

# Commonweal Matters

Ability Follows Enthusiasm - A Centre of Excellence - December 2010



## Thoroughly Marvellous Millie...

It would be remiss of me not to begin by congratulating everyone concerned with the superb recent production of 'Thoroughly Modern Millie': over 3 nights nearly 100 students and 25 staff were involved in providing sell out audiences with a theatrical experience worthy of the West End. From backstage crew to leading lady, lighting team to producer, director and musical director, the show simply re-enforced how much talent we have in Commonweal: a huge well done and thanks to all

involved for delivering on all fronts!

As we approach the end of term our focus is very much now directed to the Christmas build up: our annual Bath Road Carol Service, on Monday December 13th at 7pm is followed soon after by our traditional Carols in the Gym, on Thursday December 16th at 7.30pm. Tickets for the latter event are available from the school office or at the door, priced very reasonably at £3 this year, and we look forward to seeing many of you there!

# The Commonweal School 1940s Dance



**with Swindon Big Band**  
and performances by students from the school

**Tuesday 8th February 2011**

**Tickets £5** adv (£6 on the door)

inc dance tuition with Maria Howse 6-7pm

Tickets available from Mrs Clarke in the school's admin office  
tel 01793 612727

**The Commonweal School The Mall Old Town Swindon**

Front page picture: Scene from the school musical, 'Thoroughly Modern Millie.'

Commonweal Matters is edited and compiled by Josie Williams, Community Arts Development Officer. If you have a story you would like considered for publication please email [josie@commonweal.co.uk](mailto:josie@commonweal.co.uk).  
This edition was proof read by Miss Zylinski

Given that the bad weather is already upon us it is worthwhile re-iterating our arrangements for dealing with it. We will do all we can to ensure that the school remains open, but should we have no alternative to close the school we will communicate this in the following ways:

On our website – [www.commonweal.co.uk](http://www.commonweal.co.uk) the notice will either read ‘school open’ or ‘school shut.’ If it is the latter we will provide as many details as we can about subsequent arrangements.

On local radio – please listen out for school closure information on BBC Radio Swindon (103.6FM) & Heart FM (97.2 & 102.2).

School answerphone – we will make every effort to update our messaging service, informing you of any school closure and likely re-opening date.

We will do our very best to provide timely updates but any decision to close will be made on the basis of weather forecasts, a local assessment of the conditions and the risk to safety of children and staff.

If it is necessary to close the school during the school day students will not be sent home unless we are entirely confident that they will be able to make the journey safely, gain access to their homes and be safe there. We thank you for your anticipated support in this matter.

With such difficult conditions to deal with we rely heavily upon the commitment and expertise of our site staff. We say goodbye this Christmas to Bob Minton, Assistant site Manager, who has worked tirelessly over the past 15 years or so to help keep us going. Upon his retirement we all wish him well and thank him for all his good work.

Wishing you all a safe and happy Christmas and please note that the term finishes at 12 noon on Friday December 17th, with the Spring Term commencing at the usual time on Tuesday January 4th 2011.

**Keith Defter - Headteacher**

**Exam Certificates**  
for students who left this year are ready for collection from reception. Indeed, there are still certificates to be collected from previous years. These are important and will save a lot of problems/expense later in life, so please do collect them.

## News From The PTA



It's been a busy term for the PTA. The Prom Fair on the 13th October was a great success and raised £320. Many thanks to the students who volunteered to take part in the fashion show – they did a great job and looked fantastic in their outfits. We will be running the event again next year and look forward to the next batch of Year 11s in the show!

The 11th November found 10 teams of teachers, parents and friends pitting their wits against each other at the Quiz Night. A good time was had by all and the event raised over £300.

Sunday 28th November was a bitterly cold day, but despite the weather we had a good turnout for the annual Christmas Craft Market. The café was extremely busy, with the bacon rolls and mulled wine proving to be very popular! The Christmas wreath making workshop was also very popular, with some beautiful

wreaths being produced, using a wide range of materials. Nearly 80 stalls and almost 200 visitors meant that we raised around £1750 for the PTA funds.

### Diary Dates

Friday 11th March – Quiz Night  
Saturday 2nd July – Summer Event

More details to follow about both these events...

**PTA Meeting Dates:** All meetings start at 7pm and are held in the Staff Room.

### Monday 13th December:

(This one will be at The Wheatsheaf at about 8:15 pm following the Carol Service at Bath Road church.)

**Monday 7th February:** staff room.

A big thank you to everyone who has helped support the PTA during the past year - coming along to meetings, attending and helping out at the events, making cakes, donating raffle prizes, designing posters.....the list is endless! We really couldn't do it without you.

### And finally...

The PTA would like to wish all the students, families and staff a very Merry Christmas and a happy New Year. We look forward to your continuing support in 2011.

### **News from the Governing Body**

As we head towards the end of the calendar year I am very pleased to welcome Caroline Morgan as a new Parent Governor and Andy Cantlon as Community governor, his second term as a Governor following a hugely productive four years as Parent Governor, much of which as Chair of the New School Working Group, which Andy will continue to lead.

The Governing Body has met twice so far in this academic year and the main feature at our recent meeting was an excellent presentation from Chas Drew (Senior Management Team) and Sarah Moore (the school's Data Analyst) on the school's use of information to improve school performance. They explained exactly how the school uses the many sources of data available (mainly on the performance of students at different stages in their development) to help the teaching staff identify and work with students with particular strengths and/or needs to ensure they do as well as they can, and leave Commonweal with as good a set off qualifications as possible. It demonstrated a key element of the school's achievements this year,


and the Governing Body very much appreciated all the hard work put in by the school to continuously raising standards.

In addition, the Governing Body went through significant standard business, including:


- Targeting setting for the achievements of current Y10 students
- Monitoring the level of student exclusions (which continues to be very low)
- Agreeing new and on-going policies (school admissions, financial procedures, business procedures, staff performance management, equality and diversity, and smokefree environment)

Several Governors have enjoyed the wonderful performance of 'Thoroughly Modern Millie' which was a triumph for all involved – and I congratulate everyone associated with such a professional production. We are now all looking forward to the end of term and the associated "magic moments", including the carol service and Carols in the Gym during the last week of term, which should set us all up for a happy and peaceful Christmas.


