



Newsletter

Spring Term : January to March 2022

A message from the Principal

One of the nice things about being a start up school is our number of 'first' experiences. This term we had our first drama production, we were finally able to invite families into our new building and they enjoyed trying the school lunches, and our Year 10 pupils have had their first experience of GCSE style mock exams, and in the summer term some of the Year 10 pupils will sit their actual GCSEs in their community languages (including Arabic, Chinese, Persian, Portuguese, Spanish, and Turkish).

In the autumn term we considered ourselves lucky that only 12 members of staff had covid-related absences, but from January until now we have had around 30 staff absences, which has challenged us in new ways. I am delighted that we did not have to ask any classes or year groups to study at home again, although on occasions we have had to group classes together in the hall, and we had some supply teachers in, which has been very rare up to now. Fortunately, that seems to have subsided over the last week, and I hope it will continue to improve during the summer.

This term is always busy for recruitment as we plan to grow once again. In addition to the 450+ applications for Year 7 places next year, we have made some very strong staffing appointments. These include three new members of the leadership team, two new Year Leads, and Lead Practitioners (expert teachers) in English and Maths. Mr Lindall (Assistant Principal for KS4 and Physics teacher) joins from Hasmore School after the Easter break, and Mr Olufola (Assistant Principal for Year 11 and KS5, and a Religious Studies teacher) will join us after the May half-term. Our third new Assistant Principal is Ms Smallwood, who will be responsible for Key Stage 3 and Transition.

We are pleased that Mrs Anwar has returned from maternity leave, and we look forward to welcoming back Mrs Ureche and Ms Saccaro later in the summer term.

Another 'first' this term is our first teacher retiring. Dr Evans joined us in 2019 and quickly developed wonderful relationships with pupils and their families. She has been an inspirational teacher throughout her career, and we are honoured to have her spend the last three years of it at Saracens High School. Having originally planned to retire in the summer, Dr Evans changed her plans to spend more time with her family, and as we often say, family must always come first.

I hope you have a safe and relaxing break and we look forward to welcoming the pupils back for an exciting summer term on Tuesday 19 April.

Dr Stevens
Principal



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



History quiz

On Monday 21st March, seven budding Historians from Year 8 took part in an inter-school History quiz at Keble Prep School. There were four quiz rounds, including 'famous faces', putting events in chronological order and an entire round dedicated to Queen Elizabeth II in her jubilee year.

The competition standard was extremely high and the pupils did a fantastic job, showing off some incredible knowledge throughout. They enjoyed the experience so much that they were already asking how quickly we could organise the next one on our journey back to school!



Ms Luscombe
Curriculum Lead—Humanities: History

Duke of Edinburgh — Bronze Award

Our Year 9 group passed their practice expedition in the wilds of Berkhamsted meeting along the route a pair of llamas, horses, pigs, goats and cows.

A cold night camping at Croft farm then a brisk 5 miles walk back down to Berkhamsted Station along the canal and the teams departed back to their homes to enjoy warm showers.



Miss Edwards
DofE Co-Ordinator

Art Based Sensory Workshop

Young people, like adults, often feel a range of emotions that they often find difficult to put into words. In order to support pupils with their emotional wellbeing, we have invited a group of pupils in Year 7 and 8 to take part in a group workshop. The activities were delivered by Dimple Pujara and Suzi Eden, our school counsellors. The aim of the workshop was to explore different feelings in a sensory art-based way and empower the pupils to recognise these emotions. They learnt to think about strategies they can use in school and at home to manage how these emotions. This workshop will become a regular session after the Easter break. Please see below visual representations of our pupil's emotions and feelings.



Miss Alexa
SEN Co-Ordinator



UKMT Intermediate Mathematical Challenge

This February in Maths, 120 Year 9 and 10 pupils participated in the UKMT Intermediate Mathematical Challenge. A massive well done to all who sat the challenge designed to make pupils really think and utilise creative problem solving techniques.

