



Photographs from our Open Day (29th March) in support of World Autism Awareness Week

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WELCOME FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Welcome to the latest edition of *Headlines and Footnotes*. It's been a busy term so far and many students are busy preparing for and sitting exams. We wish them all the very best of luck.

We are looking forward to welcoming parents to Pathways Day on Friday 25th May. For more information and details about other forthcoming events, please go to page 10 or visit our events page on our website, www.swalcliffepark.co.uk.

Kiran Hingorani, Principal.

Open Day & World Autism Awareness Week

We were delighted to welcome so many of you to our Open Day on Friday 29th March. This year we were also raising awareness for World Autism Awareness Week and a number of local companies and colleges also joined in. Special thanks to Banbury Digital who sponsored our lucky programme and prize draw, to Bill Gwynne of Bill Gwynne International Rally School for the loan of their rally car and to Creation Theatre Company for their lively workshop. We would also like to thank Phil and Michelle White for the loan of their lovingly restored mini, #herecomesautism, that you may have seen on the day and on That's TV Oxfordshire news bulletin.



That's TV Oxfordshire were at the school filming our Open Day which was featured as the lead news story that day. If you missed it and would like to watch it, here is the [link](#).

Quality of Life

Another big thanks to those of you who completed the latest round of QoL surveys. We have been looking through the results from families and students and using this information in a variety of ways. The main strategic issues which we will be addressing from looking at the collective set of returns includes: changes to the role of tutor and keyworker so that we can be more responsive to individual issues and concerns raised by students and families. We are currently working on a new model for this and there will be more information on this to follow in the next edition of *Headlines and Footnotes*. In the meantime, please continue to use the current system of key workers and tutors.

We will be making changes to the Annual Review meeting agenda and report document to take account of points raised by students and families. Many of the issues and concerns raised through the surveys are directly linked to outcomes identified in EHCPs, and it could provide vital additional evidence where new outcomes need to be included within the review of the EHCP.

We have made changes to our Governance structure and meeting arrangements and will be trialling these for the first time on Friday 11th May. These new arrangements include a whole day of governor meetings each half term, based on sessions with a different focus. These are: Working with students (including QoL) Working with Families (inc QoL) Working with Partners (inc QoL) Business Development and Working with Resources. You will be able to find more information about this on the new website which we are hoping will be ready to go live next month. If you feel you can't wait until then for further information please just get in touch! In the meantime we will be looking to recruit a new staff Governor following Lesley's decision to stand down.



We are also looking into the concept of a family forum/council, to mirror what we have in place with the student council. This will be on the agenda for discussion in the Working with Families session on Friday and more information will be shared with families in due course. If anyone is interested in this idea and would like to contribute to ongoing discussions to shape the structure and goals of the family forum/council, please just let Rob Leigh know by email rleigh@swalcliffepark.co.uk

We will continue to use the individual information from the QoL surveys to inform our target setting and support for individual students and to see how we can be of best support to families.

Sharing Best Practice

Following our successful presentation at the NAS conference in March, I was invited to present at the South West Association for Leaders in Special Education (SWALSS) conference in Torquay last week. One of the outcomes from this event was a number of schools from the region registering interest in joining our QoL project. They will be visiting school after half term.

Later this month we will be hosting a meeting for local schools in the Warriner Partnership group. On the agenda will be QoL and how SPS can collaborate with and support our local schools. As part of this work Chris Heslip has been providing training for teaching assistants in a local school, which has been very well received.

In June we will be hosting a workshop on behalf of National Association of Special Schools (NASS) which will have a focus on school based action research. This will provide us with an opportunity to showcase the work of the school and present some of the projects our staff have been involved in in our collaboration with the University of Gloucester.

New Image



I am delighted to say that in addition to our new school uniform and signage around the school we are nearly ready to launch our new prospectus and website. We hope that you will find the new site easier to use and find the information you need. We will run a trial after half term to test out the functionality and will appreciate any help to resolve some undoubted teething problems!



A special mention and thank you to Cameron Pickersgill, 6th Form, who has been helping the contractors with the installation of the new signage.

WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON

Education Matters

Exams – parents should have received their son's exam timetable, however, if for some reason, you haven't received your copy, please contact Chris Heslip (cheslip@swalcliffepark.co.uk). Please note that the Functional Skills exams will continue after the main exams finish in mid-June. We wish all the students the very best of luck.

