

20 May 2016

New headteacher Jon Bell is appointed

A warm welcome to Jon Bell who has been appointed headteacher of Sir William Romney's School.

Mr Bell, aged 41, has been deputy headteacher at Brimsham Green School in South Gloucestershire for the last five years and succeeds SWR's current head Steven Mackay who will take up the position of headteacher at Oldfield School in Bath in September.

Married, with two young sons, Mr Bell started his career 20 years ago in the West Midlands, teaching History at schools in Solihull before moving to Yate in 2011 to take up the position of deputy headteacher at Brimsham Green School.

He is passionate about teaching that inspires students to maximise their full potential and his particular interest lies in developing positive attitudes to learning to maximise students' achievement. This passion for learning is shared by his wife who teaches in a local primary school.

"I am delighted to be joining Sir William Romney's School. Following a recent good OFSTED report, and impressive GCSE results, I look forward to leading the school to further



academic and extra-curricular successes alongside our committed staff, students, parents and the local community," he said.

"I believe that, with a positive mindset, every child can achieve more than even they believe is possible. My aim is to ensure that Sir William Romney's School provides the care, inspiration and challenge to enable that achievement for all our students."

Mr Bell will be working extremely closely with Mr Mackay, staff and students throughout the summer

months to ensure a smooth transition before he takes up his post in September.

Mrs Roz Goodwin, chair of SWR's Governing Body, commented: "We are absolutely committed to providing the children at Sir William Romney's School with the very best educational experience that we can deliver.

"We have appointed a worthy successor who will continue Steven Mackay's great work and take us on the next phase of our journey towards even greater success in the coming years."



Sir William Romney's School

THIS IS A **GOOD** SCHOOL

OFSTED MARCH 2016

"Impressive range of opportunities"

"Strong and effective leadership"

"Lessons are well planned and delivered"

"Very safe place"

"Good teaching means pupils make rapid progress." Ofsted 2016



Tel: 01666 502378
swr.gloucs.sch.uk

"All parents surveyed would recommend the school."



Vote now for SWR's Teacher of the Year finalists!



are doing a good job - although, I don't like to shout about the work I do, so it's a bit embarrassing too!

The 10 Cotswolds finalists will be profiled over the next couple of weeks in the newspaper and the winner will receive a trophy presented by MP Geoffrey Clifton-Brown and a meal for two and an overnight stay at the Royal Oak in Tetbury.

The voting deadline is June 3, 2016, so to vote for Mrs Gibson or Mr Davies, please fill in the form in any copy of the Wilts & Glos Standard or print out and use the form below and post it to:

Teacher of the Year, Wilts & Glos Standard, 74 Dyer Street,

Cirencester GL7 2PW.

The gloves are off as Mrs Gibson and Mr Davies battle it out for the Cotswolds Teacher of the Year Award

Top marks to SWR's Science teacher Mrs Gibson and Creatives Leader of Learning Mr Davies who have reached the finals of the Cotswolds Teacher of the Year competition.

The award is being organised by the Wilts & Glos Standard newspaper and the teachers were nominated for their skill and dedication by pupils, parents, staff and residents across the Cotswolds.

Mrs Gibson said her nomination had come "as a bit of a shock and I am so chuffed I could burst!" She has been teaching Biology, Chemistry and Physics at SWR for 16 years and also helps to train trainee teachers.

"I am passionate that all pupils should aspire to do as well as they can, regardless of their background. I try to make my subject as accessible and relevant to all pupils and believe that it's the most important thing that pupils who pass through the school leave with choices in their lives," she said.

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

He commented: "I am extremely happy to be recognised for my teaching. It's always nice to know when people think you

A voting form for the Teacher of the Year award. The form is on a light blue background with a dashed border. At the top, there is a graphic of a chalkboard with the words 'TEACHER OF THE YEAR' written on it in white chalk. Above the chalkboard are illustrations of school supplies: a magnifying glass, a pencil, a paint palette, a clock, and a ruler. Below the graphic, there are three sections for text entry, each with a dotted line for the answer:
CHOSEN TEACHER
SCHOOL
YOUR NAME
At the bottom right of the form, the word 'Standard' is written in a large, bold, serif font, with 'Wilts and Gloucestershire' in a smaller font underneath it.

