



# ONWARDS

February 2010



Science



Maths & Computing

## School and College Achievement and Attainment tables 2009

We were pleased to find that South Wilts Grammar School was ranked 7th for GCSE performances in 2009, for **all** state schools in the country. This is a remarkable achievement and shows the dedication of both students and staff.

The data was published in January in the DCSF achievement and attainment tables: [www.dcsf.gov.uk/performance/tables](http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/performance/tables). This information was subsequently relayed in newspapers on the 14th January. As always, newspapers select the information they wish to present, but we particularly liked the information published in the Telegraph and subsequently in the Times Educational Supplement on 15th January. (Mrs Stratton)

|    |   |
|----|---|
| 1  | Invicta Grammar School, Maidstone               |
| 2  | Dartford Grammar School, Kent                   |
| 3  | Colyton Grammar School, Devon                   |
| 4  | Newstead Wood School for Girls, Orpington       |
| 5  | Heckmondwike Grammar School, West Yorks         |
| 6  | King Edward VI Camp Hill Girls, Birmingham      |
| 7  | <b>South Wilts Grammar School, Salisbury</b>    |
| 8  | The Tiffin Girls' School, Kingston-upon-Thames  |
| 9  | Wolverhampton Girls' High School, West Midlands |
| 10 | Colchester Grammar School, Essex                |

## Careers Adviser Vacancy

We have a part-time vacancy for a suitably qualified person as a careers adviser to start after Easter. We need someone who can lead the careers advice and guidance given, both to individual students and to whole year groups. This person will be continuing the excellent work done by Sally Armstrong and will work alongside an adviser from the Connexions service who mainly works with our year 11 students.

The successful candidate will be advising our sixth form students on university applications and courses as well as working with those who prefer to opt for a different career path. The person appointed will help with the careers element for Personal and Social Education lessons to ensure that it remains both relevant and up to date. They will also work with our librarian to keep the careers section of the Learning Resources Centre stocked with the best material currently available. A person who is willing to work flexible hours within the school day and across the school year, with our busy period being the Autumn term, would be warmly welcomed. For further information and an application form please contact [vcb@swgs.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:vcb@swgs.wilts.sch.uk)

## SWGS Fashion Show

Thursday 25th February in the Main Hall, 6.30-8.30pm. Tickets £5, available from Mrs Wood in the LRC. Proceeds go towards the school charities. Please come and support the pupils. (Mrs Tallis)

## Building work

The next building project will be the refurbishment of the Old Building which will take place over the next three school holidays. At February half term we will be installing suspended ceilings, lights and new doors in three classrooms, replacing internal windows and redecorating some areas. This work to bring the Old Building into the twenty first century, which will include new toilets and some new external windows, will continue during the Easter and summer holidays. The ICT rooms will be reorganised and new machines installed in the summer term.

## Year 12 Parent Consultation Evening & Year 13 Concerns

Evening will be held on the 17th March 2010. Rearranged as a result of the snow. AS / A2 unit results are due on 11th March 2010.



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**Shoes:** Slipper-like shoes that some students are wearing are inappropriate for school. Where the backs of these are broken down they can become very difficult to keep on and present a trip hazard, particularly on stairs. Shoes should be a substantial, sensible, black leather shoe with no decoration.

**Skirts:** Skirts are getting rather too short. Please support us by ensuring that your daughter's skirt is not wound up at the waist.

### Charity News

We closed last term with a run of successful charity events leading up to Christmas. 10E raised just over £117 by selling candy canes between Bishops and South Wilts and the end of term non-school uniform day raised £635. 8A and 8B raised a total of £173.92 from their German Christmas markets. This is a fantastic achievement, with each of the forms well exceeding their targets! 7E and 7N will be following suit next term, as they plan to run an Easter market, which will hopefully be even more successful!

Sadly 8A's planned teachers' football match had to be postponed, due to weather conditions, but they still managed to make over £80 from selling the refreshments they had prepared. The match will take place at a later date. There will be a chance to stock up on cakes for the holiday on the last day of term, with a year 7 cake sale at afternoon break.

In response to the tragic recent events in Haiti, Christabell Pidduck has sold bookmarks to aid the relief effort, and we have been collecting money at lunchtimes in the last week to help.

7B have come up with an inventive way of helping the school charities, with their "duck event". We hope to have some pictures for the next newsletter of these designer ducks!

