



# Swadeldands News

September – December 2011 : issue 65

## Swadeldands School Achieves Record Exam Results

For the third year in a row, Swadeldands School has broken its own records. Last year's Year 11 students have performed so well that we are now in the top four non-selective High Schools in Kent. We are one of the best performing High Schools in Kent with one of the strongest sustained improvements over the last five years. We are very proud of our students' achievements as 55% of them achieved 5A\*-C including English and Maths and 87% achieved five good GCSEs grades of C grade or above.

Our Sixth Formers achieved really well too, with 40% of



Year 13 going to University. 92% of our students achieved at least two A levels and the average grade was a C grade. Our Sixth form is becoming very popular and we are attracting a further 50% of students from other schools.

There are strong indications that the school is generating much interest from parents in the Ashford and Maidstone area. Despite the increased popularity, the Governors and Headteacher can reassure our parents and students that we will continue to remain a small school with no plans to expand. We are enjoying

our success because there is a drive from our teachers to develop their teaching to outstanding. There is a drive from our students to continually improve their attitude to learning and increase their rate of progress. Being a smaller school enables us to really know the students and help them to improve and we see that as fundamental to our school's success.

There is a lot of hope for the future at Swadeldands, we are looking forward to continued success for all of our students. I would like to take this opportunity to wish everybody connected with Swadeldands a happy and successful new year.

**Richard Baddeley (Headteacher)**

*Swadeldands – The small school realising big ambitions*

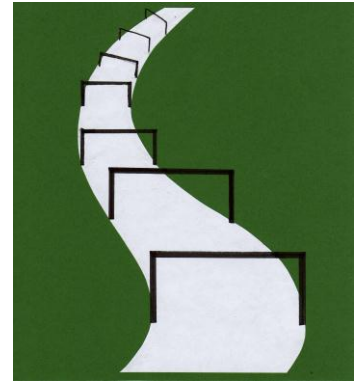
# Gunnell News<sup>US</sup>

## 'Be Your Best!'

It has been a fantastic start to the year for Gunnell House, as there have been many achievements to celebrate with the students.

### Achievement Points

So far this year Gunnell students have led the way with the total amount of Achievement points collected in lessons and for extra activities they are involved in, such as House Sports competitions. At the time of going to print, Gunnell had scored 3575 achievement points, and the top six achieving pupils were Lewis Kenyon (63), Luke Carpenter (57), Phoebe Kellow (51), Natasha Marett (48), with Bethany Brisley and Alice Charter on 47. A fantastic achievement so far, and something that will hopefully continue long into the New Year!



### Attitude to Learning

The following students have all achieved an ATL score of 5 and above for Term 1! This is a fantastic achievement, and it is good to see so many Year 11's achieving this in their most important year at school, and well done to the 16 Year 8's who achieved this also.

Year 11	ATL	Year 10	ATL	Year 9	ATL	Year 8	ATL	Year 7	ATL
Alice Charter	5.73	Paige Butler	5.27	Samuel Tanton	5.2	Chloe Smith	5.57	Jodie Brisley	5.21
Lewis Kenyon	5.5	Shannon Higerty	5.18	Florence Moyse	5.18	Caitlin Spiers	5.5	Lucy Pucknell	5.15
Alice Hyett	5.45	Samuel Woodcock	5.1	Phoebe Kellow	5.1	Ellie Chipperfield	5.36	Daisy Burr	5.14
Joel Tanton	5.4	Nathan James	5.09	Bethany Brisley	5.09	Ella Ottaway	5.29	Amelia Carey	5.14
Olivia Llewellyn	5.22	Thomas Collins	5	Ellie Somers	5.09	Naomi Scotcher	5.29	Georgia Udale	5.07
Summer Carroll	5.18	Hannah Qizilbash - McDonald	5	Lauren Parsons	5	Joshua Eaton	5.21	William Wilson	5.07
Amy Weeks	5.1			Callum Rogers	5	Katana Higerty	5.21		
Steven Barton	5.09					Max Barrett	5.14		
Liam Forrester	5.09					Amy Harris	5.14		
Courtney Andrews	5					Harry Whittington	5.14		
Nathan Hardy	5					Christopher Hope	5.08		
						Christine Bordean	5.07		
						Abbie Harris	5.07		
						Shannon Palmer	5.07		
						Alexandrea Woollett	5.07		
						Matthew Crowhurst	5		

