



SARACENS
HIGH SCHOOL

Newsletter

SPRING TERM
7th January to 5th April 2019

As a member of PiXL (Partners in Excellence) we have benefitted greatly as a school. We have a network of 1,700 schools, with whom we exchange our best ideas and strategies, our staff attend regular training, and our pupils get accredited qualifications in Character Education.

We also receive a weekly email from the founder of PiXL, Sir John Rowling, giving us the benefit of his wisdom and experience. Recently he wrote about excellence, which I have adapted and shared below.

Professor, K. Srinam has stated that excellence can be obtained if you:

Care more than others think is wise;
Risk more than others think is safe;
Dream more than others think is practical;
Expect more than others think is possible.

Caring is at the heart of what we do as a school. Theodore Roosevelt is credited with saying that 'people don't care how much you know, until they know how much you care.' I am proud of how the Saracens High School staff care about our children and their personal and academic growth. The Them and Us month has shown how much the children care for each other, as well. We are truly a family.

Sometimes the risk of failure prevents young people from committing everything to a task. In their eyes, it is better to have not tried, than to have tried and failed.

Mark Zuckerberg put it this way, 'The biggest risk is not taking any risk... In a world that is changing really quickly, the only strategy test that is guaranteed to fail is not taking risks.' We agree, and promote failing every day as a part of the learning process

As for dreaming, T E Lawrence commented, 'All people dream: but not equally. Those who dream by night in the dusty recesses of their minds wake up in the day to find it was vanity, but the dreamers of the day are dangerous people for they may then enact their dreams with open eyes to make it possible.' Many of the great landmark events of history started life as dreams. Martin Luther King's for one, 'I have a dream...' Let us be bold enough to enact our dreams.

Everything that follows in this newsletter started as a dream as we strive for excellence.

I hope you have a relaxing break.

Dr Stevens
Principal

Upcoming term dates

- Monday 8 April to Tuesday 23 April** - **Easter holiday**
- Tuesday 23 April to Friday 24 May** - **First half summer term**
- Monday 6 May - Bank holiday (school closed)
- Wednesday 15 May - Parent Consultations: School Closes early at 1.30pm
- Monday 27 May to Friday 31 May** - **Summer half-term holiday**
- Monday 3 June – Monday 22nd July** - **Second half summer term**
- Friday 21 June - *Inset day (staff training – no pupils)*
- Thursday 4th July - Year 7 Transition day. (timings to be confirmed)
- Year 6 pupils will attend in the morning, Year 7 pupils will attend in the afternoon and running into the celebration evening at Allianz Park.
- Friday 19 July** - **Pupils finish school for summer holiday**

School Meals

We will be introducing a new menu for the summer term, this will be on our website soon. Many thanks to the majority of parents and carers for continuing to keep up to date with payments for school meals. If your circumstances change, do get in touch and we can help with a free school meal application.

Please could all payments be made online through Arbor, as we are a cashless school. This greatly helps us to have efficient financial processes and enables us to focus our budget on resources for the pupils. If you need any help with using Arbor, please contact us and we will be happy to provide assistance.

Mrs C Edwards

Attendance

We have 31 pupils with 100% attendance, and 91 out of 155 pupils have attendance above 97%.

There is a fundamental link between good attendance at school and high levels of achievement. High attendance leads to good exam grades, entirely separately from any other academic factors.

The pupils that build resilience by coming in to school even if a little under the weather, go on to do better at their exams, and beyond. Perseverance and determination are crucial skills to develop. Please do all that you can to ensure your children are at school every day possible

Mr M Clackett

Pupil Leadership Team

We are happy to announce that after a transparent and smooth democratic process, our Pupil Leadership Team was elected on March the 14th by pupils and staff.

The team is formed by two pupils from each house who will then be assigned to a committee: Teaching and Learning, Character, Culture and Community.

Congratulations to the pupils who were successful: Safiy and Mustafa (Alphonsi), Zulekha and Eddie (Johnson), Amina and Hadi (Hill), Yusra and Khadiga (Rimla), Maya and Tokky (Trenchard) and Farhiya and Imaan (Wilberforce). They will meet twice a half-term to discuss issues and put actions in place in order to contribute to the growth of our school.



