



Secondary phase newsletter

Creating Tomorrow's Citizens Today

Friday 8th October 2021

ALL THROUGH NEWSLETTER

Dear Families,

Thank you so much for the great support we are seeing daily at every stage of our childrens' learning. Firstly I must comment upon the wonderful **Harvest Event** earlier this week at All Saints Church. I was visibly "moved" when standing at the front and seeing over 350 eager faces (Years 1-6); to be back celebrating events together and also the realisation that the vision of an all through school, back in 2014, was now a reality. Thank you to parents for their generous gifts of groceries which will be gratefully received by Hertford Food Bank. The annual **Fun Run** whilst spread over the entire day was equally a joyful community event (please read more about this below). Thank you too for your support and contribution to the equalities survey; Mr Moss has included some of the key points from this, in this newsletter.

Like all secondary schools, we have been hosting events to support Y7 transition. We have chosen to put on a weekly "Open Event" each Wednesday after school, showcasing some of our exciting enrichment activities which Y6-8 participate in. As usual it is our own students (mostly from KS3) who have truly impressed our visitors. Taking them around the school, confidently explaining our values and ethos and generally being fantastic ambassadors for the school community, we are so proud of how they performed- all 45 of them! They spoke well of their learning, the high aspirations held by all and their enthusiasm for their school. With over 350 families visiting during these Wednesday slots, it has been a huge but rewarding set of events.

Obviously, this year we are incredibly excited by the fact that over 60 of our own Year 6 students will be joining 120 other local children. Indeed, we have held separate tours for them earlier in the month and we have a detailed transition programme in place.

Speeches will be online from October 13th.

We are now planning for our **Sixth Form Open Evening**, which we hope to run face to face, as numbers are much smaller. For those in year 11 and our neighbours or friends, the date is Wednesday 24 November. Our tours of the Larch, for the **new intake of reception children (2022)** are being planned, and will be scheduled for: Thursday 18th November, Monday 22 November and Wednesday 8 December. Please see further details on our website.

Fun Run 2021

It was amazing to see the all-through school come together for our Fun Run last Tuesday. We were so proud of the enthusiasm, determination and community spirit that all students from Reception to Year 13 demonstrated. There were so many highlights throughout the day, with some impressive hero fancy dress outfits that included NHS workers, superheroes and even a group dressed up as heroes chocolates! One of the stand out moments was watching and hearing the support that students gave each other as they started and finished, with a special mention to the Reception to Year 4 session in the morning and also to the students in Y7 and 8 that once



finished, decided to hand water out to other finishers. A special thank you to the PSA for their support on the day and also providing the water for the event.

So far we have raised an incredible £9000 and we thank you so much for your generosity and support. For a number of years now, we have been promoting wellbeing through the 10 keys to happiness and this year more so than ever, wellbeing of both students, staff and our families is of utmost importance. We are pleased to announce that with some of the monies raised, we are buying into a corporate wellbeing initiative and app, that we know will reach and support so many of you. More details about this will follow this term. Other projects across all phases of the school are also being planned and we will update you on these.

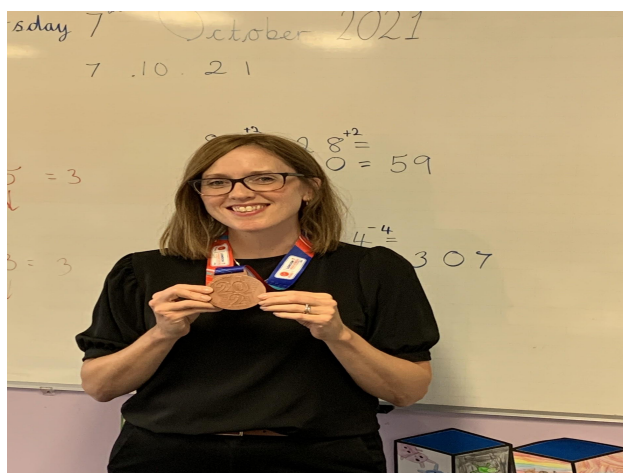
Throughout the day there were also elite races, where students could challenge themselves and run the 3K course and receive a time. Below are the winners of each year group:

Year 2 Max & Sophia	Year 3 Orsen & Marnie	Year 4 Harry & Grace
Year 5 Leo & Lola	Year 6 Jack & Sofia	Year 7 Phoenix & Katie
Year 8 Tom & Aniela	Year 9-13 Kayden	Year 9-13 Emelia
Staff Mr Welch		

Thank you again for all your support in one of our biggest school fundraisers.