Our new House murals are a work of art!

Our talented Year 8 students in the after-school Art Club have used the winning House designs in a combination of paint, spray stencilling, drawing and collage to create murals on a large scale for the school hall.

Congratulations to Ella Baker, Elinor Bryan, Hugh Chidley, Sadie Clarke, Maia Cockell, Juliet Cooper, Daisy Farthing, Maddie Farthing, Bea Herbert, Elsie Heslop, Anastasia McMahon, Hattie Nixon, Ruby Russell, Rhianna Sumpter, Janie Syrett and Courtney Weeks on this outstanding work.

“The standard of the artwork that the Year 8 students managed to achieve far exceeded my expectations. The murals look like they were created by GCSE students,” said SWR’s Creatives Leader of Learning, Mr Davies.



Anyone for yoga?

A reminder that Miss Hopson runs Year 11 yoga classes on Wednesday lunchtimes at 1:30pm in the Drama Studio and teacher classes in the Library on Thursdays at 8am.

The secrets of Bletchley Park

Some of our Year 8 and 9 students recently made an exciting trip to Bletchley Park, the home of British codebreaking in World War 2 and the birthplace of modern information technology.

The students were treated to an inspirational workshop on codes and ciphers and were then given a tour of the highly atmospheric sights and sounds of the Bletchley Park facility, including the office of computing pioneer Alan Turing and the codebreaking huts where the Enigma messages were decrypted, translated and analysed.

Mr Dorber, Mr Blackwood, Mrs Staples and the students thoroughly enjoyed the trip and the opportunity to get 'hands on' with some of the displays.



Elsie's on the ball at Forest Green Rovers ...

Year 8 student Elsie Heslop, who represents SWR as an ambassador for Forest Green Rovers, was on target recently when she was named Ambassador of the Year (Secondary Schools) runner-up in the football club's Schools Ambassadors Scheme.

This was a fitting reward for the work Elsie has done this season, including writing match reports for the monthly Avening Villager magazine and for contributing to two match day programmes.



FEEDBACK REQUEST TO ALL YEAR 10 & 11 PARENTS

Calling all Year 10 & 11 parents ... please may we have your feedback on parents' evenings and interim reports?

To participate, fill in this online survey to let us know how you feel about the changes made this year:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/3JW898R>

9/11 tragedy inspires our promising poets

My year 10 class worked as a team to create this wonderful poem. It was inspired by the 9/11 tragedy and it clearly struck a chord with these talented pupils. This truly was a joint effort from start to finish – what an impressive bunch of students we have!

• Miss Scourfield

Right place, wrong time by Y10s

As time goes by, I

Stand here and cry.

Knowing that my heart

Isn't gonna be beating

Within the minute

Scares the life out of me!

I am panicking, panicking. Smoke is

All around me. Where to go?

What to do? You

Can't run away,

All you can do is stand and pray.

Fear, fear everywhere people

Dying, screaming, shouting

"Help me help me" I feel scared

"Help me help me!" it's unfair.

Shock.

Terror.

I'm standing here in fear

Scared and don't know what to do,

Frozen up.

Looking around I see stress and panic

I know there is only one option

Please let this torture end.

No one left



Not much time to think

I know what I have to do

Death will take me either way.

Looking down at my fate

Screaming in terror.

Knowing... I'm going to die.

Knowing I have a family that I have to keep

Safe.

As I reach closer to the edge.

Knowing I have to jump.

And then I take my final step

Knowing I'm close to my last breath.

Now I am falling, time

Has stopped, now that

I am not racing against

Life's clock.

Now I'm thinking about what my

Life used to be now I'm flying

Almost free. Hopefully one day I will

See why the world was so cruel to

Me.

