



◀ ONWARDS ▶



Maths & Computing

DECEMBER 2004 WINTER TERM

Merry Christmas



Message from the Head

This term has been very busy with a huge range of activities taking place, some of which are described in this newsletter. I have received strange requests this term relating to raising money for charity. This year's school charity is Breast Cancer Research. The last few weeks have brought sponsored silences, cake sales, being tied together as a three legged pair for a day, students paying to see staff attempting to trampolene, getting staff to sing for the girls as well as running many raffles and sales.

I have been very pleased to sign many commendation certificates, mainly for Years 7 and 8 girls who have been working well and producing good work. It is always a pleasure to talk to girls about their achievements. At the end of a busy term we wish you all a happy and relaxing holiday. (Mrs Stratton)

Sixth Form Block Progress

We have now heard that the sixth form block will be finished well ahead of schedule and so we will be moving into the new building in February. The two teaching rooms will be for Classical Civilisation and Psychology, both subjects only available to sixth formers. There will be offices for careers and the sixth form staff, as well as the Psychology Department. The main part of the building will be the Sixth Form Centre, which will be equipped with kitchen facilities, a computer area and a large area to be filled with seating. The area is double that of the old common room so should be less crowded, but if all 310 sixth formers tried to sit down at the same time, it would be very full!

If you have an old sofa (made of fire retardant materials!) that you would like to get rid of, please let us know.

The early completion means that we will bring forward the creation of a new drama studio/lecture theatre to March. We are currently drawing up exciting plans for theatre style raked seating, lighting and sound systems. The Drama Department is keen to have a very well equipped area so took the opportunity to raise money for additional lights at the very successful Year 7 and 8 Poetry Evening. (Mrs Stratton)

EMA: Education Maintenance Allowance

The education allowance introduced by the government in September 2004 is available to all 16 year olds in full time education whose family income is less than £30,000 a year. Students can claim up to £30 a week and use the money to assist with book costs, equipment and other living expenses. We currently have 30 students on EMA. As well as receiving the weekly allowance they will also qualify for a series of bonus payments of £100 if they have good attendance and are making progress towards their learning goals. Information on the EMA scheme is available from Mrs Beckett in the sixth form office. (Mrs Vaughan)

Charity & School Fundraising Update

There has been a tremendous response to both our fundraising for new buildings and our school charity appeals.

The Trussell Trust were overwhelmed by the number of Christmas shoe boxes lovingly prepared by girls and staff. Over 350 boxes will be going to children less fortunate than ourselves. Thank you to everyone who took the trouble to make up a box. We are also continuing to work with The National Schools partnership and all money raised by mobile phone recycling and ink cartridge orders will go towards our building programme. We already have over 50 mobile "bricks" to send away and will be given £2.50 for every one which is serviceable so please keep the old mobiles coming in. (Mrs Vaughan)



Science Department Vacancy

We have a vacancy for a science technician specialising in Chemistry from the end of February 2005. Please contact Alison Burns-Cox, Head of Science, if you are interested.

School Concert CD's

The School Concert was recorded and is still on sale as a double CD for £10 in order to raise money for new rooms and equipment for the music department. If anyone missed the deadline for ordering a CD, do get in touch as we are able to order more copies. (Mrs Poppleton)

Thank you

The school wishes to voice its appreciation for all the letters and donations received from parents of ex-Year 13 students. Following the letter at the beginning of term asking for donations, we have received a large number of school fund and additional sums, for which we are very grateful. These donations will be a great help towards improving the environment for your daughters. (Mrs Vaughan)

New Chair of Governors

Diane Atkins is now the new Chair of Governors, after John Holland stepped down from the post. John remains a school governor. Our thanks go to John who has done an excellent job for the school over a long period of time. (Mrs Bryan)

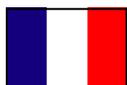
ONWARDS

French Exchange 8th—16th Oct 2004 Nantes, France

After whirlwind preparations, we set off for Nantes on a calm autumn day. After a very long journey, everyone was pleased to arrive but rather worried about spending a week with a family we'd never met before.

