

Autumn Term Newsletter

September to December 2019

It is a testament to the new pupils and staff, and how they have settled in so beautifully, that it seems so long ago that we all started this new academic year. As you will see from the newsletter, a lot of wonderful work has taken place this term and we have many reasons to be proud.

In addition to the exceptional learning and progress being made every day in lesson, the pupils continue to live the values, to enjoy all of the cultural and enriching activities that staff create for them, and to take part in the character education with enthusiasm. The success of the pupils and staff is carrying into the community, as we have once again had around 450 applications to join us in Year 7 next year.

We have already started to recruit for next year, with lots of teaching posts already being advertised, with more to follow in the new year, along with the new non-teaching posts. Keep an eye on the website if you are considering joining the family.

I am pleased that we have already secured new caterers from January. I attach menu, which has a three-week rotation and was decided on with the Pupil Leadership Team.

I hope you all have a relaxing and enjoyable break over the Christmas period. Pupils - please remember to read lots over the holiday and continue to live the values at home and in the community.

Dr Stevens
Principal

Attendance

Mr Clackett

Congratulations to the 123 pupils with 100% attendance so far this year, 66% of all pupils have attendance above our target of 97%.

There is a stronger link between attendance at school and achievement than any other factor, including intelligence, so it is important that we keep up the good effort.

Term and holiday dates 2019 /2020

Friday 20 December to Friday 3 January	- Christmas holiday
<i>Monday 6 January</i>	- <i>Inset day (staff training – no pupils)</i>
Tuesday 7 January to Friday 14 February	- First half Spring term
Monday 17 to Friday 21 February	- Spring half term holiday
Monday 24 February to Friday 3 April	- Second half spring term
Monday 6 April to Friday 17 April	- Easter holiday
<i>Friday 10 and Monday 13 April</i>	- <i>Bank holidays</i>
Monday 20 April to Friday 22 May	- First half summer term
<i>Friday 8 May</i>	- <i>Bank holiday</i>
Monday 24 to Friday 29 May	- Summer half term holiday
<i>Monday 25 May</i>	- <i>Bank holiday</i>
Monday 1 June to Tuesday 21 July	- Second half summer term
<i>Friday 26 June</i>	- <i>Inset day (staff training – no pupils)</i>
Wednesday 22 July to September 2020	- Summer Holiday

Home Learning Club

Miss Freeman

Please note that Home Learning club is held in the Computer Science room and a register is taken every session. Pupils are free to leave once their Home Learning has been completed.

Monday	3.30pm – 4.30pm
Wednesday	3.30pm – 4.30pm
Thursday	3.30pm – 4.30pm
Friday	3.10pm – 4.10pm

Please ensure that you have made end of day arrangements with your child before they leave for school each morning.

Colindale Food Bank Donations

Ms Frankham

Well done to the pupils on Food Drive team who promoted the importance of a local food drive and enabled Saracens High School to donate a massive amount of food to Colindale Food Bank. A big THANK YOU to everyone who has supported this great cause.



UNIFORM

We are very proud of our uniform and most visitors comment on how smart the children look and how they wear their uniform with great pride. During the holiday, please can you check that every item of clothing is labelled – we have hundreds of pounds' worth of clothing in lost property that is unlikely to find its way back home.

Please remember that school trousers and skirts must come from Uniform4Kids and have the school logo on them. Please remember when buying new items that everything (including coats) should be logo free to reduce opportunities for bullying, that trainers for PE should be plain black, and that school shoes should be leather, polishable shoes (not trainers or cross-over shoes, and please remember that just because the shoe seller tells you it is a school shoe, that doesn't mean it is). When you are buying new school shoes if you aren't sure if something is acceptable as a school shoe please send a link or take a picture of them and send it to principal@saracenshigh.org and <mailto:s.green@saracenshigh.org> and one of us will get back to you as soon as possible.

Pupil Leadership Team for 2019/2020

Mrs Bonilla

After a thorough selection process and two voting rounds, we now have our Pupil Leadership Team for 2019-2020. They took office on Tuesday the 3rd December in an assembly attended by their parents. Congratulations and good luck to Azadullah, Zaheer, Haroon, Julia, Phoebe, Amina, Muaaz, Kevin, Caris, Hanif, Salma and Rezwana.

We are also very grateful to the outgoing Pupil Leadership Team for committing their time and efforts to improving our school for the past year. They have now become Saracens Ambassadors and will work closely with the new Pupil Leadership Team on their new initiatives.

Careers Education

Mrs Bonilla

On Monday the 28th of October Mr Tim Willcox, Chief Presenter for BBC news, visited our school. His presentation to the Year 8 pupils focused on his work as a journalist.



