

ST SAMPSONS HIGH SCHOOL

Welcome back!

October Half Term 2026



Upcoming Events



Monday 2nd November - Back to school



Monday 2nd November - Duke of Edinburgh Awards Evening



Tuesday 3rd November - Sixth Form Information Evening



Tuesday 10th November - Sixth Form Information Evening



Thursday 12th November - TGI Information Day and Evening



Friday 20th November - PTA Winter Fayre



Thursday 26th November - Year 11 Parents Evening



Wednesday 2nd December - Christmas Carol Service



Monday 14th December - Student Christmas Lunch



Friday 18th December - Term Ends

Dates for your Diary



Extra Inset Day

Important Notice for Next Academic Year.

Looking ahead, please make a note that we will have an Inset Day on Friday 22nd January 2027, in addition to the dates already published on gov.gg.

To support our students' well-being and encourage healthy sleep habits, all student Chromebooks will automatically shut down from 10:00 pm to 6:00 am daily from 17 July 2026, ensuring children are off screens and using their devices appropriately.



MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

A very warm welcome to the first newsletter of the new academic year. I extend a particularly warm welcome to all our new families joining the St Sampson's High School community for the first time.



It has been a wonderful start to the term, and I have been immensely impressed by our new Year 7 students. They look exceptionally smart in their school uniform and have settled in superbly well, navigating their way around the school site with great confidence.

We have already had an extraordinarily busy and productive half term. The new PTA committee has been elected, and I am delighted to announce Andy Watchman as our new Chairman. We strongly encourage you to get involved; our first community event will be the Winter Fayre on 20th November, which offers a fantastic opportunity for some early Christmas shopping!

TEAM PTA



It has also been brilliant to see so many of our students immersing themselves in our enrichment opportunities, alongside taking part in numerous sporting tournaments. To assist you in supporting your child's educational journey, we are hosting a range of parent workshops this term. Please do look out for these details in this newsletter and come along—it would be wonderful to see you there



MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Our students have enjoyed and participated some fantastic cultural experiences already, including a fabulous performance of Macbeth and our school choir participated in the Orca performance with others at Beau Sejour. We were delighted to repeat the Madbeth production for our Year 10 students, providing them with a brilliant opportunity to embed key quotes for their GCSE exams. Beyond the classroom, we were immensely proud to witness the installation of Jane Van der Watt as a Lieutenant Governor Cadet at Government House—a magnificent achievement.

Our House meetings are now well underway, and we recently enjoyed our first major House event: the annual Swimarathon. This was a splendid community experience where students across all year groups took part in relays, representing their Houses and raising vital funds for local charities. The support from the whole school was truly overwhelming.

Even though it was only September, we have already hosted our first evening for prospective Year 6 families to tour the school and experience life at St Sampson's. Our prefects were outstanding tour guides, and it was a delight to see so many students supporting individual subjects and showcasing our school so proudly. Meanwhile, a large group of our students enjoyed a memorable trip to Château Beaumont, where they experienced French culture first-hand, visited a local school, and even tried local delicacies—including snails!



We finish this half-term with our first non-uniform day, supporting the PTA by bringing in tombola prizes for the upcoming Winter Fayre. Thank you all for your continued support, and I hope you all have an enjoyable half-term break.

STOP PRESS

Due to school closure on Friday 23rd October, our Mufti Day will now be held on Friday 6th November. Please support our wonderful PTA by bringing in a tombola prize for the Winter Fayre on this date.



Warm Regards,
Mrs V Godley



ENGLISH DEPARTMENT



The English Department were excited to take part in this year's National Poetry Day. We were asked to consider the theme of "wonder" and express our ideas through poetry. It was wonderful to see five of our students and their brilliant writing featured in The Guernsey Press.

"Wonder"

By R Gist

Yet another sleepless night passed me by
yesterday.
Once again, I lay in my room, plagued by my
own thoughts.
The monster in my head roaring at a pitch so
pressing
Not even my tears could drown it out.

And the wonderings came again.
I saw visions of terrible destruction,
Of a heavy darkness raining down on all the
people I held dear.
Fear clutched its clammy hands around my
heart, holding me at its will.

The night finally passed, as all days do,
And fear scuttled into the dark corners of
my bedroom,
Taking its wonderings with it.
And I was left with my own thoughts again.



