



Swaffham Hamond's High School

A Specialist Maths and Computing College



Maths &
Computing

'Respect, Learning, Pride'

Summer Second Half Term Newsletter July 2011

Our Year

It has been an interesting and successful year at Swaffham Hamond's High School. Our in-year admissions are up considerably and we are confident that we will have a significant rise in our examination results in August. The future of Sixth Form provision in Swaffham is now moving in a very positive direction with work towards a Swaffham Campus of Dereham Sixth Form College on our school site from September 2012.

Our teachers and support staff continue to thrive on the success and positivity of our students and we know that next year will see us using this past year as a springboard for even bigger improvements in the quality of experience that our students receive here.

Oxburgh House Leader

Mr Willingham will be moving on to a Deputy Headship at Terrington St Clements High School after being Assistant Head here for six years. This is a richly deserved promotion and we thank Mr Willingham for his time and high quality work here. Mr Willingham is actually an ex student of this school and we will miss his close link with our community.

Mr Budgett will be taking over as House Leader for Oxburgh house in September. Ms Welham will continue to lead Holkham House and Mr Franklin will lead Sandringham House.

Staff Leaving

All vacant posts for next year have been filled by high quality applicants. However, the following members of staff are leaving us and we thank them for all of their work with us over the years: Mr Willingham (Assistant Headteacher), Mr Blaza (Science), Mr Muir (ICT), Ms Calton (English), Mr Clarke (Temporary Maths), Ms Jones (Temporary Music), Mr Moses (Temporary Languages), Miss Smith (Cover Supervisor), Ms Farrow (Science Technician and Instructor).

In addition to these Ms Thomason will be taking maternity leave and hopes to return some time after Easter. We wish her luck.

Year 8 Option Choices

Swaffham Hamond's High School's approach to beginning options at the start of Year 9 is now becoming increasingly popular amongst some of the county's better and more forward thinking schools. They agree with us that it gives students more time to focus on success in the subjects that they really enjoy and are good at.

We have had a very well attended evening for Year 8 parents and students, followed by gathering student choices and individual interviews with senior staff for parents who have wanted to discuss their first allocations. We will confirm these outcomes before term ends.



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Year 11 Prom

Our Year 11 students had a very enjoyable evening at Lynford Hall on the evening of 24 June. Students arrived in a variety of vehicles with boys dressed in suits and girls wearing the most amazing prom dresses. They had a fantastic evening in celebration of their years at Swaffham Hamond's High School.

Curriculum Enhancement Week (Activities Week)

Our Activities Week was a great success. Students visited places near and far – from Cambridge to Paris. They had opportunities to partake in a range of activities from mountain biking to dry slope skiing. They built bikes, painted murals, made ponds and played a range of different sports. Reports from places outside the school have all been positive, as always, with comments about the high standard of cooperation, politeness, behaviour and participation from all of our students. We are proud to say that whenever we take our students out of school, this is the type of comment that we often receive.

We feel that as a school it is important for us to give our students opportunities to enjoy and experience different activities that are not necessarily linked to their academic work. It does not mean that they are not learning! We also feel that it helps us to work together better as a school community. Activities Week will be at the same time next year.

Mobile Phones and MP3s

Thank you to all parents who have supported our new policy on the above. Our students, as ever, have responded positively to this new rule and guidance. As a result, our school is a much better place in terms of young people focusing on the reality of social interaction as opposed to the 'virtual' world of social networks, texts and music through headphones.

Sports Day

Our annual sports day took place on a wet Monday in the last week of term. Field events were held throughout the morning and the track events were held in the afternoon. Although there were some heavy showers in the afternoon, the enthusiasm of our young athletes was not dampened in any way. A large number of students were keen to represent their houses cheered on enthusiastically by the rest of the school. Winners of events were awarded with medals which they proudly wore for the rest of the day. We will be announcing the winning houses in our end of year assembly. Thanks and well done to all competitors and to the PE department for their superb organisation.

End of Term

School breaks for end of term on Friday 22 July and students return on Wednesday 7 September. Full uniform including blazers and ties is required. The two days prior to this are teacher training days and all staff will be in school. We thank you for your support and hope that you have an enjoyable summer.

Up and Coming Events

Thursday 18 August 2011: A Level Results Day

Thursday 25 August 2011: GCSE Results Day

Thursday 22 September 2011: Year 11 Parental Consultation (16:00 – 19:00)

Tuesday 4 October 2011: Year 6 Open Evening (17:30 – 20:30)

You will find a copy of this newsletter on our website at:

www.hamondshighschool.co.uk