



THE STONEHENGE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Maths &
Computing

Issue 3 2014/2015

ATTENDANCE LINE 676650 (24 hours)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Or alternatively e-mail

13th February
2015

The **co-operative** membership 
Community Fund

admin@stonehenge.wilts.sch.uk

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HEADTEACHER'S NEWS

Performance Tables - Stonehenge ranked 8th out of 55 schools.

Many parents understandably compare schools using the data published by the Department for Education in the performance tables. The 2014 performance tables have caused considerable confusion because, without notice, the data used to produce them changed. The 2014 tables show only first entry GCSE results. Students who took GCSE exams early - in Year 10 for example - and who took the exam again in Year 11 in order to improve their grade only have their first attempt included in the league tables. Obviously these results are always lower and as a result most schools are performing better than the league tables suggest.

A more reliable and accurate measure of school effectiveness is to **compare schools with similar intakes**. The Salisbury Journal this week reported that the Wiltshire school with the best GCSE results was a selective grammar school. Why they felt the need to report something so blindingly obvious isn't clear - if the most able, academic children are pre-selected and all put into the same school then it would be a major shock if that school didn't appear at the top of the league tables. The performance table which compares schools with similar intakes didn't appear in the news, unfortunately. There are 55 schools across England with intakes similar to The Stonehenge School. In that performance table we are ranked in 8th position.

Hope you all have a relaxing half term and come back refreshed on Monday 23rd February which will be a Week 2 timetable for students.

YEAR 7 NEWS

Year 7 Trip to Natural History Museum 20th Jan 2015

Tuesday 20th January at 8am; the whole of year 7 lined up in the cold upper school car park ready to board coaches bound for the Natural History Museum. I know some pupils had been up very early that morning excited for our first trip out as a year group and it did not disappoint.

We arrived at around 10.15am and pupils were released into the museum, some found their way to the gem section very quickly and I even saw some purchases of gems from the shop, most of the boys went straight for the dinosaurs and were not disappointed, many pupils joined the queue for a selfie with the T-Rex (including Mrs Maher and Mrs Blake!). Most of us had a look at the blue whale and the many skeletons on display, as well as exploring the human body exhibit and finding out just what we are made up of.



The pupils behaved very well in the museum and were a credit to the school, the feedback was very positive and I am looking forward to our next trip out as a year group. I hope the pupils had a wonderful day and I would like to say thank you to all the staff who came with us on the day and helped in the organisation of the trip.

Miss Jackson
Year 7 Progress Leader
jacksond@stonehenge.wilts.sch.uk

POETRY BY HEART



On Friday 6th February, Holly Sherburne took part in the Poetry by Heart Wiltshire County final. She had to learn three poems off by heart, spanning a range of time periods and topics. Her recital of *The Stretcher Bearer* was particularly poignant considering recent World War One commemorations.

Unfortunately, Holly did not make it through to the next round, but she did herself and the school proud. Her performances were passionate, entertaining and heart-felt. She gave the winner a run for her money!

The school was recognised for its participation and was awarded with a copy of *The Forward Book of Poetry 2015* to put in our school library. Look out for it shortly!

I aim to run the competition again next year, so watch this space...
Mrs H Blake

Literacy across the Curriculum:

On Friday 16th January, Year 8 students embarked on a day of learning without their pens! The focus of the day was for students to try something new and to focus on their speaking and listening skills, instead of writing.

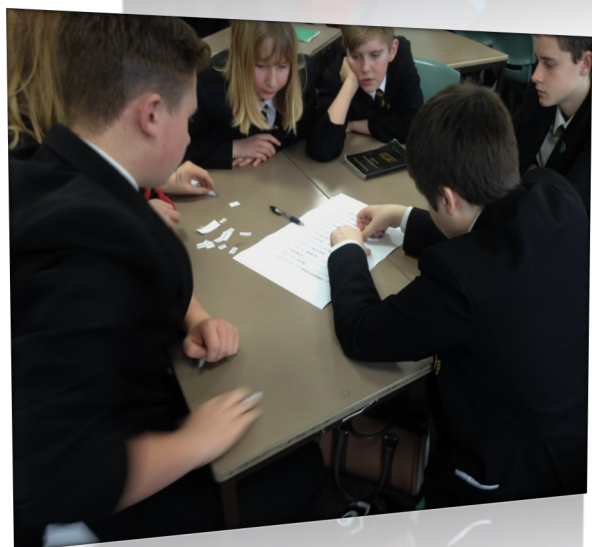
In Maths, students were asked to raise their hands in different ways to answer questions. Students were also using time graphs as well as practising negative numbers on calculators.