"Wonder"

By O Le Page

Wonder
Gazing at the sky so high and vast,
Like a neverending picture,
That paints itself over time,
And changes with every passing chime.

From days where everything seems calm,
To others where brushstrokes are filled
with rage,
And rain and lightning strikes down,
Like a big smudge on a page.

Staring at the horizon,
As if it were the frame of a painting,
Looking up and down,
At the radiant colours that fill the sky

Wondering what it would look like,
If none of it was there.





“Wonder”

By L Srodzinsky

Wonder

The hall went quiet, the lights turned dim,
The anticipation of waiting for him,
Suddenly, a flash of light, and on the stage he came,
A hall packed full of people, each one chanting his name.

The soul, the sound, the music never stopping,
The glowing lights on stage, and all the bodies bopping,
The magic of the solo vibrating from within,
And I can't help but wonder, can I be like him?

Like Surfing with an Alien, so graceful does he play,
His fingers making music in such a special way,
My mouth left hanging open, desperately wanting to say,
Satriani, do you think that I could play like you someday?

I hope one day when I'm his age,
I'll be the one lighting up the stage.

“The Boy Beneath The Moon”

By Rosie Gist, Aurelia Simon and Robyn Peters

The chapel walls glowed dimly in the light,
And through the shadows, a sinister sight.
'Beware the child beneath the moon,
For wolf and boy may meet too soon'.

A lonely boy walked through the night,
Under the moon so cold and bright,
He entered school with lowered eyes,
While whispers followed in disguise.

They stared at him and turned away,
Afraid of what they could not say.
He wondered what lay deep in his heart,
And looked for answers; a haunted art.

And there where the moonlight grew,
His eyes blinked sharply silver-blue.
A distant howl would haunt the air,
And muddy footprints appeared right there.

His soul sank as he realised who
Had killed and hurt like werewolves do.
At dawn they found him by the trees,
His clothes torn slightly, at the knees.

He claimed he'd wandered in the rain,
And would not provide them with his name.
The students thought of the boy they knew,
And grieved his life as it was due.

Then when the moon rose once again,
He sat alone; without a friend.
So from the forest, cold and deep,



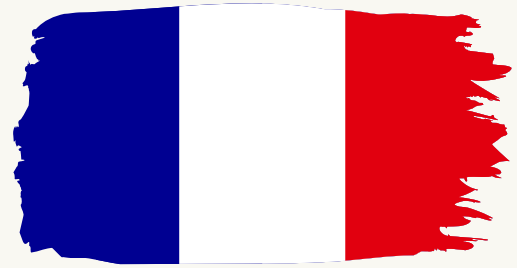
ENGLISH DEPARTMENT



The English Department and library were delighted to welcome in professional manga artist Sonia Leong into school on Friday. With the support of the Guille Alles Library, Year 7 and Year 8 were fortunate enough to listen to Sonia's inspirational talk on the illustration industry, and receive first hand guidance on how to create our very own manga comics. As the creator of the superb manga version of "Romeo and Juliet", it was also a brilliant opportunity for our students currently studying Shakespeare, to see the bard from a wonderfully modern and global perspective.

The school was also incredibly proud of A Bichard (Year 7), who was announced as the Island's winner of the Guille Alles Illustration Competition. Well done, for your brilliantly creative manga creation!





Year 8, 9 & 10

French Trip - Mayenne Region

In October 26 students spent a wonderful week at Château Beaumont, near the town of Ernée in the Mayenne region of France. We enjoyed participating in activities both at the Chateau where we stayed (climbing, archery, fencing to name but a few) and also out and about in France. There were plenty of opportunities to practise our French language at mealtimes, in shops, cafés and boulangeries. We sampled lots of amazing French food (including snails and goats' milk ice cream). A highlight for all was taking part in lots of activities with some local high school students where the students had to use all their language and communication skills. Our memories of this special trip will last a lifetime. Have a look at what we got up to:

