



Secondary phase newsletter

Creating Tomorrow's Citizens Today

Friday 24th September 2021

All-through news

Rachel Kirk, as Primary Lead, and I remain so optimistic as we have seen how the Simon Balle All through Community is now back into the usual rhythm for the Autumn Term. Our children and young people are engaged in their learning in so many ways and taking up the vast number of opportunities on offer, particularly sport and music. We continue to plan numerous events both for individual cohorts as well as the wider school. Next week sees the return of our annual fun run and the week after our Harvest Festival for our primary children, to be held at All Saints Church.

We took the decision several months ago that our annual open day could not run as usual and we are holding a series of events to welcome potential families. Unlike some local schools we are trying to run these outside of the school day which is proving to be a challenge in terms of logistics. However, we trust that you, our school community, can inform new parents of what the school does on a daily basis; the quality of the learning, the real care and support, the emphasis upon values and citizenship and the great quality of relationships. In addition, once again the Headteacher's message will be online. Hopefully next Autumn things can resume and we can celebrate our community in our traditional way!

Calling all alumni

From time to time we receive reports of what our previous students are doing and we are always amazed by the sheer range and depth of what they have achieved. We are looking not only to reconnect with past students but also celebrate their achievements with current students, as part of our aspirational programmes. Therefore please encourage ex students to email in or do so yourselves so we can get a real buzz about this. We only need a few paragraphs which should be sent to admin@simonballe.herts.sch.uk. Coming out of what has been such a difficult period for so many of our young people, we need to show them what they also can achieve! We really look forward to hearing your news.

Social media

At Simon Balle All-through School, we value the importance of collaboration and communication between all stakeholders. To this end, we are currently looking at the way in which we use our social media accounts. We are aware of the crucial role social media plays in education and how this can help all stakeholders, especially you as parents/carers, to get information quickly and efficiently, to connect with our community and to experience key events we have in our calendar.

Our social media accounts will be used to *promote, inform and delight*. **We strongly recommend that parents have access to and follow all our social media accounts.** We use Instagram, Facebook and Twitter.

Our Instagram account is **simon_balle_school**. This will primarily be used to promote our key events during the academic year. We feel this platform will support the magical moments that our children and students experience throughout each term.

Our Twitter account is **@Simon_Balle**. This will primarily be used to inform you of key information. This may be in the form of specific reminders or details of which you may be required to take note. We feel this platform will ensure communication is more efficient and helpful for you.



Our Facebook account is easily found when searching for **Simon Balle School**. This will primarily be used to delight parents with a vast majority of instantaneous posts that capture great learning, moments to remember and exciting activities. We feel this popular platform can demonstrate what it really is like to be at Simon Balle All-through School.

Please note that a majority of posts may be duplicated over all three platforms. These social media accounts are an addition to our normal communication; **nothing is being removed or replaced** - so, if you prefer to connect with us through our newsletters and/or our website as well as the emails that we send, then please do not worry - these will continue.

We hope that you have access to these sites and welcome the news feeds that await. Our vision of promoting, informing and delighting is simply a means for us to collaborate and communicate more closely than previously. We will be sending out a parental survey about the use of social media to get your views on the experience and posts sent out after half term, as we will strongly value your views in moving this strategy further forward.

SBAS Fun Run 2021

We are really looking forward to our all through community Fun Run, next Tuesday 28th September. The organisation for the day has been shared with all students and we have over 100 signed up to complete the elite race. As previously communicated, this is our main fundraising event and thank you to all who have contributed so far.

The best way to contribute towards this year's Fun Run is to make a donation via [Parent Pay](#) as we are able to claim Gift Aid on these donations. When you login you will see two payment items available to you:

Fun Run donations (With Gift Aid)

Fun Run donations (Without Gift Aid)

We have asked for a donation of at least £10 per student / £15 per family if siblings, but we also appreciate that some families may not be able to contribute this much so any contribution is valued.

All participants can compete at their own pace and wear their PE kit. They may also wish to complete the course in fancy dress. The theme of this year's Fun Run is Heroes. Primary parents have been communicated to regarding arrangements for changing.

Gradu8 Club

We are proud to say that the inaugural launch of our Gradu8 programme for Year 7 has been a resounding success in the first few weeks of this year. This is a research-based, personalised academic enrichment programme that is designed to stretch and support students in equal measure so they engage, thrive and progress from the start of their academic journey with us.

Running every Monday and Thursday morning from 8am, and fuelled by copious amounts of brioche, juice and bananas, an average of 165 students have attended each session to establish a fantastic culture from the very beginning of their time with us. This is incredibly rewarding to see for all involved.

Study Club

As part of encouraging the aspirational attitude we expect all of our students to demonstrate, our Wednesday Study Club returns this week for Year 6-9 in our library. Supported by staff, we hope to see many students attending the session in the library to complete their home learning.



Bike to School Week

Bike to School Week is a week-long event across the UK to encourage families to cycle and scoot to school. It's a great way to celebrate the huge benefits an active school run brings. This year it takes place from 27 September to 1 October 2021. Please support us to help your children stay fit, active and healthy!

Music

Music Hall of Fame

Thanks to everyone who voted in our Hall of Fame. Voting has now closed and we will count down the top 20 pieces each week. So now for the big reveal....

