

South Wirral Digest



NEW YEAR 7 STUDENTS OFF TO A GREAT START AT SOUTH WIRRAL



GCSE Results show continued improvement

P3



Year 9 Motorbike Racer in Tournament Success

P9



Students say 'Hello Yellow' on World Mental Health Day

P14-15

KEY DATES

AUTUMN TERM

22nd October - 26th October -
Half Term

24th November - 30th November -
Year 8 Oaklands

6th December -
Year 7 Panto Trip (Oh no it isn't...)

13th December -

Year 10 Business Trip

18th December -

Year 9 & 10 Theatre Trip

17th December -

Inset Day

18th December - 20th December -
WW1 Battlefields Trip

22nd December - 6th January -
Christmas Holiday

ARE YOU USING EDULINK ONE PARENT PORTAL?

EduLink One is our single parent communication platform you receive emails, notifications when your child gets house points, view assessments, attendance and much more.

VISIT

WWW.SOUTHWIRRAL.WIRRAL.SCH.UK/PARENTS/EDULINK
FOR MORE INFORMATION

SOCIAL MEDIA:



/SouthWirralHS



@SouthWirral

INSET DAYS

A reminder that the following dates are training days, the school will be closed to students on these days:

17TH DECEMBER 4TH FEBRUARY 24TH JULY

FREE SCHOOL UNIFORM

WIRRALFUSS.CO.UK OFFER FREE UNIFORM TO ANYBODY WHO NEEDS IT, WITHOUT JUDGEMENT OF FAMILY CIRCUMSTANCES

Wirral FUSS supply FREE school uniform, PE kit, etc. used by the 22 secondary schools on the

Wirral and around 30 of the 100 primary schools

Since 2012 Wirral F.U.S.S. has helped nearly 3000 families with their school uniform needs – all free of charge

All uniforms are in good or new condition, and their 'hubs' have regular opening times when you

try items on or swap your current outgrown uniform for larger items. Alternatively you can make an appointment with their volunteer staff

Visit www.wirralfuss.co.uk for more information and request items

STUDENT PLANNERS



and we hope that parents will welcome planners as an additional way of communicating with us.

We will also continue to use Moodle to share information with parents and student.

Students should bring the planner to school every day and should write all their home learning deadlines down in it.

Every single student will receive a planner – they have been tailored specifically to Key Stage 3, Key Stage 4 and to Sixth Form. The Sixth Form planner is a “professional organiser”.

Last year saw the re-introduction of student planners for all students at South Wirral. Students will bring

their planner home to show parents.

This is one of many initiatives designed to improve our school



GCSE RESULTS SHOW OUR CONTINUING IMPROVEMENT

SOUTH WIRRAL HIGH SCHOOL IS CELEBRATING ANOTHER YEAR OF STRONG EXAMINATION RESULTS ACROSS ALL CURRICULUM AREAS, BUT PARTICULARLY AT THE TOP GRADES OF 9-7. THIS YEAR TWICE AS MANY STUDENTS ACHIEVED THOSE GRADES AS DID LAST YEAR.

The results show the school's strength in depth across the whole curriculum and reinforces our desire to develop successful learners, who are also confident individuals and active citizens.

In the new grading system a grade 4 is equivalent to a C grade and a grade 7 is equivalent to an A grade. 77% of all students got grade 4 (a C) or above in English Language or Literature which is 3% higher than last year. 62% got a grade 4 or above in Maths which is similar to last year. 59% of our students got a grade 4 or better in both English and Maths which is 3% better than last year. 70% of all grades

were at grade 4 or above. The school has a strong 3 year upward trend in student attainment.

Staff, students and parents celebrated success on GCSE results day. There were many outstanding individual achievements with so many top grades but particular congratulations go to the highest attaining students in the newly reformed GCSEs. Aiden Street got a grade 9 in English Language. Adam Dawson in Chemistry and Physics,

and Lucas Kershaw in Drama.

