

# Gardening isn't rocket science - or is it?

Our horticultural students have planted Rocket seeds as part of an experiment with astronaut Tim Peake.

SWR is taking part in a nationwide research project to see how gravity affects the seeds, and to encourage children to get more involved in science.

In September last year, 2kg of Rocket seeds were flown to the International Space Station on Soyuz 44S where they spent several months in microgravity before returning to Earth last month.

Using a booklet containing scientific experiment guidelines, SWR horticultural students will grow 100 seeds that have spent six months on board the Space Station with British European Space Agency astronaut Tim Peake and 100 seeds that have remained on Earth. They will take a number of specific measurements during a 35-day growing period and record these on a wall chart.



"Pupils won't know which seed packet contains which seeds until all results have been collected by the RHS Campaign for School Gardening and analysed by professional biostatisticians," says SWR's teacher of horticulture, Mr Courtice.

The UK Space Agency says it hopes the science experiment will enable young people to think more about what astronauts need to survive long-term missions in space and the difficulties surrounding growing fresh food in challenging climates.

ABOVE: SWR's 'Rocket Man' with students Tobi Vickery-Cummings, Connor Braddock (back) and Ashley Burrows (front) proudly showing off the trays of seeds.

ABOVE LEFT: Tim Peake.

## Mr Davies is nominated for Teacher of the Year



*"He makes lessons fun and lets you be more creative!"*  
SWR's Colin Davies – nominated for Teacher of the Year

Colin Davies, SWR's Creatives Leader of Learning, has been nominated for the Wilts and Gloucestershire Standard's Teacher of the Year competition.

Mr Davies (36) has been teaching at the school for nearly 12 years. Prior to that he studied Visual Communication at the Birmingham City University.

Mr Davies said he was "amazed" to be nominated for the newspaper's award and that to be singled out from other "worthy" teachers was a humbling experience.

"Sir William Romney's is such a small school and is part of a lively community. You know everybody and you get to learn what motivates students – that is something bigger schools perhaps miss out on," he explains.

"The school has also been recently judged 'good' by Ofsted and all of the teachers have contributed towards that."

Mr Davies teaches all GCSE Art students at the school. The subject is popular, with nearly half of each year group opting to take the subject every year.

The percentage of GCSE Art students getting A\* to C grades has been 90 per cent or over for the last five years.

"I like spending time with students. They all have really interesting characters and I like to think I give them confidence so they will give things a go. They respond to praise and that is an important factor of teaching, showing them that they can produce amazing work," he concludes.

### *Music to our ears ...*

**Congratulations to the following students on their music exam results:**

Year 7: Layla Jordan: Saxophone - Grade 2 with Distinction.

Year 8: Rhianna Sumpter: Flute - Grade 5.

Year 9: Tegan O'Connor: Clarinet - Grade 5; Emily Saunders: Trombone - Grade 3 with Distinction; Mimi Saunders: Music Theory - Grade 5 with Merit.





## Red Robins kept bobbin' along to raise money ...

*Thumbs-up from Ross Perks at the start of the journey from Land's End to John O'Groats.*

Congratulations to Ross Perks in Yr 7 who, with his family, recently completed a road trip from Land's End to John O'Groats in three red Robin Reliants and a Mini.

Each year the Perks family raise money for charity in memory of Ross's uncle Jordan who died in 2011 aged just 11. At the time of going to press £1 300 had been raised for the Tetbury Play Group to help buy new windows and extra

play equipment for the building.

"Many young families in and around Tetbury have relied on and supported the play group, and this was a chance to truly help and give them something back," said Ross's grandfather Cliff Perks.

All of the Reliants lived up to their name as the family smashed their 48-hour target by completing the 1 800 mile journey in under 24 hours, despite two bonnets being

blown off and a bale-out when smoke started to billow from one – but luckily it was only steam from the wet carpets!

Also along for the ride with Cliff and his wife Debra were sons Neil and Thomas, Thomas' partner Amy, Natasha, an apprentice at Cliff's business, and her partner – as well as their two dogs!

