

Secondary phase newsletter

Friday 31st March 2023

Creating Tomorrow's Citizens Today



All-through news

Welcome to our final newsletter of the Spring term. I trust by now that you will have received the news that after a rigorous selection and recruitment process, Governors have announced my successor(s) for indeed two candidates shone out amongst those that were shortlisted and interviewed; Mike Moss and Rachel Kirk, our two internal candidates, who truly believe that the only way forward for effective leadership of our unique all through school is joint headship.

Perhaps parents have never considered how complex it is leading a school of over 1500 students whose ages range from 4 years old to almost 19 years. When I was appointed in April 1997, the school had just under 1000 students; 155 in a year group, with a sixth form of around 200. The Local Authority offered most services and staffing was less complex.

I suppose I grew and learnt as the school grew- a gradual process. This was particularly the case with the creation of the all through school. Today the daily and strategic work is huge and it makes me so proud as my two Deputies now want to take on this role and move forward where I leave off. For parents this means great stability and security coupled with new ideas. Mike started the same day as I did and was promoted over the years, whilst Rachel was a headteacher of a primary school in her own right. They both will lead all phases and I am sure in time, will communicate to parents their own particular interests. Exciting times indeed!

Unusually at the end of this term, we say "goodbye" to three members of staff who leave our community permanently along with a maternity leave (Daisy Coulbeck, Science). Greg Heald whilst only being with us for a year has worked hard with our PE department and football academy. However Elise Nwabe, our Head of Modern Foreign Languages has been with us for 14 years; her two sons were very much part of our Simon Balle Community and both excellent sportsmen. A most talented linguist and a wonderful colleague, Elise will be greatly missed as

she starts a new life in America, with her husband.

Madeleine Harman is known to many parents as the school manager and someone who worked in the front office. Madeleine sent her 5 children to Simon Balle and worked here for 20 years. Her role was all encompassing; links with the PSA, instrumental in setting up the all through school, recruitment, personnel, buildings and events, Madeleine was involved in almost every aspect of the school and her impact is widely felt. We wish her health and happiness in her retirement.

This last half term has been action packed and we are always reminded of how special and unique it is to be a member of the Simon Balle community. When showing potential candidates around for the Headship they expressed real interest and surprise at how this school worked. Perhaps we take for granted so much? I have been reminded of this in so many ways this week. The secondary house drama on Wednesday night was great fun as was the amazing Y4 production of Roman Life (how did those Y4 children remember so many words?). The sport this week has been truly amazing with so many successes and vast numbers involved. I am not sure how the music department has kept going with 11 events over the past two weeks including performing at the Hertfordshire Headteacher's Conference. Fellow Heads are so full of praise and envious of the quality of the musicians! Thanks to our sixth formers who took part in the annual "Model United Nations" event at Haileybury.

Whilst students and staff now look forward to a well deserved rest, others are simply planning for the next trips and events including taking 90+ students on the sports tour next week and the number of revision sessions which will take place over the holidays.

Thank you all for your continued support and words of encouragement. In this current climate where so many face challenges, may I wish "hope" and "happiness" this Eastertide.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back safely on Monday April 17th.

SBAS Fun Run 2023 & Kings coronation



I am excited to announce the return of The Simon Balle annual Fun Run, which will be held on **Friday 5th May**. This is a wonderful community event which everyone takes part in, either by running, walking or if injured supporting the organising of the event. It is also the main fundraising event for the school. Unlike other local schools, we do not ask parents to contribute to a school fund and are therefore asking for a donation of at least £10 per student / £15 per family if siblings. Traditionally, some students like to get sponsorship from family and friends. Two years ago we raised nearly £10,000 once gift aid had been added. Our target this year is to one again raise £10,000 from this event.

This is the link to the donations page:
<https://app.investmycommunity.com/campaigns/simon-balle-all-through-school-7261>

This year the funds will go towards increasing the number of minibuses to ensure we can continue to provide a wide variety of enrichment across all key stages. We will also be gathering student voices with regard to where they would like the funds to be spent in school.