After a weekend spent with very hospitable families, we followed a programme of varied activities throughout the week. We were able to sample a school day, with lessons and a school lunch! There were plenty of visits in and around Nantes with the highlights being Futurescope for Year 10 and Paris for Year 12.

Finally, after a packed week of activities, it was time to say goodbye! Tears were shed and we were all very sad to leave. Everyone is looking forward to the return visit in March 2005. It was a very enjoyable week for everyone involved.
(Mrs Jouahri)



Ice Lighting - Young Enterprise

Ice Lightning is one of two Young Enterprise companies set up by members of Year 12. The company is run by a panel of eleven company directors (from Year 12) with the help of a link teacher (Mrs. Hall) and two business advisers from the local community. For the past term we have been selling handmade cards at lunchtimes and at parents' evenings and have recently launched a range of chocolate-filled mugs and fudge-filled decorated boxes. Our products are priced between £1 and £2. After Christmas we will continue to sell on Wednesday lunchtimes outside the canteen and at parents' evenings. We will have range of gifts suitable for Valentine's Day and Mothers' Day as well as cards for more general occasions. (Emma Grisdale 12W)



Year 11 Drama Performances

In the week of 15th November, nine groups of Year 11 students gave evening performances of one act plays and extracts of full length ones to friends and family. Performances ranged from the comedy of Alan Ayckbourn's 'Mother Figure' to the moving tragedy of 'Sins of the Mother' to the sophisticated wit of Oscar Wilde's 'An Ideal Husband' and 'A Woman of No Importance.' The quality of acting was impressive providing excellent evenings of entertainment for all those who attended, on which all the Year 11's involved should be congratulated. Retiring collections raised £52 towards equipment for the new drama studio. (Miss Smith)



Rachel Abbott, Alice Hamilton, Hattie Davies

Year 7 Make It Real

The Make It Real game is a rôle-playing activity in which the pupils were given jobs. From this starting point they formed companies; they then designed a logo, a building and business cards. They also had to make lifestyle choices which necessitated an appreciation of expenditure and the impact our choices have. They worked in several groupings over the course of the day and were expected to co-operate with students outside their usual friendship groups. The day was thoroughly enjoyed by staff and students alike. (Mr Owen)



Making it Real—Charlotte James, Karina Roche, Sarah Lunt, Harriet McClure, Sasha Kirkham, Bethany Hutchinson and Yasmin Andrews and Alex Ba-Tin (looking on far left)

GCSE History Trip Battlefields of North West Europe

Forty Year 11 history students took part in this trip to the First World War battlefields of France and Belgium. The first day was spent in Belgium visiting Talbot House for a tour of a First World War rest home; then it was onto and into the trenches at Sanctuary Wood. Day One was concluded with a visit to the war cemetery at Langemark, a thoughtful and moving experience for us all.

The next day was spent in France with a tour of Somme battlefields. The city of Arras was visited and included an exploration of the tunnel network under the town hall. On our final day we went to Burges where interest was shared between the medieval buildings and the chocolate shops. We all enjoyed the experience and hope to continue this valuable trip next year. (Mr Dennis)

