



20th March 2026

Dear SNHS Families

As we approach the final week of term, I wanted to share another round of highlights that showcase the ambition, belonging and community that define life at SNHS. Across lessons, trips, competitions and enrichment activities, our students continue to demonstrate Respect, Responsibility and Resilience and we are immensely proud of them.

We are fortunate to be part of such a strong and supportive community, and it is always clear that when school, families and our wider network work together, our young people truly thrive. That sense of partnership and the belief that we raise and nurture our children together continues to shine through everything we do.

As we say at SNHS - 'it takes a village to raise a child'. I am excited to celebrate the efforts of our collective village this week:

This Week at SNHS

Year 9 Inter-House Football

Barnes, Hardy, Raleigh and Thornhill battled it out across a series of brilliant fixtures this week. The teamwork, encouragement and sportsmanship on display were outstanding. It was fantastic to see students supporting one another and showing huge pride in their house colours.

Year 8 Careers Visit to Bournemouth University

Our Year 8 students visited Bournemouth University to explore future career pathways and progression routes. The feedback from staff was really positive, our students' behaviour, conduct and engagement were highly praised. They represented the school with real maturity.

A-Level Business: Grade Booster Conference

Our A-Level Business students travelled to Bristol to receive personalised and targeted support from examiners and subject experts. This Grade Booster session was a fantastic opportunity to sharpen exam technique and deepen understanding, and the students approached it with focus and enthusiasm.

Governor Visit – Pupil Pursuit

We welcomed Linda, one of our governors, into school to take part in a Pupil Pursuit: experiencing a day in the life of an SNHS student. She met many of our young people and visited multiple lessons. She was incredibly complimentary about their conduct, their approach to learning and their friendliness and kindness. These insights play an important role in our ongoing quality assurance as we continue to enhance the student experience.

Our New Website Is Now Live

Our refreshed school website is now available at www.mysnhs.net, complete with a new *History of SNHS* section. We've already received lots of positive feedback from former students. Our heritage, culture and long-standing traditions are an important part of our identity and sense of belonging, and we are proud to celebrate them. Please do explore the new site when you can.

Football Fixtures vs Gillingham

A big well done to all students who represented SNHS in Monday's fixtures. Their resilience, teamwork and determination were clear to see. Thank you also to the staff who organised, refereed and supported the matches, your commitment is hugely appreciated.

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Sleeping With Sharks & Paignton Zoo Trip

On Friday some of our students are heading for the "Sleeping with Sharks" experience, followed by a visit to Paignton Zoo. They are in for a truly memorable opportunity. This hands-on enrichment visit is a wonderful way to bring science and conservation learning to life and a fitting reward for all their hard work and effort this term.

Flying Start Engineering Programme

Our Physics department has been working with Leonardo in Yeovil as part of the Flying Start STEM programme. Students designed and built their own gliders with support from engineers, and it culminated with Thursday's competition showcasing both their practical engineering skills and their confident explanations of the thinking behind their designs. A huge thank you to Mr Brown for leading this important initiative and a massive well done to all the students that took part in this fantastic enrichment opportunity.

The Talented Mr Ripley – Theatre Trip

Our Theatre students are visiting the theatre on Friday to see *The Talented Mr Ripley*, strengthening their understanding of live performance and dramatic interpretation. We look forward to hearing their feedback of this performance and are excited to offer them an opportunity to be exposed to a professional production.

Catering & Food Technology

Our local partner, Gia, visited Year 8 to demonstrate Italian cuisine and prepare a delicious bolognese, which students thoroughly enjoyed taste-testing. He will return on Friday to demonstrate flatbread pizzas with Year 9, perfect preparation for their next practical.

Year 10 have also been working exceptionally hard ahead of their practical exams, producing outstanding dishes and demonstrating real ambition and skill. They absolutely deserve a shout-out for their commitment.

Attendance Matters

This week's attendance:

- Year 7 – 96%
- Year 8 – 92%
- Year 9 – 90%
- Year 10 – 89%
- Year 11 – 87%

While the figures are similar to last week, I am delighted to share some very positive whole-school news:

- ★ **Our overall school attendance has been steadily increasing.**
- ★ **The number of persistently absent students is decreasing.**

This is brilliant to see and a huge step in the right direction. Thank you to all parents and families for your ongoing support in reinforcing the importance of attendance. Every lesson matters, every day in school counts, and when home and school work together with shared expectations, our students benefit enormously.

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Next Week at SNHS

Year 11 Afternoon Reward Tea

We are looking forward to celebrating Year 11 students who have consistently demonstrated an excellent attitude to learning. Their focus and resilience shine through every day, and this is a lovely moment to recognise their positive contributions as they prepare for exam season.

Thorpe Park Reward Trip – Years 9 & 10

Students in Years 9 and 10 who have shown strong behaviour, engagement and commitment to their studies will enjoy a well-earned reward trip to Thorpe Park. This celebration reflects the choices they make daily to uphold our school values, and we hope they have a fantastic day.

Hosting the SAST Trust Student Voice Forum

We are proud to host students from across the SAST Trust for a collaborative Student Voice Forum. This event gives young people a genuine platform to discuss school improvement, wellbeing and the learning experience. Our student leaders will also be playing a key role and showcasing the inclusive, respectful culture of SNHS.

End of Term

Next Friday marks the end of term. It has been a productive, enriching and rewarding few months, and I want to thank all students and staff for their hard work and positivity. We finish the term strongly and look forward to returning in April with a renewed sense of ambition and purpose, particularly as we enter a vital exam season for our older students.

Summer Uniform Reminder

After the Easter holidays, we move to our summer uniform. Full details have already been shared by the Office, so please do check the information to ensure students return ready for the new term — and hopefully some warmer weather! Thank you for your support in maintaining high standards of presentation and pride in our school.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support of our school community. I hope you all have a restful and well-deserved weekend.

Warm regards

Mr M Motteram

Head of School

