



SARACENS
HIGH SCHOOL

Newsletter

SUMMER TERM 23rd April to 19th July 2019

As the saying goes 'time flies when you're having fun'. The first year at Saracens High School has flown by, so by definition, we must have had a lot of fun.

Our priority has been pupils making academic progress – which they have; on average, twice as much progress as would be expected in many secondary schools. We also recognise that school is about so much more than making academic progress. Most of us remember the trips and experiences from our school days more than the maths lesson where we learnt quadratic equations, for example. Saracens organisations talk about 'making memories' rather than winning, and we have enjoyed many opportunities this year for children and staff to create fantastic memories. Lots are evident in this newsletter.

At the end of the year, schools always have to say goodbye to some colleagues. Last year we appointed our Learning Support Assistants to the

role with the intention of them staying just one or two years before training to become teachers themselves. Mr Khan, Miss Copeland, Mrs Hegba, and Mr Hoffman have been wonderful colleagues this year, and it is bittersweet that they are all leaving this summer to start their teacher training. We are proud of them for getting on to their courses, but we are sad to be losing them. We wish them well, and hope they will keep an eye on the Saracens High School vacancies webpage for when teaching jobs open up in the coming years.

In September our 'family' doubles in size. Not just with the 156 children we welcome into Year 7, but we also Ms Green, our new Vice Principal, twelve new members of teaching staff, as well as new colleagues in our Grow and Thrive team, who will work closely with Miss Alexa.

Dr Stevens Principal

Member of staff	Role
Miss Anwar	Teacher of Computer Science and PSHE
Mr Buckley	Teacher of Maths
Dr Evans	Teacher of Science
Miss Freeman	Year 7 lead / Teacher of History
Ms Green	Vice Principal / Teacher of Science
Miss Hajdu	Teacher of Maths
Miss Hirst	Teacher of English
Miss Rowland-Simms	Teacher of English
Miss Saccaro	Teacher of Spanish
Miss Wilson	Teacher of PRE & PSHE

Member of staff	Role
Mr Brabant-Rudd	SEND teacher
Mrs Brandon	SEND teacher
Miss Bokhari	LSA
Miss Boxall	LSA
Mrs Fernandez	LSA
Mr Murray-Bruce	LSA
Miss Martin	LSA
Miss Osborne	LSA
Mr Sudell	Counsellor

I hope you all have a safe and enjoyable summer break, and we look forward to welcoming our new, enlarged family back in September. Please remember the first day for the new Year 7 pupils is Friday September 6, from 8:20-12:30, and Monday 9 September is the first full day for all pupils

Update on the new school building

We are excited to be expanding into the Blessed Dominic building from September. As well as numerous classrooms, we will have a dedicated computer suite, two more hall spaces, a kitchen, and much more playground space. We are also very pleased that the site for the new building is ready to progress. Planning permission was granted a few months ago and the final legal complications have now been resolved and the contract is to be signed imminently.

Unfortunately, there is a slight hitch, in that a previously undiscovered very large electrical cable runs through the area of our new sports hall, and this needs to be moved before building can begin. It seems certain now that we will starting the third year in the temporary accommodation, but we have plenty of room with the Blessed Dominic additions, and the DfE are working with us to give us specialist workshops and rooms to enable GCSE teaching from September 2020. I will update you as and when things develop.



Term and holiday dates 2019 /2020

Monday 21 July to Thursday 5 September - Summer holiday

Monday 2 to Thursday 5 September - Inset days (staff training – no pupils)

Friday 6 September to Friday 18 October - First half autumn term

Friday 6 September - Year 7 pupils ONLY begin Autumn Term

Monday 9 September - ALL pupils begin Autumn Term 2019/20

Monday 21 October to Friday 25 October - Autumn half term holiday

Wednesday 27 November - Inset day (staff training – no pupils)

Monday 28 October - Thursday 19 December - Second half autumn term

Friday 20 December to Friday 3 January - Christmas holiday

Monday 6 January - Inset day (staff training – no pupils)

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

Friday 10 and Monday 13 April - Bank holidays

Monday 20 April to Friday 22 May - First half summer term

Monday 4 May - Bank holiday

Monday 24 to Friday 29 May - Summer half term holiday

Monday 25 May - Bank holiday

Monday 1 June to Tuesday 21 July - Second half summer term

Friday 26 June - Inset day (staff training – no pupils)