Healthy Eating Whilst Raising Money

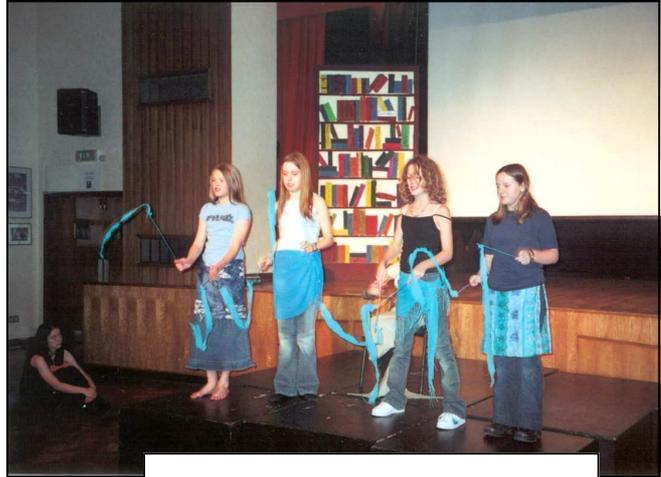
South Wilts will be piloting a scheme in January for the Sargent organisation. Helen Holdsworth has devised a scheme whereby pupils pledge to eat healthily for a month and every time they indulge in anything "bad" for them they donate money to charity. In this way pupils stay healthy and families of children with cancer will also benefit.

If the pilot is successful then the scheme is likely to be launched nationwide. Parents are welcome to join in also - more details will follow next term, including the website address. (Mrs Vaughan)

ONWARDS

Poetry Café

On Monday 22nd November, the Main Hall of South Wilts Grammar School was transformed for the evening into a poetry café. Sixth formers served tea, coffee and hot chocolate and an 80 strong cast from Years 7 and 8 performed a wide variety of poems and songs on the themes of 'Childhood', 'Times of the Year', 'Music' and 'Animals', supported by a sixth form team of directors, designers and musicians. The whole evening was great fun and raised a superb £410.26 for equipment for the new drama studio, which is to be created in the old Sixth Form Common Room. (Miss Smith)



Poetry café — Georgina Walsh, Jeni Ridley, Keri McNamara, Louise Cooke



Shakespeare at South Wilts Year 7

"A Midsummer Night's Dream" is one of Shakespeare's most well known plays but because it was written 400 years ago, you might expect it to be boring. That was certainly our opinion of it at the start of Year 7. We knew that Shakespeare had written many famous plays but we did not think that many people (like us) would be able to understand them. However once we started to work on the play in class, we discovered that he was writing about something that we could understand very well—LOVE. We learned that love can make you do the strangest things and that it is very easy to make a fool of yourself when you fall for the wrong person.

The story line starts off with a group of people trying to put on a play. They all decide to meet in some woods which just happens to be enchanted by fairies. The fairies have a king and a queen, Oberon and Titania. Oberon has a right hand man called Puck who is extremely mischievous. Meanwhile there is Egeus, the father of a beautiful daughter called Hermia. He wants her to marry Demetrius but she loves Lysander. Hermia's best friend, Helena, loves Demetrius but he doesn't love her. Complicated, isn't it? Havoc soon arises when the fairies try to sort things out and there is lots of comedy with love juice and donkey heads!

Everyone had great fun improving and acting out various scenes and also getting completely confused over who loves who! We also watched a film version and found the funniest part was when Helena fell in a bog and got completely covered in yucky muddy stuff.

"A Midsummer Night's Dream" is not at all boring—it's very funny to watch and great fun to act. We all want to do more on Shakespeare in the future. It's FAB! (Catherine Honor & Paige Christie)

Sixth Form

When we heard last year's Year 12 talking about Shakespeare we thought that they were just making Much Ado About Nothing.....

.....How wrong we were. Over the past few months we have played Chinese Whispers, acted out parts of the text and studied the structure, form and language to further our knowledge of the play. The fact that this play can appeal to us as a modern, critical audience just proves how good it actually is. We love it. (Only the coursework to go then.....) (Hannah Joyce and Jo Seviour)

Year 8

When we studied "A Midsummer Night's Dream" in Year 7 we had great fun with acting and other kinds of stage work. However, once we got to Year 8 and were told that we were going to be working on "The Merchant of Venice", we expected the lessons to be a lot tougher and a lot less enjoyable. True, we did have to study the play in a lot more detail but that did not make things any less fun.