In Skills, students were playing Maths Bingo and had to listen to the sums very carefully to work out the answer.

In English, students were learning about different accents and dialects: some students were learning about cockney rhyming slang by matching clues together and some students were learning about accents around the world by listening to examples and guessing their country of origin.

The students were definitely excited by the day's activities and seemed to relish the opportunity to learn in a different way.

Mrs Blake



FUNDING INFORMATION

We have received the information that follows from the Association of School and College Leaders (ASCL) which explains to parents the financial pressures that schools and colleges are facing in their planning for the next academic year.

School funding for 5-16 year olds has been protected over the duration of the current parliament but at a 'flat cash level' which has meant that the funding rate per pupil has remained static and has not kept pace with general inflation and pay rises.

There are further and very significant rises in costs for the coming academic year which will make it extremely difficult for schools to retain their current level of provision. From September this year there is an increase of 2.38% in the amount that schools must pay towards the pensions of the teachers they employ. From April 2016 an increase of 3.4% in the employers' National Insurance contribution will mean schools having to find around an additional £1,100 for each teacher they employ and slightly less for each other member of staff. On top of this, schools will need to fund the agreed pay rises for teachers and other staff. ASCL calculates that these increases will add just over 4% to what it costs us to run a school.

The impact of these financial constraints is most likely to reduce the opportunities schools are able to offer their students.

The government has put an additional £390m into school funding this year to increase the funding to schools in some of the lowest funded authorities. The increase to the per pupil funding in our authority will be approximately 2.1% which offsets some, but not all, of the impact of the funding pressures indicated above.



Ex student James Bradwell has been in touch to tell us what he has been doing since he left in 2011.

He is currently working freelance as an actor in Salisbury (and soon, Southampton) and has been pursuing drama school in the interim of different projects in amateur theatre too. He has recently gone up to Bristol for a recall audition with Old Vic Theatre School, and is pleased to report that he has been placed on their shortlist, hopefully to go forward into final selection for their Professional Acting course in September, placing him now in the top 10% of over 2000 applicants this year!

James has kindly offered to come into school to speak to students about what life is like beyond Stonehenge School.

Congratulations James and we wish you well in the future.

NEW MICROSCOPES

A **BIG** thank you to Amesbury Town Council, Haine and Smith Opticians, Lovibond, and Ivydene Dental Practice for their generous contributions to our new set of classroom microscopes.

The microscopes have been very well received and students have been using them to look at plant and animal cells up close and also observe freshwater unicellular organisms for the first time. Our year 11's have been having fun with them observing plant and animal cells recently and have made excellent detailed scientific diagrams.

Mr Marshall



We are absolutely delighted with the arrival of these new microscopes. They have already been used to great effect by several students who are equally delighted with them. They will enable us to look at single celled organisms for the first time and give the students an insight into the wonderful world of microbiology. Our new teaching microscope will enable us to show during a teaching session the finer details of the slides the students are using at the same time. The fact that it can be linked in to the interactive whiteboard means we can discuss the slides in greater detail with them differentiating to different key stages and abilities. Thank you so much, the Science Department.

Miss Bowie



Haine & Smith
OPTICIANS



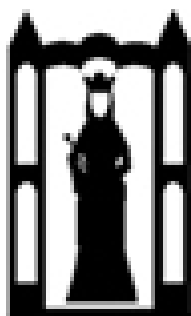
£10 Eye Test for Parents

Simply mention 'The Stonehenge School' when booking a FREE student eye test and have yours checked too for just £10.

Terms and conditions apply. May not be used with any other offer. NHS eye tests are free to eligible patients, including all under 16s and under 19s in full time education. One £10 eye test per person.

20 Salisbury St., Amesbury SP4 7HD | 01980 626551

haineandsmith.co.uk



AD 979

SKIING NEWS

... and they're off!