Wednesday 22 July to September 2020 - Summer Holiday

School Uniform

We are extremely proud of our uniform and how smart the pupils look. We are aware of how rapidly many of the children have grown over the last year and so as you come to replace items, please remember that school trousers and skirts must come from Uniform4Kids and have the school logo on them. If you are getting new school shoes, please make sure that they are leather (can be polished), are not made by a sport manufacturer, and have no logo on them. Boys shoes should be lace up (they are becoming young men, and Velcro fastening shoes are not very adult). If you are in doubt, please send us a link or photo of the shoe you are considering buying and we will let you know if they are acceptable. Trainers for PE lessons must be all black and have as subtle a logo as possible (we recognise it is difficult/impossible to get trainers without logos). All items of uniform should be clearly marked with your name.



- Blazer: Saracens High School blazer with Saracens High School badge.
Shirt: White shirt with collar.
Tie: Top button fastened, and shirt completely tucked in at all times.
Tie: Saracens High School tie in house colours, tied with the badge fully visible (*Ties will be given out to all Year 7 pupils on the first day of school*)
Jumper: Saracens High School jumper is optional. It is the only jumper permitted.
Skirt: Saracens High School black skirt with the school logo, worn to the knee **OR**
Trousers: Saracens High School black trousers with the school logo
Belt: Black belt (plain) if required.
Socks: Matching black socks with no pattern or plain black 70 denier tights.
Shoes: Plain, black leather-style lace-up or slip-on formal shoes. Black laces only.
No trainers, plimsolls or canvas shoes. No coloured laces. No logos or embellishment. No open-toe shoes or sandals, boots, high heels or wedges.
School Bag: Saracens High School bag with the school logo.
Outdoor coat: Black coat with no obvious logo.
Coats should be stored in the locker or bag while in the building.
Head coverings: All religious head coverings must be black with no embellishment.
Hairstyle: Hair should be neat and tidy at all times. Long hair should be tied back with a black hairband. No designs shaved in hair or eyebrows. No extreme hairstyles or unnatural colours (peroxide, bright hair dye, etc.).
Make up: Make-up, nail varnish and false nails are not permitted.
Hats: Non-religious head coverings are not permitted.
Jewellery: Is not permitted but pupils with pierced ears may wear one small gold / silver stud per ear. A wrist watch is permitted. Any other jewellery will be confiscated and returned to parents/carers.
Piercings: Only one stud per ear is permitted. No other piercings.

Uniform for Physical Education and sporting activities:

- Saracens High School sports top with the school logo
- Saracens High School shorts or skirt
- Saracens High School sweatshirt with the school logo
- Saracens High School tracksuit trousers (optional)
- Plain black football socks
- Plain black trainers with non-marking soles and minimal logo



School Meals

Mrs C Edwards

We made a number of improvements to the school dinners menu for the summer term, based on feedback from the pupil leadership team. This menu will continue into the autumn term.

Many thanks to the majority of parents and carers for continuing to keep up to date with payments for school meals. If you do have a balance outstanding, please ensure you make payment before the summer break. 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.

Attendance

Mr Clackett

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.

Pupil Leadership Team

Mrs Bonilla

On Monday 10 June the Saracens Pupil Leadership Team together with Dr Stevens and Mrs Bonilla had the privilege to visit Sandingham School in St Albans.

The focus of the visit was to meet their Pupil Leadership Team and to share best practice. Our pupils had the opportunity to exchange ideas and ask questions to their well-established Leadership Team about how to operate, the impact they can have and how to plan for the future when the team grows in numbers. They also had the opportunity to meet with the Head teacher, Mr Gray, with whom they were able to talk about what they enjoy about SHS and ways in which they can contribute to the growth of the school. Mr Gray is also a member of the Saracens Multi-Academy Trust board, and so is very interested in our school. We hope to continue to develop this partnership in the future.

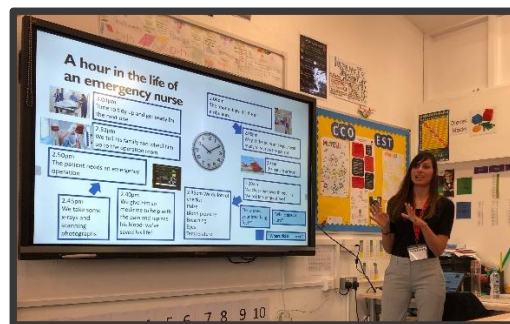


In our pursuit to ensure that our pupils start thinking about career choices, we held our first careers event called 'My future, my choice' on 19 of June.