### Attendance

Gunnell has consistently led the way this year with the highest attendance, and at the time of writing we had an overall attendance of 94.3% which is still the highest. Needless to say, the pupils have been brilliant at coming into school and keeping their own individual attendances up, and there are still 30 pupils who have not missed a day of school yet! Well done

### Talent Show

At the time of writing, the Christmas Talent show was just days away and Gunnell had three fantastic representatives. Oliver Beer sang 'The A Team', Hannah Brown sang 'Jar of Hearts' and Bethany Brisley sang 'Because of You.' Well done to these students for their performances!

### House Football

Firstly, congratulations to the Year 7 and 8 girls who came second in the House Football competition, with some outstanding performances before defeat in the final against Redgrave. The Year 9 and 10 girls' team finished 4<sup>th</sup> place and thoroughly enjoyed themselves! The Year 7 boys lost every league game in the group stage, but pulled a result out of nowhere in the 3<sup>rd</sup> / 4<sup>th</sup> place playoff and won 2-0 with two goals from Oliver Beer. Well done to everyone who participated!

### House Netball

The Year 7 girls won the House Netball competition, which is a fantastic achievement and something Gunnell has never done before. The winning goal in the final came from Daisy Burr 30, seconds from the end, and the girls were ecstatic with the result! Well done girls!

### Final Message

It gives me great pleasure to be Head of a House that is flying so high, just like a firework, and achieving some great things. There are plenty more House competitions lined up in the New Year, and most importantly the Year 10's and 11's are approaching their exams. I would like to wish them all the best of luck. I hope everyone had a lovely Christmas, and Best Wishes for the New Year.

Mr Ward (Head of Gunnell House)



# Holmes News

It has been a fantastic start to the year for Holmes House, as there have been many things worth celebrating with all students.

## Achievement Points

Congratulations to the following who have achieved the highest achievement points this year:

Emily Wells H1 – 68 points, Macauley Adams H1 – 61 points, Liam Jackson H5 - 57points, Jack Booth H3 -55 points, Ifa Maitree H5- 47 points. So far this year Holmes has achieved 2913 House points. Well done! A fantastic achievement so far, and something that will hopefully continue long into the New Year!

## Attitude to Learning

The following students have all achieved an ATL score of 5 and above for Term 1! This is a fantastic achievement, Let's hope next term there are many more students achieving a score of 5+.

YR 11	ATL Score	YEAR 10	ATL Score	YEAR 9	ATL Score	YEAR 8	ATL Score	YEAR 7	ATL Score
ADAMS Macauley	5.45	WELLS Emily	5.45	MAITREE Ifa	5.5	PETERS Chloe	5.21	ROWE Rosie	5.29
JACKSON Liam	5.4	SMITH-DAVIES Samuel	5.18	RAI Shindya	5.33	FULLER Kayleigh	5.07	MCPHERSON Madeleine	5.08
RICHARDS James	5.09	EDWARDS-ODAM Jessica	5.09	SUBBA Merena	5.25	LAWRENCE Ellie	5.07	PEARCE Amelia	5.08
GENT Matthew	5	COOK Sophia	5	LOGOTHETI Danai	5.18	SPENCER Jack	5.07	MATTHEWS Savannah	5.07
MARTIN Sandy-Lee	5			MCPHERSON Sophie	5.11	RACKHAM Scott	5	TANTON Jessica	5.07

## Talent Show

At the time of writing, the Christmas Talent show was just days away and Holmes had some excellent performers preparing to compete this year. Holmes House was certainly the best represented House for participation in We Will Rock You – in the last full week of the school term. Special mention to Tasnim Oladejo who played the Killer Queen.

## Final Message

Welcome to Mr Batchelor who has been leading Holmes House since 1 Dec 2011.

## Attendance

The following students achieved 100% attendance in term 1: Macauley Adams, Nathan Burgess, Madeleine Mcpherson, Amelia Pearce, Max Wright, Aidan Bodycomb, Tom Bullock, Ross Wickison, Melody Woodcock, Dante Fasoli, Robert Hills, Anil Maden, Victoria Rivett, Cameron Faithful, Ben Moon, James Richards, Jack Thorne, George Lloyd, Savannah Matthews, Sean Palmer, Charlie Eve, Rachel Lee, Jake Price, Scott Rackham and Jack Tomlin.