Maths

Mark Longson, Maths Teacher reports:

This term the focus is very much on exams. Students are studying hard and preparing for these. Recently, four of our Year 8 students; Lochlan Baird, Thomas Mullet, Jacob Ramshaw, Henry Webb took part in the UK Junior Maths Challenge which they thoroughly enjoyed.

ICT

Niru Mayer, ICT Teacher reports:

We are very proud of Oliver Hardcastle, Henry Webb and Jamie Emm who all recently passed the Functional Skills Level 1 exam in ICT. This is a significant achievement as this qualification is typically taken in Year 10/Year 11. Special congratulations to Jamie who only recently joined the school.

Spanish

To complement the students' Spanish GCSE studies, we are creating a collection of Spanish reading books which are available to students in the school library. So far the collection includes:-

Arthur Conan Doyle - Sherlock Holmes - El Sabueso de los Baskerville, Edgar Alla Poe - Cuentos para estudiantes de Espanol, Miguel angel Alvarez Perez - Ana Frank - Libre para sonar, Julio Verne - Viaje al centro de la tierra, Juan Fernandez - ?Me voy o me quedo? E. Hemingway - El Viejo y el mar, J.K. Rowling Harry Potter 1 La piedra filosofal, Harry Potter 2 La camara secreta, Harry Potter 4 El caliz de Fuego, Harry Potter El Prisioner de Azkaban, Chelsea Clinton y Alexandra Boirger, Roald Dahl - Danny El campeon del mundo, Joseph Rudyard Kipling - El libro de la selva

If you would like to add to our Spanish book collection or make a donation towards the purchase of additional books, please get in touch with Aida Walsh (awalsh@swalcliffepark.co.u) or Daphne O'Connell (doconnell@swalcliffepark.co.uk).

RESPIRE WEEK

We will be running a respite week during the summer holidays from Saturday 11 August to Friday 17 August.

To register your interest, for more information and fees please contact:
admin@swalcliffepark.co.uk



Online Safety workshop with Creation Theatre Company

On Wednesday 9th May the students took part in an Online Safety Workshop run by Creation Theatre Company in collaboration with SAFE! Project in Oxford (<http://www.safeproject.org.uk/>). The workshop explored online safety with particular focus on cyber grooming, using the themes of the company's production of Dracula. Students discussed how to stay safe online.



Food Enterprise Group



The group excelled themselves with their 'Brilliant Brunch' on Thursday 22nd March with a wide choice on offer ranging from two different types of bacon, scrambled or fried egg, black pudding, pancakes, waffles, homemade baked beans and a tempting array of pastries. More recently, the group prepared cookies, brownies and hot chocolate which sold like 'hot cakes' to students and staff at morning break time.

Coming up, the group will be preparing and serving lunch to the Governors on 11th May and **Café Lunch** to all staff and students along a French theme on 24th May. They will be holding a **table sale** on 25th May at Pathways Day to include, cake, cookies, jams, preserves and Swalcliffe Park Tea. Don't forget to bring cash.



All power to Green Power as Swalcliffe Team gains overall 2nd place in Kit Car Category



On Wednesday 2nd May, Matthew Andrioli, Rhys Bojtler, Sam Dolben, Jacques Fraser, Henry Gough, Thomas Mullett and Joe Seigel all took part in the first two races of the new season, held at Rockingham Motor Speedway circuit in Corby, Northamptonshire.

There were 35 teams in total and 13 teams in the Kit Car Category. The boys worked well as a team all day despite the appalling rain and wind during the morning practice session.

The team made some adjustments to the car during and after the morning session to gain more aero dynamic effect and increase speed slightly.

The races consisted of two one and half hour sessions with a 15 minute break in between. No change of batteries was allowed during any race and there had to be a minimum of 3 drivers, meaning 2 pit stops for a change of driver. The aim was to race as fast as possible to get laps in whilst the batteries lasted the full hour and a half.

In the first race the boys came second in the Kit Car category and finished 5th in their second race gaining an overall SECOND place in the Kit Car category in the 11-16 age range. This is the best result we have had since starting in 2014! An excellent effort, congratulations all round!

