



SARACENS
HIGH SCHOOL

Newsletter

Spring Term: January to April 2020

These are unique circumstances for sharing a newsletter, and I hope that you are all well and staying safely inside. I am immensely proud of how the pupils and staff have responded to the current situation and have embraced the challenges of continuing their education from home – I hope the pupils are also using the time to log a lot of things they are doing as activities towards their Edge Apprentice award. I am also very grateful for the support that parents and family members are giving to the children and staff. I know how difficult it is to work from home, while also trying to support your children's learning.

Prior to the closure and lock down, it had been a fantastic start to 2020 at Saracens, with many of the events and activities highlighted in this newsletter.

We had good news for the current building, hearing that the Department for Education will be providing two new science labs, a DT workshop, a Food Prep teaching kitchen, and a graphics room, all in temporary buildings that will be put on site over the summer. We had enough space available to run the curriculum for next year, but these will provide additional rooms and top of the range equipment to the

same level as we will have in the new building the following year.

In December we started our recruitment of new teachers for next year, and that continued at a pace in January and February. By advertising early, we managed to appoint some fantastic teachers, and fortunately, we completed our recruitment just after half-term.

We had more good news, having received 450 applications for the 168 Year 7 places for September. Those places are now secured and accepted, and after Easter we will start to contact the primary schools and those pupils to start the transition. Although we don't know when schools will re-open we are planning for all eventualities, particularly for the transition from Year 6 to Year 7, and for the Year 8 pupils moving into Year 9 and starting their Key Stage 4 studies.

Please continue to take care, look after each other, and remember that we are here to support you.

Dr Stevens
Principal

Term dates: Summer term 2019 / 2020

<i>Monday 6 to Friday 17 April</i>	- <i>Easter holiday</i>
<i>Monday 20 April</i>	- <i>First day of first half summer term</i>
<i>Friday 8 May</i>	- <i>Bank Holiday</i>
<i>Monday 25 to Friday 29 May</i>	- <i>Summer half term holiday</i>
<i>Monday 1 June</i>	- <i>First day of second half summer term</i>
<i>Friday 26 June</i>	- <i>Inset day (staff training: no pupils)</i>
<i>Tuesday 21 July</i>	- <i>Last day of summer term / academic year</i>
<i>Weds 22 July to Monday 7 September</i>	- <i>Summer holidays (return dates on website)</i>



Follow us on Twitter [@SaracensHighSch](https://twitter.com/SaracensHighSch)

website: www.saracenshigh.org



Discipline

Hard Work

Honesty

Humility

English and Literacy — World Book Day

V&A Museum, Wellcome Collection & bookshops

On Tuesday 10 March, all pupils in Years 7 and 8 took part in a World Book day trip to London.

Pupils travelled with their Learning Groups and Coaches. As well as a museum: either Victoria and Albert or Wellcome Collection, each group visited a bookshop to spend their £1 World book day token.



Some groups even had the opportunity to listen to professional readers deliver a reading session at the bookstores they visited.

Miss Chilton
Subject Lead - English

Author visits: Muhammad Khan

Mr Khan gave insightful talks for Year 7 and 8 about his inspiring journey to becoming an award-winning author.

He also addressed relevant issues like representation, identity, radicalisation, toxic masculinity, and feminism - themes that often recur in his books. He then brought his characters to life by reading out a hilarious extract from his new book '*Kick the Moon*'.

At lunchtime he signed his new book and in the afternoon ran workshops for pupils to put on their creative caps on and build their own characters and discuss their story ideas with him.



Miss Pathiyath - Librarian

Poetry by Heart competition

Poetry By Heart is a national competition where students must recite two poems by heart: one pre-1914 and one post-1914, aimed at inspiring them to develop a love for literature and performance poetry!

Students used their recital to demonstrate an understanding of the meaning of the poem and to try and capture the audience's imagination. Five keen performers competed for the chance to go through to the Barnet final. There was tough competition, but Caris (7 Trenchard) excelled in her presentation and accuracy, putting her on top! Her poems: December by Carol Ann Duffy and The Arrow and the Song by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, were thoughtfully chosen and well rehearsed. We are looking forward to running the competition again next year, when we hope to see many more students sign up to perform!



