

Sir Roger Manwood's School



Christmas 2023 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is good to finally be at the end of what has seemed at times to be the 'term that never ends'! There has been a long list of activities and events that have taken place since the October half term which you can read all about later in this newsletter. As always, my thanks to the staff who spent hours of their own time organising all of these activities and events, and then going on them - it is that mindset that makes SRMS such a stimulating and busy place for young people to be educated in.

A full complement of our extra-curricular and whole school events took place - Remembrance Assembly, two concerts, a joint concert in Deal involving our Chamber Choir and Manwood Singers, 5 performances of the (very Christmassy) school play, 66 sports fixtures, the Christmas Dinner for local Senior Citizens and another Dinner for what felt like every student and member of staff on Thursday last week (it turns out it was a total of over 750!!!) It is especially pleasing to see our overseas trips beginning to re-establish themselves after the disruption due to the pandemic. This half term has seen two recent day trips to Lille take place (for Year 7 and Year 12 French students), a week long German exchange to Sundern in the Ruhr Valley (for Year 11 German students) and a History trip to Berlin (for Year 11 History students). Sadly, there hasn't been time to include a report on the Berlin trip in this newsletter as it was being finalised while the trip is still in Germany but it will be included in the February half term newsletter.

In addition to the above, our House Captains have done a magnificent job in encouraging students in their House to get involved in the many House competitions that have run, culminating in House netball matches for Y8, Y9 and joint Y10/Y11 in the last few weeks. Each was organised and officiated by fellow sixth formers and my thanks also goes to them, as without their input these matches would not have been possible. The Year 7 and Sixth Form House netball competitions will take place in January after the Captains are back from Mocks study leave. My thanks also to the many departments that have run a House competition since September - I won't name them for fear of missing one out! There are lots more House competitions coming next term in the run up to Easter, which is when the annual House competition ends (so as to coincide with the end of the year of office of the House Captains).

We have had a higher than normal level of staff absence towards the end of this term but thankfully all of the staff concerned, some of whom were hospitalised due to the seriousness of their sickness, are on the mend. We were also able to source fully qualified supply teachers to replace them - no mean feat given the dearth of supply teachers these days. Apparently, only 50% of the target number of secondary school teachers have been recruited for teacher training next year - and that follows on from several previous years where the target has not been met.

It only remains for me to wish good fortune to all Year 11 and Year 13 students for their Mocks which take place in the first fortnight immediately after we return from the Christmas break.

A **very** Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you. One can see how tired both staff and students are currently - we are all definitely in need of a restful break! And finally, a reminder that the Spring Term starts on Thursday 4 January 2025.

Mr Hunter

Headteacher

STUDENT NEWS

Tianna Maidens (Year 12) entered an international short story writing competition called the *Author of Tomorrow* run by the Wilbur & Niso Smith Foundation. She was shortlisted for a prize and attended the award ceremony on Wednesday 18 October at the Royal Geographical Society in South Kensington. She was thrilled when it was announced that she had won the 16 to 21 category! Tianna received a trophy and £1,000. Tianna's dream is to one day have a book published, so is heading in the right direction.

<https://www.wilbur-niso-smithfoundation.org/index.php/awards/author-of-tomorrow-2019>

James Gill (Year 13) is a keen track athlete. He has trained with Invicta East Kent since he was 12. In autumn 2022 he started training for the 400 metres and is showing some success. His recent PB of 50.43 seconds places him 19th in the south east Mens' Under 20 category. James was selected to represent Kent in the 400m earlier this year and is hoping to represent the school and county in the National Schools Athletics Championships in July.

Engage and Excel Certificates

These are awarded after each assessment. Engage Certificates are for students in both Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 to each pupil in the year group who achieved 11 or more A grades for effort if in KS3, or 10 or more A grades if in KS4. Excel Certificates are awarded to students in Key Stage 4 who achieve their target grade in every subject. The following is the list of students who received either an Engage or Excel Certificate after the October assessments. Well done to all.