The themes in the play were much more serious than in "A Midsummer Night's Dream" and we spent a lot of time discussing issues such as prejudice and how woman were treated in Shakespeare's time. So that we could get a real sense of the hatred and prejudice felt by the main characters, we did a number of entertaining (and extremely noisy) drama activities. One of these was the insult game. We were given lists of insults which would have been used at the time that the play was written and we practised all the different ways we could be rude with each other. We experimented with shouting, whispering, catcalling and threatening; it was great to be allowed to be so loud and so outrageous in a lesson!

The highlight of the unit was when we worked on our own edited versions of the trial scene between the two main enemies in the play, Shylock and Antonio. It's an extremely dramatic and exciting scene and we got the chance to perform in the Drama Studio with lighting, props and in full costume. With a lot of hard work and plenty of enthusiasm we were really able to bring to life another one of Shakespeare's plays. (Freya Webb and Lorna Clark)

Year 9—watch this space!

This year's SAT text for Year 9 is "Much Ado About Nothing" and so in April a professional theatre company will be coming to South Wilts to do a shortened performance and a series of workshops to help students revise the play and get an overview of the themes, all ready for their exams at the start of May. More on this next term. (Mrs Black)

ONWARDS

Young Enterprise

Young Enterprise is an international organisation which enables young people to set up and run their own business. Students in Year 12 have been successfully running businesses as part of the Young Enterprise Scheme for a number of years now. This year we again have two Young Enterprise Companies in Year 12 with their own individual products.

Ice Lightning (mentioned on Page 2) and Papillon have been established since September. Their range of products has proved to be successful and popular amongst pupils, parents and staff. Ice Lightning began by successfully selling a range of hand made cards at the Year 8 Parents' Evening and then extending their sales to pupils and staff in school. They have since expanded their range to include gift boxes containing sweets.

Papillon have developed their own range of belts, corsages and pyjama bottoms. These are all hand made by the creative achievers. They have had successful sales in school and hope to expand their sales in the Salisbury area. Look out for new products from both companies in the new year and don't miss out on their unique brands. (Mrs Hall)

Silver Assessed Duke of Edinburgh Award Dartmoor October 2004



When asked to talk about our 'experience' on Dartmoor, I instantly think rain, mud, hills, bogs and constant hysterical laughter. The weather (to our minds the most draining part of the whole business) was very changeable. Torrential rain prompted speedy putting on of waterproofs of every description—totally ravishing!!

Our campsites, were chosen - we were later informed - to test us and were not the most interesting places. Portaloos on the first night wobbled enough to make you think there was a minor earthquake but the second night was a little better - proper loos!! But to Hannah Artiss' dismay our fellow campers were brown, hairy and had four legs.

Note to self—tents are not sound proof and it is impossible to have a private conversation without involving the rest of the campsite.

We had so much food it was unbelievable—Kendal Mint cake, four, yes **four** Jamaica ginger cakes and three litres' worth of powdered custard to name just a few. We now know that drinking that custard all at once probably was not a good idea, but the sugar rush was worth it! To make the hills and endless paths and tracks less boring we sang, danced and played endless games of "Animal, Vegetable or Mineral". (It would be great if anyone could tell me whether asparagus really is a salad vegetable. I would be extremely grateful!). All in all it was an amazing experience.

(Georgina Kellett 12B)

Year 12 & 13—How to Get Ahead of Other Graduates

With the daunting prospect of huge university fees and loans, some students might like to spend their gap year both earning money and gaining work experience. The Year in Industry organisation offers young people the chance to do both of these and gain valuable work skills. To find out more, please contact Charity Watkins or Chris Ward, Regional Directors, South West of England Region, Tel: 01752 762111, e-mail: Southwest@yini.org.uk or look at our website: www.yini.org.uk.

Tesco Computer Vouchers

Thank you to all those who collected vouchers last winter. We gained enough to obtain a PC with digital video editing facilities for use by the PE department. The scheme is likely to run again over the next few months, so please collect vouchers and send them into school via your daughters. (Mr Parks)

IT Courses for staff, parents, friends, relatives - in fact any adult!

