

Enrichment opportunities at South Wilts Grammar School Sixth Form

South Wilts Grammar School strives to provide a rich curriculum in the Sixth Form, and as such offers a wide variety of different enrichment opportunities, some of which are summarised below. Many of these are led by students, and we are always happy for students to develop new clubs and societies.

Music

There are a variety of different music groups in which students can get involved:

- A Capella, by audition, which sings for cathedral services and concerts. In the last year, they have sung with Will Todd, performing his 'Mass in Blue' and at The Queen's College, Oxford's, evensong
- Senior Choir, which rehearses weekly and sings in concerts, at the Carol Service, Speech Day and other events throughout the year
- Three different types of orchestra, for players of all level: training orchestra, senior orchestra and the chamber orchestra, all rehearsing weekly

Sport

There are a significant number of sports in which students can get involved, with clubs and training all held on a weekly basis. These include:

- Tennis
- Equestrian
- Athletics
- Football
- Netball
- Swimming
- Cross-country, with a number of students taking part in the National Cross Country event.
- Biathlon – in the last year, a number of students competed at the National Schools Event in the Olympic Park
- The Duke of Edinburgh Award plays a central role in school life, and in 2013-14, a number of students met HRH Prince Edward at a Duke of Edinburgh Award Ceremony in Salisbury

Academic

All of our subjects offer clubs and societies, and extension activities, which enhance students' academic experience. The events, activities and clubs below, give just a flavour of these:

- Young Enterprise, which seeks to develop students' business skills
- Business Competition, run by the Institute of Chartered Accountants, in which the SWGS team made it through to the final
- Bank of England Competition, for Business students, who gave presentations on various economic issues

- Chemistry Challenge (in which 23 A-Level students took part in the last year), with one student winning the Rotogenium award
- Physics Olympiad, in which 33 students took part in the last academic year
- Lectures: students have been taken to lectures in a variety of subjects, including Physics, Geography
- Visits in a number of departments, to enhance students' learning, including the Art History visit to Florence and Rome, the History visit to Berlin and Krakow, the German visit to Berlin, English Literature theatre trip, Drama residential visit to London, a number of Geography field trips (e.g. to the Olympic Park)
- Linguistics Olympiad, in which one SWGS student was one of just 17 from over 1000 who entered in the UK, to make it through to the final
- British Mathematical Olympiad, which is by invitation only; one of our students was one of only 100 to win a medal
- Senior Maths Challenge, which was entered by 79 sixth form students
- Encouraging students to apply for scholarships. One Mathematics student was awarded a CMI-PROMYS Scholarship for July/August 2014 and spent six weeks at an intensive summer school in Boston University, USA, followed by a week's summer school at Oxford University. This is a very prestigious scholarship: only 10 scholarships are awarded in the EU.
- In Computing, Professor Peter Millican from the University of Oxford, delivered two lessons on programming
- For students taking the Extended Project Qualification, there have been talks delivered by lecturers from Southampton University, as well as a visit to the university itself for a research day

There are also a huge number of subject-related clubs and societies, many of which are led by the students. These have included:

- Joint SWGS-BWS Politics Society, which has invited numerous political figures to speak, as well as held hustings for candidates for the European elections
- TED talks: in this society, students meet to discuss topical issues
- Drama Club
- Debating Society, through which students enter the English Speaking Union and Oxford/ Cambridge Debating Competitions
- Book Club
- Science Club
- Primary Science Club, where sixth form students work with primary school children
- History Club, run by sixth formers for lower-school students
- Cipher Club in Mathematics

Careers and Higher Education

As part of our programme of preparing students for life after SWGS, a significant number of visiting speakers have come to speak to sixth formers in the last year. These include:

- Dr Paul Drinkwater, from the University of Southampton, speaking on 'choosing the right university'
- Dr Harriet Jones, from UEA, talking about MOOCs
- Johnny Rich, the founder of PUSH, the independent universities website

- Dr Andrew Bell, from Gonville and Caius, to talk to and encourage students to apply to Oxbridge
- Cressida Ryan, Schools Liaison and Access Officer at Merton College, Oxford, to talk on life at Oxbridge
- We also organised an Oxbridge Conference, attended by students from 9 different secondary schools in Wiltshire, Dorset and Hampshire
- We have had a wide variety of speakers from the world of work, as well.
- As well as this, over the course of the last year, we have organised a number of visits to universities. This has included taking the whole of Year 12 on a day visit to the University of Reading in June 2014 and day trips to Oxford, Cambridge and Southampton University.

International links

It is important that our students are prepared to take their place in the 'global village' and we have developed links with various schools from around the globe. Over the last year, sixth form students have taken part in:

- Video conferencing with Nanhai No.1 Middle School near Foshan City
- Skype exchanges with Lawrence Homan Public School in Lucknow, SE of New Delhi

General Studies and the EPQ

General Studies and/or the EPQ form a compulsory part of the sixth form curriculum, and afford students opportunities to develop a number of skills:

General Studies	EPQ	Both
Adds breadth to the curriculum	Allows students to develop research skills	Contribute to students' social, moral, spiritual and cultural education
Allows students to develop data handling skills	Allows students to develop writing skills	
Allows students to develop essay-writing skills	Allows students to develop in-depth knowledge of a certain topic	
	Teaches students important independent learning and time-management skills	

General Studies syllabus:

Unit 1 – Challenges for society

- How does Science affect society? (Copernican Revolution, Darwin, Gene Theory, new technologies, Research.)
- Does Science benefit society?
- What makes a humane society? (Human rights, government, religion, animal rights)
- Should the punishment fit the crime? (Laws, causes and punishment of crime)

Unit 2 – Challenges of the Individual

- Is it Nature or Nurture that Best Explains Human Behaviour?
- Where do our Values and Opinions Come From?
- Mass Media: Representation or Reality?
- Do the Arts Challenge or Reflect Society?
- Is the UK Really a Democracy?

EPQ

Below is just a small sample of the EPQ questions from this year. Around 100 students are taking the qualification.

- Was George Bizet's opera 'Carmen' ahead of its time?
- Can we justify human space exploration?
- Should Shakespeare still be a compulsory part of the school curriculum? Is his work still relevant?
- To what extent does gender affect the outcome of moral decision-making?
- Should joint enterprise law really make us guilty by association?

Citizenship Conference

This event takes place annually (in October), and forms a critical part of students' social, moral and spiritual education. A speech by a keynote speaker (in recent years John Glen MP and Chris Mould, Chairman of the Trussell Trust) is followed by a variety of workshops with charitable and political organisations where students explore a number of relevant and contemporary issues. Organisations attending, and running workshops, in recent years have included:

- Amnesty International
- Holocaust Educational Trust
- Help for Heroes
- Oxfam
- Save the Children
- Samaritans
- Students Exploring Marriage
- Magistrates' Association
- Trussell Trust
- Traidcraft
- Conservative Party
- Labour Party
- Liberal Democrat Party
- UKIP
- Wiltshire Wildlife Trust