Thirteen professionals delivered talks about their passion for their job and the challenges they face on a day to day basis.

Pupils had the opportunity to listen to five inspirational people and were able to ask questions to form an opinion of whether or not they would like to follow that career in the future.

Among the professionals we had two lawyers, two musicians, a doctor, an author, an engineer, an A&E nurse, two comedians, an entrepreneur, a pilot, three accountants and an apprentice.



The event started with a quick introduction from Mrs Margaret Bickford-Smith QC, the in-coming Master of the Worshipful Company of Arbitrators with whom Saracens High School has started a fantastic partnership in our careers provision.



This successful event concluded with a whole school assembly where Mr M Clackett, our data manager, shared his experience as an entrepreneur and musician and delighted us with the interpretation of a song on his saxophone. The pupils and staff thoroughly enjoyed it and have started planning for our event next year.



Celebration Evening

Thursday 4 July 2019 was a special evening. Our first Celebration Evening was held at Allianz Park in front of 500 members of the audience. We celebrated wonderful successes from throughout the year and lots of people were rewarded for their hard work and other qualities. We also had the first public performance of the school song, watched a performance from The Rimla Trio (Amy, Nicole, and Yusra), listened to Callum's speech, Aymen's poem, and a closing speech from Nick Leslau from Saracens.

We had guest presenters from Saracens men's and women's rugby teams, the Saracens Mavericks Netball team, the Worshipful Company of Arbitrators, the local governing body and Multi-Academy Trust board, as well as two of the people who inspired our House names; Rimla Akhtar and Maggie Alphonsi.

Subject Awards	Winner
Art	Zulekha
Computer Science	Madison
Design and Technology	Reiss
English	Idman
Geography	Jahynne
History	Rezwan
Languages	Mahdi
Maths	Zarena
Music	Lilly
PRE	Hasan
PE	Jasmine
Science	Mustafa
Special Awards	
Community Service Award	Pema
Worshipful Company of Arbitrator's Young Leader	Khadiga
Sports Person of the Year	Gerald
Scholar of the Year	Zulekha
Creative arts award	Rasha
Saracens' Award	Lewis
The Personal Achievement Award	Halima
Principal's Award	Laila
Governors' award	Zahra



Gerald with Maggie Alphonsi



Khadiga with Mr Malloy and Mrs Trofiaer from the Worshipful Company of Arbitrators



Rimla Aktar presenting the UKMT Maths Challenge Silver Award winners with Miss Style and their certificates



Zulekha receiving her prize from Dr Lee



Lewis with Gordon Banks from Saracens



**Laila with Prof Chase –
Chair of the Multi-Academy Trust**



**Halima with Saracens women's player Rosie
Galligan**



Pema with Saracens Captain Brad Barritt



**Zahra with Chair of Governors
Kevin Perry and Vice Principal and Saracens
women's player Ms Green**

SCIENCE

Ms Latif

This term we focused on practical skills. We used Bunsen burners to boil fluorescent water as well as burn various foods identifying the energy content. The pupils had to create risk assessments to identify the hazards in place and put appropriate precautions in place.

Pupils have come from primary schools doing very little, if any, practical work and this module of skills has been a real building block for them. The importance of practical skills is sky high as even in the GCSE Science exams there are sections purely on practical skills. The enjoyment of learning while doing was huge and proved by the comments from their evaluation which included, 'I felt like a scientist today' 'I learnt to test a theory and work through a method' and 'when I went wrong I was able to correct myself, I didn't give up'.

The science subject area prides itself in providing a very hands-on approach and we were delighted to take pupils to the laboratories at Belmont High School to further challenge the pupils on their Practical skills. They were given a method which they followed without any support they had to work together through a variety of steps to create 'salt'. Experiences like this motivate pupils and create a sense of fun and enthusiasm which we as a department believe is important.

We look forward to further practical challenges next term and more fun and wacky practicals.



HISTORY

Miss Morphtis

On Monday 18 March two teams of Saracens High School pupils attended the Belmont School History quiz. They successfully represented our school, competing against teams from three private schools.

