

Secondary phase newsletter

Friday 14th January 2022

Creating Tomorrow's Citizens Today



All-through news

A Happy New Year to every member of the Simon Balle Community... Bonne Année, Feliz Año Nuevo, Blwyddyn Newydd Dda, Buon anno, Mutlu yıllar, Szczęśliwego Nowego Roku,

We do trust that 2022, will be for everyone, in most aspect of their lives, a more “normal” year. Indeed, we are already getting back into the usual annual “groove” with planning both day trips and residentials, concerts and events, exams and parental evenings. These parental information evenings start very soon for Y6 parents, and our Year 7 students are planning for their very special residential trip to a great activity centre in Suffolk.

Parents may be interested to learn that in the secondary phase around 1000 students were tested with LFTs before they started school, with only 8 positive results. This is always a monumental challenge but a big thank you and well done to the team. Thank you too for your past support and any future support, should we face the issue of staff sickness or shortages.

Everyone is aware of the need from time to time to reflect upon how safe and secure their internet/online presence is. Safer Internet Day 2022 is on 8th February and will be celebrated with the theme ‘**All fun and games? Exploring respect and relationships online**’ and we will be using this as the focus of our work over the next few weeks. We will be sharing our plans and actions with you in the newsletters and will be sending out further information which parents may find both useful and interesting, as keeping your child safe online is so important for every parent. In addition, as adults we model behaviours to our young people and children. It is an important time for us all to reflect upon our practice.

Attendance

As you know, excellent attendance is vital in order for children to do well at school. This is why at Simon Balle All through school we have a minimum target of 97% attendance.

Thank you once again for your support in the Autumn term in ensuring your child attends school regularly and develops good habits. Despite the obvious disruption due to covid, attendance data has been good across the whole school.

Moving forward this year we will be once again raising the profile of attendance and its link to attainment whilst also offering support to families and children that are in need.

Please can I remind parents that term time absence, unless for exceptional circumstances, will not be authorised. If you could please try to make medical and dental appointments outside of school hours.

Thank you again for supporting your children, by making sure they come to school every day.

Parking

Please do not park or use Mangrove Drive for dropping off or picking up. The road is private and single track. The residents are responsible for the upkeep and maintenance and have had to pay a large bill for landscaping where cars have torn up the grass. Parking on a private road without permission is considered trespassing. Please use the car park next to the fire station – it’s not far and it’s free

Secondary News

Covid vaccinations

We will be sending out information shortly about second dose vaccinations in school for students aged 12 to 15 and those who missed their first vaccination. However, can I remind parents of the walk in facilities locally.

Anti-social behaviour



Anti-social behaviour

East Herts Council Community Safety
Wallfields, Pegs Lane Hertford, Herts
SG13 8EQ

Parent / Guardian

January 2022

Dear Parent / Guardian **Re:**

We are writing to you as a parent or guardian of a young person who attends a secondary school within Hertford, regarding recent reports of anti-social behaviour, within the local vicinity, carried out by young persons.

Reports of anti-social behaviour include a group of young people entering shops and removing stock items from shelves and discarding these within the store, being abusive to staff, throwing eggs at premises and at members of public and refusing to leave shops when asked.

We appreciate that these reported incidents relate to a minority of young people within our community however, by working together, East Herts Community Safety Partnership* (CSP) want to ensure that anti-social behaviour does not affect residents and businesses.

As a parent or guardian of a young person we kindly ask for your support in helping to keep our communities safe. We request that, where necessary, you open/continue dialogue with your child/children to ensure you know their whereabouts, as well as any activities they are engaged in, after school hours, at the weekend and during school holidays.

In addition, if you have any concerns relating to any anti-social behaviour activities your child/children is involved with, friendship groups they are keeping, or hear of any activity you believe relates to anti-social behaviour, please report this to Herts Police on 101 or via email community.safety@eastherts.gov.uk.

*The CSP is made up of agencies including Herts Police, East Herts Council, Herts Fire & Rescue, Housing Associations, Hertfordshire County Council

Please be aware that Police will be using powers under the ASB Crime and Policing Act to tackle anti-social behaviour and information of those

responsible for any anti-social behaviour will be shared with schools and other relevant agencies (such as Housing providers).

We would like to thank you in advance for your support in keeping East Herts a safe place to live, visit and work and not allowing the behaviour of the minority to negatively impact upon communities.

Yours faithfully

Signed on behalf of:

signed **Julie Pomfrett** Nathan Howson



Community Safety **T/Police Sergeant**
& ASB East Herts Safer neighbourhood Hertford Police
station
Manager Email:

East Herts Council

nathan.howson@herts.pnn.police.uk

School parliament

School Democracy in Action

School Parliament met for the second time on the 14th December chaired by our Head Boy and Girl (Amelie and Ewan). The parliament met after form discussions, year meetings and cross year focus groups.

All secondary years were represented and there was excellent representation from our primary phase. A wide range of items were on the agenda ranging from improving the environment to literacy across the curriculum. We are so proud of the impact they are already having in the classroom and in the school community. Here are some of the headlines so far:

- Mr Tweed has fixed the water fountains to reduce water wastage
- Diversity - More books around this theme are on order or new into the library
- Going home in PE kit during period 6 is now in place
- Blocked corridors - We are trialing the one way system in the English and 3 storey block.
- New toilets were reviewed by the Parliament and feedback given to the suppliers.
- Speakers corner is back!
- Plans being put in place to introduce bees and a wildflower meadow in the outdoor classroom
- New display on revision techniques to go up

Before the next meeting, the School Parliament would like us to investigate reducing cardboard usage in the canteen and look into reverse vending to encourage recycling.

Well done everyone.

Dates

Thurs 27th Jan	Holocaust Memorial Day
Wed 2nd Feb	2nd Covid vaccinations
Tues 8th Feb	Safer Internet Day
Wed 9th Feb	Y13 parents evening
Mon 14th to Fri 18th	Feb HALF TERM
Mon 21st Feb	Inset day: school closed for students
Mon 3rd Mar	Y9 DTP/MenACWY injections
Tues 22nd	Y7 Bawdsey residential trip (return Fri 25th)

Wishing you all an exciting and fulfilling fortnight ahead!

*Best wishes,
Mrs Alison Saunders (Headteacher) and Mrs Rachel Kirk
(Vice Principal)*