Proud - Marathon Runners from the Simon Balle Community

The London marathon is such an inspiring event and we are so proud of the staff who either completed it in London or virtually last Sunday. Well done to Mrs Hawkins, Miss Ahmet and Miss Davison.



Walking bus

We were aware of the exercise and environmental benefits of the walking bus but it has been great to see the enjoyment in the children walking on the bus! Huge thanks for the leadership behind this important initiative Jo, the "drivers" Emese, Hazel, and Tracey without whose belief and involvement this would not be possible.

Thanks also to the sixth formers Lucy, Willow, Yazmin, Toby, Callum and Michael...

... and the wider community who have volunteered and made a commitment to help us get off of the ground - the definition of a community effort!!



If primary parents would like to register their child/ren with the walking bus please email simonballewalkingbus@gmail.com.

We are looking for volunteers, particularly on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, so please let us know (email address above) if you can help out on these days.

One happy parent sent the following text for us to share:

'A heartfelt thanks to Jo and the Larch Bus drivers and 6th form team, for setting up and leading the Walking Bus. The safety of my daughters has been at the forefront and they have enjoyed the company of you all and the other children, as well as getting daily morning exercise walking up to school. A huge thanks for supporting our family and for your care.'

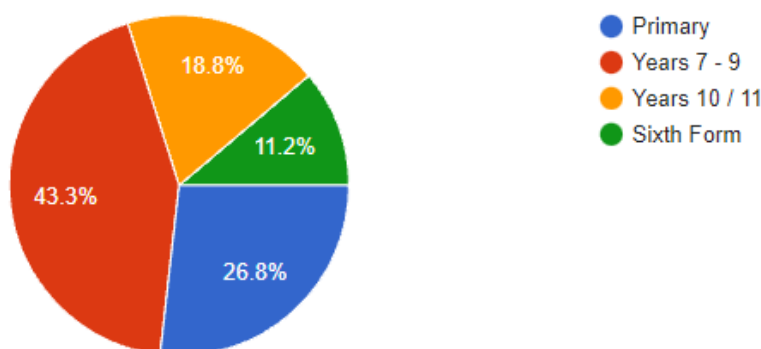
Equality

Mike Moss, Rachel Kirk and Alison Saunders are all working on reviewing our Equalities policy and plans. As part of this, a survey was sent to parents across our all-through school and we were delighted to receive 224 responses.

Thank you to everyone who responded to our request under the Equality Act for their views on key areas requiring our focus. As you can see below we had a great number of responses across all key phases of our All-through School. Parents have now identified the three key principle areas we are to focus upon and we are now analysing the free text to refine these targets. To complement this work we are also looking to achieve the Equalities and Diversity Charter Mark and the Inclusion Quality Mark. These organisations help give us structure, provide advice, resources and external scrutiny to ensure that Simon Balle All-through school is as inclusive as it can possibly be. At this point, we hope that you find the statistics below informative.

What phase is your child in?

