

Solihull Sixth Form College

College Update

6 December 2024



UPDATE FROM THE PRINCIPAL



We are approaching the end of the Autumn term and it's been a term filled with some very exciting opportunities for our students.

There have been some excellent fieldtrips and visits taking place this term, including a Visual Arts trip to Madrid, a Criminology visit to Shrewsbury Prison and a Computer Science trip to Bletchley Park. Perhaps most exciting of all has been the visit to West Africa for those learners who

signed up to our volunteer project Team Gambia and you can find out more about that trip below. These opportunities stretch the learning of our students and often bring to life the things that have been taught in the classroom. It has been great to see so many of our learners taking advantage of these opportunities.

Next term, the focus will shift to examinations, with mock exams for Year 13 A level learners and Year 12 and Year 13 BTEC externally assessed examinations in January.

Dr Martin Sullivan (Principal)

TEAM GAMBIA

A group of 28 students travelled to The Gambia in November to work with the children at the Abuko Nursery and Lower Basic School, which is situated near Serrakunda, the largest town in The Gambia. Students each had a target to raise £400 for the school before they went and through a variety of fundraising events, many exceeded that goal. The total amount raised this year is just over £18,000 and we are so proud of our students.

While in The Gambia, the students spent every morning at the school and taught the children (aged 4 to 6) in small groups. As there was a language barrier to overcome, many of the activities that the learners undertook with the children were active and visual, such as singing, craftwork, word and picture matching and there were lots of outdoor fun and games too.

The trip was a truly life-enhancing experience for all those who took part and the students were a credit to the College, themselves and their families.



CRIMINOLOGY ASSESSMENTS

Criminology Controlled Assessments are taking place for Year 13 students on 9-11 December and for Year 12 on 18-20 December. These assessments will take place (in part) in the Learning Resource Centre, which means we must close the LRC and library to all other students at the times detailed to the right. Students can work independently in the Studio or the Refectory at these times.

10.00am on Monday 9 December - 4.30pm on Tuesday 10 December; the LRC will re-open at 8.30am on Wednesday 11 December

10.00am on Wednesday 18 December - 4.30pm on Thursday 19 December; LRC will re-open at 8.30am on Friday 20 December

MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING SURVEY

We have recently teamed up with Solar Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services which is a partnership between Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health Foundation Trust (BSMHFT), Barnardo's and Autism West Midlands (AWM). Their purpose is to provide emotional wellbeing and mental health services to children, young people, and families in Solihull. As part of Solar, we have a Mental Health Support Team (MHST, also known as the Schools Team) and they will be working with us to support developing and implementing a whole college approach to mental health and wellbeing.

feedback from you via a short survey which will take approximately 2-5 minutes to complete. This data will provide Solar with valuable feedback regarding the current approach to mental health and wellbeing and highlight how we can improve this support as a whole college community.

The survey will not ask for any identifiable information, and therefore will be anonymised, so please answer as honestly as possible.

[Click here to start the survey.](#) We appreciate you taking the time to complete this.

That being said, the MHST would like to gather further

WELLBEING WEBINAR FOR PARENTS

Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust are offering a 2-hour webinar for parents and carers on holiday wellbeing on Tuesday 10 December. Delivered via Microsoft Teams between 10am - 12pm this workshop will focus on staying physically and mentally well during the holiday period, staying safe online and how to nurture a good mental health routine for you and your family.

Sign up at:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/solihull-parenting-team-public-health-solihull-mbc-52701625953>

or email

bsmhft.parenting@nhs.net

KEY DATES

Tuesday 17 December - 6.30pm - Christmas Concert - free to attend.

will be no lessons.

Friday 20 December - Last day of term. Lessons finish at 4.05pm.

Tuesday 7 January - Lessons resume following the Christmas holidays.

Monday 6 January - Staff Development Day - there

BTEC Examinations - 6-20 January
Year 13 Mock Examinations - 20-24 January

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