



# ONWARDS



December 2008



Maths & Computing

## Message from Mrs Stratton

This has once again been a busy term with students involved in so many events as you will see from this newsletter. Music, drama, sport, the sixth form Citizenship Conference and Young Enterprise are just some of the activities that have taken place. Many students will be returning to modular exams, both GCSE and A Level, in January. We hope that everyone has a really good holiday.

## Our School link with Nanhai High School, China

We are pleased to have a link with Nanhai No. 1 High School in southern China. We have already exchanged a number of e-mails and the Year 8 students have prepared a special section on our web-site for the Chinese pupils to access. Mrs Stratton joined 110 Headteachers from the United Kingdom, ten of whom came from Wiltshire, on a visit to China in November arranged by the British Council.



The Headteachers were welcomed to Beijing and then travelled to various parts of China to visit their link schools. An agreement has been signed by both school Headteachers at a formal televised ceremony. Our link school has over 3000 students in years 11, 12 and 13 in classes of 58-68 students.

They learn English from the age of 5 so all students spoke enough English to speak to me and understand a lecture on English education. It was a fantastic opportunity to see a very different style of learning and even the morning exercises for the whole school. It is hoped to have students exchanges in 2010 and the Headteacher, Mr Guan, should be visiting us next March. (Mrs Stratton)

## Buildings

There is very good news on the South Wilts building programme for this year. We have now received tenders for the Learning Resources Centre and work will start in January. We are hoping that the Library will be completed by August 2009 and it should be a magnificent resource. Wiltshire County Council are contributing towards the cost, which makes the project affordable and we are extremely grateful for their help. That means that the old Library will be used for a classroom, oral rooms and offices and this will be part of a major change of classrooms involving science, modern languages, geography and RE. This summer will be very busy with building work right the way across the school. Groups of students are helping us to design the inside of the Learning Resources Centre and they have come up with lots of brilliant ideas and I am sure that the final design they come up with will have the support of all the students. (Mrs Stratton)

## Co-ordinated Admission Arrangements

Parents may wish to know that the proposed Wilts County Council Co-ordinated Admissions Schemes for 2010/11 are available on request from the School Admissions Team at County Hall ([admissions@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:admissions@wiltshire.gov.uk)).

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### The Non-school Uniform Day

The non-school uniform day on 23rd October raised £708.77 for Jeans for Genes. See the photos on the charity notice board of pupils and staff dressed in denim. (Mrs Tallis)

### Christmas Boxes

128 Christmas boxes were made by pupils in Years 7-9 and were collected by the Trussell Trust for distribution in Bulgaria. Older pupils from Years 10-13 collected items for distribution to orphanages in Belarusse. (Mrs Tallis)



### Remembrance Day

Poppies were sold around the school in aid of Remembrance Day on 11th November and a two minute silence was held in school at 11.00am.

### In School Charity News

Several forms have been in action this term: 9E washed teachers' cars over 3 lunchtimes and 11A made and sold delicious fudge. There has also been a Christmas craft fair (7A & 7N), carol singing at Waitrose (8B) and M & S (9A) and a raffle by 13JXL.

### Young Enterprise Update

This year at South Wilts we have two Young Enterprise teams involving a total of twenty-two year twelve students. Both teams have made a fantastic start to the year. *Aphrodite*, managed by Jocasta Patel, specialise in customisable products including key-rings, phone charms, coasters and mouse mats, which they have sold on various occasions both in and out of school. They have also successfully sold a number of photos taken at the lower school disco. *Stealth*, managed by Millie Cepelak, have chosen different product lines and have so far made an excellent profit selling glow sticks at the lower school disco. *Stealth* also plan to sell a range of decorated stationery in the new year. Good luck to both teams. (Mr Brown)

Mrs Tallis attended a thank you ceremony at Salisbury District Hospital on 21<sup>st</sup> November to mark the success of the Mayor of Salisbury's Appeal in purchasing monitoring equipment for the children's unit. You will remember that SWGS gave £2,500 towards this appeal. Once again, thanks to all who supported events last year.

Finally, 4 tutor groups deserve mention for achieving their charity targets: 7E, 8A, 9E and 11A. We hope to see lots more groups reaching their targets next term! (Mrs Tallis)

### Year 6 Primary Design & Technology

On 6 occasions this term a class of Yr 6 boys and girls from Woodford Valley Primary School visited the Design & Technology Department for some experience of Designing and Making.