Mrs Iglinski (Head of Holmes House)

STUDENT SERVICES

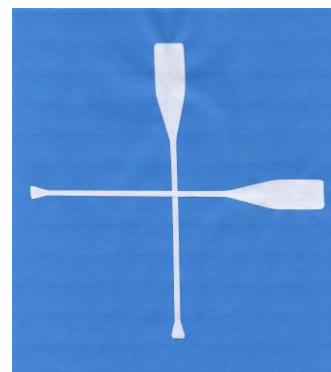


## School Nurse Drop-In Sessions

Every Monday lunchtime  
Student Services from 1.15pm  
For further information contact:

**Carol Davidson**  
**01622 225792**

# Redgrave News



## Redgrave Term 1 Achievements

Congratulations to the following students for receiving the most achievements in their year group Redgrave House during term 1:

Year 7: Freddie Jordan

Year 8: Kimberley King

Year 9: Kate Furmidge

Year 10: Charlie Blackburn

Year 11: Chantelle Thompson

Well done, not just to these students, but to all of you who have worked hard to receive lots of achievement points this year.

## Redgrave Attitude to Learning scores

Good Attitude to Learning scores show that a child is working hard in their lessons. An average score of five or more is a score to be proud of. Below are Redgrave's highest scorers for Term 1 this year:

Year 7	
Gold	Ellie-Rebekah Todd 5.43
Silver	Aimee Sage 5.36
Bronze	Bethany Andrews, Georgia Mulley 5.21

Year 8	
Gold	Chloe Ellis, Megan Morley 5.43
Silver	Shannon East, James Robinson 5.14
Bronze	Trudie Heathcote, Robert Woodham 5.07

Year 9	
Gold	Iona Hogg 5.45
Silver	Demi Sage 5.44
Bronze	Megan Pearce 5.2

Year 10	
Gold	Megan Cole, Shannon Morley 5.36
Silver	Aaron Mulcahy 5.27
Bronze	Heidi Blackford 5.18

## 100% Attendance in Redgrave

Good attendance at school has for a long time been linked to achieving good results in examinations. Thirty-seven Redgrave students achieved full attendance in Term 1 and were rewarded with a certificate.

In all, 99 of the 159 Redgrave students achieved 95% or better attendance in Term 1. Well done to all good attenders!

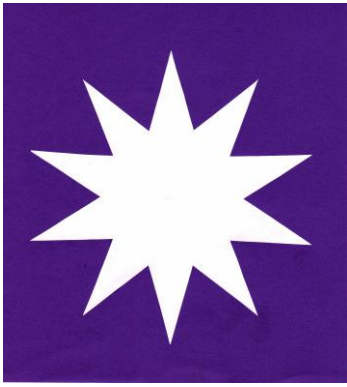
Year 11	
Gold	Thomas Robinson 5.91
Silver	Amber Gainford 5.4
Bronze	Alastair King 5.38

## Redgrave Postcards

The following Redgrave students have been working extremely hard this year and have earned a number of postcards already. It is very pleasing to see so many Year 9 students in the list as they have just embarked on their Key Stage 4 courses.

<b>BLACKBURN</b>	<b>Charlie</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>FURMIDGE</b>	<b>Kate</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>ROBINSON</b>	<b>Thomas</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>SOMERS</b>	<b>William</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>FINCH</b>	<b>Georgia-Lee</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>TODD</b>	<b>Reece</b>	<b>4</b>

Mr Martel (Head of Redgrave House)



# Thompson News

## Attitude to Learning (ATL)

The following table identifies the pupils in Thompson House with the highest ATLs for Term 1:

Position	Year 7-9 Highest Attitude to Learning Average Scores for Term 1		
	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9
<b>Gold</b>	Millie Costigan 5.43	Chloe Burden 5.29	Molly Parker 5.38
<b>Silver</b>	Jezzelle Kellam 5.29	Imogen Wheaton James Hoskison 5.21	Alfie Emblem 5.10
<b>Bronze</b>	Marina Cauldery 5.21	Abi Mason 5.07	Deon Nzou 5.07

Position	Year 10 ATL Term 1	Year 11 ATL Term 1
<b>Gold</b>	Sarah Woods 5.27	Leah Watson 5.73
<b>Silver</b>	Chloe Sheehan Harry Cowup 5.18	Louise Woods 5.50
<b>Bronze</b>	Alfie Costigan 5.09	Wesley Denne 5.36

## Good Start to House Competitions

After a fantastic end to last year with Thompson winning the House Cup, the students have made a great start to competitions this year in the PE department. For the girls we have had teams competing in the House football and netball events with the upper school girls winning their football competition.

