

Commonweal Matters

Ability Follows Enthusiasm - A Centre of Excellence - December 2011



A Year To Remember!

Dear All,
As we approach the end of the calendar year it is worth reflecting on how much has been achieved in the last twelve months. This time last year we were neither an Academy nor an Outstanding school in Ofsted terms. Add to this our third consecutive year of 'best ever results' at Key Stage 4 and we really do have much to be proud of!

As well as these external highlights I have been immensely pleased with the way the whole

community has simply got on with the process of learning – in all its forms. Good habits and routines are important and students have remained highly disciplined and focused throughout, which augers well for the future.

As we move into 2012 there is plenty to keep us busy. We will continue to focus on maintaining high academic standards across the 11 – 16 range but we will also continue to explore the viability of Post -16 provision at

Swindon Youth Piano Festival

Tuesday 17th April 2012

7 - 10pm

The Arts Centre, Devizes Rd, Swindon



In association with

The Commonwealth School, A Performing Arts Academy

All tickets £5.00

available from the Arts Centre Box Office tel: 01793 614837

Further info from Miss Zylinski, email:- azylnski@commonweal.co.uk

A showcase of talented young pianists from across Swindon

Front page picture: Jordan Chambers and Ethan Woodhall both from 8R1 with the Christmas boxes the school collected for the Samaritans appeal.

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.

Commonweal in the coming years. Your role in both matters is crucial, and whether you are a parent, carer or student we value both your support and your thoughts in terms of shaping our future success.

Unusually at this time of year we say farewell to two long-serving members of the support staff who have between them amassed over 40 years of outstanding service at Commonweal.

Pat Rowe has served the school superbly as a Science Technician since 1996 and retires at the end of this term after 15 years of hard work, flexibility and undoubted commitment.

Heather Messam has been an integral part of Commonweal since 1985, and as the Library Resource Centre Manager has played a crucial role in championing reading across the school. Her good humour, boundless enthusiasm and child-centred approach have been much appreciated by all – especially the students. We wish her well upon her retirement at the end of January 2012.

Lastly, I'd like to wish all of you a well-deserved break and look forward to working with you once again in the new year.

Happy Christmas
Keith Defter

G.C.S.E. Exam Certificates for exams taken in Summer 2011

If you have a brother or sister who took their exams this summer, please tell them that the certificates are now ready for collection. If they wish you, or someone else to collect the certificates, then they must write a letter giving permission. Certificates can be collected from the main school office during working hours: Monday – Thursday, 8.30am - 4.00pm. and Friday 8.30am – 3.30pm.

This also applies to any certificates from previous years which have not yet been collected.

Mrs Walega
Data Manager

Check out our web sites
www.commonweal.co.uk
www.commonwealarts.co.uk

News from the Governing Body

At the recent meeting of the governing body we covered a number of matters, including further review of this year's excellent exam results and the setting of challenging targets for 2013, the current School Development Plan, possible governor involvement in Information Technology GSCE course work, activities to replace the current programme of work experience for Year 10s, funding for fencing around the school, health and safety policy, and the annual child protection report. The meeting was devoted mainly to a discussion of the possibility of providing post-16 education at Commonweal. Having considered evidence of support for this among students, parents and staff, the implications for space, staff professional development needs, the context of other post-16 provision in Swindon and several other factors, we took an in principle decision to proceed. The main consideration will, of course, be funding.

A number of governors' terms of office are coming to an end and, although some will be staying on, we did say farewell to Ali

Sutcliffe who has been a staff elected governor for some time. I would like to thank Ali very much for all her hard work and her many contributions to governor meetings, and also of course to wish her and her family very well for the arrival of her new baby. We look forward to welcoming back Genny Williams as a staff governor and also to welcoming Dr Audrey Curnock as an appointed governor.

We have one vacancy for a parent governor, a great opportunity to see how the school works, to help shape its development, and your own personal development - we have access to excellent professional training. Governors can contribute: formally through structured meetings and less formally through visits to the school, helping with trips and other events, or providing expertise and help on many matters. If you are interested please contact me via the school.

Meanwhile I would like to wish everyone involved in the school a very happy Christmas and New Year, and hope to see some of you at one of the school's Christmas events.

Mari Williams
Chair of Governors

January 2012 GCSE's Timetable. All Exams will take place on stated Days and Times Without Exception.