Ainsworth	Hannah
Aleandri Salawa	Zuzia
Ashley-Down	Elizabeth
Barnes	Frankie
Barnes	Henry
Beavon	Lotte
Birkett	Elizabeth
Bridgland	Madison
Chaffey	Anyia
Crine	Samuel
Crine	Samuel
Cunningham	Siena
Douglas	Owen
Edridge	Tegan
Ellul	Mia
Erasmus	Oliver
Finlay	Holly
Fox	Ethan
Fraser	Eve
Gerken	Esme
Gibson	Sophia
Goodman	Lucy
Gorman	Aine
Granger	Ebony
Gray	Mackenzie

Hackett	Naomi
Hare	Thomas
Holmes	Adair
Horsburgh	Freya
Hursey	Grace
Jeffreys	Iris
Lim	Sam
Lodge	Jessamine
Margeson	Ava
Mattison	Jonathan
McAlister	Roman
McCann	Hannah
Morling-Grove	Jonathan
North	Lily
Pang	Ruby
Pleasance	Ella
Pryde	Louis
Purvis	Lula
Regan	Caitlin
Relf	Roxy
Renihan Burke	Beatrix
Roberts	Jasmine
Rooke	Holly
Ruffles-Price	Thomas
Sansom	Sorcha
Segelbacher	Jamie
Seyeux-Chew	Amelie
Seyeux-Chew	Amelie
Simpson	Gracie
Stafford	Lucy
Todd	Romy
Tsang	Elizabeth
Underwood-Holden	Emily
Vashisht	Arnav
Volia	Daryna
Wacher	Isabel
Wadhams	Edward
Walker	Oliver
Watson	Isabella
Woodhead	Anna
Zrebiec	Raya

KENT YOUTH COUNTY COUNCIL ELECTION RESULTS

The following students were elected to the Kent Youth County Council in the recent elections:

Community Members: **Freya Horsburgh** (Year 10) and **Iris Jeffreys** (Year 9); Dover District Members: **Wafi Islam** (Year 8), **Sam Anker** (Year 11), **Arturo Perez Barber** (Year 8) and Deputy Dover District Member: **AJ Clay-Diton** (Year 7)

SUBJECT NEWS

CAREERS

The BBC Bitesize Careers Roadshow visited the school on Wednesday 8 November. The three panellists were from different industries and delivered a very informative, interactive and educational presentation.



CCF

Congratulations to **Cadet Lance Corporal Samara Whiting** on being chosen as the Sandwich Mayor's Cadet. Appointment to this role will mean Samara will represent the SRMS CCF Contingent at 8 to 10 weekend and evening events during 2024, including Remembrance Parade, Mayor Making and the Annual Town Meeting.

COMPUTER SCIENCE



The Department recently bought some virtual reality headsets. As a result, it was able to start a lunch time club for Year 7 students. The Department is hoping to widen the club to other year groups in the New Year.



DRAMA & THEATRE STUDIES

This term saw the culmination of eight weeks of intensive but fun rehearsals for this year's whole school Drama production: an adaptation of Charles Dickens' classic story: *A Christmas Carol*. The company consisted of nearly 60 actors and 15 crew members from across all year groups. They delivered five very successful performances from Thursday 7 to Saturday 9 December. The production was watched by over 600 people in total. Victorian London was brought to life through the set (which was built by Mr Sutherland from the DT Department and painted by Year 12 Art students), the sound and lighting (which was designed and delivered by **Beau Dawson** (Year 11), **Matthew Hill** (Year 12), **and Ben Pointon** (Year 12)) and an old-fashioned armchair (which was kindly loaned by Kingsgate Furniture in Broadstairs). The role of Scrooge was played by **Finlay Cockerell** (Year 13) who delivered a superlative performance. He was supported by the rest of the cast who brought their characters to life with aplomb. Production Week began with a community performance on the morning of Thursday 7 December for three local primary schools, and was followed by the opening night. On Friday 8 December, the company performed in the afternoon for the Senior Citizens attending the Christmas Dinner and a second evening performance. Their performances were rounded off with a charity performance on the afternoon of Saturday 9 December in aid of Porchlight (this year's school charity) which is a charity supporting the homeless in Kent. It was so wonderful to be able to stage the first full scale, whole school production at Manwood's for several years. Massive congratulations to all students involved.