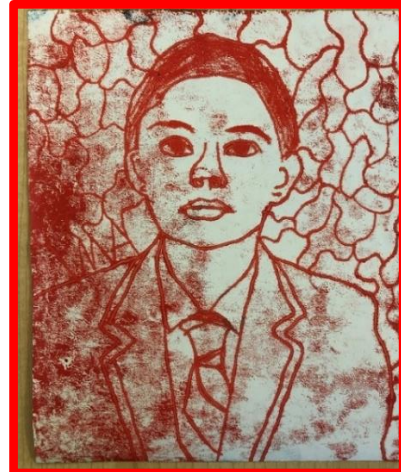
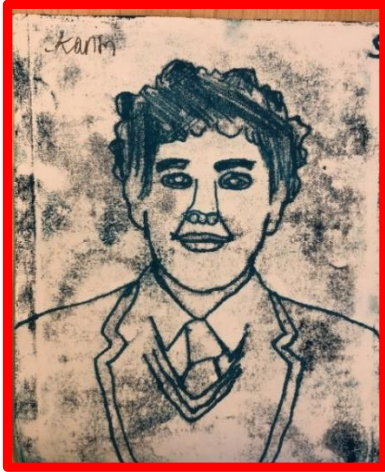
All demonstrated our values of humility and hard work throughout the competition. We look forward to taking part next year and bringing the cup back to Saracens.



ART AND DESIGN

Miss Frankham

It has been a busy summer term in Art and Design and pupils have really risen to the challenge. In May, it was the trip to the Tate Britain and Saatchi Gallery where pupils were able to see works of art first-hand. In June, the whole school enjoyed a printing day led by Belmont School staff where pupils created some amazing mono print portraits. Fourteen pupils were then chosen to take part in a sculpture day at Belmont School where they were able to experiment with clay and create some fantastic clay sculptures. Once painted these will be displayed in school.



DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

Miss Frankham

In the last term of DT pupils created their very own chocolate packaging. Pupils learnt how to create a simple chocolate packaging product to suit the users' needs and takes into consideration the impact their product has on the environment. The outcomes have been extremely creative and original. Well done Year 7!



On Monday 15 July 2019, Saracens High School were extremely fortunate to have fourteen performers from the theatre company, Chickenshed, visiting.

The actors performed their widely acclaimed show, *Crime of the Century*, to all pupils which touches on issues of gang violence and knife crime, which built on the *Tehm and Us* work from earlier in the year.



Actors from Chickenshed performing 'Crime of the Century'

Two classes took part in a drama workshop in the afternoon, which was led by the actors themselves, and pupils were introduced to dramatic techniques such as freeze frames and sequences.



Pupils taking part in a Drama workshop run by performers from Chickenshed.

It was a fantastic day full of serious discussions, energy and learning new (Drama) skills.

BBC Micro:bit

This year, Year 7 pupils were introduced to an exciting and practical way to learn coding in Python, an interpreted, high-level, general-purpose programming language. Pupils learnt and used concepts like algorithms, sequencing, variables, lists and many more over the course to create a practical, workable prototypes. We created digital display messages and programmable buttons. They learnt how computer and gaming hardware work and the processes involved in converting button inputs to various functions, for example 25 LED lights were used to create a pattern on micro:bit. This taught the pupils how to incorporate graphics and sensors. Pupils are armed with the basic knowledge on how to create computer games, motion detectors, alarm systems, robots and many more "cool stuff!"

The year group embraced the learning method with excitement and rose to the challenge of effectively learning a new language. As expected, many mistakes were made, these were however encouraged so as to not inhibit their imagination of the possibilities; corrections were converted to knowledge. Their enthusiasm was such that many of the hardware got confused by some coding, resulting in them getting frozen and requiring firmware reboot. At least now they know what makes their smartphones hang or freeze at times! Pupils were encouraged to be honest with themselves and not be afraid to ask questions or for guidance when they did not understand a concept. A team work ethic was also followed where the more advanced pupils taught and corrected mistakes of their peers. Humility in personal success is a key attribute we seek out. All pupils showed discipline and worked hard to keep up, enjoying the fruits and elation of success by the end of term.

In learning to code hardware, pupils were self-programming their minds to The Saracens Values! Watch this space for a future blockbuster gaming or robotic release.