Please fill in your name and a X next to your availability

| Name | Start | Len | Board | Component Code | Component Title | Level | Cands | INVG |
|------------------|-------|-------|-------|----------------|--|---------|-------|----------|
| | | | | | | | | X |
| Tue 10 Jan | 09:00 | 02:15 | AQA | ENG1F | Eng/English Language Unit 1 Foundation | GCSE/B | 31 | HALL |
| Tue 10 Jan | 09:00 | 02:15 | AQA | ENG1H | Eng/English Language Unit 1 Higher | GCSE/B | 19 | HALL |
| Thu 12 Jan Yr 10 | 09:00 | 01:15 | OCR | B711/01 | Science B: Sci Mod B1 C1 P1 Wrtn Fnd | GCSE/B | 92 | GYM |
| Thu 12 Jan Yr 10 | 09:00 | 01:15 | OCR | B711/02 | Science B: Sci Mod B1 C1 P1 Wrtn High | GCSE/B | 88 | GYM |
| Thu 12 Jan Yr 10 | 09:00 | 01:15 | OCR | B731/02 | Biol B: Biol Mod B1 B2 B3 Wrtrtn High | GCSE/B | 38 | GYM |
| Fri 13 Jan | 09:00 | 01:30 | AQA | MPC1 | GCE AS Maths Unit PC1 | GCE/A | 18 | 017 |
| Tue 17 Jan | 09:00 | 01:15 | AQA | 47102F | English Literature Unit 2 Tier F | GCSE/B | 68 | GYM |
| Tue 17 Jan | 09:00 | 01:15 | AQA | 47102H | English Literature Unit 2 Tier H | GCSE/B | 99 | GYM |
| Tue 24 Jan | 09:00 | 01:00 | OCR | B621/01 | Science B: Unit 1 [B1 C1 P1] Fnd | GCSE/B | 5 | HALL |
| Tue 24 Jan | 09:00 | 01:00 | OCR | B621/02 | Science B: Unit 1 [B1 C1 P1] High | GCSE/B | 3 | HALL |
| Tue 24 Jan | 09:00 | 01:00 | OCR | B631/02 | Biology B: Unit 1 [B1 B2 B3] High | GCSE/B | 1 | HALL |
| Wed 25 Jan | 09:00 | 00:45 | AQA | 47201 | English Level 1 Reading | FSKL/L1 | 1 | 017 |
| Wed 25 Jan | 13:00 | 00:45 | AQA | 47202 | English Level 1 Writing | FSKL/L1 | 1 | 017 |
| Thu 26 Jan | 09:00 | 00:45 | OCR | A324/01 | AD AP Sci A: Unit 1 [Life Care] Fnd | GCSE/B | 43 | GYM |
| Thu 26 Jan | 09:00 | 01:00 | OCR | B623/01 | Add Sci B: Unit 1 [B3 C3 P3] Fnd | GCSE/B | 34 | GYM |
| Thu 26 Jan | 09:00 | 01:00 | OCR | B623/02 | Add Sci B: Unit 1 [B3 C3 P3] High | GCSE/B | 70 | GYM |
| Mon 30 Jan | 13:00 | 01:00 | OCR | B622/01 | Science B: Unit 2 [B2 C2 P2] Fnd | GCSE/B | 8 | 017 |
| Mon 30 Jan | 13:00 | 01:00 | OCR | B622/02 | Science B: Unit 2 [B2 C2 P2] High | GCSE/B | 1 | 017 |
| Tue 31 Jan | 09:00 | 01:00 | OCR | B632/02 | Biology B: Unit 2 [B4 B5 B6] High | GCSE/B | 41 | HALL |
| Wed 01 Feb | 13:00 | 00:45 | OCR | A336/01 | AD AP Sci A: Unit 6 [Mats/Perf] Fnd | GCSE/B | 43 | HALL |

SNOW CLOSURES



As Christmas approaches we come to the time of year when snow becomes a real possibility. Although we always try to keep the school open, over the past couple of years poor weather has forced us to close for one or more days. Unfortunately we have to take this decision in extreme weather conditions both in order to prevent accidents on the site, and due to many staff being unable to reach the school.



In the event that we do decide to close the school we will send a text message to all parents who are signed up to ParentMail to inform them at the earliest possible opportunity. We will also announce the closure on the following:

- * School website
- * GWR FM
- * BBC Radio Wiltshire
- * Brunel FM

Belly Dance Classes

Wednesday Evenings
The Commonweal School
The Mall,
Old Town,
SN1 4JE
(use the car park entrance)



7 - 8pm beginners
8 - 9 improvers
9pm advanced

class apps available on
Apple app store

Join us for an introduction to this fascinating dance with our beginners classes in Oriental Belly Dance at two great venues in Swindon.

No special clothing necessary or to have any previous dance experience as we're here to show you how to move like an expert.... and you don't even have to expose your belly!

From Shakira and R&B stars to lovers of ethnic music, this dance has something for everyone.

Belly dancing is a great way to keep fit without the boring bits and is suitable for *all* ages.... and gets you in touch with the inner you! FFI contact us on: 01793 486035 / 07790032460 or email us at: swindonbellydancer@live.com
<http://swindonbellydancer.art.officelive.com>

News From The PTA

It's been another busy autumn term for the PTA. The Prom Fair on the 12th October was a great success and raised £350. We'd like to thank all the students who took part in the fashion show – they did a great job and looked really 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 Quiz Night on the 11th November had the biggest turnout we have had in a long time. 17 teams of teachers, parents and friends were perhaps enticed by the pizzas, donated by Herbie's Pizza, being sold on the night. £650 was raised!

The annual Christmas Craft Market was held on Sunday 27th November. Over 80 gift, craft and produce stalls and a large number of visitors meant that over £2000 was raised for the PTA funds! Also as part of the event a Legal Advice Clinic was held, in conjunction with Fullagar Brooks Millikin solicitors from Old Town.

Plans for the new Commonweal Race are going well. We have a small and dedicated sub-committee who are organising this

event, which includes dealing with Swindon Borough Council, the police and so on. The race is likely to be next May, rather than March as originally envisaged, which might mean some better weather for the runners!

Diary Dates

Sunday 11th March – New Commonweal Race (date and plans to be confirmed)

Thursday 15th March – Quiz Night

Saturday 23rd June – Old Town Festival (tbc)

PTA Meeting Dates

Monday 12th December – 8:15 in the Pig on the Hill pub in Old Town following the Carol Service at Bath Road church

Monday 2nd February – at 7pm in the 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, we really couldn't do it without you! The PTA would like to wish all the students, families and staff a very Merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Manil Brough, PTA Chair

Wow 114 Shoe Boxes!



This year we have once again taken part in the Samaritans Purse Appeal. The whole school have collected 12 more boxes than last year.

