



A peaceful and restful Christmas

After an extremely busy eight week term, I am certain that all students and parents, not to mention all the staff at SWR, are eagerly anticipating the Christmas festivities. I have been very impressed with our Year 11 students' commitment and resilience during their recent Year 11 examinations. It was re-assuring to hear so many students actively talking about preferred revision strategies and exam technique. I am certain that many of our students will have gained confidence and belief and I look forward to reviewing their mock results in the very near future.

As usual at SWR, students have enjoyed participating in a wealth of extra-curricular activities. There have been too many highlights to mention in a termly newsletter. I particularly enjoyed students' performance of Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing*. Not only were there incredible performances from all students, but I was also impressed with their sophisticated understanding of a challenging text. Participation in our sports teams and fixtures continue to grow and I must congratulate our Year 7 football team who reached the last 32 schools in the national cup competition (definitely a first for SWR!). GCSE Art and Design students have also recently visited the Tate Gallery as part of their course. Finally, thank you to everyone who supported our third annual Christmas Carol Service with both Avening and St Mary's primary schools at St Marys' Church. This is always a special occasion and I honestly thought that this was our best yet with stunning solo performances that genuinely showcased the growing wealth of talent across the school.

At the end of another successful and very busy term, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all parents, carers and families for their continued support and wish everyone a peaceful and enjoyable Christmas with family and friends.

See you all the new year,
Jon Bell
Headteacher



With the fantastic support of parents and friends, our Social Spaces Project is really beginning to gather pace. Together we are fundraising to improve the design and aesthetics of both our canteen and external areas that

will enhance students' experiences throughout the school day. Through the support of our team of volunteers we are eagerly awaiting first drafts of what both spaces could look like in the future. Both projects are extremely ambitious and we welcome any further support, donations, pledges or time that you can offer.

More details of both projects can be found on our website:

<http://swr.gloucs.sch.uk/parents/social-spaces-project/>



Countryfile Ramble / Children in Need

Our Student Council were set the challenge of making our fundraising day for Children in Need one to remember and raise more money than ever before. They did not disappoint. Students were very generous and enthusiastically took part in our silent disco, bake sale and staff versus students netball match. In collaboration with the school walk for Countryfile's Ramble, we raised **£2,500** for Children in Need!! Thank you to all students, staff (especially Mr Nelson who led and organised the school walk) for helping us to raise so much money for a worthy cause.



International bake off

I wanted to say a huge thank you to all the students, parents and staff who contributed to the success of the 2nd International Bake Off! The cakes were amazing and really embraced our international challenge. Thanks to your donation, we raised £100 for the Children's Cancer and Leukaemia group.

A very proud Mrs Gillham!



Drama Llama!

We have had a fantastic 6 weeks of being creative and exercising the wonderful right side of our brain! Each week has been focussed around a theme, which has either linked in with what was going on in the country (e.g. Guy Fawkes' Night and Armistice Day), or something that sparked our creative intrigue ('Teechers' By John Godber and 'Mall Santa').

The students who came really enjoyed themselves and created some strong bonds, and even stronger stomach muscles after all the laughter (Sofia Dixon's, "DAVE!" will go down in history)! More importantly, it gave students a chance to know that once a week they can exercise that creative muscle, and be a bit free!

Well done all of you, and thank you for joining me! Look out for my next little project next term.

Mrs Williams

SWR We Are Writers

Miss Elliott is running a creative writing group every Monday lunchtime in C6. Have your lunch first or bring it with you. Come and enjoy writing for fun!



Modern Foreign Languages

The first term in Modern Languages has been busy!



Year 7 - I wanted to congratulate all Y7 for their involvement in the [Francovision](#) competition! They were brilliant at singing and it was a pleasure to see their pronunciation and confidence increase week by week. In addition, they have just completed the class competition of the National French Spelling Bee. The class winners are: **Nell Turkington, Nevaya Ostle, Saskia McAndrews, Charlie Lowe, Stacey Downs, Charlie Sharpe, Lauren Polley, Madeline Nicholls, Arthur Cornelius, Oliver Rushton, Daryn Kitchen, George Jordan and Sophie Jones.** The next challenge will be face one another in the last week before February half term to select the best spellers to represent the school at the Regional Finals in March.

Year 8 - Well done to Y8, who are now studying French and Spanish side by side. I have been impressed by their resilience and willingness to learn both languages equally. It is fantastic to see them make links between the two. They have also been working hard with their homework.

