

# SWR is top performer in latest school league tables



**Steven Mackay**

The school's value added score for 2014 and 2015 - which reflects the progress made by students from Key Stage 2 to GCSE - shows that SWR students have made the most progress compared to the other comprehensive schools in the local area.

Sir William Romney's School students make the most progress compared to other comprehensive schools in the area, according to the Department of Education's 2015 and 2014 School Performance Tables.

Headteacher Steven Mackay was delighted with the results: "The value added scores of 1019.6 in 2015 and 1018.9 in 2014 are an outstanding achievement for the school. These confirm our position as among the best performing comprehensives in Gloucestershire in the last two years and this is higher than those of two of the selective schools in the county," he commented.

Until now the School Performance Tables have used an attainment measure as the headline figure (5+ A\*-C with English and Maths), but from 2016, progress scores will be the headline figure used for the performance tables.

"This change in measurement allows an accurate and reliable comparison for the first time and allows parents to compare progress between schools in a very different context," Mr Mackay concluded.

## School Performance Tables Value Added Scores - Local Schools

School	School type	Value Added Score 2015	VA rank 2015	Value Added Score 2014	VA rank 2014
Stroud High School	Selective	1038.4	1	1031.7	1
Katharine Lady Berkeley's School	Comprehensive	1021.9	2	1008.7	6
Sir William Romney's School	Comprehensive	1019.6	3	1018.9	4
Cirencester Kingshill School	Comprehensive	1018.4	4	1016.9	5
Malmesbury School	Comprehensive	1014.7	5	1005.3	8
Rednock School	Comprehensive	1014.6	6	1005.9	7
Marling School	Selective	1014.5	7	1020.2	3
Cirencester Deer Park School	Comprehensive	1011	8	1020.4	2
Farmor's School	Comprehensive	993.3	9	988.1	11
Thomas Keble School	Comprehensive	992.6	10	1004	9
Maidenhill School	Comprehensive	991.4	11	987	12
Archway School	Comprehensive	982.8	12	999.1	10



## Taking the lead in Sport Relief publicity . . .

SWR has been chosen as the 'face' of this year's Sport Relief publicity campaign aimed at schools across the Western region.

In recent years the school has built an enviable reputation in raising funds for various charities, particularly Comic Relief, and this effort was rewarded when Cardiff-based Cowshed Communications approached SWR to take a leading role in the 2016 Sport Relief campaign.

Headteacher Steven Mackay said: "I'm delighted that our school's excellent charity fund-raising efforts have been recognised and that we have been singled out

in the region to raise awareness of this worthy cause."

The Sainsbury's Sport Relief Games take place on the weekend of March 18-20

when competitors will be encouraged to run, swim, cycle or walk at events across the country. ➡



⇒ The pre-publicity campaign kicked off in early February when SWR students wore fancy dress to complete a 'mile in style' to show how easy it was to take part in this year's campaign and raise some all-important cash.

Head boy Ben Theaker said: "It has been fun dressing up and seeing everyone's best costumes. We might all look a bit silly, but we are doing it for a great cause."

John Farr, PE curriculum coordinator, commented: "Every year we look to find ways of making our mile a bit different. The effort everyone has put in is tremendous and there have been lots of laughs. I'm sure we'll see a few outfits making another star appearance when we do our Mile in March."

Sport Relief brings the entire nation together to get active, raise cash and change lives. Since 2002 it has raised over £262 million to help people living in tough conditions across the UK and the world's poorest communities.

**Mr Farr and Miss Brown direct operations with photographer Stephen Lewis during the Sport Relief publicity shoot.**



## Houses reach for the stars to showcase their other talents

We have three houses at school to which all pupils and teachers belong, Andromeda, Orion and Pegasus, and the tradition is to play inter-house sports competitions each term – be it netball, hockey, rugby, football or cross country.

It's a great chance to get out of the classroom, put into practice our PE skills and have some friendly rivalry amongst each other. Several matches have already been played this year and points are building up nicely.