We have included a few of the many messages received from members of the audience:

"I attended two performances of A Christmas Carol. Just wonderful. The only bittersweet part is that the wonderful Y13s will be off to pastures new and we won't see them in another school production".

"I wanted to write and convey just how much I enjoyed the performance of "A Christmas Carol" on Thursday evening. I felt it was hugely successful in every regard. The acting was superb with all the lead players and supporting cast delivering highly impressive and engaging performances. The attention to detail in all areas was noticeable, ranging from the costumes to the sets and to the lighting which I really thought was exceptional. I have not seen such a high level of professionalism in a school production before. Overall, all of these factors created an outstanding and hugely enjoyable experience for the audience. I would like to send my congratulations to all involved and it was clear from the

director's speech at the end just how much time and effort had been dedicated by students and staff in the preceding months to make this happen. It was absolutely brilliant!"

"We would like to say how impressed we were the other day when we attended the Christmas production of A Christmas Carol. The acting was superb and the children performed most professionally. The production saw better acting than some you see on the TV. Scrooge himself was awesome! Cousin Fred and Charles Dickens were brilliant too. All the performers gave of their best! Please give our congratulations to your drama teacher. Being a teacher myself, I know how much hard work goes into nurturing the children and encouraging them to fulfil their potential. You have a lot of very talented children at your school".

"We just wanted to write and say a massive thank you for all the time, energy and enthusiasm the company put into producing A Christmas Carol over the last couple of months. What a show!!!! It really was so well done- it was chilling, poignant, funny, entertaining and heart-warming all rolled into one. It was also lovely to see all the year groups working together. Not only was it a really good opportunity for your drama students to shine, but really great that others were included too as this was a massive confidence boost for all the children and great for social skills. As our daughter said this morning "I wish we could do some more shows this week as well" Thank you for inspiring them, they've really enjoyed the whole experience. It was really nice that there were performances to the Senior Citizens and primary schools, and that the proceeds from the last show went to charity- your talks at the beginning/end were informative and interesting too. The flyer was excellent - we had feedback from a friend who saw one in town as to how well done it was. We also loved the programme which had lots of extra information in it, very interesting reading. We went to 3 performances, that says it all! Manwood's students are lucky to have Drama as an option and even luckier to have such an inspired teacher!"

FRENCH

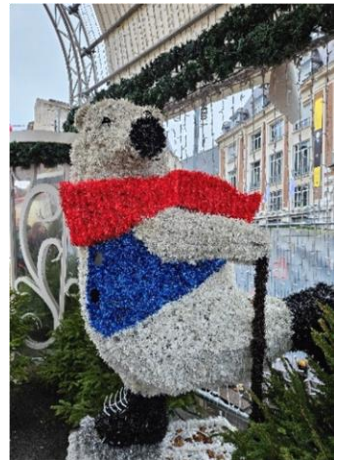
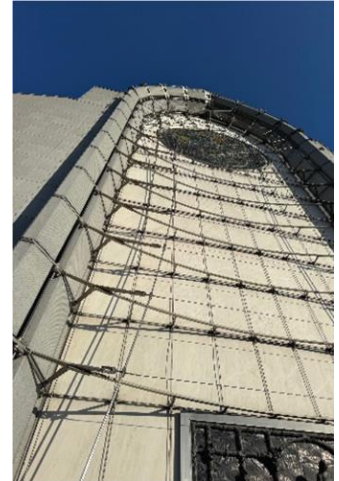
NATIONAL LANGUAGE COMPETITION