“There will be 114 very happy children this Christmas living in Eastern Europe and beyond. This is a really great Commonwealth team effort. Thank you all so much for making the shoe boxes or contributing towards items to go in them. Many of you invited your families and friends to take part too, so please do not forget to pass on a special thanks to them.

In my tutor group it was just like Santa’s workshop! All my group enjoy getting involved as they tell me it gets them into the mood for Christmas. Secret Santa has been organised already!”

Jordan Chambers (8R1) said, “I think that doing the shoeboxes is very important, because it helps

children have presents who would otherwise get nothing. We wrap all the boxes together then bring in stuff to put in them. We then help carry all the boxes to reception and load them into the car.”

<http://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/>

Mrs G Williams

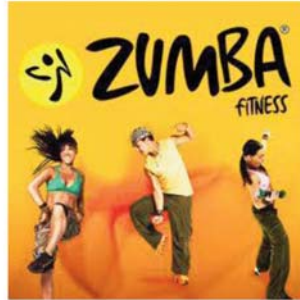
Zumba Classes

Please note that Zumba classes with our Community Partner Claudia Stroud have now finished for the year.

Classes will resume on Tuesday 17th January in the Dance Studio from 6.30 - 7.30pm. Zumba Toning from 7.30 - 8pm. Thursday classes, same times as above, recommence on 19th January 2012.

Lost Property

There are a lot of items in Lost Property – coats, school jumpers, PE kits, jewellery, etc. Please see Ali in 1st aid any break or lunchtime. Parents are always welcome to come to the school to look through Lost Property. Please call and arrange with Ali McVeigh in advance. Any item not claimed by 16th December will be disposed of.



DITCH THE WORK OUT, JOIN THE PARTY!

**The Latin Inspired Easy to follow Calorie -Burning Dance
Fitness Party**

WITH LICENCED ZUMBA INSTRUCTOR CLAUDIA: 07933793851

All Classes are drop in - No Need to book!

Tuesday: 18.30-19.30

Thursday: 18.30-19.30

£5.00 only



**Zumba continues after the Christmas holidays
commencing January 17th 2012**

The Commonweal
A Performing Arts Academy
School

ICT & BUSINESS NEWS

Global Simulation Day



120 Y10 Business studies students took part in a Global Business Simulation Day on Wednesday 16th November. They worked in teams in a simulated global environment using laptops to communicate with suppliers in the Far East, America and Europe. Each team set up a company with each member allocated a role, the activity required quick thinking, teamwork, analysis and they used email, instant messaging, and spreadsheets and created a team presentation to present the best quote for the customer.

Young Enterprise



We have an enthusiastic group of Business Studies students taking

part in Young Enterprise this year with a range of products from organising a school disco, printed T-shirts to creating an App game. They will be taking part in a Trade fair at Nationwide in a few weeks – more news next time.

Y11 DT Graphics

The group recently visited Acorn Press to view how the printing process works and were made very welcome by Patrick Crouch the Managing Director. They went through the process from customers order, proof reading, plate making, final print run, binding and packaging.

Chessington Trip

On the 17th and 18th November Year 8 took the annual ICT trip to Chessington World of Adventure. While they were at Chessington all students were given a talk about the use of ICT in the park. They learnt how technology is used to control the rides and as an administrative and marketing tool. As well as going from one thrilling ride to the next they also learnt a lot about the working of the park.

Rides like the Vampire and Dragon's Fury were very popular. All students were pointed in the



direction of Dragon Falls – the log flume ride. As part of the Year eight ICT course students have to write a program for a log flume ride. The zoo and aquarium were a welcome rest for those of us slightly more mature in years.

Here is what Simone Lyons, Yr 8, made of the day:

“After we got told all the details for the day an excited bunch of Year eight’s took off to find the best rides. The Rattlesnake was the first theme park ride I had been on. I found it thrilling and it made me want to go on more. However, I did have my limits and was not ready for the vampire!

Lego Robotics

After nearly 6 weeks of frantic preparation team Technic Tricycle made the trip to the HP labs in Bristol for the 2011 First Lego League Robotics Championship.

Team Tricycle consisted of 5 members from Y7 and Y8, including: Sam Harding, Jamie Covell, Jimmy Campbell, Lissy Herbert and Brian Brewer. The challenge required the students to design, construct and programme a Lego based robot to complete a series of tasks for which points were awarded. In addition to this they had to present their findings of a food based project to a panel of judges. This was the group’s first time at the competition and despite their inexperience they were only denied a place in the quarter finals by 2 points, finishing 7th out of 27 teams, which was a fantastic achievement! They also made a very confident presentation to the judges. Team Tricycle is now hungry for success, bring on next year!



Ms J Rose
Head of ICT, DT and Business

Hands On Maths Roadshow



Students in Year 8 had the opportunity on the 29th November, to put their problem solving skills to good use by taking part in the Hands On Maths Roadshow. The Roadshow was developed by the University of Cambridge as part of the Millennium Mathematics Project which aims to bring Mathematics to life.

A range of hands-on practical tasks were arranged around the main hall. These included Soma cubes, arranging teacups and saucers in a colour sequence, maths with cards and dominos and completing giant tangrams with more than one solution. The session was introduced using a 2D picture which gave the appearance of being 3D in which

a variety of shapes could be seen suddenly emerging.

Jake Meeus-Jones (8ST1) said 'The picture we looked at the beginning was amazing!' Kieren Gibbons (8R1) commented 'I enjoyed using the large building blocks. It was cool'. Oliver Byrne (8W1) thought the egg task (tangram) 'was hard but exciting' and Emily Hollister (8SA2) loved the teacups and described the task as 'a great challenge to solve'. Amaia Perez-Chirgwin (8W2) preferred the puzzles and added 'The domino puzzle was really interesting'.

