

Sir Roger Manwood's School



Autumn Term 2021

Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing this on the first day of the holiday, reflecting back on what many staff have told me they have found to be the hardest of their careers. Despite the difficulties, it has been so good to see our extracurricular clubs and societies start up again, and to hold events that mark out our school calendar, albeit not in the same way as normal. Two examples of the latter include Prize Giving and our two Carol Services. Both would normally see every student at SRMS in attendance but this year that was just not sensible. For Prize Giving, held on Monday 13 December, the Prize Winners from each year group were seated together in the Sports Hall but each year group was sat over 3 metres from any other year group; they were individually presented with their awards by Dr R Jackson, Chair of Governors from 2019 to 2021. In addition, each Year 12 student was presented with their GCSE Certificates. Then on Thursday 16 December, Year 7 attended a Carol Service in St Clements in the morning, followed by Year 8 later in the day. This was the first event that we have been able to have live music at since March 2020 – what a joy it was to hear our Choir sing. And Year 7 and Year 8 were good too!



At the end of this newsletter you will find the list of extracurricular clubs and societies that was published in September. We are in the process of collating information about the other subject clinics that are now up and running in addition to the ones below, and will publish the updated list once it is finalised.

If you have not already visited our new website, please do. It can be found at the same URL as before: <https://www.manwoods.co.uk/> The new version contains several features that were missing from the last one, including a search facility at the top of the page, links to our various social media feeds e.g. the School's Instagram page (which now has over 1050 followers), the Sports Twitter and Instagram pages, and links to websites commonly used by students and parents (e.g. Google Classroom, Educake, school email, School Gateway). Our CCF does have its own Twitter page but that is an account that only members can see, hence why there is no link to it on the website. If parents have a child in the CCF and wish to join, then please contact Sgt Richards on ssi@srms.kent.sch.uk

I would like to take this opportunity to remind parents of two of our school policies. The first concerns items that have been forgotten by students and left at home - parents are more than welcome to drop the item off at Reception but we are not able to deliver it to the student concerned as we do not have the staffing levels to do so. This means that parents/carers must inform the student, who can then come to Reception to pick it up. If it is an emergency, then obviously Reception will go to find the student concerned - but this is only in the case of a genuine emergency. The second is that aerosols are banned in school due to their being a very serious health and safety hazard for asthmatics as they can cause extremely serious attacks. All of the students have been reminded of this fact by me personally recently but we have still had incidents of the use of aerosol deodorants in school since that reminder - they must be roll on deodorants please.

The response from parents and carers to our request to increase their monthly or annual donations, or to make one if they had not in the past, was very pleasing. Over £9,000 has so far been donated since September. This will go towards the costs of ongoing improvements to our IT infrastructure. Thank you so much to those of you who contributed - such donations are what enable us to continue to provide the things that parents have come to expect from SRMS but which government funding will not cover any more. We appreciate that some parents/carers are not in a financial position to make a donation, but similarly, we know that many are. If you have not yet done so but are in a position to be able to, please consider making a donation, or increasing it if you already make one. Every penny donated will be spent on improving the facilities and resources available to our students.

The regulations schools are having to work under for the production of Teacher Assessed Grades if this summer's exams are cancelled, requires the use of assessments taken under exam conditions spaced out over the course of the academic year. All students of a particular subject have to sit the same assessment at the same time i.e. if any student misses a possible TAG assessment they can sit that assessment when back in school but it cannot be used as part of the TAG process and they will have to take a completely different assessment to the rest of their year group. This means two things - first, it is absolutely vital that all Year 11 and Year 13 students realise the importance of the January Mocks if this summer's exams are cancelled; and second, that they do their level best to take Mock papers on the days they are set, otherwise that paper cannot be used in the production of their TAG for that subject. Everyone is hoping and praying that the exams this summer will not be cancelled, but it is essential that students in

these year groups, and their parents/carers, understand the process that will take place if they are. Over the Christmas holiday, students in both of these year groups need to remain cautious when socialising as if they have to self-isolate in early January and therefore have to miss Mock papers they will have to sit additional assessments later in the year for TAG use. I should add that we would still want them to sit the Mock paper when they come back to school as obviously they give the best practice for the real thing in the summer – as I say, we are all desperate for exams to run as per normal this summer.

STUDENT NEWS

Congratulations to **Jonathan Baker, Inca Powell Kahn, Issie Martin** (all Year 13 Leavers) and **Lily Beaman, Maz Hannan and Emily Hill** (all Year 12) for being awarded a prize by the Arts Society Sandwich for the quality of their work. They also were given the opportunity of having their work displayed in St Mary's Church as part of Sandwich Arts Week.