Miss Rowland-Simms
Teacher of English

Author Visit: Steven Wilson

On Monday 2 and Tuesday 3 March, the acclaimed author, Steven Wilson, came into school to read a story from his new collection '*No Harm Done*' to pupils in Years 7 & 8.

The story is about a boy who enjoys practical jokes and has to learn lessons from them when he goes too far.

The pupils were mesmerised and inspired both by the story as well as the story teller. We encourage all parents to discuss Mr Wilson's story with their children to ensure the message continues to be absorbed and learnt.

Mrs Halai
English Teacher

School Production

This year we will be putting on our first school play. The play will be 'Alice In Wonderland'. The auditions were incredible and the standard of acting very high. Out of the 60+ pupils that auditioned for a part 24 earned a role. The lead role of Alice will be played by both Yusra and Dhasel.

Despite not being in school our amazing staff are busy making costumes, props and the set, whilst the students are busy learning their lines. We look forward to inviting you to our first school production!

Miss Hirst
Teacher of English

Millionaires Tea Party

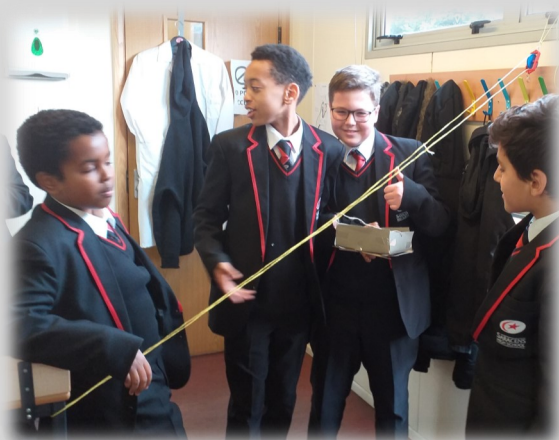
All students have been busily reading; some have read as many as forty books! We invited all those who have read one million words to a celebration tea party. With gold balloons, gold chocolate and gold drinks to celebrated their fantastic achievement. We look forward to seeing even more students read a million words by the end of the year!

Miss Hirst
Teacher of English



Science — Cross-curricular project

Dr Evans has been running a cross-curricular project where the children are working for a community living in Nepal and have had to use their physics skills to design a pulley to help transport tomatoes from the village without becoming damaged. Part of the cross curricular project is to research what it would be like to live in the community in Nepal.



Ms Green
Vice Principal



Follow us on Twitter [@SaracensHighSch](https://twitter.com/SaracensHighSch)

Website: www.saracenshigh.org



Geography

Trip to London: London Eye and London Aquarium

This has been a busy term in the geography department. Back in January all the Year 7s went on our trip into London. This combined time in the London Aquarium to enhance their learning about the oceans, and time exploring London and experiencing a trip on the London Eye. It was an excellent day thanks to the superb behaviour of our pupils and the support of our outstanding staff.



Making Memories

Miss Morphetis
Curriculum Lead Humanities

Eco Club (Enrichment)

This term the members of Eco Club have been working hard to improve the environment at Saracens High School. It started with us building a Bug Hotel, with the help of local construction company: Focus Logistics. Since this was finished, the team members have spent time after school planting the roof with wildflowers, decorating the outside and planting trees around it, which were generously donated by the Woodland Trust.



Eco Club working on the Bug Hotel



Miss Morphetis
Curriculum Lead - Humanities

National Safer Internet Day

Tuesday 11 February 2020 was National "Safer Internet Day". Ms Anwar organised a day where students set the timetable aside for the day and had a new timetable with a variety of activities.

The activities heavily relied on teamwork and ranged from role-play in groups, where students acted out the dangers of scenarios that could occur from the internet and discussed how to implement safer strategies, to developing news articles about staying safe online using Publisher, and learning about the dangers of Sexting the legal consequences for cyberbullies.

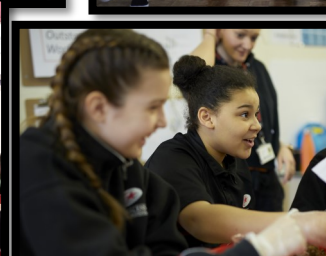
Pupils seemed to thoroughly enjoy the day; one pupil said "I wish we could do this every year".

