

# THE SUPAJAM BULLETIN

...for parents, carers and guardians!



NOV 23 - ISSUE 1

## HELLO!

Welcome to the first edition of our brand new newsletter that is designed with parents and guardians in mind. We plan to send these out once per term and we hope you find the content informative and useful. We know trying to ask your child about their day can sometimes feel like trying to crack the Enigma Code, so we hope this provides you with a bit of an insight into their life at SupaJam. As we expand our SupaJam community, it will also give you a glimpse at the goings on in our other bases too. So, grab yourself a cuppa and enjoy!

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEOs

DEAR PARENTS,

DAVID AND MYSELF ARE THE CO-FOUNDERS AND JOINT CEOS OF SUPAJAM AND JUST WANTED TO SAY HELLO AND INTRODUCE OURSELVES TO YOU ALL IF WE HAVEN'T YET MET IN PERSON.

DAVID AND MYSELF BOTH WENT TO SCHOOL TOGETHER AND TOGETHER FELL OUT OF A SCHOOL SYSTEM THAT WASN'T ABLE, OR PREPARED, TO MEET OUR OWN LEARNING NEEDS. SO AFTER SUCCESSFUL CAREERS IN MUSIC AND TELEVISION WE BOTH WANTED TO ESTABLISH A UNIQUE AND INCLUSIVE ALTERNATIVE TO MAINSTREAM EDUCATION WHERE YOUNG PEOPLE WHO HAD PERHAPS STRUGGLED IN A FORMAL EDUCATION SETTING COULD THRIVE, LEARN AND ACHIEVE.

WITH PROVISIONS IN SWANLEY, CANTERBURY AND BRIGHTON IT'S AN EXCITING TIME FOR SUPAJAM AND WHAT A WONDERFUL START TO THE NEW YEAR IT HAS BEEN. FOR OUR NEW STUDENTS, THE FIRST TERM CAN BE AN ANXIOUS TIME AS THEY SETTLE INTO A UNIQUE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT CENTRED AROUND MUSIC. FOR OUR EXISTING STUDENTS, BUILDING ON THEIR PREVIOUS TIME WITH US CAN BE EQUALLY AS DAUNTING, BUT YET AGAIN DAVID AND MYSELF ARE ALWAYS SO BLOWN AWAY BY THEIR DETERMINATION TO SUCCEED, THEIR LOVE FOR MUSIC AND THEIR ACCEPTANCE AND SUPPORT OF THEIR PEERS.

OF COURSE NONE OF THIS IS POSSIBLE WITHOUT YOUR SUPPORT AND HELP AS PARENTS, GUARDIANS AND CARERS, AND OF COURSE THE DEDICATION OF OUR WONDERFUL STAFF AT EACH BASE.

THANK YOU FOR EMBRACING OUR ETHOS OF KINDNESS, SUPPORT AND NON JUDGEMENT, AND THANK YOU FOR HELPING US TO HELP THESE YOUNG PEOPLE THAT TRULY DESERVE THE CHANCE TO SHINE AND ACHIEVE. WE LOOK FORWARD TO THE NEXT TERM ACROSS OUR BASES AND THE CHANCE TO MEET MORE OF YOU MOVING FORWARD.

*Nick Stillwell and David Court*

## KEY DATES

**CANTERBURY SUPAJAM STUDENT SHOWCASE** - 1ST NOV @ THE LOUNGE CCCU BAR AND KITCHEN - 3PM-6PM

**REMEMBRANCE DAY** - 11TH NOVEMBER

**ANTI-BULLYING WEEK** - 13TH - 17TH NOVEMBER

**CANTERBURY PJ PARTY** - RAISING MONEY FOR CHILDREN IN NEED - 16TH NOV

**CANTERBURY CHRISTMAS MARKET** - CANTERBURY HIGH-STREET - 23RD NOV - 11AM-1PM

**SWANLEY CHRISTMAS LIGHT SWITCH ON** - SWANLEY TOWN CENTRE - 2ND DEC- 4PM

**BRIGHTON CHRISTMAS GIG** - 12TH DECEMBER - 2PM-4PM

**CANTERBURY CHRISTMAS GIG** - 14TH DEC @ THE LOUNGE CCCU BAR AND KITCHEN - 2PM-4PM

**SWANLEY CHRISTMAS GIG** - TBC

**BRIGHTON CHRISTMAS MARKET** - TBC

**CHRISTMAS BREAK** - MONDAY 18TH DECEMBER 2023 - TUESDAY 2ND JANUARY 2024

# DEPARTMENT UPDATES

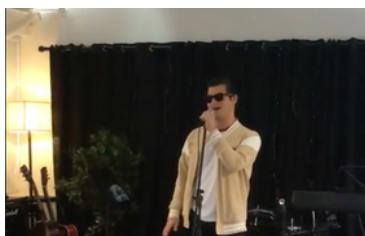
RSL



Term 1 has given the students a fantastic introduction to their new RSL levels.

Here is what the students have been learning...