Students are being encouraged to use the website:

rich.maths.org/problems where thousands more problems can be found to keep students both entertained and challenged over the Christmas Holiday.

Students should of course, continue to make regular use of

MyMaths.co.uk

(login: Commonweal, password: circle) where excellent consolidation lessons, exercises and games can be enjoyed to support learning in school.

Mrs G Williams

pictured Amaia Pesez-Chirgwin & Shannon Lenehan

The Commonweal School are pleased to offer you through their Extended Services budget and partnership working



Ever thought about learning another language?

Would you like to learn Spanish in a fun and friendly environment?
..... Book a space now on our



Learn Spanish Course

This course is for adults only

At The Commonweal School, The Mall, Old Town, SN1 4JE

Every Thursday for 6 weeks
6.30pm-8.30pm

Commencing 5th January to 9th February 2012

This course will be offered for the fabulous price of £25.00 per person and is non-refundable. Hurry places are on a first come first served basis!

Please contact Sandra on 07909 590940 to reserve your place or email; sandra@evolve2.org.uk or lisa@evolve2.org.uk or you can use our website www.evolve2.org.uk to book

I would like to participate in the '6 week Spanish course' at The Commonweal School starting Thursday, 5th January 2012. Please complete the following information, then detach this section and post to Evolve2 Consultants Ltd, 35 Cornflower Road, Haydon Wick, Swindon, SN25 1SA by no later than Friday, 30th December 2011, to secure your place. Please make cheques payable to 'The Commonweal School'. PLEASE DO NOT SEND CASH THROUGH THE POST. Please bring along a form of ID with your name on such as a credit/debit card or driving licence to the first session.

Name:
Address:
Email address:
Telephone: Home Mobile:

I would be interested in attending further courses, please tick all that apply:

- Recycled Art (combination course to include garden decorations, mosaics and wood sculpture pictures)
 Floristry Languages Spanish/Italian Bollywood Dancing Computing for Beginners Gardening
 Design your own Garden Aromatherapy Other (please specify)

Swindon Youth Festival of Literature



The 4th to the 11th November was an exciting time for the school when many Year 7-9 were involved in this exciting event, organised by the Swindon school librarians.

The Festival began with a workshop held by Fred Blunt, a local illustrator, who gave his expertise and tips to several Year 9 art students.

On Monday, two pupils from each year were taken to Dorcan school to participate in a 12 round inter-school quiz to test the students' knowledge of the books in their school libraries. Although we didn't win, it was great fun and everyone enjoyed it.

Cathy Hopkins, a very successful children's writer, came for the whole of the next morning to talk to our Year 7s and 8s. She talked of how she entered into writing

for a career and passed on how she gets her ideas for her characters and stories. Although she writes mostly for girls, her talk was also relevant to boys and everyone seemed to enjoy her visit.



The biggest event of the week was taking 50 children to join other schools to see 5 authors at the Wyvern Theatre. Each writer had their own style of telling us their story of how they got into writing and how they got their ideas. Some were serious but others, like the popular fantasy horror author Alex Gordon Smith were very funny and the whole theatre erupted with laughter.

"The Fastest Story In The West" was held period one in the library with six Year 9 students who gathered to write a brilliant collaborative fantasy story with 5 other schools. Once we'd created the beginning of the story, we had to pass it on via email to the

second school and so on until a complete story was achieved by the end of the day. Each school had just 45 minutes to write a paragraph before forwarding it.

Several days later, each participant was given a copy of the whole story which they read eagerly to find out what the other schools had written and how they had developed Commonweal's storyline. As predicted, the story had not progressed in the way that they had hoped but that is part of the fun! Rhiannon Teuten, 9W1 said, "We had to think up about 150 words. It was quite hard to start with, but we soon got into it and the ideas just kept coming! By the end, we had a short story about a boy who goes to another world and meets a family. I really enjoyed this task - we had lots of laughs and found out that we could write a story from the top of our heads and for it to make sense! I hope that the other schools found it just as fun as we did."

The final day of the Festival concluded with us taking a minibus full of students to Isambard School to see a comedy performance by edgy poet, Ash Dickinson. Ash was absolutely fabulous and his poems were

hilarious. He made us join in by doing our own mini poems which students were happy to read out - with some excellent results! He was an inspiration and Commonweal may put his talents to good use later in the school year - watch this space!

As well as this week of events, the Swindon Youth Festival of Literature organisers had also been welcoming entries into two competitions since September. We are very pleased to report that Adrielly Mezavilla, 7W2 won a prize in the Y7/8 category in the illustration competition and James Moss, 9W2 won a prize in the Y9-11 category in the creative writing competition. Adrielly and James collected their prizes from Swindon's mayor at a celebratory evening held at the Central Library on 24th November. Well done to them!



The Librarians

School shows its respect for Armistice Day



As the bugles sounded out the Last Post at the eleventh hour, of the eleventh day, of the eleventh month, of the eleventh year, the whole school came to a standstill and shared in a reflective silence to pay our collective respects for those who died in conflict. This was a moving experience which was immaculately observed by all – thank you.

Keith Defter

‘Make Your Steps Count’

Our campaign kicked-off with a Fairtrade stall in November where we raised £45 selling an array of Fairtrade chocolates, biscuits and gifts.

The Fairtrade Directors are already planning events for the Fairtrade Fortnight which will be held between 27th February 2012 and 11th March 2012. Events will include school assemblies to raise awareness, visits into the community, fundraising pancake/fairy-cake stalls and competitions.