**Mari Williams**  
**Chair of Governors**




in aid of  
PROSPECT  
HOSPICE in its 30th  
year



THE WILLOWS -  
counselling service




CALM -  
Swindon Children's  
Cancer and  
Leukaemia  
Movement



**The Mayor of Swindon's Concert**  
at the Wyvern Theatre  
on Friday, January 21, 2011 from 7.30pm.










For tickets: 01793 524481



- Blowing up a storm will be PEGASUS BRASS
- Singing a special set will be SWINDON TALENT WINNERS Jade Wilkinson, Jahmene Douglas and Samantha Maybee
- Making a song and dance and adding a dash of poetry are pupils from COMMONWEAL and ISAMBARD SCHOOLS
- Stepping out in style will be

students from SWINDON DANCE

- Conjuring up some magic moments will be MAGICIAN JOHN WILLIAMS
- Making sweet music will be folk pop gurus MR LOVE AND JUSTICE
- It's showtime with a melody of musical marvels from SALOS
- Kicking up some fun and games will be stars of the future from WILKES ACADEMY OF PERFORMING ARTS

**BBC Children In Need Following a non-uniform day and a lunchtime concert the school raised £1030.45.**

### **Free School Meals**

Are you aware of the availability of free lunches for those students whose parents receive various benefits? This allowance of £2 per student per school day is designed to help out those families who are experiencing some degree of financial hardship. Since we appreciate that many parents and carers may have suffered a change in circumstances we wanted to let you know about this form of support.

In order to be eligible you must be in receipt of one of the following allowances:

- Income Support
- Income based Jobseekers Allowance
- Guaranteed Pension Credit
- NASS Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- An Income-Related Employment & Support Allowance (this benefit was introduced on 27th October 2008)
- Child Tax Credit, who do not receive Working Tax Credit, AND who have an annual taxable income of less than £16,190

If you are in receipt of any of these allowances and therefore

think that you might be eligible then please contact Mrs Dani Walega at the school for an application form, or download one from the school's website (on the right of the front page, under 'School Dinners'). Once completed, this short form should be sent to Swindon Borough Council, and should it be approved then your child (or children) will start to receive free school meals instantly.

### **Lost Property**

Has your child come home with a sock missing? A shoe a boot or even a coat?

If they have, then maybe it is in Lost Property. Lost Property has a large variety of items- which have been stored since SEPTEMBER! Unfortunately, many of them do not have a name tag in them so that they could be returned to their rightful owner.

Due to the vast volume of items, these will be disposed of thoughtfully, at the end of term. Do you want to come in and see if the coat you bought, or other items, and haven't seen are in there? If so, please call Mrs McVeigh on 01793 612727 to arrange a visit

## World Aids Day



As part of World Aids Day, Miss Browning and some of her Peer Educators held assemblies to the whole school.

We met on numerous lunchtimes and researched the statistics and facts on HIV and AIDS. Many of us were shocked at the high numbers of people living with HIV in the UK, let alone the world. The assemblies went well and I think we got the message across to the rest of the school.

**Madison Smith 10R1**

Doing the World AIDS Day assemblies during the week of 1st December, was a big eye opener. We learnt about the dangers that some people face and actually go through. It felt good to teach this to children who maybe didn't know much or fully understand the virus. In a short space of time we put the assembly together; we found lots of good information and videos to use to raise awareness about traumatic things people go through, when living with HIV.

We feel very proud that we could be a part of this, and feel privileged to be able to support and raise awareness about people living with HIV. Giving a pound for such a great cause it's great knowing that this could help someone live a longer, more healthy and active life. The ribbons bring some colour to our uniforms! Thank you to Miss Browning and Mr Walker for giving us the opportunity to teach this to others.

**Ellie Truscott 10SA1**



# Carols in the Gym

Thursday 16th December

Starts 7.30 pm

Tickets: £3.00 each



On sale now from the finance office

## More New Patrons

### Chris Horsman

Chris has been a professional rugby player for 12yrs and in that time played premiership and European rugby and achieved international caps across all age groups.

As a young lad Chris was diagnosed with severe dyslexia and his frustrations in the classroom led to behaviour issues. On the rugby pitch Chris found he was able to excel, something which helped to change his outlook on life.

At the height of his career Chris was selected for the 2007 World Cup and was considered one of the best props in the world. He also played for the Barbarians and Northern Hemisphere. In total Chris achieved 15 caps for Wales, a feat that no-one could have predicted considering that his career was rudely interrupted by two bouts of life threatening cancer. Overcoming months of chemotherapy and being left in intensive care after a massive operation made him determined to regain his fitness and work towards international status. Sheer guts and courage in the face of



many who believed it was not possible led Chris to his dream.

We at Commonweal are extremely privileged to have added Chris to our list of Patrons. We had the pleasure of meeting him when he came to talk to the students about his learning difficulties and frustration. The students hung on his every word and were truly inspired by him.

**Louise Hunt**, a University of Bath-based wheelchair tennis player, smashed through her previous bests to earn career high world singles and doubles rankings after completing back-to-back tournaments in South Africa. Her women's singles world ranking broke the world top 20 barrier for the very first time.

The 18-year-old first year Sports Performance student from

Wanborough, Wiltshire, has earned a career high singles ranking of No 18 after reaching the final of both the Border Open in East London and last the South African Open in Johannesburg. She was also a finalist in the women's doubles at both tournaments.



“My tennis career would never have taken off if it was not for the support from all my teachers and staff at school. In order for me to maintain my world ranking I had to travel all over the world for tournaments which resulted in me often missing school time. However, due to the great support Commonweal gave me, I completed my GCSEs with all Cs

and above. Balancing being an athlete with studies along with being a normal teenager can be difficult at times, but all the hard work is so worth it in the end,”  
Louise Hunt.

Louise attended Commonweal from Sept 2002 – June 2007

**Nadia Lewis**

**The Commonweal Patrons  
Co-ordinator**

### **New Dance Classes On Offer**

Do you want to get fit, make friends and have fun dancing? Then this class may be for you... I am hoping to set up a class for adults in the school dance studio in Cabaret (with a touch of Burlesque, lots of Walks and Poses and wearing a glam costume!), and if there is enough interest, an Egyptian dance class. There is also the possibility of Egyptian dance classes for children and young people.

Please contact Heather Rose on 07708 647753 if you are interested.

**[www.spiritofbellydance.com](http://www.spiritofbellydance.com)**

**The Commonweal**  
A Performing Arts College  
School

## Operation Christmas Child



Commonweal students have been busy collecting presents for children in the third world as part of the national Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child Appeal. This year they filled 98 boxes of all sorts of goodies including sweets, toys, toiletries and educational items such as pens, puzzles and colouring books, destined for Eastern Europe and Africa.

The school liaison was teacher Genny Williams who has coordinated the collection for the last five years. "Many thanks to all parents and carers for sending in things to put in boxes. Our students really enjoy packing the shoe boxes because they know that their box will make a girl or a boy very happy this Christmas. Without the shoe boxes some children would not receive anything at all. The box is a sign

that they have not been forgotten and someone cares," commented Genny.

Douglas Carmichael, age 11, was one of the students helping to load the boxes and he said, "It is a really good idea as poor children are getting to experience Christmas. It gives me a really warm feeling deep inside."

## Paired Reading

The Paired Reading scheme has got off to a very positive start which we hope will benefit all those involved. Prior to the start of the scheme, the Year 10s were busy preparing games and sharing ideas as well as doing a number of admin tasks so that the scheme could run smoothly.