As part of our specialist school bid we are putting on ICT courses in collaboration with Salisbury College. All the courses will be held at school, with tutors from Salisbury College and school.

Let's Go Digital

Learn how to make the most of your digital camera with this exciting 10-week course! The course also includes an introduction to working with your images using Photoshop, to improve, crop or add to them. An excellent course for beginners, leading to an Open College Network (OCN) certificate.

Cost: £54; Day: Monday; Time 6.30 - 8.30pm; Start date: 24th January; Duration: 10 weeks (excluding school holidays)

European Computer Driving Licence (ECDL) Part 1

This course is designed to cover the practical application of key concepts of using computers, in the workplace and society in general. You do not have to have previous knowledge of computing packages to undertake this course. The full ECDL will raise your level of competency and productivity in Information Technology. It covers the following eight subjects.

Basic concepts of IT (Part 1)	File management (Part 1)	Word processing	Spreadsheets
Databases	Presentations	Internet and email (Part 1)	Using IT

This qualification is rapidly becoming a 'must have' with employers. This course is intended to cover three of the units for the full qualification - indicated as (Part 1) above.

Cost: £56; Day: Monday; Time: 6.30 - 8.30pm; Start date: 24th January; Duration: 15 weeks (excluding school holidays)

Dreamweaver

Learn how to design and set up web-pages using Dreamweaver. This will not lead to a specific qualification, but will give you the basis of website design.

Cost: Free; Day: Wednesday; Start: 26th January; Time: 6.30—8.30pm Duration: 5 weeks

Contact: Jane Lillingston-Price, Receptionist, on 01722 323326, to enrol.

ONWARDS



Biathlon (Swim/Run) — Newbury, 7th November 2004

South Wilts Grammar school was offered the chance to take part in the above event, but only one girl entered, Alex Ba-Tin 7E.

"We arrived at the location early to find hundreds of children all registering for their entry numbers. My first event was the 1,000m run which took place around a grass track. There were over 70 girls in my age group who were also running. Then onto my strongest event, 50m swim, in which I came sixth out of the Year 7 girls. This was a good experience and I hope to take part in it again." (Alex Ba-Tin)

Inter Schools Show Jumping Competition, Sparsholt College

On Saturday 6th November 2004 a team of South Wilts Grammar School girls took part in an inter schools show jumping competition at Sparsholt College.

In the first event the team of Harriet Allen (7A), Keri McNamara (8B) and Harriet James (9A) were placed seventh out of 16 teams. The teams were made up of four riders with the three best scores to count. As South Wilts only had a team of three riders every score counted. Keri, who was entered into the individual event, excelled herself and was the overall individual winner on behalf of South Wilts.

Besides being representatives for the school both Keri and Harriet have been selected to represent their own Pony Clubs in a competition during the summer. (Mrs C James, Parent)



U15 Netball vs La Retraite

Despite the hard weather, the South Wilts team managed to play through the rain, keep smiling and win the game convincingly 11-2. The player of the match was Charlie Hood.

U15 Netball vs Westwood St Thomas, 30th November 2004

Both teams played with good ball control but South Wilts often intercepted and turned most centre passes into goals. South Wilts shooters Rachel Jackson (GA), Charlie Hood (GS first half) and Laura Arrandale (GS second half) were very accurate in their shooting. An excellent effort all round. Full time score 28-6 — well done girls! (Mrs Godber)

NETBALL RESULTS SO FAR THIS SEASON

• U19s came third in the Wiltshire County Tournament • U13s won 13-0 vs La Retraite and 24-0 vs Upper Avon • U12 A team have won 21-3 vs St Edmund's and 18-1 vs Wilton and 23-2 vs Upper Avon (also festival winners in Sept). U12 B team won 12-4 vs St Edmund's • U15 won 11-2 vs La Retraite and 28-6 vs Westwood.