Our aim this year is to get as many people involved as possible. Just by buying a chocolate bar or a packet of biscuits we are showing our understanding and support of a scheme that will ensure better conditions to struggling farmers. So let’s make this year count, let’s do our bit to ensure fair trade. We can make a difference and we can make our steps count.

The Fairtrade Directors



@ Commonweal School

leadership
MARTIAL ARTS

Leadership provides local, great value,
professional Tae Kwon-Do tuition
for families, adults and children.

Our specially designed programs are tailored to every ability range, from beginners to experienced martial artists and our easy-start classes will make your first visit a friendly and enjoyable one!

leadership
MARTIAL ARTS

Adults can enjoy the benefits of a really fun cardio workout. You can increase stamina, reduce stress and gain confidence by learning Tae Kwon-Do, kick boxing and weapons training!

leadership
JUNIORS

Our Junior martial arts program is specifically created for boys and girls aged 5-12. We help your child be the best they can be, without being in a competition.

We have classes local to you in Old Town

0845 812 1100

www.leadershipma.co.uk

PTA Prom Fair

The Commonweal School PTA held a very successful Prom Fair, with dresses provided by Trousseaux and suits by Youngs' Hire, and stands from many local Prom related businesses. The Yr 11 girls and boys were very confident and looked super in their evening attire.



Summer Andrews is the current Old Town Festival Carnival Queen and Commonweal student. "Commonweal is a great school, because the teachers are lovely and there are lots of opportunities to take part in community events. Commonweal has made me more confident and has helped me grow as a person. I am looking forward to next year's Prom, but there are so many nice dresses it is going to be hard to choose!"



Parents and families from across Swindon attended and it was a packed audience. Students were also able to view jewellery, hair pieces, limos and the paraphernalia associated with the Yr 11 Summer proms. Swindon College Hair and Media Makeup students came along to lend a hand and add weight to their C.Vs.



Wows The Crowds!



A hair display by Cosmic Colours was followed by a fashion show with stunning dresses and suits.

The PTA in Commonweal are simply brilliant and very active in fund raising and supporting the school. It is quite unusual these days for comprehensive schools to have a PTA, let alone one that is so committed to the community.



Yr 11 students on the cat walk:
Sam Sinon, Jack Bailey, Scott Garrett, Vincent Lee, Keiran Roffe, Nathan Roberts, Isaac Carter, Rebecca Pour, Sinead Nolan, Katie Gray, Zoe Hutchins, Cassandra Eppe, Miranda Wayne-Barnett, Casey Hindon, Summer Andrews.



Swindon College provided Hairdressing students:
Jade Woodhams, Sam Pedder, Alisha Lock, Laura Reeves, Hannah Marshall, Sam Hayward Kamara Holcombe, Saran Kalsi, Jess Gillett, Nadine Maycock.



Media makeup students from Swindon College were:
Hannah Milton, Yasmin Bates, Alice Harman, Stephanie Blair, Ellie Taylor.

Many thanks to the PTA for another excellent event.

Eco Group Update

We have enjoyed another successful term! Recycling 'dry disposables' is now routine in school, we have had two textiles collections and have managed to send some winter clothes to local charities for the homeless as well as gaining financially. Huge numbers of batteries, glasses, shoes, low energy light bulbs and CDs have been put to good use or disposed of properly! We are sorry but after Christmas we shall no longer have a destination for plastic milk bottle tops. Thank you to all those who have been collecting them!

We are waiting to hear the outcome of our attempt to secure solar panels for the gym roof in time to benefit from the FIT scheme.

A hardy group of volunteers has tidied the allotment for the winter and planted a hedge of native trees, courtesy of a Sainsburys scheme. We have materials ready to build a bug hotel soon. The after school cookery club has made vegetable chips and chutneys with home-grown produce and the canteen has used our herbs.

There's always space for more members, so if any families would like to get involved, please contact us via the school.

Mrs Taylor and Miss Preston

**CAN YOU HELP US REDUCE
COMMONWEAL COMMUNITY'S CARBON
FOOTPRINT**



We are recycling

- Textiles
- Shoes
- Batteries
- Mobile phones
- Low energy light bulbs
- Used stamps
- Books
- Spectacles

There are bins for all of these outside room 130

Think about litter before you throw it into the bin
The UK sent 12.2 million tonnes of rubbish to landfill in 2010

New Homes

The school is always on the look-out for items such as pots and pans for cookery, musical scores and instruments, wardrobe clothes and props for drama and of course we are always on the look-out for raffle prizes! If you have anything that you think might be useful that you would like to donate please contact:

**Josie Williams, Community Arts
Development Officer
josie@commonweal.co.uk**

Anti-Bullying Week



Commonweal Peer Educators have been working really hard over the past five years to promote the school's stance on anti-bullying; planning and delivering assemblies and lessons. This year has been no exception; Peer Educators have worked tremendously hard since September. It was a real pleasure to accompany some to the Swindon Schools Anti-celebration Event, held at Ridgeway School and be given an award for good practice in this area.

As part of the assemblies delivered to all year groups, we looked at different types of

bullying and how to stay safe online; particularly when using social networking sites and sharing personal information; knowing who you are talking to online and where to get help if any issues arise; re-emphasising work covered in ICT lessons in a very powerful way.

Given that a number of our Peer Educators are extremely creative, we came up with the idea of using staff voices to read an extremely emotive poem, "I am" with a musical accompaniment. Two Peer Educators choreographed and performed a fantastic dance. Thanks go to Emma, Molly, Georgia and Nick Weaver for realising this idea in such a wonderful way.