In November, 3038 teams more than 500 schools across the UK took part in the GCHQ's National Language Competition. 4 teams of year 9 students from Manwood's participated in putting their language skills to the test and battling it out for the top spot on the leaderboard. Students had to crack codes and solve language puzzles and our 4 teams did really well. Well done to the 4 teams who took part. Team "witty happy eel" (**Youssef Jebari** Year 9), **Sam Lim** (Year 9) **Iris Jeffreys** (Year 9) came 252 out of 3038 with 3085 points. Team "young electric chinchilla" (**Tom Ruffles-Price** and **Ethan Fox**) came 529 with 1600 points. Team "grinning stormy robin" (**Lily North**, **Poppy Ward**, **Beth Wright**) came 872 with 815 points. Team "productive wild dalmatian" (**Josh Godden**, **Tom Shaw**, **Euann Fox**, **Anya Chaffey**) came 1011 with 645 points.



LILLE

At the start of December, the French Department took more than 160 Year 7 and Year 12 students on a day-trip to Lille. Students were very excited despite the early start to the day! They travelled to Lille to visit the Christmas Market where they were able to immerse themselves in French culture whilst wandering around dozens of stalls. Many of them bought Christmas treats for themselves and their families and it was a great opportunity for them to converse in French. As well as the Market, the groups also visited the cathedral and Vieux Lille. On the way back to the UK there was a stop at Cite Europe to do some last minute Christmas shopping, and a last chance to practice their French when buying croissants and pain au chocolat.



GEOGRAPHY



The Geography Department ran a Year 7 competition to create a 2D and 3D contour map of a landscape of their choice. The winners were chosen by the Year 12 Geography Prefects. There were some really fantastic maps. The winner, **Thomas Hare** (Year 7) of Stour, created a fantastic map of Tatooine (you'll know that if you're a Star Wars fan). Congratulations go to **Nicki Vere** (Year 7) and **Amelie McNally** (Year 7) for their maps, which took 2nd and 3rd places.

GERMAN

At the end of November, a group of 18 Year 11 students, travelled to Germany to visit students of the 'Städtisches Gymnasium Sundern' as part of the exchange with our partner school in the Sauerland. The German students had visited Sandwich in March and it was now our turn to stay with host families and to experience daily life in Germany. During the week the group went to see the Borussia Dortmund football stadium, and a mining museum, we accompanied our partners to lessons and attended a reception by the Mayor of Sundern. We also learned about the history of the Mohne Dam (featured in the film 'The Dambuster's') and enjoyed the lovely atmosphere at several Christmas Markets. As if it was planned, it snowed on the first day of the stay which made the visit extra special. Some went sledding with their host families, some baked Christmas biscuits or played board games, others played mini golf, went bowling or rock climbing, ate out in a restaurant or simply accompanied their partners to their weekly activities. The group was made to feel very welcome by our partners and host families and some of us have already planned to visit each other in the future.





LIBRARY

What a delight it has been to experience the Autumn term here at SRMS. The library now has over 20 Library Assistants, with 12 of them coming from Year 7. Our Librarians report that they are delighted with the engagement of their Assistants with their hallowed Library space! Thank you to everyone who has visited or supported the Library at any point during the Term.



MUSIC

This term has been full of musical activities. The Harvest Assembly saw Tegan Edridge and Jasmine Roberts perform a beautiful and moving cover version of 'Another Day in Paradise' by Phil Collins. In the Remembrance Assembly, Sam Pleasance performed a piece by Einaudi which accompanied the poem 'In Flanders Field'. There were also several music assemblies showcasing soloists and groups from School of Rock. Two fantastic Winter Concerts showed off the variety and depth of the music-making at Manwood's, along with the amazing commitment of the students who give up their own time to rehearse and make music. December saw a joint concert in St George's Church in Deal that involved both Manwood Singers and the student Chamber Choir – it was a wonderful way to start Christmas. The church was packed with people and the joy of music. The end of term was especially busy for the Department, with the Chamber Choir singing at both Carols Services on Monday this week and the orchestra playing at Speech Day.