## 'Eggcellent' attendance!



Congratulations to the 121 students who achieved 100% attendance during the Spring term. Our three lucky winners whose names were drawn out of the hat were Rhiannon Ward (left) and Fin Fowler (right) who won Easter Eggs, and Amber Potter who walked away with the star prize of a fantastic Pilot tablet. Thanks again to the Co-op in Tetbury for donating all the prizes.

## Homework - it's time to change for years 7, 8 and 9!

Homework provides students with opportunities to reinforce key ideas, concepts and skills undertaken in lessons as well as offering a valuable opportunity to develop their research skills and become independent learners.

Therefore, having undertaken a considerable amount of research, homework practice at SWR is about to change. With the exception of Science all other subjects at key stage 3 will be moving to the carousel system that some of the subjects such as Geography and History currently follow. To find out more follow this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k0K84DN-RFw&feature=youtu.be>

Timetables clearly linked to your child's learning journey can be found below. As you can see these changes will be brought in from May 2 until the end of the summer term. Please note that if your child's homework is late (apart from absence on the day of handing it in) it will result in your child not being able to gain any house points for that piece of work. You will then receive a text allowing your child a 48-hour extension. The next step is a one-hour after-school detention.

On a more positive note, these changes have been welcomed by students and staff, and I hope that you find the new system much easier in supporting your child at home with their extended learning. If you have any feedback, please do not hesitate to contact me at: [t.lynham@swr.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:t.lynham@swr.gloucs.sch.uk)

• Mrs Lynham



### UK Maths Challenge success

Recently 30 students from Year 9 and 10 took part in the Intermediate UK Maths Challenge, which is a gruelling series of multiple choice problems.

Alex Williams and Peter Vater from Year 10 and Archie Lammas from Year 9 achieved a Bronze Certificate, while Alden Palmer in Year 10 was awarded a prestigious Silver Certificate.

Well done to all those who took part – a certificate in the Intermediate Maths Challenge is a real achievement that is nationally recognised.

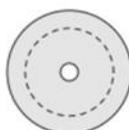
Try this Intermediate Maths Challenge question for yourself:

The shaded region in the diagram, bounded by two concentric circles, is called an *annulus*. The circles have radii 2 cm and 14 cm.

The dashed circle divides the area of this annulus into two equal areas.

What is its radius?

A 9 cm B 10 cm C 11 cm D 12 cm E 13 cm



Year 7 – Homework		
2nd May	English, Geography, French	
16th May	Maths, DT, IT	
6th June	English, Art, Drama	
20th June	Maths, Music, History	
11th July	English, RE	
Year 8 - Homework		
2nd May	Maths, DT, Drama	
16th May	English, Art, History	
6th June	Maths, RE, IT	
20th June	English, Geography, French	
11th July	Maths, Music,	
Year 9 - Homework		
2nd May	English, Art	
16th May	Maths, Drama, French	
6th June	DT, IT, English	
20th June	Maths, Geography, History & RE	
11th July	English, German	

### The right medicine for Ben



Congratulations to former SWR student Ben Geers who will be studying medicine at Manchester University from September.

Ben did very well with his A levels and achieved an A\* in biology and A's in maths and chemistry at Marling sixth form.

"We're extremely proud of Ben and his achievements and would like to thank all the teachers and the learning support department who helped, supported and encouraged him to do so well at Sir William Romney's," said his mother Anne.

"His strengths were focused on, allowing him to reach his full potential. We are very grateful to SWR."

## Short story

### winners . . .

**Congratulations to the following winners in our short story competition:**

**First: 'Run' by Jack Thorn – Year 7 (Orion)**

You're getting tired now. Your legs are numb from the aching cold. The wind howls through the cornfield, rustling the stalks. You sit down and think of what could have been. The consequences of your actions weigh heavily upon you. It was a mistake, an accident, nothing more. You tell yourself that, but the cold knife dripping with scarlet blood only reminds you. What's next? Will you run from your actions? You hear the whirl of rotors and a shot rings out, blood drips from your chest and you fall to the ground. A fitting end for a killer.

**Second: 'Listen' by Eve Pelton Lennox – Year 11 (Andromeda)**

Are you listening? They are. You wouldn't notice them, nor would any with sense enough to call themselves human. But as darkness shrouds the world in endless, choking clouds, and nought but the hum of absence of life can be heard, they come. A breath alighting on your ear, and a dead fish's eyes. Hovering, resting on the corners of your vision. Fear not, for they live in your very skin, clawing, clammy. Gaze not upon them, for they hold a power you couldn't comprehend, and hear your pulse as a siren. Are you listening? It could be too late.