Mrs Y Bonilla

Them and Us Month

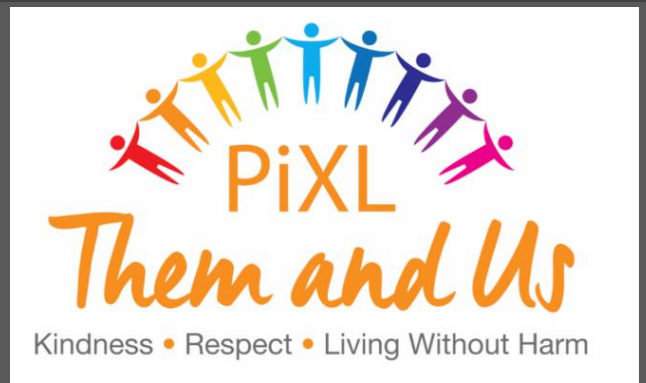
Dr Stevens

As part of our work on developing a positive culture in the school we have been working on a Them and Us project. Pupils have studied elements of this in their PSHE lessons, and March was our Them and Us month.

The project is about helping young people understand the importance of demonstrating kindness, showing respect, and living without harm, not just to those people who are like them but to people who are not like them: How we relate to people who don't think the same way as us, or believe the same things, is a crucial skill that we need to learn.

We have engaged in a number of activities, in and out of lessons, where we have been able to learn more about and actually demonstrate the three areas: living without harm, performing acts of kindness, and being respectful.

Pupils have taken part in the 'send my friend to school' campaign which promotes children around the world being supported into education. They have raised money for Comic Relief, taken part in the Pride in Unity march at the Saracens game at the London Stadium, generated a Kindness Tree in bloom, by adding acts of kindness, and gone out in Learning Groups to pick up litter in our surrounding community. We also had a visit from Gerald Granson, who described his escape from Nazi Germany aboard the ship MS St Louis.



Although we celebrated Them and Us during March, it is a significant contributor to our school culture and so it remains a focus for us.

Litter picking in the local community



Always There

By Aymen (7ROH)

Family is everything
Even though we all struggle, someone is still there for you.
Sad times, happy times, bonding times, as a family, we all go through it.
That's why togetherness should always be our core bit
The love and care we need in life should never be neglected

I have found my path in this complicated world and it will never change
It is to make sure people understand the importance of family
This does not mean that we have to be blood related
Rather ignite the care inside us, this makes us feel integrated

You see, my life by no means is the simplest
Just like everyone here, I have my good days and my bad days
It is with the help of my family, all of you, that have got me always
I have felt that our most powerful tool is to care

A stranger is someone you have never met, can make you feel loved out of nowhere
That is why the word family is so important
Being together is important

I came across a famous Jewish saying. And that a family is like a help of stones.
Remove one, and the whole structure can collapse
Promise me this, when someone needs you, make sure you have their back
Because being trapped in darkness is somewhere you don't want to be alone
Together let's all make the concept of family well known

Humanitarian Aid Challenge Day

Miss Style

We were very lucky to be invited to the Challenge Day hosted by the RAF Museum on Thursday 28th March. Well done to Wilberforce & Rimla for winning this trip opportunity for having the most home-learning handed in this half-term.

We spent the day learning about humanitarian aid and working in teams ('squadrons') to design a rescue mission for imagined casualties caught in a storm in Scotland. Pupils had to complete the 'Drop Zone' task, design their route, and learn to fly drones in order to land them accurately on helipads. We were very proud to be told by the staff at the museum that our pupils demonstrated exemplary behaviour and commitment to the tasks throughout the day



Congratulations to the winning squadron:

Annelee, Radmiras, Nicole, Rezwan, Sadek and Amy!
We're very jealous of your free tickets to the 4D theatre!

By Imaan (7ROH)

It was a really fun experience getting to know how the RAF help people using drones. We had great fun flying drones ourselves and route planning from where and where to go. It was honestly a great opportunity. I was really grateful to go on the trip'.

HISTORY

Miss Morphitis

During this term the pupils have been learning about the Normans and Medieval period. I was hugely impressed with the creativity of the pupils who made some amazing castles for their home learning. You can see some of these below.



Claymation with Community Focus

By Gemma (7HGU)

Over six weeks 12 pupils from Saracens High schools took part in an animation course. We had two teachers (Sophie A&B) from Community Focus organisation. They came in and taught us different techniques to use when creating an animation film.

In session 1 we watched a couple of animations that children from a different school had made and we went through what we wanted our animations to be based on. Their short films were really good and that inspired us to create something amazing.

In our sessions we learned how to put plasticise on wire skeletons so that the characters wouldn't be floppy when we want to make them move. In session 2 we made little paper props that we could use for the animations to help us with the details of our characters. We also learned a bit about Claymation (using clay to make characters that will be later animated). During session 3 we decided the colours of our characters and started to make the heads for them. This was quite difficult because it was really hard to mold the nose, eyes and ears into different shapes and to make the mouth the right size.