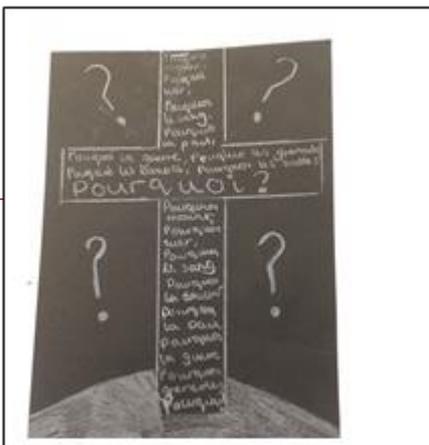


The winners for French are: **Amelia Berry, Ellen Freeman, Noa Thorn, Billy Walsh, Chandra Andrews, Reuben Oldfield-Hughes, Jess Tamsett, Katie Wright, Daisy Griffiths, Isabella Hall, Ania Michael and Lola Watson-Ber.**

The winners for Spanish are: **Laila Swann, Noa Thorn, Freya Turkington, Billy Walsh, Chandra Andrews, Manu Louvard, Katelyn Reed, Jess Tamsett, Katie Wright, Ruby James, Cameron Azcona, Isabella Hall, Zusa Neuman and Idai Paris-Battle.** Again, the next task will be to face one another and select the top 2 French and top 2 Spanish champions to take to London for the Regional Final later in the Spring term.

Year 9 have been working around the theme of *La Première Guerre Mondiale* and I have been particularly impressed by their empathy with WW1 soldiers and their understanding of the war. We have studied the war film *Joyeux Noël*, created poetry based on Guillaume Apollinaire's *Calligrammes* and are currently finishing our *lettres* from the front line.

Mrs Gillham





House Update

As we come to the end of another busy term, we're once again celebrating the participation and successes of the many students who took part in Inter House Competitions. This term saw a variety of activities, and in particular we congratulate the following individuals:



To celebrate Inter Faith Week, Miss Wilson organised a **Treasure Hunt Challenge**. Winners were Esther Freeman for Orion, Heidi Reade for Andromeda and Lucy Evans for Pegasus. Well done all, and wear your house stars with pride!

Once again there were some stunning entries for the **Photography Competition**, with the overall winner and voucher being awarded to Ellen Freeman for Pegasus for a stunning image of an ageing door! Bea Herbert for Orion and Georgina Bishop for Andromeda are to be congratulated also for being the winners for their respective houses. House stars all round!



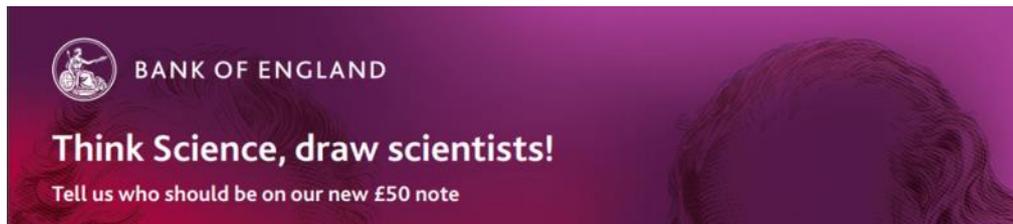
Mr Fairclough and Mrs Winbow organised a collation of '**Remembrance Poppies**' on which students noted their thoughts and thanks in a striking display to mark 100 years. Orion students contributed the most poppies, and so were awarded a collective House Star to display, but the sheer number of comments and the thoughtfulness displayed by students from all houses was quite tremendous!

Mr Duke, Head of Orion, has been busy organising computing and coding challenges. Pegasus House was the winner of the **Cryptography Challenge**, much to Mr Duke's (smiling) frustration! But a happier Mr Duke was able to award one of his own Orion students, Nathan Pope, the overall prize for the **UK Bebras Computational Thinking Challenge**. Congratulations and House Stars also to Jac Woodward for Pegasus and Nellie Chidley for Andromeda for winning for their respective houses.