Representatives of the School's **Eco Society** received a prestigious Green School Award in the Energy Conservation category for their "LED Switchover" project. They received the award on Thursday 25 November 2021 at Ashford International Hotel. Congratulations to the Eco Society.

We were contacted by the Vice Chairman of the Hilderstone Radio Society, Mr Hislop, to let us know that **Alice Ingoldsby** (Year 7) took part in an online convention run by the Radio Society of Great Britain on Saturday 9th October. The youngsters who are part of the club were filmed performing various activities and the video was shown at the convention and was followed by a Q&A session. (The Hilderstone Radio Society is a STEM Club run for youngsters and covers electronics, coding and amateur radio). The online presentation was extremely well received. They had over a hundred people watching it and some of the comments were 'excellent' and 'inspirational'. One comment was from Professor Karen Aplin of the Aerospace Engineering Department of Bath University, who said the girls were fantastic and really inspiring and hoped that they would continue to be enthusiastic about STEM at their secondary school. Over the weekend of 16-17 October, Alice also assisted the 4th Broadstairs Scouts' Group to celebrate 'Jamboree on the Air', when scouts across the world communicated with each other using amateur radio. She led activities on circuits, Morse code and radio communications. As if that were not enough, she and the other members of her team put forward a project to run an experiment on the International Space Station, and it has been accepted by the European Space Agency. They will program an Astro-pi computer on board the ISS to take infra-red images of Earth to detect lightning strikes. Congratulations to Alice.



Congratulations to **Elizabeth Anstis** (Year 11), who took bronze in the 200m breaststroke event at the Speedo Festive Qualifier recently while representing Dover Life Guard Club. Elizabeth is the Club's 2022 Junior Leader, meaning she is the Learn to Race Poolside Junior Lead, assisting younger swimmers swim to their full potential.

One of the pleasures of being the Headteacher is receiving emails like the two below:

"I wanted to share some praise received from our staff and parents watching the Year 7 football game yesterday. Parents commented on how well-mannered the SRMS team was, pointing out that when substitutions were made, decisions went against them, and through extra time and penalties, they all behaved in an exemplary manner. It was also pointed out by a member of our staff who was watching the the game, how good your accompanying teacher was – he was constantly positive with the boys and encouraged them to play the game the right way. We were also impressed with how he handled talking to the boys who missed penalties. Schools are sometimes very quick to send an email when students at fixtures misbehave or mouth off but very rarely do the same when it was the opposite. The boys and staff were a true credit to your school and we would always welcome accommodating or playing them at any fixture or event". Well done to Mr Pearce and the Year 7 boys' football team.

"I wanted to take the trouble to email you to commend the behaviour of your students on the train from Sandwich to Broadstairs yesterday afternoon (Thursday 14th October) after school. I joined the train with my bicycle in Walmer. The section by the doors wasn't large enough to prevent my bike blocking the thoroughfare so I sat and held onto it in readiness to move it when necessary. I have taken the train several times, recently, traveling in the opposite direction through Herne Bay and Whitstable toward Broadstairs and have been saddened and sometimes angered by the behaviour of the pupils who boarded there. I was a teacher in secondary education so have no unrealistic expectations. Your students on the other hand were a delight, with almost every one of them saying 'excuse me' or 'sorry' when it was me blocking their way. As teenagers do, they were moving around the train but never noisily or foolishly. One young man had the maturity to smile and comment to me on the fact that they were 'moving me again!' which was enough to make me smile at being moved rather than feeling irritated. They have restored my faith in our youth. Thank you and your staff for doing a good job and, if possible, please pass on my praise to your students". Very well done to those students who get the train after school in the Ramsgate direction.

"Congratulations to Mr Mount and the Year 11 GCSE Drama class for their outstanding performances in last night's production of 'DNA'. We were really impressed with the standard of the play, the difficult subject matter and how mature the drama student performances were. The staging was adventurous and the students rose to the challenge, not even being phased by the long chorus of bell ringing from the church over the way (we also thought that that added to

the ambience...). I understand that the students rehearsed after school twice a week for six weeks and Mr Mount's time providing this extra-curricular opportunity is to be applauded. I know they worked really hard in a short timescale to put on this performance and it was great to come and watch them. I wish the drama students all the best with their Drama GCSE's later this year".

Thank you to Mr Pearce and Mr Mount, but also to all of the members of staff who give up hours of their free time to support and provide opportunities to our students.