In session 4 we started to make the characters and their limbs. We could use any colours we wanted to make the character. It didn't have to be human. It could have been our favourite character from a tv show, a made-up character or it could be based of ourselves. In session 5: we finished the bodies and started to learn how to do animation and lip syncing. Some people found it really easy and started to further develop the script. Session 6 was our last lesson of the animation course and everyone was either halfway through or finishing their animations. At the end of the session we showed off our animations to the rest of class and for a first attempt at animation, I think they were quite good! I would definitely recommend this course to anyone who loves filming / animation or thinks about becoming a director in the film industry.

We were so excited about our experience that we have decided to start a new club after Easter where we can teach a new group of pupils how to make their own Claymation. If you are interested, please contact Miss Alexa. We are looking for pupils who would love to tell a story using clay and animation. I look forward seeing you after Easter.



ART AND DESIGN UPDATE

Miss Frankham

This term in Art pupils have been reflecting on themselves and turning this into a piece of art. Pupils have looked at the artist Paula Scher and used her as inspiration to inform their own outcomes. As you can see the responses have been amazing!



A massive congratulations to Ela and Briana who have won an award for their work entered into the Fourth Plinth Schools Awards.

Although we do not know yet what award they have won, this is never the less a massive achievement to be selected out of such a big field. Ela and Briana will be attending an awards ceremony on the 2nd May at London City Hall to find out what they have won and collect their prize. Well done girls!

A big well done to everyone else who participated into this competition. The outcomes have been outstanding and your hard work and determination has really shown in your final outcomes. You should all be very proud of the work you have produced.



LANGUAGES

Our Celebration of the Spring Festival (Chinese New Year)

Mrs Bonilla

In the pursuit of creating opportunities for developing our understanding and appreciation of diversity, we celebrated the Spring festival for the first two weeks of February.

The Spring Festival is an annual event held in China and in Chinese communities around the world. This is a time of the year that is characterised by happy gatherings and close family interaction and at Saracens we held a number of events which made us experience this culture more closely.

On the first day of the celebration, we had a Chinese themed family lunch which consisted of noodles, sweet and sour chicken, spring rolls and vegetables. For many of our pupils, this was the first time they tasted Chinese food and they certainly enjoyed it. Following the Chinese schools' tradition, we had daily morning exercises at line up, we also practised eye massage during our learning group sessions as a way to relax and regain focus and we learned how a few characters in Chinese are formed and written.



Family Lunch



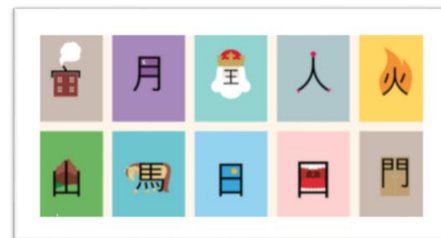
Chinese Morning Exercise and eye massage



According to the lunar calendar, 2019 is the Year of the Pig and as a result, we had an inter-house Pig Hunt competition. Nineteen pictures of pigs were hidden around the school and pupils were asked to write their location. There were 3 groups who spotted 15 correct locations and were entered in a raffle. The winners of our Pig Hunt were Hano and Halima from 7-Johnson.



Pig Hunt



Learning Chinese characters

To end our fortnight of celebrations, we had the opportunity to watch a performance by the artists from the Confucius Institute. They delighted us playing traditional Chinese instruments, performing traditional dances and powerful martial arts as well as kindly teaching us how to perform the Fan Dance.

It was a very enriching experience and we hope to continue celebrating this festival year on year.



Traditional Dance



Chinese Dragon costume



Fan Dance

LANGUAGES

Young Language Leaders

Mrs Bonilla

On Wednesday the 27th of March, our Young Language Leaders, accompanied by Ms Alexa and Ms Hegba, delivered a Spanish lesson for the second time in the year to two groups of Year 4 pupils at Goldbeaters Primary School.

The theme of the lesson was Easter and the pupils successfully planned and delivered interactive activities which thoroughly engaged the Year 4 pupils and hopefully have ignited in them the desire to pursue the study of Spanish at Secondary school

Congratulations to Farhiya, Violet, Imaan and Aran



ENGLISH DEPARTMENT - World Book Week

Miss Chilton

World Book Week started with a visit from the author, Stephen Wilson. Stephen read his book, *Abbey's World* to each class. The book opened our eyes to the world of a girl who has a disability and the challenges she faces on a daily basis. Pupils were inspired to write a character description of someone who has something unique and special about them.