Congratulations goes to those pupils below who earned an award:

Gold

Zulekha Q (Best in School/Best in Year 10)
Steven T

Silver

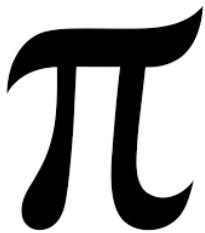
Yassine S (Best in Year 9)
Hai Dang T, Hasibulla A, Caris C, Laila M, Fernando M, Eddie M, Safiy U,
Chi To H, Jaabir N

Bronze

Husna W, Eric S, Chloe M, Haroon M, Ella L, Cheryl D, Negareen S, Tokky O, Manila A, Gjergj K,
Zakariya A, Chaniah F-R, Yusra A, Ela A, Adam T, Mohammed A, Briana K, Klenton S



**United Kingdom
Mathematics Trust**

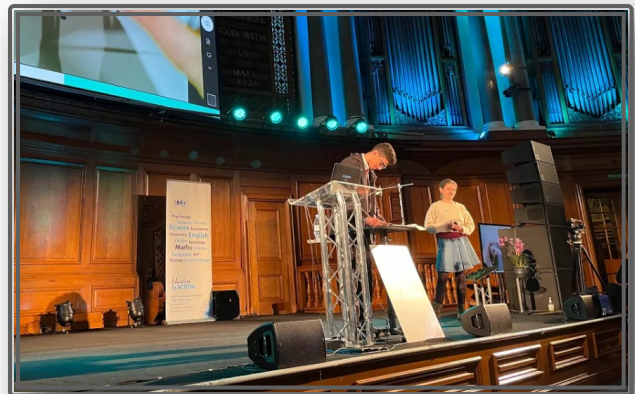


Pi Day Challenge

We celebrated Pi Day on 14 March and had a Pi Recitation Contest running all week! Pupils revised to remember as many digits of Pi as they could and they did not disappoint! Congratulations goes to joint winners Rezwan (Year 10), Anne (Year 9), and Jadanae (Year 8) for memorising more than 100 digits of Pi!!!

GCSE Maths in Action

A group of 30 Year 10 pupils went into London to attend a GCSE Maths in Action workshop. We got to hear several speakers on varying topics including James Grime speak about how data travels through Bluetooth and Wi-fi, Aimi Elias teach us how computers are able to sort images, Sophie Maclean show us how maths can be used to create efficient processes, Emily Grossman explain how to pick through data presented by the media, and Tom Crawford show us mathematically where the best place to aim for a penalty goal is.



The pupils were engaged and took a lot from the talks and were inspired to explore maths further.

We even had two pupils be invited on stage to participate in some of the activities. Mahdi A and Sadek H-A represented Saracens brilliantly by helping to complete a puzzle and put penalty kicks into action!

*Mrs Gustafson
Curriculum Lead Maths*

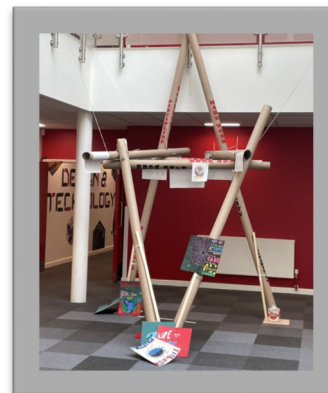
Design and Technology

The team are now completely at home in our lovely new building, being able to unpack and experiment with both the new 3D printer and the metal lathe.

We have had a fantastically creative term and especially enjoyed having the different mix of pupils join us in DT for the #Togetherwecreate week.

During the week we led trips to the Design Museum and V&A and pupils created some amazing products in both sustainable timber and textiles; many that are still on display in the Atrium.

Learning how to design for different abilities was explored through a visit from Saracens Wheelchair Rugby team.



Mrs Garrett-Gunn
Teacher of Design & Technology

Catering

We hope your children are enjoying the fresh, healthy, seasonal food provided for them by our professional catering team, led by Cristi Ilioi. It was good to talk to many of you during the recent parent and carer food taster sessions. Cristi will be working with the Pupil Leadership Team to continually update our menus and seek feedback from pupils on their menu preferences.

If you have been sent a form to complete in relation to your child's allergies, please send it back as soon as possible so we can be certain to provide the best food for your child.

Please could you pay all amounts outstanding for school meals. Unfortunately with food prices continuing to increase, we are having to raise our meal charge from £2.25 (where it has been since we opened in 2018), to £2.35 from April 2022. If you think you may be eligible for Free School Meals, please follow this link on our website <https://www.saracenshigh.org/Parents/Free-School-Meals/> or contact the school office if you need support with a free school meal application or if you are having trouble paying for meals.

We provided vouchers to families whose children are in receipt of free school meals in February, to cover the period February to March. The government have confirmed that this funding will continue and we will distribute more vouchers once we receive further funding from Barnet.