The lower school have done fantastically this half term with all their fundraising efforts, leaving the rest of the school with a lot of catching up to do next term, so get thinking!

The year 12 charity prefects are running a fashion show on 25th February, supported by some local shops. This promises to be a wonderful evening, so please come along. There will also be some stalls, and a raffle being run by 6JAC. Tickets are being sold by the Sixth form charity prefects at just £5.00.

Finally, a small group of 6th formers will be participating in the Alabaré sponsored sleep out in the cathedral grounds on 26th February. If you would like to join us please contact us on [03mgm@swgs.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:03mgm@swgs.wilts.sch.uk), or go to <http://www.alabare.co.uk/sleepout.php>, and if not please sponsor those that are! (Senior Charity Prefects)

### TS Eliot Prize for Poetry Shadowing Scheme

Congratulations to Iona Singleton in year 13, who won the prestigious TS Eliot Prize for Poetry 2009 Shadowing Scheme, a writing competition open to sixth formers nationwide. Having read poems by all ten poets short-listed for the poetry prize, Iona wrote a 500 word review on two of the poems by Philip Gross. You can read her truly inspirational piece on the school intranet and web-site and by visiting <http://www.guardian.co.uk/books/2010/jan/19/iona-singleton-ts-eliot-shadowing-prize>

Her prizes include publication of her review in the *English and Media magazine* and in the Culture section of *Guardian Online*, membership of The Poetry Society and a copy of all ten poetry collections short-listed. She was also invited to stay overnight in London, and attended both the Award Ceremony and TS Eliot Prize Readings on 18th and 19th January. (Mrs Coundley)



## ONWARDS

### Young Writers

Congratulations to Annabel Mahoney in year 10 who has been successful in the latest 'Young Writers' competition, and is to have a poem published in an anthology, 'Bust-A-Rhyme', which will shortly be available in the school library.

**Aspiring writers, please join us for Writing Club at 12:00 on Tuesdays in 08.** (Mrs Coundley)

### Science - Collaborative working with local primary schools

Our Science half-day projects for local primary schools have continued this term with eight schools enabling their Year 5 and 6 pupils to experience one of the three sessions offered. 'Murder at South Wilts' is chemistry-based where a variety of lab based tests are used to deduce the identity of a murderer.

'Rockets' is physics-based and looks at rockets and forces involved in launching a personal water rockets. 'The amazing human body' (biology) looks at the major organ



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structures inside the human body, the location of the organs and their basic roles and includes heart, lung and eye dissection (from pigs).

Feedback has been very positive: Ms Andrews at Dinton Primary said it "gave the children a valuable insight into science at secondary school and what it involves, and access to science equipment primary schools are unable to provide....a fantastic afternoon". The pupils of Downton appreciated being in a real science laboratory and watching potentially dangerous reactions and experiments in a controlled and safe environment. Another school considered that



the children's science vocabulary had greatly improved! We plan to continue this initiative into the summer. (Mr Jones)

### Southampton University

On 20th January, a group of Year 12 Chemistry students went to Southampton University Chemistry Department, to participate in a twilight session especially for Sixth Formers.

The main task was to extract trimyristin from nutmeg which is used in essential oils used for aromatherapy treatments. We were split into pairs and given the opportunity to use a wide variety of chemicals and apparatus that we would not have the opportunity to use at school.

We also had on hand help and advice from PhD students and a professor at the University. Rachael Kidner 12CEH and Alex Ba-Tin 12MXH)



Southampton University

### Trips

Insurance Forms and Questionnaires for all trips are available on the school web site. <http://www.swgs.wilts.sch.uk/LettersAndForms.asp> (Mrs Harris)

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### Albert Einstein Lecture

On Wednesday 3rd February, SWGS hosted a special evening bringing together Physics and Music. The first part of the evening was a lecture by Professor Brian Foster OBE of Oxford University exploring the life of Albert Einstein and his work on particle physics. It was brought right up to date with details of the developments in this field since Einstein's death and the progress achieved so far at CERN, Switzerland. Scientists are using the massive hadron collider to smash sub atomic particles at incredible speeds together to try and discover what is at the heart of matter.



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The lecture was punctuated by the music that inspired Einstein, who loved chamber music and especially the violin. This was played by Jack Liebeck, a professional violinist who has played around the world as well as performing on BBC Radio 3 and 4.