That result must have inspired the Year 7 boys, as after a defeat in the first week of matches against Redgrave they went on an unbeaten run and won the tournament to retain the trophy for Thompson in this age range.

Our winning girls in the upper school are Danielle Purnell, Sarah Woods, Chloe Martin, Kim Jones and Tonisha Thomas and the Year 7 boys that played are David Whitehouse, Shaun Robinson, Brett Bonaccorsi, Sam Edwards, Ben Jelf, Luke Smith, William Wood, Pawel Baron, Dion Walrond, Joseph Bracken, Jake Clarke and Rhys Topp.

## Top Housepoints!

Thompson has made a great start at beating last year's winning Housepoint total over the first 2 terms. The following students are top of their year groups in Thompson:

Year 11 – Leah Watson  
 Year 10 – Drew Broster  
 Year 9 – Alice Henham  
 Year 8 – Ross Lancaster  
 Year 7 – Millie Costigan

As well as being top in their year in Thompson, Leah Watson and Alice Henham are also top in their year across all Houses, so a massive well done to them!

## Thompson Superstars

Swadlands School has a number of superstars in extra-curricular activities at present and a number of those are in Thompson. Ben Jelf is a WORLD CHAMPION speed boat racer and has recently set new world records in a number of categories. Fred Secular continues to compete at the top level in Boxing and is due to restart competing in the new year. Drew Broster was selected to compete in the 'K' College cookery competition and out of 69 participants was in the final 4 senior competitors with his Rabbit Pie and dauphinoise potatoes.

The Thompson House Captains are in charge of our noticeboards and have displayed information about our superstars and will be looking to update it in the new year so if there are any hidden talents out there let us know!

**Mr Swain (Head of Thompson House)**

# Swadelands' *Intrepid Reporters*

## Interview our Stars

Some of our students are keen reporters and they have interviewed a number of our students who have excelled in a wide range of interests:



In this interview with Ben Jelf (Year 7), Hannah Qizilbash-McDonald (Year 10) gets to know more about the World GT15 Powerboat Racing Champion 2011.

Ben was a great person to interview! He's always positive and was laughing the whole time! There was a constant smile on his face! You could tell he's extremely passionate about this sport!



### How old were you when you started powerboat racing?

*I started when I was 8, I've been racing for about 3 years now and I've had about 4 boats. In the second boat that I've owned I have won all my races. I'm the fastest 11 year old on water! I've won the World Championships and the European Championships.*

### What inspired you to take up this sport?

*My dad, he's been World Champion three times! My grandad and uncle have also inspired me a lot, they've been doing it for as long as I can remember.*

### What Does your training involve?

*My training involves making sure that the boat is correctly set up before I use it, racing boats can be very unpredictable. I travel to many places and train at weekends. Every year I also have to readjust my seat because I keep growing!*

### What success have you had?

*I've won the national Championships twice and the sprints twice. In the rib racing I came 5th. I have also won off shore boat racing twice and I'm the UK Masters Champ!*

### What do you like about the sport?

*I love the speed and the thrill of it! I like the exhilaration of winning and knowing that there's always a next time. It's a very dangerous sport; you have to make sure you get everything right, the water is so unreliable. There is a possibility of being badly injured. In my first year of competing I was in the lead in one of my races, it was really windy and my boat was bouncing quite high... the next thing I knew I was upside down in the water, gasping for air in this tiny air pocket. It was quite a scary moment for me. I have only ever suffered from whiplash though. I've been very lucky!*

### Do you have someone in the sport whom you admire? Would you want to be like them?

*I admire every racer! But I admire Donald Campbell and my dad the most! Donald Campbell has the fastest speed record on water. He died while setting the record in his boat 'Blue Bird' - that boat was run by a jet engine, this happened a while ago now. I've met his daughter though (Gina Campbell). I also dream of being knighted! (Laughs to himself).*