Spruce it Up



As well as offering maintenance, servicing and sharpening of garden machinery and tools, the enterprise group is also busy making 3 picnic tables with benches for the outside Café courtyard. These will be ready soon so we can all enjoy the outdoor café area.

Cameron Pickersgill has completed the work to the boat and the school plans to sell it in due course. The money raised will be ploughed back into the enterprise group.



Silver Award Practice Weekend

It was really encouraging to see Matthew Clark, Nathan Coulter, Thomas Hawkey, Josh Martin, Joe Seigel Archie and Traer-Goffe, all pulling together and working well as a team despite the awful weather conditions. All the students and staff enjoyed the experience and are looking forward to the qualifying expedition at the end of June.



Rookie Lifeguard Update

Lou Blincowe, Residential Care Worker writes:

Students continue to enjoy swim club on a Tuesday evening and are making excellent progress. Will Frost, Finn Kearney and Cameron Pickersgill are all working towards their Bronze Rookie Lifeguard Award. Matthew Andrioli has now passed his Bronze Rookie Lifeguard Award and is now working towards his Silver Rookie Lifeguard Award alongside Rhys Bojtler, Archie Traer-Goffe and Rael Tremeer.



Joe Seigel attends a dance class every Wednesday night and is taking part in the Danielle Buick Academy of Theatre Arts whole school show during May half term.

Art Club

Pictured right, Matthew Clark and Matthew Andrioli at Art Club which takes place every Thursday evening in Cedar House Kitchen. Our Art Therapist, David Elliott (not in the picture) also joins the students for these sessions.



Electronics Club



Run by Rob Leigh, the club meets every Wednesday lunchtime and is attended by Rhys Botjler, Sam Dolben, Jacques Fraser and Rael Tremeer, all of whom have an interest in engineering and electronics.

STUDENT VOICE

Finn Kearney writes: During this last half term, I decided to take a long haul cycle ride into London, departing from the centre of Buckinghamshire, following a long route along the canals. I decided to do so for some interesting and unique photo opportunities that I am so fond of discovering nowadays.



In Citizenship class, students have been discussing Human Rights.

Following the latest school shooting in America, President Trump put forward a suggestion that teachers should carry a gun whilst working in schools and colleges and receive training on how to use firearms and even a bonus to their salary, what do you think about this idea?

Finn Kearney, Orange group responded:

I think this is a terrible idea; this solution will only cause more problems and put staff and students at even more risk, and almost make schools into a metaphorical warzone, filled with weapons, and incredibly anxious students. The fact that there would be a potential bonus on the staff member's salary is also something to be worried about. Adding more money to teacher's pay checks would most likely encourage the wrong sort of people to go into teaching. They would receive a free firearm, training and extra money on top; *what's not to like?!* This is what a lot of delusional and less nurturing people would think about when applying for the job; any money hungry American citizen could use this policy to their advantage and create their own school shooting incident easily as they have the equipment free of charge, and professional training on how to neutralize a target, all courtesy of Donald Trump! The other side of the issue is that many people, including current teachers could be put off teaching in general because they would be pressured to carry a gun at all times, and work around heavily armed co-workers in a no longer peaceful school environment. The prime reason people want to teach is for good: to make a difference and to support younger minds in order to create a better future, not to carry a loaded weapon around all the time and to be trained how to use it! This incredibly large amount of responsibility would overwhelm most teachers, as most sane people would absolutely hate the idea of turning a gun onto a fellow human being, even worse a troubled teen or an armed student.

How would you feel about your teachers carrying guns whilst teaching you? Would you be frightened?

If I was aware that most (if not all) of my teachers were carrying or in supply of a firearm, I would be absolutely terrified! This idea would traumatise students, dominate their minds whilst in class, and encourage people to avoid school, as most children would certainly not want to be educated in a building with multiple weapons inside, all of which are in the teachers' reach. Just think about the students, feeling unsettled after the latest school shooting, multiple young lives shot away forever. These students demand safety, the removal of firearms from their everyday lives. The last thing these children want to be worried about is the fact that there would be more guns directly inside the school that they are forced to be educated in. What's stopping a disturbed teacher pulling their gun out onto their students? What's stopping a student trying to forcefully take the gun from the teacher? What's stopping someone from taking their own lives, knowing that there is a highly powerful weapon in their vulnerable reach? How are students meant to focus in class knowing that there is a gun nearby? This would be overwhelmingly distracting and will turn schools from a place that is meant to be a positive environment where kids can learn and be happy, to a place of fear, anxiety; a place where the risk factor of a new school shooting would be dramatically increased.