**Third: 'Nameless' by Anonymous – Year 9 (Pegasus)**

She woke up with a gasp, covered in her own blood. It was everywhere, soaking into her thick, cream duvet, coating the room's floors. She touched her torso, letting her hands slip up her top to check for a stab wound. Her chest heaved in and out; she was breathing so hard that it hurt and she wished for her lungs to collapse into themselves and fall apart with her heart. That's when her eyes blinked open and she was greeted with the familiar sight of white, cushioned walls and floors.

## It's poetry in motion for Year 8s



Earlier this month the whole of Year 8 were treated to a day off timetable to explore the art of Performance Poetry.

We had the pleasure of hosting not one but two published poets who began the day by sharing some of their poetry with us and discussing a few of their inspirations before setting about developing the linguistic skills of the students.

Throughout the day students were set various tasks aimed at getting them accustomed to not only writing poetry but performing it to a crowd. The day was a great success with the students learning a lot about the art of poetry and getting a chance to really get 'stuck in'.

As always, they really rose to the challenge! Spoz (The poet leading the event) repeatedly commented on their excellent behaviour and fantastic creativity and the final performances were really impressive – some even quite emotional!

The day culminated in an exciting poetry slam with hollers and whoops aplenty from the students in the audience (and some of the teachers). Having given themselves a suitable poetic name, groups pitted their poetry prowess against one another on the topic of 'Voices and Visions'.

'A Little Nation' (as in alliteration), a team made up of Maia Cockell, Sonny Cook, David Mason, Amber Motti, Jacob Scotford and Lara Woods (pictured above with Spoz) emerged victorious, impressing the judges with their choice of subject matter and their performance. They won not only a bunch of house points for themselves but a couple of copies of the poet's work for everyone to enjoy in the library.

It was great to see students so enthused about poetry. Feedback from the year group has been extremely positive and we look forward to organising similar events in the future!

• **Mr Skipp**



Year 9 student Will Jones was a member of the Chalford Youth Band who won the national Youth Brass Championships in Manchester earlier this month.

Chalford played five pieces, with Will on principal cornet, and were up against 12 other bands from around the UK.

However, they wowed the audience – and the judges – to win the event for the second time in five years.

## Something to trumpet about . . .



The second PTFA Student Quiz Night was a great success with over 65 students from years 7-9 competing in rounds such as movie quotes, TV theme tunes, teachers as toddlers, sport and guess the logo.

- 1-Teachers as Toddlers
  - 2-Disney Movie Quotes
  - 3-Sport
  - 4-TV Theme Tunes
- PIZZA!
- 5-Logos
  - 6-Art Skills
- Raffle!
- 7-Generals Know



The winning team this year was 'Blank Space' who edged out 'That Dank Gist' by only one point!

With a fantastic tuck bar and pizzas at half-time, lots of fun was had by all. Hugh Chidley in Year 8 said: "It was good fun, the prizes were really good – even though we didn't win – and there was a great tuck bar too!"

Raffle prizes included vouchers from Cherish Salon, The Priory Inn, The Cotswold Water Park, Rush Skate Park, Vue Cinemas and iTunes. Inset picture: Our intrepid quiz masters Messrs Dorber and Blackwood.

## Trip reminders

**Y10 Iceland Trip** – please send in any outstanding money. Passports need to be handed into the main office.

**Y7 Normandy Trip** – monthly payments of £50 continue. Please ensure Collective Passport Application form is handed into the main office as soon as possible.

**Y8 Bude Trip** – monthly payments of £55 continue

**Y11 Prom** - Full payment is required by Friday, May 13.

Payments can be made via cheque or online using the SIMS Agora online payment system. If you require a new activation code please contact the main office or email [s.jones@swr.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:s.jones@swr.gloucs.sch.uk)

## Hosts needed for Spanish students

Four students from Catalonia will be joining SWR in September this year. They have a legal guardian in the UK who lives locally and is a family friend / relation of the students. She is looking for families in the school catchment area who might be interested in hosting the students for the 2016-2017 academic year (September 2016 to June 2017). Families will be paid for hosting to cover living expenses, etc.

