



## Newsletter

**Autumn Term : September to December 2020**

### A message from the Principal

What a unique term this has been. At the start of the summer holiday we were optimistic about a rapid improvement in the coronavirus situation, but alas, we started the year under a number of conditions that we would rather not have. A Headteacher of another school told me that 'we have the school we have to have, and not the school we want'. We have also had to tolerate a further lockdown, and yet the vast majority of the pupils have been able to come to school every single day.

At the time of writing this, we have had a small number of adults and pupils who have had to self-isolate, and we have taken the precaution of asking two classes in Year 7 to isolate for a few days. This is not normal across the borough or the country and we are very grateful for how lucky we have been. I expect it will not last, but I am grateful for the extended period of uninterrupted education we have delivered and the positive impact that has had on the children.

I am extremely grateful to the staff who have shown great flexibility and resilience. They have worked hard to identify the gaps in learning that were created by the first lockdown, and amended the curriculum accordingly so that we can now focus once again on helping pupils to make outstanding progress. I am also grateful to parents and families for your continued sup-

port through what has been a very challenging time.

We hope that 2021 will bring us more 'normality' and the recent news about the vaccinations is hopeful. We look forward to pupils being able to socialise across year groups, to the return of a full enrichment programme focused on making amazing memories, as well things like instrument lessons, inter-house competitions, and Futures events.

We have other reasons to look forward to 2021, as we will finally be moving into our new building!

For those of you who have been on this journey with us since 2018 the lack of the new building has been a source of frustration, but finally it is taking shape and the constructors have made great progress. At the moment, it is looking like we will move during October which is why we have created a two week half-term. As you can imagine, packing up this school, moving, and unpacking is going to be a big job, but one we are all looking forward to.

I hope you have a peaceful and safe holiday, and a Happy New Year, and look forward to seeing everyone again in 2021.

**Dr Stevens  
Principal**

### Admissions Policy Amendments Consultation

The Local Governing Body of Saracens High School is proposing a new Admissions Policy. It is a requirement that the School consults with the public on the contents of the new policy.

This consultation is open from Monday 9th December 2020 to Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021. For further information please read the proposed policy and visit the school website <http://www.saracenshigh.org/Admissions/Admissions-Policy-Consultation-2022/>

Comments can be sent to [admin@saracenshigh.org](mailto:admin@saracenshigh.org) by Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

*Following the close of the consultation period, the Local Governing Body will consider comments, review the policy and publish the final version in March 2021.*



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## ACADEMIC YEAR 2020 / 2021

### Spring Term 2020 / 2021

Monday 4 January	- INSET day (staff training) No pupils
Tuesday 5 January	- Start of spring term: all pupils return
Monday 15 to Friday 19 October	- Spring half term holiday
Monday 22 February	- Second half of spring term begins
Wednesday 31 March	- Last day of spring term

### Summer Term 2020 / 2021

Monday 19 April	- Start of Summer term
Monday 3 May	- Bank Holiday
Monday 31 May to Friday 4 June	- Summer half term holiday
Monday 7 June	- Second half summer term begins
Friday 25 June	- INSET day (staff training) No pupils
Wednesday 21 July	- Last day of Summer term & school year

## ACADEMIC YEAR 2021 / 2022

### Autumn Term 2021 / 2022

Monday 6 September	- INSET day (staff training) No pupils
Tuesday 7 September	Start of new school year & Autumn term
Friday 22 October to Friday 5 November	Autumn half term holiday (incorporating half term week; school move to new building: packing up, moving, unpacking & orientation training for staff)
Monday 8 November	- Second half Autumn term begins
Wednesday 1 December	- INSET day (staff training) No pupils
Tuesday 21 December	- Last day of Autumn term

### Message from the Governors

We wanted to take some time as the school's Local Governing Body to give you an update on what we've been up to this term. Our purpose as the governors of Saracens High School is to set strategy, support the staff and ultimately ensure that everything is being done to give your children the outstanding educational experience that they deserve. We all volunteer our time as governors towards this purpose, including our two parent governors (Ali Yussuf Abdi and Julian Cater).

