

# Secondary phase newsletter

Friday 26th May 2023

*Creating Tomorrow's Citizens Today*



## All-through news

A warm welcome to this end of half term newsletter!

It is truly wonderful to end this term with some wonderful news! I am absolutely delighted to tell everyone that we have been successful in two bids that we have submitted for capital funding, totally £4 million.

The “big” news is that Simon Balle All through School will have a sports hall (at last!) We have been awarded funding to construct a four court hall, with changing rooms. This will be erected at the front of the campus.

To enhance this, we shall be spending some of our reserves on remodelling our existing changing rooms. We are well aware of their limitations currently and have consulted student voice.

The successful second bid is to replace four of our mobiles, which quite frankly are in a poor condition.

Both of these projects are incredibly exciting, especially the sports hall, which will completely transform the face and entrance to the school as well as what we are able to offer our students and local community.

These changes to the site are the biggest projects for over twenty years and require a formidable feat of logistical planning.

This will inevitably come with some significant disruption but we will do everything possible to keep this to a minimum and, whatever the inconveniences. We will also try to keep you informed as the projects progress. For the time now, let's all celebrate!

One way in which you can support the school at this time is to support our fund raising at the summer fair- “A slice of summer”. Please ask your child to collect raffle tickets, volunteer to help or simply save the

date. It will be a great day.

Another privilege this week is to announce the School Presidential Group. Y12 were invited to apply and congratulations to the following students:

Dylan A  
Alexis B  
William C  
Sophie R  
Jen P  
Ashton S  
Sophie H

## Staff recruitment

I am indebted to parents passing on the news of vacancies and this has brought several successes in appointments. We continue to advertise on our own website and in addition, jobs are posted on a new platform for us- [mynewterm.com](http://mynewterm.com)

## Important change of date to note:

All children and young people will start the new academic year on Tuesday 5th September (a day later than was previously advertised)

Finally can I wish everyone a safe and enjoyable half term break.

## Zebra crossing

We are delighted to let you know that Hertfordshire County Council are planning a zebra crossing to be built to aid the crossing across Mangrove Road. This, we know, will ensure safer routes to school for all of our students, which, together with our recent changes with barriers to the car park and gating around the site, will support all of our families in very positive ways. We will stay closely in touch with all stakeholders in relation to the positioning of the zebra crossing and timescales.

## Parking

We have been contacted by Hertford cricket club regarding parents parking across the access gate into the cricket club. The gate in question is right next to the swimming pool, on the edge of the cricket field. We ask if you are dropping students off to school or picking up please refrain from parking across this gate.

## SEND

If you would like to speak to a member of the SEND team, and your child currently attends Simon Balle all through School, you can book a virtual appointment of up to 15 minutes with a member of the SEND team, please use the following booking link: [Booking link](#)

## Larch Mini Farm - Volunteers

The Larch Mini Farm houses guinea pigs, chickens, rabbits and tortoises. During term time, staff and children look after the animals, ensuring they have enough food and water as well as helping to clean out the enclosures and groom the animals, where needed. This is a wonderful opportunity to demonstrate so many of our school values too.

To continue caring for the animals, over the weekend and school holidays, we are looking for a number of volunteers that could be added to a rota. This opportunity is open to families of **both phases** of the school. You will receive a short induction should you be able to help us. Thank you in advance, we are very fortunate to have animals on site and your support with their care is greatly appreciated. Please email [larch@simonballe.herts.sch.uk](mailto:larch@simonballe.herts.sch.uk) for more information.



## Dates for the diary

WHOLE SCHOOL	
29th May to Friday 2nd June	Half term
Tuesday 6th June	A Piano Evening (Mr Lovell & Mrs Iles' Y6 & 7 students), 6 -7pm
Saturday 1st July	Slice of summer
Monday 3rd July	Inset Day
Sunday 9th July	Saffron Hall, 5pm
Monday 10th July	Stevensons 'pop up' shop 3pm to 8pm
Thursday 13th July	Year 6 Transition day
Monday 4th September	This is now an <b>INSET day</b>
Tuesday 5th September	All students return to school
SECONDARY	
Monday 5th June - Friday 9th June	Year 7 assesments week 2
Monday 5th June - Friday 16th June	Year 8 assessment Weeks
Wednesday 7th June	Ms Fitch's Singing Evening, 6 - 7pm
Monday 12th June - Tuesday 27th June	Year 12 threshold exams
Monday 19th June - Thursday 29th June	Year 10 mocks
Tuesday 20th June	Mr Lovell's Piano Evening (Y8 & 9 students), 6-7pm
Thursday 22nd June	Guitar Platform Evening, 6 - 7pm
Wednesday 28th June	Mr Stevenson's Drum Evening, 6 - 7pm
PRIMARY	
W/C 22nd May	Y1,3,4,5 and 6 parent consultations (Y2 after May half-term)
Monday 5th June	Larch class photos
Mon 12th-Wed 14th June	Y6 residential to Sheringham
W/C 19th June	Y2 parent consultations
Tuesday 20th June	Year 4, 5 & 6 String Showcase, 6 - 7pm
Thursday 29th June	Year 2 & 3 Strings + Year 2/3 Choir Showcase, 5.30 - 6.30pm

## PSA news

### 1st July Slice of Summer - Volunteer Opportunities

We are still very short of volunteers for this year's Slice of Summer. It's a wonderful day packed full of games, stalls, music, food and drink - a real community event and we need you to make sure it happens.