They used 2 different Computer Aided Design programmes to help them design a small Desk Tidy to hold pens, pencils, ruler and glue sticks – and even used Computer Aided Manufacture to cut out vinyl decoration. They all worked extremely hard and successfully learnt how to use a range of workshop tools and equipment - and all produced very well made products. As usual they were a delight to work with and a credit to their school. (Mr Scrivener)



Year 6 Desk Tidy

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### **Wiltshire County Council's 11 Million Takeover Day**

On Friday 7th November seven pupils 'took over' council jobs as part of the National 11 Million Takeover Day. They took on council roles such as Corporate Director for Children and Education; Service Director for Libraries, Heritage and Arts; and Voice and Influence Coordinator. (Mrs Harris)

Blythe Chesworth 9E – "I took over the role of Tom Craig, Director of Arts. His job entails the organising of Arts events ranging from theatre productions to graffiti workshops. We were given an agenda for the day that included meetings, a theatre visit and, of course, lunch! We started talking about things we had done in the Arts including clay modelling, school productions and the Glastonbury Festival. We then visited the Arc Theatre. We had a guided tour and were then presented with a huge pile of letters from various productions that wanted to perform there. Our job was to select a production and present our reasons why they should be allowed to use the theatre. We split into two groups: boys v girls! We debated hard and had to complete some additional research by phoning the production company. At last we reached a consensus and made our pitch!

The Theatre really liked our choices and decided to allow both to use the theatre! We then attended a council meeting where we put forward our views. Finally we went back to our rooms and discussed what was important about the Arts. Initially it was meant to be 10 points but ended up as 3 flip chart pages! I learnt so much from the experience including the value of listening to others and how to expand and present an idea. I learnt that the Arts isn't just pretending to be another person or playing some musical notes, but it requires a lot of hard work and is a really powerful medium to convey important messages."

### **Wiltshire Anti-Bullying Conference**

On Monday 17th November Eleanor Wills (Year 9) and Emma Francis (Year 8) from the Student Council went to the Wiltshire Anti-Bullying conference in Trowbridge.

They took part in several workshops with students, teachers, council workers, health professionals and the police from all over Wiltshire to look at the perception of bullying and how it can best be tackled in schools. The girls went armed with a survey of student views from across the school and able to represent their peers' views with enthusiasm and great perception.

On return to school the girls ran a lower school assembly to feedback their experiences and to explain how they wanted to develop our anti-bullying policy with the student council. They have set up a working party with the Student Council and are developing an action plan with particular emphasis on combating cyber-bullying through social-networking sites and mobile phones. (Mrs Harris)



### **Gifted & Talented students visit Exeter University – Fiona Mashford 10A**

On Tuesday 21st October ten girls from Year 10 were invited to Exeter University as part of the South West Academic Trust's Gifted and Talented programme. As well as South Wilts, students came from Poole Grammar, Bournemouth Grammar, Torquay Boys' Grammar and Colyton Grammar. We were interested to see that we were the only girls' school.

For the first part of the day we had a seminar on number sequences with Professor Ashwin, which began by looking at GCSE work and quickly progressed to degree level work with meandric numbers, the Googol numbers and the Fibonacci formula – very challenging! We then had a talk about the myriad of different courses available at universities in the South West, before having a tour of the campus with student ambassadors. It was a highly interesting day and gave us all a lot to think about in terms of our goals and how to achieve them. (Mrs Harris)

## ONWARDS

### School Council

The Student Council have two representatives from each tutor group and represent the views of the students. This year the Council are chaired by a dedicated team of Year 11 students who set agendas, write minutes and ensure action points are carried through. The council works very hard to respond to student needs and be a forum for action, not just talk!

This year the council have formed several sub-committees to act upon issues important to the students at South Wilts including the Learning Team, an Anti-Bullying Team and the already infamous Toilet Team! The students will be continuing their series of 'Learning Walks' to other schools to bring back inspiration and good ideas. Our first visit will be to Colyton Grammar School in the new year. (Mrs Harris)

### Linking with our Indian Partner School

Following the previous visit by Neil Blundell and the return to South Wilts last summer by two of the Indian school teachers, Carolyn Stammers and Gilly Mahoney were lucky enough to spend time in October at the Lawrence Homan School in Uttar Pradesh, northwest India.

During the visit they were asked to run training days for the staff, introduced various teaching strategies and taught health and well-being classes to over 200 students.

The school was founded by Salisbury resident Hugh Homan in the village of Bakshi-Ka-Talab just outside the city of Lucknow, and was named in honour of Hugh's father. Originally set up to provide an education for the girls in the area, it is now a mixed school with over 1000 students aged 3 – 18. Mrs Stammers and Mrs Mahoney stayed with the headmistress Sushma Singh, a celebrated local character in her own right, who travels widely throughout the region persuading parents to allow their children to attend the school, an uphill struggle given that the girls from some of the more traditional backgrounds are not allowed to leave the home.

Mrs Stammers and Mrs Mahoney also visited students in some of the many surrounding villages and were overwhelmed by the hospitality they received. South Wilts students are now setting up strong links with the Lawrence Homan School as part of our International School status. There are plans for regular contact with students via e-mail and letters and in January Rachel Beswick an ex South Wilts student will join the school as part of her gap year.