Year 8 Hockey Festival

Two South Wilts teams entered the Salisbury and District Year 8 Hockey Festival held at the AstroTurf pitch on Thursday 14th October. Play was competitive against teams from Upper Avon, St. Edmund's and Godolphin. South Wilts A team finished in second place, though they did not actually lose any matches! The B team finished fifth but made remarkable improvement during the competition. Well played to all girls:

Mamie Attwell-Thomas, Naomi Goddard, Hannah Billingham, Gemma Young, Charlotte Stone, Rosie Peters, Emma Redgrove, Hannah Grayer, Katie Clements, Rachel Tooley, Sam Mills, Hannah Carter, Lauren-Jo Wallace, Emma Keegan, Tamara Giles. (Miss Salen)

Under 14 Wiltshire Schools Hockey Tournament

South Wilts were up against stiff competition from Greendown School and Ridgeway School in Pool B of the tournament held at Dauntsey's School on Tuesday 19th October. The Under 14 team prevailed winning 2-0 and 1-0 respectively. This took them to the finals, meeting Dauntsey's who had beaten Godolphin and Dorcan in Pool A. Despite some sound attacking play, the Dauntsey's squad won 3-0, showing the benefits of their experienced squad and superb training facilities. South Wilts girls should be extremely proud of their performance in this competition and will no doubt improve as a result of this experience. Well done to the entire team: Emily Bennett, Rosie Peters, Emma Redgrove, Louise Carter, Polly Selby, Emma Sibbald, Sam Crosby, Mamie Attwell-Thomas, Charlotte Stone, Katie Clements, Ellie Stenner, Michelle Todd. (Miss Salen)

Under 12 7-a-side Hockey Tournament 3rd December, Dauntsey's School

The South Wilts A Team travelled to Dauntsey's School to take part in the first 7-a-side tournament of the season. The girls worked hard and produced some excellent goals in their round robin matches against Brockhurst and Marlston House School (4-0 win), and Godolphin (2-0 win). The team lost 1-0 to Dauntsey's in the round robin but regrouped ready to play them again in the final. After a hard tough match with goal scoring opportunities by both teams the score was 0-0. To round off an exciting tournament the winners were decided by a penalty flick competition - this was quite a learning curve for most of the South Wilts team! The girls lost 2-0, but came an excellent second place overall. Well done to Issy Grigg, Emily Brown, Maddie Hancock, Karina Roche, Alice Butler, Jessica Thomas, Hannah Bonney, Louise Sleeman and Hayley Ranachan (excellent goalkeeping!). (Miss Salen)



U-12 Hockey Runners Up

ONWARDS

Achievements

There have been many personal achievements and challenges during this second term. Katie Jarvis, in particular, should be congratulated on auditioning successfully for the National Youth Training Choir. We are delighted that so many of our new Year 7 girls have joined our groups and that many older girls have taken up new musical activities. (Mrs Poppleton)

Goodbye

Sadly this term, we say goodbye to Mr. Holmes who has taught brass at South Wilts for many years. Countless girls over the years have also experienced Mr Holmes' inspiring and dedicated work in his leadership of the Salisbury Area Young Musicians. We shall all greatly miss his enthusiasm and expertise but are delighted that he will be continuing to conduct the SAYM Senior Band and Young Jazz for a while yet. We wish Chris and his wife Gill every happiness and success with their future plans. (Mrs Poppleton)

RE Department

Religious Studies Departmental Grant

The Religious Studies Department has been awarded a grant by the Sarum St. Michael Educational charity based in Salisbury. The department will be purchasing 60 Good News Bibles for use mainly at Key Stage 3, to replace our current copies which are rather old.