Miss Anwar
Subject Lead - Computer Science

Sport Relief Day: Friday 13th March

Miss Frankham & Miss O'Hanlon
Teacher of Art DT & Teacher of PE

On the Friday 13 March we held a Sport Relief Day and what a day that was! Pupils were involved in lots of activities and their teamwork throughout the day was incredible. Many visitors came to the school and they were so impressed and proud of the children. We even had the official Red Nose Day charity, who run Sport Relief, come and take photos! Saracens High School have raised over £1,700 through online sponsorship, the bake sale, and donations on the day. A massive thank you for your continued support and a BIG well done to all the pupils and families of Saracens High School.

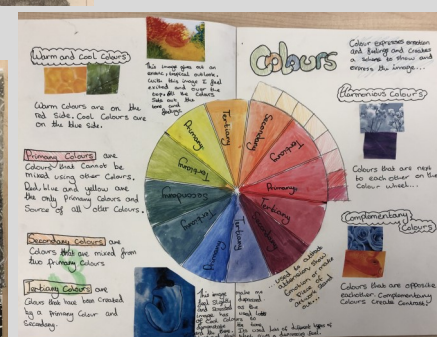
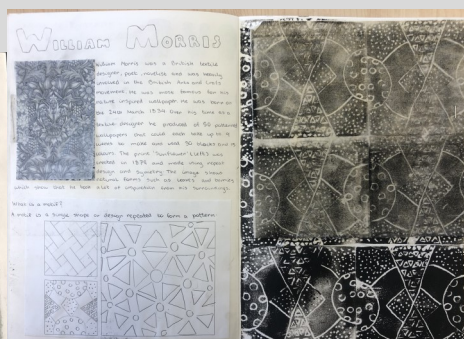
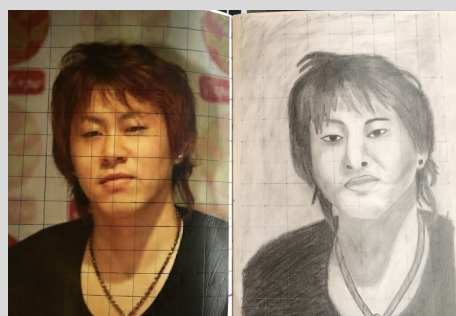
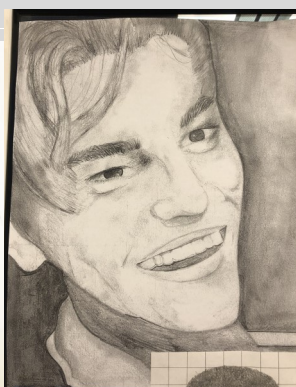
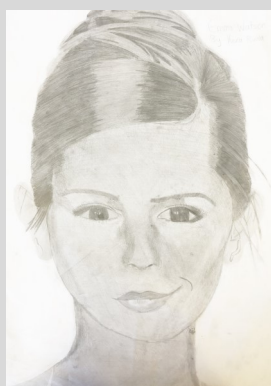


Making Memories

#TOGETHERSARACENS

Art and Design

This term in Art and Design Year 7 have been looking at the visual elements of art and how these help create a piece of artwork. The Year 8 have been undertaking a project on Icons where they pick their own icon and create a piece of artwork that plays tribute to this icon. Pupils have learnt how to draw a portrait, use Photoshop and now starting to create their own final piece.



Miss Frankham
Subject Lead - Art

It's been a fantastic Spring term in Maths. Year 7 have been exploring angles, shape, symmetry and fractions, and it was wonderful to see some of the artistic tessellations created for their home learning. Year 8 began the term developing their understanding of angles and shape, before exploring increasingly difficult percentage and ratio problems.

7 Wilberforce and 7 Rimla smashed our second **Battle of the Bands** competition, winning a place on the trip to the new Maths Alive Exhibition at the Royal Air Force museum. Pupils enjoyed putting the maths they had learnt into practice in real life situations. Some of the pupils applied their knowledge of angles and dimensions to design an effective skateboard, other pupils programed a robot's movements, while another group snowboarded down a mountain, using angles for the most effective turns! Another group enjoyed creating 3D photos and seeing how this imaging works, and all had a great day!