- Our Level 1 cohort has been working on a project which explored careers in the music industry.
- Our Level 2s have been learning all about ways to earn money in the music industry as well as exploring their own passions such as photography and videography. Some photo examples below.
- Our Level 3 groups have focused on a record label project, working in the music industry and composing music. Some of our Swanley Level 3s also performed as session musicians at an event at the Swanley Civic Centre!



All three bases had an end of term gig which coincided with Black History Month.

All students have been learning to use and play the keyboard.

All Level 2 students have signed up for internal work experience.

SupaJam held a Spooky Story competition. We will share news of the winner in next term's newsletter.



## Update from our Achieve Programme



ACHIEVE PROGRAMME



The Canterbury Achieve Programme students have been busy completing their personal projects this term as well as learning all about delivering effective presentations with every student delivering their own unique presentation about their project. We had presentations on giving a great pop podcast by Max, 'How I Wrote a Teenage Novel' by Adam, Rocky demonstrated how to play the game he had designed called the Runaway, and we listened to an amazing podcast presentation playing Ayomi's album of rock tracks, all performed and produced by him. It was a difficult unit of work, but to quote Rocky, when peer reviewing a presentation "you nailed it!". We are super proud of the enthusiasm and effort they all showed this term!

This last half term in Swanley the students have been busy working on their new module, "Wellbeing". We have been looking at how to respond positively to stress and how to take action to improve our own wellbeing, as well as understanding emotional and physical wellbeing and how it can impact our health. The students have been enjoying their additional curricular activities on personal projects, with one student creating an excellent project on Black History month. In addition they have had the opportunity to hone their own practical musicianship with two students performing afrobeat drumming at the half term gig. Our students joined the Macmillian coffee morning last month where they had tea and cakes, whilst cheering and supporting their peers performing jazz music. A very productive half term!

# DEPARTMENT UPDATES

## FUNCTIONAL SKILLS



Introducing the Functional Skills Team!

Our goal is to help learners at SupaJam leave with valuable Maths and English qualifications that will support them acquiring jobs.

We strive to teach in a fun and engaging manner, following a curriculum while also incorporating lessons based on student-chosen topics. Inclusivity is at the centre of our approach, ensuring that all individual needs are considered.

Our English programme is currently focused on developing skills in speaking, listening, and communicating, and preparing learners to take assessments in November. Meanwhile, our Maths programme is exploring number concepts and techniques, and we are continually finding innovative ways to engage and excite our learners about mathematics.

If you have any suggestions to enhance our programs, we would love to hear them!



Natalie-Rose Woods,  
Maths and English Manager

### [Speech, Language and Communicating exams for Swanley and Canterbury students](#)

Exams are on 6th Nov and 30th Nov for students who have not sat a SLC exam at SupaJam before and have been made aware that they are ready to sit the exam by their teacher. Exam prep starts from 9th Oct.

Please note: this is for Swanley and Canterbury students only.

## PERSONAL PROJECT



PERSONAL REFLECTION HELPS TO ENGAGE, MOTIVATE AND MARK ONGOING PROGRESS, AND IS AN EXTREMELY IMPORTANT SKILL THAT STUDENTS DEVELOP WITHIN SUPAJAM.

STUDENTS LEARN HOW TO EFFECTIVELY RECORD HOW THEY ARE DEVELOPING THEIR KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND BEHAVIOURS WITHIN SUPAJAM. AS A RESULT OF THIS, EVERY STUDENT HAS AN INDIVIDUAL PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKBOOK TO SET GOALS IN A PERSONAL PROJECT OF THEIR CHOICE.

SOME OF THE PERSONAL PROJECTS OUR STUDENTS STARTING WORKING ON THIS TERM INCLUDE SONGWRITING, WRITING AN EP, ALBUM ARTWORK ANALYSIS, CREATING A 'BAND' AND BOOKING GIGS.



## WELLBEING

FORMALLY KNOWN AS 'ENRICHMENT', WELLBEING SESSIONS RUN FOR THE FINAL 30 MINUTES OF EVERY DAY AND ALLOW STUDENTS THE OPPORTUNITY TO DECOMPRESS FROM A DAY OF LEARNING.

STUDENTS ARE GIVEN A CHOICE OF ACTIVITIES TO CHOOSE FROM AT THE START OF EACH TERM. THESE SESSIONS INCLUDE ACTIVITIES SUCH AS CHOIR, BAND, CYPHER CIRCLE, ART, SPORT, MUSIC PRODUCTION, EHCP INTERVENTIONS, AND CATCH-UP SESSIONS. THEY ARE RUN BY TEACHERS AND LSPPS ON A ROTATIONAL BASIS. STUDENTS SIGN UP AT THE END OF TERM FOR THE UPCOMING TERM AND THEY ARE GIVEN SLOTS ON A FIRST-COME-FIRST-SERVE-BASIS. THE SESSIONS GIVE STUDENTS THE OPPORTUNITY TO COLLABORATE ACROSS CLASSES AND LEVELS, AND ARE CHOSEN BASED ON STUDENT INTEREST.