Stephen commented:

"I greatly enjoyed my time with you on Tuesday 5th March. It was good to meet such polite, thoughtful and ambitious pupils."



Stephen Wilson's workshop



On World Book Day pupils took part in a World Book Day book quiz in their Houses. Congratulations to Johnson on winning the quiz

Each pupil received a £1.00 book token voucher which they could exchange for a 2019 World Book Day book.



Pupils listening to a 10 minute reading of their teacher's favourite book after school

Pupils exchanged a £1.00 book token for a World Book Day book



Later in World Book Week pupils enjoyed a visit from the author; Anthony McGowan.

They were inspired as he read from his adventurous and humorous writings from his many published books.

Anthony McGowan talking about his writing

To finish our World Book Week activities we were privileged to host five teachers from Belmont Preparatory School, including the Performance Poet, Chris Unwin.



Chris performing a poem

The Belmont teachers led an extremely motivating workshops for each class and Chris performed a few of his poems. And the Belmont teachers then guided our pupils to write their own performance poetry verses.



Belmont teachers workshop

Our pupils had a wonderful week of literacy experiences and really exemplified our values of hard work, discipline as well as humility when taking part in the activities and were able to write highly thought-out and imaginative prose and poetry in the workshops.

It's been a fantastic term in Math's. We've studied shapes, angles, fractions, extended fact families and are now closer than ever to our target of **every pupil** achieving Rock Star status by the end of the academic year! Well done to those of you who've increased your status this term, and a particular well done to Rezwan for becoming our fastest Rock Hero! Well done too to our new Rock Heroes; Lilly & Amina H.

House Celebrations:		
Speed	Accuracy	Most coins
Wilberforce	Rimla	Rimla

Individual Celebrations			
	Fastest Speed	Most Improved	Most Games
1 st	Rezwan	Plamedi	Lewis
2 nd	Haris	Blaise	Rosie
3 rd	Yusra	Mya G	Atta

In celebration of World Maths Day on the 14th March, all Year 7s took part in the Pangea Maths National Competition. The questions were incredibly challenging and I was impressed by our pupils' resilience and hard work in tackling them.

We are waiting to hear whether we've got through to the second round of the competition, but it gives me great pleasure to congratulate these 5 pupils who achieved the highest score!

1 st	Mary & Eddie
2 nd	Gjergj
3 rd	Safiy
4 th	Mahdi
5 th	Pema

GEOGRAPHY trip to the London Aquarium

During the spring term in geography we have been studying our Blue Planet and Tourism. As part of the Blue Planet topic we learnt about our oceans, currents, ecosystems and human impacts, in particular the impact plastic pollution is having on our oceans.

This topic culminated in our trip to the London Aquarium on Wednesday 27th February.

During the trip each learning group had to complete a series of challenges as they explored a different area of London, before meeting at the aquarium. Here are some photos from the trip and the winning learning groups.



GEOGRAPHY

Antarctica Flag Competition with the British Antarctic Survey Scientists

Miss Morphitis

This term, we also got an update from the Antarctica flag competition. Out five winning flags made it to Antarctica and we were sent photos of them being held by scientist from the British Antarctic Survey.



Mairi the meteorologist with Ela's flag



Hannah the engineer with Jasmine's flag



John, Xavier, Mairi and Rebekah with Meryem's flag



Jules the scientist with Saskia's flag



Jules and Mairi with Saskia's flag



Rich, tower communications lead with Rasha's flag



ANTARCTICA DAY 2018

This certificate is awarded to Saracens High School
for designing inspirational flags "in the interests of all mankind."

YOUR FLAG WAS CELEBRATED IN ANTARCTICA!

Location Name: Rothera Research Station
Latitude: -67° 33' 59.99"S
Longitude: -68° 07' 60.00"W
Date: February 2019
Researcher: Matthew (winter station leader) & team
Signed: UKPN Antarctic Flags Team





Jack Petchey Achievement Award Winners 2019

January



Amy

February



Halima

Saracens Sports Foundation and Saracens Rugby

We have enjoyed one of the Saracens Sports Foundation coaches taking some of our PE lessons this term, helping the pupils develop their rugby skills. This culminated in the boys' team finishing as runners-up in their first tournament, and we look forward to seeing the girls' team in action early in the new term.

On Saturday March 23rd pupils took part in the Pride in Unity March before the Saracens Men's game at the London Stadium. It was a fantastic experience, which was followed by a great game.



The following week pupils from Year 7 were joined by some of our new intake to be the guard of honour for the Saracens Women's team, before watching them win 64-0!