A bit of help from you.....If any of you are travelling abroad to places of religious interest we would be grateful for any suitable artefacts that you might like to donate to the department. Wishing you all a very happy Christmas. God bless! (Mrs Owen)



A Cappella

During the break in October A Cappella visited the Cathedral to sing Evensong. The choir sang a demanding set of canticles beautifully and we were very pleased to be joined by Chris Fay, Head of Music at BWS, as our organist. We all enjoyed the experience very much and were delighted by the positive comments we received afterwards from the clergy and congregation. (Mrs Poppleton)



School Concert

In November the School Concert proved a very happy and successful event, with about a hundred and eighty girls singing in the Junior and Senior Choirs, and many more performing in the School's three Orchestras, Wind Band, Guitar Group, two Recorder Groups, Brass Ensemble Woodwind Quintet and in the solo and chamber items. We were fortunate to have the Cathedral Organist, David Halls, once again, as our accompanist, the help of several of our visiting instrumental staff and to be joined by several willing fathers to add some low notes and considerable enthusiasm (!) to our singing. The evening showed just how lucky we are to have such a large number of talented and enthusiastic musicians of all ages.

Entertaining at Christmas

In December Mrs Cameron and our Year 10 GCSE pupils visited the Hudson Day Centre to provide entertainment for a Christmas lunch. The girls chose and arranged a programme of festive music and songs they thought would be favourites with their hosts. The senior citizens enjoyed the music very much and gave our pupils a very warm welcome.

Messiah

On December 10th A Cappella visited St. Martin's Church to sing Handel's most famous work and one of the great masterpieces of our heritage, *Messiah*, much of which is thought to have been composed here in Salisbury. We were very grateful to the men who joined us in the choir to sing the tenor and bass parts, our magnificent soloists, Ian Wicks and Robert Evans and to Richard Parsons and all the musicians who played in the orchestra. It was a wonderful experience for us to perform this great work, as we approach Christmas, accompanied by such a fine orchestra in a lovely setting and to such a warm and appreciative audience. Our own girls took turns to sing the soprano and alto solos and performed with considerable flair and sensitivity. The evening was a very special and memorable one for all of us. Thank you very much to all who helped make this possible. (Mrs Poppleton)

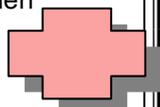
Carol Service

The last musical event of the term will be our annual Carol Service in Salisbury Cathedral. This year we hope to have nearly two hundred singers and readers leading this service, and we look forward very much to sharing the evening and celebrating Christmas with our families and friends. (Mrs Poppleton)

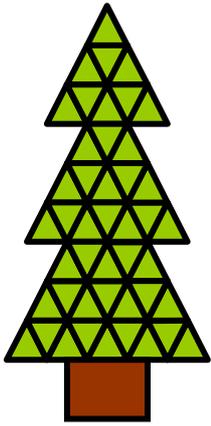
Benefits of First Aid

Imagine this.....you find yourself in an emergency first aid situation but don't know what to do. Luckily, we will never face this risk because we participated in the British Red Cross eight week first aid course earlier this term. Though some may think it, you don't have to be doing the Duke of Edinburgh Award to take part in the course; it is just a genuinely useful qualification and an extra area of knowledge. We both thoroughly enjoyed our Thursday evenings learning how to remove embedded objects from an elderly woman's eye, and performing CRP on a mannequin; after all you will never know when you have to do it for real! We both recommend it to anyone who is interested, and it could mean that you save someone's life one day. (Flora Scutt, Tabby Murdoch)

Congratulations to all those who gained their First Aid qualification: Sophie Start, Katie Russell, Helen Fowler, Amy Hall, Francesca Hopwood, Chloe Herrington, Tabby Murdoch, Deborah Mann, Flora Scutt and *Mr Hunt*. Thank you to the British Red Cross volunteers who are very dedicated to providing this course for our students (and teachers!). (Mrs Herbert)



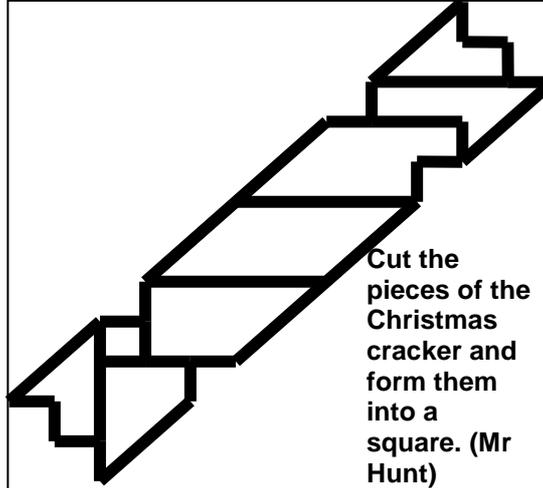
ONWARDS



This Christmas tree is 9 feet high.