You can find more details about the governors on the [school website](#).

One of the other key roles that we have as governors is to ensure the financial stability of the school and we are pleased to report that even in these challenging times, we are still in a very healthy position.

Beyond this, the main message that we want to get across to you is one of thanks. Thanks to all the staff for their ongoing hard work and what they have achieved this term.

Thanks to you, as families, for all the fantastic support that you have given this term to your children, but also to our staff. We really appreciate your continued engagement with the school. We look forward to meeting with you once it is safe to do so.



*Kevin Perry*  
Chair of Governors  
[governors@saracenshigh.org](mailto:governors@saracenshigh.org)

Barnet Council have confirmed that schools will be responsible for sending out lunch vouchers to our Free School Meal eligible children to cover the winter holiday.

We will be sending ASDA vouchers out in the last few days of term. If you have any problems accessing the vouchers please email Mrs Edwards [tbm@saracensmat.org](mailto:tbm@saracensmat.org) by the 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2020 (after this the school will be closed).

Mrs Edwards Trust Business Manager

**Discipline**

**Hard Work**

**Honesty**

**Humility**

## Food Preparation and Nutrition



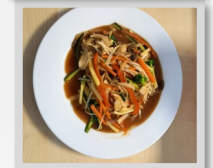
Year 7, 8 & 9 have all made a great start to the year in our brand new food room.

We have gas and electric cookers installed to encourage pupils to be confident in using both types.

Year 7 have learned basic knife skills and cooking skills, making dishes such as Banana flapjacks, Apple crumble, Macaroni cheese, Savoury scones and Decorated biscuits.



Year 8 have learned how to make pastry and bread dishes, such as pasties, apple pies and pizza. They have also made sweet and savoury muffins and pasta bake.



Year 9 have started their GCSE course and are learning about nutrition and food safety as well as improving their practical skills. Dishes they have made so far include chicken stir fry, Vegan Bolognese and Victoria sandwich cake.

*Mrs Cenci  
Subject Lead*

## Author Visits



The author, Stephen Wilson, whose published books include 'It's not fair', 'Abi's world' and 'it's not my fault' visits Saracens High School every year for a day to run reading and writing workshops for the pupils. This is a valuable opportunity for our pupils to both learn from the perspective of an author and to stretch their imaginations. This year, Mr. Wilson, in collaboration with Mrs. Halai, ran a competition within Saracens High School to come up with illustrations for three short stories he was working on. The participation rate amongst our pupils was very high, (receiving nearly 60 entries). Ultimately, five winning entries were selected from the competition; the Prize being having the illustrations published! Mr. Wilson also

donated 530 personally signed copies for each pupil in Saracens High School – an extremely generous donation over and above his commitment to the school. We wish his career much success and hope all pupils and parents enjoy reading the stories and admiring the illustrative contribution from Saracens High School.



*Mrs Haiai  
Teacher of English*

## Art

Pupils in the KS3 art rotation have produced some excellent outcomes this term within both their projects. Here are a few of the final outcomes. They should be very proud of their work. Well done.



Well done to all Year 9 pupils in GCSE art; you have made a fantastic start to your GCSE course and have been exceptional during your skill building lessons! Keep up the great work.



Miss Frankham  
Subject Lead

## History

This half term in History, Year 7 have been learning about the Norman Conquest of England in 1066. Beginning from the death of Edward the Confessor on 5<sup>th</sup> January 1066, pupils learnt about the subsequent succession crisis as Edward had no direct heir, leading to three claimants attempting to take the English throne. Some incredibly enthusiastic year 7 pupils bravely volunteered to read the parts of the three claimants (with obligatory moustache!) so that their classmates could assess who had the strongest claim to the throne. We witnessed some impressive French accents, some fantastic reading and some outstanding learning. Well done Year 7!