In 20th place this year in our Hall of Fame is... **Bolero by Maurice Ravel** (week beginning 13th September)

In 19th place in our Hall of Fame is... **Le Onde by Ludovico Einaudi** (week beginning 20th September)

Don't forget you can listen to the 100 Hall of Fame pieces on our Spotify playlist here:

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/39aeNJ0J2bkGeVJYuF4Wrp?si=e5e04aee022240af>

School Parliament 2021-2022

We are pleased to announce our form representatives

Year Group		Form Representative	Extra Curricular Representative
Year 5	Mallard	Daisy	
	Swan	Lola	
Year 6	Owls	Maxwell	
	Eagles	Isabel	
	Ashbourne	Nitika	
Year 7	Beane	Elizabeth	
	Rib	Ethan	Adrian
	Lea	Fatima	Sunny
	Mimram	Amelia	Harry
	New	Shaly	Abigail
	Ashbourne	Christina	Thomas
Year 8	Beane	Finley	Lewis



	Rib	Elise	Leon
	Lea	Olly	Sophie
	Mimram	Reubin	Anabel
	New	Kavin	Robin
Year 9	Ashbourne	Grace	William
	Beane	Oscar	JJ
	Rib	Niall and Orla	Esher
	Lea	Aun	Elizabeth
	Mimram	Roan	May
	New	Madi	Ethan
Year 10	Ashbourne	Rosie	Alfie
	Beane	Fatma	Jesse
	Rib	Ilan	Brandon
	Lea	Lucas	Trent with Fran
	Mimram	Taya	Scarlett
	New	Zoe	Lilian
Year 11	Ashbourne	Harry	Lily
	Beane	William	Ashton
	Rib	Jack	Kobi
	Lea	Sophie	Zakari
	Mimram	Carlo	Lola
	New	Nicole	Lewis
Year 12	Ashbourne	Oviya	Sarah
	Beane	Ada	Alexandra
	Rib	Paul	Emma
	Lea	Jacob	Luke
	Mimram	Term 1 - Charles. Term 2 - Clara-Belle Term 3 - Yasmin	Jay
	New	Grace	Willow
Year 13	Ashbourne	Skye	Max
	Beane	Emily	Harry
	Rib	Ruby	Isabella
	Lea	Alex	Leon
	Mimram	Callum	Alex
	New	Millie	Roberto

As well as form discussion, year council and the School Parliament we are also running focus groups. This is a great opportunity for students to chat to other year groups and make changes to how we educate students, staff and change the physical fabric of our school.



Sustainability / Eco Group

The Sustainability Working Group will be responsible for driving forward change that helps Simon Balle to become more environmentally friendly. They will work closely with key stakeholders such as the Business and Premises Managers and student volunteers in both the primary and secondary phase. They will be responsible for promoting and supporting the volunteer groups, and coordinating efforts to achieve the coveted Eco-Schools Green Flag award.

Diversity / Inclusivity Group

Hopefully society is changing for the better, individuals like Marcus Rashford are influencing this change. How do we educate and shape diversity and inclusion in our school community? How can we as students influence this change in our understanding of issues, our actions, how we speak and the physical environment. This will be a great group to discuss and explore key issues which impact our lives..

Secondary news

Library news

Roald Dahl Story Day was on Monday 13th September. To mark the day we had a Roald Dahl themed quiz in the library. Well done to the 55 quizzers who participated and especially well done to the runners up and winners!

In joint third place:

Niina Palmer (12L) and Abbie Bik-Elliot (12N)

Isobel Clare (8L) and Sophie Gates (8L)

In joint second place:

Harry Brunton (7M)

Alex Davis (12B) and Jack Sheppard (12N)

In joint first place:

Charlie Ogier and Kai Burgess Saito (8L)

Matilda Wedgwood (8L)

George Cable and Adam Cussens (8L)

Book tokens

[Win £1,000 of book tokens for an awesome young adult!](#)

We're inviting families and friends of 16 to 24-year-olds to nominate them to **win £1,000 of National Book Tokens** to spend on books, such as textbooks, novels and academic texts – young people can nominate themselves, too!

If they win, not only will their reading list be sorted, the entrant will also get a £50 National Book Token for themselves.

If you wish to share the campaign on social media, on your website, or in your newsletter, you can find assets and draft posts [here](#).

The prize draw closes on Sunday 31st October.



Wishing you all an exciting and fulfilling fortnight ahead!

And finally please remind your child to collect the lateral flow test packs- we know that by testing twice a week, we are keeping the community safe.

Best wishes,

Mrs Alison Saunders (Headteacher) and Mrs Rachel Kirk (Vice Principal)



Launch of online tool to flag unsafe areas to police

Dear Watch Member,

The Government, with support from the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC), has launched a new tool for people to flag unsafe areas to police.

They have asked all police forces to publicise this new online platform.

Hosted on the national policing website [police.uk](https://www.police.uk) and aimed primarily at women and girls, the tool, named StreetSafe, enables members of the public to anonymously drop a pin onto a map and describe factors that cause them concern, including behavioural or environmental reasons why they felt unsafe.

These could range from a poorly-lit walkway to instances of public harassment and will mean concerns can be raised with police, whether or not a crime has been committed.

The information will be used alongside other key data by policing, in partnership with stakeholders, to deliver improved wellbeing and safety for communities.

Visit <https://www.police.uk/streetsafe> to have your say.

If you need to reply regarding this message, tap on this email address: fcenquiries@herts.pnn.police.uk

Regards,

Corporate Communication - ND

Hertfordshire Press & PR Department

Email: fcenquiries@herts.pnn.police.uk



Police Contact Advice

- Telephone 999 in an emergency where there is a danger to life or a crime is in progress.
- Telephone 101 for non-emergencies where police attendance is required, to report a crime or to report any other incidents.
- Alternatively, visit www.herts.police.uk/contact to report a non-emergency crime online or chat to a police operator live via our webchat service.
- If you are calling about the above message, please tell us that you are responding to a message from OWL.