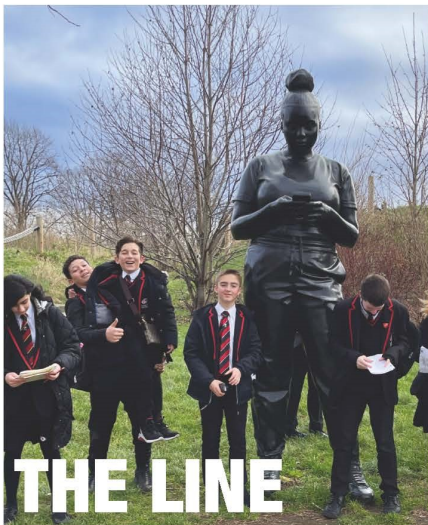


Mrs Edwards
Trust Business Manager

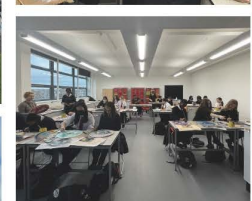
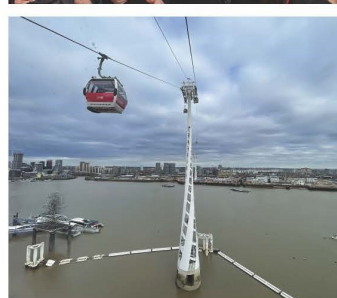
ART

The end of term 2 has finished with so many amazing achievements from our dedicated young artists. Art club were involved in the set design for our first ever school performance, amazing work has been produced in both KS3 & KS4. However, the highlight of the term has to be the week of celebrating the arts during #TogetherWeCreate week.

#TogetherWeCreate - Team Art!



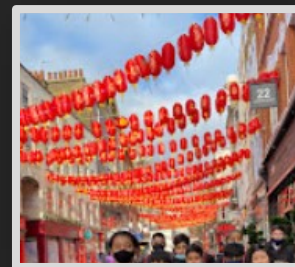
It was fantastic to see pupils getting involved, getting creative and problem solving. The arts has the power to educate people about anything. This year our focus was sustainability, and pupils rose to the challenge by producing an incredible installation that highlighted and educated the importance of looking after our planet. During the week pupils participated in trips that educated pupils on the history of art as well as a public art walk that allowed pupils to see the sights of London and go on a cable car as well as workshops that ended with an installation linked to sustainability.



#togetherwecreate week — Team Drama

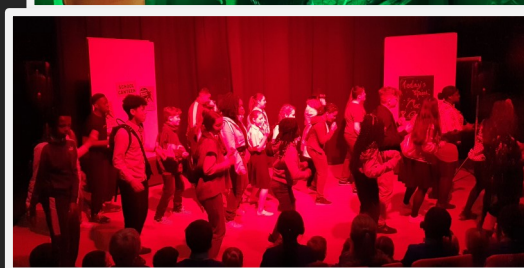
#togetherwecreate, was a fantastic week dedicated to the Arts with the theme of Sustainability; pupils were in groups of mixed year groups. They took part in many different drama related activities with the aim of creating their own piece of theatre to be performed by the end of the week. They explored *Earth Song* practically, researched into different topics affecting the globe online, wrote a piece of creative writing such as a poem, a rap or a short story based on their research, took part in workshops by *The Stanislavski Experience* and *Synergy Theatre Company*. They then used these starting points in order to create their performance which was performed at the end of the week.

I was so impressed with the commitment to the theme and also the creativity of the performance pieces. Pupils also had a day in London's West End where they completed a treasure hunt finding some of our capital's oldest and most famous theatres. It was a fantastic week for everyone involved and particularly exciting for the pupils who hadn't opted for Drama GCSE to take part in such an immersive experience.



The Time Machine

Pupils in Year 7- 10 took part in Saracens first production, *The Time Machine*. First they performed two matinee performances to local primary school children from Blessed Dominics and Orion which were very well received. As audience members arrived for the evening performances they were treated to beautiful piano playing by Thando i Yr10 and Miss Quereshi and were offered freshly baked flapjacks and brownies from our school chef Cristy. The pupils performed two sell out evening performances to their families, friends and teachers. I was impressed with the pupil's commitment to the play and have already started to think about the next show- watch this space!