In the future we hope to send even more of our sixth form students there to experience a very real and valuable gap year project. The visit coincided with a speech to the Indian parliament by Rahul Gandhi, grandson of India Ghandi, calling for modernisation of the Indian teaching system and the introduction of a greater range of teaching styles. As usual the Lawrence Homan School and its remarkable head teacher had been ahead of the game. (Mrs Stammers)



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### Nature Calls Magazine - Winners of International Awards

Nature Calls Magazine has won two significant awards at an international media event. Emily Nash and Sarah Horner were key members of the team that won these awards and we were delighted that Emily went to the ceremony.

**The Printed Materials Award** is an outstanding achievement by young people. A pleasant and positive way to make an impact on the environment. The campaign reaches out across the community, offering practical advice and guidance.

**Chairman's Award** - This year's entries have maintained the exceptionally high standards of innovation and creativity that are associated with the IVCA Clarion Awards. The winners exemplify the very best in socially responsible, ethical and environmental communications. This year's Chairman's Award recognises the particular contribution in the field made by young people, who form the future of our society and our planet, as well as of our industry. This was a project led and delivered by a group of young people who felt so passionately about their environment that they put together a communications campaign to motivate and energise their local community. This year's Chairman's Award recognises the exceptional work and initiative that they have shown.



**Sarah Horner & Emily Nash after receiving their plaques**

Both girls are to be congratulated on this achievement and they look forward to working with Emily as she continues her involvement as a lead editor on Nature Calls 3. Nature Calls can be downloaded from our website [www.wiltshirewildlife.org](http://www.wiltshirewildlife.org).

### SWGS Uniform Shop

Term time opening hours:

Tuesday 8.30 to 9.30am

Thursday 12.00 to 1.00pm

1st Saturday of each month  
9.30 to 11.30am

E-mail:

[uniform@swgs.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:uniform@swgs.wilts.sch.uk)

Website:

[www.swgs.wilts.sch.uk/  
uniform.asp](http://www.swgs.wilts.sch.uk/uniform.asp)

(Please make cheques  
payable to Direct Clothing  
Company)

### First Day Contact

This daily procedure, which began at the beginning of the current academic year, has so far proved to be very successful with some very positive feedback from parents. The student's welfare and safety is of high importance to SWGS so this provides peace of mind to all. Please can I stress to all parents that it is vital that you remind your daughters to please sign in the late book at reception by morning break at the very latest, if they have missed morning registration for any reason, this is to prevent unnecessary and worrying emails/phone calls to parents. If your daughter is off sick for more than one day please report her absence every morning. (Mrs Fuller)

### Lost Property

Parents are reminded to name all coats and trainers belonging to their daughters.

There are 15 coats and 20 pairs of trainers in Lost Property which cannot be returned to girls as they are not named. As well as coats and trainers, there are also lunch boxes, umbrellas, scarves, gloves, purses, watches, keys, black trackies and a sleeping bag awaiting collection.

If your daughter has lost anything in school over the last term, please ask her to check Lost Property. Parents are welcome to check for themselves – Lost Property is open on Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 12.30pm. (Mrs Taylor)

### Skirt Lengths

A reminder that skirts should be no shorter than one hand width above the knee. Shoes need to be sensible and leather so that they keep the water out.

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### SWGS Eco Team - Generation Green

The SWGS Eco Team has signed up to an exciting new initiative called Generation Green, which is a programme set up by British Gas to encourage schools, pupils, their parents and the wider community to become more environmentally aware. It works by awarding points, which are known as Leaves, to schools for the good work the pupils, staff and parents of pupils perform for the environment. This is where you as responsible, caring, ecologically aware parents come in: you can carry out an “Energy Savers Report” of your home and earn 100 Leaves to donate to the school of your choice. We hope you will choose South Wilts because when we reach our target of 99,077 Leaves, we will be able to choose an eco-friendly reward for the school. The vast range of prizes can be seen on the website. So far over 1 million Leaves have been donated to schools in this way and, as you can see, we need all the help we can get to reach our enormous target! But this is not just about earning Leaves and winning solar panels and bicycle helmets. The Eco Team is working hard to enhance the school’s educational environment, which will, in turn, benefit the wider community and make a positive impact on the delicate balance in which our planet’s environment is hanging. It is hoped that you will support the pupils in this way, but the Eco Team would love to hear of anything else you and your family do for the environment, so don’t stop at the Energy Savers Report! To access the report go to [www.generationgreen.co.uk](http://www.generationgreen.co.uk) and click on “for family and friends” in the central panel. The pink link on that page will take you to the British Gas website to complete the report which will tell you your energy rating, carbon footprint and running costs of your home. When you have completed your report, don’t forget to donate your Leaves to SWGS (search for the postcode SP1 3JJ)!