As a thank you to these students, we took them to the recently refurbished library and café at The Arts Centre and treated them to refreshments, as well as presenting them with 'Thank You' certificates.

Parents who do not want their child to do the scheme, should send a short note, so that the place can be offered to someone else. If you would like to see the



## Year 9 Maths and Geography River Cole Field Trip



Once again Y9 were very lucky with weather and although it was a bit cold, the rain held off for most of the day. 120 students visited the National Trust Coleshill estate to learn about flood management and to get into the river and test some of the theories they had been learning in Geography lessons about river meanders. They also used some of their maths skills to collect the data.

Lisa Dibble (National Trust Warden) was impressed with the students' knowledge and

enthusiasm, and said that it is always a pleasure to have Commonweal students visiting the estate.

**Miss A Preston**  
**Head of Geography**

### **Calling all Young Cooks!**

If you would like to take part in the Swindon Young Cooks competition 2011, turn up to three meetings on Monday lunch times in January to plan, and three after school cooking sessions in February / March – actual dates to follow.

The competition involves you planning and making a 2 course meal and using SOME local foods.

At the second meeting a professional chef will demonstrate some ideas for you!

**Mr Soulsby, Miss Caudwell**

### **Heating Houses Project**

What we did for our heating houses project was simple: we were asked to make a model of an energy efficient house, or a house that wastes less heat. We were given a task sheet that explained everything we had to do and we had to find out how much percentage of energy was lost through the roof, floors, walls etc, and research ways of reducing this energy loss.

A good thing about the project was that we had the time and resources to build our models, but best of all was that we had fun doing it! It wasn't about writing 20 pages on how to lose less heat, it was proving and showing how we can prevent energy loss through our models. If anyone wants to build one of these for fun or as a project, don't groan

because the project is fun and an easy "A" for those of you that put in the effort.

**Max Goncalves 8W1**



Many thanks to everyone who came along to our Open Lunchtime on Monday 8th November to see the Y8 Science Heating Houses projects. Over the Autumn term Y8 classes have been completing the projects as part of their extended homework tasks. The students of 8A1 and 8A3 wanted to share their work with you and produced a display of their model houses to show what can be done to improve energy efficiency and reduce heat loss.

**Miss Gingell**

## English Present a Multi-cultural Feast!



Year 11 have currently been studying poems from other cultures and traditions as part of the GCSE course in English. This is a unit that is extremely interesting to teach as it widens the students' perspectives; the topic looks at how poetry can be used to challenge and educate readers about cultural issues such as religion, prejudice, language barriers and identity.

We have spent many lessons analysing and annotating the set poems to aid revision for the exams. However in order to make these poems a little more tangible and memorable for the students

Miss McMaster and I decided that we could have a little bit of fun with our two classes as an end of unit reward.

We were both talking about how much we enjoyed teaching these poems but felt that sometimes real experiences of other cultures was needed if students were to grasp the concepts contained within them. We set about thinking of ideas to breathe a bit of life into our teaching and learning. After dismissing the idea of dressing up our classes in saris, kilts and salwar kamezes, we set upon the idea of food being representative of culture. The plan was hatched!

We wrote out a list of food types connected to each of the eight poems we study. For example pineapple would represent the Caribbean, a haggis for Scotland, a yam for Africa and so on. On the evening before our final lesson Miss McMaster and I went on a shopping trip to the supermarket, to provide the ingredients for a rather unusual lesson.

The idea was that we would prepare and plate up a certain food type which the students would have to identify and link to each of the individual poems from the anthology. In doing so the students were testing their memories and understanding of cultures, working together and learning in a kinaesthetic way.

The students seemed quite surprised by the lesson and were great at throwing themselves into the swing of things. Most individuals managed to try at least one food type that they had never eaten before. There were quite a few looks of horror on some faces after they'd nibbled on a fork full of garlic, onion and spices! But none the less nearly everyone gave it a go and some people were surprised to discover that

they actually liked haggis or poppadums!

The lesson was a great success and was worth the effort and preparation. Although neither of us claim to be Nigella Lawson or Delia Smith the food was well prepared and no one got food poisoning! We both really enjoyed ourselves and it was great to see how much our classes had understood the importance of culture and tradition in society.

**Mrs Riach**

### **Student Feedback**

From the start of this year, our GCSE English groups have been working on Multi-cultural poetry which we will be examined on at the end of the course. We have gained and developed a real interest in our work as a result of analysing poems from different cultures, and we have gathered information and looked at how traditions and cultural heritage influences our sense of identity.

To reward us for our hard work and efforts, our English teachers Mrs Riach and Miss McMaster decided to give us a fun and enjoyable learning experience. We were not aware of what this

lesson would consist of because they kept us in suspense, just saying that they had something “fun” planned.

When we arrived at our final lesson on this unit of work, both Mrs Riach’s and Ms McMaster’s two classes were put together in one room and were told to get into groups of four. Then we were given a napkin, cutlery and a piece of paper. In groups we entered Mrs Riach’s room, here we saw 8 stations containing different foods relating to the poems from different cultures that we have been learning about from our anthologies.

We had to taste each of the weird and wonderful plates of food; this was a great experience because we probably would never have tried the foods otherwise. There were: poppadoms, Masala curry, garlic, mango, pineapple, chocolates and even haggis! It gave us an insight into what types of foods are eaten around the world, in different cultures. We had to work out what the foods were, write this down and work out what poem relates to them.

After this the teachers kept us entertained when we played a fun

quiz where you could win a chocolate every time you answered correctly. (In other words we were bribed!)

This whole lesson really helped us because it prepared us for our exams and made it easier to remember the poems and the cultural influences. We all really enjoyed the lesson and we think we speak for both classes when we say this:

We would like to give a big thank you to Mrs Riach and Miss McMaster.

**By Kelly Card and Kirstie- Elle Maisey**

### **Swindon Schools Literary Festival**

The annual festival took place in November. All Yr 9 at Commonweal were entertained by author Bali Rai who gave a presentation in the hall followed by three writing workshops.

Fifty other students were invited to go to the Wyvern Theatre to see author Charlie Higson. There was also a Book Quiz, a workshop by local artist Fred Blunt, a talk by screenwriter Andy Briggs and a team of 4 students took part in the Fastest Story Race.

Students at all the senior schools were asked to enter a competition to illustrate a paragraph selected from THE GRAVEYARD BOOK which won this year's Carnegie Prize. Two of our talented students won prizes in the Yr 7 & 8 category...Congratulations to Alex Singer and Madeline Frost.



Can you imagine six schools getting together to write a story in just a few hours? That's exactly what we at Commonweal did, along with Greendown, Churchfields, Swindon Academy, Dorcan, and Nova Hreed!

This year's theme was Adventure and Greendown started the ball rolling by creating a character named 'Mohammed' and writing the opening paragraph of around 150 words in just 45 minutes. They were supposed to email their contribution on to the next school within this time, but unfortunately, there were some

technical issues which delayed the sending of the story on time throughout the day. That did not stop the enthusiasm because when the story finally arrived, we got our teeth stuck right into it and by 3pm that day, all six schools had officially written The Fastest Story in the West!!