### Did you know that money raised at the Slice of Summer is spent on children in the secondary and the primary phases?

This year alone, money raised by us has been spent on renting a minibus, funding towards the Y11 and Y13 leavers' events (and will fund Y6 leavers), new lighting for the hall, shelving in the library and so much more! Our school needs us to raise funds more than ever. Please spare just 90 minutes - this could be on the day or in advance. [Simply sign up here](#). Why not grab some friends and help as a group, before enjoying a glass of pimm's or a beer in the sunshine?!



Simply design a poster to advertise our next Doughies event, using some of the information below to guide you. Submit your artwork by Monday 5th June to the Larch Reception and one winning poster will be chosen to advertise the next event plus will receive a FREE pizza kit. Please do not forget to include your name and class/form on the reverse so that house points can be added for participation.

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

Pizza kits cost £6.50 and make 1x 12" pizza. Cookie kits cost £4.50 and make 5x cookies.

[Orders can be placed directly on the Doughies website](https://doughies.co.uk/products/simon-b) until Saturday 24th June and orders will be delivered to Simon Balle on Friday 30th. Important information: Named Larch Centre orders will be distributed via classrooms. Named orders from across the secondary phase are welcome but **MUST BE COLLECTED** from outside the reception office immediately after school on Friday 30th. Please set a reminder, as any unclaimed kits will be assumed unwanted if not collected by 4.30pm.

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



ORDER HERE

## PIZZA & COOKIE EVENT Friday 30th 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.



Orders to be placed via the Doughies website by **Monday 25th July**  
<https://doughies.co.uk/products/simon-balle>  
Orders to be collected on **Friday 30th June**. Details will be shared with primary & secondary phases

**Doughies Pizza Kits - Orders and Competition**  
Would you like to win a FREE Doughies pizza kit?

## Secondary news

### Procedures for lateness and absences

**Lateness** - If your child arrives late to school, for safeguarding and health and safety reasons, they **MUST** sign the 'Students Signing Book' at the school office giving the reason for their lateness. This includes any lateness, medical, traffic, etc.

**Leaving Site Before the End of the Day** - If your child needs to leave school before the end of the school day they must come down to the school office at the appropriate time and they must sign out using the 'Students Signing Book' and show evidence as to the reason for leaving early, e.g. medical appointment card or letter from parents confirming the time of the appointment. For safeguarding reasons, parents **MUST** come to the school office to sign and confirm they are taking their child out of school before the end of the day. These records are invaluable in the event of an incident such as a fire. However, parents are encouraged to make these appointments out of school hours.

**Absences** - If your child is absent from school for any reason it is very important you telephone us on 01992 410400 and leave a message on the Absence Answerphone giving your child's name, form and reason for absence – please do not just say 'unwell'. You can also send an e-mail to [admin@simonballe.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@simonballe.herts.sch.uk) giving your child's name, form, reason for absence and a contact daytime telephone number. You may also get a telephone call from the Absence Co-ordinator as we carry out a spot check and call a number of parents each day. If we do not hear from you concerning your child's absence, it will initially be registered as unauthorised.

**Term Time Leave** – At Simon Balle All-through School, our aim is to prepare students for their future lives and careers. With this in mind, we require parents/carers to observe the school holidays as prescribed. It is strongly recommended that holidays are not taken during term time (in line with recommendations to the 2006 Pupil Registration (England) Regulations – 1st September 2013) and will only be authorised by the Headteacher, up to a maximum of 10 school days, in exceptional circumstances once written permission has been sought. Any requests for leave during term time must be made through the schools centralised system on the school website and will be considered on an individual basis and the student's previous attendance record will be taken into account. The form can be found at the bottom of the front page of the school website (Leave of Absence Request). The application needs to be completed well in advance of the absence and will be reviewed by the Attendance Team.

### Awards in the art department

On 11<sup>th</sup> March 2023 Simon Balles ceramicists supplied wonderful pieces to the Mayor of Hertford, Cllr Sue Barber's Charity Civic Dinner at Three Lakes near Ware.