Have a wonderful Christmas and remember to recycle as much as possible. (The Eco Team)

### Good Food Show

On 14th November Mrs Mahoney took a group of sixth form Food Technology students to see the BBC Good Food Show in London. We travelled up on the train and made several changes on the underground, a new and slightly daunting experience for some of us! Despite getting delayed for over an hour in a hot, crowded tube carriage, we did all arrive in one piece, and quickly realised it had been worth the wait.

There was such a range of things to do, and so many new foods to try, and even the people who had tagged along in hope of free food samples found it to be a really interesting day out! From chocolate to curry, biscuits and bread and even wines and whisky, there were stalls from food producers up and down the country, all selling their finest goods. And yes, there were a lot of free samples! We spent several hours exploring the show, finding new favourite foods, watching the many displays and even buying a few Christmas presents. Personally, I found it to be a really enlightening experience in terms of all the different cultures and their different cuisines, and I definitely picked up a few tips for my coursework. We all travelled home full and happy (with no delays on the way back!) and it is a trip that I would recommend to all who get the opportunity. (Caitlin Boyle 12JPC)



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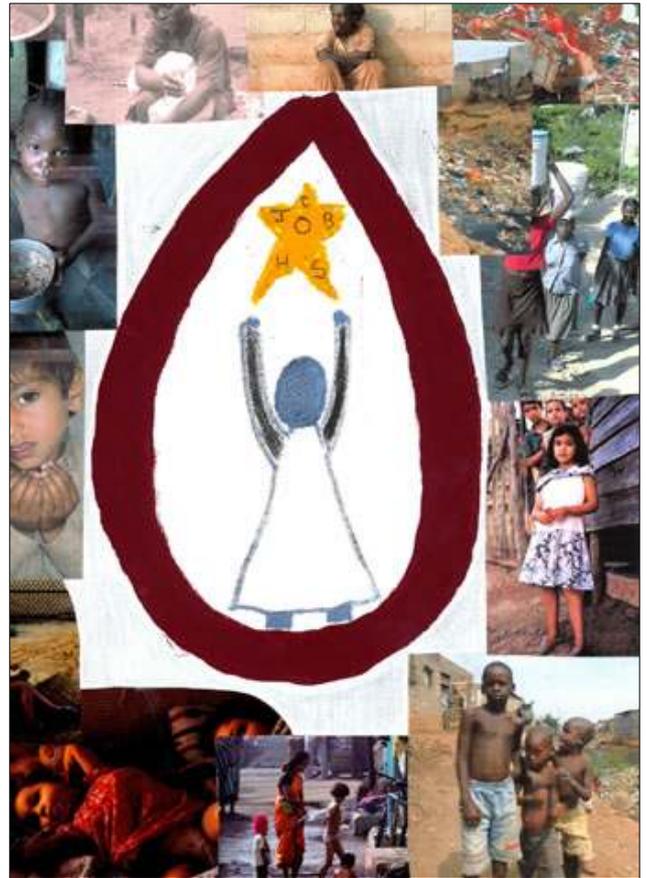
### Spirited Arts: The Art in Heaven Competition 2008

Congratulations to Helen Starr for her winning entry to Spirited Arts: The Art in Heaven Competition 2008. She receives a cheque for £15 as one of the competition winners with her entry for a Fairer World. The RS Department also receive a voucher for £30 towards the purchase of religious artefacts. Right is Helen's entry with her explanation of the image. (Mrs Hall)

The winning entries, including Helen's, can be found at [www.natre.org.uk/spiritedarts](http://www.natre.org.uk/spiritedarts)

The following students were chosen by the RS department to be entered for the competition and receive a certificate:

Alice Brearey  
Isabel Ewing  
Rafaella Galdeano  
Freya Henry  
Hannah Jackson  
Alexandra Ratcliffe-Russell  
Grace Collins  
Becky Knipe



**Teardrop and Star by Helen Starr**

### Year 12 Citizenship Conference

On Thursday 23rd October all of Year 12 from BWS and South Wilts came together for a Citizenship Conference.

The conference was an opportunity to learn about citizenship, the problems our world faces and ways we can tackle these issues.

The conference started with a speech from local MP Robert Key, "Democracy, use it or lose it!". Students had many questions to ask him! There were seminars throughout the day at both schools led by representatives from the following organisations:



Amnesty International, Alabare Care Centre, CAABU, Christian Aid, Ethnic Minority Achievement Service, The Holocaust Educational Trust, People and Planet, The Red Cross, Save the Children worldwide, Students Exploring Marriage, The Magistrates' Association, TraidCraft, UNICEF, Voice and Influence (WCC Youth Development Service), WCC Ethical Business Youth Development Service for young people.

It was a most interesting, informative and enjoyable day and one of the rare opportunities when the whole of Year 12 from both schools have the opportunity to work together. Students enjoyed being involved in a range of discussions and activities and learning about different issues that affect us, for example, Islamophobia, the role of the media, child abuse and the Holocaust.

