friendship, celebrate Valentine's Day or just to spread some joy! These funds will be saved up towards an end-of-year student celebration, which the Student Council are currently starting to plan.

They have also organised a lollipops sale to raise funds for the British Heart Foundation and have raised a fantastic £47.54. We are so proud of them!

There are so many wonderful student-led activities on display around school; our Year 12s have really grasped the opportunity to set up and lead the activities that they want to see running. We are very impressed by their creativity and entrepreneurial spirit and we are excited to see even more new clubs springing up!

PARENT/CARER MEETINGS: MEET THE TEACHERS



On Friday 28 March, SuMS will run a 'drop down day' of meetings between parent and carers and subject teachers. These meetings will take place online, and we expect the students to present for the meetings too. Closer to the time, parents and carers will receive a personalised email informing you which teachers to book with - all students will have a meeting with their Core maths teacher, who they have for six lessons per week, and at least two of their other teachers across the subjects. We will use the same system, SchoolCloud, that we used for the Parent/Carer meetings with Tutors in the Autumn Term. Each appointment will be eight minutes in length.

Students will not be in school that day, and instead will be expected to join their parents and carers for these meetings which will focus on their academic progress to date, how best to prepare for next steps and getting the most out of their learning.

There will be more information closer to the time but please keep the date in your diaries.

MANAGING NEEDS SESSION

Thank you again to everyone who joined us recently on Teams for the Managing Needs session on Neurodiversity. If you would like to watch the session again, or weren't able to dial in and would like to see it, [please click here](#). We also ran a session on Future Pathways via Teams recently. If you would like to watch that back, [please click here](#).

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

- Half-term break - 17-21 Feb
- Progress Check 2 - 24-27 Feb
- DofE Expedition - 3rd instalment - 28 Feb
- UK University & Apprenticeship Search - 4 Mar
- Speaker event - New Orbit Space Ltd - 6 Mar
- Drop-down day - parent/carers meetings - 28 Mar

Please note that the term dates for next year (2025-26) are now published [on the website, here](#).