We will be marking the King's coronation with a number of activities throughout the day and all primary phase students will be receiving a coronation medal and secondary phase students will have the opportunity to receive a special commemorative coin. The fancy dress theme for all staff and students will be 'Great Britain'.

A letter will be sent after Easter with further details about the day and logistics. If you would like to support the PSA on the day, or with any other event, please join the Parent Staff Association Volunteer Register. <https://forms.gle/hbR34JiwiWJjQvTd7>.



Music news

Please see our Music Newsletter - from fantastic exam results, to rock gigs and more live performances!

<https://www.simonballe.herts.sch.uk/musical-news-31st-march/>

National Reading Champions Quiz

On Thursday 23rd March two teams of 4 students represented Simon Balle All-through School in one of the cross-regional heats for the National Reading Champions Quiz. Both teams did an excellent job at answering the difficult quiz questions and Team A came in the top ten schools in the heat. **Very well done to Jessica, Molly, Jenson, Holly, Elizabeth, Ned, Robin, and Bors.**



Sandbox: mental health digital advice

[Introducing the Sandbox: New online mental health digital advice and guidance service for 10-25s](#)

The Sandbox is an NHS funded service to support children and young people in Hertfordshire with their mental health and well-being.

This new free service launches on 1st April 2023 and offers a website, with access to games, worksheets, group chats and online events for children, young people, their parents/carers, teachers and other professionals.

Living Paintings giveaway

In preparation for the King's coronation, Living Paintings are giving away a free gift for blind and visually impaired children and young people. Please use the link below to find out more information or to register click this link

<https://livingpaintings.org/coronation>

PE news

With Easter just around the corner we are reflecting on what has been one of the school's most successful periods of Sport as an All through School. Over the past couple of weeks we have competed in many finals across a wide range of sports and have been very successful from Year 3 right up to Year 11. There have been many District winners and finalists, both team and individual across Football, Basketball, Cross Country, Trampolining, Netball and many more. Alongside this we have run many trips, are nearing the completion of our KS4 Sports leadership programme as well as embarking on a Sports Tour to Holland with 90+ students to Holland next week over the Easter break.

Football news

The school football season came to an end this week and what a week it was. Years 10 and 11 both had district semi finals on Monday and Years 7 and 8 had their district finals on Wednesday. All after Year 6 made it in the final of the Hope Cup towards the end of last week.

Unfortunately, after going to extra time in an extremely close game, the Year 7 football team lost 4-2 after extra time to Haileybury Turnford. This team has gone from strength to strength and had a brilliant first year at Simon Balle.



Congratulations to the **Year 8 football team who were crowned District Champions** after beating John Warner 4-2 in a close fought final. After going 1 up in the first half from an Alfie free kick the team found themselves 2-1 down mid-way through the first half. The boys demonstrated fantastic levels of

resilience and courage, scoring three goals through James, Oliver and Alfie for his second. A great performance to round off a brilliant season.



Year 10 semi- final V Goffs school



The Year 10 football team have had a fantastic month getting through to the semi finals of the district cup against Goffs School. During the game everyone involved demonstrated how much they wanted a place in the final, working incredibly hard throughout. We started the first half well with an excellent bit of linked up open play down the left with a pass across the box to Matti beating their keeper. Unfortunately they equalised towards the end of the first half. The game showed end to end action but staying level all the way through extra time and into penalties which lead to Goffs going through and winning the final.

Larch Football

Last Thursday the footballers took part in the semifinals of the Hope cup against St Joseph's School winning 5-1. They will now play Bengo in the final on the 24th April.

In the District football tournament yesterday we put out two teams. One team were the winners of the whole tournament all receiving gold medals and our other team came second in the whole tournament just missing out on penalties. Well done to all children who took part on your achievements!