# GENERAL UPDATES

## WELLBEING SUPPORT

As you know, the safety and wellbeing of our students are paramount at SupaJam.

Our safeguarding team has put together a few useful websites for you to explore to help raise awareness of the support available to you as parents, guardians and carers.

<https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/>

<https://sunshine-support.org/>

<https://wearebeams.org.uk/>

<https://www.talktofrank.com/>

<https://www.autism.org.uk/>



## DATA PROTECTION UPDATE

### AI Voice Cloning

Scammers are targeting parents by using AI to clone their children's voices from social media clips, then calling with fake emergencies and pleading for thousands. Expect that technique to be used elsewhere, meaning that you may have to challenge whether a voice that you "recognise" really is the person you think they are, especially if it involves money at all.

## SupaPounds

This year we are trialing a new point rewards system called SupaPounds across all of our bases. Throughout each term students will have the opportunity to earn SupaPounds for showing a commitment to positive action. Some examples include, showing kindness to others, submitting a great piece of work, showing an improvement in attendance and many more!

### Why SupaPounds?

SupaPounds allow students to physically see their achievements in real time. They will also be able to see how over time, all of their hard work mounts up. The use of plastic money gives them the tools to save up, budget and experience exchanges like they would outside of SupaJam.

### So, how does it work?

SupaPounds will be awarded in the form of plastic coins that will be stored in the student 'bank' on site. At the end of every half term, students will be able to use the SupaPounds that they have been awarded to exchange them for prizes. We will have a prize cabinet full of things that students could get using their SupaPounds. Please note: there will be limits on how much can be awarded each term and we will never exchange SupaPounds for real money BUT prizes could include things like cinema tickets, gig tickets, 1-1 music sessions with staff, the list goes on! Students can also make a special request if they have something in mind that they would really like - they just need to make staff aware of this in advance of the end of term exchange. There will be rewards lists throughout the buildings so they can keep track.

**Parents, carers and guardians, what does this mean for you?** SupaPounds will also be logged on Arbor so you will be able to see your child's fantastic achievements via the Parent Portal.

Do you need to sign up to the Arbor Parent Portal?  
Email: [office@supajam-education.org](mailto:office@supajam-education.org)



# CAREERS SUPPORT

Our students have access to a variety of careers-related education, opportunities and support while studying with SupaJam. These include:

- 1:1 personal guidance from our in-house careers lead
- Careers focused lessons
- Access to START profile, a platform to build a digital portfolio of experiences as well as research jobs and pathways
- Industry experiences such as trips and guest talks
- Trips to jobs fairs to learn about different pathways

To read all the opportunities available in full, download our careers programme, direct from our website.

<https://www.semmuk.com/careers-progression>

Our creative industries department provides in house work experience opportunities in our professional recording studio and Radio station. You can read our in house work placement facilities and other work experience opportunities on our website

<https://www.semmuk.com/work-experience>

WE RECENTLY SENT ALL STUDENTS OUR FIRST EDITION OF THE CAREERS NEWSLETTER FOR THIS ACADEMIC YEAR. STUDENTS SHOULD BE GOING THROUGH THIS IN FORM TIME TO ENCOURAGE THEM TO TAKE UP OPPORTUNITIES AND GET KEY DATES IN THEIR DIARIES. YOU CAN SUPPORT BY GOING THROUGH IT WITH THEM AT HOME.

**"WAKE UP WITH SUPAJAM"**  
TUNE IN TO OUR LIVE RADIO  
SHOW 9AM-10AM  
MONDAY-THURSDAY

CLICK THE LOGO BELOW TO  
LISTEN IN



TUNE INTO OUR RADIO  
STATION HERE..



OR HERE...



SUPAJAM PRESENTS  
THE MUSIC SHELF!

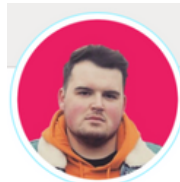
GIVING OUR STUDENTS  
PROFESSIONAL WORK EXPERIENCE  
IN PHOTOGRAPHY, VIDEOGRAPHY,  
VIDEO EDITING, SOUND  
ENGINEERING AND ARTIST LIAISON.  
CHECK OUT THEIR WORK HERE




NEW PODCASTS COMING IN THE  
NEXT TERM!



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**“I continue to believe  
that if children are given  
the necessary tools to  
succeed, they will  
succeed beyond their  
wildest dreams.”  
-David Vitter**

**IF YOU HAVE ANY FEEDBACK OR IDEAS FOR WHAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE IN FUTURE  
NEWSLETTERS THEN PLEASE GET IN TOUCH  
EMAIL: [NATALIE.MORGAN@SUPAJAM-EDUCATION.ORG](mailto:NATALIE.MORGAN@SUPAJAM-EDUCATION.ORG) OR  
[CHARLOTTE.OBRIEN@SUPAJAM-EDUCATION.ORG](mailto:CHARLOTTE.OBRIEN@SUPAJAM-EDUCATION.ORG)**