

Secondary phase newsletter

Friday 27th May 2022

Creating Tomorrow's Citizens Today



All-through news

Welcome to our final newsletter this half term. We are ending this with a very special community event, once again demonstrating the uniqueness of our all through school. Whilst we are on our normal "spring bank holiday" away from school, the nation will be celebrating the Queen's

Platinum Jubilee, with various events and activities. Therefore we are holding our own celebratory picnic.

Mr Ford (Sixth Form Team) has produced a very special video. Starting with some of our students in the Larch, he asked them about the Jubilee and their ideas about what life was like in Great Britain in 1952. This then is followed by a presentation of events from 1952, with our Student Presidents choosing their most memorable moment. Older children will watch this before they go outside for the picnic, awards and tree planting. We are anticipating a very special day and a memorable event where the whole school will be together - from our youngest reception children to Y12 (unfortunately the public exams continue!) A big thank you to all those who have made this possible.

Therefore we wish you all a memorable "Jubilee Day" wherever you are.

School Games Mark Gold

We are delighted to announce that we have achieved the School Games Gold Mark Award for the 2021/22 academic year. The School Games Mark is a Government-led award scheme launched in 2012, facilitated by the Youth Sport Trust to reward and recognise school's engagement in the School Games against a national benchmark and to celebrate

keeping young people active, and we are delighted to have been recognised for our success.

We are extremely proud of our students for their dedication to all aspects of physical activity and school sport, including those young volunteers, leaders and officials who make our events possible. We believe in the power of physical activity and school sport as a school and give opportunities to our young people from being a participant, leader, official or volunteer.

School Mini Farm

The farm has been with us just over a year now - it was quite a momentous opening, after the third lockdown, with the community back together again, uplifted by the Big Band.

The farm has continued to give us all joy, each day, including weekends, holidays, even Christmas Day! For this, we are incredibly grateful to our parent community - and, of course, the children. Apart from Cookie's escape tricks (!), all is well - and the chickens are laying incredibly well at the moment.

Mr Tweed and his site team are to be thanked for ongoing maintenance - incredibly important for the farm - and you will see some renovations taking place at present. A little reorganisation has seen the guinea pigs now moved next to the rabbits, and the chickens will soon have increased space, which is important given the longer periods of Avian Flu experienced where they need to stay enclosed. A new roof too is being built. All of this makes better use of space within the farm - you heard it here first that we may be considering a new animal or two joining us!

In the meantime, if you have not been on the farm rota before, and would be interested in doing so, please email larch@simonballe.herts.sch.uk. It could be primary or secondary parents/students (although KS3 students would need to be accompanied by a parent) - and there is no minimum expectation - even once or twice every few months is helpful. The rota is always sent out for you to say what you would like to do. Mrs Harding (who I must also say an enormous thank you to for daily giving of her time for the farm!)

is happy to show anybody the ropes if you are new to the farm. Thank you all.

Eco challenge



Cycling and walking is far better for the planet than travelling by car. Please send photos of you cycling somewhere, such as the shops or park, that normally you would have travelled to by car. If you can tell how far it was, even better. Please email photos and details to: browns@simonballe.herts.sch.uk.

Attendance Matters

It is so pleasing to see the wonderful attendance figures in the primary phase and I wanted to share with you the year group breakdowns and thank you for your continued support.

Year 1 98.3%
Year 2 97.0%
Year 3 97.7%
Year 4 96.4%
Year 5 96.5%
Year 6 98.4%

Secondary news

Year 12 'Much Ado About Nothing' Trip



On the 11th of May, we as an English A-Level class were lucky enough to be able to go to London to watch 'Much Ado About Nothing' at the Globe. Although the weather wasn't on our side, it was certainly an eventful trip, from deciding on where to eat beforehand to exploring the gift shop...and

enjoying the play itself, of course!

'Much Ado About Nothing' is a comedy, predominantly about love and a lack of communication. The actors were brilliant and all was resolved at the end with a lovely dance and a standing ovation from the enraptured audience.

We set off at about 11, and returned just after 6.30, leaving enough time for Mrs Cooke to get some gyozas for the journey back! We even managed to see a few sights on our (admittedly wet) walk to and from the Globe, from St Paul's Cathedral to the Tate Modern.

'I would challenge you to a battle of wits, but I see that you are unarmed'

Thank you so much to Mr Davies and Mrs Cooke for making this possible.

Year 11 celebrations

Celebration day Year 11 had on Friday 13th May. I am sure by now you have all had a debrief with differing amounts of detail depending on what mood your teen was in when asked about their day, never fear, I am here to fill in the gaps! Firstly though I do want to thank you all again for your generous donations. Your money made such a difference to the day - it certainly was a day to remember. Also, on behalf of the form tutors and I, thank you for your generosity in appreciating the year team for their hard work over the years with their form groups too. We were so grateful, appreciative and emotional regarding our gifts - thank you.