Miss Nicoll
Subject Lead — Drama

Languages Spring Festival celebration

In the pursuit of creating opportunities for developing our understanding and appreciation of diversity, we celebrated the Spring festival for the last week 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 celebrated it by gathering all together for a Family Lunch with delicious noodles and Chinese food. In addition, all Year 7 pupils took part of Chinese lessons led by Mr. Babington.

Mr. Babington was amazed by the determination and fast learning progress of our pupils and they all showed enjoyment and no fear in pronouncing sounds and writing characters of the language.

Our pupils showed their commitment and engagement by participating in a series of House Competitions such as the Tiger Hunt and the House Lantern Competition, in which they created and decorated their own Chinese lanterns. Special mention to 7 Johnson and 8 Rimla learning groups.

In celebration of The Year of the Tiger, pupils were really motivated in the Tiger Hunt competition around all the school, which tested their orienteering skills in the new building by trying to find all hidden Tiger stickers. Year 7 Alphonsi found almost all of them! Congratulations!



Mr Jiminez
Curriculum Lead Languages



GCSEPod



During March, the Year 10 pupils have been using the new GCSEPod revision website to support their mock exam preparation. In just 3 weeks Saracens High School has streamed over 5000 Pods, achieving a silver certificate.

Food preparation and nutrition

All year groups have continued to improve their skills in the food department.

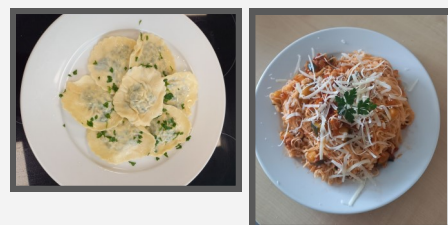
Year 7 have learned basic knife skills and cooking skills, making dishes such as Banana flapjacks, Apple crumble, Pasta with Ragu sauce, savoury scones and Rock cakes. They ended the term with a fun, decorated cupcake assessment.



Year 8 have learned how to make pastry and bread dishes, such as apple pies, bread rolls and pizza. They have also made banana and blueberry muffins, spinach & chickpea curry and tuna pasta bake.

Year 9 are continuing their GCSE course learning about nutrition, food science and food safety as well as improving their practical skills.

Dishes they have made this term include fresh pasta dishes such as tagliatelle and ravioli (pictured); burritos and fruit tarts with sweet pastry and creme patisserie.



Year 10 have been perfecting their cooking skills and practicing their presentation skills.

They have made dishes using short crust, sweet and rough puff pastry this term, as well as high skilled dairy dishes such as Panna Cotta (pictured) and Eclairs.

They have also had the opportunity to cook with and sample fresh mussels, kindly provided by the Fish Heroes, schools programme.

*Mrs Cenci
Subject Lead*

Breakfast Club

Daily from 7.45am to 8.10am

Breakfast club, run by Mr Murray-Bruce, is a big success and the number of pupils attending continues to grow. Everyone is welcome to join from 7:45 – 8:10am (the school gate is open to pupils from 7.30am). There is no charge. The club is largely funded by the National Schools Breakfast programme.

Bagels, toast, cereal, and fruit are available for pupils all week. On Fridays, as a treat, the chef normally makes scrambled eggs. The club helps pupils get energised and ready for the start of the day.

*Mrs Edwards
Trust Business Manager*



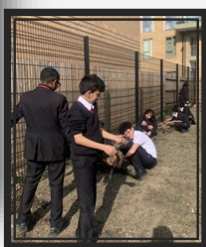
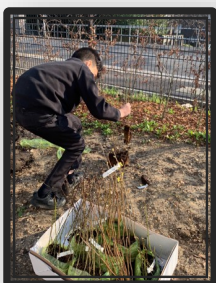
Geography

Spring had sprung in Saracens High school this February and March, as the **WildEd Action for Conservation** Year 8 team took to the grounds of the school to plant up to 420 tree saplings which had arrived from the Woodlands Trust. All trees are native species and home-grown in the UK. A mix of blossom, working wood, wild wood, fruit trees and trees for wildlife were been planted by over 35 pupils.

This formed the basis for many of the pupils' research projects for WildEd which were presented on Monday 28th March. The winning group, the Eco-minions, used this as a basis to launch their sustainability competition and were awarded some lovely environmentally friendly goodies.

Well done to all Year 8 pupil's involved!

You were fantastic, congratulations!