Anouk set to tread the boards at the NYT

by Anouk Whiting-Ferrolho

I have known that my passion lies on the stage since I was old enough to dress my little brother up and make him perform with me on the kitchen table. However, as romantic as the idea of professional acting was, as with all our life ambitions it's so easy to just fling that idea in a box titled 'unrealistic dreams' and pick a 'sensible job'. The theatre industry especially has a certain mystery to it that leaves you believing you need some kind of special pass to enter.

It was through Mrs Blake that I first found out about the National Youth Theatre of and their mission to "inspire, train and showcase exceptional performers aged 14-25 from all over Great Britain, by giving them the opportunity to work with world class writers and directors".

Applying for an audition was surprisingly easy, requiring me to make a profile and, with a deep breath, click a large button marked 'submit'. I applied in December, giving me a few months to prepare (and get extremely nervous for) my audition in February. It was up to me to pick a two-minute monologue and direct and perform it for a panel of judges on the day. I would also attend a three-hour dance and movement workshop in which I'd be assessed – as well as an interview after my piece.

I set about reading the play and learning the monologue off by heart (and backwards). It feels as though I must have spent whole days in front of the bathroom mirror, with my GCSE class, at lunch times with Mrs Blake, in my bedroom, in the supermarket etc. rehearsing and re-rehearsing!

But even after all this prep work (and despite the fact I now had NYT doodled all over my bedroom wall), I was still absolutely certain I had no chance of getting in; over 5 000 people across Britain were in exactly the same position as me and, with only 300 places, the odds felt impossible. I was fully prepared to keep applying every year until I was 26 in the hope I might be accepted in one of them – after all Rosamund Pike, one of my favourite actresses, tried out five years in a row before being accepted.

Finally, the day came for my audition. There were around 60

sites dotted across GB where the auditions were taking place. Having got the day off school (with permission of course), I arrived at 10 am at the studio in Bristol on the last day of auditions. I have never been so nervous in my life.

Our leaders, professional actors with years of world class training behind them - and smiles from ear to ear - obviously sensed the bag of nerves we all were and started by switching on some music and simply saying "let's have a dance".

So here we all were, a collection of 30 strangers, all desperately nervous for what could be one of the biggest days of their lives - and without even knowing each other's names, just dancing. After that I felt a lot more comfortable (and sweaty). The rest of the workshop consisted of a series of physical theatre, ensemble, dance, movement and voice activities. As nerve-wracking as it was being assessed, I loved every second of it and came out beaming. If this was what they offered us in only three hours, I could only imagine how incredible (and physically

demanding) the training course for members must be.

My audition and interview went really well and felt like a blur. Still now I can't quite remember exactly what happened due to the curtain of excitement and nerves that I drew around that day. My mum tells that when I came out of the studio I had never looked so inspired. And I was! I was totally in love with NYT and absolutely determined that this kind of thing was what I wanted to do with my life. However, after meeting so many amazing, talented young people who were mostly a lot more experienced than me, my being selected over so many thousands of people seemed an impossibility.

We were to be sent our results by email – that's all we knew. The wait was agonising. For the next two months my mum and I must have checked our emails up to 400 times a day. I thought about NYT every day and tormented myself by watching videos and reading their website over and over again. I was completely hooked and completely prepared to try again year after year. By the end of April I was starting to think we were never going to hear. But we did. *continued » » » » » »*



continued » » »

At 5:47 on the 20th of April, my mum rang while I was going to a theatre launch, her voice shaking tremendously: "You got in! YOU GOT IN!" Best day of my life!

Upon acceptance I will attend a two-week course in London over the summer in which I will be professionally trained to become part of the company and network until I'm 26. I will stay in self-catered uni halls in London and train at Trinity LABAN, a glass-walled building containing over 50 wall-to-wall mirrored dance studios. I cannot put into words how ecstatically grateful I am to have such a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Once I have completed the training, NYT will help me get connections into the industry, hook me up with TV, film and theatre auditions around the country, as well as give me the opportunity to be part of their seasonal show in the summer, performed in London, often in the West End!