Do you have any suggestions as to how Donald Trump could support schools and protect their students and staff members?

- **Instead of arming teachers with guns, arm them with less powerful weapons, like Tasers.**

This would cause less anxiety in students' minds as Tasers are less powerful than loaded guns. The main problem with using Tasers is that when someone is shot by a Taser whilst carrying a gun, they are likely and more vulnerable to 'spray' all of their bullets as they have no control. This would only happen if their finger was on or around the gun's trigger at the time that they were stunned. Firing their weapon without control would most likely cause more casualties, making this idea another thing to worry about.



- **Focus on the security outside of the school rather than on the inside.**

Whilst focusing on the interior security of a school is a good idea, we have to remember that these school shooters have to enter the building in the first place. If there was more security around all of the entrances of the building, any potential threat could be immediately dealt with before they get the chance to enter the school.

- **Make purchasing guns harder, especially for minors.**

I strongly believe that the age law to buy a gun in the USA is too low; this has been demonstrated by the multiple shootings by younger people. I also believe that there should be additional safety checks when someone attempts to purchase a gun, as well as follow-up checks after the purchase, like the police checking that the gun is in a secure environment, and owned by a safe individual and not in reach of any younger people or people with mental health issues.

Jack Reilly, Green Group on Legal Rights/ Fair play at work writes:

What do these photographs tell you about human rights in the USA in the mid-1900s?

The first photograph tells us that people with black skin were treated differently, as lower class citizens. The man with black skin is waiting in a coloured waiting room because back then black people couldn't be in the same room with white people. In the second photograph there are two women protesting outside a church. They are protesting about black people not being welcome in their church.

What basic human rights were being denied?

The right to life, liberty and security, the right to being born free and equal and all have the same rights. The right to freedom of movement and the right of thought, conscience and religion.

Do you think you would see sights like these in the USA today? Give reasons

I think that overtime people learned to accept black people as normal citizens of society. Back then, people didn't like black people and they treated them differently, which caused a lot of controversy. Until Martin Luther King stepped in and discussed his opinions, his speeches changed how white people thought of black people.

School Council

At the most recent School Council meeting, held on 9th May, the main agenda items were:

1. Swimming Pool for use on Front Lawn
2. Food
3. Safeguarding –staying safe online
4. Netflix to be unblocked on mobile devices

Any suggestions coming out of our school council meetings are fed directly into the meeting of the Full Governing Body where we discuss how we can act on their suggestions through the School Improvement Planning process. The next Student Council meeting is due to take place towards the end of May.



WHAT'S COMING UP



JOIN US FOR PATHWAYS DAY ON FRIDAY 25th MAY

As in previous years, we will be holding an information-sharing event for parents with students in Year 9 and above on Friday 25 May. As well as being able to talk to School staff, we hope that staff from local colleges will also be available, as well as a representative from the Careers Education and Guidance service.

The event will start at 12 noon with a buffet lunch and an overview of how the pathway/options process will work, followed by an opportunity to meet with a range of staff on an individual basis in order to have your questions answered. You will receive a brochure prior to the event and please keep in mind that we are not looking to make specific decisions on the day merely to discuss what options are available. For further information, please contact Alyson Ripley, Head of Education on aripley@swalcliffepark.co.uk

Leavers Assembly 6 July

This year we will be hosting the Leavers Assembly on Friday 6 July and families of boys leaving are all invited to join us. A buffet lunch will be available. Please check the Events page on our website for further information.

Residential trips 9-12 July

A reminder that the four residential trips will be taking place w/c 9 July to Bristol, Brussels, Cheddar, and Snowdonia. We expect all boys to join in one of the trips. For further information, contact Bill Adkins at badkins@swalcliffepark.co.uk

Summer Fete 13 July

We are looking forward to welcoming families and friends to our Summer Fete on the last day of term. More details to follow after Half Term. We will be holding a Sports Day during the term with our students and other schools.