Congratulations also to Shannah Dickson and Rachel Pinch for grade 8s in Art. All the results are just reward for the hard work that has been put in over five years.

These GCSE results come a week after excellent A Level results. We wish all our students every success in the future, as they seek to further their learning or take up apprenticeships or employment.





SUMMER SCHOOL

SUMMER SCHOOL 2018 WAS A GREAT SUCCESS WITH OVER 80 STUDENTS JOINING US OVER THE COURSE OF THE WEEK.

The students came from 14 of the local schools in South Wirral and Cheshire. They came together, making new friends, getting to know the school & some of the staff ready for the start in September in year 7. The students enjoyed every minute of the Summer School. There were lots of opportunities to learn new things such as the Eco Garden, planting seeds and digging up potatoes, which we ate later on in the week, when the students cooked for us for lunch.

In Food Technology, students had the opportunity to cook & experience the Food Tech environment. Each day they cooked something that they could take home & in addition to this they cooked for their peers.

There were lots of other fun activities, such as Gaming in IT, Orienting, Sports, outside as it was such a lovely summer. In DT the students were able to use some of the machinery & tools to make a wooden robot.

In Art the students learnt about Michael Craig Martin, with the students creating a piece of work that will be displayed in the Art corridor for years to come.

In Drama the student recreated a small sketch of, 'Our Day Out' which was accompanied by the Sign Language they also learnt. This was a big hit & brought some of the parents to tears when they watch the show at the end of the week.

The feedback from parents was very positive. They said their child had come home every day filled with happiness & confidence.





SUMMER SCHOOL ARTWORK

Year 6 students who attended South Wirral High School's Summer School created an incredible piece of artwork.

Based on the work of the Contemporary Irish artist Michael-Craig Martin, the students created

a Performance Faculty Canvas to showcase the incredible subjects of Art, Dance, Drama, Music, PE, Performing Arts and Photography.

In Autumn term, the now year 7 students completed the canvas at KS3 art club and in October,

the canvas was permanently displayed at the end of the Art corridor.

Congratulations to all subjects who contributed to this incredible piece of art.

- Miss Lunt

REMEMBRANCE 100

ARMISTICE DAY APPEAL TO PAST & PRESENT FAMILIES

We are planning a whole school event to mark 100 years since Armistice Day, and are appealing to past & present student & staff's families to tell us about their family members who have died in conflict. If you have somebody you would like us to honour, please send us their name, rank & service. Photographs would also be very much appreciated.

Please send information via Social Media or email the school on hello@southwirral.wirral.sch.uk





EXTRA CURRICULAR OFFER

Have you ever thought you would like to join a regular club to...

- Meet other students who share the same interests?
- Gain extra help in subject areas you find difficult?
- Develop your talents even further in subjects you achieve high grades in?

Then now is the opportunity! We have recently released the latest edition of our Extra Curricular Activities booklet, copies can be found online or in the main entrance. If you are interested in going along to any of the clubs listed in the booklet, see the member of staff involved.

Don't feel that if you miss a session you can't go along again, there may be the opportunity to join in at any time throughout the term. But remember, you will only improve if you are committed.

Many other subject specific clubs are timetabled at various times throughout the year by arrangement with staff - these will be advertised in department areas, on Moodle and through student notices.





'RESTART A HEART' DAY

TUESDAY 16TH OCTOBER MARKED RESTART A HEART DAY, A DESIGNATED YEARLY DAY OF ACTION WITH THE AIM TO TEACH VITAL LIFE-SAVING CARDIOPULMONARY RESUSCITATION (CPR) SKILLS TO AS MANY PEOPLE AS POSSIBLE.

1 3 year 12 Sports Science students completed the training on this day, with all other South Wirral students receiving training in their life studies lessons in the forthcoming weeks.

