

# End of Half Term Newsletter



Swiss  
Cottage  
School  
Development &  
Research Centre

Inclusive  
Nurturing  
Inspiring

Friday 9th February 2024

We are really excited that the five weeks of the half term included a focus on exploring new partnerships for community learning and curriculum workshops. We are featuring these in the half term highlights newsletter, and look forward to sharing more on these plans at the end of the year.

## Mencap Charity - Work Experience

The school is working with Mencap charity to increase the options for work experience placements. This is through funding from Camden Local Authority to promote more workplace experiences through the skills and preferences of our pupils.

This half term a new workplace experience in tech design was established at the Apple store on Regent's Street. Pupils from the Sixth Form classes are taking part in two visits for the work experience.

The first was a workshop to design an 'Emoji' where pupils used an individual iPad and Apple pencil to create an emoji image. The second session was a music tech session; using the Garage Band app to create and make music. The engagement in this new work environment was fantastic!



## Open Orchestra

Open Orchestra is an inclusive ensemble with visiting musicians joining our school every Friday. The musicians work with three classes from the Ruby and Sapphire Pathway. The group music-making sessions support pupils to play an instrument with others. This term, pupils have started to use the Clarion, an instrument that uses eye gaze technology to make music together.



## London Inclusive Sports Academy

LISA is an inclusion sports provider who have begun to collaborate with pupils through physical activity in the community. We are starting a new partnership with LISA for community learning, and have trialled sessions. A set of LISA tennis sessions in Regent's Park and Trampolining at Talacre were very successful. The pupils were supported by peer coaches in training. These sessions will continue into the second half of the term to explore more of their inclusive projects.



## The Daily Mile

The 'Daily Mile' is a national health and wellbeing initiative, connecting schools across the country. Classes have started to participate in the 'Daily Mile' as a way to explore their local community while also supporting their healthy lifestyles.

We are also holding the 'Daily Mile' in the school to also promote healthy lifestyles through the known environments.



## School Council

The Student Council met to share their preferences for community trips and visits for every pathway. Their ideas will inform the Summer Term community learning planning for classes.

## Silver medal for Lower School pupil Frankie!

Frankie from Azalea class qualified into the London Youth Games and competed against at least 6 other boroughs.

He performed a challenging sequence of moves on the trampoline, showing his determination in front of 6 judges to win the silver medal!

Read more about the London Youth Games [here](#).



## Pupil invited to meet HRH Princess Anne

Upper School pupil Charlie was invited to an event at Wormwood Scrub's RDA Pony Centre! HRH Princess Anne's passion for horse-riding and inclusion was celebrated at the event.

**Wishing all of our families a safe and enjoyable half-term break.  
The first day back for pupils is Monday, 19th February!**

## Term Dates

### Spring Term 2024

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January to Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January: **Staff training day - no school for pupils**

**Half-term: Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February to Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

**Spring Holiday: Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March to Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2024 (Easter weekend 29<sup>th</sup> March – 1<sup>st</sup> April)**

### Summer Term 2024

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April to Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2024

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June: **Staff training day - no school for pupils**

**Half-term: Monday 27<sup>th</sup> May to Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2024**

**Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2024: Last day for pupils**

[Click here to view the term dates for 2024/25 on the school website](#)