



### Striving for Excellence Together

#### Open Evening

On Thursday evening we had a fantastic turnout to our Open Evening at SWR. There was a real buzz and energy throughout the evening as we got to showcase our wonderful school. The students who took part, helping departments and/or were tour guides, were fantastic and great ambassadors to the school.

I would particularly like to mention Andrew and Renée in Year 7 who despite only just joining us, were brave enough to stand up and give a fantastic presentation in front of 200 people on their start at SWR. We were so proud of their fantastic speeches and despite their nerves they gave very accomplished performances.

I also want to thank our Head students, who despite being a little more experienced at performing these type of presentations, gave great speeches delivered in a very professional manner.

We look forward to welcoming more visitors next week to our Open Mornings on Monday and Tuesday. Details of how to sign up to these can be found on our website.



#### PD this week

On Tuesday, as part of our Personal Development programme our year 7 and year 9 watched a new play performed by Our Time called 'My Mad Mum', which explores the impact of a parent's mental health issue on their children. The students listened well, and they really enjoyed the play.

On Thursday, Year 8 watched a play called Chelsea's Story. It tackled the difficult issue of Child Sexual Exploitation and Grooming. There was an opportunity for interaction with the actors helping pupils to see the choices Chelsea made and how she might have chosen differently. This was a hard hitting, loud performance which is based on a true story. Students were shocked to learn that the age of children most at risk was between 11 and 15 years old. The students were fantastic, demonstrating great maturity with excellent questions from our students at the end.

### **Monday Clubs Transport**

To support our students being able to access the range of clubs we have on offer on a Monday we provide a free minibus service to Avening, Nailsworth (Bus station) and Horsley (The Hog).

This is driven by Mr Radcliffe and leaves school at 4.30pm. If your child wishes to access a club and get the minibus home, they must book a place in the office as seat numbers are limited, this is offered on a first come first served basis.

### **Sponsored Walk**

I am very excited about experiencing my first sponsored walk Next Friday. Mr Barker has sent a letter regarding arrangements and what students need to bring with them.

Many students and staff have told me that this is a great SWR day, so I am really looking forward to it. It would be great if the students can gain some sponsorship as this will go towards the school charity, which will be decided soon.

### **Meet the Headteacher**

Thank you to everyone who came to meet me on Tuesday night. It was great to have support for the changes we have made. Mrs Jepps, our new SENCO, also attended and we have decided that we will hold an information evening for parents of children with special educational needs. We will confirm the date and time of this meeting in the near future.

### **Green tickets**

With the successful introduction of our cashless tills, we will no longer be issuing the green 'meal of the day' tickets should students not have enough credit on their ParentPay account or have forgotten to bring in their packed lunch. Should students not have enough money on ParentPay or a packed lunch, they will be asked to go to the office, where contact with a parent/carer will be made requesting a ParentPay top up to be made as soon as possible.

If students are purchasing items from the canteen, we urge them and parents/carers to keep up to date with their ParentPay balances. The staff in the canteen are more than happy to allow students to check their balances during non-teaching time.

## Parent Governor

There is information attached to this email from our Chair of Governors, Anna Herbert, regarding a vacancy for a Parent Governor on our local governing body.

Governors play an essential role in the strategic leadership of the school and your voice is very important source of challenge and support to me and the leadership team. It is important the parent voice is heard at this meeting so I would encourage you to consider nominating yourself.

## SWR Stars

Name	Tutor	Reason
Eve P	7	So friendly and welcoming, seeking to include new friends in her group.
Rhys J	7	A really positive week in school this week.
Elsie E	8	For being aspirational every day, working hard and being supportive of her friends.
Sam B	8	For always having great uniform and being equipped and ready to learn.
Isla C	9	For having a positive approach to school and meeting expectations during strong start.
Amelia Z	9	For having great attendance this term and being always ready to learn.
Thomas H	9	He has made an incredibly hard-working start to his science lessons this year and today he took time out of his own break to help another student to catch up with some work that she had missed. He is a model SWR student.
Lili G-W	10	Always ready to learn, positive attitude to school.
Ruby L	10	Great start to year 10, keen and enthusiastic
Ivy C	11	An amazing start to Year 11 with focus and effort
Becky S	11	Quietly getting on, resilient, and a strong start to Year 11

## **Homework**

Students will now be getting homework set by their teachers as we get into the school year. I know that this can cause some resentment from students; I often have this battle with my own children! Please encourage students to get into the habit of having set times when they complete their homework and in an environment away from distractions eg. with their mobile phone or television.

If a student has found the work difficult or there is a genuine reason for it not being completed, please write an email or note to the teacher who set it. All reasonable reasons are taken into consideration by teachers. We do not want students to be anxious if they cannot complete the work, so it is important you communicate with us if that is the case.

We appreciate your support with homework as it does make a difference to recalling and understanding the knowledge they have gained in class.

I hope you all have an enjoyable weekend,

Will Ruscoe

SWR Headteacher