U15 Girls Football

The U15 girls team progressed through to the third round of the National cup which saw them travel to Wickford, Essex, this week. Despite the long drive, the girls had a strong start and the game remained 0-0 for most of the first half. Scarlet B and Ava C were dominant in midfield creating chances for Esther D. Beauchamps capitalised on a period of high pressure and took the lead before the first half. Matilda W made some fantastic saves in goal but Beauchamps extended the lead at the start of the second half. A goal from Charlotte G late in the second half wasn't quite enough to keep the girls in the game and the loss saw the end of their national cup campaign.

Year 9 boys become district basketball champions



Congratulations to the Year 9 Boys who have had a great week of Basketball. On Tuesday the boys played Chauncy school, hoping to make it 3 wins out of 3 and move closer to becoming District Champions. In a very close match at 42-42, the game went into overtime after Chauncy scored in the last seconds. However in over-time the boys showed great resilience to win 48-46. On Thursday, the Boys played Freman College, knowing a win would secure the District championship. In another close game led by Lucas N & Giorgio G, the boys displayed a tactical calmness leading them to a 27-23 win and winning the competition overall. This was especially comforting as the boys have finished as runners up in Year 7 & 8.

Primary cross country success



On Monday 47 children competed in a cross country competition at Hertford rugby club. Simon Balle returned to school with 47 gold medals and came 1st in all categories of Year 3 and 4 girls and boys and Year 5 and 6 girls and boys. A great day for sport at Simon Balle!

Girls rugby

Year 8 students have been getting stuck into rugby during PE lessons this term. Over the past couple of weeks, Hertford rugby club have run sessions for a select number of year 7 and 8 students who have shown an interest in the sport. After the Easter break we are excited to announce that we will have Saracens rugby club coming into school to deliver an extra-curricular rugby club for girls in years' 7-9. We can't wait to watch these talented students develop even further and hope to enter them into some competitions next year.

Netball

The girls have had their final games over the last few weeks in the district tournaments. We have entered A+B teams for all year groups and it has been fantastic to watch the students play and witness the progress they have made throughout the season. We look forward to building upon this on the sports tour and into next year.



Larch netball news

Last Thursday the netballers took part in the semifinals of the Evans Trophy. Unfortunately they lost to Bengo, narrowly missing out on the finals but we are so proud of all that they have achieved this season!

Last Friday we had two teams that represented the school at the District netball finals. One of the teams came second all receiving silver medals and one team came 1st all receiving gold medals. Well done to all involved!

Y10 sports leadership programme

Since the start of January our Year 10 students have been following a leadership programme in core PE lessons. This has involved practice in communication and group organisation as well as the students creating their own multi-skills session. Since February half term, students have been delivering these sessions to primary students at Millmead and Hollybush School as well as with our younger Simon Balle students in the Larch. As with every year, it has been fantastic to watch our students step up to the challenge and watch the next generation of leaders in action!



Year 11 OCR Sports Studies Outdoor activities trip

This week our Year 11 OCR Sports Studies students went to Harlow Outdoors activity centre to take part in a morning of activities as part of the Outdoor and Adventurous Activities unit. The students completed the high ropes course - putting their balance and coordination to the test while under pressure. They then took to the river and spent the second half of the session developing their kayaking skills. The students got lots out of the trip and gained hands-on experience which can be applied to their coursework.



Sportshall Athletics



Larch sportshall athletics

In sportshall athletics this term our boys team came 3rd out of all the large schools in Hertford and Ware and our girls team came 1st which meant they represented the County. Out of all the 12 schools that attended the County competition Simon Balle came 5th, which was such an amazing achievement!

Year 7 sportshall athletics

This term the Sportshall athletics league ran including various heats across the district. The year 7 girls sportshall athletics team qualified for the county finals. This is an excellent achievement as only one school qualifies from each district. The 8 students who competed were excellent and represented the school fantastically. The team were in a difficult heat

competing against the school who were the overall winners. The students performed well across all track and field events. The Simon Balle team came 7th overall in the county competition. Well done girls! We now look forward to a summer of outdoor track and field.