### What are your hopes for the future?

*I can't really achieve anymore! But I would do them all again! I've been on news channels before! Being put on TV is fun! I'm also very proud of the fact that I've raised over £2,000 for charity.*



## **Fred's Fighting Fit**

Boxing is the sport of choice for 14 year old Fred Secular (Year 9). He uses boxing as a way of relaxing, keeping fit and as a simple hobby. Fred started to box at the age of 8, trained by his own dad who was also a champion boxer. Fred has been so successful he is ranked second in England, Champion of the South East and London in the under 52kg section, all at the age of 13! Fred spends around two and a half hours in training most days and travelling forty minutes to get all the way to the gym in Bromley where he trains. What dedication. His training consists of skipping, running, boxing, and sparing.

When I asked Fred about how boxing makes him feel he replied; "I can get really nervous, but when you win, it's such a thrill and there is no other feeling like it in the world". He intends to become a professional boxer in the future and get a European title.

Fred has to eat a balanced diet; eating enough protein and not eating many fatty foods (although he did admit to the occasional burger!). He is also not allowed to do anything risky before a fight. It is clear to see how much determination and willingness it takes to be able to keep up such an amazing talent!

Fred's fights take place all around the country: Manchester, Norwich and East London to name a few. He has had eight fights and six wins, escaping injuries except for a fractured hand. His next fight is likely to be at Christmas time when he hopes to take part in the School Boy Championships.

**Report by Georgia-Lee Finch (Year 11)**

## **Drew Cooks up a Tasty Dish!**

Drew Broster (Year 10) took part in a cooking competition at Kent College on 25 November 2011. Competing against three other senior competitors was quite a task - their challenge was to cook a traditional locally sourced main course in two hours and then be judged on their dishes. Drew decided to make rabbit pie with dauphinoise potatoes, to add to his spectacular efforts he had shot the rabbit himself. Drew's enthusiasm and skill gained him the place of runner up, a fantastic achievement.

When asking him what he enjoys about cooking he said, with a smile on his face; "I find cooking fun, it's relaxing and it is a good experience to experiment and try new things." Drew started cooking at the age of 9 in his primary school cooking various dishes such as shepherd's pie and lasagne. To be able to cook already at such a young age and with such skill is an achievement in itself, it shows determination and dedication. His inspirations are Jamie Oliver and Gordon Ramsey, stating that "they move towards change, always trying to create new food and to inspire others." By watching cooking shows on TV, and picking up skills from his mother, he has become the chef he is today.

Drew prefers to cook traditional British food because it is what he has grown up around, although he does do varied international food which he enjoys. When asked about his cooking at school he laughed and said: "My cooking teacher, Mrs Collins, gives us recipes to cook that we have to do. It gives me a chance to explore other recipes and be outside of my comfort zone in cooking". His willingness to try new things stands up to his word as he got a B grade in his exam and is making good progress in the subject.

Congratulations Drew, you've done yourself proud.

**Report by Georgia-Lee Finch (Year 11)**

### Peer Mentoring

Congratulations to all our new Year 9 Peer Mentors who completed their training at the start of Term 2. These students have agreed to give up their time in school to help some of our more vulnerable students to settle into school life.

**Mr E Martel (House Leader)**

### Year 7 Buddies

A big, "thank you" to all of the many students in Years 8-11 who gave up some of their time during Term 1 to act as 'Buddy' to a new Year 7 student. We know that coming to a secondary school for the first time can be a daunting prospect, but our Buddies did some sterling work in helping our new students to settle in.

**Mr E Martel (House Leader)**

### Homework

We have taken steps to make it much easier for parents to check the homework we are setting for our students. Now you no longer need a password or username to access homework, instead this can be viewed directly on the school website.

To access homework visit: [www.swadelands.kent.sch.uk](http://www.swadelands.kent.sch.uk) and click the homework link. You will then be prompted to enter your child's forename, surname and House to see their current homework.

