



ONWARDS

March 2010



Science



Maths & Computing

Exams

We are just beginning the exams season with some external oral and art exams starting as soon as we return after Easter. Many of our students in Years 11, 12 and 13 took exams in January and the results in many cases were excellent. Years 7, 8 and 9 will have internal tests in their lessons during the two weeks of 17th – 28th May. Year 10 will have school exams from 7th – 11th June. We wish all our students good luck in their exams. (Mrs Stratton)

Parent Voice

Thank you for your continued contributions to our parents' questionnaires. The results are very useful and will help us with decisions about the future of the school. The results of all the questionnaires are available on the school website – Parent Information / General Information / Questionnaire Responses. (Mrs Stratton)

Wanted: Dyslexia Support

We are looking for a person with suitable skills to support Sixth Form students with dyslexia.

This would be on an occasional basis on Wednesday afternoons as and when the need arose. Students might need help with UCAS applications, personal statements or other aspects of their academic studies. For more information, please contact Mrs Stammers at cms@swgs.wilts.sch.uk

Human Resources Manager Required for 21st June 2010

We will be looking for an adaptable, committed and well motivated HR Manager to be responsible for the HR advice and guidance for the 75 teachers and 42 support staff who work at the school.

Responsibilities will include payroll for all staff, using an external payroll provider managing support staff, organising cover for absent teaching staff and staff recruitment procedures. The post will be term time only plus three weeks of flexible holiday working.

The advert will be going in the Salisbury Journal on 22nd April and information will be available on the school website, with applications accepted by email or post.

School Uniform & Make up

Summer skirts may be worn from Easter to the end of October. All skirts must be a decent length, no extremes of fashion in hair styles or hair accessories (flowers etc.), no excessive jewellery, no 'hoodies', no sling back or backless shoes, flip flops or sandals. Please support us by ensuring that your daughter's skirt is not wound up at the waist. Make up is not allowed for Years 7-11 and should not be worn or brought to school. (Mrs Stratton)

Afternoon Registration

After Easter we will be taking the afternoon registers within period 5 rather than at a separate registration period. This means that it will not be possible to get messages from the office to pupils during the course of the school day except in real emergencies. This is a trial to see if it helps to avoid some of the congestion around the school site which is created by such a short registration period at the start of the afternoon. (Mrs Stammers)



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ONWARDS

School Charities

Children's Chance (Mayor's Appeal) and the Children's Society
The Spring term has been yet another success in terms of fundraising.

At the end of term 3 a cake sale run by 7B raised £78. A fantastic group effort within this form resulted in a range of delicious cakes and biscuits that were enjoyed by the whole school. Term 4 was kick-started by a very successful fashion show organised by the year 12 charity prefects, involving students as models and clothes from several Salisbury shops, including Mistral, Kew, Anokhi, East, Fat Face and Next.

This was a wonderful event which raised just over £1000 and you may have seen the article/pictures in the Salisbury Journal. This was followed soon after by 7A's inventive 'duck event': students bought plastic ducks and personalised them over the holidays' These ducks were then entered into a competition, with entries including 'Duck Whittington', 'Duck of the North' and the winning 'punk duck'! 9B held a "B fair" with various stalls on 19th March and, following in this trend, 7E and 7N ran an Easter fair on March 25th. 11A held a staff versus staff netball match and there have been a couple of successful raffles. 6th formers will be running the usual end of term cake sale, which is always a big hit with both pupils and teachers. (Mrs Tallis)



Charity Events

The Y13 charity prefects and a group of six 6th formers took part in the annual Alabaré sleep out in the Cathedral cloisters on 26th February, an event run by a Christian charity that supports homeless people throughout Wiltshire. This was a brilliant event, and it was fantastic to join with other church groups and individuals to raise money for such a worthy cause. Although it was damp and there was a general lack of sleep, spirits were still high.

Christabell Pidduck in 11E made an incredible individual effort to raise money for the Haiti earthquake appeal, raising £250 by selling handmade bookmarks and badges. Further money was raised for Haiti when the senior charity prefects collected spare change from all year groups, collecting just over £150.

A group of sixth formers put on an excellent production of "The Importance of Being Earnest" and contributed profits to Help for Heroes.