SPORT

Several of our sports teams did very well in the Kent Cup football competitions this term. For the boys, the Year 11 and Senior Teams both made it through to the last 16. The Year 11 boys were unfortunately knocked out by Queen Elizabeth's, Faversham. The Senior Boys will be playing their match against Dover Boys after Christmas. For the girls, the stand out teams are the Y8, Y9 and combined Y10/11 team – all three made it through to the last 16. The Year 8 team played Simon Langton Girls on Wednesday last week and lost 2-1 in a very closely fought match, Year 9 lost to Dane Court and the Y10/11 combined team lost to Barton Court. After Christmas, the Kent County hockey competitions and district netball competitions will start - we wish all our teams the very best of luck in those.

A list of clubs, that ran this term can be found towards the back of this newsletter.

COMMUNITY NEWS

SENIOR CITIZENS CHRISTMAS DINNER

Our annual 3 course Christmas Dinner for local Senior Citizens was held on Friday 4 December. The Senior Charity Committee hosted our guests, and Mr Smith and Kate Hodgson entertained them on the piano while they were eating. After the Dinner, they were lucky enough to watch an afternoon performance of A Christmas Carol. We received this lovely message from St Clement's Coffee Pot afterwards: "We would like to Thank You for organising and inviting us to a magical pre-Christmas afternoon. Please pass our gratitude on to all the helpers front of house and in the kitchen, the two piano players, and of course to everyone involved in the splendid production, especially Ebenezer himself. For a few wonderful hours you made us all forget the gloomy time of year and brought us some Christmas Sparkle.

ALUMNI NEWS

Congratulations to **Marcus Goebe** (2015 - 2022) who recently completed his training and passed out from Lympstone as a Royal Marine Commando. Marcus made no secret of this being his dream when he was in our CCF and we are delighted to see that dream come to fruition.

Henry James (2009-2016) recently completed the platoon commanders battle course in Brecon and was awarded an instructors commendation - meaning he came in the top 10 of everyone on the course.



Donald Longmore (1936-1943)

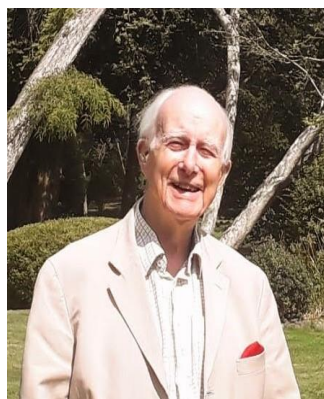
Professor Longmore died at home on 31 October 2023, at the age of 95. Donald was a British consultant surgeon and clinical physiologist and Consultant Surgeon and Clinical Physiologist at the National Heart Hospital from 1963 to 1980. On 3 May 1968, together with Donald Ross and Keith Ross, he performed the first heart transplant in the United Kingdom, which was also only the eleventh in the world. In 1970, the School's first Biology Lab was built using money raised by the OMA and opened by him. From 1982 to 1993, he worked as Professor of Magnetic Resonance in Medicine and Director of the Magnetic Resonance Unit, at the Royal Brompton National Heart and Lung Hospital, where he was

latterly Emeritus. His other achievements include the development of the first commercial portable artificial kidney; and research in cross species transplantation. He also held management positions in companies delivering magnetic resonance services. Donald was made an Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) in the 1999 New Years Honours *for services to Magnetic Resonance Scanning*. Imperial College named their *CORDA Donald Longmore PhD* Fellowship to honour him. He was a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh (FRCSEd) and a Fellow of the Royal College of Radiologists (FRCR). According to his daughter Annabel, "Nothing stopped him when he had an idea — it didn't matter whether it was the first heart transplant or raising funds for his unit — and the more people told him things were impossible the more he wanted to do it."