Written by Frank Lyons and Bethany Whitehouse, Yr 9

**Calling All Young Cooks!**



**Would you would like to take part in the Swindon Young Cooks Competition?**

**If so, please see Mr Soulsby or Miss Caudwell in Design Food for further info on how to sign up!**

## Climate Cops



At our last meeting, representatives from Swindon Commercial Services visited and were very enthusiastic about the environmental issues we have already addressed in school. They spoke to students about the fate of Swindon's waste, landfill and recycled. As a result, we have not only checked that there is a paper recycling bin in every room, but also have labelled ordinary bins as destined for landfill - in an attempt to increase awareness of this growing problem.

The textile collection was successful and will be repeated in the Spring Term. The allotment is now fenced off and beds have been dug here and at the front of the building. We've planted crocuses too!

Two solar cells are in place outside room130 to demonstrate

the principle and we have entered a competition offering a large array of solar cells as first prize!

Are you aware that we collect old mobiles, glasses and stationery for our link in The Gambia? We also recycle ink cartridges, used stamps, milk tops, low energy light bulbs and batteries? Please send them in to Mrs Taylor and she will distribute them appropriately!

As we've said before, if anyone has specialist knowledge or particular enthusiasm that they would be willing to share, don't hesitate to get in touch!

**Sue Taylor and Andrea Preston**

### **Green Question Time**

On 12th November, a group of the Climate Cops helped to run a 'Green Question Time', an event organised by Swindon Climate Action Network and Oxfam as part of the national 'Big Climate Connection' campaign. The panel comprised North Swindon MP, Justin Tomlinson, Councillor Peter Greenhalgh from Swindon Borough Council, Marion Royer representing Swindon Chamber of Commerce and Dr Gary Mantle,

Director of the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust representing the Stop Climate Chaos Coalition. South Swindon MP, Robert Buckland had been due to attend, but withdrew due to other urgent commitments. The Chair for the discussion was Dave Brown, who in the past was Chair of the Commonweal School Governors.

The audience asked a broad range of environmental questions, with general agreement on most of the issues.

One of the Climate Cops, Jess Ryan asked a question concerning street lighting in Swindon. She asked why some areas of the town are very brightly lit, when the older parts of town, such as outside school, manage with much lower lighting levels. Justin Tomlinson agreed with her, but added that all Swindon's streetlights already run on a green electricity tariff. Marion Royer said streetlights have just been taken for granted but it is probably a good time to see if we could do with less and Gary Mantle asked whether we need it and why are roads lit all through the night. Peter Greenhalgh said that he has made plans to cut lighting after midnight in areas

where there are no pavements, but he had been 'publicly derided' by the local media. He said that he would like a considerable reduction in the levels of lighting, perhaps using new LED lights, activated by sensors where needed, thereby reducing costs to the Council as well as reducing carbon emissions.

The biggest discussion of the evening was about car parking. Most panellists said that good car parks were essential for local business. Gary Mantle offered an alternative view by saying that resources are needed to provide alternative transport systems, then people can then chose to leave their car at home. A member of the audience said that she had chosen to give up owning a car some years ago as part of her environmental commitment. She had been very disappointed in the lack of action to provide alternatives and recent cuts to local bus services and increases in fares had forced her to once again own a car.

Other questions covered topics such as home insulation, renewable energy generation and the effect that climate change will have on the quality of life in

Swindon and the effects it is already having on developing countries.

Chair Dave Brown passed on his thanks to Mr Defter and the School for providing the facilities for the evening and to all the Climate Cops for their help. He summed up the evening by saying 'I hope this is the start of something that could happen on a more regular basis as we have had some very interesting discussion and a lot of common feeling, which is very positive.'

Information about Swindon Climate Action Network can be found at:

[www.swindonclimate.org.uk](http://www.swindonclimate.org.uk)

## On Your Bike!



The project, in association with Jole Rider and Bikes for Africa, involves the students learning new skills, and developing existing ones, through vocational training allied to bicycle maintenance and repair.

Developing functional skills, the project also delivers a sense of achievement and pride alongside learning new practical skills. This programme combines vocational training, functional skills, and green transport and connects with the curriculum in a variety of different ways.

The students engaged well with the project working as a group toward a common goal. They really benefited from the sense of achievement gained as well as learning new practical skills.

**Mr Scandling**

"Perhaps the most valuable result of all education is the ability to make yourself do the things you have to do, when it ought to be done, whether you like it or not. It is the first lesson that ought to be learned and however early a person's training begins, it is probably the last lesson a person learns thoroughly."

**Thomas H. Huxley**

## A Christmas Review

This has been a very dramatic year so far. The new Yr 7s have had to get used to the school, luckily though the building work had finished so they didn't have to worry about the noisy drilling and getting distracted in lessons. The other years could at last get back to work without building work going on around them.

We had a great visit to the National Games at Stoke Mandeville, where five medals were won! We were able to stay two nights this year – so a big thanks to all the staff for going away with us and making this happen.

Following the SEN Review in July, we were really pleased with our GCSE results this year – we hope this year's Yr 11 students do as well – good luck in their mock exams! Make sure you revise as much as you can for the real exams!

On behalf of all the students who are supported by the teaching assistants, we would like to say a big “THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP OVER THE PAST YEAR!”

**From Lauren & Mr Coward**

## Rocket Challenge



When Dave King, Editor of the Swindon Advertiser, asked me to find some students to create a toy rocket I knew exactly who to ask. Miss Gingell, in the Science Department is the queen of rocket making! Her Yr 6 Summer School is testimony to just how far a rocket powered by water and pump can travel.

Dave was set the challenge by BBC Wiltshire Radio presenter Graham Seaman, as part of the BBC Toy Story Show. This was a collection of childhood toys and games which was on display at Noremarsh School in Wootton Bassett.

Two Yr 8 students Max Goncalves and Scott Gunning, pictured above, created the rocket in their own time and embraced the project wholeheartedly.

**Josie Williams**

## News From Performing Arts

This term has been a whirl wind of activity! Yr 7 Gambia Day was magical, the students were fully engaged in their workshops with our visiting artists. These included dance, African drumming, art, food and storytelling.

At the start of the day, the students met in the hall and (via powerpoint) delivered by Miss Browning they learnt about the culture of the Gambia. This tied into our Global Citizenship objectives.

The year group stayed in tutor groups throughout the day and at the end of the workshops came together again in the main hall where Miss Derrick showed them a video of a previous school trip to the Gambia. These trips happen every two years and there are rigorous school interviews to go through in order to gain a place. The day finished with some of the students performing to their peers alongside our African guests.