District swimming and trampolining

On Monday we took a team to the District Swimming Championships with all teams performing well among some very strong competition. The performance of the day came from Olly C who won the Year 9/10 Boys Freestyle race.

Last Friday we took part in a District Trampolining competition across 2 categories, next steps 2 & 3, finishing 1st & 2nd respectively.

Well done to all students who represented the school in these championships.

Football academy success

On Wednesday this week our football academy played in the national cup semi final for academies from around the country. They started very well scoring two quick goals and dominated the rest of the half and despite missing a few chances, confidence was high. Despite missing a penalty in the second half they continued to look good and saw off their opposition from Barking 2-0. They now progress to the final which will be played on 3rd May at St George's Park which is the home of the English FA and where the national team train in preparation for international matches. They will be putting in the hard work on the training pitch over the next month including during the holidays.

This is a fantastic achievement reaching the final of a national competition and we wish our boys good luck in their final.

Sports tour to Holland



On the 3rd of April the department is taking 93 students to Valkenburg in Holland on a sports tour. We have entered teams in boys and girls football and girls netball. The trip will have a "real sports tour feel" and the students will have 3 days of first class intense training sessions by fully qualified coaches. Students will represent the school in Fixtures against Dutch opposition on two days and play a tournament against other English schools on the last day.

As well as the training, matches and tournaments the students will experience the following: bowling, tobogganing, swimming as well as a stadium tour at PSV. There will also be an awards evening. We genuinely feel that the students will benefit greatly from the experience of playing and training in a different country, culture and environment.

If you would like to keep updated on the Sports tour, please **Follow us on Twitter** : @simonballesport



SEND appointment link

If you would like to book a virtual appointment of up to 15 minutes with a member of the SEND team use the following link:

<https://calendly.com/send-drop-ins/send-drop-in-meetings?month=2022-12>

Dates for the diary

WHOLE SCHOOL	
Friday 31st March	End of term (normal finish time)
Monday 17th April	Start of summer term
Monday 1st May	Bank holiday
Friday 5th May	Coronation picnic and Fun Run
Friday 5th May	PSA Doughies
Monday 8th May	Bank holiday
29th May to Friday 2nd June	Half term
Saturday 1st July	Slice of summer
Monday 10th July	Stevensons 'pop up' shop 3pm to 8pm
Thursday 13th July	Year 6 Transition day
SECONDARY	
Monday 3rd April to 7th April	Y8 and Y9 sports tour
Monday 17th April	Y10 geography field trip (group 2)
Tuesday 18th April	Y7 residential trip to Bawdsey
Friday 21st April	Y7 trip returns
Saturday 22nd April	A Celebration of Wind & Brass (6.30-8.30pm)
Monday 24th April	Y10 geography field trip (group 3)
Wednesday 26th April	Y8 parents evening
Monday 15th May	Start of public exams
Thursday 18th May	Piano evening
PRIMARY	
Friday 31st March	Year 6 Sports Leader morning
Tuesday 25th April	Y5 BMX day
Tuesday 9th-Friday 12th May	Year 6 SATs week
W/C 22nd May	Y1,3,4,5 and 6 parent consultations (Y2 after May half-term)

PSA news

19/20th April - Bag2School Collection

Time for a spring clean? Please consider bringing your unwanted shoes, textiles, bags and more to the PSA container, next to the swimming pool, on Tuesday

18th or Wednesday 19th April, during morning drop off and afternoon pick up. Your unwanted items will be repurposed and avoid going to landfill, while raising funds for the PSA.

Each child in Larch has been given a Bag2School collection bag. Secondary families are welcome to participate too, bin bags are accepted.

Last October, you donated 300kg which generated £120. Thank you!

If you are able to volunteer with this initiative, receiving donations at the container or helping with the collection, please join our volunteer database.