This year saw an added dimension to the work undertaken in this special week. For the first time, a Year 10 Young Enterprise Group agreed to help promote our anti-bullying email address, whereby any student can contact



designated members of staff or Peer Educators and ask for assistance or advice on any issue they might have. Apollo sourced, ordered, purchased and sold silicone wristbands in a variety of colours throughout the week.



Thursday night saw Commonweal's first Anti-bullying disco, organised by Apollo with the help of Peer Eds and Year 7s had a fantastic time. Childline also benefitted as £1 from the sale of each ticket was donated by Apollo to Childline.

As a result of our efforts, we have since been invited to attend the Swindon Borough Council Civic Offices to share the work we have undertaken this year and give a presentation on Tuesday 13th December.

Congratulations and thanks to all Peer Educators and Staff for helping make this year's Anti-Bullying Week such a success.

Debs Browning
KS3 Coordinator
Anti-Bullying Wristbands.

French Exchange

Advance Notice to students and parents. If you are in Year 7 or Year 8, you will be eligible to apply to join in with the French Exchange, now in its 10th year. Our partner school is in the beautiful and warm south-west of France.

The next visits will be in spring 2013. We keep costs low (about £200 last year), because we can stay in each other's houses; however you may want to make a diary note and watch out for the call for names when it comes. It's lots of fun and educational too. Look on the board in Reception for photos, and see Miss Cortez or Mrs Bathe (or Mr Defter who joined us last year!) for more information. À bientôt!

Miss Cortez

Year 11 GCSE Paris Trip - October 2011



Last term ten Year 11 girls headed off for a long weekend in Paris. The small group meant no coach, so we travelled by train to London and Eurostar to Paris. We stayed in a small hotel in Montmartre and spent a lot of the weekend taking the metro and walking around. We visited the Musée d'Orsay, went up to the top of the Eiffel Tower, watched the artists near Sacré Cœur, had an evening boat trip on the River Seine, did some bartering in the Flea Markets and enjoyed some meals out in different restaurants. We met up with Morgan (an Ex

–Commonweal Language Assistant from a few years ago) and Philippe where the students had to find out as much information about them as possible in French. We were exceptionally lucky with the weather which made the weekend all the more great. Students had a great time and parents commented afterwards on the benefit of the trip and its content. Miss Forrester and Mrs Smith would like to thank the girls for making it such an enjoyable weekend and congratulate them for all the French they used.

News From Performing Arts

with Josie Williams, Community Arts Development Officer

There has been so much going on this term that if I reported on everything we wouldn't have room for anything else! Here are the highlights, but if you would like to see more coverage then please have a look at our dedicated arts web site www.commonwealarts.co.uk
Gambia Day



Vibrant colours of the Gambia unfolded at The Commonweal School in November when the school held a multi cultural day for Year 7. The entire of the year group were off normal timetable to participant in dance, drama, music, art and food workshops.

The students had a thoroughly enjoyable day and learnt about the culture of this unique and friendly country. Artists from Africa delivered vibrant performing arts related activities and learnt more about the country.

Music and dance are an integral part of everyday culture in the Gambia.

Commented Morgan Woollatt, age 11, "In the morning Gambia assembly Miss Forrester showed us a powerpoint about the Gambia. It is a narrow country with a river running through it. It is a poor country and the children have to pay to go to school. They do bartering over there and they do their shopping every day at markets because they don't have electricity. The children look really happy, but I would rather live in this country, we are very lucky as we have lots of nice things like DS games, nice clothes and a fridge."

Commented Pamodou Sowe from Rhythmworks "The children were very well behaved and were interested in drumming. They understood the cultures behind the drums and had good techniques in tone and slap."

Commonweal school visits the Gambia every two years, the next visit is in 2013. They are twinned with several schools in Gunjur village and the school visits these on their bi yearly visits to hold

workshops in the performing arts. Our students also raise money to help fund the partner schools.

The day concluded back in the main hall where some of the children showcased the day's events.

Evenings of Entertainment



Once again students and staff pulled out all the stops to provide two fantastic Evenings of Entertainment in the autumn term. All our clubs had been rehearsing since September in order to provide top class performances.

“It was jolly good! Most impressive was the number of students involved and the new talent unearthed! Congratulations to all,” Keith Defter.

“Wow - well done to everyone who was instrumental in making last week the best "Evenings of Entertainment" that I have ever been to at Commonweal and I

have been to a few!”
Miss Caudwell.

“We would like to say how very proud we are of the Year 7 and 8 Drama club. They are a very dedicated and talented team who work hard and even gave up their Saturday morning to come into school and rehearse. We would also like to give a special mention to our Year 10 assistants Beth Whitehouse, Tamasyn Smith and Amy Rowlands who have inspired and encouraged the students. Special thanks to Miss Birkbeck for her support,” Miss Lewis and Mrs Brown.

“The talent just seems to get more and more impressive every year here at Commonweal. It was great to see so many students involved in the many clubs performing on both nights and I very much appreciate the time and effort they all put into rehearsals.

The soloists from music this year were all vocalists and really demonstrated the cream of the crop. Their vocal talent was outstanding, and their professional approach to performing and stage presence really improved following a vocal workshop with ex-student Shani Corder,”
Mr Sutcliffe, Head of Music

Quotes from Dramatists!

Katie Covell

A great opportunity, I highly recommend taking part. It was fantastic working with students from college doing the stage makeup for a burns victim.

Jamie Covell

The whole experience was totally awesome!

Carli Green

It was a great chance to experiment with a diverse range of characters in performance.

Ethan Rose

It was a great opportunity for me to perform and it was an amazing experience.

Evan Costello

It gave me a chance to realise how much preparation is involved in creating a well-executed performance.