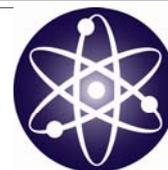
Finally good luck to the Year 13 pupils who will be abseiling down the front of the Wiltshire College, Salisbury in aid of EdUKaid on 31st March and to the Year 9 pupils who will be acting as "teddy medics" at the teddy parachuting event for the STARS Appeal on Saturday 24th April.

We would like to say a big thank you to everyone who has run or supported an event this term. Those tutor groups who have not yet reached their charity target should be thinking about what they can do next term. (Year 13 Charity Prefects)

Salter's Festival of Chemistry

Another star team of four Year 8 students took part in the Salter's Festival of Chemistry at Southampton University on 24th March.

During the day their observational and practical skills were tested as they carried out chemical tests to solve a murder mystery. All four enjoyed working in the University Chemistry lab with undergraduate students to help them. The bonus was winning second prize in one of the challenges, Well done, Polly, Esther, Emily and Kellie. (Mrs Wrighton)



Science

British Physics Olympiad 2010

The British Physics Olympiad is a competition designed to test understanding of the physics syllabus in an interesting and challenging way and select a team of five to represent the U.K. in the International Physics Olympiad. Our A2 physics class all had the opportunity to take the first paper and Miranda Kent and I did sufficiently well to take the second round paper, something which we were pleased about until we realised that it was a three hour exam!



Science

We both gained gold certificates in the second round and were two of fifty students invited to take part in the third round of the competition (another three hour exam!). We have also recently gained gold certificates in the UKMT Senior Maths Challenge and hope to continue our interest in physics and maths next year, when Miranda intends to study physics and I hope to study maths at university. (Jocasta Patel 6PJW)

British Biology Olympiad 2010

Congratulations to the Year 13 biologists who took part in this year's competition. Many schools compete and each school is able to enter ten students.

We were delighted to discover that several girls featured amongst the medal winners. Katie Davies was invited to take the second exam paper indicating that her result for the first paper placed her amongst the top forty students in the country. Well done to all the girls. (Mrs Wilkes)

- Gold Medal -** Katie Davies
- Silver Medal -** Charlotte Little
- Bronze Medal -** Mei Ling Henry & Mary Price
- Highly Commended -** Rachel Beagrie, Sarah Brown, Louise Cooke & Hannah Grayer
- Commended -** Rose Adams



Science Day

On March 18th, to celebrate National Science and Engineering week, all our year 10 students took part in our annual Science day. Students enjoyed a range of activities run by real scientists from companies such as Qinetiq, DSTL, and HPA. Margaret Clayton ran a session looking at Kinetic Theory and scientists from Southampton University demonstrated a high powered laser. We also had the Explorer Dome set up in the small hall: students crawl inside and different constellations are then projected on to the inside of the domed tent.

A new activity this year was Meet the Scientists Speed Dating. Groups of 3 or 4 students had five minutes to interview a scientist and find out as much about their background, job, training and reasons for becoming a scientist as they could, before moving on to the next.

The feedback from the day was extremely positive and we hope to be able to offer this fantastic opportunity to Year 10 students next year. (Mr Jones)



ONWARDS

Intermediate Maths Challenge

We had a large number of entries to the Intermediate Maths Challenge this year, and another group of very successful students, with a record number being called forward to the follow-on rounds (the Kangaroo and the Olympiads).

Bronze Certificates were awarded to:

Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
Emma Clarke Georgia Smith Helen Starr Isabel Ewing Natasha Jager Anna Inman Jessica Gillam Bethany Hayter Grace Rundle Emily Howard Isabella Lawson Jessica Millward Kate Smith Georgie McGarry Siobhan Quirk Alexandra Bullifent	Rebecca Young Gemma Currie HoKay Chung Christabell Pidduck Eleanor Hendicott Suzannah Clarke Laura Wingrove Rebecca Hudson India Charter Leonora Seymour	Fiona Mashford Philippa Hollinghurst Sophie Forster Rebecca Bostock Rebecca Freestone Maxine Nutting Annabel Boulton Hannah Vaughan



Maths & Computing

The Kangaroo round is a harder version of the British Mathematics Challenge where students across Europe are invited to compete: this year Amy Kinderman and Rosamond Thomas (both in Year 9) and Georgina Dollittle and Gina Dean (both in Year 11) were invited.