He told us about the relevance that his studies in English and Spanish have had in his career. He also spoke passionately about the highlights of his job, the challenges he has faced and the opportunities this role has offered him when travelling around the world, communicating news from different locations such as Barcelona, Saudi Arabia, the Philippines, Argentina, Libya, Chile, Greece and Ukraine. Pupils had the opportunity to ask him some insightful questions which have already sparked some interest in journalism among themselves.

Well-being Workshop: You are not alone

Miss Alexa

In October Barnet Well Being Practitioners hosted an event talking to pupils about how to manage anxiety concerns on a daily basis. Thirty-two pupils attended the session where we discovered what the signs of anxiety are and how people behave when they feel anxious. They gave us tips on how to manage feelings like talking with family and friends, relaxation and meditation techniques and exercising.



What a start to the year. It has been very exciting teaching completely new units to Year 8 and finding out everyone's history passions across Year 7 and Year 8.

Firstly- what a massive thank you I need to pass on for all of your hard work for Our History Month back in October. The work you produced was brilliantly done and incredibly interesting to read up on. I must congratulate Violet and Tamara for working incredibly hard on their projects and producing some amazing work. Their projects went above and beyond research and both pupils showed really

I would also like to invite any pupil who is interested in history to come to our new club, in the new term, which will be to prepare pupils for the Inter-School History Quiz. The quiz will take place on 18th March 2020. Pupils will need to be inquisitive and have a love for history - speak to me if you have any questions.

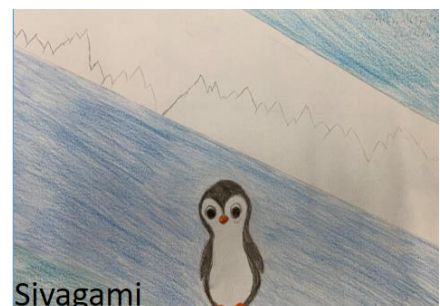
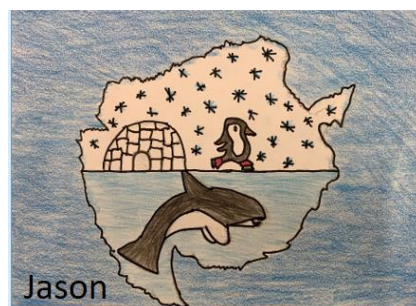
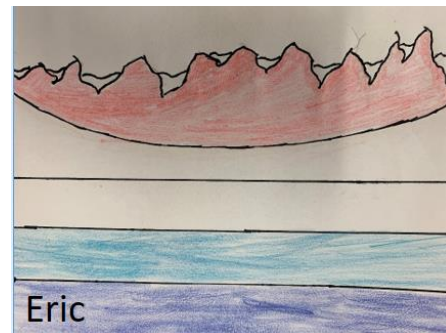
Lastly, I need to pass on my massive congratulations to the pupils who won a place on the Battlefields of World War One trip. Saskia, Idman, Rayan and Tokky who all produced wonderful essays on why it is important to remember and commemorate soldiers who have died in war. For the duration of the Government funded trip we will be given an expert tour guide to ask any questions and will have seminar sessions when we deepen our learning of the First World War and what it was like to be a soldier. I hope they are excited for the trip on Friday 6th to Monday 9th March 2020 as it really will be a once in a lifetime experience.

Many thanks for all of your dedication and hard work- see you in 2020!

Geography – Year 7 Antarctica Day Flag Competition

Miss Morphitis

Congratulations Year 7 Competition Winners; your flags are now on the way to Antarctica. We will get photos of the flags back from the Antarctica in the new year



MUSIC

Mr Guez

This Academic year has so far been very pleasant and I have been extremely happy about the progress and the interest in Music shown overall. Year 7 can now read music notation and have made excellent progress on keyboards. Year 8 had a very good unit creating their own scary music, which linked with their Gothic writing in English. They also composed melodies and some pairs produced mind-blowing work; especially Ra'Shaun and Kelechi, Yasin and Shahriar, and Julia and Reiss. Finally, special thanks to the Choir and Orchestra clubs who are fantastically talented and dedicated musicians.