Friday 13th February sees the departure of the annual ski trip. Students from Years 10 and 11, and staff journey through Europe to spend the week in Saalbach, Austria. A busy week is planned; skiing for four hours every day, enjoying après ski activities in the evening and not forgetting the experiences of enjoying a new culture, fantastic scenery, different surroundings, foreign languages, etc. Après Ski events could include, swimming, ice skating, spectating a Ski Show, disco, tobogganing etc. Best wishes and good luck to all our travellers!

Calling all Y9 and Y10!



Plans have now been firmed up for a skiing holiday to take place next year. Once again, we will be travelling to Austria during the Spring Term (12th to 20th February 2016). The "Stonehenge Ski club" will visit the resort of Schladming for our 19th annual trip, costing in the region of £950. To help finance the trip students have often contributed 'Christmas money', 'birthday money' and even taken on little part-time jobs such as paper rounds or regular errands for relatives!

The ski trip has proved to be very popular for many years; taking between 40 and 75 students every year, most of which have never skied before. Students who are currently in Year 9 and 10 are eligible to go provided they have a good record of trust and behaviour. If students are not fit, they must be prepared to improve their fitness before departure, this is a very active 'activity holiday'!

Next year's trip will be launched in March!

MATHEMATICS IN YEAR 10



Pupils in 10Ma1 have been busy sitting the UKMT Intermediate challenge recently. We are awaiting results and will provide further details.

Four pupils from 10Ma1: Liam Pardoe, Tom Mearns, Amy Mowle and Olivia Worrall attended the Maths Feast at South Wilts Grammar School on 10th-Feb 2015. All pupils enjoyed the day and performed well, although the cube challenge provided some frustration.

The Maths Feast

The Year 10 Maths Feast is an enjoyable and challenging team competition testing mathematical, team-working and communication skills. Each year the format of the competition changes slightly so that the rounds remain interesting and exciting.

This year we will not be holding finals - this means that participants can take the materials back to their schools and use them for other students in their classes to enrich and extend their learning. Perhaps the best way of using these materials is to ask participating students to run the rounds with their classes!

The structure of some of the rounds within each competition will be changing and there will be additional material on the website soon to help prepare students, providing a guide to the standard of the mathematics and the sort of problems they might face. However teams will be expected to work together to solve new problems - so there may be surprises!

Each team consists of four students in Year 10 working together on a set of problems. They must be accompanied by a member of staff, whose role is to supervise a teams from a different school and mark rounds with the answers provided.

Mrs Levey

The FMSP produces resources for teaching, enrichment and the promotion of mathematics.



Discover Create Recycle

**Bring World War One to life
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Free Workshops **Creative Writing & Art/Sculpture**

led by Angie Street & Charlotte Moreton

FREE day of creativity for the whole family

Amesbury Library

Come and join us on

Saturdays 21 February and 28 March

10am - 4pm

with a break for lunch (not supplied)

Sessions starting on the hour

Come to as many as you like

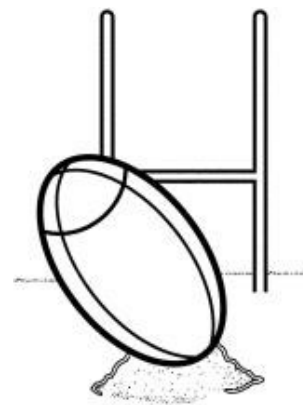
All materials supplied

Participants can explore the library resources including

Wiltshire at War Community Stories

Stonehenge punish Pewsey

A resilient Stonehenge defence saw off 10 minutes of early pressure from a well organised Pewsey pack, but they just couldn't cross the line. Stonehenge slowly battered their way out of their own 25, but what they lacked in finesse they made for with strength and power and with ball in hand ran in 5 unanswered converted tries in a very one sided first half. Stonehenge 35 , Pewsey 0.

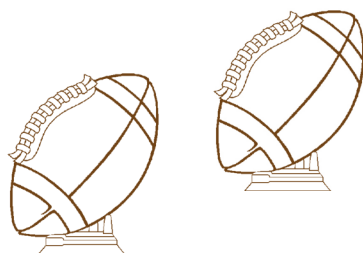


The second half changes to the team unsettled Stonehenge a little and the defence was not quite the same allowing Pewsey in for three tries. The Stonehenge running game prevailed with a further four converted tries adding to the final score of Stonehenge 63, Pewsey 15.