Miss Boxall
Teacher of Geography

Futures Programme: University Visits - Year 9

It was a pleasure to take our whole cohort of Year 9 pupils to Middlesex University at the end of March.

The University Tutors and Pupil Ambassadors welcomed us with open arms and treated us to a couple of workshops about employability skills and university societies, as well as showing us around the great facilities that the campus has to offer.

The Year 9 pupils were particularly impressed with the TV studio, the library, the multiple social areas, and the sports facilities. Middlesex University is very keen to develop this partnership with the school and has therefore invited the Year 10 pupils to visit after the Easter holidays.



Mrs Bonilla
Assistant Principal

Family Reminders

Attendance—Aim for 100%, minimum 97%

Please report your child's absence each day by 9.00am, clearly stating full name, year and house, and the reason for absence. Tel : 020 8181 3180 or email: attendance@saracenshigh.org.

Late arrival

If your child is late they must come through the reception entrance. They will then go to meet the Pastoral Team at breaktime and if they fail to arrive at break time they will be given a reparation meeting for after school that day.

Messages

Please note we are unable to pass messages to your young person after 1.30pm except in the case of an emergency. For peace of mind please make any after school arrangements or activity plans before your child comes to school.

Contact Details

Please ensure your contact details are up to date. You can amend any of your contact details directly into Arbor or let us know of any changes by calling the office or by email: admin@saracenshigh.org.

Mobile phones

A reminder that smart mobile phones are not allowed in school. Pupils can bring a brick phone (without a camera) to school to be kept in their locker during the school day. Any mobile phones found on pupils during the school day are confiscated and will only be returned to parents.

Up to date Medicines

If your child keeps any medication in the medical room at school, please make sure you are aware of any expiry dates and send replacements when they become due.

Non-medical absences

Permission for all non-medical absences or leave of absence requests must be requested in writing, in advance, to the Principal by email: principal@saracenshigh.org or in writing.

School uniform *(link to website section)*

We would like your help in ensuring all uniform is labelled and PE bags have a name written on also. Items can be returned to their owners only if there is a name inside.

Family lunch accounts

Please remember to check family lunch balances on Arbor and keep accounts in credit by topping up on line.

Equipment

Please ensure your child's school bag is ready for the summer term with a full pencil case of equipment.

Staff Vacancies

We currently have a number of vacancies at Saracens High School.

[Please click here to find out more.](#)

Nut Free School

Reminder

We have several people in our community with severe allergies, and pupils should not bring anything with nuts in into school.



Lateral Flow Tests

Schools are no longer being supplied with lateral flow tests, and will no longer be supplying them to pupils and staff.

Academic Year 2021 / 2022



Summer Term

Tuesday 19 April	First day of summer term
Friday 29 April	Bank holiday (<i>in lieu of half term date 2 June</i>)
Monday 2 May	Bank holiday
Wednesday 11 May	INSET day
Monday 30 May – Friday 3 June	Summer half term holiday
Thursday 2 and Friday 3 June	Bank holidays (2 days for Queens Platinum Jubilee)
Monday 6 June	Second half summer term begins
Friday 22 July	Last day of summer term & school year

Events

Thursday 21 April	DTP/Meningitis ACWY Vaccination – Year 9
Monday 25 April	Arts Depot – Year 9 Drama performance
Monday 25 April	Visit to Middlesex University – Year 10
Tuesday 26 April	
Wednesday 27 April	Captain Harpreet Chandi visit – Year 9 & 10
Wednesday 4 May	Targeted Parents meetings – Year 10
Thursday 5 May	Team building day – Year 8
	Team building day – Year 7
Friday 6 May	Martijn van der Spoel – Year 10
Thursday 12 May	Targeted Parents meetings – Year 9
Friday 13 – Saturday 14 May	Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award practice - Year 10
Friday 20 May	Visit to 10 Downing Street – selected pupils
27 to 29 May 2022	Geography trip – Osmington Bay
Monday 6 June	KS4 Options Interview – Year 8
Friday 10 June	KS4 Options decision deadline – Year 8
Wednesday 15 June	Visit to Oxford University – selected Year 10 pupils
Wednesday 22 June	My Future, My Choice event
Saturday 2 and Sunday 3 July	Duke of Edinburgh assessment - Year 9
Thursday 7 July	Year 6 Taster day
Monday 18 to Friday 22 July	Making Memories week