For our Sports Relief Day, pupils learnt about how the to support those living in unsafe conditions. We explored how finances can be linked to mental health and looked at how to budget, balancing income and expenditure.

charity raises money

We would like to congratulate both Year 7 and Year 8 pupils for making an excellent start to using Google classroom. We have been blown away by some of the work we have received. Mrs Ureche, Mr Buckley and Mrs Smith are so impressed by pupils' independence, resilience and commitment to living our values, whether at home or at school. Keep up the great work!

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:

7Alphonsi	7Hill	7Johnson	7Rimla	7Trenchard	7Wilberforce
Ana-Maria & Sami	Ehssanullah	Jairo & Leo	Melissa	Christopher	Sofia & Karima
8Alphonsi	8Hill	8Johnson	8Rimla	8Trenchard	8Wilberforce
Gemma & Barbod	Nabil & Shahriar	Hano & Lewis	Yusra & Riaz	Jaykwan & Ibrahim	Violet & Kazi

Mrs Smith, Assistant Principal and Subject Leader - Maths



Follow us on Twitter [@SaracensHighSch](https://twitter.com/SaracensHighSch)

Website: www.saracenshigh.org



Battlefields trip

In November 2019 four Year 8 pupils won a place on the First World War Centenary Battlefields Tours Programme; operated by UCL Institute of Education, on behalf of the UK Government.

The competition asked the pupils to write an essay on 'why is it important to remember the First World War?' On Friday 6 March, the winners of the competition; Saskia, Rayan, Idman, Tokky and I started the long journey by coach and ferry to the battlefields of World War One in Ypres and Somme.

We have studied the First World War in history lessons but nothing prepared us for what we saw. Over the four days we experienced lots of different points of the First World War. We focused our time on trying to find the memorial of two Barnet men; Eric Parish from Hendon and Albert Tanner from Colindale. We were immediately shocked that there were two men who lived so close to our school. They are remembered at Tyne Cot memorial and Thiepval Memorial as, like so many men, there is no grave for them. We knew this from lessons, but when you see the lists of men without a grave it is much more striking. Out of all the pupils from six other schools on the tour, Idman was nominated to lay a wreath on the Menin Gate on our second night. She did so with such respect, it was a very moving ceremony.



We were privileged to go to the battlefields of World War One along with the cemeteries and this gave us more understanding of the conditions people were living in over a hundred years ago.

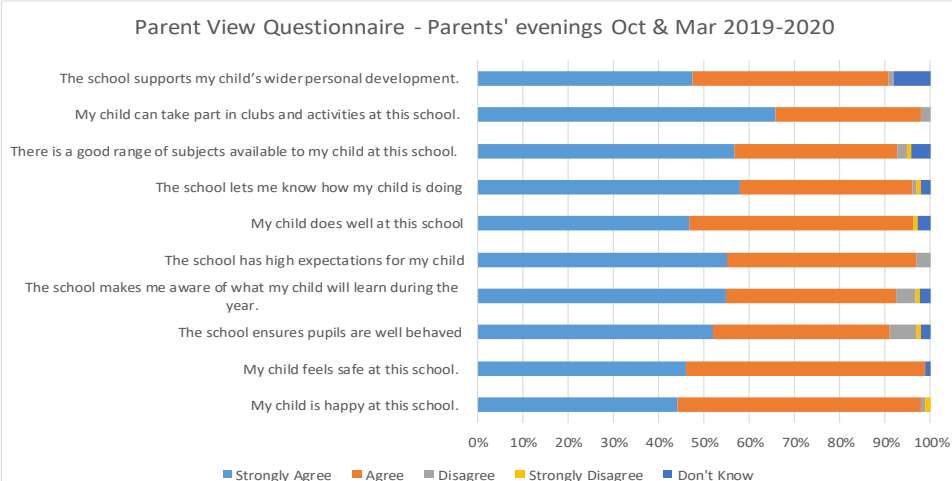
My stand out moment was going to Tyne Cot cemetery and memorial and finding the name of Eric Parish, it hit home for all of us, and for the first time on the trip we were lost for words. Thank you Saskia, Rayan, Idman and Tokky for your humility, hard work and self-discipline throughout the trip. They have promised to share all they have learned soon.