MATHS

Mrs Smith (née Miss Style)

It's been a great term in Maths. Year 7 have been deepening their number sense, investigating patterns and properties of number, area and shape. Year 8 began the half term looking at sequences, including the Fibonacci sequence which exists throughout nature, and discovered how to find the nth term. They have then been extending their algebra skills through expressions and solving equations. Particular well done is owed to our Year 7s for the strong start they have made to Times Table Rockstars! We launched our first inter-house **Battle of the Bands** at the start of the term, which saw a fantastic win by 7 Rimla! Well done too to 7 Johnson who scored the most points in **Maths England Week!**

1 st 2 nd 3 rd	House Celebrations		
	Speed	Accuracy	Most coins
	7 Hill	7 Rimla	7 Rimla
	Individual Celebrations		
	Fastest Speed	Most Improved	Most games
	Yassine	Elhaam	Asrar
	Halima A	Elisa A	Rhianna
Caris	Leo J	Eric	

Thank you to 8 Wilberforce who have trialled a new website we will be using: Diagnostic Questions. This is a fantastic resource designed to deepen mathematical understanding and get pupils thinking hard! It also provides teachers with a unique insight in to pupils' misconceptions. We are excited to launch this officially in January with all Year 8s.

We are looking forward to a trip next term which will take two classes of Year 7s to the Maths Alive Exhibition at the Royal Air Force Museum, as well as to launching this year's Pangea Maths Competition.

From Mr Buckley, Mrs Ureche and Mrs Smith, a special well done to these pupils in Maths for their hard work, effort and for truly living our values this term:

7 Alphonsi	7 Hill	7 Johnson	7 Rimla	7 Trenchard	7 Wilberforce
Norik	Blessing	Asrar	Rhianna	Halima	Meryan

8 Alphonsi	8 Hill	8 Johnson	8 Rimla	8 Trenchard	8 Wilberforce
Kelechi & Gerald	Zahra & Reiss	Genesis	Nicole	Asan & Harry B	Mya & Imaan

ENGLISH

Miss Rowland-Simms

Year 8 have been getting their film critic heads on for the last few weeks of term, watching, studying and reviewing the Harry Potter prequel: Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them! Pupils have enjoyed exploring the Gothic genre through film and will be preparing their final reviews when they come back after Christmas.

ART, DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

Miss Frankham

Well done to Year 7 and 8 pupils who have produced some amazing outcomes in DT this term. Year 8s have produced some wonderful tote bags and Year 7s with their beautiful Mexican Day of the Dead felt toys.

Our values of hard work, and discipline have really shown with the fantastic outcomes and dedication to those who spent extra time during lunch and after school to enhance their products.!



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LANGUAGES: SPANISH

Mrs Bonilla

COCO - Día de los muertos

On Wednesday 12 November, we took Year 7 on their first whole school trip to the Phoenix cinema to watch Coco, a movie about the celebration of the Day of the Dead in the Mexican culture. The film highlights family values and the importance of our history and heritage in someone's identity.

We watched the film in Spanish with English subtitles and the highlight of the day was the enthusiastic singing of the song 'Un poco loco' which the pupils had learnt the same day



The cinema staff were so impressed with the pupils' polite and kind behaviour that they have already confirmed the booking for next year.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUB - FRENCH

Mrs Bonilla

One of the highlights of Ms Saccaro's week is teaching French after school on Mondays and Thursdays. The children who attend are inspired by her passion for French which is evident in all the activities they do. The atmosphere in the room is electric and pupils are learning while having lots of fun. Well done to the pupils for turning up after school and giving it your best. Everyone in Years 7 and Year 8 are welcome to join them.



Around The World Week - September 2019

Mrs Bonilla

In September we celebrated our first 'Around the World' week. It was an opportunity to build on our cultural capital and to expand our knowledge of different cultures around the world. It was a chance to explore other people's ideas, customs, and social behaviour which make them similar or different to us.

Our pupils embraced the theme of the week and participated in activities in and out of lessons, including:

- Listening to national anthems from different countries during line-up in the morning
- Learning about education in Tanzania
- Attending a Romanian arts and crafts workshop
- Painting a mural of the world map
- Decorating canvas with Arabic calligraphy
- Joining a Zumbathon at lunch time
- Learning about the journey to go to school in some parts of Colombia
- Cleaning classrooms at the end of the day (Japanese style)
- Playing Mancala (African Maths game)
- Watching the World Cup Rugby fixture England vs USA
- Trying out relaxation and mindfulness techniques
- Tasting food from different countries during family lunch
- Learning the Haka in PE (girls)
- Playing Patintero in PE (boys)
- Using international calculation techniques in Maths
- Doing a heritage survey in Geography lessons (Year 7)
- Taking part in an Earthquake drill in Geography lessons (Year 8)
- Being taught in single sex classes in Maths and English (Year 8)
- Acting as pupil greeters in their own language in English lessons
- Presenting information using props in English lessons (Year 7)
- Learning about greetings in different languages in Science lessons

Pupils and staff thoroughly enjoyed the week and we hope to repeat it next year with input from parents and carers and other members of the school community.

