

# The Society

Issue One - Autumn Term Edition



Welcome to the first edition of The Society Newsletter for 2023/24. The Society is a community of students from all years who are engaged or interested in wider, whole school opportunities and activities that will enable them to achieve and excel in every aspect of their school life.

All students who join The Society have the opportunity to challenge themselves and to expand their knowledge and broaden their skills, so that they can strengthen their ability to triumph and succeed. If a student is interested in participating in The Society, please join The Google Classroom: [Year 9 & 10](#) and [Year 11 & Sixth Form](#)

## Newsletter Highlights

Events  
and Opportunities

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HPQ

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Remembrance  
Services

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Saluting Our Sisters  
Poetry Competition

—

LRC Launch & Author  
Visit

—

Debate Team

—

STEM Workshop For  
Girls

—

Thriving Minds  
Conference

—

Careers & University  
Presentations



## HIGHER PROJECT QUALIFICATION



15 Year 9 students have been given the opportunity to take part in the Higher Project Qualification - a challenging course which culminates in students writing an extended, academic essay to a question of their choice relating to British Black History. Recently, students visited the Museum of London Docklands and the Southill Estate, where Charles Whitbread personally toured them - a direct descendant of the abolitionist Samuel Whitbread.

## REMEMBRANCE SERVICES (HENLOW, CLIFTON & SHEFFORD)

On Sunday 12th November, members of The Society had the privilege of laying a wreath on behalf of SWA for those who made the ultimate sacrifice and those who continue to defend and fight for their country. Bailey (Y9) read 'The Soldier' by Rupert Brooke at Shefford; whilst others laid wreaths, Maddie (Y13) in Henlow and Alice and Mathieu (Y9) in Clifton.



## SALUTING OUR SISTERS POETRY COMPETITION

Towards the end of October, a number of high attaining students had the opportunity to create a poem or song linked to the Black History Month theme of 'Saluting Our Sisters', recognising the incredible work of black females throughout history. Bailey and Maxwell won the competition, with their poem about Mary Seacole. All participants will share their creative masterpieces at an upcoming Celebration Evening.



## LRC LAUNCH & AUTHOR VISIT

This term saw our new Learning Resources Centre open and the ceremony was attended by Keith Pollard, Mayor of Shefford; The BEST Trust Director of English and visiting author Elizabeth Okoh. Elizabeth also held a number of Y9 and Y10 workshops and discussed her passion for writing and her struggles as a British-Nigerian author.



## DEBATE TEAM



SWA's debate team offers participants internal House, national and international competitions. The club runs in room 426 during Thursday lunchtime. As well as having fun, the debate team develops a range of skills and tackles a range of questions.

## STEM WORKSHOP FOR GIRLS

The STEM workshop was an exciting experience for those interested in computer science, or those who wanted to broaden their previous knowledge. The facilitating team ensured that everyone had a comfortable and enjoyable experience as we worked our way through two sessions including work on a programme called Microbit and robotics. Overall, everyone had an amazing time, and it was the perfect mix of education, whilst having fun.



## THRIVING MINDS CONFERENCE

Last half term, a group of students were selected to attend The Thriving Minds Conference in Kettering. The day consisted of lectures, including topics such as quantum physics. There were numerous group activities, discussions and debates. Various other schools attended and together we mixed and began exploring different theories and concepts. It was a very interesting experience, and the students who attended walked away with fresh knowledge.



## CAREERS AND UNIVERSITY PRESENTATIONS

The Society creates numerous pathway opportunities for all students. The presentations and seminars have explored a range of universities; visiting guests have discussed their careers and our Alumni have also visited and presented to groups of students. They provide students with a really good insight into future opportunities. I found that there was a wide range of different subjects and career paths shared, from careers as a paramedic to careers in IT and engineering. These talks and presentations also provide ideas on what to study at university. They are engaging and delivered by experts. All opportunities are shared on Google Classroom.



## JOKE OF THE TERM

I was going  
to tell a  
sodium joke.

But I thought



## UPCOMING EVENTS

24th January -  
Celebration  
Event

28th February -  
Poetry Slam

