



From the Headteacher

Where has this year gone?! We are rapidly approaching half term and have just 7 weeks left until the summer holidays. Exam season is well under way and it is safe to say that we have never seen such motivated, focused and well-prepared students as we have witnessed this year. We are so proud of the students, not just for their academic abilities and superb attitude towards their studies, but more importantly for the people that they have become during their time with us at the school. Results are important for life opportunities. However, who they are as individuals will be the making of them. Are they good people? Do they look out for the most vulnerable? Can they get along with others? Do they have confidence in themselves? Are they engaged in their Faith? Will they make the world a better place? Without hesitation I would confidently say 'yes' to all these questions. That is worth so much more than a grade on a GCSE or A Level certificate which will sit in a cardboard box in the attic forever more!

We pray, therefore, that all those sitting exams do themselves justice and are recognised for the hard work and preparation they have put in and that we as adults inspire and challenge every young person to fulfil their God-given potential. Have a restful half term and thank you as ever for all your support, prayers and encouragement.

God Bless
David Carter

Farewells and new roles

We say goodbye to Dr Taylor this half term as he joins The Littlehampton Academy as Director of Science. In his 5 years at SPH, Nick has had a considerable impact in every post he has filled, from teacher of science, to Head of Sixth Form and more recently as Head of Year 7 and Associate Assistant Head. I'd like to thank him for his hard work, dedication and commitment to the students. He really has made a considerable difference and I know he will achieve great things at TLA. Congratulations to Mr Williams as well! He has recently been appointed as Deputy Headteacher at Bishop Luffa. We will be saying a proper goodbye at the end of term, but in the meantime he continues in his current role, seconded as Vice Principal at Six Villages Academy, where he is making a very positive contribution.

It's not so much of a farewell, rather a 'see you later' to Mr Campbell. Now that the Maths exams are completed, Mr Campbell will be taking up his secondment as Head of Maths at Six Villages. This is part of our continued commitment to support local schools and improve the life chances of all young people in the area. It is also a great opportunity for Mr Campbell which SPH will benefit from in the longer term too. We wish him well and at the same time welcome Mr Jordan Roberts. Mr Roberts was an ex student at SPH and will be joining the Maths team this term. Both he and Mr Luke Hancock (another ex SPH student!) will be full time members of the Maths department from September.

After half term, day to day responsibility for Year 7 passes to Mr Collyer (currently Head of Year 11). This is in preparation for a few changes to the pastoral structure for the next academic year. To add even greater capacity, experience and expertise to our pastoral team, we will be creating two new roles, Head of Middle School (overseeing Yr 8 and Yr 9) and Head of Upper School (overseeing Yr 10 and Yr 11) in addition to our usual Heads of Year and Year Leaders. Students have been informed of these changes in assembly with the structure and individuals involved as follows:

Head of Year 7 – Mrs Schaeffer		
Head of Middle School – Mr Collyer Year 8 Leader – Miss Smith Year 9 Leader – Mr Van Hoek		Head of Upper School – Miss Duckers Year 10 Leader – Miss Graham Year 11 Leader – Miss Hill
Head of Sixth Form – Mr Hogan		

We look forward to what these teams will bring next year and I have every confidence that the great work which is already done by the pastoral leaders will go from strength to strength.

David Carter, Headteacher

Year 9 participate in pilot for sustainable travel

In October the whole of Year 9 visited Pulborough Brooks to look at Ecosystems. Instead of travelling by coach as we have in previous years, we took the train to Pulborough and walked from the station to Pulborough Brooks nature reserve.

The trip was a pilot in a joint project between the South Downs National Park Authority and the Sussex Community Rail Partnership (link: <http://www.sussexcrp.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/Pulborough-Case-Study.pdf>). The project aims to encourage people to access the South Downs using sustainable transport. The trips took place over three days and we were fortunate to have the train fares for 50 students and three staff paid for by the rail Partnership. Not only was the project good for the environment, it was also good for the wallet as substantial savings were made by travelling by rail. We expect to travel by rail in future to Pulborough Brooks.

Mrs N Bleakley, Geography Teacher

Students visit Cologne

At 6:30 on a sunny Tuesday morning in May (instead of a cold dark morning in December) we set off on the 400 mile trek across northern Europe to Cologne. Rather than the Christmas markets, the students explored the shopping streets of the city, ordering Currywurst and trying out their German to buy souvenirs. We cruelly forced them up the 600 steps to the top of the Cathedral bell tower to admire the view and later we enjoyed a stroll along the river Rhine to the Olympic and Sport museum where they tried out long jump and weight lifting, followed by games of football and tennis on the roof. The enormous chocolate fountain in the Chocolate Museum proved to be popular as ever and the students also enjoyed the tradition of Kaffee und Kuchen in Cologne's finest café. Although initially shy during the language lessons, the students soon warmed up and impressed the local teachers with their linguistic skills. They were an enthusiastic bunch who made the most of every opportunity to learn about German culture and try out their language skills.

Mrs A-M Isaacs, MFL Teacher

KS3 and 4 German students enjoy German play

Students of German in Key stages 3 and 4 recently enjoyed a theatre performance from a professional touring company. Conducted entirely in German, students enjoyed a comedy entitled "Die Zwillinge", about confusion caused by identical twin brothers. Some students had chance to show their acting skills by being part of the action!