Weekend Activities

Our forthcoming planned activities are listed below. To find out more and to book for an activity please contact Bill Adkins badkins@swalcliffepark.co.uk

12 th May	Visit to Warwick Castle	30 th June	Oxford Aqua Park
13 th May	Heritage Motor Museum	1 st July	Go Ape
16 th June	Midland Air Museum		
17 th June	Day trip to Bournemouth		

STAFF NEWS

Robbo's Big Day



As many of you already know, Les Robinson is a former professional footballer. His career spanned some 25 years and began in 1984 playing for Mansfield Town. He went on to play for Stockport County, Doncaster Rovers and Oxford United (1990 – 2000).

On Bank Holiday Monday, football stars of the past pulled on their boots again as the Oxford United Legends took on the Liverpool Legends at the Kassam Stadium – all in aid of Les' long awaited testimonial match. Some 2000 people came out to thank Les for ten years of service at Oxford United. They were not disappointed as Oxford United beat Liverpool Legends 1-0. Les said: *"It was awesome. It was a bit warm for the old legs and that showed a little bit, but I really enjoyed the occasion. The fans were outstanding and it was lovely to see them. I just hope everybody had a great time."*

Many congratulations Les or should we call you Robbo?!

Goodbye and hello...

Alyson Ripley will be leaving on Friday 11th May. As a result of an ongoing review of the school's proposed restructure, Alyson has decided to leave Swalcliffe Park School.

We know that she has not taken this decision lightly and we are very sorry to see her leave us. Alyson has been an outstanding Head of Education for the School over the last 4 years and we know she will have this level of impact in her new role. Not one to rest on her laurels, Alyson has plans to start a Master's Degree in September and is taking up the opportunity to do some consultancy work for SEN schools in West Wales. We wish her the very best of luck and happiness with her future endeavours.

Liam Smilie, English teacher, will also be leaving us at the end of the summer term. Liam is to start a new adventure as a teacher in Arizona. Liam will be a great miss to students, staff and parents and we all wish him very well.

As a replacement for Liam **Denise Barstow** will be joining the education team in September. We look forward to welcoming her to school and introducing her to you in the new school year.

We would also like to extend our sincere thanks to **Niru Mayer**, IT teacher, who will be leaving us at the end of the term following her year with us. We wish her all the very best for the future and will keep you posted about Niru's successor in due course.

We are also delighted to say that **Sarah James** (SaLT) and **Alice Holberton** (Health Care Manager) have already joined us. Both Sarah and Alice will be in school on Pathways Day, Friday 25th May, for those who would like to meet them.

DIARY DATES

Pathways Day	Friday 25 May - school finishes for Half Term after Pathway Planning Day
Students Return	Tuesday 5 June arrive at school at 13:00*
The Autism Show, London	Friday 15 and Saturday 16 June, ExCel, London
Leavers Assembly	Friday 6 July
Sports Day	Friday 13 July 2018 - school finishes for students' Summer Holiday at the end of Sports Day
End of Term for Staff	Thursday 19 July 2018 4pm
Autumn Term Starts	Monday 3 September 9am Staff Training Day
Students Return	Tuesday 4 September arrive at school at 11:00*
Progress Day	Thursday 18 October - school finishes for Half Term after Progress Day
Students Return	Tuesday 30 October arrive at school at 11:00*
Christmas Show	Wednesday 19 December - school finishes for Christmas Holiday after the Christmas Show
Spring Term Starts	Monday 8 January arrive at school at 11:00*
Progress Day	Thursday 14 February – school finishes for Half Term after Progress Day
Students Return	Tuesday 26 February arrive at school at 11:00*
Pathways Day	Thursday 4 April – school finishes for Easter Holiday after Pathways Planning
Summer Term Starts	Tuesday 23 April arrive at school at 11:00*
Bank Holiday	Monday 6 May – school closed students return Tuesday 7 May at 09.25

** unless college starts on a different date / Correct at time of going to print.*

CURRENT VACANCIES

Full time **Clinical Psychologist** we wish to increase capacity within the school
Full time **Occupational Therapist** to join Margot Nelson and add capacity to the team
Full time **Teacher of ICT and Computer Science**
Visit www.swalcliffepark.co.uk for further information