<https://forms.gle/XtwzEkR6eXh3bNN4A>

Bag2School

18th & 19th
April
2023



Volunteer
opportunity



www.bag2school.com

Bag2School

We accept:

Men's, Ladies' and Children's clothing. Paired shoes (tied together or elastic band around). Handbags. Hats. Bags. Scarves and ties. Jewellery. Lingerie. Socks. Belts. Soft toys. Household linen. Household curtains. Household towels. Household bedding (bed sheets, pillow cases and duvet covers).

We DO NOT accept:



Duvets and blankets. Pillows and cushions. Carpets, rugs and mats (including bath, shower and toilet mats). Soiled, painted, ripped or wet clothing. School uniforms with and without logo. Corporate clothing and workwear. Textile off cuts, yarns or threaded material.

Drop off your bags on 18th & 19th April directly to the PSA container, near the pool. Collection point will be manned during morning drop off and afternoon pick up.

What is Bag2School?



www.bag2school.com

Secondary news

Sixth Form Charity football match



It is fair to say the Sixth Form charity match did not

disappoint. On Friday the 17th March Year 12 v Year 13 faced off in an eagerly anticipated event in the aim of raising money for charity and bringing the school together. It was clear to see before the match both year groups were keen to gain bragging rights. Especially the current Year 13s who were seeking revenge after last year's cruel defeat on penalties. Managers Oscar and Alfie gave an inspiring team talk before captain Jack led the team out with the champions league theme wailing in the background. However, what stood in front of them was a calm and composed Year 12 side stacked with quality throughout the side. The experienced referee Mr East got things under way. Immediately he was called into action as Year 13 wanted to assert their dominance from the off with a few strong but fair tackles, to the elder side's disappointment this didn't phase the year 12's as they calmly kept the ball waiting for an opening, which tricky winger Ollie delivered midway through the first half as he calmly slotted the ball past keeper Malachy-noonan-Crane. However, the experienced Year 13s quickly equalised with fantastic interplay between Hamish Hobson and Alexis where the latter kept his composure and dribbled past the stranded keeper, whilst dedicating his goal to Year 13 cult hero Will who couldn't be there on the day of the match. The start of the second half was not as electric at the first as both teams did not want to fall behind. With 10 minutes to go this quickly changed as Year 12s talisman Oscar sent the Year 12's back in front after a deflected corner found Oscar feet before he calmly guided the ball into the bottom right hand corner. Everybody thought the Year 13s were down and out and it was going to be another year of disappointment until the unlikely suspect Joseph found himself fouled on the edge of the box. Many fans expected Captain Jack to take on the responsibility of this last minute opportunity due to his well renowned free kick record. However this was not to be the case as he passed on the responsibility to his right hand man Alex who has delivered the goods on multiple occasions for Mr East's sixth form side. But could he deliver when it mattered most? On his favoured right foot Alex curled the ball up and over the wall leaving Carlo frantically scrambling across the goal mouth and getting both hands to the ball. However the Year 13s crowd were adamant the ball crossed the line as Year 12 looked nervously to experienced Year 10 linesman Ralph who controversially awarded the goal which gave the referee no choice other than to send the game straight to sudden death penalties. The injured Ben quickly gathered the Year 13s round telling them 'it was now or never'. Up first was Year 12 goalscorer Ollie who smashed the ball home with no hesitation. Alex followed up who was keen to make amends for last year's charity miss. Which he did in style, wrapping the ball home sending keeper Carlo the wrong way. Up next was the majority of fans and

players man of the match Ellis who hoped to cap off his stellar performance in style. Which he did, despite the best efforts of the Year 13 ultras aiming to disrupt his preparation. Fan Favourite and Simon Balle Celebrity Sam was up next, as he marched to the penalty spot looking to engrave his name as one of the Year 13 greats. The crowd went silent as Sam's penalty was fantastically saved by Year 12 Hero Carlo who cemented victory for the Ecstatic Year 12 side. Once again it was not to be for the Year 13's, who took the loss on the chin as they looked on to the well deserved winners with captain Zayn lifting the Trophy. Which encapsulated another fantastic charity match and a well run event by Simon Balle All-through School.