The event was hosted to support the Mayor's two charities – Hertfordshire Dramatic & Operatic Society and Future Hope. It was a fabulous evening with toasts, fundraising and outstanding entertainment from The Simon Balle Big Band. Simon Balle Ceramicists can be seen here getting an award from Hertfords Mayor for selling their amazing ceramic pots auctioned during the civic dinner this year. Not only were they raising money for charity but also for earning themselves some lovely cash! Thank you to the Art enrichment who came to support!



### PE news Athletics

After 4 weeks of really strong performances all four teams are currently in the top 8 and all are in with a chance of making the County Plate Final. Key performances over the past couple of weeks have come from K. Griffiths (U16 1500m) running a big pb of 4 mins 40 secs this week in Round 4. Another big personal best came from C. Ryan (U16 Triple Jump), jumping over 11.50m. Both L. Abell (U14) and M. Parsonson (U16) both cleared 1.70m & 2m in their respective Pole Vault competitions over the past couple of weeks, this is a great achievement from both who have just recently taken up the Pole Vault. In the girls' teams, performances have been consistent with some highlights including, E Keence achieving a personal best of 1.51m in the high jump, C Naylor running a 2.43 in the 800m and I Dipper running 29.99 in 200m.

Key upcoming events to take note of are as follows;

- Herts Athletics league Round 5 (St Albans) - Weds 7th June
- Herts Athletics league Round 6 (Stevenage) - Mon 12th June

- Herts Schools Athletics Championships - Sat 10th June
- Sports Day - Mon 26th June
- District Athletics Championships - Fri 30th June
- Sports Presentation Evening - Weds 12th July (Invitation only from 6.30pm)

### Cricket

Y8 boys won their first game in the district cup Vs John Warner School. Upcoming fixtures:

- District Cup Vs Richard halle - Tuesday 6th June
- County Cup Vs Westfields School - Friday 9th June

The Year 9 Boys have played two games now, losing against Chauncy in the District cup, however still have to play Goffs and John Warner Schools' meaning they are still in with a chance of qualifying for the semi-finals. On Tuesday the team played Marlborough School in the Quarter final of the County Plate and after a fantastic final batting partnership of A. Rowe and B. Baker, the team won by 2 runs on the penultimate ball in the final over. The team now awaits their semi-final opponents.

Year 9 upcoming fixtures are as follows;

- v JWS (H) - Mon 5th June
- v Goffs (A) - Mon 19th June

Year 10 boys had a good game against Birchwood school, chancing down the target that they set within 14 overs finishing with Will (One of our starting batsmen) hitting for 4. This sees them moving forward into the quarter finals of the county cup.

Calypso Cricket Dates at Sele

- Tues 13th June - Year 8 & 10 Boys
- Weds 14th June - Year 7 & 9 Boys
- Thurs 15th June - Year 7/8 & Year 9/10 Girls

### Rounders

We have had a great start to the rounders season. Training is on Tuesdays after school for years 7 and 8 and Wednesdays after school for years 9 and 10. The clubs will continue to run throughout the summer and are open to anyone to attend - we would love to have more students there!

This term we have had matches taking place for girls from years 7 to year 10. We had a successful first block fixture against Chauncy with years 7, 8 and 10 winning their games.

This week saw the year 9 and 10 teams play against Presdales in a home fixture. Both matches were closely contested with the year 9 team winning and the year 10s losing 11 to 8 and ½ .



We have a number of other friendlies coming up as well as the district tournaments on the following dates:

- Tuesday 6th June - Year 9
- Tuesday 20th June - Year 10
- Wednesday 28th June - Year 8
- Thursday July 13th - Year 7

### Festival of sport at the University of Hertfordshire

On Thursday 18 of our Year 12 A level & BTEC sport students attended the University of Hertfordshire with Mr Ford and Mr Brennan to participate in a Festival of Sport day. Students experienced a range of interactive workshops and lectures which included the following topics;

- Sports Therapy - Treating and rehabilitating the injured performer
- Sports Business management
- Exercise Physiology - Exploring the limits of the human body by comparing with the best Olympic athletes
- Physiological testing

The day finished off with a quiz and information on Herts University's sports pathways. Students thoroughly enjoyed the day and were able to relate what they learned and experienced back to their programmes of study.



## **Uniform donations**

As some of you may be aware we have preloved uniform available to buy at the school. We would be grateful for any donations people might have in order to replenish our stock for next year. The PE department has also asked for any spare PE kit and trainers that can be given out to students who forget or misplace items of kit. They are asking for any year 11 or above students that could donate any old school PE kit that they no longer need. Please drop off any old unwanted uniform or PE kit to the front office.

# ONLINE SAFETY NEWS

SUMMER 2023.

## MOVING UP TO SECONDARY SCHOOL

Ofcom's 2022 research into technology use across the UK has shown that nearly all 13 – 15-year-olds (98%) have their own phone. For most of these young people, they were given their phones around the start of secondary school, between the ages of 9 and 11 (91%).

