

Secondary phase newsletter

Friday 1st July 2022

Creating Tomorrow's Citizens Today



All-through news

It has been a wonderful week of “welcomes”! We have welcomed our new Year 12 students as they now leave Y11 and exams behind and think about the next part of their journey. It was encouraging to see so many students from other schools wishing to join our special community. Mrs Ahmet will be the new Head of Y12, and she opened the induction programme with real passion for the year ahead.

As part of Y12 enrichment and a key aspect of “creating tomorrow’s citizens today”, all Y12 will be expected to act as a volunteer to a sector of our community. This year we have been excited to see how many students have really grown in character as they have embraced various opportunities and we want to expand this further. Parents in the “Larch” have many times commented positively on how mature and reliable our sixth form volunteers are and really good with our younger children. We would like to draw your attention therefore to the fact that we are looking for a Y13 “Gap Year” student from September 2022, to work in our “primary” office. This will be the third year we have used a sixth former; previous appointees have loved it as the role is highly varied and does have some contact with our youngest students. Please email Mrs Kirk (kirkkr@simonballe.herts.sch.uk) for more information or to show an interest.

On Thursday evening, we welcomed our new Y7 and it was wonderful to see so many parents and of course many familiar faces as our Larch parents swelled the ranks. At the expense of being nostalgic, I did think back to 2014 when I first met these wonderfully supportive families as they considered choosing Simon Balle All through school for their 4

year olds! Lucy Owen skillfully guided all parents through the Simon Balle values and vision, along with expectations for September. Meanwhile the new HOY 7, Ellie Newman with her team, did a brilliant job with our new students. Thanks to all.

On a different matter, but no less supportive, I was also heartened to receive several emails from secondary parents supporting my lament regarding teacher recruitments and in particular food. Thank you to all those who have offered support; we will most certainly be in touch as we want to ensure that food and cooking are still actively promoted in the temporary absence of a food teacher.

Music

Our musical students have been very busy, from Rock & Pop Exams, Piano evenings, to Larch Stars, and much more, please read about it here: <https://www.simonballe.herts.sch.uk/musical-news-june-2022/>

Art - Subway transformation

Hertford secondary school students have visited a recently refurbished subway to see how their art has transformed the subway into a modern art gallery. This subway project for London Road and St Andrew Street started in 2020 with funding from the Aldi Development and a grant from Defra for air quality improvements. The aim of the project is to improve active travel routes to encourage more people to walk and cycle, leaving their car at home for shorter journeys. This project is all about working with the local schools and community. For the third year in a row, the students from Richard Hale School, The Sele School and Simon Balle All-through school have provided art worthy of a London gallery for the London Road subway in Hertford. The students are very talented, and this project gives these young people the opportunity to display their work in a public space and at the same time improving the local environment for everyone. Phil Bibby, Executive Member for Highways and Transport, Hertfordshire

County Council said “This really is a great project, working with both local schools and the community to encourage active travel, reduce car use and improve the Environment “It forms part of Hertfordshire County Council subway refurbishment programme and links into both the Local Transport Plan and the Corporate Plan vision of ‘creating a cleaner, greener, healthier Hertfordshire for all.’ Local member and former Hertford Mayor Cllr Bob Deering joined the new Mayor, Cllr Sue Barber to see the latest art installation.

Cllr Deering said: “I am very proud of our gifted young students who have once again produced outstanding work for everyone to enjoy. This subway is a popular route for access into town and to the local schools and we want to encourage more walking and cycling across the town.”

Ian Hawkins, Headteacher at Richard Hale school said “It is great for the students to have the opportunity to contribute to a local community project, which enables the community to enjoy their work. This project has allowed the students to showcase their talents to a wide audience and we are very proud of all the students involved.”

A spokesperson for Sele school said “This project really enables us to showcase some of the incredible talent and commitment our students have to their Art studies. We really enjoy being able to showcase some of the talents our students have to Offer.”

Alison Saunders, Headteacher at Simon Balle All-through school said “I am extremely proud of the student’s artwork and was pleased that so many people in the local community would be able to admire it as they walked through the town’s subways.”

This is just the first stage for this year’s new art for Hertford and we are launching the community art competition for our second subway art gallery located between St Andrew Street and Aldi. The theme for the competition is places to see and visit by foot, bike and scooter and we are looking forward to seeing lots of interesting entries. So, get your paintbrush ready or your camera charged and enter this year’s competition and join our young artists in making Hertford the art centre of Hertfordshire. We need you to send a high-resolution image of your entry to subwayart@hertfordshire.gov.uk. The closing date for the competition is 31 July 2022 and the winners will be invited to an opening in August 2022.

Sports news

<https://www.simonballe.herts.sch.uk/all-through-pe-sport-news-01-07-22/>

Secondary news

Y8 celebration

The Y8 celebration this week was truly a wonderful display of talents, from research (ranging from “should MFL be compulsory” to “Black Holes”) music, drama, sport, artwork and more. So many parents came to support the students who proudly spoke of their work. Thank you too to the Y8 form tutors, who I know enjoyed meeting parents for the first time face to face, and of course Miss Newman, who will hand over to Ms Green as the new HOY.

Uniform

All parents will receive a reminder about uniform for September, as well as information and clarity about accessories and correct shoes. May I also remind you that parents should be monitoring and challenging their children, particularly girls, who do not bring their equipment in a backpack. Too often the “bags” are too small and a mere fashion icon.

PSA News

9th July - Slice of Summer, 1-4pm

Sincere thanks to all that have signed up to help with the summer fair.

We have almost filled all of the slots but still have a few gaps for the 2-3pm and 3-4pm sessions. If you are able to help, please express your interest here:

<https://forms.gle/8diK9aZiR2eV4r299>

Bottle Donations

Larch children were invited to wear a coloured accessory on Friday 1st, in exchange for a bottle donation to support the fair.

If you are able to donate a bottle, but have missed Friday’s bottle drop off, please take your item to the office.

Thank you in advance.

Raffle tickets

Please return any raffle tickets as soon as is convenient, to allow plenty of processing time. The draw will take place on Saturday 9th July, at the Slice of Summer. There are some incredible prizes, including an iPad Air and £100 cash. We know you look forward to the draw.

Books are available to collect from both school offices, should you require any.



Dates

Sat 2nd July	Saffron Hall All-through music concert
Tues 5th July	Stevenson's pop up shop 3pm to 8pm dining room (secondary)
Wed 6th July	Art exhibition-everyone welcome
Thurs 7th July	Y9 theatre trip
Fri 8th July	Sports presentation evening (Year 5+)
Sat 9th July	Slice of Summer (PSA - all!)
Mon 11th July	Y8 trip Colchester
Mon 11th - Wed 13th July	Larch Parents' Evenings
Wed 13 - 16th July	Music tour
Thurs 14th July	Transition day (all-through)
Mon 18th July	Y7 RE trip
Tues 19th July	Primary sports day, primary celebration afternoon 3.15-4.15pm Y7 arts extravaganza-more details to follow
Thurs 21st July	End of term - early finish

SIMON BALLE SCHOOL'S
ADULT COMMUNITY CHOIR

TASTER SESSION

with

TAKE NOTE

WEDNESDAY 6TH JULY
2022

7:30 - 8:30 PM

SIMON BALLE SCHOOL
MANGROVE ROAD
SG13 8AJ

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OF STYLES WITH TAKE NOTE COMMUNITY CHOIR.
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www.simonballe.herts.sch.uk/music/take-note/