Miss Luscombe  
Subject Lead

# GEOGRAPHY

## ANTARTICA FLAGS

Thank you to all the Year 7 pupils who entered the competition. There were lots of wonderful designs and it was very difficult for us to choose the winners. The winners for each house are:



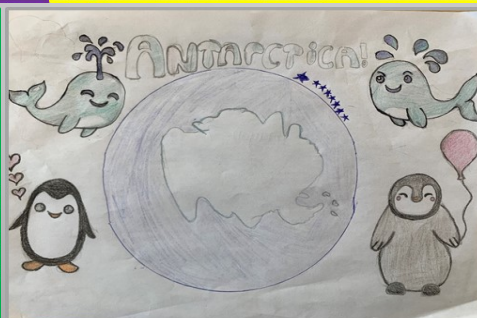
Alphonsi: Vera

Hill : Raella

Johnson : Iklas



Rimla: Isha



Trenchard : Inayah



Wilberforce : Ahmed



The Saracens High School winner is.... **Charlotte : Hill**

Charlotte's flag will now be sent to Antarctica and we will share the photos of it in Antarctica in the future.

Miss Morphitis  
Subject Lead/Assistant Principal

## Social Sciences

We have had an amazing start to our Social Science GCSEs this half term! All students have been working particularly hard and been very keen about their chosen subjects.

**Psychology** we have been learning about Social Influence, specifically about why some people conform more than others.

**Sociology** students have been learning about the different parts of our society, its social norms and values and what happens when people don't follow them.

**Health and Social Care** have been focusing on infant development and students have just begun their exciting assessment where they will be looking after an egg baby for a week and tracking their parenting journey!

Miss Tahsin  
Subject Lead



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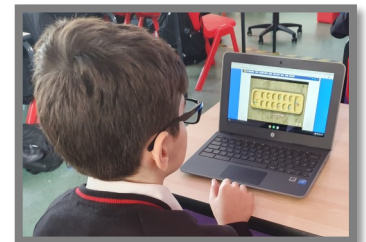


## LANGUAGES

### International Week

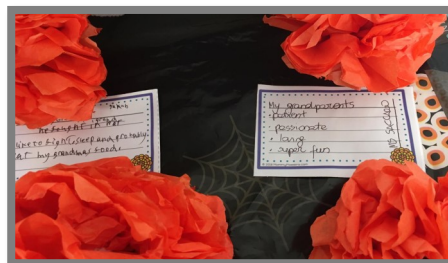
In September we celebrated International week. It was an opportunity to build on our cultural capital and to expand our knowledge of different cultures around the world. It was a chance to explore other people's ideas, customs, and social behaviour which make them similar or different to us. Our pupils 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: UK, Somalia, Afghanistan, Caribbean, Romania.
- \* Learning about education in China, Ghana and Thailand
- \* Attending a Romanian arts and crafts workshop
- \* Decorating canvas with Arabic calligraphy
- \* Learning about the journey to go to school in some parts of Nicaragua
- \* Playing Mancala (African Maths game)
- \* Trying out relaxation and mindfulness techniques
- \* Tasting food from different countries during family lunch
- \* Learning the Haka
- \* Learning Bollywood dance
- \* Playing Futevolei, Ta kurt om el mahag and the Highlands game in PE lessons
- \* Using multiplication techniques from around the world in Maths
- \* Doing a Heritage survey in Geography lessons (Yr 7)
- \* Taking part in an Earthquake drill in Geography lessons (Yr 8)
- \* Acting as student greeters in their own language in English lessons
- \* Presenting information using props in English lessons (Yr 7)
- \* Learning about greetings in different languages in Science lessons
- \* Researching scientists from other countries in Science lessons
- \* Cooking Italian and American recipes in Food technology
- \* Learning about Wai Kru day from Thailand (Teacher appreciation day)
- \* Taking part in a Jamming session (Drama and Music)