Thank you to all those who were involved in organising the day. (Mrs Moody)

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### French Exchange to Nantes 9th - 17th October 2008

When almost 70 South Wilts and Bishop Wordsworth's students gathered early on a chilly October morning for our journey to Nantes, France, I don't think any of us knew what a fantastic week we had ahead of us. We arrived at Le Loquidy at almost 8pm where we were welcomed by a large group of French families. We were soon immersed in the French culture, and I for one know that I found myself trying French customs (and foods!) that I had never expected. We had daily trips to visit many local sites. We had the chance to visit the impressive Houses of Parliament in Rennes, Nantes' own football stadium 'Stade de la Beaujoire', and (a general favourite) the salt marshes in Guérande! After a tiring day, there was nothing more comforting than to go back to our French family's home and enjoy some nice 'cuisine de la France'.

Although it was a shame to leave France and Le Loquidy behind, I know that everyone on the trip immensely enjoyed themselves and we look forward to the arrival of our correspondents in March 2009. On behalf of all of the students involved I would also like to thank Madame Jouahri and the rest of the languages department here at South Wilts and also at Bishop Wordsworth's who helped to make this trip possible. (Emily Stoker 10A)



The French Exchange has definitely been the highlight of South Wilts trips for me so far, by a very long way. Everyone awaited their French families anxiously when we arrived at the school, and although we loved being with our partners, not seeing English people for a whole night made the first proper day of the exchange even more exciting. The family I stayed with seemed to be a cloned version of my own. The 6 year old girl never let go off my hand, which was fortunate as it

'broke the ice' for the first hour or so, and she was also the one that I communicated with the best.

Day times in France were the most fun...one of the most memorable being the farm with odd animals. When we weren't out exploring Nantes, we stayed in to watch lessons going on in the school. I had to watch an A Level History/Geography lesson, not as much fun as the Year 10 English lesson I got to take part in the next day, I have to admit. Overall, the exchange has let me experience a totally different environment to South Wilts, and has definitely helped me (with confidence) speak French and I think has given me a great advantage with my GCSE. (Imogen Wolsey 10W)



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### National Cipher Challenge

It has been another strong year of competition from SWGS in Southampton University's National Cipher Challenge. We have 14 teams who have been active till the end of the competition, with Jocasta Patel (Year 12) currently in the top 30, and Rebecca Young (Year 9) 34th in the overall leaders board. Other highly placed individuals are Lucy Pike, Bryony Richards, Emma Clarke and Jessica Quigley. We have also had two teams lucky enough to win cash prizes in the weekly challenge, Rebecca Prince (Year 9), and Emma Clarke and Melissa Morris. Well done to all our code breakers!

### Senior Maths Challenge

The Senior Maths Challenge took place in November, with 43 Sixth Formers taking part.

*Gold Certificates* were awarded to: Gemma Barmby, Lorna Clark, Emma Keegan, Lydia Knyvett, and Natalie Starr.

*Silver Certificates* were awarded to: Sarah Beckett, Zoe Berry, Katie Davies, Laura Garbett, Mei Henry, Miranda Kent, Marissa Lewis, Rachael Lewis, Louisa Mousley, Roxana O'Hara, Jocasta Patel and Emma Rhind-Tutt.

*Bronze Certificates* were awarded to: Rachel Beagrie, Natasha Cowley, Amy Creese, Tamara Giles, Hannah Grayer, Alice Hamlin, Rosanna Howlett, Cat Palmer and Rachel Todd.

Two *Best in School Certificates* were awarded, to Emma Keegan and Lorna Clarke, and these two girls also competed in the British Mathematical Olympiad. Well done to all our senior mathematicians. (Mrs Offner)

### Sound of Music

Auditions are still taking place for this spectacular production, which goes to show it's popularity! We have had a good number of students from across the years who have shown an interest in participating or helping out and we hope to have selected the main cast by Christmas. The hard work starts after Christmas with drama, music, dance rehearsals, technical team preparations and publicity. We look forward to welcoming you in July for this great event. (Miss Vice)

### Senior Team Mathematics Challenge

A team of 4 A-level mathematicians (Amy Creese, Emma Rhind-Tutt, and Jocasta Patel in Year 12, and Lauren Stephens in Year 13) took part in the Senior Team Challenge event, run by the Further Mathematics Network at Southampton University in November. Teams from 20 schools took part in the demanding competition, where problem solving, analytical and communication skills, stamina and teamwork were as important as mathematical knowledge. After doing outstandingly well in the first two rounds, the team found the relay round more challenging, and ended in 11th place overall. Nevertheless it was an impressive performance, and we will build on it for next year's competition. (Mrs Offner)

### Peter Pan

Rehearsals are now well underway for the lower school production of Peter Pan. Jesselyn Verity, Lucinda Green and Freya



Webb as our year 12 drama prefects and directors of this performance are working extremely hard with the cast to bring this magical production alive. Look out for tickets which will be on sale after the New Year. (Miss Vice)

### A Cappella Evensong

A Cappella sang Evensong in Salisbury Cathedral on 20th October, which proved to be a very beautiful and memorable service. We remain, as ever, very grateful to the men who join us to sing, enabling us to experience the wonderful repertoire for mixed voices, and to Chris Fay, Head of Music at BWS, for playing the organ for us. (Mrs Poppleton)

### School Carol Service

We have had another fantastic carol service, in which we were delighted that 215 members of our choirs sang. There will be a full write up next term.