Lundi



Visit to Hypermarché/Walk in Laval then a trip to a local farm



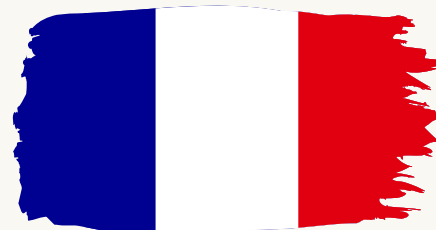
Mardi



Day on site doing lots of activities, the afternoon spent with local students



MFL DEPARTMENT



Mecredi



Marche Saint-Hilaire



Mont Saint-Michel



French Night

Jeudi



Fougères Castle

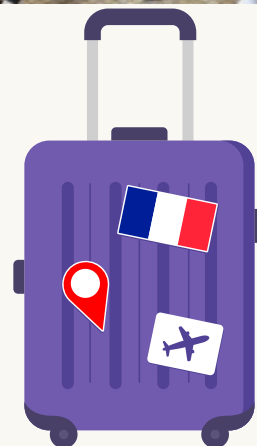


Activities at Château Beaumont

Vendredi



Visit to Roman town

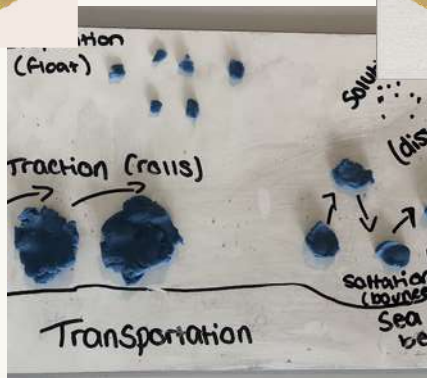
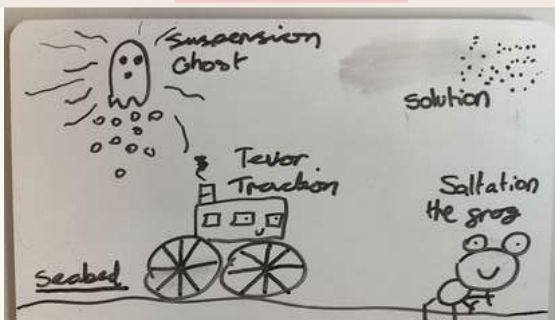


GEOGRAPHY



Year 8

In Year 8, geographers tackled atmospheric pressure by using Play-Doh to construct dynamic, 3D cross-sections of the atmosphere. By modeling particle density and movement, students physically represented how cool air sinks to create high-pressure, stable weather, versus how warm air rises to form low-pressure systems with clouds and rain, transforming an abstract climate concept into a clear, visual experience.

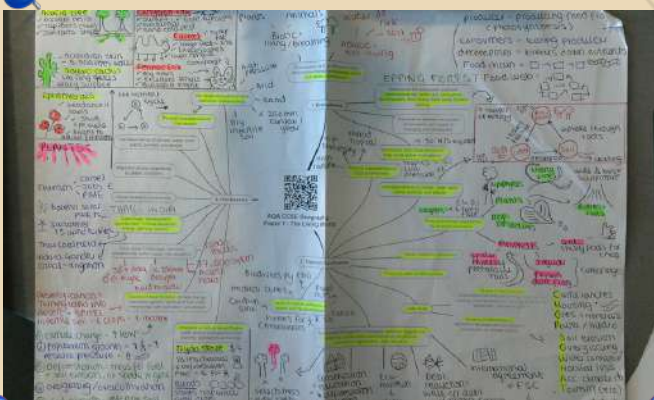
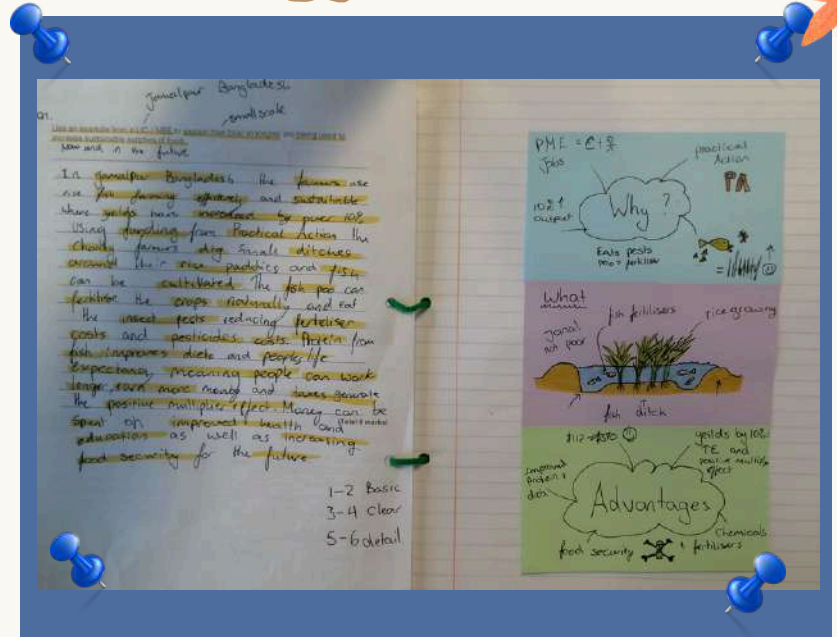