"I thought that this day encouraged me to appreciate other cultures," **Paige Curtis.**

"The project was very enjoyable. It boosted my confidence in many

ways. I have never done Gambian dance before and I got the chance to perform on stage," **Tyler Gerring.**



## Community Dance



Professional dance company Skedaddle delivered a community dance partnership workshop in our high tech dance studio. This was held at the beginning of the October term break and was aimed at 6-11 year olds. Dance teachers Zoe Humphries and Helen Ganberg worked with 15 young people from across the borough. At the end of the day they shared their TV reality show inspired pieces to their families.

Feedback forms indicated that 100% of participants thought that the workshop had increased their dance skills, 93% said it had increased their confidence and 78% rated the workshop 10 out of 10.

Our Salsa Fitness community partnership with Claudia Stroud is still proving popular and takes place in the dance studio on Tuesday and Thursday evenings

from 6.30-7.30pm. There is no need to book, simply turn up on the night. The classes have finished for this term and recommence on Tuesday 4th January.

**Date for the diary: The Salsa Dance with a live five piece South American band has been rescheduled for Friday 1st April. Tickets available from the school's Finance Office.**

## Community Christmas Decoration Workshop



Our Artist-in-Residence Tracey Baker-Stewart delivered a superb decoration workshop last Saturday. Twelve families from the community turned up to make snowmen made out of recycled materials.

The three-hour workshop was an ideal opportunity for families to learn new skills and spend some quality time together.

**Josie Williams**

## Thoroughly Modern Millie



What a fabulous performance. This was certainly the product of true team effort and, of course, so much talent.

The casting for this musical took place way back in the Summer Term. This proved to be the first step in the right direction, as the students were so perfectly suited to their role and led to amazing performances.

The time schedule for this production was very tight but staff and students worked incredibly hard, during evenings and at weekends. Ex-students came in to support with rehearsals and performances, and this again is a reflection of the strong Commonweal community spirit.

The Commonweal version of 'Thoroughly Modern Millie'

really did showcase the tremendous talent of the school's students and staff.

Thank you to all those people who came along to watch the show, thanks for your support and we hope you had a great evening. Well done to everyone involved, we are all so proud of you.

**Miss Derrick,**  
**Head of Performing Arts**

### **Director's Notes on 'Millie'**

What an achievement in NINE weeks from a very young cast. The average age was 13 and students were very professional and dedicated in their approach. Nearly a hundred students were involved overall and a real bond was created between them. Students felt strongly that it was a very positive experience for them "It was an experience that I will never forget and I have made some very good friendships."

**Sam Cantlon Yr 11**

"It was a brand new experience and I enjoyed it thoroughly and gained lots of new friendships that wouldn't have occurred otherwise"

**Elyshia Negrin Yr 11**

The fact that ex-students came back to help with directing and stage management shows their commitment to performance work and Commonweal. Many thanks to James Watts, Alex Herrington, Calum Chamberlain and India Collins-Davies for their time and talent. Members of staff were equally generous with their contribution.

The feedback from the audience was tremendous and made those weekends working at away at Millie worthwhile.

Even before the musical was over Miss Clements, Mrs Harman and I were frequently asked what are we doing next!

Watch this space .....!  
**Heather Birkbeck, Head of Drama**

A massive thank you to the painting girls (Hannah, Maisie, Jess, Tamysn, and Jess) who gave up enormous amounts of their time to paint the backdrops and flats for 'Thoroughly Modern Millie' over the last month. I think everyone will agree that they looked fantastic and show that when it comes to 'big painting' they are brilliant! Well done girls and..... Thank you.  
**Mrs Parker-Woolway**

I would like to thank the parents for all their help in putting costumes together. I don't know what I would have done if I'd had to start making every single item. The students looked fantastic on stage; I don't think I've ever seen so much fringing in one place! It all looked very authentic.  
**Sally Williams, Teaching Assistant**

The matinee performance was a full house watched by Yr 6 from King William, Lethbridge, and Even Swindon primary schools, and residents from the Kingsmead and Cheriton Nursing Homes. Thank you for your support and judging by the deafening applause and positive comments, all thoroughly enjoyed themselves! Thank you also to the Governors who helped on the bar.  
**Josie Williams**

**Interview with Alice Baker  
alias Millie Dillmount**  
I've loved doing this role from day one! I've loved working with the others in the production – I'm used to sitting next to them in class but this is something completely different.

I had a touch of nerves but everyone always has. It adds adrenalin which gave my performance a real buzz. I

worried all the time that I would forget the words but the teachers had prepared us so well it was not a problem. The dancing just came naturally because we knew the music so well – again the teachers have made sure we were fully ready and wouldn't make mistakes.

I played the central character – Millie - and am on the stage most of the time. Things happen around Millie even when she is not directly involved. Rehearsing and learning the part has taken a lot of time – working very intensively. I want to work in performing arts when I leave school so I haven't minded putting in all the extra time. I kiss the leading man (played by Josh) and at first it was embarrassing for us both, but, it gets easier and it all comes in a day's work!

My debut at Commonweal was in Year 7 when I took part in the 'Little Shop of Horrors'. I've always been involved in acting, dancing and singing. My very first stage performance was when I was two, at The Wyvern with my dance school! When I leave Commonweal, I want to go to a Performing Arts School. My mum and I will visit a few to see which one I like. Although I sing and

dance I would like most of all to be an actress.

I have also kept up with my school work and have done plenty of revision for mocks which start next week. The performances are this week – perfect timing for English controlled assessments! No pressure! I'd like to say I have enjoyed working with everyone and I particularly want to thank all the teachers involved. Playing Millie has provided a wonderful opportunity for me.

**For production photos:** see the back page and also please visit our dedicated arts web site:

[www.commonwealarts.co.uk](http://www.commonwealarts.co.uk)

### **Junior Choir Debut**

On Sunday 28 November, new members of the Junior Choir gathered to perform for the very first time on stage at the PTA Craft Fair. The girls did exceptionally well singing a range of classic and popular Christmas carols whilst the hall was filled with beautiful stalls and a very appreciative audience! The choir certainly looked the part too, dressed smartly in full school uniform - and Santa hats. Well done to the choir, and watch this space for future appearances at upcoming events.

### **Music Composition Competition 2011**

The annual Music Composition Competition will open again for submissions in January 2011, whereby students of all year groups are invited to submit compositions in any style. Prizes are awarded, and all entries will be included on the next 'Now That's What I Call Commonweal' CD. Look out for posters advertising the Competition in January - and get composing!  
**Miss Zylinski**

### **Christmas Concerts**

There are many opportunities to start celebrating the Christmas period with Commonweal School; we have our annual service at Bath Road Methodist Church on Monday 13th December starting at 7pm followed by our festive Carols in the Gym on Thursday 16th December starting at 7.30pm. We have an array of talented students performing either as part of ensembles or individually and we hope to see you there!