This year, however, has seen the house competitions move beyond just the sports field – after all, we aren't all sporty but we do have many other talents we would like to showcase!

We think it's time for other talents to be shown off within the arts, technology, debating and much more. Most importantly the emphasis is on taking part and enjoying the experience with your fellow house pupils. With this in mind we have already seen a very successful inter-house Year 9 science competition – as reported in the last newsletter.

Other house news is that the ICT department has just completed a cryptography competition. During their ICT lessons and in house groups, pupils had to decode some information to solve a crime. Head of Orion house Mr Godwin was 'murdered' having drunk some tea laced with cyanide – Mrs Jones (Head of Andromeda) had stolen the cyanide and Dr Pullin (Head of Pegasus) was the murderer! To find out the winners you will have to wait for the next house assemblies.

In order to raise the profile of our houses visually we would like to have some large colourful murals produced and displayed in the hall. Our latest house competition, therefore, is to 'design a shield' for the mural. Mr Davies, Leader of Learning Creatives, briefed pupils in the last house assembly and reports that several designs have now been submitted.

Well done to those who made the effort to get out pens and paints – everybody submitting an entry gets a house point, and it is not too late if you still have a design to hand

in. Judging will take place soon and winners will be announced in the next assemblies.

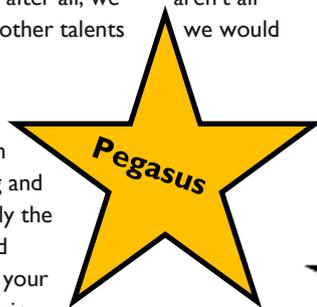
You may have noticed the piles of shoeboxes mounting up in the Quad. Like last year we are collecting donations for Eastern Europe in connection with Rotary International.

Our target is to send 100 boxes and at the time of writing we had collected 61, with the houses evenly balanced in terms of contributions. However there's still plenty of time to do your bit for your house and, more importantly, for those less fortunate than ourselves.

Finally, for the musicians among you who are just itching to perform: your time is about to come!

After half-term Mrs Hancock, Curriculum Coordinator Music, will be launching the first inter-house music competition. Keep rehearsing so we can all look forward to a music show at lunchtime. We will also be looking for people behind the scenes on lighting, stage management and so on. This is another opportunity to support your house and, of course, may the best house win!

• Mrs Jones – Head of Andromeda



### We still need your shoeboxes!

All 100 Rotary shoeboxes have been issued to students and staff, but if you would still like to participate in the scheme 'normal-sized' shoe boxes (not wellies or knee length boots boxes!) can be used.

Please follow the guidelines for the contents and write the age range and gender on the outside of the box in large, neat letters.

## Geography lessons erupt ...

Year 9 Geography lessons caused 'eruptions' recently as students presented their model volcanoes.

"This was an ideal opportunity for students to undertake a research task and consolidate their learning around volcanoes from class," said Mrs Lynham, Leader of Learning Humanities.

"They really enjoyed this task and were able to present their volcanoes to their peers with confidence. I'd also like to thank parents who helped provide materials and assisted in some frantic Thursday night baking as some volcanoes were even edible!"



## Computer thanks

A huge thank you to all parents who have donated their old computers to the school.

Students have been busy taking them apart and putting them together again to see how they operate.



## Calling all Year 8 footballers!

Can you help Avondale United's under-13s squad keep their dream alive? They are urgently looking for boys to join this friendly and determined squad who play in Division 2 of the North Wilts League.

Avonvale are currently in 8th place in the league with 15 games to play, but need new blood to bolster their small squad.

The club has an amazing team spirit with regular socials and a yearly exchange with Dutch Club CSV JongHolland. The annual Holland v England match scheduled this year for Easter Weekend is always a highlight and any boy who joins the club now will have the opportunity to play in the 'England' team.