Year 9

In Year 9 Geography, students used Play-Doh to build 3D models of coastal landforms—such as headlands, caves, arches, and stacks—and physically manipulated the sediment to demonstrate processes of transportation and longshore drift. Alongside these tactile models, students utilized mini-whiteboards for dual coding, pairing simple sketches with key terminology to map out landform sequences and reinforce their long-term memory of these coastal processes.

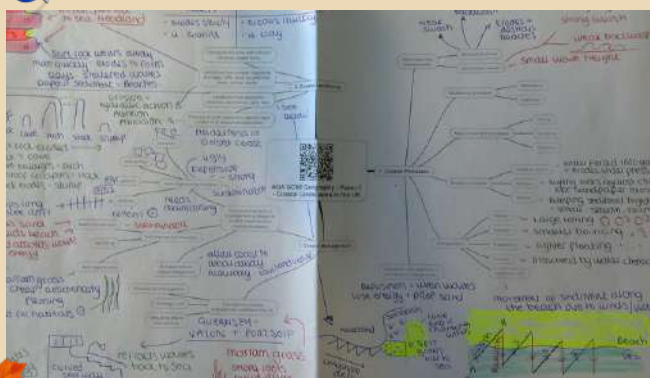


In Year 10 geography, students are mastering resource management case studies by using colour-coded post-it notes to categorise key details, such as social, economic, and environmental impacts. Taking this revision technique a step further, they are now converting their notes into targeted exam questions to sharpen their analytical skills and prepare for upcoming assessments.



Year 11 students are boosting their revision by combining mind maps and dual coding to study more effectively. By pairing key concepts with visual diagrams, flowcharts, and imagery, they are simplifying complex topics and strengthening memory retention. This active approach transforms passive reading into high-impact retrieval, helping students feel organized and confident as exam preparation continues.

Mind Maps



PE DEPARTMENT

Football Round Up



As we write this we are coming to the end of our football season. We have had some brilliant games on show this term and so many students representing our school. In total we have had 30 competitive football fixtures on offer for years 7 to 10, which included A and B games for Years 7 to 9. Even more impressive is that we have had over 130 students partaking in football fixtures this term which is incredible and a testament to our students wanting to represent the school. A massive thank you to the Baubigny PTA for sponsoring a new football kit for the students to wear for fixtures. League tables will be shared with students after half term with an update to which of our teams have made it to the Cup Finals at Victoria Park..

A massive thank you to all the teaching staff who gave up their time coaching and refereeing, to give our pupils the opportunity to take part in these fixtures. Also to parents and carers who came to support our young people in these games!

There will be Year 11 football league fixtures as well as the Baubigny Cup match against Le Murier to come next half term. In addition, our Spiller Cup team (Year 10 and 11 combined) are playing in the preliminary round on Wednesday 4th of November. We also have girls football fixtures to come after the half term too and sign-up sheets will be posted on the PE noticeboard after half term for this opportunity.



Year 7 Football Team



Year 7 Football Team



PE DEPARTMENT

Year 8 Football Team



Year 9 Football Team



Year 10 Football Team

Swimarathon 2026

Just over 100 swimmers took part in this year's event. It was the 50th anniversary of the Swimarathon and students did fantastically well to swim as many lengths as they did and raise as much money as they did. A special mention goes to swimmers Lily Smith, Lexi Rault and Poppy Sargent who swam a very impressive 59 lengths in the 40 minute time slot with just the 3 of them in one lane. We raised a very impressive £1420 with some funds still to come in.