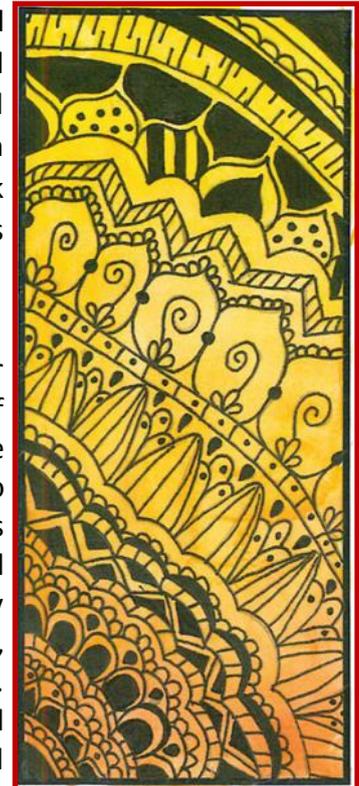
House Update

Mrs Gibson coordinated a competition for Year 7 students to 'Design a £50 note', and top entries from SWR have been entered into the National Bank of England competition. Congratulations and House Stars go to Lois Fisher for Orion as the overall SWR winner. She was awarded a £5 note (sorry we couldn't stretch to a £50 note!) And House Stars also go to winners for each house, including Nellie Chidley for Andromeda and Niamh Tuley for Pegasus. Some FANTASTIC designs and choices of scientists – well done!



And winners of the **Bookmark Competition** organised by Miss Trowell have had their designs reproduced and shared in the library. Overall winner was Esme Rogers for Orion for a stunning design of colour and pattern. Enjoy spending your voucher! Congratulations also to Eden Hardulak for Pegasus and Tia Constable for Andromeda. Enjoy your book marks (they'd make great Christmas presents) and wear your House Stars with pride!

Looking ahead, term three promises to be another busy one for Inter House rivalry and fun! Competitions will include the challenge of **Renaming our Social Spaces Canteen Project**. The theme for the **Photography Competition** will be colour, entries to photcomp@swr.gloucs.sch.uk as usual. And Mr Dillon and Mrs Williams be hosting an **SWR Arts Star Competition**, which promises to be filled with creative talent! Entry forms need to be submitted to Mr Dillon by the end of the first week back after Christmas (Fri 11th Jan). Open to all, the categories for entry include Music, Drama, Dance and Miscellaneous. The show will take place on 13th February and external judges will support SWR staff in awarding an amazing £50 first prize to the overall winner, with additional prizes and house points available too!



We wish all students good luck and look forward to some fantastic teamwork and friendly competition over the weeks ahead.

Dr Pullin, Head of Pegasus



Attendance

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our students, parents and staff for working so hard to maintain high levels of attendance this year.

Please continue to encourage your son/daughter to attend every day. Each day of absence impacts on their education and progress. By aspiring to achieve 100% attendance your child will be able to take advantage of all of the opportunities open to them and are more likely to obtain higher levels of achievement.

If your child is absent from school can we please ask you ring the student absence line, 01666 501099 on each day of absence. Where possible please arrange medical appointments outside of school hours. However if this is not possible then please notify the school that your child will be absent prior to the appointment. Please note that we do not operate a 48 hour rule of absence on sickness. As a parent/carer, if you feel your child is well enough to attend school then we are more than happy to see them.

It is also very important that your child is in school on time in the morning, please ensure they arrive in school by 8.55am. Setting good attendance patterns and punctuality are very important in supporting your child's education and skills they will need when they enter the place of work.

Thank you for your continued support. If you would like to discuss any aspects relating to your child's attendance then please contact our School Welfare Officers, Mrs Lomas and Mrs Andrews.

Science Outside the Classroom

This term has seen many students engaging in science outside of the classroom. Year 7 students were given the opportunity to take part in an after school **Science Club**.

'I really enjoyed Science Club. We got to do fun things that we wouldn't normally do in an everyday lesson' (Iris Kirby-Burbidge). 'I thought this club was really worthwhile and fun. We got to do explosions and didn't have to write anything!' (Isla Emous).

Several Year 11's celebrated **Biology Week** by taking part in a fish dissection to gain a deeper understanding of comparative anatomy. And a group of Year 11 chemists attended a lecture and demonstration '**A pollutants tale**' delivered by Professor Tim Harrison of Bristol University at the Sundial Theatre in Cirencester, to support and further develop their understanding of Environmental Chemistry. Great fun, loud, smelly and very engaging!

The start of 2019 will provide Year 8 students with the opportunity to sign up to an after school Science club. A group of Year 9 and 10 students will have the opportunity to attend a **STEM day at Renishaw** in February, and in March we will be celebrating **National Science Week in SWR** with a festival of lunchtime Science displays and activities. More details to follow. All promise to be fun!