Earlier this term we were very pleased to announce the appointment of our new Vice Principal, who will be joining the school in September. Not only is Sonia Green an exceptional teacher and school leader, but she has also spent the last 17 years playing for Saracens Women's rugby team.

You can read the Saracens press release here:

<https://www.saracens.com/news-article/saracens-legend-green-appointed-saracens-high-school-vice-principal>



Kevin, Ra'Shaun, Pema, Alex, Zak, Rezwan, Mohammed. D, Andrei, Harry, Gerald, Riaz, Fernando

It was a cold, wet and windy Wednesday March afternoon and the Saracens High School boys are ready for the first ever Sports fixture. After weeks of hard work during lessons and extra-curricular clubs the boys were feeling nervous but ready in their brand new Rugby strip. The tension was palpable. To put us slightly at ease, the tournament is organised at Allianz Park – home of Saracens RFC (where luckily enough due to our school club link we are able to train). So there was some sense of familiarity when we walked out onto the pitch for the start of the tournament.

The tournament organisers explain the format and order of play and we are ready to get going. We began the first game well, showing good ball retention and handling ability in the wet. Credit to London Academy who had several strong tacklers in their team and held us out in the opening passages of the match. The opening score went the way of the opposition after a missed tackle deep in the opposition half which allowed one of their players to gallop up the pitch to score.

The Saracens boys, showing brilliant team work - stuck together and were determined not to let their heads go down - knowing that with a bit of discipline and hard work we are right back in the game. A good period of possession followed with strong running from Gerald and Harry and we score our first ever try! Throughout the remainder of the game we worked hard, handled the ball extremely well and this allowed us to attack the areas we wanted to, scoring a further two tries – resulting in a win for Saracens! Unfortunately, we lost the second game, but we manage to regain our composure to win the next game by 5 tries followed by a 6 try win in game four. Three wins out of four means we are in the final and we have to play Finchley Catholic for the Year 7 BLAST Rugby Cup!

The final game starts and the weather is definitely against us now, the rain is falling heavily and the wind is making it fall near horizontally. The rain is stinging their faces, but the boys do not let this phase them, unluckily, a slipped pass and Finchley capitalise scoring the opening try.



Mr Mitman is shouting "Work hard, work hard and we are back in this" from the touchline, but Finchley are organised and they are strong – they score a second. The game restarts and both teams are showing great discipline on the pitch, but with Finchley having the lion's share of the ball, a huge, brave tackle by Pema means the ball falls to Ra'Shaun, who combines with Mohammed in a fantastic piece of play which allows Riaz to offload to Gerald - who is now literally flying down the wing - he is uncatchable and unstoppable, storming past at least 5 opposition players and puts the ball down to make it 2-1. Harry shows great sportsmanship and humility – he checks on one of his opponents who is still down after Pema's solid challenge on him, making sure he is ok. The rest of the final is tightly contested, but the Finchley boys are drilled and too organised for us to break them down again, they just manage to hold on to their one try lead until the final whistle.

We end up coming second out of 10 schools – narrowly missing out on lifting silverware on our first ever outing – which in itself is a fantastic achievement. The boys should be immensely proud of their efforts on the pitch and the way in which they display the Saracens values and ethos so well.

Mr Mitman and Ms O'Hanlon are hugely proud of the boys – a massive well done to everyone who took part, and we look forward to our next fixtures.

Football

Mr Mitman

After school games against Belmont School

Team a - Won 8-1

Team b - Lost 5-1



Netball

Miss O'Hanlon

After school games against Belmont School

A massive congratulations to our netball A and B teams who played fantastically for our first netball fixture against Belmont. There was a outstanding win from the A team winning 9 goals to 5 and a very close 7-9 loss from the B team. It was a great afternoon with all girls showing great sportsmanship and work ethic. Keep it up girls and I look forward to our future fixtures!

Yusra, Emily, Olivia, Amy, Nicole KB, Gemma, Farhiya, Jahynne, Briana, Violet, Aisha, Laila M, Summer R, Sarah



Enrichment Programme

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Before School 7.45 to 8.15am			Science Practical Skills Mr Islam/Mrs Latif		
Lunchtime		Film Club Miss Chilton	Podcast Club Mr Gibbons		
After School 3.30 to 4.30pm	Global Club Miss Morphitis	Staff Meetings	Young Language Leaders Mrs Bonilla	Guitar Club Mr Guez	Orchestra Mr Guez (3.10 to 4.10pm)
	Creative Club Miss Frankham	Dance Saracens Sports Foundation		Rugby Mr Mitman	Mathletes Miss Style (3.10 to 4.10pm)