We spoke to a few students about their experiences during the session, and on why it's important to know these life skills:

"If a family member ever had a heart attack, you'd want to know what to do to be able to help - especially if you're the only person around."

"It's important to learn CPR because it's a skill you could need at any time - without warning"

"I've thankfully never been in a situation like that before, I imagine it's very different just practicing compared to in real life"

A huge thank you to the British Heart Foundation for their 'call, push, rescue' packs that will be a fantastic resource for enabling the rest of the school to complete the training.

-Mr Bell





AWARD WINNING YEAR 7 LAIRD STUDENTS PROUD OF ACHIEVEMENTS

ALFIE - CIVIC AWARD

The civic awards achievement is to do something for the community and you will be rewarded by the Mayor of Wirral with a certificate and badge. These awards are aimed at young people between the ages of 8 and 12, although exceptions can be made for others.

I joined the club because not only is it good for the community, but it is nice to help the community and be recognised for being a responsible person.

I felt very happy when I received the award because not only did I get to meet the Mayor, but I also got a badge and a certificate from them. This made me feel proud of all the effort I had put into supporting the community by going to church and spending time talking to the elderly. Being part of raising money for church funds, Help for Heroes and the New Ferry blast charity. It also helped me to be more independent by doing small chores around the house to help myself and my family, and to be involved in local leisure clubs, swimming, rugby and scouts.

OLIVER - PHOTOGRAPHY

“Photography is one of my favourite hobbies - I have won 2 competitions at Ness Gardens, and have been runner-up 5 times in other competitions.

I am very proud that my 2 winning photographs were displayed in the Liverpool Museum, and I love photography.”





YEAR 8 MOTORBIKE RACER IN TOURNAMENT SUCCESS

MAYER STUDENT SHANELLE RECENTLY COMPETED IN A DRAG RACING TOURNAMENT IN YORK - PLACING THIRD IN HER EVENT. WE SPOKE TO HER ABOUT HER EXPERIENCES WITH RACING.

“My dad first encouraged me to get into racing - initially starting off with a 50cc moped, and I’ve now moved onto a 125cc. It’s all on track - no off roading. Part of this weekend’s event was in remembrance to a racer for Jack Graham who passed away the previous weekend.

There are lots of Ladies bikers in the community that I admire,

especially Olivia, Chrissy & Maxine. If you’re interested in taking part in racing, I recommend watching loads on TV and at your nearest race track first to see if you like it - then if you want to have a go, build your way up from a small bike.

Future events I’m taking part in include one in October at Santa Pod, then the TT in 2019.”

We wish Shanelle the best of luck in these events, and if any student would like more information about getting into the sport - feel free to speak to Shanelle or see Mr Stewart in P3.





OPEN EVENING

ON WEDNESDAY 3RD OCTOBER, WE WELCOMED PRIMARY SCHOOL STUDENTS AND PARENTS FROM ACROSS THE LOCAL AREA FOR OUR ANNUAL OPEN EVENING.

Departments opened up their rooms and put on exciting activities for our guests, including performances from Vision Dance Company and drama from 'Act Up'. The English department hosted a number of exciting Harry Potter themed games and tasks.

The highlight of the night for many was, as ever, the food provided by the Food Technology department - who's room was packed throughout the evening. With a theme of 'Alice in Wonderland', visitors were welcomed into the rabbit hole to taste a variety of snacks prepared by staff and students.

In the main hall, Mr Goodwin spoke to parents about how South Wirral High School offers:

- Excellent behaviour
- Academic rigour
- Outstanding pastoral support

He proceeded to highlight our fantastic results from this summer, with a focus on how South Wirral is changing, and how our 'Progress 8' score shows that at South Wirral, student progress on average is on par with or higher than many other local schools.

Mr Goodwin was joined on stage by students who all spoke of their experiences at South Wirral, including a number of new Year 7 students who joined us from Cheshire schools, discussing their first few weeks at the new school.