Scorers	Tries	Conversions
Finley Lloyd-Gilmour	3	7
Brandon Kruger	3	2
Sam Gilbert	2	
Connor Dove	1	

In all, a gritty, gutsy performance by the Stonehenge team showing promise of good things to come in the future, well Played!!!

Mr Cooper



January Draw

1st - Mrs K Kilburn £15.00

2nd - Mr R Chester £7.50

3rd - Mrs V Kelly £2.50

100
CLUB

If you would like to join please visit our website -

<http://www.stonehenge.wilts.sch.uk/news/100-club>



Physique Boot Camp, run by Angela Ross

is coming to Stonehenge School

PBC is a ladies only fitness boot camp

which will take place on the green within the school grounds

while most people are still sleeping

Monday, Tuesday and Thursdays 6.30 - 7.15am

Angela is kicking off a 2 week trial from 23rd February

To register for more details head over to www.physiquebootcamp.com/trial



Attendance Reminder - Please notify the school immediately if your child is absent from school via the absence line on 01980 676650 or email admin@stonehenge.wilts.sch.uk

Medical appointments should be made out of school hours where possible. In the case that an urgent appointment has to be attended, the appointment letter/card needs to be handed into the school office to enable the absence to be authorised.

Miss Wrighton

Attendance Officer

Exam Invigilators

PART TIME VACANCIES

APT&C Scale B point 9, £7.30 per hour

To work varied hours during the school day, mainly during GCSE exam periods but also covering internal and modular exams throughout the year. Must be available to work from 8.30 am to cover morning exams.

You will be working as part of a supportive team. Previous experience is not essential, but the work has to be carried out within clearly defined procedures and rules which will be explained fully.

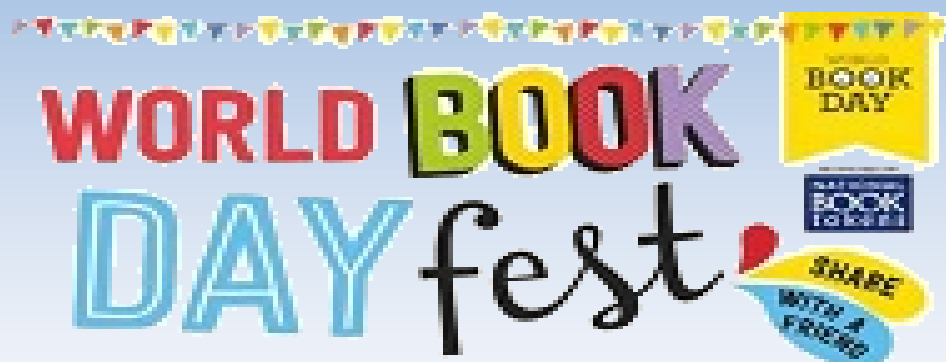
For further details, please go to the website at - <http://www.stonehenge.wilts.sch.uk/careers>



A Big thank you to Tesco

Pictured with Mrs Roberts is Nathan Clift handing over a box full of stationery goodies donated by Tesco Amesbury for which we are most grateful.

COMING SOON:
WORLD BOOK DAY - 5TH MARCH 2015



Watch out for the £1 tokens after $\frac{1}{2}$ term from your tutor or from the library



Each £1 token may be exchanged for either a:

Specially published book costing £1.00, available in bookshops/
supermarkets (eg Waterstones/Tesco)

OR

£1.00 off the price of any book/audio book priced £2.99 in
bookshops/supermarkets (eg W H Smiths/Asda)

OR

£1.00 off the price of any book in the Scholastic Book Club leaf-
let, available in the library

Amazing Success for Terri Gough

Terri throughout 2014 competed in thirty Judo competitions mostly events in the UK taking 17 gold medals, 10 silver medals and 2 bronze medals. Every year around November / December time the British Judo Championships are held and is the end of year competition that everyone wants to win. 2014 was Terri's first year of entering and everything had gone smoothly up to the event.

The event was held at The Glades Centre, Kidderminster, a new venue for Terri. Terri fought at the under 44kg weight category and had won seven fights and was fighting a girl who had beaten her two months earlier. Terri was winning with seven seconds remaining when she was thrown for a big score and was out of the final but a very pleasing bronze for her first British Championships competing at a national level.

Watch out for more information on Terri's success in the coming year.

Mr Protheroe



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