Arts Star!

Have you got what it takes to be our SWR Arts Star? Our Drama and Music Departments have launched our first ever talent show for all students. Students will need to apply to Mr Dillon and Mrs Williams by 13th January and the big final will be on 13th February!





Art Club

This term, the Year 9 students had the opportunity to attend an after school Art Club based upon the theme of nail art. It was a lovely change to use unusual media to create artwork using nails and string. The outcomes were fantastic. Well done to the many Year 9's who were involved.

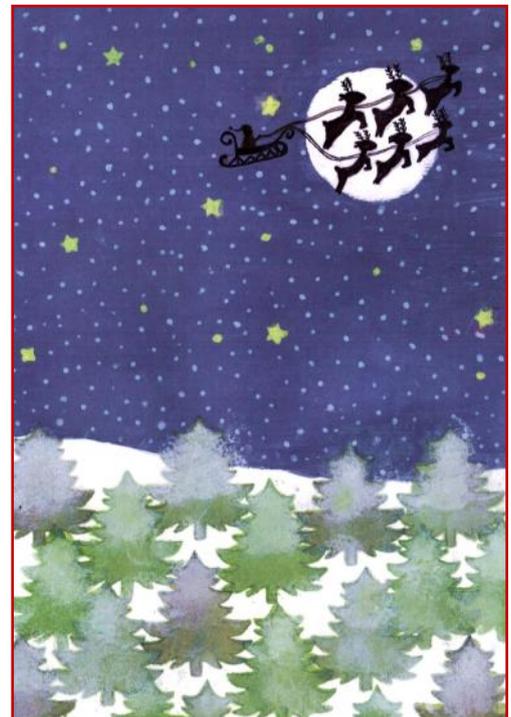


In the last two terms the Art Department has run the popular Christmas Card Competition to decide which design will be used as the school Christmas card this year. The Year 7's have shown themselves as a very talented year group and the quality of the outcomes was excellent.

After lots of deliberation between Mr Davies and Mr Bell, the results are as follows: 1. Neveya Ostle. 2. Alice Hadwen-Beck. 3. Nellie Chidley.

Nevaya's winning design is featured opposite and has been used as the official school Christmas card this year. Congratulations Nevaya!

Mr Davies



Shoebox Appeal

Thank you to everyone who donated boxes and items for the Cirencester Signpost homeless charity.

I delivered 12 packed, gift wrapped shoeboxes, plus a large box of toiletries to the Monday night meal that they hold every week for homeless people in Cirencester. The organiser asked me where the boxes were from and I told him SWR in Tetbury; one of the homeless men turned around and said, 'that was where I went to school.'

They were extremely grateful and the gifts will be given out during their community Christmas meal next week.

Miss Elliott



Start of the new term

School opens for all year groups on Monday 7th September (Week B).

Uniform

Before the start of the new term could we please ask that parents and students read the attached letter stating our expectations of uniform. These expectations will be re-enforced with students throughout next term.

Mobile Phones

We would also like to remind students in Years 8 to 11 that they are only allowed to use **mobile phones at break and lunchtime outside the building**. Students' mobile phones will be confiscated if they are used inside the school building or during lessons (unless instructed by the teacher) . Year 7 students are not allowed to use mobile phones throughout the school day.

We would like to thank parents and families for their continued support in both of the above matters.

Dates for the diary...

Monday 7th January	School opens for all year groups (Week B)
Wednesday 16th January	Y8 Parents' Evening
Monday 21st January	Y11 Careers Intervention
Wednesday 30th January	Y10 and Y11 Blood Brothers Theatre visit
Tuesday 5th February	Y9 Parents' Evening
Wednesday 6th February	Y8 House Badminton
Thursday 7th February	Y11 House Badminton
Friday 8th February	Y10 and Y7 House Badminton
Tuesday 12th February	Y9 Renishaw STEM visit
Wednesday 13th February	Arts Star Final!
Thursday 14th February	Y9 House Badminton
Friday 15th February	End of Term (3:20pm)
Monday 25th February	Term 4 begins (Week B)
Thursday 28th February	Y11 Parents' Evening
Friday 1st March	Y9 Careers Interviews begin
Monday 4th March	Y11 House Hockey/Football
Tuesday 5th March	Y7 House Hockey/Football
Wednesday 6th March	DofE Bronze Training Day
Thursday 7th March	Y8 House Hockey/Football & Y10/11 Theatre Trip