

SWR WEEKLY

Striving for Excellence Together



We have had a wonderful week back at SWR.

Last night, we held our Year 7 BBQ, which is always one of the highlights of the school year. It was fantastic to hear so many positive stories about how our new Year 7 students have settled in and are already enjoying life at SWR. We have been extremely impressed with the way they have started their secondary school journey and look forward to seeing their confidence and success continue to grow. Thank you to all the parents, students and staff who attended and helped create such a welcoming and enjoyable atmosphere.

Our Open Mornings begin next week, with our Open Evening taking place on Thursday 24th September. We are incredibly proud of the opportunities, experiences and education we offer at SWR and are looking forward to showcasing our school to prospective families. If you know any parents who are currently considering secondary school options for their child, please encourage them to attend or share our flyer on your social media. Information about all events, including timings, can be found on our website and in the poster included within this newsletter. We will also be looking for student volunteers to support our Open Evening, and letters inviting students to take part will be sent out next week.

I would also like to personally thank our PTFA. Not only do they provide invaluable support at many of our events throughout the year, but thanks to their fundraising efforts they have also been able to provide significant financial support to several departments and our House System at the start of this term. A vibrant and active PTFA is incredibly important for a small school such as SWR, and we are very fortunate to have such a dedicated group supporting our community.

Finally, after eight years of dedicated service, our Chair of Governors, Anna Herbert, stepped down at the end of her term this week. Anna has been a tremendous supporter of SWR as a parent, governor and Chair of Governors, and the entire school community would like to thank her for the significant contribution she has made to the school. I am delighted that Mark Lees has been appointed as our new Chair of Governors. Mark has served as Vice Chair of our Local Governing Body and as a governor for the past two years, bringing with him extensive experience in school leadership. I am very much looking forward to working with him in his new role. I will leave Mark to introduce himself to you in a future edition of SWR Weekly.

The Governing Body is also keen to recruit additional governors. If you, or someone you know, may be interested in finding out more, Mark would be delighted to hear from you. In particular, the Governing Body is interested in people with a range of professional experiences and skills, not just those connected to education. Being a governor is a rewarding and important role, providing both support and challenge to school leaders while making a meaningful difference to the lives of young people and the wider school community.

I hope you have a lovely weekend.

Mr Ruscoe

HOUSE EVENT

We held our first House Challenge event of the year last Friday with an exciting team-building competition. It was fantastic to see so many students fully embrace the challenge and to have such strong support from across the school.

Although the weather left some participants a little wet, students approached every activity with enthusiasm, resilience and great House spirit, representing their teams with pride and determination throughout.

Congratulations to Nova for taking the victory and making a strong start to this year's House competition.



SWR STARS

Dwayne-Leigh, Eddie and Immy - for having an amazing start in Geography.

Cody - for having a fantastic attitude in first English lessons.

Isaac - for getting an amazing score in a quiz during Computing.

Ruby - for her outstanding effort in English and showing her learning in a persuasive writing paragraph. Ruby has been amazing in Maths as well.

Gia - for an impressive start to her GCSE Art course. Well done!

Toby - A really fantastic start to Science in Year 10 - well done and keep it up!

Harry - for getting into the Gloucestershire Academy Rugby team - an incredible achievement!

Honey-May - for a wonderful start in Health and Social Care - a totally smashing part 1A of the examined assignment.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE SEND LOCAL OFFER

Between 7th and 24th September 2026, Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) are carrying out a thematic review of Gloucestershire's SEND Local Offer. As part of the visit, inspectors want to hear directly from children and young people with SEND, parents and carers, and professionals who support them.

The review will explore how well local services understand and meet the needs of children and young people with SEND, how effectively services work together, and whether families are genuinely involved in shaping support across the county.

If you are a parent or carer of a child with SEND, your experiences matter. By completing the survey, you can help inspectors understand what life is really like for families accessing SEND support in Gloucestershire. Whether your experiences have been positive, challenging, or a mixture of both, your feedback can help influence future improvements.

The surveys are open until 16th September 2026. We strongly encourage all families of children and young people with SEND to take a few minutes to share their views.

To access the surveys, [click here](#)

GOVERNOR VACANCY

We are looking for a new governor to join our team. The role of Governors is to oversee the strategic development of the school and to advise and support the school leadership team.

Governors are tasked with supporting and challenging the headteacher and the leadership team, to monitor progress towards improvement priorities and to make decisions around staffing and the school budget.

We are ideally looking for someone that comes from a business background and experience. If you would like to find out more or know someone who would be interested, please contact Mark Lees, Chair of Governors

(mlees.governors@swr.gloucs.sch.uk) or Daisy Alban-Jones, Clerk to Governors

(dalbanjones@swr.gloucs.sch.uk)

SAFEGUARDING SPOTLIGHT

Please see the 'What parents need to know about chat roulette' guide at the end of this week's newsletter.

Please be aware that apps/websites with different names (e.g. Omeagle) operate in a very similar way.

PARENTPAY

Please ensure that your child's ParentPay account has sufficient funds so they can purchase food and drinks at break and lunchtime.