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### Hart and Woric String Quartets

The members of the Hart and Woric string quartets (Emily Tan, Flora Burns, Charlotte Hart, Fiona Mashford, Hannah Bonney, Alice Poppleton, Erika Holden and I) were asked to play at a charity gala dinner to raise money for the Mayor of Salisbury's appeal: cancer research. We played a selection of well-known music including Pachelbel's *Canon* and Handel's *Arrival of the Queen of Sheba*. We played as two separate quartets and as an octet. The guests really appreciated us being there and clapped after every piece that we played, even while they were eating! After the dinner we were able to meet the Mayor, Councillor, Mrs Iris Evans and shake hands with her. It was a fantastic opportunity and truly a night to remember for all of us.

We would like to thank my mum, Mrs Pidduck, for her help with our dresses and Mr Parsons for helping us to prepare the music for the event. (Christabell Pidduck 10E)



Hart and Woric String Quartets

### Congratulations

Congratulations to all who have passed individual singing and instrumental exams, including Alexandra Richards who passed Grade 8 Bassoon with a high merit. She has also successfully auditioned for a place in the National Children's Wind Orchestra. Katie MacDonald is currently a member of the Under 12 National Children's Orchestra and has now been given a place in the Under 13 Orchestra. Several of our girls have recently won places in the Wiltshire Youth Orchestra, which has a very considerable SWGS contingent. Very well done to all of you! We were all thrilled to hear of the safe arrival of Mr. and Mrs. Hind's son, Oscar. Mr. Hind is well known to many of our girls through his trumpet teaching here and both Mr. and Mrs. Hind very kindly took many of our girls to Xanthen last July. (Mrs Poppleton)

### Forthcoming Events Next Term:

Saturday 24th January

7.30pm

Concert at St. Martin's Church - A Cappella, Chamber Orchestra, Flute Band

Tuesday 24th March

7.30pm

School Concert – School Hall

### Visit to Exeter House

Year 10 GCSE Music students visited Exeter House in October and had a very worthwhile time working with the pupils there and sharing their ideas.

### Leaving Staff

Mr Perry, our Drum Teacher, will be leaving at the end of this term. His excellent teaching has been much appreciated by all his pupils. We look forward to Mr Williams joining us in January in his place.

Miss Given left us recently, having taught Mrs Flower's pupils during Mrs Flower's maternity leave. We are very grateful to Miss Given for her enthusiastic contribution and welcome Mrs Flower back following the birth of her daughter, Georgia. (Mrs Poppleton)

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### School Concert

The school concert on 18th November was an extremely happy occasion, brimming with talent and enthusiasm. The Training Orchestra played *Bohemian Rhapsody* with great flair, Senior Orchestra rose brilliantly to the challenges of *Dance of the Tumblers* and *Voltava*, Chamber



Orchestra was excellent and Wind Band's playing of *Hairspray's* dance rhythms was infectious. The Hart and Worric String Quartets gave a very impressive performance of *The Arrival of the Queen of Sheba* and the Saxophone and Guitar Groups made a very effective contrast. It was very exciting to hear Rose Adams' original composition. Junior Choir was very moving in its rendition of *Hallelujah* from *Shrek* and *Tragedy* and Senior Choir sang a mixture of songs beautifully. It was delightful to be given such a warm response to Senior Choir's *Mama Mia Medley* and to be joined so enthusiastically by the audience in our encore. Most rewarding of all was to see such a huge number of girls taking part in the evening, so obviously enjoying making music and being supported by a packed audience. (Mrs Poppleton)

#### Year 7 Netball

Both teams are starting to gel now with convincing wins over St. Edmunds, Godolphin and Leaden Hall. In the SWGS A vs B match the A's won 11-4. Keep up the hard work. (Miss Salen)

#### U13 Football

The girls played in the Wiltshire Schools' Cup Final against Dorcan and won 3-1 after extra time. They proceed to the regional round in the new year. (Miss Salen)

#### Year 9 Tennis

The squad won their 2nd round match against Royal High School Bath to proceed to the 3rd round of the knock out competition. They played Pates Grammar of Cheltenham, eventually losing 1-5 against tough opposition – this is still the furthest a tennis squad has reached in many years at South Wilts. (Miss Salen)

#### U14 & 16 Hockey

Both squads faced tough opposition in their county tournaments. The U16s couldn't get into their stride and were placed 4th, however the U14s were runners up in Wiltshire. (Miss Salen)

#### U14 & 16 Netball

Both squads represented Salisbury at the Wiltshire County Tournament following a top 2 placing in the Salisbury and District competition. The level of competition was extremely high and overall the U16s placed 7th and the U14s 4th. (Miss Salen)

#### Salisbury Schools' Cross Country

South Wilts won the minor, intermediate and senior age categories at the race on Hudsons Field on 11th November. (Miss Salen)

#### Cross Country

A huge well done to the Intermediate Cross Country squad who travelled to Leicestershire to compete in the English Schools' National Cup Final held on December 6th.