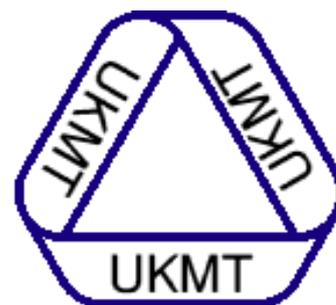
The Olympiad rounds are a different kind of competition, and only a very few of the highest scoring competitors are asked to compete. These papers require students to tackle very hard problems and produce formal proofs and solutions needing sophisticated mathematics. Bryony Richards (Y9), Nicole Esdaile (Y10) and Katherine Burleigh(Y11) were all invited this year, and we look forward to finding out how they did! (Mrs Allen)

Silver Certificates were awarded to:

Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
Hannah Jackson Lucy Pike Mia Lacey Jennifer Snell Jessica Quigley Melissa Morris Jerry Edwards	Eleanor Jones Clare Scott Lucy Coulson Eleanor Powell Eleanor Pownall-Gray Jessica Webber Laura Breeds Rebecca Prince Rosa Whitely Shiffa Shahid	Flora Burns Emily Budd Lucy Colwill Emily Davis Catherine Simpson Imogen Poole Elizabeth Reap Penny Mashford Jessica Wheeler Helen Tunnicliffe Arianna Carrington Alex Richards Nicki Biggs Phoebe Walsh

Gold Certificates were awarded to:

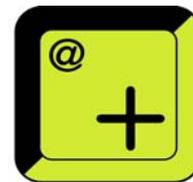
Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
Bryony Richards Amy Kinderman Rosamond Thomas	Nicole Esdaile	Katharine Burleigh Georgina Dean Georgina Dollittle Lucy Smith Alessia Cooper Vanessa Tyler



ONWARDS

UKMT Team Maths Challenge

On 9th March the Team Maths Challenge was held at Corfe Hill High School in Dorset. Year 9 pupils Bryony Richards and Jessica Quigley and Year 8 pupils Amelia Powell and Esther Bersweden competed against sixteen other teams from schools from the area.



Maths &
Computing

The day was split into four rounds, all of which we excelled in - we took the lead very early on but were pipped at the post during the last round, losing by very few marks to Poole Grammar School for Boys and Poole Grammar School, coming third overall. Although it was a team effort, we couldn't have done it without Bryony, who gave her usual amazing performance. We all had a great day and would like to thank Mrs Munford for preparing us and taking us to the event. (Jessica Quigley 9W)

Maths Enrichment Event

This term, on 9th March, a number of people from Year 10 got involved in a Maths Enrichment Event hosted by the school. We were also joined by pupils from St Joseph's, Leehurst Swan and Bishops. The day started with a talk on the 'Creation of Number'. The speaker was a young university maths graduate who asked us many difficult and philosophical questions. Did we invent numbers? If so, was there no such thing as the quantities 'one' and 'two' etc. before then? This led on to the use of complex numbers in generating fractals.

After this enlightening talk, a representative from the University of Plymouth gave us a speech on Opening Doors: Careers with Mathematics and Statistics. This surprised us as it also covered gender inequality: 9 out of 10 people in higher paid jobs such as health and business are men, whilst 9 out of 10 people in lower paid jobs are women! After these contributions, we all took part in a group competition consisting of different maths questions. Congratulations to Sophie Landon, Alice Jordan, Rebecca Prince, Shiffa Shahid and Jess Elliot who came third along with their fellow group members from St Joseph's and Ellie Powell, Sabrina Morice-Broom and Rebecca Prince who came second with their team out of a large number of groups. All in all, it was a very enjoyable day with plenty of interesting facts, challenging maths questions and terrific prizes. We recommend the event to anyone else who has the opportunity to become involved. Thank you to the teachers and the Wiltshire Further Mathematics Centre for arranging this opportunity. (Shiffa Shahid 10A)

Geographical Association Worldwide Quiz

On Wednesday 24th February 8 students from Year 9 and 10 were invited to represent SWGS at the Wiltshire county round of the Geographical Association Quiz, held at Dauntsey's School. Following an overwhelming response from the students and the incredibly fast completion of insurance forms by parents (some emailed within 15 minutes, some driving immediately across the county!!) we were left with the difficult task of selecting our two teams of four.