The students concerned are a Year 11 boy and two sisters, one in Year 11 and the other in Year 10. The other student is a Year 10 girl. The expectation is that the sisters would be hosted by the same family. If you would be interested then please contact Estel Font on 07880581485 and she will provide more details.

### Sir William Romney's School, Tetbury

Lowfield Road

Tetbury

Gloucestershire

GL8 8AE

Telephone: 01666 502378

Fax: 01666 505864

#### Email:

[admin@swr.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:admin@swr.gloucs.sch.uk)

#### Website:

[www.swr.gloucs.sch.uk](http://www.swr.gloucs.sch.uk)

#### Editor

Peter Harvey

[p.harvey@swr.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:p.harvey@swr.gloucs.sch.uk)

#### Do you have some news?

All contributions are considered for inclusion in this newsletter.

Please email the editor



**Barn Dance**  
in  
Horsley Village Hall  
with a **HOG ROAST**  
and **REAL ALE BAR**  
7 til 11 PM  
on  
**Saturday 4th June**  
**HOP ALONG**  
and enjoy the fun!  
With Local 4 Piece Band  
**FINNEGAN'S WOK**

**£20**  
per ticket  
(includes full hog roast,  
veggie option on request)

SWR Students fundraising for a volunteer trip to borneo  
**Saving the wildlife!**

For tickets email [riferrier@waitrose.com](mailto:riferrier@waitrose.com) or  
pop into Armed and Gorgeous in Nailsworth



## Ultimate Frisbee Training £1.00/session

Ultimate Frisbee Training focusses on all aspects of the sport from passing and catching to tactics and rules, you will learn new skills and improve on existing ones.  
Ages 11-18years

Every Monday  
(excluding school holidays)

5pm – 6pm  
at  
The Rec; near youth club Pod

9<sup>th</sup> May, 16<sup>th</sup> May, 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 6<sup>th</sup> Jun, 13<sup>th</sup> Jun, 20<sup>th</sup> Jun,  
27<sup>th</sup> Jun, 4<sup>th</sup> Jul, 11<sup>th</sup> Jul and the 18<sup>th</sup> Jul

Your Ultimate Frisbee coach for this club will be Damien.  
For further information and to book a space,  
call Mandy 07968591912



The People's Pod

## LUNCHTIME CLUBS

DAY	YEAR	WHAT	WHERE
Monday	All Years	Orchestra	MU1
	Years 10 & 11	Multigym	Sports Hall
	All Years	FutureTechGirls (Week A) Coding Club (Week B)	IT1 IT1
Tuesday	Year 7	Football	Outside
		Hockey	Sports Hall
	All Years	Creative Writing (1.30 - 2pm)	Library
	Year 7	German Club	H1
	All Years	Choir	MU1
Wednesday	All Years	Ukulele	MU2
	All Years	Freeball and Multigym	Sports Hall
	All Years	Christian Club	H5
		Graphics	AR2
Thursday	All Years girls & boys	Badminton	Sports Hall
	All Years	Maths Club	IT3
Friday	Recorder Lunch	Keyboards Breaktime	MU2
	Year 10 & 11	Multigym	Gym
	KS4 Boys	Indoor Football	Sports Hall

## AFTER-SCHOOL CLUBS

Monday	All Years	English Support (4.20pm)	EN3
	All Years	Creative Writing (3.30 - 4.30pm)	Library
Tuesday	KS3	Senior Choir	MU1
	KS3	Football and Hockey	Outside
	All Years	Maths drop-in sessions (4.20pm)	MA3
	All Years	Tech Club	
	GCSE	ICT	IT1
	All Years	Homework Club	Library
	All Years	Girls Football	Starts 1 Dec Courts
Wednesday	KS4 Girls	Aerobics/Circuits	Gym
	KS4	Tech Club	
	Year 8	Year 8 Club	EN4
	Grade 5 Theory exam	Music Theory	MU2
Thursday	Years 10 and 11	Graphics Freehand /Tech Drawing	DT
	All Years	Homework Club	Library
	<b>Bugsy Thursday AND Friday after school</b>	by invitation/appointment for soloists and groups	MU1/2