Please note that this system will be active from early in January. If for any reason you do not wish your child's homework to be available in this way, please email your child's full name and House to: [homework@swadelands.kent.sch.uk](mailto:homework@swadelands.kent.sch.uk)

**Mr E Martel (House Leader)**



## STORYTELLER, JOSH GAILLEMIN, VISITS YEAR 7

Once again at Swadelands, we were thrilled to have Josh Gaillemin back for the fourth time to work with the Year 7 students. The students were thoroughly entertained, and sometimes disgusted, by Josh's unique and vivid storytelling methods.

After listening to Josh's extended and mesmerizing retelling of a short and basic African folk tale, the Year 7 students were given the opportunity to write their own endings to another folk tale, using the techniques that Josh had shown them. A number of students then read their own stories to the rest of the group.

It was a fun day, and all of the Year 7's really enjoyed their session with Josh. They produced some entertaining stories of their own, which they will have a chance to work on again. Those that wish to may have their stories sent to Josh and he has promised to read them all.



**Mrs S Miles (Deputy Head English and Literacy Co-ordinator)**

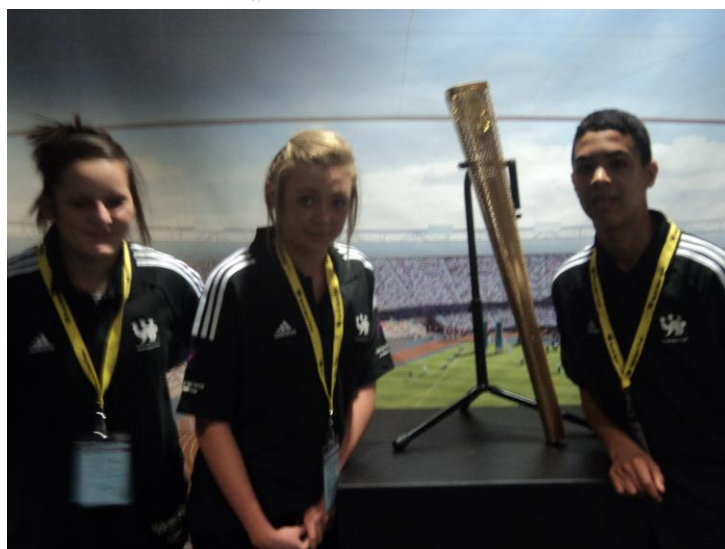
**Ashford and Weald District Cross  
Country Championships  
Tuesday, 29 November 2011  
at Godinton House, Ashford**

24 students from Swadelands took part in the Year 7, Junior and Intermediate boys and girls teams at the District Championships this year.

On a very windy day, most students performed admirably with some notable excellent performances: Freddie Jordan finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Year 7 boys event; Tyler O'Gorman finished strongly in 4<sup>th</sup> place and Sam Bone finished 7<sup>th</sup> in the Junior boys event and Lewis Fuller finished 7<sup>th</sup> in the Intermediate boys event.

All of these students have now been selected to represent the District at the Kent Championships at Kent College in January. Well down to everyone!

**Ms J Large (Assistant Headteacher)**



**Jonathan Edwards (CBE)**



**Young Ambassadors**

Swadelands prides itself on actively promoting the Olympic & Paralympic values. To continually push these values, not only within school but across the school's partnership area, we have been privileged to re-introduce the Young Ambassadors movement within the school.

To kick start the movement three students were selected to embark on their journey to become Young Ambassadors. Congratulations to Danielle Purnell, Nathan James and Tonisha Thomas for being selected as this year's Gold Level Ambassadors. As part of their training the Ambassadors attended the National Young Ambassadors Conference at Twickenham Stadium on Wednesday, 16 November. The Conference was an exciting day where the Young Ambassadors received training and talks from a number of elite athletes, including Jonathan Edwards (CBE), Chris Cook, Craig Heap, Tim Prendergast, Michelle Robinson, Clare Strange and Adam Whitehead.

In the run up to the Olympics and Paralympics the coming months look set to be very busy for the Young Ambassadors. Already they are planning a number of Olympic & Paralympic events as well as working with local schools to ensure the Adistar Young Ambassadors receive their training. The Ambassadors are always looking for ways to promote sport for students so if you have any ideas then please pass them on to your Young Ambassadors. Until then keep watching this space.

**Miss K Humphrey (School Games Organiser)**



# booked up 2011

Booked Up is a National programme that aims to give a free book to every child starting secondary school in England. The programme is run by the National Charity Booktrust.