After much deliberation, it was decided that the fairest way was to hold an interschool competition with the two overall winning teams of Amy Kinderman, Jess Quigley, Charlotte Orledge and Alice Nield (Year 9) and Suzannah Clarke, Shiffa Shahid, Rebecca Young and Blythe Chesworth (Year 10) going forward to represent the school. On the day there were more than 13 teams of schools from all across the county, facing several rounds of questions, including the extremely daunting individual on the spot round.

Both our teams of girls did very well and we are really proud of their efforts, with the Year 10 team finishing in 5th place and the Year 9's (the youngest team there!) in 8th, for which they received a certificate and a Geography badge! (Miss Behan and Miss Taggart)

ONWARDS

Academic Mentoring

This year Academic Mentoring at South Wilts has really taken off and over 100 students have benefitted from having a mentor. At the beginning of the year our main focus was to make mentoring more accessible and to remove any negative preconceptions people may have had about receiving mentoring. We updated the mentor referral forms to make them much more relevant, introduced mentor profiles to make the mentors seem more approachable, and created an email address as an alternative way of contacting us. We even have a pink post box in the LRC! After presenting this in assembly, we saw the referrals flood in, and have had five times the amount of referrals this year compared to previous years. The majority of these have been self-referrals, which was very encouraging for us.

The sixth-formers involved have found it very rewarding to see how even a small amount of input can lead to a tremendous improvement. It has helped many develop their communication skills and become more confident. Being completely student-led, it is easier to establish a relationship based on mutual respect, and mentors can empathise with their mentees, having been in similar situations only a few years before. Students often find sixth-form mentors easier to approach than teachers, and the one-to-one set-up means they can have time to work through something informally with someone at their own pace, which can be difficult in classroom situations.

We now have a 50-strong team, which is entirely managed by the Senior Mentors. It has been a lot more work than we anticipated trying to specifically match mentors to mentees to ensure the best success. We hope the results show this has been worthwhile. As Senior Mentors we have learnt skills in peer management which will be useful for the world of work, and we've discovered first-hand that this impresses universities and employers. We hope to choose an enthusiastic senior mentor team from the current year 12 mentors, who will carry on our work next year and bring their own ideas so the scheme continues to grow. We would also encourage year 11s to apply to be mentors next year, as it has definitely been a positive experience for all those involved this year. We can be contacted at mentor@swgs.wilts.sch.uk (Mei Ling Henry, Charlotte Little, Rachel Tooley and Miranda Kent)

Tenerife

During February half term a group of 17 girls and 7 boys studying AS Geology went on a field trip to Tenerife. The trip got off to an interesting start with torrential rain for two hours on the first morning. However, it provided much entertainment in the minibuses when trying to take photos of the flash floods along the motorway. Mrs Stratton's knowledge of the island proved extremely useful when the weather of rain, mist, hail and snow put a halt to our plans, as she always had a plan B and so the planned itinerary wasn't strictly kept to. We walked across lava flows, got half way around Roques de Garcia and climbed several cindercones. Throughout the week there were competitions such as; find the best volcanic bomb and the biggest olivine crystal, this was helped by the use of lollipop prizes.

Every evening when we got back to the apartments, all 24 students and three teachers wedged ourselves into one of the apartments to have a debriefing of the day's activities. This was made an even more impressive feat by candle light when the whole island had a power cut. Some of the highlights of the trip included, getting a police escort, having a pancake party and writing some geological songs. Overall the trip was a huge success and a big thank you goes to Mrs Ellis and Mr Wheeler and all who had a hand organising the trip. (Isobel Mackay 6JMA)



ONWARDS

Learning Walks

South Wilts students visited Hardenhuish School, Chippenham, on Wednesday 24th February. South Wilts and Hardenhuish School are the only two Lead Gifted and Talented schools in the county, an award that recognises outstanding provision for more able students. This visit allowed our students the opportunity to gain good ideas about teaching and learning that they will present back to the Student Council and to staff.

On Wednesday 10th March twelve Year 8, 9 and 12 students from Colyton Grammar School, Devon visited South Wilts for a Learning Walk. Students were given the opportunity to visit a range of lessons, to tour the school and to discuss differences between our schools. This follows the visit from South Wilts to Colyton last year that resulted in a student-led presentation to staff focusing on the ideas that they had gained from the visit.