And, best of all, it all runs in harmony with my regular education, so I don't have to give up anything. It is quite surreal to think that at 15 this could be the start of my career, as it is for many NYT graduates. But even if nothing comes of it I will have had the opportunity to be part of such

an amazing organisation, perform professionally and make lifelong ties and memories. It just feels like a dream.

Unfortunately, nothing comes without a price and it is going to cost around £1 500 for me to train this summer. In light of this I am getting busy with fund raising, with which Sir William Romney's is being a huge help. I am so grateful for all the opportunities SWR has given me, without which I doubt I would have ever had the bravery to audition for NYT. But I don't have a lot of time to raise the money, so donations would of course be welcome and hugely appreciated!

I am so eternally grateful to Mrs Blake for believing in me and helping me develop over the past four years. And to my mum who has supported my every move and empowered me to follow my dreams no matter what. And I'd like to say to anyone like me who has big dreams, which seem way too ambitious to achieve, if believe you can, you will.

National Youth Theatre, here I come!

DON'T MISS OUT ON OUR ACTIVITIES WEEK - BOOK NOW!

Do you fancy a cross-country mountain bike challenge with Mr Mackay? Or how about a visit to the Imperial War Museum in London?

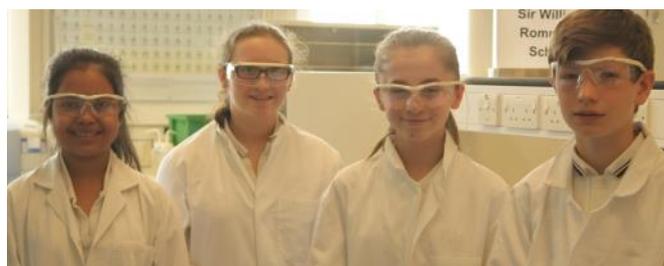
These and a whole host of other activities such as a day's fishing with Mr Barker or coaching lessons from Gloucestershire County Cricket Club have been planned for our Activities Week from July 4-8.

Please have a look at the Activities Week booklet sent out to parents and book your child's place.

If you need any more information, please contact our Activities Week coordinators Mr Wagner (m.wagner@swr.gloucs.sch.uk) or Mrs Townsend (k.townsend@swr.gloucs.sch.uk)

Salter's science success for Year 8s

Congratulations to four of our Year 8 students, Juliet Cooper, Danielle Briones, Darcy Marshall and Hugh Chidley (pictured below), who fought off challenges from many public and grammar schools to take second place at the Salter's Festival of Chemistry at Bristol University earlier this month. Pictured above is Bristol ChemLabS teacher Tim Harrison.




 citizens
advice
Cotswold
District

Confidential advice now available in Tetbury

Thanks to the support of the Tetbury Town Council, local charity Citizens Advice Cotswold District is providing advice from the Town Council offices on Wednesday mornings from 9:30 to 12 noon.

Citizens Advice provides free, confidential information and advice to resolve people's problems. The most common enquires are money, family, employment, housing or welfare benefit problems.

Chief Officer Sally Pickering said: "Our advisers have the skills and knowledge to help people deal with a huge range of problems. The Citizens Advice service is free, confidential, independent and non-judgemental."

Citizens Advice provides online advice including fact sheets, template letters and budgeting tools.

<http://www.citizensadvice-stroudandcotswold.org.uk/>

You can also ring Citizens Advice on 0800 800 0511 or get advice by email.

Hosts still 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 may 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 are interested, please contact Estel Font on 0788058148 for details.

Trip reminders

Y7 Normandy Trip – please ensure outstanding balance is paid by Friday, 24 June 2016

Y8 Bude Trip – please ensure outstanding balance is paid by Friday, 24 June 2016

Y10 GCSE Geography Field Trip to Weston-super-Mare – reply slip and payment required as soon as possible

Y11 Leavers Paintballing Trip – reply slip and payment required as soon as possible

Spare letters for the Y10 and Y11 trips available from the main office.

Y11 Prom - full payment is required by Friday, 27 May 2016

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

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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 or
pop into Armed and Gorgeous in Nailsworth

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
	Bugsy Thursday AND Friday after school	by invitation/appointment for soloists and groups	MU1/2