Miss Freeman
Teacher of History
and Year 7 Lead

Parent View survey results

Thank you to all parents for their positive and constructive feedback over the course of the year, whether that is through the ParentView questionnaires, emails, or conversations. Your insight and suggestions are always welcome.



Rugby tournaments at Allianz Park

This term both the Year 7 and Year 8 girls and boys rugby teams have played in tournaments at Allianz Park against local schools. All teams have been successful and their PE lessons and coaching with Mr Rudd and the Saracens Sports Foundation is paying off.

The coaches at Saracens rugby club have been so impressed that 10 boys have been selected by the coaches to progress to the next stage of rugby in Barnet and have had regular evening training sessions. A number of boys and girls have been highlighted for their excellent skills and have been invited to attend training at local clubs. We hope once the rugby season is back up and running, to see the students continuing to progress and play for both our school and local clubs. We also hope to see all students and families back at Allianz Park supporting the men and women team's shortly.



Ms Green
Vice Principal

Year 7 Boys Football

SHS v London Academy (Barnet Cup)

Year 7 boys football team recently played a quarter final cup match against local rivals London Academy. In our first game against them this season after a good performance we lost 5-1, so the boys knew they had tough opposition.

The start was tightly contested and against the run of play we went 1 - 0 down to end the first half. The second half the boys come out with vigour after a team talk, starting brightly and equalising early on, putting the pressure on our rivals. Against the run of play London Academy scored to put us 2-1 down, but the Saracens boys dug their heels in and again equalized through a fantastic piece of link up play; 2-2 and it was back on. Hard work and discipline were at the forefront of the boys minds as they managed to create space in front of the opposition goalkeeper, scoring calmly under pressure in the last minute of the game. They boys take their win; the first of the season, with great humility and will play Bishop Douglas in the semi-final.

The team was: Mahdi (GK), Daniel, AlaaEddine, Latrell, Jason, Tyler-Nico, Sami, Joe, Billal, Asrar, Sohail, Steph, Leon.

Mr Mitman
Subject Lead - PE

Spring Festival

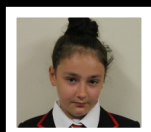
During the last two weeks of January we had the opportunity to celebrate the Spring Festival, most commonly known as the Chinese New Year. We started every day doing our morning line-up 'Chinese' style with physical exercises. We learnt about the traditional eye massage and attempted to understand how to read Chinese by learning about the 'radicals' that rule the language. Our family lunch on the Wednesday 29th January was Chinese-themed with sweet and sour noodles and every learning group had the opportunity to go on a rat hunt (it was Chinese year of the rat) to find the 20 'Mickey Mouse' pictures hidden around the school. To close our celebrations, a group of performers from the Confucius Institute visited us and sang, danced and showed us how to play their traditional instruments. The most popular performance of the event was the presentation of Martial Arts.

We thoroughly enjoyed it!



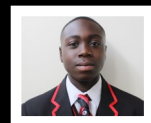
Mrs Bonilla
Curriculum Lead - Languages

Jack Petchey Achievement Awards Spring Term 2020 Winners



January 2020

Leyla
7BHA Hill



February 2020

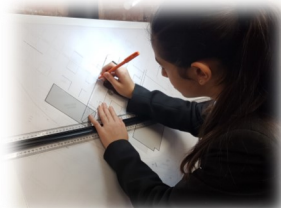
Tokky
8MSA Trenchard

Futures Programme

From the beginning of January we have been busy exposing pupils to careers which they could be interested in choosing in the future. We have taken pupils on educational visits and had speakers at school to tell them about their careers.

We are very grateful to the IBI Group, an architecture firm in Central London, for welcoming 30 of our pupils and designing an unforgettable experience for them about being an architect and teaching them how to draw with, and understand, the technology they use.

Year 8 pupils also joined the Barnet Council offices 'Take Over Day' where they spent the day at council headquarters in Colindale.