Colyton Grammar School is one of our seven South West Academic Trust partners across the South West region. Trust events this year have seen opportunities for teaching staff across the schools to meet in department areas to share resources and teaching and learning ideas. In addition, on our recent February training day, 18 members of our staff visited 5 of the Trust schools to develop partnership links and events. The Trust are also running a Student Voice conference on 1st July at Exeter University where student researchers from all schools will work together to examine and identify key factors for success in a high achieving grammar school, as well as departmental led competitions across the eight schools. (Mrs Harris)



Salisbury Schools' Book Award 2010

Eight local schools and over 100 students took part in the third annual award this year. During January and February 16 of our students read the 6 nominated books and we met up regularly in the LRC to discuss them. Finally we voted for our favourite, which also proved to be the overall winner, *The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins.

Four of our students were lucky enough to go to the Award presentation at St Joseph's School, where the author Sarah Singleton announced the winner. Sarah also gave a short talk on her books and hosted a question and answer session about her books and her work as an author.

The other 5 shortlisted books were: *Pig Heart Boy* by Malorie Blackman, *Once* by Morris Gleitzman, *Girl Missing* by Sophie McKenzie, *Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief* by Rick Riordan and *Century* by Sarah Singleton (Mrs Wood)

Report from Year Seven Book Club

Year Seven Book Club continues to be a thriving group and has had an exciting term! The warmer weather has allowed us to go outside (and eat cake), as well as continuing to enjoy our reading choice this term, *Nation* by Terry Pratchett. All Year Sevens are always welcome at Book Club, whether to discuss the book or just to relax on the beanbags for a lunchtime! We meet every Wednesday at 12.30pm. (Helen McCombie 6SJD & Laura Mason 6PJW)

ONWARDS

Year 10 GCSE D&T

For the third year in a row the Year 10 GCSE D&T Graphics group have entered a national design competition that attracts 25,000 entries from across the UK. The competition is called PrintIt and is sponsored by the printing industries affiliated to an organisation called Proskills dedicated to making skills work for young people. Since entering this annual competition we have always had groups of our girls winning through to the final judging of 12 entries per category. Last year we had three girls through to the grand finals at the Grand Stationers Hall, St Paul's, London.

Although not through to the grand final this year we have just been informed that six (yes six) of our girls won through to the final twelve again this year. From an entry of 25,000 this is quite a remarkable achievement, and as I said last year, it demonstrates the talent and high level of imagination of our girls. Congratulations go to: Emily Gunn, Hattie Yeldon, Jennifer Shone, Victoria Rue, Cathrin Rhind-Tutt and Florence Powell. Each of these girls receives a certificate of excellence. Well done to these girls and to all the girls who took part. Your skills are very marketable. (Mr Crouch)

Final chosen poster design



Sixth Form Production of "The Importance of Being Earnest"

On Thursday 25th February, the students at South Wilts and Bishops taking Drama A-Level put on a production of "The Importance of Being Earnest" especially for Year 9. The play was also performed for everyone else on the 24th and the 26th. The performance was completely run by students and directed by Angharad Walker. They made the extra effort to hire realistic, brilliant costumes that gave the performance a really special effect.

Performed in the Lecture Theatre, there were perfect props: not too many and not too few. They learned their lines to perfection, like true professionals.

Freya Webb, as Lady Bracknell, was particularly intimidating in her role: she played the over-protective and bitter Mother / Aunt. Algernon and Jack, played by Ben Allen and Pete Stanger, were very amusing as they bickered constantly, yet were close friends deep down. Sam Elson was a very convincing love-struck Gwendolen, the daughter of Lady Bracknell. Cecily, Jack's young and beautiful ward, was played perfectly by Keri McNamara and her governess Miss Prism was portrayed convincingly by Flossie House. Kester Clarke played the part of Dr Chasuble, who is in love with Miss Prism.

Matthew Joslin had the roles of Merriman and Lane, having to play two characters.

Our favourite part of the play was the ending, because everyone and everything was happy. Algernon and Cecily became wed, as did Jack and Gwendolyn. Jack discovered his Mother and his true identity, and Lady Bracknell became a much nicer sort. All in all, it was a great production and we were very fortunate to be able to see it. (Emma Blackburn and Mia Lacey 9E)



Pro Corda National Chamber Music Competition

Following the first round held on 1st February, the Woric Quartet (Erika Holden, Alice Poppleton, Emily Tan, Hannah Bonney) were then invited to take part in the regional under-19 semi-finals, held at Bryanston School, and received a very impressive adjudication.