Happy 90th Birthday to the Queen

Following a request from the Bognor Pier Trust, 300 Year 7 and 8 students have contributed to a Happy Birthday Card to the Queen – the trust is aiming for 5,000 signatures from local organisations

Sixth formers raising funds for trip to Rwanda

In October, 9 Sixth Form students and 3 members of staff will be spending time working with students in ES Kagogo, our partner school in Rwanda. Arundel Catenians, an association of Catholic laymen who are committed to their Faith, their families and to those in need, have kindly offered to support our fund-raising, so we are organising a "Cabaret Evening" in our school hall on June 24th at 7.30. To support the evening, we are seeking an auctioneer, so if you have a talent for this and could help us, or know of an auctioneer, please let us know. Gifts for raffle prizes would be greatly received. Any funds raised by the Catenians will go to supporting our visit. A programme and tickets will be available after half-term. The Catenians are always keen to welcome new members! If you are interested please contact John Crook <physics.scitutor@live.co.uk>.

Esafty

The Internet Safety team at 360safe have just recognised us as being eligible for accreditation as an Esafe school. From information over the last four months they tell us: "Congratulations, your overall is rating significantly above average compared to the 8085 schools using 360 degree safe."

Year 9 Careers Day

Thank you to parents and carers who have volunteered to speak to our students on our forthcoming Year 9 Careers Day on June 27th. If you, or someone you know, would be willing to talk to our students about their role in the world of work, we would love to hear from you. We are seeking contributors with wide and interesting background in the workplace. Please contact abaker@sphcs.co.uk or swallbridge@sphcs.co.uk if you can help us for an hour or so on the day.

SPH team run the Bognor 10K

Team SPH were on strong form at the 10k on Sunday 15th May and it was great to see that everyone made it around in one piece- just about! As it was the first run I've ever completed, it certainly was a challenge. The tremendous support from spectators, including many staff and students cheering us on, gave us the motivation to keep running even in the last few kilometres. We were running to raise money for Sussex Snowdrop trust, a very special charity to our school, and have so far raised a massive £1,416.50. Thank you to all of those who donated and encouraged. I'm looking forward to beating Mr Roe at the next one!



Miss J Graham, English Teacher

Opportunities for young singers

The Cathedral choir offers many opportunities for young singers. There are no pre-requisites for joining and everything is assessed during audition. Some misconceptions include the expectation of reading music, having to be Catholic (over half the choir are non-Catholic) having to sing all year round (generous holidays and generally the choir only operates in term time) and having to pay (it's completely free though it is suggested parents purchase choir clothing - a hooded top and t shirt - for the purpose of outings and corporate identity). There are also opportunities to earn money through singing for weddings and other services. Many children take examinations in singing and other instruments, improve academically and develop their social circle as a result of membership of the choir.

The Director of Music at Arundel Cathedral is looking to recruit children to choristerships which largely operate for under 16's. However, they are also currently looking for choral scholars - these are drawn from sixth form or university/college and they sing each week during term time. There is a weekly rehearsal (also during term time only) and occasional other services. The scholarship is remunerated and other paid work is also offered.

If you are interested, please contact Elizabeth Stratford (Director of Music) on telephone number 07971 090724 or via email elizabethstratford@msn.com

A few of our students who sing in the Cathedral choir took part in last November's BBC Children in Need project at St Paul's Cathedral.



DEAR Drop Everything And Read

As a school (students and staff!), we are continuing the initiative Drop Everything And Read. At pre-determined times on a fortnightly basis everyone literally stops what they are doing and reads their book for twenty minutes. This is an initiative designed to promote reading and improve students' literacy and if you are available at those times, join us by reading at home! (Sessions during the summer term are: 8 and 22 June, and 5, 14 and 21 July). Please remind your child to bring their reading book into school!

Parents (and other friends!) Prayer Group

We launched our prayer group earlier this year, but if you would like to join to receive a monthly email of prayer intentions for SPH and the community, please email Clare at clong@sphcs.co.uk to be added to the mailing list.

Congratulations to the newly Confirmed

It was a real privilege to see so many of our young people confirmed this month. Both the Cathedral and Worthing Deaneries celebrated their Confirmation Masses during May, and young people from all our parishes made their adult commitment of faith to the Bishop and to our communities. The Bishop reminded them (and all of us) that we are called by God to a unique role in the world, and in the words of St Catherine of Siena, to "be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire." As they were sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, we thank God for the gift they are to our school and to our world. Congratulations to all those who were confirmed (or are yet to be confirmed) this year. We ask the whole of the school community to keep them in your prayers at this time.

Come, Holy Spirit,
Fill the hearts of your faithful
Enkindle in us the fire of your love.
Send forth your Spirit and we shall be created,
and you shall renew the face of the earth.
Amen.

Clare Long, Chaplain



A huge thank you to one of our parents, Mrs Bishop, who made this wonderful cake to celebrate our Ofsted 'outstanding' grading.

Forthcoming Dates for your Diary:

30 May – 3 June – Half term

17-24 June – Internal exams (Y7-10)

24 June – 7.30pm Cabaret Evening

27 June – Year 9 Careers Day

27 June – 1 July – Y12 Work Experience

29 June – Feast of Sts Peter and Paul

1 July – Inset - open to some exam groups, as requested by staff

5 July – Y6 Induction Evening

6 July – Y6 Induction day

11 July – Y7 Presentation

12 July – Y8 Presentation

13 July – Y9 Presentation

14 July – Y10 Presentation

15 July – Sports day

18 July – Fundraising Day

22 July – 12:40 End of term