Wow! What a year. I am so proud of our pupils and all they have achieved in Maths. There are a lot of congratulations to be shared. Firstly, our whole year group entered the UKMT Junior Maths Challenge in the Spring term which is an extremely difficult national competition in which pupils are required to apply their knowledge to unfamiliar problems and contexts. Huge congratulations to the following pupils who gained Silver and Bronze Awards:

Silver
Pema
Steven
Zulekha

Bronze	Bronze
Mahdi	Gjergj
Amina A	Ibrahim
Mustafa	Khadija
Laila	Jaabir
Adam	Briana
Mary	Ela

This year we have studied 21 units in Maths, including fractions, percentages, algebra, tessellations and bar models. We've looked at the very big to the nano small! All units were examined in the end of year exam. I was impressed by the revision and determination of many of our pupils. Well done in particular to the pupils who achieved the best marks and the best progress in their final exam..

Attainment		Progress	
Briana	Eddie	Reiss	Macie
Zulekha	Kayla	Shahria	Callum
Ela	Rezwan	Olivia	Rasha
Safiy	Jaabir	Lilly	Mohammed A
Mahdi	Tokky	Genesis	Sarah

Well done too to all pupils who have persevered with improving their times tables as Rock Stars this term. Special well done in particular to Milan for the highest progress this term on TTRS! He has demonstrated initiative, independence and our value of hard work.

LANGUAGES: SPANISH

Mrs Bonilla

The end of year assessments in Languages could be a daunting experience for pupils as they are tested on the four communicative skills: listening, reading, speaking and writing. However, our pupils rose to the challenge and performed really well in their tests. It was great to see them attend the pupil-led revisions a week before their exams in which they had the opportunity to practise grammar (blue ruler) and/or vocabulary with other pupils who feel confident in these two areas.

One of the highlights of the Spanish end of year assessment season was the outstanding quality of the speaking presentations and role-plays.

Our pupils dedicated a considerable amount of time to learning answers for 26 questions which covered all the topics we studied throughout the year. They showed great confidence when speaking Spanish accurately and loudly in front of their class. Needless to say, the hours parents and carers spent at home helping them practise their scripts really paid off.



GEOGRAPHY

Miss Morphitis

On Thursday 12th July the whole school went on a trip to the beach. Walton-on-the-Naze is a beautiful coastal town in Essex. The day started with us all enjoying an ice cream on the sandy beach.



Whilst at the beach pupils had a chance to spend time in the active, creative and chill-out zones. Some made amazing sand castles and sculptures, whilst others took part in beach games.



A group of pupils joined me for a fossil hunt. We walked to the unprotected beach where we found crabs in the rock pools and fossils in the crumbling cliffs. We also saw lots of geography GCSE pupils collecting data, which gave them a glimpse into their future studies.



Fun was had by all and memories made.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Miss O'Hanlon

We have had a great few visits to Allianz Park this term as part of the athletic season. Both the girls' and boys' athletics team represented the school in borough athletics, competing against other schools in Barnet.

Saracens had great success at with Gerald flying past everyone in his 100m and long jump, and Genesis' hard work paid off in his 200m. Both were invited to represent Barnet in the Middlesex Athletics, which ended up with Gerald bringing home silver in the long jump.



Another trip to Allianz park saw a number of our pupils take upon the role of sports leaders, helping to run an athletics events for a number of the local primary schools. They were complimented by many adults from the organisers to the primary school teachers about how amazing they were, and what an asset they are to Saracens High School. Well done to those pupils, they have made the PE staff very proud.



Jack Petchey Achievement Award Spring/Summer Winners 2019

MARCH - Mikeal



APRIL - Lewis



MAY - Dalia



JUNE - Mustafa



Barnet Bar No One

Miss Alexa

On Tuesday 7 May 2019 Summer, Iziah, Joseph and Kian went to Allianz Park with Miss Copeland and Mr Khan to take part in the Barnet Bar No One competition which included activity stations, trying new and traditional sports. Throughout the afternoon they rotated around a series of different activities with other schools. The activities included coaches delivering rugby, golf, rowing, tennis, bowls, dancing and athletics. The pupils had a great time and worked really well as a team. All the pupils used our values of hard work, honesty and discipline to try to be the best they can be during the activities. Summer was amazing with her accurate throws on the cricket wicket to beat her opponents. Kian was using brilliant shoulder drops to avoid his opponent during rugby. Speedy Iziah powered his way through on the rowing machines to get great distance in a short amount of time. Joseph used his calm manner to concentrate on his accuracy when trying to win on points during Bowls. The students received a certificate after a great day full of new and said they would definitely do it again!!