### **Children In Need**

The Frosted Teacakes performed a lunchtime gig in order to raise money for BBC Children in Need. After a number of fantastically performed songs, Evan Costello

took centre stage to perform some of his own songs which was a real treat for all there. Over 100 students attended the gig raising £54. I really enjoyed helping raise money for such a worthwhile charity and thought all three students were wonderful performers. We look forward to hearing more from them in the future.

**Miss Clements, Acting Head of Music**

### **News From Art**

Apologies to Yr 8 for the cancelled Avebury trip at the start of November, the Art Department are currently looking at the exhibitions on in the next few months that we could take you to. If you had signed up to go to Avebury, you will automatically be on the next trip. You will get a letter telling you when and where we are going as soon as we have decided.

On 5th November we took a group of 50 Yr 10 to the Pitt Rivers Museum in Oxford. Our students were all brilliantly behaved and did some beautiful work.

**Mrs Parker-Woolway**

We all went to The Pitt Rivers Museum. In lessons we have been studying The Art of Other Cultures, their masks and artefacts. In the museum we looked at different

cultures Art, drawing, clothes, weapons, and boats. I drew different weapons from other cultures in my sketchbook. I think the trip was fun and would encourage future Yr 10 to go on it.

**By Beytullah Kahraman 10ST2**

As part of my pre-initial teacher training at New College I have had the opportunity to do my placement here. I chose The Commonweal School, because I am a recent ex-student and know the system of day to day routines.

Since November, I have had the chance to team- teach and help with curriculum activities in Drama GCSE classes and Key Stage 3. The placement has given me key experience and skills such as, insight to teaching, controlling classes, co-operation with others, and lesson planning and meeting the criteria for certain subject topics such as how to create power-point presentations for Yr 9 on evaluating monologues. I feel this has given me the confidence to lead lessons and not become nervous.

I chose Drama because I feel I am good at explaining techniques in depth. Drama has especially

helped me as it boosts my confidence in teaching; I also enjoy the subject which I am continuing at A Level.

Completion of the placement and the course will earn me a qualification and will help me enter University to do my degree and Secondary PGCE.

**Ciaran Jones**

### **Anti Smoking Adver**

Back in the summer a group of talented students were involved in creating a short TV advert to discourage Yr 9 from starting smoking. Create Studios who ran the project, entered five films from local secondary schools into a showcase instigated by The Watershed in Bristol. The showcase was open to young people across Europe and one of our films, 'Stamp It Out' was selected to be part of an online calender entitled, Electric December. Check it out on

**<http://www.electricdecember.org>**

Students involved: Sam Rosser, James Taylor, Babette Clarke, Charlotte Wood, Alix Priest, Eve James, Charlotte Murphy, Rhys Clyne, Dominic Persinger, Ben Walker, Neil Morris, Evan Costello, Ella McCusker, Charlotte Wood, Sam Cantlon  
**Josie Williams**

## **THE COMMONWEAL SCHOOL ADMISSION POLICY**

The School has a Published Admission Number (PAN) of 216 and will offer places to 216 students per year. The School has a Unit for children who have a Statement of Special Educational Needs in relation to Specific Learning Difficulties or Physical Impairment. The children admitted to these Units are not included in the PAN of 216.

### **Oversubscription Criteria**

Where applications for admission exceed the number of places available, places will be allocated according to the following oversubscription criteria, applied in the order given and subject to availability:

A child who has a Statement of Special Educational Needs is required to be admitted to the school named on the child's statement.

1. In line with the Code of Practice for Admissions and agreed procedures for Children in Public care the School will consider with high priority any child in the care of a local authority or provided with accommodation by that authority as defined by Section 22 of the Children Act 1989.

2. The School will offer up to 15 places per year, subject to availability, to any student with a demonstrable aptitude in the performing arts. As places are limited the Governors require completion of the Commonweal Supplementary Application Form (NB - Both the Local Authority and The Commonweal Supplementary Application Forms must be completed by the closing date before a student can be considered).

Invitations to an audition will be sent in early December 2011

Auditions will be held in early January 2012

Please note that if a student is unsuccessful at audition the application for Commonweal will still be considered according to the other oversubscription criteria listed.

3. Any child who has a sibling at the school at the same time that he/she is due to be admitted (brother or sister). 'Sibling' in this context means

brothers or sisters, biological or adopted and also includes children living as siblings in the same family unit.

4. Any child living within the school's designated area. A map of this area is available for inspection by parents/carers at the school. Priority is given to those living closest to Commonweal School, measured as a straight line from the centre point of the rooftop of Commonweal School to the centre point of the rooftop of the child's home address.

5. Children not living in the school's designated area, with priority being given to those living closest to Commonweal School, measured as a straight line from the centre point of the rooftop of Commonweal School to the centre point of the rooftop of the child's home address.

#### **Decider**

Distance will be used as a tiebreaker to prioritise applications within each individual criteria. Distance is measured as a straight line from the centre point of the rooftop of Commonweal School to the centre point of the rooftop of the child's home address. If the direct distance measurement does not separate applicants, places will be offered by lottery style allocation.

#### **Children of Multiple Births**

In the case of multiple births the school may admit over its PAN to admit all children.

#### **Waiting list**

Waiting lists for the year of entry of any school operate from the day places are first allocated. The order of placement on the waiting list will be determined by the oversubscription criteria. Placing a child's name on a waiting list does not affect the parents'/carers' right of appeal against an unsuccessful application. The waiting list will be kept for one academic year only.

#### **Change of Preference**

A parent/carer may change their mind about a preference they have made after the closing date of 31 October, 2012, if they have a genuine reason

for doing so. Commonweal School and the Local Authority School Admissions Team should be notified in writing by the parent. A change in preference will result in the application form being considered as a late application.

### **Late Applications**

Applications received after the closing date will not be considered except under exceptional circumstances (i.e. Illness, bereavement, relocation), at the sole discretion of the school.

### **Applications Outside the Normal Age Group**

Commonweal School will accept applications from parents/carers seeking a place for their child outside their normal age group for gifted and talented children, or those who have experienced problems or missed education due to ill health. Commonweal will consider applications for children outside the normal age group and decisions will be made by the school following consultation with parents/carers, both schools (primary and secondary) and based on the individual circumstances of each case.

### **Applications after the Normal Admission Round**

There is an in-year Transfer Form available from the Local Authority for students wishing to transfer after the normal admissions round, or for years other than the normal year of entry. All applications will be considered against the Mid-Year Admissions policy. Information on applications stating preferences for Foundation and Voluntary Aided Schools will be passed on to the Governing Body of the Admissions Authority. Parents/carers refused admission to an oversubscribed school will be informed of their right of appeal.

### **Appeals**

Applicants refused a place at a school can appeal against that decision. The appeals procedure involves completing and returning an appeal form available from the school and submitting it to the School's Governing Body, who are the Admitting Authority. Your case will be decided by an Independent Appeal Panel at a meeting to which you will be invited. The appellant will need to provide evidence of exceptional circumstances to the Appeal Panel to support the appeal. The panel's decision is legally

binding on all parties, and can only be challenged if the appeal procedure was not followed correctly.