We are extremely grateful to Jane Parsons who tutors the quartets regularly. (Mrs Poppleton)

ONWARDS

Instrumental Concert

Our instrumental groups gave a warmly received and well attended concert on 11th March. Senior Orchestra performed several pieces and, in particular, gave some of our leaving girls opportunities to play solos with orchestral accompaniment.

Phoebe Willshire played the trumpet solo in an arrangement of Puccini's *Nessun Dorma*, producing a fine, rich tone. Catherine Ludlam and Alison Rogers gave a charming and sparkling performance of Gluck's *Concerto for Two Flutes in G* and Mary Price and Rachel Tooley sounded beautiful in the oboe solos in Morricone's *Gabriel's Oboe*.

The orchestra also gave accomplished performances of Elgar's *Nimrod*, Tchaikovsky's *Sleeping Beauty* and the 2nd movement of his 6th Symphony. The Guitar Group, directed by Mr Wilkinson, played two very effective pieces, with singing from their excellent vocalist Bethany Woolgrove. Training Orchestra played part of Vivaldi's *Seasons* and Sondheim's *Send in the Clowns* with great style and verve.

The Chamber Orchestra, under the direction of Mr Parsons, were exquisite in their performances of Nielsen's *Praeludium* and Vivaldi's *Concerto for Four Violins* with outstanding violin solos from Rose Adams, Iona Macdonald, Lydia Sargent and Bryony Swinger. The Hart and Worric String Quartets, coached by Mrs Parsons, Wind Quintet, coached by Mrs Wiseman, and Saxophone Duet also played beautifully and gave us a most enjoyable and varied programme. The evening concluded with an exciting and confident performance of *Pirates of the Caribbean* from Wind Band. We were, as ever, very grateful to all who contributed to making the evening such a successful and happy occasion by joining us to direct, play and help. (Mrs Poppleton)



Instrumental Concert - 11th March

Bach – B Minor Mass

A Cappella joined the Salisbury Music Society to sing Bach's *B Minor Mass* in Salisbury Cathedral on 27th March under the baton of David Halls.

This work is notoriously challenging but also extremely beautiful and the girls have worked very hard to learn so much music so soon after our last concert in January, it has been a very enriching and thrilling experience and the performance was brilliant. (Mrs Poppleton)

Individual Success

Associated music exams have been held in school again this term and all girls who took exams were successful. Many girls also took individual exams at the Salisbury centre. The following girls achieved grade 8: Alice Poppleton – Violin with distinction; Emily Tan – Viola with distinction. (Mrs Poppleton)

ONWARDS

Football

Football Festival 2010 - 24 girls attended the football festival on 9th March at Salisbury City Football Club.

The Year 8/9 team performed extremely well having the majority of possession in all their games, and they finished 3rd in the competition - Zoe Maylin, Lizzie Clifford, Bryony Osborne, Emma Beck, Becky Gwyther, Lidia Fedyszyn, Alice Elgar, Hope Mayhew, Clover Crosse, Keeley Clayton, Eliza Crosse and Amber Goodwin. The Year 10/11 team didn't lose a game in the tournament, they performed extremely well as a team and won the competition. They will now go on to the county final after Easter - Lottie Wells, Georgie Dollittle, Louise Funnell, Elisabeth Reap, Laura Jack, Holly Kirkam, Hannah Kirkham, Lucy Butt, Vicky Cox, Lily Rose, Georgia Hedge and Helen Tunncliffe. (Miss Salen)

23rd Bryanston School Relays

Senior girls placed 5th & 6th out of 20 (Lucy Butt, Holly Kirkham, Vicky James and Amy McDermott, Hannah Kirkham, Amy Greaves).

The composite squad were 1st place in their event (3 minutes ahead of the next team!) Lizzie Clifford, Emma Clarke, Nicole Esdaile, Imogen Wolsey. The junior squad also won their event with an impressive 30 second lead on the next team - Phoebe Kalik, Georgina Holman & Sophie Kalik. (Miss Salen)

Report from Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Planning Weekend at Oxenwood

The mission of over 100 Year 10 students embarking on their bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award, which they chose to accept, was to enjoy (or survive) a weekend at Oxenwood Outdoor Educational Centre and complete any outstanding paperwork for their expeditions.