John Lockwood Tustin

Mr Tustin died earlier this year, aged 95. He was a pupil at SRMS during the Second World War when the school was evacuated to Wales. From there he was awarded an army scholarship to study medicine at Hertford College, University of Oxford. After a wonderful year at Oxford he went to do his officer training and enjoyed army life so much, particularly working with armoured vehicles in the Royal Tank Regiment, that he never returned to complete his medical studies but became a dedicated soldier. In the 1970's he was sent to China as the Defence Attaché at the British Embassy in Peking during which time there was the death Chairman Mao and the earthquake not far from Peking that killed a million people – so it was certainly an interesting posting! After that he became a school teacher until his final retirement, when he served as a guide at Salisbury Cathedral and put his Chinese language skills to good use to give tours in Mandarin when parties of Chinese school children visited. He was always grateful for the education that he received at Sir Roger Manwood's School and the opportunity that gave him to have such fulfilling careers. John left a generous donation to the School, which will be added to the funds we are raising for the conversion of The Grange into a Sixth Form Centre and 7 classroom block.



CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

Lunchtime and Break clubs, Societies and Workshops

Day	Club	Year
Monday	Badminton (Girls)	7-9
	Book Club	7+8
	CAMEO	7
	Charity Committee (Week A)	Student leaders + charity reps
	Eco Society	7-13
Tuesday	Advanced Ukulele	
	Badminton (Boys)	7-9
	Drama Club	7+8
	GCSE French (Week B)	10+11
	Maths Club	7-9
	Orchestra	All
	Spanish support workshop	All, priority KS4
	SSR drop in	12+13
Wednesday	Badminton (Girls)	10+11
	Elastic Band	All
	Games/Puzzles	by invite
	GCSE Drama Coursework	11
	German Film Club	7-13
	History Club	7-9
	Intermediate Ukulele	
Thursday	Badminton (Boys)	10+11
	CAMEO	8
	GCSE German study club	11
Friday	Badminton	12+13
	Beginners Ukulele	7+8
	GCSE Art Catch up (until Christmas)	11

After School Societies and Workshops

Day	Club	Year
Monday	Basketball	7-9
	Golf (Paid activity by application)	7-13
	Homework Club	All
	KS3 Science Workshop	7+8
Tuesday	'A Christmas Carol' School Production 2023/24	Cast+crew
	A Level Chemistry Workshop	12+13
	A Level Physics Workshop	12+13
	Fitness	7-13
	GCSE Physics Workshop	10+11
	Homework Club	All
	KS3 Science Workshop	9
Wednesday	'A Christmas Carol' School Production 2023/24	Cast+crew
	A Level Biology Workshop	12+13
	GCSE Biology Workshop	10+11
	Homework Club	All
	Kent Football Academy (Paid activity)	7-10
	Table Tennis	7-13
Thursday	Basketball	10-13
	CCF - Combined Cadet Force	8-13
	Chess Club	8+9
	Express Theatre Company	A Level classes
	GCSE Chemistry workshop	10+11
	Homework Club	All
Friday		

SPORT CLUBS	Lunch 1.30-2.05pm				After School 3.25-4.25pm			
	Activity	Year/Age	Venue	Staff	Activity	Year/Age	Venue	Staff
Monday	Badminton	Year 7, 8, 9 Girls	Sports Hall	Sport Leaders/PE Staff	Golf (Paid Activity) Basketball	All Years Years 7-9	Field Sports Hall	Terry Russell 6 th Form Students + GG
Tuesday	Badminton	Year 7, 8, 9 Boys	Sports Hall	Sport Leaders/PE Staff	Fitness	All Years	Gym	GG
Wednesday	Badminton	Year 10 & 11 Girls	Sports Hall	Sport Leaders/PE Staff	Kent Football Academy (Paid Activity) Table Tennis	Year 7-10 Boys & Girls All Years	Farrer Field Gym	Kent Football Academy Coaches JS
Thursday	Badminton	Year 10 & 11 Boys	Sports Hall	Sport Leaders/PE Staff	Upper School & 6 th Form Basketball	Years 10, 11, 12 & 13	Sports Hall	JS
Friday	Badminton	6 th Form	Sports Hall	Sport Leaders/PE Staff				

In early December, Mr Mitchell took some beautiful photographs of the School site when we had low mist hovering over the ground. It is at times like that, we are reminded how lucky we are to have such beautiful grounds.