In September, Swadelands once again signed up to the Booktrust's scheme to provide our Year 7 students with a reading book to encourage them to read more widely and to try new authors. Booked Up gives every Year 7 child in England their choice of a free book from a list of specially selected titles. The aim of Booked Up is to inspire excitement about reading and discovering new books and authors. The most popular titles this year proved to be Mortlock, Why is Snot Green? and Artichoke Hearts. If your child is in Year 7, we hope they enjoy their Booked Up book and that it encourages them to continue reading. Once they've read the book perhaps they could swap books with one of their friends!

This year the books to choose from were wide and varied in subject matter, to check them out visit: <http://www.bookedup.org.uk>

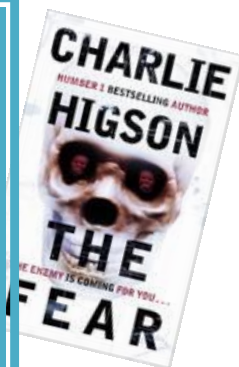
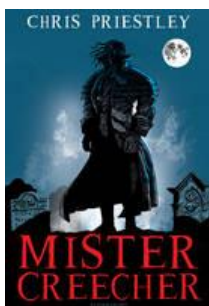
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Inspiring a love of books Inspiring a love of books

Miss J Smith (Head of English)

## Some new titles for the long, cold winter nights...

Fourteen-year-old Sherlock has come up against some challenges in his time, but what confronts him now is completely baffling. His tutor, Crowe, and Crowe's daughter, Ginny, have vanished. Their house looks as if nobody has ever lived there. Neighbours claim never to have heard of them. Sherlock begins to doubt his sanity, until a chance clue points him to Scotland. Following that clue leads him into the mystery that involves kidnapping, bodysnatchers and a man who claims he can raise the dead. Before he knows it, Sherlock is fighting for his life as he battles to discover what has happened to his friends.

Best-selling author Charlie Higson has created a chilling world in his thrilling Zombie series. Not only have all the adults – older siblings and parents – lost their minds and become hopeless has-beens, but there is the horrific danger of the Collector. How can the children survive in their broken world and, in particular, how can they keep themselves safe from the child-seeking Collector? A tense story about survival against the odds, *The Fear*, the third in the series, is devilishly creepy and seriously spine tingling. A delight for all those who like to be seriously scared.



A blood-chilling story with the search for Frankenstein which lies at its heart. When orphaned Billy, a miserably poor and hungry street urchin, comes across Mister Creecher, a man of great size and sinister intent, his life is turned upside down. Soon the two of them are off on a terrifying adventure travelling ever further north as they seek out the evil Victor Frankenstein. Rich in atmosphere and terror.

### **Sapphire Battersea by Jacqueline Wilson**

This is a fascinating, funny and moving Victorian-era novel featuring Hetty Feather. Hetty Feather is a Foundling Hospital girl and was given her name when she was left there as a baby by her mother. But she always longed to be called Sapphire, after her sapphire-blue eyes. When she is reunited with her mother, she hopes her new name, Sapphire Battersea, will also mean a new life! But life doesn't always go as planned...Follow the twists and turns of Hetty's adventure as she goes out to work as a maid for a wealthy man. She longs to be reunited with her childhood sweetheart Jem - but also finds a new sweetheart, Bertie the butcher's boy, who whisks her away from her household chores to experience the delights of the funfair! But Hetty's life may also take a darker path. Can she cope with the trials ahead?



Prize-winning Marcus Sedgwick's gift for powerful storytelling is at its very best in this emotionally charged, no holds barred novel. When journalist Eric Seven arrives on Blessed Island with a mission to uncover a mystery he is immediately captivated by its breathtaking beauty and by the beauty of Merle. Why does Eric feel he's met her before? And what are the secrets the islanders are keeping from him? Eric's story leads easily into stories set at other times on this idyllic place which hides a dark and bloody heart. Unfolding the cleverly crafted and interwoven layers to their dramatic conclusion is a spell binding delight.