It has 45 leaves (triangles)
The Trafalgar Square Christmas tree is 60 feet high.

How many leaves (triangles) does it have? (Mr Hunt)



Cut the pieces of the Christmas cracker and form them into a square. (Mr Hunt)

Sixth Form Common Room needs your help....

Do you have any spare sofas at home taking up space? If so and you know that they are of fire retardant material, would you like to donate them to the new Sixth Form Centre? If yes, please contact the sixth form committee through Mrs Beckett at school. Transport can be provided. (Sixth Form Committee)



LOST PROPERTY

Lost property is steadily growing with some items having been here since the beginning of term. There are many coats of various descriptions, scarves, umbrellas, PE kits, sleeping bags and a lot of unnamed non school uniform. If your daughter has lost anything over the last few weeks, please encourage her to come and check. The Lost Property Office is open on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 12.30 to 12.45pm. Any unclaimed items will be disposed of in January. Parents are also very welcome to come during these times and try to find these items. Please go to reception. (Mrs Taylor)

Year 7 Christmas Poetry Competition

SNOWFLAKES
By Charlotte Hart

Floating down from the heavens,
Pure, white silk,
Delicate as lace,
An elegant ballerina,
Twirling, twirling, twirling,
A snowflake.

Silently drifting, timidly
across the horizon,
Each appears unique,
Gentle as a lamb,
Caught by the sunlight,
Shimmering, shimmering,
shimmering,
A snowflake.

At life's touch it is gone,
Devoured by the earth,
But look
Twirling, twirling, twirling,
A snowflake!

Commended entries from Sophie Davie and Alice Butler—and thanks to everyone who submitted a poem.



Important Dates

January 2005

Thurs	6th	School returns
Thurs	13th	Y12 Parents' Evening
Mon	24th	Y11 Reports Issued
Wed	26th	Y11 Parents' Evening

February 2005

Thurs	3rd	6th Form Open Evening
Wed	9th	Y7 Parents' Evening
Fri	11th	TD Day

March 2005

Tues	8th	Y10 Parents' Evening
Wed	9th	Y9 Options Evening
Thurs	17th	Y9 Parents' Evening
Tues	22nd	Instrumental Groups Concert

Uniform

Please remember that the school uniform code states that coats should be black or dark blue. Skirts should be knee length and girls with skirts that are too short will be asked to purchase new ones. (Mrs Stratton)

SUMMER UNIFORM

The new summer skirt in the kilt style will be available for parents to buy at our uniform supplier, Chas H. Baker, Salisbury, from next term. This is compulsory for new Year 7 girls and optional for other year groups. An acrylic jumper will also be available at Chas H. Baker from next term. (Mrs Goodwin)



Collect Clothes for the Blue Peter Appeal

Year 10 would like everyone to put together a bag of clean unwanted clothes over Christmas in support of the Blue Peter appeal. Details of when to bring them in will be given out next term. (Mrs Vaughan)

CARRY ON COLLECTINGNestlé Box Tops For Books

Help us to collect books for our library! This year our school is participating in the Box Tops for Books scheme run by Nestlé cereals, and we need your support. The scheme is a really simple and effective way for us to collect books. Just collect the tokens from the top of the Nestlé cereals packs and put them into the box in the school library. The more we collect, the more books for our library! (Mrs Wood—School Librarian)



Merry Christmas & Happy New Year! Back at school on 6th January 2005