For some, the weekend was a happy experience with their friends in the great outdoors. For others, it was a challenge to overcome in a very muddy campsite that took determination to complete, but it was a proud moment when they did. Only a minority of the weekend was spent doing paperwork, the rest was spent enjoying the beautiful surrounding countryside in largely good weather - the predicted 40 mph winds and heavy rain never arrived, to the delight of many. It was a good chance for the groups to go out unsupervised by themselves and get lost in some picturesque areas (little did they know a team of leaders was frantically driving around the same triangle of roads for two hours to check everyone was fine). Many were surprised at how well their navigational skills fared, and few got lost, to the relief of the leaders.

As evening fell, the leaders took everyone out on a trip down the appropriately named Spooky Alley, where shadows of decrepit trees framed a path of shallow mud, to get a taste of night hiking. I am pleased to report all survived this particular part of the weekend and were welcomed back with warm hot chocolate and Sandra's famous chocolate brownies.

Overall, a consensus was reached that the weekend was a great experience, and everyone took away humorous memories of a worthwhile trip. (Laura Mason 6PJW)

Swimming

National swimming relay finals - after competing in the regional relay championships at Millfield, Gabby Pountney, Gemma Currie, Louise Davidson, and Nicole Esdaile qualified for the National relay finals in Coventry on 6th February for both the freestyle and medley relays.

The girls faced stiff competition and all performed fantastically well, finishing 9th in county for the freestyle relay and 11th in the medley relay. (Miss Salen)



ONWARDS

GB Schools' Biathlon

GB Schools' Biathlon Finals at Crystal Palace on March 21st - The Year 10 team (Emily Kalik, Nicole Esdaile, Louise Davidson) came 2nd in the Schools Finals but are keen to go for gold next year! Also competing were Hannah Drewett (Year 12), Sophie Kalik (Year 8), Phoebe Kalik (Year 7). A fantastic day was enjoyed by everyone – the competition was fierce and many of the girls achieved personal bests in their swim or run.

Considering the many thousands of entrants across the country, South Wilts should be extremely proud to have 6 girls who made it to the GB Finals. (Miss Salen)



Hockey

Yr7 hockey 'A' squad placed 1st in the Salisbury festival – Tilly Clarke, Milly Watson, Izzy Dickson, Immie Collins, Phoebe Kalik, Frances Elgar, Hannah Richards, Emma Haskins. The 'B' squad placed equal 5th but have made significant improvement to their standard of play over the season – Alicia Vidal, Tasha White, Nadia Ghauri, Niamh Aarons, Lucy Cooper, Anna Rolfe, Selena Jessop, Catriona Richards, Hannah Porter.

Interform Hockey

Year 7 competition winners 7E, runners up 7A

Year 8 competition winners 8N, runners up 8A.

Year 9 competition winners 9B,



Netball

SWGS have teams in the Wiltshire County Netball tournament in Swindon on Friday 26th March from Years 7,8,10,&11 having placed 1st or 2nd in the Salisbury festival. League results to follow in the next newsletter when we receive them. The U19 squads placed 1st ('A' team) and 3rd ('B' team) in the Salisbury festival. Charlie Bradley, Mamie Attwell Thomas, Emma Redgrove, Fleur Southwood, Rosie Peters, Emily Brown, Lydia Griffiths, and Aine Tiernan, Vicky James, Steph Tomkies, Rebecca Goddard, Jess Wheeler, Karina Roche, Sam Batten, Gemma Young, Hannah Vaughan.

The U19 netball squad placed 3rd in a schools tournament at Hampshire Collegiate (lost in the semi finals to the eventual winners) – Rosie Peters, Gemma Young, Emma Redgrove, Charlie Bradley, Fleur Southwood, Mamie Attwell Thomas, Rebecca Goddard, Hannah Vaughan and Vicky James.

Well done to the U14A netball team who narrowly missed out by 1 goal on second place in their festival. Great improvement over the season and a likely second place in the league overall. Well done to the U14B team who came 4th.