ALUMNI NEWS

Daniela Schulz (Leaver 2020), was presented with an award on the completion of her Foundation Year at the University College of the Arts by Mr Chris Flint, Chairman of the Art Society Dover Deal and Sandwich (ASSDS) and Mr Mike Judd, a retired Deputy Head at SRMS. A panel of ASSDS committee members judged entries from UCA Foundation Year students from the Dover, Deal and Sandwich District and were unanimous in making the award to Daniela. They felt that her work was outstanding. Daniela will be on her way to the University of East Anglia in Norwich with a well-deserved £100 cheque and a certificate which she will be able to include in her CV. She is very personable young person and does the School credit.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH NEWS

We received the following letter from Janet Baker, the Centre Manager at Sandwich Age Concern: "Thank you for the kind donation of food items from your Harvest Festival. We'll be using the items in 2 ways; the non-perishables will be made into 2 hampers to be raffled at the Clients' Christmas Lunch and the perishables will be distributed between the clients within the community. Thank you for the kind and thoughtful donation to the elderly residents of Sandwich".

Our twin school in Gambia, the Yalding School, very kindly tagged us in one of their recent Instagram posts:



schoolgambia It's electric – reliable power to the school!

Thanks to the generosity and hard work of our supporters, particularly the [@sirrogermanwoodschool](#) in Sandwich, the solar panels are up and earning their keep. Since February this year, regular power cuts and postponed IT lessons are a thing of the past.

[#fundraising](#) [#charity](#) [#sustainable](#) [#solarpower](#) [#Gambia](#)
[#Africa](#) [#education](#) [#educationmatters](#) [#nomorepowercuts](#)
[#schoolgambia](#)

Well done to the 2020 Team Gambia for raising this money. As all of them were in last year's Year 13 they have now left SRMS, but this is a wonderful legacy, something that will make a real

difference to the lives of children thousands of miles away. Thank you too to those in the School community who donated to their fundraising activities.

A restful holiday to all members of the Manwood's Community - students, parents, carers, extended families, alumni, staff, and governors. I look forward to welcoming everyone back on Tuesday 4 January 2022, which is **WEEK 2** in the timetable.

Mr Hunter

Headteacher

Break and Lunchtime Clubs and Societies

Day	Club	Year
Monday	Astronomy	7-13
	Badminton (Juniors)	7-9
	Drama club (Week A)	8
	Drama Y9 Pre-GCSE Workhop (Week B)	9
	Manwood Strings	All
	Monday Club	by invite
	Spanish Workshop	10+11
Tuesday	Badminton (Seniors)	10-13
	Junior Charity Committee (Week B)	7-11
	Maths Clinic KS3	7-9
	String Ensemble	All
Wednesday	Basketball	All
	Elastic Band	All
	French GCSE Support Club (Week A)	10+11
	Philosophy Club (Week A)	7-9
	GCSE and A Level Art workshop	10-13
Thursday	French GCSE Support Club (Week B)	10+11
	Junior Choir	7-9
	Maths Clinic KS3	7-9
	Table Tennis (Juniors)	7-9
	Manwood's Ukulele Orchestra	7-9
Friday	Percussion Ensemble	All
	French GCSE Support Club (Week A)	10+11
	French GCSE Support Club (Week B)	10+11
	GCSE and A Level Art workshop	10-13
	Manwoodian Editorial Team (School Magazine)	All
	Table Tennis (Seniors)	10-13
	Sixth Form Charity Committee (Week A)	12+13
Manwood's Ukulele Orchestra	10-13	

After School Clubs and Societies

Day	Club	Year
Monday	Golf (10 spaces, cost £36)	All
	Homework Club	All
	Physics A Level Exam Practice (after Oct half term)	13
	Physics GCSE Workshop	10+11
	GCSE and A Level Art workshop	10-13
Tuesday	A Level + GCSE Maths Clinic	10-13
	Chemistry workshop	12+13
	DNA Rehearsals (Y11 Drama) (Week B til 18/11/21)	11
	Manwood's Camerata (Music)	All
	Physics A Level workshop	12+13
	Homework Club	All
Wednesday	A Level Biology workshop	12+13
	DNA Rehearsals (Y11 Drama) (Wk A+B til 18/11/21)	11
	Jazz Band	All
	GCSE Biology Workshop	10+11
	Homework Club	All
	Y7 Maths Club	7
Thursday	A Level + GCSE Maths Clinic	10-13
	CCF	8-13
	Chamber Choir	11-13
	Chemistry workshop GCSE	10+11
	DNA Rehearsals (Y11 Drama) (Week A til 18/11/21)	11
	Homework Club	All
Friday	Homework Club	All
Variable days	Football and Rugby teams (boys)	
	Trampolining	
	Football and Hockey teams (girls)	