Netball round up so far..



Our netball squads have kicked off the term in fantastic style, playing our first set of fixtures as preparation for the upcoming Island Schools Tournaments, as well as the U14 and U16 England Regional Finals.

It's been an action-packed start filled with competitive matches, brilliant victories, nail-biting losses, and valuable learning lessons along the way. A huge congratulations to our Year 9 and U16 teams for some standout performances on the court! We've also seen incredible progress from our Year 7 and 8 players, who have worked hard and rapidly developed their skills over the last few weeks.

A special thank you goes to Naomi, our Guernsey Netball Development Officer, who visited us at SSHS to deliver high-quality, inspiring training sessions for our teams. Good luck to all our players as we take these lessons forward into the tournaments and English Netball School Regionals ahead—keep up the brilliant work!



PE DEPARTMENT

Zedra Challenge



On a warm 5th of October day, over 50 St Sampson's High school students headed down to Footes Lane to take on the Zedra X Challenge (Island Schools Cross Country). This involved students running a course which had tyres, hay bales and netting to crawl under to try and beat their personal best from previous years but some also took on the challenge for the very first time. Over 50 St Sampson's High school students completed the course and were a credit to the school with their resilience and determination to keep going. A special shout out to the Year 9 and 10 boys team who impressed with their finish positions and times and won the overall Year 9 and 10 Boys Team competition.



Year 9 & 10 Boys Team winners : Lars Austin, Finley Robert, Joshua Ozanne, Henry Falla, Elliott Watts & Reilly Phillips



MUSIC AND DRAMA



SSHS Players recently presented their adaptation of Shakespeare's 'Scottish Play' to a packed audience of family, friends and fellow students. Led by Year 11 Drama students B Holland and R Le Poidevin as Macbeth and Lady Macbeth, the cast was made up of talented students from every year group. and the music was provided by the Un4gettables. Their performance was met with applause and cheers from the audience who definitely enjoyed and appreciated their efforts. The Players greatly enjoyed the challenge of the Bard's play and are looking forward to their next challenge in December which is 'Treasure Island - the Pantomime'.