Interform netball – Year 7 'A' competition winners 7E, runners up 7N, 'B' competition winners 7B, runners up 7N; Year 8 'A' competition winners 8N, runners up 8B, 'B' competition winners 8N, runners up 8B; Year 9 competition winners 9E, runners up 9A. (Miss Salen)

ONWARDS

Cross Country

Sophie Kalik, Emma Clarke, Emily Kalik, Flo Powell, Imogen Wolsey, Amy Greaves, Charlotte Williamson, Rebecca Parfrey & Sophie Davie represented Wiltshire in the South West Counties cross country in Truro on 27th February. Sophie, Imogen, (photo right), Amy, Charlotte, Rebecca & Sophie took it one step further after performing well in Truro and were selected to run in the English Schools' Cross Country Finals in Manchester on Saturday 20th March. Conditions were dreadful but the girls are to be commended for making it all the way to the pinnacle of the schools cross country championship.

A fantastic achievement, we are very lucky to have such talented & committed girls. (Miss Salen)



PE / Sports Kits

There have been several complaints from parents about items of PE kit which have gone missing from PE bags in the cloakrooms. These items may have been borrowed by other students who have forgotten their own kit.

We are aware of this issue and a spot check on PE kit was carried out recently with a year 8 class. Whilst it did not throw up any cases of students wearing another student's PE kit, it highlighted many examples of unmarked PE kit.

If PE kit goes astray it can be returned quickly and easily if all items are clearly marked, including trainers. If items are marked on the outside as well as the inside, they are unlikely to be worn by another student. All kit needs to be kept in a suitable named PE bag – not in a plastic carrier bag.

Students need to ensure that all their PE kit is at school on the correct day and should not borrow items from other students. (Mrs Passam)



Help Needed with Mock Interviews for University

Every autumn students in Year 13 are offered a practice interview for Higher Education and we rely heavily on parents to help with this. Could you spare a couple of hours in October? We particularly need people with relevant experience to interview students applying for medical / veterinary courses, law, engineering, psychology and social science, but experience in any arts, humanities or science subjects would be very welcome too. If you think you could help please contact Lorraine Voce by letter, or e-mail her at lev@swgs.wilts.sch.uk

SWGS Uniform shop

Telephone number: 01722 343774
E-mail: uniform@swgs.wilts.sch.uk
Website: www.swgs.wilts.sch.uk
The term time opening hours are:
Tuesday 8.30am to 9.30am
Thursday 12.00 to 1.00pm
First Saturday of each month 9.30am to 11.30am at SWGS

Lost Property

Parents are reminded to name all property belonging to their daughters which comes into school.

All named items brought to Lost Property are returned to girls quickly. However, anything unnamed remains until it is claimed, or is kept for two terms and then disposed of. Items such as coats, trainers, lunch boxes, pencil cases, umbrellas are often not named and, therefore, cannot be returned to girls. (Mrs Taylor)

ONWARDS

What do you think of the Uniform Shop?

I hope you agree with us that to have access to school uniform onsite is a valuable asset. We benefit greatly from this facility in terms of the service we can offer to parents, and new parents in particular. It also enables us to give financial assistance to anyone in need of help with the provision of uniform. It is in all our interests that the uniform shop runs as efficiently as possible with the most appropriate opening hours.

The current opening hours are Tuesdays 8.30 to 9.30am, Thursdays 12.00 to 1.00pm and the 1st Saturday of each month 9.30 to 11.30am. However, usage data shows that from September 2008 – 2009 the average number of customers on a Tuesday is only 4. The suggestions below have been put forward by the Direct Clothing Company who run the shop in response to this analysis of shop usage. Please would you indicate your views below.

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Reduce weekday opening days to Thursday only (please tick)

No opinion		Agree		Disagree	
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Reduce Saturday opening times from 9.30am to 11.30am to 9.30am – 10.30am

No opinion		Agree		Disagree	
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Are there any other comments you would like to make about the school uniform or the school uniform shop: (please return to Mrs Stammers via your daughter or e-mail to cms@swgs.wilts.sch.uk)

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School Comms / Parent Mail

In addition to your views on the Uniform Shop we would like to seek your views on the recent increase in the number of communications from school via Parent Mail / School Comms.

Do you feel that this development has enhanced the communication between home and school?

Are you happy to receive the newsletter via e mail, and if so would you prefer a file to be attached to the e mail, or a link given to its location on the website?

Please note your comments below: (please return to Mrs Stammers via your daughter or e-mail to cms@swgs.wilts.sch.uk)

Home/School communications:

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