Visiting Speakers at school

Mrs Trofaier, a retired city lawyer who currently lives in Vienna, continues to offer her knowledge and expertise to us in order to raise aspirations in our young children. This time her visit was focused on 'empowering girls'. She had one to one sessions with a group of sixteen girls to enthuse them to speak up, to demand (with humility) what they deserve and to believe that they can be successful professionals despite cultural preconceptions about their role in society. The girls' and staff feedback from the sessions were very positive and we hope we can continue to benefit from working with Mrs Trofaier and the Worshipful Company of Arbitrators.

Rachel Jones is a Marine Conservationist who came to speak to our pupils about her four year collaboration programme drawing together some of the best marine scientists from around the world in an effort to better understand one of the world's largest marine reserves; the British Indian ocean. Her talk was inspirational and provided an opportunity for our future scientists to consider marine biology as their potential career field.

Bringing our community together is one of our aims and we were very fortunate to have one of our parents lead a workshop for a group of Year 8 pupils on her career as an Interior Designer. Mrs Oliver, was very generous with her time and volunteered to give pupils an insight into interior design. She told them about her journey, her experience, the challenges she has faced and offered the pupils the opportunity to explore materials, textures and come up with innovative ideas to make a space work. The pupils and staff thoroughly enjoyed the workshops and we hope more parents or members of our community can offer the same experience in the near future.



Mrs Bonilla - Futures Programme Lead

Futures Programme trip

BBC Centre

On Friday 28 February the Saracens Radio team; Scarlett, Adam, Adam, Lawrence, Christopher and Jairo accompanied by Mr Gibbons and Miss Osbourne, visited the BBC studios to understand how a radio station works. We were given a tour of the studios and where we were able to see presenters broadcasting live and pre-recorded radio shows including Radio 1 and 1xtra presenters: Maya Jama and Dev.



**Mr Gibbons
Learning Mentor**

Tapas trip

One of the units of study in Year 8 Spanish is 'food'. In order to make it relevant to pupils' daily life, Ms Saccaro organised a Tapas restaurant visit to Barcelona Tapas restaurant in Lime Street. The two houses that had the opportunity to go were Hill and Alphonsi. Both groups practised some Spanish with the waiters, learnt about typical Spanish tapas and tasted dishes such as Chipirones, Samfaina and Patatas Bravas. Hopefully the remaining houses will have the opportunity soon.



**Mrs Bonilla
Curriculum Lead — Languages**



We are extremely proud of our Pupil Leadership Team who led assemblies in the last week of school. They presented their ideas very clearly and passionately, they explained the projects they have embarked on to contribute to the growth of the school and they welcomed their peers' feedback through the use of the suggestion boxes, emails and informal chats. Thank you to the four teachers who continue to support them in shaping their ideas and reaching their goals.

Teaching & Learning Committee

Hanif



Julia



Caris



Mrs Smith



Objectives

1. Implementation of three strategies in every classroom: use of pupil experts, group work and extension activities
2. Discussing class home learning planners and the effective use of the student planner

Culture Committee

Amina



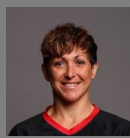
Phoebe



Azadullah



Ms Green



Objectives

1. Encouraging positivity and consistency around the school
2. Proposing a whole school plan for Learning Group sessions by end of Spring term.
3. Working closely with Year Leads: Mr Mitman and Miss Freeman to create Year group notice boards to celebrate successes & improve communication

Community Committee

Rezwan



Salma



Muaaz



Ms Frankham



Objectives

1. Fundraising for Matt Hamptons' Foundation
2. Selling mugs for 'Mother's Day'
3. Listening to pupils' ideas about events that we can organize to bring the whole school community together

Character Committee

Zaheer



Kevin



Haroon



Ms Rowland Simms



Objectives

1. Encouraging the completion of the PiXL Edge Award (with Year 8 volunteers)
2. Preparing for the launch of Friendship Benches after Easter
3. Setting up for the Duke of Edinburgh Award ready for our first Year 9 cohort

Mrs Bonilla - Futures Programme Lead



Follow us on Twitter [@SaracensHighSch](https://twitter.com/SaracensHighSch)

Website: www.saracenshigh.org