Drama



Drama

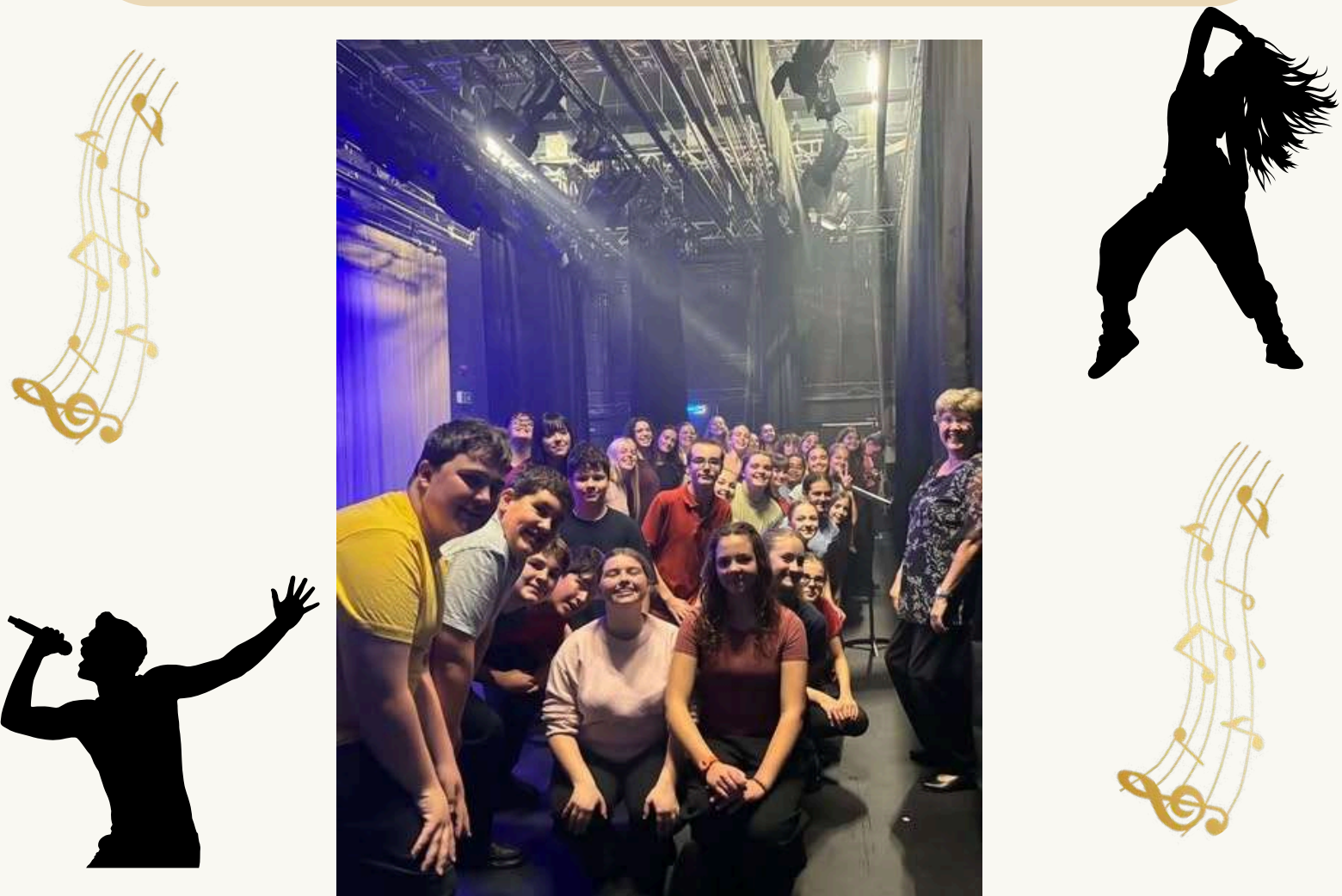
Drama



MUSIC AND DRAMA

DANCE

It was great to see so many SSHS pupils showing off their performing arts skills in singing, acting and dancing at the ORCA fundraising evening, which was held at Beau Sejour at the start of October. Well done to SSHS Choir (Years8-11) who are pictured here backstage just ahead of their fabulous performance of 'Double Trouble' and 'Africa'...they pulled out some great dance moves behind the curtain too!



Our annual Carol Concert featuring the Orchestra, Choir (Years 7-11), Chamber Choir, String Ensemble and Readers will be held on Wednesday December 2nd at St Pauls Church 7pm. Please join us to get the festive season off to an amazing start! Entry is by donation to our chosen charity.

December 9th and 10th 6.30pm 'Treasure Island' the pantomime!
Join the SSHS Players for a fun filled evening for all the family. Tickets will go on sale after half term- watch out for Class chart announcements.



In Art our Year 7s have been hard at work creating these wonderful pumpkin Tea Lights!