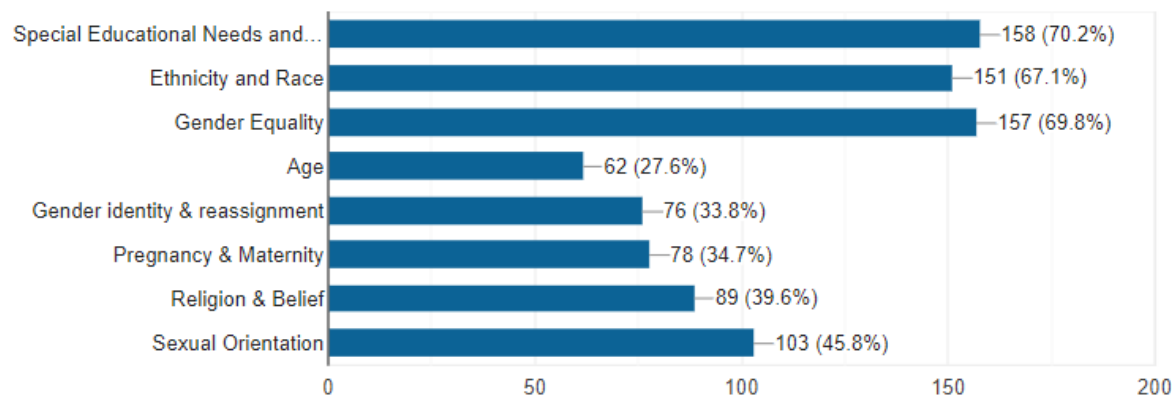
224 responses



What are the principal area/s that you would like us to educate your son/daughter over the next academic year at an age appropriate level?



225 responses



This important information, along with the very helpful comments, will now guide and direct us in shaping our next steps at every stage. The final policy and plans will be submitted to the Governing Body in December, equally informed by our student voice.

Music

Music Hall of Fame

In 18th place this year in our Hall of Fame is... Nimrod from the Enigma Variations; Composer: Edward Elgar

17th place in our Hall of Fame is... 'Jupiter the bringer of Jollity' from The Planets; Composer: Gustav Holst

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>

Secondary news

Year 11

We are currently running a series of Year 11 formal exams in the school hall and I wanted to congratulate our students for their exemplary attitudes and behaviours. I am sure that parents are only too aware of the difficulties that there have been with exams and so much uncertainty for our young people who have lost so much of their formal learning. However, it is now the time to address this and give the students the opportunity to experience what it will be like in a formal setting, as well as providing their teachers information to help them target and prepare their students to achieve well in the summer. In the light of continuing Covid pressures along with students needing time to revise, we decided to allow Y11 an opportunity to study away from the school site. I know that they have greatly appreciated this.

Year 13 study lessons

From Monday, where possible Y13 students are allowed to work at home and come onto site when they have lessons, or when they have a "group of lessons". Whilst we can accommodate some students during study lessons, we have noted that at times the areas are uncomfortably crowded and this is not ideal in the current circumstances. If unsure or concerned, please speak to Mike Moss or the sixth form team. We will review the situation before half term.

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School Parliament

We are so pleased to announce that our School Parliament has been re-launched after 18 months of inactivity during Covid, when different year groups could not mix and work together. We have our form and sports captains elected and our year councils are meeting to discuss issues and ideas. In addition to these groups, we have three focus working parties and these reflect our school priorities: diversity, environmental issues and literacy. The School Parliament will be run by our Senior Student Leaders and will have representation from every year group, including the Head Boy and Girl from Year 6 and voted representatives too from Year 5. We know that our students have so many wonderful ideas and are so eager to make a difference both in school and to the wider community. This is another example of our vision of “creating tomorrow’s citizens today”.



PSA (Parent Staff Association)

The Parent Staff Association (PSA) warmly invites you to it's Annual General Meeting.

When: Thursday 14th October

Time: 7pm start, refreshments from 6.30pm

Where: Secondary school library

The aim of the PSA is to offer support with school organised events and to fundraise for wider projects, benefiting the children within the whole Simon Balle community.

If you are interested in getting involved, have a great fundraising idea, can offer volunteer support from time to time, or if you'd just like to meet the team and hear more about the PSA, we would love to see you at the AGM! It would be wonderful also to see some of our new Reception and Year 7 parents.

If you have any questions, please do get in touch by emailing us at Psa@simonballepsa.org.uk

Covid-19 information:

LFT testing

We know how important it is for you to be able to send your child to school.

At Simon Balle All-through School we are taking a number of measures to help prevent the spread of Coronavirus, including:

- Encouraging all staff to test regularly, to minimise the risk of our teachers giving your child or other children Covid;
- Ensuring our staff and children practice good hygiene;
- Making sure our spaces are well ventilated; and;
- Encouraging all members of our community to isolate and book a [PCR test](#) should they develop symptoms of the virus.

We are also asking all parents to test their children regularly and to report each result.

Up to one in three people who have COVID-19 can spread the virus without knowing. This is because they have no symptoms. We are therefore asking all parents to encourage their children to test on Sundays and Wednesdays and help us to keep our school safe.