Royal Ballet Workshop

For the past five years, The Royal Ballet School's Dance Partnership & Access Programme have been working in Swindon and have established a primary school programme called primarySTEPS, and an after school dance class, which runs weekly at Churchfields School. They have now decided to offer a similar

programme to Secondary School Students. The programme involves creating a Gifted and Talented dance group called aDvANCE made up of students from schools all over Swindon. The group take part in FREE dance classes once a week with an aim to create a dance piece that will be performed at The Royal Ballet School in March.

In order to give students an insight into what to expect at a typical class they came to Commonweal School to take a 1.5 hour workshop. The workshop consisted of a technique session and a choreographic workshop which worked both the brain and the body. Twenty Year 9 girls took part in the project and worked hard to each come up with an innovative solo in just over an hour!

Miss Bowden- Dance Teacher

Each girl now has the exciting opportunity to audition for a place on the course of dance lessons and the chance to perform alongside other groups at The Royal Ballet School!

Christmas

We very quickly turn our attention to Christmas events and have been rehearsing like crazy in order to prepare for the 7 events

in the last week of term! All music clubs are performing at the Annual Carol Service at Bath Road Methodist Church on Monday 12th December at 7pm. This event is a traditional and formal celebration of Christmas. . Wednesday 14th December will see the chamber choir performing 3 concerts of carols at various local care homes to provide entertainment and Christmas cheer to the residents. Thursday 15th December brings us to the Carols In The Gym event. A 'must see' event for any of you new to Commonweal School. The concert kicks off at 7.30pm and features all the music clubs, various soloists, bands and the now infamous.... STAFF CHOIR! This event is the opposite of formal and encourages jovial behaviour and Christmas spirit and requires a fair amount of audience participation throughout. This year is set to be the 'best ever' as we have a new arrangement of a well-known Christmas chart-topper featuring Keith Defter and the Staff choir. See you all there.
Mrs Sutcliffe

Forgotten Letters

This is a fantastic collection of poetry written by dyslexic writers.

This sounds like an oxymoron but, make no mistake, there is some high quality stuff here! Poetry that makes you laugh, poems that make you think, words that catch in your throat. Our very own dyslexic – crazy, imaginative, full of flair and enterprise Josie Williams has a contribution included: 'Life in a List' which sums up how she gets by in life. Not to mention some famous poets including Benjamin Zephaniah. I advise you to buy the book. A Christmas gift available to purchase online through www.r-a-s-p.co.uk.
Maxine Roberts - Coordinator of Commonweal Dyslexic Centre.

Life In A List

I organise my life in a list.
I capture ideas in words and pictures.

Words trigger other words
And ideas fly into my head
A shower cap full of electric probes.

Help! I can't write as fast as they come!

Another idea hits the landing pad
And in rapid fire a rain of bullet points

Ricochet onto the page.

News from PE with Mrs Drew

Year 7 Netball

The Year 7 netball team are having a fantastic season. They have won every game they have played and have 2 games left. Lets hope they continue their form and win their group.

Year 8 Netball

The Year 8 team have been playing very well as a team this year and have had some fantastic games. They are yet to win a game but have come very close in most of their games.

Year 9 Netball

The Year 9 netball team have had a bit of turbulence this season with different players playing each game due to injury or unavailability. They are yet to win a game but have kept their spirits high and stayed motivated.

Year 10 Netball

The Year 10 team have played fantastically this year and have won every game. They have come top of the leader board and are number 1 in Swindon for their age group.

Staff Netball

This year I have managed to convince a number of female staff to play in the staff netball team.

There is a league set up for Swindon Schools Staff to play in on a Friday. We have had two games so far and although we have not secured a win we have shown improvement from a 17-0 defeat to Swindon Academy to a 22-9 defeat to Bradon Forest. Let's keep going and maybe we'll secure a win soon.

U12 Girls Football

The U12 Girls football team were entered into the Wiltshire Cup this year. They had their first game against St Johns, Marlborough and after a fantastic first half we were 2-0 up. In the second half St Johns fought back to gain 2 goals leaving it 2-2 at full time. We went to extra time and in the first half St Johns scored making it 3-2. Commonweal fought back even harder to make the score 3-3. In the final minute of the game we finally broke through St John's defence to secure a 4-3 win and go through to the next round. We have either Ridgeway or Bradon Forest in the Semi Finals.

U14 Girls Football

The U14 Girls Football team had a trip to Sheldon School, Chippenham to play their first round game. Unfortunately after a

hard fought game Commonweal lost and were knocked out of the competition.

U16 Girls Football

Recently Wiltshire Football held trials for U16 girls. Two students from Commonweal attended the trials and we are very proud to say they were selected for the squad. The two students were Amber Kamugisha 11ST1 and Chantelle Perry 11SA1. The girls have played in a couple of fixtures and have done very well. Well done to both of you.