ART STUDENTS DECORATE T-SHIRTS FOR 'GIANTS EXTRAVAGANZA'

"IN CELEBRATION OF THE GIANTS VISITING LIVERPOOL AND WIRRAL FOR THE LAST IN A TRILOGY OF VISITS THIS OCTOBER, KS3 ART CLUB STUDENTS HAVE CREATED 4 T-SHIRTS BASED ON THE THEMES OF HOPES, INSPIRATIONS AND DREAMS.

Iconography such as stars, unicorns, dream catchers and moons were created in fabric transfer paint and ironed onto the different sized t-shirts to represent the hopes and dreams of young people as they themselves continue to grow.

The T-shirts will go on display in a location in Liverpool alongside work from other schools in a special exhibition to say goodbye to the Giants as they leave the area forever."

- Miss Lunt





SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING

Students from South Wirral High School and other local secondary schools were invited to our Sixth Form @ South Wirral Open Evening on Thursday 18th October to speak to subject tutors and Sixth Form staff about the Post-16 options available at the school.

Held in Sports Hall 2, the event gave students an opportunity to discuss their future career aspirations, and were encouraged to take away course information to consider before putting in their application to join the Sixth Form.

Students were also given a copy of the new Sixth Form @ South Wirral Prospectus - containing lots of information about studying in our Sixth Form. This can be viewed on our website at www.southwirral.wirral.sch.uk

In Sports Hall 1, the Careers Fair ran concurrently - and students were able to discuss post-Sixth Form life with staff from universities, apprenticeships and a range of other external providers.



YEAR 7 BOYS RUGBY GO FISHING FOR SHARKS

The newly formed year 7 boys rugby team played some great rugby recently up at a Sale Sharks Festival. Playing against rugby clubs who have been together for 5 years, our lads put in some big hits and scored a couple of lovely tries. They then moved across to the stadium where they watched the Sharks get their first win of the season against the Newcastle Falcons.





‘LOOK AT LIFE’ ROYAL MARINES COURSE

SIXTH FORM STUDENT OLIVIA ELLISON-BURKHILL, A MEMBER OF OUR UNIFIED SPORTS GROUP, RECENTLY TOOK PART IN AN EXCITING OPPORTUNITY AT A COMMANDO TRAINING CENTRE IN DEVON, WE ASKED HER TO TELL US ABOUT HER EXPERIENCE.

“On the 3rd September, I was part of a group that travelled down to Lymington Commando Training Centre Royal Marines to experience a ‘look at life’ course. There we were taught the core values of demonstrating excellence, integrity, self-discipline and humility in every task we were set. During our training week, we were also educated about the spirit and mindset that has to be executed at all times as a Royal Marines Commando. This included courage, determination, unselfishness and cheerfulness – to be being the first to understand, the first to adapt and respond and the first to overcome.

The week consisted of the training that you would have to pass in order to become a Royal Marines Commando. One part of this was the endurance course – which included crossing the rough moorland of Woodbury Common,

travelling through tunnels, pipes, wading pools and an underwater culvert.

Not only was this course an opportunity to explore the different career paths available within the armed forces, it was also a chance to encourage teamwork and leadership amongst each other just like we could on a rugby pitch.”

This opportunity was presented to Olivia through her involvement with Port Sunlight Sirens Rugby Club, if you would like to join the Sirens, contact Martin Blakeborough on 07823333040. Training takes place on Wednesday 6-8pm, games on Sunday afternoons. All ages, all abilities welcome!





STUDENTS SAY 'HELLO YELLOW' ON WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY

ON 10TH OCTOBER, WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY, STAFF AND STUDENTS WORE SOMETHING YELLOW TO SCHOOL TO SUPPORT YOUNG MINDS AND SPREAD THE WORD THAT WHATEVER A PERSON IS GOING THROUGH, THERE'S SOMEONE TO TALK TO IF THEY'RE STRUGGLING TO COPE.