### **An Elephant in the Garden by Michael Morpurgo**

A thrilling and moving new novel about an extraordinary animal caught up in a very human war, for anyone who loved The Amazing Story of Adolphus Tips or The Butterfly Lion! It's 1944, Elizabeth's father is fighting with the German army on the eastern front. Her mother works at Dresden zoo, where her favourite animal is a young elephant named Marlene. When the zoo director tells her the dangerous animals must be shot to prevent them running amok if the town is bombed, Elizabeth's mother moves Marlene into the back garden to save her! Then the bombs start to fall. Their home destroyed, Elizabeth and her family must flee the bombed-out city and escape through the wintery landscape, all the while avoiding the Russian troops who are drawing ever closer. It would be hard enough, without an elephant in tow!



Check out more great reads at: [lovereading4kids.co.uk](http://lovereading4kids.co.uk)

Miss J Smith (Head of English)



### **Remembrance Day Service : 11/11/11**

On 11/11/11, Swadelands School, once again, as part of its commemoration of Armistice Day, sent representatives from each Form Group and House to lay a Poppy wreath at Lenham Memorial.

This year was slightly different, as for the first time ever the school held a short Remembrance Day service in St Mary's Church, Lenham, which Reverend Richard Venn led. The students were all engaged with what the Reverend presented to them, which was emotional in parts.

45 students from Years 7-11 participated to represent the different Houses, which is a record number for our wreath laying. The following Year 13 students also participated and led aspects of the service: Shane Beech, Victoria Brunger, Jordan Croucher, Nathan Stannard, John Taplin and James Tucker.

Next year it is hoped that the school will hold a larger event where students will coordinate to invite representatives from the local primary schools to also participate. Many thanks go to the parents who supported our students being involved in such community projects.

**Mrs C Iglinski (Head of Religious Education/Citizenship)**

## Sixth Form News

Terms 1 and 2 have proved highly successful for Swadelands Sixth Form. We have welcomed new Year 12 students, including our first Soccer Elite Scholarship cohort, have re-decorated the common room and appointed a new leadership team.

Sixth Form students were treated to an innovative first two PSHEE Days. The first day saw students attending a team building day at Ashford Bowling which was won by Frank Griffin. For the second day they learnt about driving safety and were informed about homelessness from the group Porchlight. They also took part in a Dragons Den style activity with Mrs Wilkinson.

Early in September, 12 students applied for the posts of Head Boy and Head Girl. The quality of the interviews was extremely high and all of the candidates would have made exceptional leaders. The successful candidates were James Jackson and Lydia Hilden for Head Boy and Girl and Jack Mahoney and Annabel Carpenter for the Deputies. We look forward to reaping the rewards of their leadership skills.



Victoria Brunger, Jordan Croucher and Lydia Hilden have led the way for fundraising. Students were asked to donate a pound to wear pink for the day and took part in various raffles to raise money for Breast Cancer raising £500.



Children in Need saw the girls once again take a lead in organising a non-uniform day, teacher Blind Date and various raffles. This event managed to raise nearly £1000. Well done to all of those involved!



The Sixth Form common room has been re-decorated. Students now have the luxury of black sofas, a cafe style seating area, a table tennis table, air hockey table and a Wii machine as well as a study area and access to all of the recent university prospectuses. Students have taken the time to organise a table tennis competition in their lunchtimes which was won by Tyler Money.

Rewards have become an important area for the Sixth

Form in recognition of their excellent attendance and attitude to learning. A local company, the Right Attitude Driving School, has kindly donated free driving lessons for students. Twelve of these were given out at the end of Term 1 and there are many more to come throughout the year.

The Soccer Elite Scholarship has proved highly successful in its debut year. As well as playing in a local league a number of our scholars have achieved recognition locally, nationally and internationally. Frank Griffin has played at Ewood Park (the home of Blackburn Rovers) in the Youth FA Cup, whilst Joel Attwood and Johann Caney-Bryan have been for trials at Danish Club Brøndby. Well done to all of our scholars and we look forward to them enjoying more success in 2012.



Finally, attendance has been a huge focus for the Sixth Form.

Luke Brockbank, Kimberley Cook, Jack Healey, Katie Hickey, Daniel Hills, Stephen Munn and Kimberly Palmer have all achieved 100% attendance since September whilst nearly 40% of our students have only missed one day. This is excellent and has resulted in Sixth Form attendance outranking all Houses and year groups. Well done and we look forward to Sixth Form maintaining their high standards into 2012.

**Mr J Coare (Head of Sixth Form)**