The second part of the evening was a musical recital where Jack was joined by pianist Katya Apekisheva. Katya has won many prestigious awards including the London Philharmonic Orchestra Soloist of the year and the Terence Judd award. Her recent CD release was chosen by classic FM as CD of the week. We were treated to a wonderful concert with pieces by Mozart, Beethoven and Bloch.

We made full use of Brian and Jack during the school day as well. Jack led a master class for some of our very talented violinists and they also delivered another lecture to year 12 students as part of their General Studies course.

The event was part of our specialist school status in Science, maths and computing and the evening combined the essence of these subjects very well. We hope to be able to offer these types of evening again in the future.



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Suggestions for future events would be welcome. (Mr Jones)



### Year 9 Languages Day Picnic

After the play it was lunchtime only it wasn't just an ordinary lunch, it was an international picnic! We all got into little groups and brought in delicious foreign foods- pain au chocolat, baguettes, samosas, pasta salad, pizza, naan bread, popadoms, sushi... the possibilities were endless!



We all ended up stuffed with food (well, we couldn't just let it go to waste, could we?!) There were lots of interesting and tasty foods to try (and some foods which were just plain weird!).

All in all, it was a really fun day. Yr8s, you'll have lots of fun doing it next year! Also, I'm sure every year 9 would just like to say something to everyone involved; Merci! Gracias! Danke! Grazie! Спасибо! أشكر كثر! Eskerrik asko! Thank you! (Sasha McIlvar 9N)

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### Year 9 Languages Day

On 29th January, the year nine timetable was changed. Languages Day had arrived, along with several other language teachers, who would educate pupils in new languages that were different to the normal French and German classes. The taster languages included: Japanese; Basque; Spanish; Russian; Arabic and Italian. Each student had already chosen two of these choices above and would have a forty minute sample of each one. The morning commenced with eighty minutes of learning two fresh languages and then rounded off with a French Play. I had chosen to study Japanese and Basque.

Basque, spoken around the Spanish and French border, was odd, brisk and informal, ranging from tongue-slurring phrases to simple one-syllable words that could mean a whole sentence. Japanese on the other hand was far more complex. Japanese speech is made up of many components, including two types of symbols and a whole new way of saying words. In short, to have mastered Japanese, you must have learnt at least 3000 significant emblems and know how to pronounce each detailed character. It was interesting though, learning numbers up to one thousand, and repeating basic phrases. To finish this lesson off, we made frogs using the ancient paper art of origami.

Next came the French Play. To some people this may seem formidable, but the play was easy to understand and used audience participation to explain phrases and make it a more enjoyable experience. The subject matter was amusing and sometimes ridiculous, featuring a sixteen year old boy, Jean-Paul, who unfortunately had no luck when it came to attracting girls. Throughout the play, several 'magical' young women climbed through his window and tried to help him in his quest of asking out a certain Angelica. These girls, (and some were dressed in the most bizarre attire,) would persuade him to become a vegetarian, or take up boxing or dress differently. One left a skull behind in his room. The play as a whole was entertaining and funny, making some people giggle (especially the students who had the good fortune to go on stage.) (Laura Simpkins 9N)

### **Congratulations! Choral Scholarship**

Mary Price has been offered a choral scholarship to Trinity College, Cambridge where she has been made an academic offer to read Anthropology. Well done Mary. (Mrs Poppleton)

### **Music Exams**

Many girls have been successful in recent individual exams, including Caroline Halls who passed Grade 8 French Horn with distinction and Lydia Sargent who passed Grade 8 Organ with merit. (Mrs Poppleton)



### **Pro Corda Chamber Music Competition**

On 1st February the Hart and Worric String Quartets took part in the first round of the Pro Corda Music Competition. They now await the results to find out whether or not they will proceed to further rounds. Both quartets played beautifully, with great sensitivity, musicianship and flair.