Around the World with the English Team

Miss Chilton

To celebrate Around the World Week in September, the English Team created Year 7 Show and Tell lessons, allowing pupils to bring in an object which is important to their background and/or culture. The pupils had a lot of fun showing their objects to the class before completing some writing which was inspired by them. This linked really nicely to our unit on Autobiographical Writing as pupils wrote about why their object is special to them.

We all really enjoyed learning about a range of different cultures and traditions during our English lessons that week.



Around The World Week – Romanian culture arts and crafts workshop

Miss Alexa

On Friday 27 September the national anthem of Romania was played; it was a solemn moment that marked not only more than 100 years since the country's reunification, but also reminded fifteen pupils about their origin and heritage. For me it was quite a special moment since members of my family took part in the war that supported the country's unity in 1918.

Pupils marked the day with a lunch time workshop where they made artisanal objects, listened to Romanian folk songs and took part in a quiz.



Staff in front of our new World map mural

Around the World week activities at a glance

Mrs Bonilla



Watching England in the Rugby World Cup



Cleaning classrooms as Japanese do



Lunchtime Zumbathon



Earth quake drill



Staff in their national dress or costumes



Staff dress up day



Relaxation & mindfulness in Maths



African Maths game: Mancala

#TogetherSaracens

#MakingMemories

Rugby - Year 8 Boys

Off the back of last years' success at the BLAST tournament, the Year 8 team went into this year's Challenge Cup with high hopes. Some dominant performances saw the boys with three wins out of four, finishing joint winners of the preliminary rounds. Again, the boys showed how the values are fundamental to success and Saracens Sports Foundation coaches recognised the following players to join their pathway nights; Gerald, Harry, Pema and Genesis. Well done again to everybody involved.

Team: Gerald, Harry, Pema, Genesis, Lee, Owen, Nishant, Milan, Andrei, Joseph, Oluleke



Rugby - Year 7 boys

The boys first experience at competitive rugby was playing at the Challenge Cup at Allianz Park, where they won all nine games. Well done to Latrell, Freddie and Sami for being selected for the pathway nights at Saracens to develop their ability. Displaying a lot of discipline on the pitch and working hard has really paid off and the team has galvanised into a formidable unit. We are looking forward to the New Year when we will be visiting Allianz Park once again for the Champions and Challenge cup final. Good luck to all the boys.

Team – Latrell, Freddie, William, Sami, Mason, Aymen, Leo, Eduard, Mason, Haroon, Yusef, Seyar.

Saracens Sports Foundation - Rugby Coaching

The pupils are really benefitting from the Rugby coaching provided by Saracens Sport Foundation. Several girls and boys in Year 7 and 8 have been fortunate enough to have some of the coaching staff help develop their skills on the pitch and this has definitely paid off in the tournaments. We are hoping to continue this throughout the year to fully realise some of the pupils' potential.

Girls Netball

Both Year 7 and year 8 have had a fantastic start to their netball season. Year 7 have played five and won four, currently leaving them second in the league. Year 8 have won half of their games, with it still all to play for after the Christmas break. Both teams have shown an immense amount of sportsmanship and determination, and the improvement since September is phenomenal. Keep it up girls!

Year 7 : Kleya, Phoebe, Eliza, Dua, Morsal , Lashai, Halima, Mazaya

Year 8: Yusra, Nicole O, Nicole KB, Gemma, Ela, Amy, Emily, Briana, Julia

Dance

Well done to all the girls who are taking part in the Saracens Foundation Dance Academy club. The club takes place on both Tuesday and Thursday evenings with mixtures of contemporary, street and hip hop. The coaches have been highly impressed by the hard work of the dancers.

Watch this space for developments in the Cheerleading troupe!



SEPTEMBER



Haroon

Jack Petchey Achievement Awards Autumn Term 2019 Winners

OCTOBER



Nicole

NOVEMBER



Nishant

Cultural capital events

#Making Memories



Live Christmas concert



Collecting season ticket donation cheque



The Saracens Family - sharing the spotlight with Saracens family members

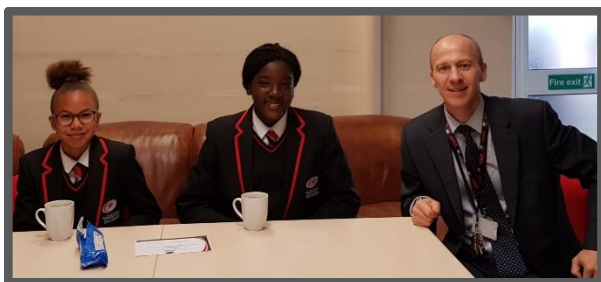
#Together Saracens



Trip to Hindu Temple in Hendon



Holocaust Survivor visit



Hot Chocolate with the Principal -
Teacher nominations for Living our Values

#TogetherSaracens



Planting trees in the local community

#MakingMemories