Students are able to collect home test kits from the main school office.

The tests come with guidance in multiple languages on how to take the test. You can also see this useful video to

Simon Balle All-through School

show you [how to take the test](#) - tests usually take a few minutes to do and you get the results in 30 minutes. Then all you need to do is to report the result to:



results in

- NHS Test and Trace: <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>

Financial support is available if your child tests positive and you need to self-isolate

If you are unable to work due to your child having, or displaying symptoms of, COVID-19, you may be entitled to a one-off payment of £500 through the [NHS Test and Trace Support Payment scheme](#) if you are required to stay at home and self-isolate.

You will be eligible if you live in England and meet all the following criteria:

- you have been asked to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace, including by the NHS COVID-19 app
- you are employed or self-employed
- you cannot work from home and will lose income as a result

- you are claiming at least one of the following benefits:
 1. Universal Credit
 2. Working Tax Credits
 3. Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
 4. Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
 5. Income Support
 6. Pension Credit or Housing Benefit

By testing your child twice a week you will help us to reduce transmission of Coronavirus and keep students in school to minimise disruption to their education and to you and your household.

Please contact covid19@simonballe.herts.sch.uk for our COVID Coordinator, if you have any questions or concerns about home testing. Thank you for your support.

Dates

Monday 11th to 14th Oct	Y13 geography field trip to Dorset
Thursday 21st Oct	Sixth form EPQ evening
25th to 29th Oct	HALF TERM
Tuesday 2nd Nov	Covid 19 vaccination for 12 to 15 year old students whereby parents have provided consent (TBC)
	Flu vaccination Y7 to Y11 (TBC)
Wednesday 3rd Nov	Volcano day Y9
Wednesday 10th to 11th Nov	Y11 geography field trip to Walton-on-the-Naze Remembrance ceremony in school
Wednesday 24th Nov	6th form open evening
Friday 26th Nov	Occasional day 1 - school closed
Monday 29th Nov	Occasional day 2 - school closed

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Wednesday 1st to 3rd Dec Y12 geography field trip to Manchester

Thursday 16th Dec Secondary Christmas lunch

Details of the school carol services will be sent out soon.

Friday 17th Dec End of term - early finish

Wednesday 5th Jan Start of spring term

Online safety

Please click on the link to view Herts online safety newsletter.

<https://thegrid.org.uk/assets/hfl-online-safety-newsletter-autumn-2021-parents-and-carers.pdf>

Wishing you all an exciting and fulfilling fortnight ahead!

Best wishes,

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



Here to help!

Whether it's advice on employment rights, benefit entitlements, money worries, housing concerns, relationship challenges, access to local support etc – Citizens Advice is here for you. You can contact us for free and confidential advice in a number of ways:



Call our local **Messageline** on **01920 459944** (any time) and one of our advisers will call you back.

Or call our **Herts Adviceline** (10am-4pm Mon to Fri) on **0800 144 8848** (you may have to wait in a queue)



See our **website** for **online advice** options
www.citizensadviceeastherts.org.uk/get-advice-2/

We can arrange a **video or face to face appointment** if needed.



@EastHertsCitizensAdvice



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Scan for website:



Charity reg no: 1083211



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Arriva Student Saver tickets are valid for anyone in full time education. You will get unlimited access to travel on any Arriva bus, across all of our routes in your chosen area.

The Saver tickets will not only cover your travel to and from University, School or College, but can also be used to travel in the evenings, at weekends and throughout the holidays too.

Arriva's Direct Debit scheme allows you to spread the cost of your ticket over affordable monthly payments. It's an easy way to pay for travel and there's no contract involved, making it an ideal way to get reduced bus travel for the whole Academic year, without paying upfront.

***Our tickets do not cover Arriva London/TFL routes**

It's a simple process to apply, to arrange your Direct Debit please visit:

www.arrivabus.co.uk/monthlytickets

To ensure delivery of tickets in time for the start of the new Academic Year, we recommend registering now.

Once registered you can select either to receive your monthly pass by post or sent to your mobile phone. This ticket will rollover every month for as long as the direct debit remains active.

For any queries regarding the scheme, please email: talktous@arriva.co.uk