They communicated their enthusiasm and love of chamber music to their audience. They were highly praised by the adjudicator and particularly enjoyed being coached by her after their performances. We are extremely grateful to Jane Parsons who tutors the quartets regularly. (Mrs Poppleton)

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### South Wilts Grammar School A Cappella Choir and Chamber Orchestra

On Saturday 23rd January, our A Cappella Choir and Chamber Orchestra performed in St Mark's Church. The programme started with A Cappella singing some beautiful anthems: D. Goodenough's "I Will Sing With the Spirit", S. Abbott's "See the Streams of Living Waters" and R. Shephard's "Never Weather Beaten Sail"

Year 13 student Lydia Sargent enthralled the audience with an organ solo, the first movement of "Concerto for two violins in A minor" by Vivaldi, transcribed by J.S. Bach, which was such a delight to hear. Chamber orchestra showed off their dedication and hard work under Richard Parson's enthusiastic direction with Intermezzo Sinfonico from Cavalleria Rusticana by P. Mascagni and Concerti Grosso Op. 6 No. III by Handel.

The choral anthem that followed, "Faith is the Heaven" by Harris, was sung in memoriam to Rory Waters, who had sung with the choir over a number of years and most recently in this piece in the October Evensong. The performance was full of emotion and intent, and was truly spectacular to watch. The glorious "Hail Gladdening Light" by C. Wood was also very fitting in the wonderful church setting.

The second half of the concert was a rendition of Mozart's Requiem. This was such a dramatic and exciting piece to listen to, and the energy put into the fourteen-movement work was astounding. The many soloists sang fantastically; a big well done to Lydia Sargent, Iona MacDonald, Madeleine Mould, Mary Price, Hannah Bonney, Amy Creese, Rachel Corcoran, Sarah Giles, Rachel Todd, Sarah Beckett, Jennifer Ridley, Emily Tan and Rachel Tooley. It was also a joy to hear the male soloists Iain Milne and Robert Evans, tenor and bass respectively, and the men who joined A Cappella for this work of immense beauty and passion.

The invited orchestra, led by Richard Parsons, played alongside the A Cappella Choir and was composed of music teachers, friends and students who gave up their time to be there and added so much to the evening. Mrs T was also so kind in accompanying the choir during the rehearsals and helping with the many preparations.

The performance simply could not have happened without the phenomenal leadership and outstanding commitment of Mrs Poppleton. This was clearly shown through the high standard of performance at this concert, and it gave us great pleasure to experience it. (Music Prefects Emma Rhind-Tutt and Bryony Swinger)



**A Cappella Concert at St Mark's Church**

### Forthcoming Events

#### **Thursday, March 11th**

School Hall

Instrumental Groups Concert

7.00pm Tickets £3 from Mrs

Wood in the Learning Resources Centre

#### **Saturday, March 27th**

Salisbury Cathedral

7.30pm

A Cappella joins Salisbury Music Society to sing Bach's B Minor Mass

#### **Saturday, 1st May**

Salisbury Cathedral

South Wilts Senior Choir joins BWS Choir for Joint Choral Concert

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### Football

Lidia Fedyszyn in year 9 writes about her selection for the U17 England football squad:

In October I was picked to go to the South West England trials in football representing Wiltshire Centre of Excellence for girls – I was chosen as Wiltshire's striker for the Under 14 age group. On the day we had to do some defending and attacking drills whilst members of the England Football Association walked around and wrote notes on their clipboards. One of them was the U17 women's coach. As I did quite well in these trials I am now being scouted for the U17 team - England coaches are coming to watch me train and are also watching my matches on a Saturday morning. The experience has been incredible but also quite scary and intimidating!  
(Lydia Fedyszyn 9E)

### Cross Country

More superb cross country results to celebrate following Bryanston School's 53rd Ken Baily cross country race. Well done to the intermediate / senior girls - Imogen Wolsey (also placed 1st individual), Lucy Butt, Lizzie Clifford, Emma Clarke (1st team), Flo Powell, Emily Kalik, Vicky James, Amy McDermott (5th team), Hannah Gidney, Amy Greaves, Hannah Kirkham, Nicole Esdaile (8th team). A total of 18 teams competed, with 90 runners in total so South Wilts featured prominently in this age group. In the junior girls' race Phoebe Kalik placed 2nd, Becky Esdaile placed 11th and Georgina Holman placed 30th out of 143 runners – well done!