Following an excellent run from the entire squad, South Wilts placed 4th in the country, with Imogen Wolsey achieving 3rd in the Country as an individual. A truly outstanding achievement! Squad members –

Imogen Wolsey, Lucy Butt, Emily Kalik, Hannah Gidney, Holly Kirkham, Vicky James, Hannah Kirkham, Amy McDermott, Lottie Wells, Rosanna Grant. (Miss Salen)

## ONWARDS

### National Schools Equestrian Association Jumping With Style Competition

On what was a very cold and wet weekend we had four members of South Wilts Grammar School travelling over 3 hours to compete in the Jumping and Style Championship Competition. The girls were competing in both team and individual competitions.

Our team of Alice Elgar, Rosanna Sykes and Lucy Pike competed in the Novice Team Championships. The competition was very strong and although all the girls rode really well they ended this competition just out of the rosettes. Both Alice and Rosanna had ridden an excellent clear round in the warm up class securing a 2nd and 3rd placing respectively.

Alice Elgar also competed in the Novice Individual Championships and had a fantastic round, with all the rest of her team mates cheering her on. She rode with style to secure 3rd place against tough competition, an excellent achievement.

Amy McDermott in Year 10 competed in the Open Individual Championship competition. She won her warm up class with a well ridden and stylish round, giving her confidence for the Championship competition. In what was a very challenging course, Amy rode incredibly well to have just one pole down to come 6th against very strong competition.

Both Mrs Holland and I were very proud of the way our girls conducted themselves during the competition. They all had a very successful day, and even in the cold wet weather always had smiles on their faces. Our thanks go to the parents and the girls for all their support and help. (Miss Scaife and Mrs Holland)

The full results were as follows:

**Class 4 – Warm up - Derby (2'6" – 2'9")**

Alice Elgar – 2nd  
Rosanna Sykes – 3rd

**Class 5 - Novice Team (2'6" – 2'9")**

Alice Elgar  
Rosanna Sykes  
Lucy Pike

**Class 6 Novice Individual (2'6" – 2'9")**

Alice Elgar – 3rd

**Class 12 - Open Warmup Derby (3'3" – 3'6")**

Amy McDermott – 1st

**Class 12 - Open Individual (3'3" – 3'6")**

Amy McDermott. – 6th

### Sixth Form and Community Sport - Young Ambassador for Sport 2008-2009

For the third consecutive year a South Wilts student has been awarded the accolade of Young Ambassador (YA). Congratulations to Mamie Attwell-Thomas who stepped into role in September. Within her role Mamie will be working towards implementing extra sports and activities aimed at girls who would like to be more active, but feel that they would like to pursue activities which are not presently offered at school.

#### Community Sport

I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank Charlie Corson and Mamie A-T for their help and assistance with the Year 6 Extended Gifted and Talented Club which has been running this term. Martha Fishwick, Nancy Pallas and Gemma Bray must also be commended for their invaluable contribution to the High Five Netball Tournament last month. As well as this the Community Sports Leaders have now began their course which is running alongside Self Defence during sixth form recreation.

#### Gymnastics

Finally a massive "Well done and thank you" to Alex Edwards who coached the SWGS Gym Team. Alex choreographed routines for the gymnasts and spent time with each of them individually which enabled us to win a 3rd place (Amber Goodwin Year 7) and a sixth place (Eleanor Hendicott Year 9) in a county wide competition. (Miss Cassidy)

## ONWARDS

### Internet Safety

We have recently taken a delivery of CD-ROMs on internet safety from the government, and have issued one to each Year 7 student. The CD-ROM has sections for parents as well as pupils. Please take the time to have a look at the contents of the disk with your daughter. Schools, child-support agencies and the police are also worried about the nature of the personal information that young people supply about themselves on social-networking sites such as BeBo and MySpace. We have been drawing attention this year to the problems posed by “cyber-bullying” in which victims can feel helpless in the face of ever-present verbal and image-based personal abuse hosted on such sites.

There is no reason why parents should not ask to see the contents of their daughter’s entries on social networking sites. Most are perfectly acceptable in terms of the content, but we are aware of a minority who host material that can best be described as “tacky”.