Unless there are significant and material changes in circumstances, only one appeal may be made for each academic year.

### **Important Dates**

#### **By 31 October 2011**

Swindon Local Authority must receive completed application forms from parents/carers.

#### **By 2 December 2011**

Commonweal School receives all applications from the Local Authority and any supporting evidence the parent/carer has submitted.

#### **By 20 January 2012**

Commonweal School to apply its own Admissions Criteria and send to Swindon Local Authority a list indicating the order in which all applicants have priority according to the oversubscription criteria for the school.

#### **On 1 March 2012**

The Local Authority, on behalf of Commonweal School, will send offer letters to parents/carers living within the Swindon area.

### **The Commonweal School Admissions Policy -Mid-Year Admissions**

The Governors will admit students without reference to ability or aptitude. The Published Admission Number (PAN) of intended admissions for each year group commencing 1st September of each year will be 216, the statutory minimum.

#### **Oversubscription Criteria**

Where applications for admission exceed the number of places available, the oversubscription criteria will be applied as listed below, and places will be offered in this order.

Statemented children will be admitted where the LEA have supported the naming of The Commonweal School in a transfer statement.

1.Children in the care of a local authority whose educational, social and pastoral needs as judged by the admissions authority, are best met by The Commonweal School.

2. The School will offer up to 15 places per year, subject to availability, to any student with a demonstrable aptitude in the performing arts. As places are limited the Governors require completion of The Commonweal Supplementary Application Form (NB – Both the Local Authority and The Commonweal Supplementary Application Forms must be completed before a student can be considered).

Invitations to an audition will be sent to the parent/carer and auditions will be held as soon as possible.

Please note that if a student is unsuccessful at audition the application for Commonweal will still be considered according to the other oversubscription criteria listed.

3. Any child who has a sibling at the School at the same time that he/she is due to be admitted (brother or sister). ‘Sibling’ in this context means brothers or sisters, biological or adopted and also includes children living as siblings in the same family unit.

4. Any child living within the School’s designated area. A map of this area is available for inspection by parents/carers at the School. Priority is given to those living closest to Commonweal School, measured as a straight line from the centre point of the rooftop of Commonweal School to the centre point of the rooftop of the child's home address.

5. Children not living in the School’s designated area, with priority being given to those living closest to The Commonweal School, measured as a straight line from the centre point of the rooftop of The Commonweal School to the centre point of the rooftop of the child’s home address.

**Decider**

If the School is oversubscribed, distance measured as a straight line as described above will be used to prioritise applications within individual over-subscription criteria. If the direct distance measurement does not separate applicants, places will be offered by lottery-style allocation.

**Children of Multiple Births**

In the case of multiple births the school may admit over its PAN to admit all children.

**Appeals**

Applicants refused a place at a school can appeal against that decision. The appeals procedure involves completing and returning an appeal form available from the school and submitting it to the School's Governing Body, who are the Admitting Authority. Your case will be decided by an Independent Appeal Panel at a meeting to which you will be invited. The appellant will need to provide evidence of exceptional circumstances to the Appeal Panel to support the appeal. The panel's decision is legally binding on all parties, and can only be challenged if the appeal procedure was not followed correctly.

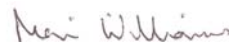
Unless there are significant and material changes in circumstances, only one appeal may be made for each academic year.

A map of the designated area is available for inspection by parents/carers at The Commonweal School.

Signed: Keith Defter  
Headteacher  
Date: 7 December 2010



Signed: Mari Williams  
Chair of Governors  
Date: 7 December 2010



## News From PE with Miss Wakefield

### School Cross Country

After a very wet lead up to the School Cross Country we were lucky to have reasonably good weather for the event. The students that took part did really well and represented their House brilliantly.

The following students came 1st, 2nd, and 3rd in each year group for girls and boys.

### Year 7 Girls

1st Freya Jamieson 7SA1  
2nd Anastasia Piatek 7W2  
3rd Chloe Shepherd 7SA2

### Year 7 Boys

1st Jason Reed 7R1  
2nd Joshua Heaton 7W1  
3rd Mackinley Gonsalves 7SA1

### Year 8 Girls

1st Isobel Hartley-Smyth 8R2  
2nd Hettie Murphy 8ST2  
3rd Kasia Gentleman 8SA1

### Year 8 Boys

1st Faisal Gedi 8R2  
2nd Thomas Codling 8SA1  
3rd Thomas Hyde 8W1

### Year 9 Girls

1st Emma Piatek 9SA1  
2nd Georgia Akerman 9SA1  
3rd Megan Cleaves 9W1

### Year 9 Boys

1st Evan Costello 9R1  
2nd Miles Frost 9SA1  
3rd Thomas Bain 9SA2

### Year 10 Girls

1st Lillie Bellamy 10ST1  
2nd Charlie Gardo 10W1  
3rd Vicky Jennings 10W2

### Year 10 Boys

1st Joe Grant 10ST1  
2nd John-Luke Bolton 10ST1  
3rd Scott Garrett 10SA2

### Year 11 Girls

1st Chloe Craig 11ST1  
2nd Ellie Murphy 11ST2  
3rd Paige Burton 11R2

### Year 11 Boys

=1st Callum Courtney 11W1 &  
Jordan Williams 11W1  
3rd Harry Cleaves 11W1

### The overall results were as follows:

1st Stonehenge  
2nd Whitehorse  
3rd Sarum  
4th Ridgeway

So far we have raised £1782.76 with Connor Smith 7SA2 raising £80 and Paige Curtis 7ST1 raising a massive £101. Well done to all those that have handed in sponsor money and to those that haven't there is still time to hand it in.

### Swindon Schools Cross Country

The top 25 students from year 7, year 8/9 and year 10/11 were invited to run in the Swindon

## Schools Cross Country Championships.



The competition was held at Nova Hreod on quite a tough course. All students that took part did really well on a very cold and wet day and a very wet course. The following students came in the top 10 and have been invited to represent Swindon at the Wiltshire Schools Cross Country Championships, in January, held at Grittleton School, Chippenham.

### **Minor Girls (Yr 7)**

Freya Jamieson -1st

Chloe Shepherd-5th

### **Junior Boys (Yr 8 & 9)**

Miles Frost-7th

### **Junior Girls (Yr 8 & 9)**

Emma Piatek-2nd

Georgia Akerman-4th

Hettie Murphy-8th

### **Intermediate Girls (Yr 10 & 11)**

Lillie Bellamy-1st

Charlie Gardo-2nd

Vicky Jennings-4th

Grace Everett-10th

### **Intermediate Boys (Yr 10 & 11)**

Joe Grant-4th

Theo Watson-Lester-9th

Good luck to all students that have qualified.