Excellent results for the South Wilts girls running as part of the Salisbury cross country squad at Grittleton House School on Saturday 23rd January, helping the District to achieve 1st out of 5 in the junior, inter and senior squads and 2nd out of 5 in the minor girls. Phoebe Kalik, Sophie Kalik, Emma Clarke, Emily Kalik, Holly Kirkham, Imogen Wolsey, Amy Greaves, Charlotte Williamson and Rebecca Parfrey have been selected to run for the Wiltshire squad in the South West Counties cross country in Truro on 27th February – many congratulations and good luck. (Miss Salen)

Imogen Wolsey in year 11 writes about her successes in cross running during the 2009-10 season;

At the start of year 11 I decided to take my running to the next level by joining TeamBath. The intense training has recently proven very beneficial, and so far I'm having my best season yet. On 23rd January I took part in my second National League competition in Antrim, Northern Ireland, finishing first in my age group and third in the U20 Ladies. Following my 4th position in Cardiff the weekend before, I am now joint 2nd place in the McCain Cross Challenge Rankings, with only the final in Birmingham (worth double points) left to consolidate my efforts this season!

I wouldn't be in this position without the original school team, and despite the thrill of these competitions, taking part in the local races with my friends is just as rewarding. (Imogen Wolsey 11W)

### South West Schools' Biathlon

18 girls competed in the South West Schools' Biathlon (running & swimming) qualifier at Bath University on Sunday 24th January.

The Year 7 team came 1st at Bath and 13/73 in GB qualifying, the Year 9 team came 2nd at Bath and 12/20 in GB qualifying, the Year 10 team came 1st at Bath and 2/20 in GB qualifying.

The Year 10 squad of Emily Kalik, Louise Davidson & Nicole Esdaile, plus Phoebe Kalik (Year 7), Sophie Kailk (Year 8) and Hannah Drewett (Year 12) all scored so well they have qualified for the GB Schools' Biathlon Finals at Crystal Palace on March 21st. A marvellous achievement - best of luck. (Miss Salen)



## ONWARDS

### **Discount Priced Software for Pupils**

RM, the educational ICT supplier, has an online sales area called "The Basement" where it sells legitimate, low-cost software from several well-known software companies, including Microsoft and Adobe. We have a link to the relevant sales section on the school intranet. Otherwise visit the company website at [www.rm.com](http://www.rm.com). If you decide to order then check the specification requirements of the PC carefully.

This offer provides a good way of buying industry standard software at low prices.

### **Internet and Mobile Phone Safety**

Recent surveys have again shown up some worrying statistics concerning internet safety.

- Most young people underestimate the dangers on the web.
- Most young people release far more personal information than is safe.
- Many parents are unaware of what their children have viewed or whom they have contacted while online.
- Many young people feel that they are in control of chat-room conversations with strangers when the reality is often quite different.
- Many teenagers use their mobiles to send inappropriate messages or personal contact information, only to regret it later.

Please encourage your daughter to take the problem of internet and mobile-phone safety seriously. (Mr Parks)

### **Requests for Holiday and Leave of Absence**

I am sure we would all agree that excellent attendance is a key factor in achieving success at school and so it is very important to minimise the disruption to both the education of each individual student and to a whole class through unnecessary absence.

We would ask you to consider this very carefully when requesting any leave of absence from school. Although holiday leave can be authorised, our guidelines are now very clear that this should only be in exceptional circumstances.

We need to take into account the impact on the student's learning and cannot authorise holiday simply because it is more convenient or less expensive to take it outside the official holiday time, even if it is tagged on to the beginning or end of it. Of course we will continue to look favourably upon requests where there is simply no alternative or where family circumstances are exceptional but please expect many routine requests for holiday absence to be denied authorisation. The more information you can give when making a request, the easier it will be to judge whether it can be authorised or not. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter as I am sure we all share the desire to see our students continue to achieve excellent results. (Mrs Stammers)

### **FOSWGS - Spring Raffle**

Our year 7/8 disco has yet again been a great success both for those that attend and our FSWGS fund. Our major event in March is our **Spring Raffle**. The 1st prize being £300. We have numerous other fantastic prizes. Sets of tickets will shortly be arriving via your daughters, we do hope you will support and make this a great fund raiser for us.

I am pleased to announce that Sarah Snell has volunteered to take up the Chair post and Claire Sutton the Vice Chair. Thanks you to all who support the friends in giving both your time and funds supporting our events. (Denise von Roretz)

### **Foneclub Recycling Mobile Phones for Schools**

Foneclub is an initiative allowing your school to raise money by recycling mobile phones. We receive £2.50 for every handset regardless of age or condition.

A box will be at reception at South Wilts Grammar School for any phones sent in to school. Let's get RAISING MONEY. (Laura Matlass 07733 360992)