Please contact Jo (jojohnson1970@hotmail.com) if you require more information or come along to our weekly training session at the SWR playing fields.

• Avonvale Utd match reports are on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/avonvaleutdfc/>

## Science Revision and Support

With exams now just a few months away we are keen to provide as much support as we can to help your son/daughter achieve the highest grade possible in their Science GCSE.

You are probably aware that your son/daughter has a GCSE Science Revision Guide and Work Book. We will also be offering them a pack of past papers in the next few weeks.

In order to provide further support we are running a series of lunchtime drop-in revision sessions where students can access help with their Science class work or homework - or simply get on with some quiet revision by taking advantage of the text books and the teacher's help.

These sessions will run every Tuesday (for Year 10) and Thursday (for Year 11) at lunchtime in Sc2 from this week onwards. The sessions are open to all, although we are in the process of sending letters to ask that certain students attend.

I look forward to receiving your support to help your son/daughter fulfil their potential in the GCSE exams.

If you have any questions regarding this or any other aspect of your son/daughter's Science education, please do not hesitate to contact me at the School.

• Mr Barker – Leader of Learning (Science & PE)

## SWR EXAM

### INVIGILATORS

**Start:** As soon as possible

**Salary:** From £7.26 to £7.64 per hour

**Contract:** Part Time and  
**Temporary:** Casual

**Applications Close:**

11th March 2016

Full details and application form can be found at:

<http://www.eteach.com/HostedIIFrame/Jobs.aspx?EmpNo=13210>

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**Have some news?**

All contributions are considered for inclusion in this newsletter.

Please email the editor

### Trip Reminders

#### **Ski Trip: February 2016 –**

Please send in any outstanding money and ensure passports and EHC cards are handed into the main office along with the completed Code of Conduct and Medical forms

**Y10 Iceland Trip** – please send in any outstanding money along with the completed Code of Conduct and Medical forms

**Y7 Normandy Trip** – monthly payments of £50 continue

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

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)

## PTFA news . . .

We are looking forward to our next Movie Night on Thursday March 3 when we are showing Pitch Perfect for years 8 and 9.

Entry is free, but please bring money for the tuck shop (pop corn, drinks, etc). Raffle tickets will be 50p to win the DVD at the end of the night!

Please arrive from 6pm – film starts 6.30pm, parents to pick up at 8.30pm.

We are also planning a Star Wars Movie Night for years 7 and



8 later in the year as well as another Student Quiz for years 7 and 9 (the emphasis will be on fun and prizes rather than tricky questions).

Finally, thank you to all parents who have joined our 100 Club in the last couple of weeks.

If you'd like an application form please email:  
[jo.brown23@btinternet.com](mailto:jo.brown23@btinternet.com)

**PITCH PERFECT**  
MOVIE NIGHT  
YEARS 8 & 9

**TUCK BAR**  
POPCORN  
SWEETS &  
DRINKS  
(Please don't bring your own thank you)  
50p Raffle to win the DVD at the end of the night!

**Thursday March 3rd**  
**Sir William Romney's School Hall**  
**FREE ENTRY!**  
**Arrive from 6pm**  
**Film start time 6.30pm**  
(Parents to collect at 8.30pm)  
*An event for Y8 & 9 SWR students only.*

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## 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
Wednesday	All Years	Ukulele	MU2
Thursday	All Years	Freeball and Multigym	Sports Hall
		Graphics	AR2
	All Years girls & and boys	Badminton	Sports Hall
Friday		Keyboards Breaktime	MU2
		Recorder Lunch	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	Year 7	Pottery Club (3.20 - 4.40pm)	AR2
	Year 7	German Club (Ends 4.45pm)	HI
	KS4 Girls	Aerobics/Circuits	Gym
	KS4	Tech Club	
	Year 8	Year 8 Club	EN4
Thursday	Years 10 and 11	Graphics Freehand and Technical Drawing	DT
	All Years	Homework Club	Library