Keeping their account topped up will ensure they don't miss out on lunch.



What Parents & Carers Need to Know about CHATROULETTE

Age Rating

18



In the words of its creator, Chatroulette "pairs random users for webcam-based conversations". Reporting more than two million monthly users, it claims to be the largest random video chat website worldwide. Users are matched arbitrarily (hence 'roulette') and can end a video chat whenever they like – at which point, they are connected (again, at random) to someone new. Once considered outdated, Chatroulette unexpectedly flourished in the early months of lockdown, with the number of daily users doubling to above 100,000.

Adult Content

Chatroulette is strongly associated with adult content. Following its launch in 2009, inappropriate – usually sexual – content was reported to have rapidly become 'rampant' on the site. An early study found that one in eight matches on Chatroulette involved someone naked, exposing themselves or engaging in a sexual act. Our researcher found that this ratio is now closer to seven out of eight.

Blackmail Scams

It's not especially difficult for another Chatroulette user to record the feed from your webcam. Scammers have been known to lure people into committing a compromising act during a video call (often using an attractive, flirtatious accomplice as a 'honey trap') and then threaten to release the footage to their friends and family, in an attempt to blackmail them.

Mobile Chatroulette

Parents should be aware that young people can now access Chatroulette via their phones. Although it does not have an app of its own, Chatroulette can be streamed through Minichat (on iOS devices) and OmeTV (on Android). The minimum age to download either app is 17, but the verification is far from robust: if they were determined to use the service, a child could simply input a fake age.

Anonymous Chat Partners

The site doesn't require users to register any personal details (nor indeed to verify their age). It is also possible for someone to use 'fake webcam' software to hide their identity with face-changing filters and effects. This relative anonymity can embolden users to do or say extreme things on the platform. Bear in mind that, when a person ends a chat, they do not know – and cannot control – who they are going to interact with next.

Damaging Self-Esteem

Many users purposely go on Chatroulette to mock, insult and ridicule other people. In addition to this kind of deliberate trolling, the ease with which someone can end a call and move on to the next chat participant can lead to a continued sense of rejection. We would advise that anyone who suffers from self-esteem issues or low self-confidence should avoid using Chatroulette.

Hacking Potential

Although Chatroulette does not collect information such as your name or email address, the site does let people discover your IP address if they know how to look. Armed with that information, a hacker can attempt to connect directly to your home network and begin probing it for possible security weaknesses that they can then exploit.

Advice for Parents & Carers

Choose the Correct Category

Recent modifications have now divided chats into three categories: 'Filtered', where no sexual content is allowed; 'Unfiltered', where participants are asked to adhere to safe content (this is not enforced and relies on users' honour and honesty); and 'Random', which comes with a clear warning that it may contain adult material. Under-18s are not allowed in these latter two types of chat.

Consider the Consequences

If you have an older child, you could talk to them about Chatroulette and apps like it. Explain the possibility of being recorded doing anything on webcam (even as an adult) that could be used against them or could subsequently damage their digital footprint. It might be a slightly awkward conversation to have, but you'll be insulating them against even worse embarrassment in the future.

Block and Report

If three users complain about the same individual within a five-minute period, that person is temporarily banned from Chatroulette. Anyone using the site should familiarise themselves with the reporting process. As a general rule (not relating specifically to this site), try to ensure that your child knows how to report inappropriate or offensive behaviour in any app, game or site that they use.

Disable the Camera and Mic

If you do not allow your microphone and webcam to be activated when Chatroulette requests it, then the site will not pair you up with another user. Covering up the webcam would also protect privacy effectively – however, other users will tend to aggressively question this action and most likely become very offensive on the audio.

Explore Alternatives

Despite its recent revisions, we would still strongly suggest that Chatroulette is not a site to be used by minors. Indeed, we would recommend that even adults proceed with extreme caution if using it. If a young person is adamant that they want to use a video chat service, then do some research and look at what else is available – there are lots of child-friendly alternatives out there.

Meet Our Expert

Jonathan Taylor is an expert on online safety, social media and online grooming, having previously been a covert internet investigator with the Metropolitan Police for more than 10 years. He has worked extensively with UK and international schools to deliver training and guidance around the latest apps, platforms and dangers.



NOS National Online Safety®
#WakeUpWednesday

SOURCES: <https://www.thedailybeast.com/chatroulette-resurrected-as-users-double-under-coronavirus-stay-at-home-orders>, <https://techcrunch.com/2010/03/16/chatroulette-stats-made-perverts/>

CO-OP MEMBERS CAN SUPPORT LOCAL PROJECTS



Choose our cause so we can help more people in your community.

Help Sir William Romney PTFA: Before 16th Oct!!
More votes = more money. We're raising funds to revive SWR's House System — empowering students to lead, strengthening bonds, and building lasting community spirit. Discover more about our vision & select our cause via the above QR code.

Scan the QR code,
download the
Co-op App or
visit [coop.co.uk/
membership](https://coop.co.uk/membership)



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