In all of these matters we recommend that parents should be aware of what is going on while young people are using a home computer. (Mr Parks)

### Mobile Phone Safety

Officials from WCC have made us aware of the latest mobile phone threat to personal safety. Software and internet subscription services are available that can pinpoint the location of a mobile phone to within a dozen metres or so. This means that someone who has a mobile number and the right software could, in theory, track the position of the phone. The tracking could be used even if the phone is not in use, but merely switched on.



The internet-based companies that offer this service are legitimate, and provide it as a method of enabling parents to track their children’s whereabouts. As a check on validity the mobile owner has to give consent and should receive texts at set intervals reminding the user that the phone is being tracked. However it is possible that someone borrowing a mobile for just a minute or two, either with or without the owner’s knowledge, can set up the service and use the tracking system for a couple of days before the first text arrives.

We hear rumours that illegal software is available that will track mobiles without the knowledge of the user. We do not know the truth of this.

With this in mind, it is even more important that young people do not loan their mobile numbers to anyone other than close friends and family members.

For our older students it is important that a mobile phone is kept secure and not left in a position that would enable it to be easily taken for a couple of minutes from a pocket or a bag and then replaced without the owner’s knowledge, for example at a party, bar or club. Apparently it only takes a minute or two to register the phone for one of the tracking services. The potential danger then lies in the owner being tracked illegally on their way home late at night. (Mr Parks)

### Tesco Computer Vouchers

We expect the issue of Tesco vouchers will take place again this winter. Please collect as many vouchers as possible; we always make good use of the tokens to obtain computer equipment for one of the subject departments in the school.



### The Merlin Learning Platform

We are piloting the use of an online learning platform called Merlin with our current Year 9 ICT classes, and a number of other groups. This provides each student user with online storage space and access to help with work via discussion forums and a document library maintained by the subject teaching staff. Because the service is run by our LA Service Provider (the South West Grid for Learning; SWGfL) it is totally secure and has rigorous safety measures in place. We hope that the service will provide extra help for our students. We will expand it to cover all students over the coming years. (Mr Parks)

## ONWARDS

### Friends of South Wilts News The Winter Ball and Auction of Promises

The City Hall was transformed into a glittering Winter Wonderland on November 8th when the Friends of South Wilts hosted their first Winter Ball and raised in the region of £5000 to kick off the school's library fund. It was a real team effort and the committee would like to thank all the parents, girls and friends who supported us, including our many business contacts, for their incredible generosity in all ways.

Guests arrived in their wonderful finery of black, silver and white and were entertained by Alice Poppleton and her quartet during the champagne reception. Many of the guests had their photographs taken by Anthony von Roretz, who donated all proceeds from the photographs to the fund. The amazing team of dedicated helpers had decorated the vast hall with a myriad of stars hanging over the dance floor like a vast chandelier, icicle bunting, winter "Narnia" style trees and fabulous silver and white floral displays. Served by a fantastic team of waitresses from South Wilts sixth formers and Year 10s, we were treated to a gorgeous dinner quaffed down with copious amounts of wine. The auction, expertly executed by Will Grant, saw parents and friends bidding against each other for some fantastic auction lots. Finally, the band had everyone on their feet for nearly two hours of dancing to hits from the 60s, 70s and 80s.

Here are just a few of the comments we received after the ball:

"Thank you so much for a great night last Saturday, we really enjoyed it and thought the band were fantastic (could I have their details please!), the hall looked lovely and the auction seemed to be a great success. So well done, all your hard work was thoroughly appreciated."

"Just a note to thank you so much for organising such a super Ball. We had the most fantastic time. The hall was decorated beautifully and the band were really outstanding. Hope you may have the energy to do it again next year! It was a wonderful evening and many thanks go to all those who worked so tirelessly to pull it off.

On a general note, I would like to take the opportunity to thank all of you who have volunteered to help at various events. If you haven't been asked yet, rest assured there are two terms of events still to come! If you have, many thanks for your time. We couldn't do what we do for the school without you, so thank you all. (Mrs Jane Mackay)

### 1000 Club Prize Winners

First Prize is £90 every month! Many thanks to those who continue to support the 1000 Club, but due to decreased subscriptions I have had to reduce the prize money. It is never too late to send in any late payments and increase the prize pot! See the School website for an application form or contact me if you have any queries. (Yvonne Hughes 01980 590543)

1000 Club Winners			
<b>Sept 08</b>			
1 <sup>st</sup>	No 215	Marie Starr	£90
2 <sup>nd</sup>	No 294	Mrs C Jennings	£45
3 <sup>rd</sup>	No 289	Mrs Elizabeth Walsh	£25
<b>Oct 08</b>			
1 <sup>st</sup>	No 332	Leigh Knight	£90
2 <sup>nd</sup>	No 418	Sean Watson	£45
3 <sup>rd</sup>	No 405	Judy Orledge	£25



*Have a wonderful and relaxing Christmas*