Written By Jack and Ben (Year 13 students)



Children's Wellbeing Practitioner Workshops (April– June 2023)

Workshops are open to all young people & parents/carers of children and young people who attend a school or are registered to a GP in Hertfordshire. A referral is not needed to access a workshop.

All workshops are currently being delivered online via Microsoft Teams. For more information about what each workshop covers and to book a place onto a workshop, visit the Children's Wellbeing Practitioner Eventbrite page: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/childrens-wellbeing-practitioners-school-nursingservice-hertfordshire-33494371787>

Workshop	Date & Time
Emotional Wellbeing (For Young People 11-16) A workshop focused on adolescents managing their own emotional wellbeing and things parents/carers can do to help.	Thu 18 th May 18:00
Supporting Adolescents with Self-Esteem A workshop focused on adolescents improving their self-esteem and what parents can do to support.	Thu 25 th May 18:00
Supporting your Child's Self-Esteem A workshop focused on parents/carers supporting their child to improve their self-esteem.	Wed 19 th April 10:00 Wed 10 th May 18:00 Wed 14 th June 10:00
Supporting with Sleep Difficulties A workshop supporting children and adolescents with managing their sleep difficulties and how parents/carers can help.	Tue 4 th April 12:00 Tue 6 th June 18:00
Supporting your Child's Resilience A workshop focused on parents/carers supporting their child to improve their resilience.	Wed 26 th April 10:00 Thu 8 th June 18:00
Developing your Child's Emotional Literacy A workshop focused on parents supporting their child with developing emotional literacy.	Tue 18 th April 10:00 Tue 16 th May 18:00 Tue 20 th June 10:00
General Emotional Wellbeing and Regulation Tips for Parents A workshop focused on parents supporting their child's general emotional wellbeing and emotional regulation.	Tue 25 th April 10:00 Tue 23 rd May 18:00 Tue 27 th June 10:00
School Transitions A workshop supporting children and adolescents with managing school transitions.	Thu 15 th June 18:00
Exam Stress A workshop supporting children and adolescents with managing exam stress.	Tue 11 th April 10:00 Thu 27 th April 18:00 Tue 9 th May 18:00

To access the recorded **Emotionally Based School Avoidance Webinar** please visit: <https://www.hct.nhs.uk/our-services-and-referral-information/our-services-a-z/childrens-wellbeing-practitioners-service/>

EXAM STRESS WORKSHOP

THIS WORKSHOP IS AIMED AT YOUNG PEOPLE WHO WILL BE TAKING THEIR SATS/MOCK EXAMS/GCSES/A-LEVELS THIS YEAR.

PARENTS/CARERS ARE ALSO WELCOME & ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND THE WORKSHOP WITH THEIR CHILD

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

- *WHAT IS STRESS & ANXIETY?*
- *HOW THOUGHTS, FEELINGS & BEHAVIOURS IMPACT EACH OTHER*
- *STRATEGIES TO IMPROVE ANXIOUS THOUGHTS, FEELINGS & BEHAVIOURS*
- *GENERAL WELLBEING INCLUDING SLEEP & DIET*
- *PRACTICAL TIPS TO HELP DURING THE EXAM PERIOD*

DATES AND TIMES

WEDNESDAY 22ND MARCH 2023 (6PM-8PM)

TUESDAY 11TH APRIL 2023 (10AM-12PM)

THURSDAY 27TH APRIL 2023 (6PM-8PM)

TUESDAY 9TH MAY 2023 (6PM-8PM)

BOOK TICKETS NOW

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/childrens-wellbeing-practitioners-school-nursing-service-hertfordshire-33494371787>

You will only need to request one ticket even if multiple people in your household will be attending the workshop

Hosted by HCT Children's Wellbeing Practitioners

Delivered virtually via Microsoft Teams