### Día de los muertos - Day of the dead

One of the exciting aspects of language learning is that it offers us the opportunity to explore cultures of other people around the world. Identifying what makes us similar and different to them helps us understand their way of life and their behaviour. It also makes us question our own beliefs and encourages us to adopt new ways in which our lives can become more enriching and fulfilling. October is the time for us to study 'Dia de los muertos' - Day of the dead', a Mexican tradition that honors the dead with festivals and lively



celebrations. It recognises death as a natural part of the human experience, a continuum with birth, childhood, and growing up to become a contributing member of the community. On Dia de los Muertos, the dead are also a part of the community, awakened from their eternal sleep to share celebrations with their loved ones. Our Year 7 and Year 8 pupils had the opportunity to create an altar for the members of the family they wanted to remember. Their creations are simply beautiful as these pictures.



### Coco - movie screening

On Wednesday 19th November, our Year 7 pupils enjoyed watching Coco. Traditionally, we would have taken the pupils to the cinema as we have done in the past, but this year due to COVID 19 restrictions we had to stay in school.

Coco is 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 it was great to see the pupils learning a few new Spanish words and enjoying their popcorn.

*Mrs Bonilla  
Subject Lead/Assistant Principal*

## Physical Education

It has been a testing time for all during the pandemic and in PE it has been no different. New routines of seating plans for changing, cleaning equipment, removing some contact sports from the curriculum and having outdoor lessons dominate the curriculum have been challenging particularly as temperatures have dropped. However all students have adapted to these new measures superbly. They have now all completed fitness tests followed by three different sports during the curriculum time in PE continuing to demonstrate hard work, discipline, humility and honesty.

We have also had a challenge in starting extra curricular clubs, unable to work outside of bubbles or compete against other schools. Again the pupils have been exceptional with their values signing up to firstly football then netball and most recently rugby making use of our link with Saracens foundation and Saracens rugby club.

This has seen over 100 students getting involved in extra curricular PE outside of lesson time. Including our first trip to Saracens Stadium with two separate groups of Year 8 and Year 9 pupils and a Year 7 group to follow.

We are already looking forward to next term to see how we can develop further and introduce new sports and activities.

*Mr Giles  
Subject Lead*



### Jack Petchey Achievement Award Winners Autumn term 2020 / 2021

#### September



Ege

#### October



Rasha

#### November



Blessing



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## Our History Month

During September we celebrated Our History Month. This is an opportunity for the members of the Saracens High School family to share their experiences with each other.

Year 7 were tasked to interview a family member or family friend about their personal history and experiences of migration. Pupils were able to find out things that they didn't already know about their heritage and get to know each other. Learning groups listened carefully as each person presented and celebrated their success.

Year 8 researched fairy tales and folk stories linked to their family heritage. We have members of our family who have connections to countries all over the world and the pupils were able to share this knowledge with their peers. It was fascinating to see that stories from a diverse range of countries often shared the same morals and values such as honesty, loyalty and commitment.

Year 9 wrote their own entries that could be included in a History of Saracens High School book. As our first cohort they have had the fullest experience of our school and they really enjoyed reminiscing about their favourite events. As a school we value providing opportunities for our pupils to make memories and take part in new experiences. Our staff are planning how this can be done safely, but we already have booked in speakers to present via video links about their careers and opportunities for pupils to take part in Coral Live 2020 and UK Parliament week.

## Black History Month

During Black History Month in October we had opportunities to celebrate achievements of people from African and Caribbean backgrounds. We believe that celebrating this month is extremely important and reinforces our values and desire to create an inclusive, family environment. Staff and pupils have been working very hard during October to create opportunities for us all to learn and celebrate.

During lessons, subjects planned activities to celebrate Black History, such as the inspirational geographers stories, icons project in art and Black STEM role models.