So, the day started with the year 11 students gathering on the field and coming face to face with 2 giant inflatables - A Bungee Run and a Gladiator Joust!!! Each form group was given a set time to use the inflatables whilst the other students played football, volleyball, benchball, rounders and tennis.



PE & Sports News

On Thursday the Year 8 boys began their cricket season beating Broxbourne by 8 wickets. K. Burgess-Saito captained the team with a strong performance in both the field and whilst batting. O Stacey had a fine performance whilst bowling 4 wickets. Well done to all the boys who participated and we look forward to our next fixture against Goffs School after half term. After half term we also look forward to the following Calypso Cricket tournaments at Sele school

- Tues 14th June - Girls Calypso
- Weds 15th June - Year 8 & 10 Boys
- Thurs 16th June - Year 7 & 9 Boys

County Athletics league



Last Monday, Simon Balle U14 & U16 Athletics teams competed in Round 4 of the prestigious Herts Schools Athletics league. Students continue to excel across all events in this competition. In particular our Pole Vaulters G. Giliberti and J Adamson have excelled winning or at the very minimum claiming second place in each round so far. Students have tried many events, discovering many hidden talents. In the U14 boys J Wilson only competing for the first time this year beat his 300m personal best with a fine run of 43.9, a talent in the making. E Wines continues to dominate the U14 girls hurdles and won again on Monday with a time of 13.3secs. E Keepence in the U16 girls hurdles and C Patterson in the U16 Discus have also been consistent across all rounds generally picking up maximum points. Results from Round 4

were as follows against Knights Templar, Sandringham, Monks Walk, and Nicholas Breakspear;

U16 Girls - 1st
 U16 Boys - 3rd
 U14 Girls - 3rd
 U14 Boys - 4th

After Round 3 the Overall standings in each league are as follows out of 25 schools, with the main aim of achieving a top 8 finishing position;

U16 Girls - 6th
 U16 Boys - 6th
 U14 Girls - 10th
 U14 Boys - 15th

Our final 2 rounds take place on;

- Weds 8th June - Stevenage
- Weds 15th June - Stevenage

On Saturday 11th June the Herts County Athletics Championships take place at Jarman Park in Hemel, results and updates to follow @simonballesport

In June our key competition, the District Athletics Championships takes place on Thursday 30th June at Wodson Park. We expect to take a team of 80 students to this competition and it is usually a great day of athletics.

Additional key dates are as follows;

- Thursday 16th June - Y7-9 District Pentathlon Championships
- Monday 20th June - Secondary Sports Day.
- Friday 8th July - Sports Presentation evening.

More information to follow on the above.

PSA

17th June - Doughies Pizza and Cookie Event

If you are a Doughie's fan or just love a good quality pizza or cookie, then it's time to place your Doughies orders, for delivery on 17th June.

Kits (vegan option available) can be ordered directly from Doughies before 13th June, but please do remember to include your child's name and form.

<https://doughies.co.uk/products/simon-balle>

Important information: Named orders from across the secondary phase are welcome but **MUST BE COLLECTED** from outside the reception office immediately after school on 17th June. Please set a reminder, as any unclaimed kits will be assumed unwanted after 4.30pm. They will not keep unrefrigerated over the weekend and we are unable to offer home deliveries or refunds.



PIZZA & COOKIE EVENT

FRIDAY 17TH JUNE

We've teamed up with Doughies for a fun family night in. Order your pizza & cookie making kits and you'll receive everything you need to make artisan margherita pizzas (**regular or vegan**), and warm gooey cookies in your home oven.



9th July - Slice of Summer

Traditionally seen as a Larch event, we are keen to also involve secondary students and families this year, to make this a truly an all-through event. If you are able to support our summer fair by taking a volunteer slot, please complete the form in the link below.

<https://forms.gle/Y1reNF3tBqw9oum77>

Raffle tickets will soon be available. Top prizes include: iPad Air, £100 cash, FitBit Inspire, Spa Day for 2, Swimming Lessons, Gym Membership plus a selection of items donate by our external stallholders.



.....Finally

We wish you all a happy, restful and hopefully sunny half term break, and we look forward to welcoming you back to school on Monday 6th June 2022.

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

Dates

Mon 30th - Fri 3rd June	Half term
Wed 8th June	Y8 theatre trip
Wed 15th - 17th June	Y5 residential trip
Thurs 16th June	Y8 HPV2 immunisation
Fri 17th June	Doughies Pizza
Thurs 30th June	New Y7 parents evening
Sat 2nd July	Saffron hall all-through music concert
Tues 5th July	Stevenson's pop up shop
Wed 6th July	Art exhibition
Thurs 7th July	Y9 theatre trip
Fri 8th July	Sports presentation evening (Year 5+)
Sat 9th July	Slice of Summer (PSA - all!)
Wed 13 - 16th July	Music tour
Thurs 14th July	Transition day (all-through)
Tues 19th July	Primary sports day - more details to follow
Thurs 21st July	End of term - early finish