Overall our teams came in the following places:

Minor Girls-2nd

Minor Boys-5th

Junior Girls-1st

Junior Boys-4th

Inter Girls-3rd

Inter Boys-2nd

### **Girls Active**

On Friday 26 November 2010 I took 20 Yr 9 girls to the Next Generation Gym for a girls active day. The girls were selected as being students that are not overly keen on PE. The girls were able to choose the activities that they wanted to try. The activities available were as follows:

#### **Water Polo**

#### **Aqua Aerobics**

#### **Badminton**

#### **Street Dance**

#### **Self Defence**

#### **Cheer Leading**

#### **Spin**

#### **Gym induction**

The girls had a fantastic day and really enjoyed the activities taken. They are now more enthused in

PE and we are looking to spend the money available from the day to go on coaches and equipment to be able to do some of the activities they tried out.

### **Netball**

The netball season is coming to an end for Yr 7-9, but just beginning for Yr 10 and 11. The results so far are as follows:

#### **Year 7**

Against Swindon Academy-

Commonweal won 19-2

Against Churchfields-

Commonweal won 32-1

Against Highworth-

Commonweal win due to

Highworth forfeiting the game.

The year 7 team have come 1st in their group and will go on to play in the final.

#### **Year 8**

Against Isambard- Isambard won 26-1

Against Highworth- Highworth won due to us forfeiting the game.

Unfortunately students were unavailable to play as they were in Thoroughly Modern Millie.

Against Churchfields-

Commonweal won 16-3

Commonweal came 2nd in their group.

#### **Year 9**

Against Isambard- Commonweal won 15-6

Against Wotton Bassett-

Commonweal won 14-6

Against Highworth- Highworth won due to us forfeiting the game.

Unfortunately students were unavailable to play as they were in Thoroughly Modern Millie.

Against Churchfields-

Commonweal won 28-2

Commonweal came 1st in their group and will go on to play in the final.

#### **Year 10**

Against Wootton Bassett-

Wootton Bassett won 18-4

### **Boys Basketball**

The boys have made a great start to the basketball season. Year 8, 9 and 11 have been playing fixtures and are currently unbeaten. We hope this winning streak continues.

### **Clubs**

We currently have a number of clubs being run by qualified coaches. Students are still welcome to come along to any club that is being run no matter what ability they are. The clubs are as follows:

**Basketball**-Yr 7 and 8 girls and boys-Wednesday 3:00-4:00 in the gym.

**Golf**- Yr 7 and 8 girls and boys-Wednesday 3:00-4:00 on the field.

**Table Tennis-** Yr 7 and 8 girl and boys- Wednesday 3:00-4:00 in the dinning room annexe.

**Football-** Yr 7,8 & 9 Girls Only- Wednesday 3:00-4:00 on the field.

Following the success of the bowls club that was held by **Westlecott Bowls Club** at school they have now offered Commonweal students a free class on a Tuesday from 3:00-5:00 at Westlecott Bowls Club. If you are interested please get a letter from Mr Staff.

### **Spain 2011**

There are still 5 places left for the Spain trip going out in July 2011. This trip is a watersports trip and is open to all Yr 9 students. If you would like to go please get a letter from Miss Wakefield.

### **Ski Trip 2012**

We have booked the ski trip for February 2012. The trip will be to Kitzbuhel in Austria. If any year 10 students are interested in going please get a letter from Mr Staff.

### **News From Polly Long**

Last week a football tournament for Yr 4,5 and 6 was held at Robert Le Kyng for the pupils who come to training or like

playing football but are not always selected or able to play represent the school giving them an opportunity to shine and participate in a tournament.

The tournament ran smoothly with 8 teams participating from not only our cluster but Warneford cluster as well. Two pools of 4 were played with playoffs between 4th, 3rd, 2nd and 1st places for maximum playing time with each team playing 4 games.

The students played brilliantly demonstrating their skills and all showing fabulous team work, fair play and communication.

In total 52 pupils participated in the tournament with plenty of support from parents and staff. Two Commonweal pupils helped out at the tournament by being excellent referees.

### **Fun For Everyone**

Earlier this month the Commonweal Cluster Fundamentals Festival was held at King William Street school. Fundamentals is variety of activities incorporating agility, balance and coordinatio

Prior to the festival 5 Sports Leaders from Commonweal went over to King William Street and trained Yr 6 to lead the activities for the festival, these were, Meghan Cleeves, Charlie Barrett, Maizy Wichall, Evan Costello and Aiden Patterson.

On the day the Yr 6 led the activities to King William Street Reception Class first thing in the morning. Then the Sports Leaders helped them deliver the activities to KS1 students from Robert Le Kyng, Lethbridge and King William Street.

The Leaders, both Yr 6 and Sports Leaders, excelled themselves in delivering the activities and interacted really well with the KS1 and reception students.

The Reception Class and KS1 students had lots of fun and were very enthusiastic and motivated throughout the festival.

A big well done to the Leaders as it was their first time leading.

### **Carol Singing For Prospect**

Why not get into the Christmas spirit this year with your friends

and neighbours by asking them to join you carol singing in your street! It's great fun and doesn't take much too organise, just a few phone calls, emails, a push on Facebook or the traditional knock on neighbours doors. The only thing that you will need legally is a street licence to collect money which Daniel McNally, Community Fundraiser at the Prospect Hospice will arrange for you. Simply send me your details and we will also get collecting boxes to you. We can even supply you with lyric sheets and a backing track CD or you may prefer to choose your own carols and sing without accompaniment. You don't need to be a fantastic singer, it's more about taking part.

My Mum died three years ago this January and every year we would sing our way along part of Goddard Ave and raise funds for my Mum's favourite charity. This is a great way to remember her and for many of you who have lost friends and family I am sure you will agree that this event is a fitting tribute at this time of year.

For further info tel 07775 770107 or email [josie@commonweal.co.uk](mailto:josie@commonweal.co.uk)

**Josie Williams, Community Arts Development Officer**

# Community Carols For Prospect Hospice

**Ask your friends and neighbours to go  
carol singing in your street on  
Tuesday 21st December from 6 - 7pm  
and raise funds for the Prospect Hospice  
(Street licences will be provided)**



**Further info tel Josie 01793 427860 email  
josie@commonweal.co.uk or tel Daniel McNally  
Community Fundraiser at Prospect Hospice  
Tel 01793 815142  
or register online [www.commonweal.co.uk](http://www.commonweal.co.uk)**

**Swindon Advertiser**

**The Commonweal**  
A Performing Arts College  
School



SWINDON  
**ARTS ARTS ARTS**

**Prospect**  
Hospice

Photos of school musical 'Thoroughly Modern Millie'



# Salsa Dance

with South American band Latin Fiesta



## Commonweal School

The Mall, Old Town, Swindon

Friday 1st April 2011 from 7-11pm

Tickets £10 (Adv) £12 (door)

Licensed Bar. Prizes for most colourful outfits

For tickets tel: Commonweal 612727

or email [aclarke@commonweal.co.uk](mailto:aclarke@commonweal.co.uk)