STUDENT HIGHLIGHT



J VAN DER WATT - MY EXPERIENCE OF THE BAILIFFS INAUGURATION

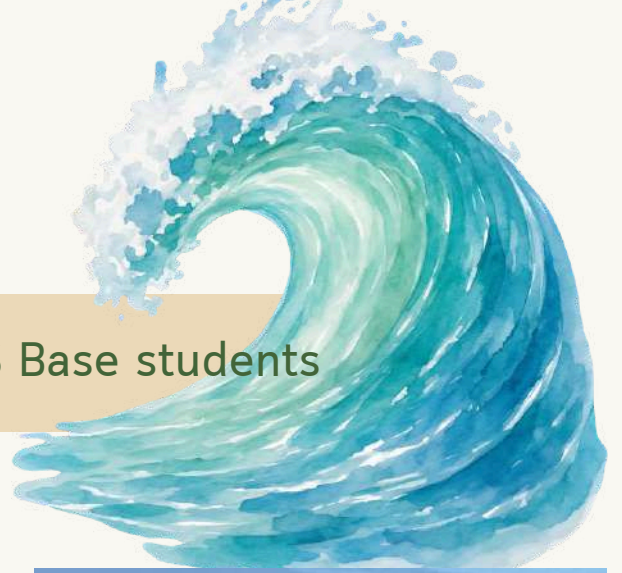
We entered the stained glass church, bright multi-coloured light falling onto us in streams of iridescent glory, the foundations of the building themselves caked in layers of historic importance. A moment passed as we eagerly awaited our directions, at last a gentle voice whispered - Upstairs. Quietly we waltzed up the spiral staircase like a spring coiled in suspense, it wound and wound drifting up onto the second floor, as our feet touched the teal carpet harmonies of familiar instruments vibrated through the air; played by talented string musicians. Cheerfully we searched for our seats, cyclical pews embraced the rounded structure, surrounded by wooden benches, as the golden balcony perched overlooking the floor beneath us, the room that would soon be buzzing with significant individuals shrouded in exotic furs and courting colours. Gently we crept across the carpeted platform as our eyes fell upon the chaotically organised programs, flailing across the cushions of the pews. At long last we decided upon the seats on the right hand side, second row, just close enough to peer over the edge to the intricately ornate chair in the centre of the church itself, we slowly placed ourselves onto the soft brown pillow stained with decades of laughter, tears and meaningful prayers. Perching softly as we sat down we poised like a school child expectant of newly found understanding. Murmuring quietly amongst ourselves we welcomed the additional schools attending the inauguration, they placed themselves around us, their eyes darting across the church, searching expectantly for the event to begin. A minute passed, then another, then another, when unexpectedly an intensely tangible silence surrounded our bodies, clothing us in excitement. And so it began...

A loud alien voice boomed out filling the atmosphere with shock, - " May members of the public please stand" like a tidal wave we arose onto our feet one row after the other, orchestrated by the command. At long last, the new bailiff clothed in joy and finality entered the church, her shoes tapped the tiled foundation, click, click, click wrang out throughout the air. Her black robes elegantly draped across her well postured form, brushing the tiled aisle, when she suddenly stopped in front of the podium, withholding the excitement that was pouring over the crowd in waves. Her clear smooth voice pierced through the air like an arrow as she began reciting her well rehearsed promise to the Bailiwick, in French, the foreign sounds enraptured the message with Guernsey culture. H.M Greiffer's pale hands clasped the seal of the bailiwick, held in a simply formed black box, she handed it over to the Bailiff, - the first women in 750 years presented with the seal which symbolised the official commencement of her role. After many drawn out moments and inspection, the newly appointed Bailiff passed it back, cementing her place in history. Comically, she then bobs out the view of the public, her slick backed bun swaying to the beat of her paces. A while passes in which she begins to dress herself in robes of high authority, a crown of shadow-like velvet placed upon her head. Returning to our view she grandly travels to her throne of honour, signifying the commencement of her reign



CIAS BASE

Healing Waves with SSHS and CIAS Base students

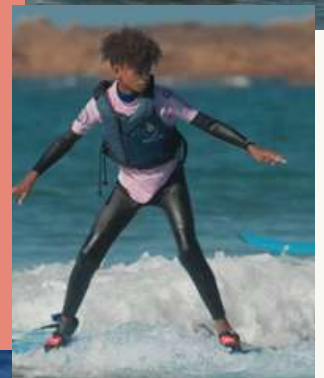


In partnership with Healing Waves, the CIAS Base organised surfing sessions at Vazon for a group of students, supported by CIAS staff.

Students included J. Johns, F. Le Tissier, P. Hardwick, E. Wordingham, A. Ata, A. Roussel, A. Nugent, O. Hulse, R. Cavanagh, Z. Renouf, S. Smith, J. Randall and L. du Vinci.

The students had an amazing time, some who have previously surfed with healing waves, showed how their skills had improved significantly, and were quite competitive with their peers at times, others, new to the sport gained confidence and came away with a renewed enthusiasm for surfing

The sessions were a great success, with experienced surfers showing impressive progress and newcomers gaining confidence and enthusiasm for the sport. The students thoroughly enjoyed the experience and are already hoping for another opportunity to take part next year.



PARENT INFORMATION WORKSHOPS



At St Sampson's High School, we believe that strong partnerships between home and school are key to helping every student thrive, and we are delighted to invite parents and carers to the below Parent Information Evenings taking place next term. These sessions will be held at 5.30 in school Library.

Tuesday 17th November

English, Maths and Science

Join our curriculum leaders as they share key information about learning in these core subjects and offer practical tips for supporting progress and achievement at home.