**Garrett Morgan**

After witnessing an accident between a horse-drawn carriage and an automobile, Morgan had an idea. His three-position traffic signal, patented in 1923, helped save lives at a time when cars, horses, and pedestrians all shared the road. But this wasn't even his most famous invention. Morgan received a patent in 1912 for his safety hood and smoke protector (a precursor to today's gas mask). His forward thinking led to saving the lives of countless people across the globe.

**How would our lives differ without the work of Garrett Morgan?**

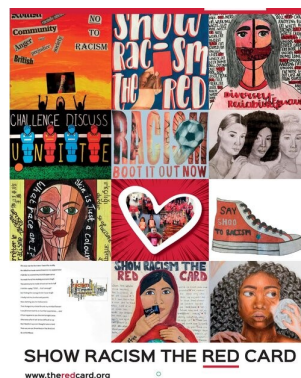


In learning groups the pupils learnt about the achievements of Black people in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math's) through daily slides and were able to take part in a poster competition.



## Show racism the red card day

On Friday 16th October we took part in Show Racism the Red Card. Staff and pupils came to school wearing red socks and masks to show our support for this campaign. This is the 6th annual event to challenge racism across the UK.



Miss Morphitis  
Subject Lead/Assistant Principal



## Disability Month

As part of celebrating Disability month in December, we promoted books in the Library written by and featuring people with disabilities.



One of the books that caught pupils' attention was *A Kind of Spark*, a wonderful new book written by neurodivergent author Elle McNicoll. We had some Year 8 pupils sharing some lovely thoughts about the book. When we shared this on Twitter, we were delighted to receive a response and even a retweet from the author herself!

### **A Kind of Spark by Elle McNicoll**

This month we are celebrating Disability Month in the School Library. Miss Anjali, our School Librarian, has shared with us a video about a book called *A Kind of Spark* written by Elle McNicoll. This is a story of an 11-year-old girl named Addie, who has autism. We think that it is vital to have diverse voices heard even in fictional literature. This gives us the opportunity to be more aware of the other abilities that neurodivergent people in our society are capable of. By Christine and Caitlin (Year 8)

### **Yoga and Meditation Class**

We are really lucky to have a weekly yoga class for Year 8 with Miss Copeland. It is really soothing and helps you have a good afternoon. We believe it is difficult to focus on yourself if you build up a selection of negative emotions during the week. Miss Copeland says "Yoga and meditation hold the key to inner peace, which holds the key to overall success!" Caitlin (8AL).



### **Blindfold football**

For two weeks, at lunchtime, a group of Year 8 pupils played blindfolded football in the hall.

"We played with a ball with a bell inside and it was difficult because we had to use our hearing" said Ilyas.(Year 8) Bradley (Year 8) and Caitlin (Year 8) found the session scary because they did know where to go: "Listening to the bell in the hall was confusing because of the echoes of the room. It was a new experience and it made us think about where the ball is and how to get it to the other side. It was also a good experience to make us understand the challenges that blind people go through". Ilyas (Year 8)



### **Make a gift!**

Year 7 pupils are sharing the spirit of the holidays by making gifts for reception children at Orion Primary School, with Miss Osborne (Learning Mentor) they have made and decorated a set of hand puppets that children will enjoy over the holidays. Using a variety of textures, colours and decorations techniques and created a variety of unique puppets. Making a gift at this time of the year it is an opportunity to share the spirit of the holidays with loved ones.



### **Invisible vs visible disability**

For two weeks pupils took part in a variety of activities' planned by the Grow and Thieve team. Structured in visible and invisible disabilities, the activities took place in learning group, lessons or at lunchtime and allowed pupils to share their views and raise awareness on the needs of people who have other abilities to overcome challenges in their lives. Caitlin and Christine (Year 8) have been ambassadors promoting the events, writing articles and taking actively part in the activities.

Ms Alexa  
SEND Coordinator