If you are considering getting your child their first phone, there are lots of factors to consider. **Childnet's 'First Phone Checklist'** is a great, easy to understand resource that takes you through the process of choosing the right time, setting it up and supporting your child.

**Childnet's 'Moving on Up!'** videos are a great place to start conversations around new devices, digital wellbeing and online bullying.

### The Mix

The Mix is a leading support service in the UK for young people and offers free and practical advice on wide ranging issues. The article on **'How to Avoid Online Scams'** helps young people understand what to watch out for and actions to take to hopefully avoid being scammed online.

### TikTok

Check out Parent Zone's guide on TikTok which includes functionality, reporting, blocking and privacy settings.

[Read the guide](#)



 **Childnet**

**THE MIX**

 **parentzone**

**NSPCC**

**INEQE**  
SAFEGUARDING GROUP

## WhatsApp and BeReal

The NSPCC has published advice on two very popular apps with children - WhatsApp and BeReal

WhatsApp is rated 16+ . The app allows you to send and receive messages, as well as make voice and video calls. You can connect with people individually or join group chats where lots of people can contribute. The NSPCC advice will help you get to grips with the safety tools available including setting privacy and location settings.

The risks of WhatsApp including unwanted contact, pressure to respond, location sharing, inappropriate content, cyberbullying and oversharing are explored

### Explore the NSPCC WhatsApp advice

BeReal app is rated 12+. This is a popular image-sharing app where you can post your own pictures as well as view other people's. Users can only post once a day and are only able to see their friends' images if they have shared their own.

At a different time every day, users receive an alert telling them it's 'Time to BeReal'. This gives them two minutes to take a picture, and post it on the app. The NSPCC advice page looks at potential risks including the pressure to share, location sharing, inappropriate content, oversharing and unwanted contact. The advice page also offers top tips for staying safe.

### Explore the NSPCC BeReal advice

## What is YouTube Go Live Together?

YouTube have begun rolling out a new live streaming feature called 'Go Live Together'. A helpful guide from iNEQE outlines what the feature is, what the risks are, and some top tips to help the children and young people in your care stay safer if they choose to livestream on YouTube.

### Read the iNEQE safeguarding Groups guide





## DEALING WITH SAFETY CONCERNS

### Inappropriate contact from an adult

The Child Exploitation and Online Protection Command (CEOP) helps keep children safe from online grooming. CEOP is part of the police service and sits within the National Crime Agency. If you suspect an adult is communicating with a child inappropriately, or a child is being sexually abused online, you should report this to **CEOP**.

### Online hate content

Online content which incites hatred should be reported to True Vision at **report-it.org.uk** which covers the grounds of race, religion, disability, sexual orientation or gender. This content should also be reported directly to the platform on which it appears.

### Nude images of children online

The **report remove tool** on the ChildLine website is for young people to get help removing a nude image or video of them that has been shared, removed from the internet. There is a helpful video that explains how report remove can help.

### Online abuse and harmful content

For forms of online abuse and harmful content, such as bullying, threats, or self-harm and suicide content, you can report this directly to the platform where the abuse took place. This also includes content designed to impersonate someone else (e.g. creating a fake account pretending to be someone else) **Report Harmful Content** can walk you through the reporting process for many popular sites.

If the content has remained online or the platform has not taken appropriate action, you can report this to Report Harmful Content. They will look into the issue and ensure the correct processes have been followed and advise you on what steps you can take next.



**The information in the newsletter is given to help promote the safety of children and young people online.**

Every care has been taken to ensure the information and any recommendations in the newsletter are accurate at the time of publishing. Schools must make their own judgements when sharing our recommendations with parents and carers and, where appropriate, always risk assess with their pupils and whole school community in mind.

This newsletter is brought to you by the HFL Education Wellbeing team as part of their online safety support for schools and settings in Hertfordshire. Contact the team at **[wellbeing@hfleducation.org](mailto:wellbeing@hfleducation.org)** or call **01438 544464**.

HFL Education is a leading national provider of school improvement and business support services, training, and resources, which enable schools, educational settings and multi-academy trusts to deliver a great education.

We support those we work with to achieve successful long-term outcomes for their children.

We believe that every young person, through access to a great education, should be able to realise their potential, regardless of where they live, their background or circumstances.

# FAMILY FUN RUN WELWYN 10K at Panshanger PARK

Sunday 25th June 2023

Organised by Garden City Runners in support of the Welwyn Festival charities



2k family fun run  
9.40am start for  
ages 4-14.  
Medal for all finishers.  
Kids' Nature Activities.  
Refreshments  
available.



Venue: Panshanger Park, Hertford    Entry Fee: 2k £3  
[www.welwyn10k.org.uk](http://www.welwyn10k.org.uk)