

Helen Ferguson reporting...

Rise Up Awards 2017



Four Health and Fitness students in Year 10 were recently invited to Channel 4 Studios in London for the Rise Up Awards. Sweyne Park were shortlisted down to the final 12 schools out of over 60 schools across Britain who entered. The competition was to come up with an advertising campaign to raise awareness for a chosen issue that each group were passionate about.

The Year 10s chose to increase awareness of the hidden sugars found in soft drinks as it interlinked with what they have been learning about in their Health and Fitness lessons. The students were shocked when their research showed how much sugar is in drinks and that young people are unaware of the amount of sugar they are consuming and therefore making uninformed decisions when purchasing drinks. For example, there is the same amount of sugar in a bottle of Ribena as there is in 13 Oreo biscuits!

The group presented their campaign to around 100 people, including Channel 4 staff, other schools and five judges. They were over the moon to be awarded second place and received a highly commended glass trophy and each received a ticket to the Capital Summer Time Ball 2018!

Headlines by Andy Hodgkinson

NEW GCSE EXAMS

As I am sure you have read in the Media, this year all pupils in England will be sitting new GCSE exams on the new 1 - 9 grading system. As has been widely publicised, these exams are indeed harder than previous GCSE exams, both in terms of the amount of content, and the amount of information pupils are expected to recall without prompt sheets, but also the level of difficulty. We have, of course, been sending our teachers on all the relevant exam board training courses, and have requested specimen papers from the exam boards, as they have become available. You may also recall that, as a staff, we spent time on our November INSET day thinking about strategies to support our pupils in these new, tougher exams. Over the coming weeks, extra workshops, conferences and revision

resources will be made available by departments for Year 11 pupils, and parents of pupils in Year 11 also will be able to discuss these during the forthcoming Parents' Evening on Thursday 25th January.

One area that is inevitably going to be difficult for this year, is grade prediction, given that no pupils have yet sat these new exams nationally! We have, however, now been able to analyse the national data sets for the first, new-style, English and Maths exams, sat in 2017. As a result, our predicted grades can be modified accordingly. Year 11 mock exams have been marked with this new information in mind, and this will also be used to inform grades for the Year 10 exams in March. Meanwhile, in a future edition of The Sweyne Park Times, we will include a range of helpful strategies for use at home, to ensure pupils can manage the demands of these new exams, and to help with everything from exam stress to revision techniques. Watch this space! PTO/...



Book of the Week

THE ISLAND AT THE END OF EVERYTHING
by Kiran Millwood Hargrave

"There are some places you would not want to go. Even if I told you that we have oceans filled with sea turtles and dolphins, or forests lush with parrots that call through air thick with warmth..."

Nobody comes here because they want to. The island of no return."

A powerful and moving story, beautifully told, set in Cution Island.



SHORT-LISTED FOR
ESSEX BOOK AWARD 2018
WILL IT WIN?



12th January 2018

DUTY PUPILS

Thank you for all your help:

Cameron, Summer, Samuel & George (8CW)
Eve & Mia (8NGa)
Leighton & Miles (8JFe)

Pupil Services

SCHOOL UNIFORM

Please remember to clearly label school uniform with your child's name. If it is lost we can then return the items.

Thank you.

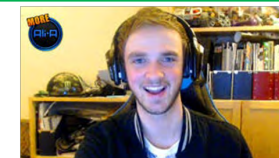
Pupil Services

LIKE VIDEO GAMES? DON'T KNOW WHAT TO READ?



"Forza. I love that game. I'm all about the fast-pace and the cars and action. And actually, going back to a series I loved reading as a kid was the Alex Rider series. And I always imagined myself as that sort of Alex character: sort of undercover spy, teenage kid doing all those amazing things. And I always remember all of the crazy buggies and go-karts and parachuting..."

Ali-A, You Tube Gamer



PREMISES UPDATE

Over the holidays, our in-house Premises Team has been busy making significant improvements to the fabric of the school building. Firstly, the lighting has been significantly improved in the Hall, which will help all year groups during exams. One of the PE wet changing rooms has also been renovated, and we have started completely refurbishing a second English classroom, which should make a real difference to the learning environment.

Year 8 Celebration Trip to Chelmsford Ice Rink

Josh Fernandez reporting...

On Thursday 14th December, we took 26 Year 8 pupils on a celebration trip to Chelmsford to go Ice Skating. The pupils who were invited on the trip were those who had received outstanding effort in their 8.1 monitoring grades, with an emphasis on having all A's for effort. Pupils were also selected based on their behaviour in lessons and around the school and for showing commitment to their studies.

It was a real delight to watch the pupils' excitement unfold as we arrived, starting with the moment they collected their skates and figured out how to actually secure them onto their feet! Once everyone had collected their equipment, it was time to hit the ice. Initially, there was tentativeness upon getting on the ice, everyone moving slowly and deliberately but, before long, confidence was high and the pupils were soon racing around the rink at a fast pace. It was really pleasing to see lots of teamwork on display, with pupils moving around in small groups helping those that were still finding their feet!

Overall, the pupils had a fantastic experience and really represented themselves and Swayne Park School superbly; their behaviour on the coach to and from Chelmsford and on the Ice Rink itself was exemplary. Although there were a few minor bruises, everyone made it back home safely so it was an extremely successful trip!

"The trip was amazing and everyone had so much fun. It was different to trips we usually do, but it was a "good different." It was one of the best trips so far!"

Megan (8JFe)

"The ice skating trip was fantastic! It was quite difficult to start with, but we all got the hang of it quickly. It was so much fun - definitely a trip to remember!"

Maisie (8SMY)

"When I arrived at the rink, I put my skates on and went on the ice. I felt nervous for how slippery it was. At the end of the trip, I could even ice skate, overcoming my fear. I recommend you try this if you have the opportunity. It is packed with loads of fun and enjoyment!"

Ryan (8JFe)



Megan & Maisie



Lucy, Hayley, Erin & Annabel



Hannah, Megan & Ella-Rose



Year 8 pupils



Ryan & Zoe



Ella-Rose, Hannah, Sophia & Lorianne