

Enrichment opportunities at South Wilts Grammar School Sixth Form

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

Music

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

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

Sport

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

- Tennis
- Equestrian
- Athletics
- Football
- Netball
- Swimming
- Cross-country, with a number of students taking part in the National Cross Country event.
- The Duke of Edinburgh Award plays a central role in school life.

Academic

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

- Young Enterprise, which seeks to develop students' business skills
- Business Competition, run by the Institute of Chartered Accountants, in which the SWGS team made it through to the final
- Bank of England Competition, for Business students, who gave presentations on various economic issues
- Chemistry Challenge
- Physics Olympiad
- Lectures: students have been taken to lectures in a variety of subjects

- Visits in a number of departments, to enhance students' learning, the History visit to Washington, the German visit to Berlin, English Literature theatre trip, , a number of Geography field trips
- Linguistics Olympiad
- British Mathematical Olympiad, which is by invitation only
- Senior Maths Challenge, which was entered by 79 sixth form students
- Encouraging students to apply for scholarships. One Mathematics student was awarded a CMI-PROMYS Scholarship for July/August 2014 and spent six weeks at an intensive summer school in Boston University, USA, followed by a week's summer school at Oxford University. This is a very prestigious scholarship: only 10 scholarships are awarded in the EU.
- For students taking the Extended Project Qualification, there have been talks delivered by lecturers from Southampton University, as well as a visit to the university itself for a research day

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

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

Careers and Higher Education

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

- Dr Paul Drinkwater, from the University of Southampton, speaking on 'choosing the right university'
- Dr Harriet Jones, from UEA, talking about MOOCs
- Johnny Rich, the founder of PUSH, the independent universities website
- Dr Andrew Bell, from Gonville and Caius, to talk to and encourage students to apply to Oxbridge
- Schools Liaison and Access Officer at Merton College, Oxford, to talk on life at Oxbridge
- We organise an Oxbridge Conference, attended by students from 11 different secondary schools in Wiltshire, Dorset and Hampshire
- We have had a wide variety of speakers from the world of work, as well.
- As well as this, over the course of the last year, we have organised a number of visits to universities. This includes taking the whole of Year 12 on a day visit to the University of Cardiff and day trips to Oxford, Cambridge and Southampton University.

International links

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

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

Citizenship Conference

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

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