Mrs
Appelqvist, Mr
Jones and Mr
Pugh

Tuesday 1st December

ALN and the Code of Practice

An informative evening focused on Additional Learning Needs (ALN), exploring the support available to students and helping parents understand the Code of Practice and how it guides provision in schools.

Ms Taylor

Tuesday 8th December

Preparation for Mocks

This session will provide guidance on how to support your child as they prepare for their mock examinations, including revision strategies, study habits and what students can expect during the assessment period.

Ms McIlroy



LIBRARY



Welcome to our school library.

Our library is designed to be a safe, welcoming haven for all students. We want every student to feel comfortable, supported and ready to learn.

Our librarian Mrs Henry is available from 8.15am to 12.15pm daily.

Our Library is open each morning between 8.00-8.30am and during breaktimes and lunchtimes to allow students to purchase any stationery equipment they may need.

Explore Fiction



Relax and Read



Research



Information



Homework support is available
at lunchtime



PARENTS FAQ:



We often get asked similar questions by parents and carers, so we've put together some of the most frequently asked ones here. We hope you find these helpful and that they provide quick answers to any queries you may have.

- I don't know what my child is studying at school?

On our [school website](#) you will find curriculum overviews and detailed curriculum plans for every subject see [here](#)

- How does my child catch up if they have been off school?

If a student has been off school they can use [SMID Catch up website](#). Students press google login. They can click on any lesson they have missed to catch up.

- When does my child have assessments in each subject?

Each subject has assessments either half termly or termly. You can see further details on our school website [here](#)

- When will I receive reports home for my child?

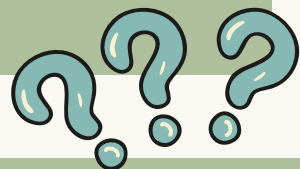
The next school reports to be sent home will be year 11 reports containing latest predicted grades, these will be sent home mid-November. Year 10 and 7 will receive settling in reports in December.

- How I do support my child with their homework?

Classcharts has all details you will need to help students with their homework.

- Who do I contact if my child is struggling with school?

If your child is struggling, please contact their tutor or if it is a pastoral issue please contact their year team leader. If there is an issue in a subject please contact the subject teacher. See [email list here](#)



ROTARY SHOE BOX APPEAL

Thank
You



A huge thank you to all our parents, guardians, and students who generously contributed to this year's Rotary Shoebox Appeal.

Thanks to your remarkable support, our school community has collected an incredible batch of shoeboxes packed with toys, warm clothing, school supplies, and household essentials. Your kindness ensures that these gifts will reach children and families facing hardship across Eastern Europe in time for the holiday season—delivering not just essential items, but a meaningful message of hope and care.

Whether you filled an entire box, bought items to share, or helped wrap and pack, your thoughtfulness makes a genuine difference. Thank you for showing such wonderful compassion and for helping us bring smiles to children who need them most.



Thank You

Thank You!



Thank You!



We had a bumper donation of shoeboxes this year so a big thank you to everyone. We had over 25 shoeboxes filled so well done for such a great team effort!!



STATIONERY SHOP



SSHS Student Stationery Shop

Pencils 10p



**10p
50p
60p**



**Small Ruler 15p
Large 20p**



12 Pencils £1



Highlighters 20p



Erasers 15p



Glue Stick £1



Exercise Book 40p



Notebook 60p



Scrapbook 50p



Ring Binder £1.20



Dividers 60p



Wallets 3 for 20p



**Short Pencil Case 50p
Filled £2.00**



**Long Pencil Case £1.25
Filled £2.75
pen, pencil, ruler, rubber,
12 coloured pencils**



**Revision Cards
£1.50 Large pk
75p small pk**



Homework Popper Folders 50p



Dry Wipe Pen 40p



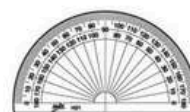
**Show Me Board
A4 Thin 50p
A4 Thick £1.70
A5 Thick 80p**

Board Eraser 40p



**Scientific Calculator
£8.80**

**Mini Calculators
£2.00**



Protractor 10p



**Earbuds
£1.00**

**A
r
t**



2B Art Pencils 20p



Fine Liner Pens 40p