1 in 10 children & young people aged 5-16 suffer from a diagnosable mental health problem such as depression, anxiety or even an eating disorder. That's around 3 children in every classroom! 10% of young people deliberately harm themselves regularly. ¾ of long lasting mental ill health starts before the age of 18.

Our#HelloYellow day was a great success, not only in the fact we raised just over £310 but also that it created talking points. Our students were asking questions about mental health and sharing their thoughts in an open and supportive environment. There was lots of opportunities to educate our students on mental

health but we also had lots of fun too in our staff vs students penalty shootout and in our mindfulness activities like yellow art & photography, paint a pebble and chill out dance.

We hope to make this an annual event and make it even bigger & better next year.





#HELLOYELLOW ARTWORK CREATED BY STUDENTS

TO RAISE AWARENESS FOR WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY, THE ART ROOMS WERE OPEN AT LUNCHTIME ON WEDNESDAY 10TH OCTOBER FOR STUDENTS TO COMPLETE SOME CREATIVE, MINDFULNESS ARTWORK.

Students looked at the Liverpool Contemporary artist Tony Cragg and his art using everyday found objects to create textured surfaces of colour. Using the "Hello Yellow" title as inspiration, feathers, buttons,

pencil crayons, post it notes and other various objects were added to a large canvas that will go on permanent display in the counselling office where students can go to speak to our trained mental health staff for support with home or school issues.

Congratulations to all students who contributed to such an important and exciting piece of artwork.

- Miss Lunt





SIXTH FORM @ SOUTH WIRRAL CELEBRATES MORE EXCELLENT A LEVEL AND BTEC RESULTS

YET AGAIN SIXTH FORM STUDENTS AT SOUTH WIRRAL HIGH SCHOOL WERE CELEBRATING SOME SUPERB A LEVEL AND BTEC RESULTS, BUILDING ON THE SUCCESSES OF PREVIOUS YEARS FOR OUR SIXTH FORM. IN PARTICULAR, THE AVERAGE A LEVEL GRADE ATTAINED BY STUDENTS HAS RISEN SIGNIFICANTLY THIS YEAR.

The vast majority of students secured their first choice at university, with a significant number destined for “redbrick universities”, as a result of achieving the highest grades. These include Veronica Valsechhi who will study Psychology at Liverpool University, Nathan Ferguson and Tom Jones will both study International Business at Liverpool University, and Elissa Griffiths who will study English Language and Linguistics at Lancaster University.

Some other notable successes were Isobel Potts who achieved Distinction, B,C and will study Primary Education at Liverpool John Moores and Holly Sharp, who has secured a place on an Adult

Nursing course, also at LJM. Jemma Harper achieved Distinction*, Distinction, Distinction and will study Business Management at Chester University. Adam Shirt (A, Distinction, Distinction) has deferred his place at De Montfort University for a year. Georgia Gibson (ABB) and Abigail Stewart (BBB) will both study Childhood and Youth Philosophy and Ethics at Liverpool Hope.

Many other students are leaving for their first choice of university. Lots of them are embarking on courses which are the first steps to interesting careers, and reflect the strengths at South Wirral across curriculum areas. Some students have also secured apprenticeships – a good alternative to university – in Law, Childcare and Education.

Simon Goodwin, Headteacher, said:

“We are all proud of the students’ achievements and we wish them every success in the future. These results are the product of many months of hard work and

dedication by the students and support from parents. The results also reflect the excellent planning and teaching of new 2 year A level and BTEC courses by the teaching staff”.

Everybody associated with Sixth Form @ South Wirral is proud of the achievements of all of our students as they now prepare for the next exciting chapter of their lives. Amongst the A*’s and A’s, in many cases, the real success stories are where students have exceeded all expectations through sustained hard work and excellent teaching. We would like to thank and congratulate everyone involved in enabling our students to achieve their potential.

