

Christian Keil reporting...

REACHING NEW HEIGHTS!



This is the 3rd Silver Duke of Edinburgh expedition the school has completed. Each year numbers have been increasing and this year was no exception, with 18 candidates. We took the minibus up to the White Peaks to the town of Hartington. The first night we stayed in Hartington Hall Youth Hostel, with a delightful dinner and one final night of luxury before camping! Pupils planned their route and prepared for the three days ahead of them. In the morning we had a full English breakfast and then the expedition began. The three groups set off at 10am after meeting our assessor. We hiked from Baslow car park through to Chatsworth Manor, then reached our first campsite - Mandale House. Facilities were basic and the wind chill was strong, being on top of a hillside. The next day we arrived at Barracks Farm in the Dale. Our candidates represented the school brilliantly with great attitude and organisation which really impressed our assessor. The final day we set off at 9am determined to reach the end of the expedition. After the debrief and relief that everyone passed, we stopped off for a reward McDonalds. We had three good days of walking, 2 nights camping and have an array of new memories.

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Headlines by Andy Hodgkinson

SHOW MY HOMEWORK

Now that Show My Homework is fully operational, we have been able to complete an initial evaluation. Feedback from pupils and parents has been positive, although a number of questions regarding its functionality have been raised. Consequently, Katharine Dines, Deputy Headteacher, is sharing with pupils in assembly more about what Show My Homework can do, and, in response to some questions from parents, included in this week's edition of the Sweyne Park Times is a FAQ sheet, which I hope will be of use. Thank you for your support and feedback thus far; it is much appreciated.

SECTION 8 NEW SIXTH FORM PROVISION VISIT

On Tuesday, we had a one day visit from Ofsted to look at our new Sixth Form provision. I will, of course, make available the findings letter as soon as we receive this. This is likely to be shortly after half-term.

ROAD SAFETY

As I am sure you have noticed, the mornings are darker at the moment, and so, with this in mind, please do remind your son and/or daughter that, if they are coming to school by foot or on bike, they really should try to cross roads at designated crossing points, and make no assumptions that they have been seen by motorists.

Thank you.

Book of the Week

FUZZY MUD
By Louis Sachar

Marshall and Tamaya take a short cut home from school one day to avoid the school bully - through the forbidden, completely out-of-bounds woods. This is a fast-paced and exciting story of bravery, friendships, and science gone wacky, by the author of *Holes*.

ONE OF THE FREE BOOKBUZZ CHOICES FOR YEAR 7!



DUTY PUPILS

Thank you for all your help:

Ben, Keira, Cody, Alfie, Rebecca & Millie (8NGa)
Belle, Wesley, Holly & Grace (8IMi)
Pupil Services

HONESTY BOX



Thank you to Isabel (7RJo) for handing in some money.

Sophie & Jess (9GPr) for handing in a phone.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

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

We already have many items of lost property so please do come and have a look in Pupil Services.

We will be disposing of items which were left in Year 11 lockers last term at half-term.

Thank you.



Year 7 pupils have been busy baking and selling cakes in order to raise funds for Macmillan Cancer Support. Our first cake sale raised £90.

Parents' Time

A member of the Leadership Team will be available to see parents without appointment:

9:00am-9:45am Monday - Friday

5:00pm-5:45pm Thursdays



CONGRATULATIONS ON RECEIVING YOUR BRONZE BADGES:



Toby (8SCm)
Charles (8CWi)
Anna (8SCm)

Chloe (8SCm)
Eloise (8SCm)
Charis (8SCm)

Show My Homework FAQs

- 1 **Q** My child is being disturbed by the alerts, is it possible to turn these off?
- A** Yes, this can be done through the settings on your child's phone.
- 2 **Q** We are receiving notifications that the grading for pieces of work will be N/A. Does this mean that the work will not be marked?
- A** Not at all, this simply means that a grade will not be communicated via the system. Instead, the work will be submitted in class, marked and fed back in class, in the normal way.
- 3 **Q** Can I, or my child, contact the teacher using the system?
- A** Yes, this is possible, but we would request that this facility is used solely for asking questions, or seeking clarification about the tasks set. Please still use the usual channels of communication should you have any general concerns.
- 4 **Q** My child seems to be receiving too much homework, with too many coinciding deadlines. Why is this happening?
- A** We are monitoring the amount of homework being set. Please remind your child that each task has a countdown to the deadline, and this should be used to help them prioritise tasks and manage their workload. Homework should still be set in accordance with the homework timetable and in line with school policy. If you have any concerns, please do contact the relevant teacher, Head of Department or Head of Year.

Engaging with Literacy at Sweyne Park School Maria Shangolis reporting...

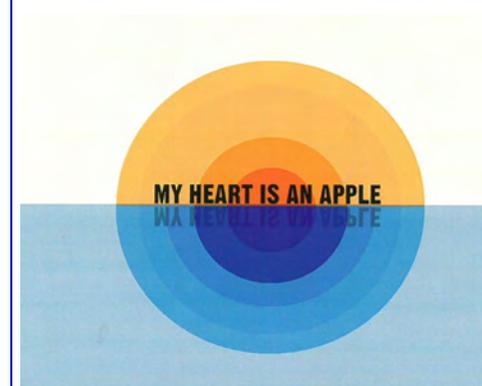
Literacy is an important focus for everyone in our school community. Communicating with confidence is a skill that everyone needs and we believe that by developing our language skills, we empower our thinking. We have engaged with literacy in many different ways. In lessons, teachers encourage learners to use specialist terms and to check their work for accuracy; the library is a hub for excellent resources to promote a love of language and words; displays around the school encourage us to think about the importance of words in creating a respectful and thoughtful community.



Poetry Success for Lucy and Luke!

Two students from our school have been recognised for their creative talents and will be attending the Essex Young Poet of the Year Ceremony this Saturday!

Both Lucy (in Year 11) and Luke (in Year 10) have been successful in this prestigious competition, producing inspiring and thoughtful poems. In fact, Lucy has had three of her poems recognised and shortlisted for an award! Good luck to both pupils in their poetic endeavours! We are very proud of your achievements!



Sixth Formers Proudly Publish Their Work!

At Sweyne Park School we are very proud of our writing enthusiasts, with some of our pupils having their work published. It is wonderful to see many pupils and students engaging with and thinking about the power of language and communication in such creative ways.

For the second consecutive year, our A Level Creative Writing cohort have published an anthology of short stories, entitled 'My Heart is an Apple'. Students' inspiring work was showcased at the start of the school year, with many eager to meet the authors of published work! It is certainly impressive to see young adults exploring literacy through creative writing and engaging a wide and varied audience with their work. In the words of their teacher, Mr Noibi, "This book is a representation of opening your heart to writing and seeing it blossom into something beautiful."