Bike It

Hano - 7Johnson

What a great chance! For the first time we had the opportunity to practice something new and exciting. Mr Ilias Ioannou, Cycling Officer in Barnet, had brought us the very foldable and super expensive Brompton bicycles and we practiced for two Fridays in 2 hour sessions. But every session seemed very short and we did not want it to stop.

At the first session we have learned how to do the ABC (air, break and chain) of a bike. You should never start riding a bike without a helmet. Hano said that "but I don't have a helmet" So we had to borrow one. Make sure that you have your own helmet before you ride the bike. Your safety is very important.

In the second session we had the chance to practice again. But this time it was easier. Some of us learned how to ride the bike between cones and how to signal with one hand. Summer said that "I'm a bit worried." However, she has been great and confident. I actually look forward to our next session when we are going to learn how to ride a bike on the streets and be safe. I have learned how to ride a bike without stabilisers as before I never knew how to ride a bike and I always fell over. However, myself, Halima and Summer feel very proud of our success and we look forward a safe summer in the park on a bike.



Sports Day 2019

Mr Mitman

The much awaited first ever Saracens Sports Day was held on Friday 5th July 2019, with great zeal, excitement and a buzzing atmosphere. The weather was beautiful and the sun was shining down on us. The programme began with the Principal: Dr Stevens welcoming the pupils to the world famous home of the Saracens – Allianz Park.



The pupils entered into the spirit of the occasion in a grand way with each learning group parading into the stadium under their house banners. Once the races began, the air was filled with cheering and tons of encouragement for the young athletes. An energising initial track display set the tone for the rest of the event. The pupils displayed great humility, hard work, discipline and honesty with some outstanding performances from both track and field heat events in the morning.



The afternoon saw the pupils who qualified for the finals in some great competitions which also culminated in a learning group tug of war event – taken narrowly by 7NFR, outwitting the solid team of 7ZLA to take the grand final home to Wilberforce.

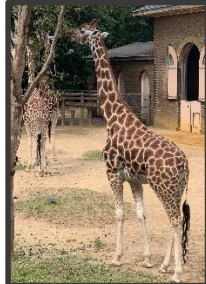


Well done to all the pupils involved, everyone did themselves proud and represented their house with esteem.

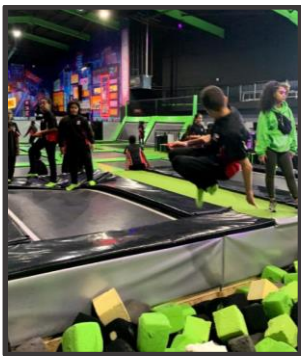


The aim of Enrichment Week was that all pupils take part in activities that contribute to personal development and interest in a number of ways. We want our pupils to experience things that are new and/or a challenge to them, and of course to have a bit of fun outside of the classroom.

Monday saw Saracens high School at London Zoo, where pupils learnt about conservation in action.



On Tuesday the pupils and some staff tried their hand (or more aptly their feet) at trampolining at 'Flip out' Trampoline park. Who knew that Dr Stevens could still perform a flawless back somersault?



On Wednesday the pupils continued developing their knowledge and understanding of animal's behaviour, this time in a habitat where they (the animals, not the pupils) are able to roam more freely at Woburn Safari park. Pupils also got to witness feeding time at several different animal enclosures.



On Thursday, the glorious weather continued, at the beautiful beach of Walton-on-the-Naze hosted the mighty Saracens High School.

The pupils were able to play sports and games on the beach, be a little creative with building sandcastles or enjoy the 'chill out' zone. Some of the pupils even got to go on a fossil hunt.





On Friday the pupils were able to access the amazing youth community zone UNITAS, where they took part in a carousel of activities from multi-sports, dance, music, pool and FIFA.



In the afternoon, back at school, the pupils were able to pick a film screening in one of our "Cinema rooms" and enjoy a bag of popcorn.

Overall, the pupils had a great time, represented themselves and the school really well with some impeccable behaviour; showing respect at all times when interacting with the public.

Thanks to all the teachers who dedicated their time to organising and running trips to ensure that the pupils had a rich, meaningful and enjoyable enrichment experience.

#TogetherSaracens

#MakingMemories