Commonweal School Cross Country

After 2 weeks of practicing in lessons students from year 7-11 all turned out to run the school cross country. Some were out to win, some were out to get a personal best and others were out just to survive the course. Students completed the course in good spirits. Individual Results are as follows:(winners shown)

Year 7 Girls:



1st Holly Waylen 7ST1
2nd Mollie Mondino 7R1
3rd Steph Busuttill 7W2

Year 7 Boys:



1st Ritchie Harwar 7SA2
2nd Milo Bolton 7ST2
3rd Ross Kennedy 7ST1

Year 8 Girls:



1st Freya Jamieson 8SA1
2nd Annie Piatek 8W2
3rd Chloe Shepherd 8SA2

Year 8 Boys:



1st Mackinlay Gonsalves 8SA1
2nd Eddie Sewell 8R1
3rd Jason Reed 8R1

Year 9 Girls:



1st Issy Hartley-Smyth 9R2
2nd Mollie Craig 9ST1
3rd Hettie Murphy 9ST2

Year 9 Boys:



1st Faisal Gedi 9R2
2nd Lewis Hinds 9SA1
3rd Harry Gillett 9W2

Year 10 Girls:



1st Emma Piatek 10SA1
2nd Georgia Akerman 10SA1
3rd Megan Cleeves 10W1

Year 10 Boys:



1st Miles Frost 10SA1
2nd Oli Wise 10SA1
3rd Kennedy Gallagher 10SA2

Year 11 Girls:



1st Lillie Bellamy 11ST1
2nd Charlie Gardo 11W1
3rd Bethan Hire 11W1

Year 11 Boys:



1st Joe Grant 11ST1
2nd John-Luke Bolton 11ST1
3rd Sam Martin 11R2

Overall Results:

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

Well done to everyone that took part and especially well done to Sarum. We are collecting in the sponsor money from the cross country and have received £1761.22 so far. If you have not handed in your sponsor money then please do it ASAP.

Swindon Schools Cross Country

We invited the top 25 in each age group from the School Cross Country to attend the Swindon Schools Cross Country on Saturday 19 November 2011 at Nova Hreod. The age groups are as follows Minor Girls, minor boys, junior girls, junior boys, inter girls and inter boys. We had a good turnout of 98 students on the day of which 19 of them came in the top 10 and have made it through to the Wiltshire Schools Cross Country in January. Those students were:

Inter Boys: Joe Grant, John-Luke Bolton & Miles Frost

Inter Girls: Lillie Bellamy, Emma Piatek, Georgia Akerman, Charlie Gardo & Megan Cleaves

Junior Boys: Lewis Hinds, Tom Codling & Jake Southwood

Junior Girls: Issy Hartley-Smyth, Freya Jamieson, Louise Gardo & Emily Moore

Minor Boys: Ritchie Harwar, Milo Bolton & Ross Kennedy

Minor Girls: Steph Busuttil

The overall results were as follows:

Minor Girls: 1st

Minor Boys: 1st

Junior Girls: 2nd

Junior Boys: 4th

Inter Girls: 1st

Inter Boys: 1st

A very successful event for Commonweal. A huge well done to all of those involved and a huge thank you to parents who transported and supported the students on the day.

Girls Clubs for next term

Monday Lunchtime: Year 8 Inter House Football

Monday After School: Year 10/11 GCSE Trampolining

Tuesday Lunchtime: Year 9/10/11 Basketball

Wednesday Lunchtime: Year 7 Inter House Football

Wednesday After School: All Years Football

Thursday Lunchtime: Year 9 Inter House Football

Friday Lunchtime: Year 7 & 8 Fitness Club

News From Art with Mrs Parker-Woolway

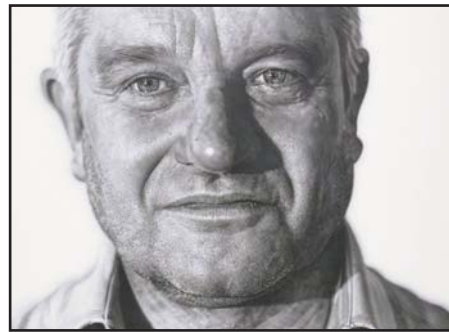
Yr 10 trip to the National Portrait Gallery.



On Monday 14th November we took a group of Year 9 and Year 10 GCSE students to the National Portrait Gallery in London. The students had two sessions at the gallery. One was with an Artist Educator who took them on a tour to look at and discuss certain pieces in the collection, then they had a drawing workshop. During the second session the students could wander around and draw pieces that they are interested in. It is hoped that the students will be able to use some of what they saw in the gallery to influence their own project work.

I was really pleased with our students at the gallery – their behaviour was brilliant and our artist educator was really impressed with the work that they did. Well done all to everyone who came along.

“The trip to the National Portrait Gallery was a great experience. It was good getting to see the famous pieces, which I have seen in pictures and the internet, in real life. When we got there, we walked around all the floors; my favourite was the Modern Art floor. My favourite piece was by Jason Brooks (below)– it is a portrait which is a close up and I couldn’t tell if it was a picture or not it was so well done.



A woman who worked there took us into a room and showed and talked to us about a very unique portrait done by Marc Quinn. It was unique because it was made from the artists own blood, it was weird but amazing to see what extents artists go to make a piece. At the end we had 1 hour to find a portrait we liked and try and copy it, that was my favourite part.”

by Finn Wilkinson

REMINDER FOR ALL LAST YEARS ART STUDENTS (YR 11 LEAVERS) – PLEASE COME AND COLLECT YOUR WORK FROM 1ST NOVEMBER. FOLDERS AND WORK WILL BE KEPT UNTIL FEBRUARY BUT WILL THEN BE RECYCLED....

Princess Lodge



In the last couple of weeks students have been busy making Christmas decorations to decorate Princess Lodge Care Home. Many classes have been involved in making the decorations which were inspired by designs from the 50's, 60's and 70's. The decorations will be hung on Friday 9th December – to help get the residents into the Christmas spirit! Thank you to everyone who has been involved.

Pottery Club



So far this year in Pottery Club we have made lots of pots and bowls and have learnt lots of new skills. I really enjoy it because you are given a simple design and can then make it your own. We have used lots of tools and learnt different techniques. I have also glazed my work and had them put through the kiln. We also went to the museum and art gallery in Old Town to see the ceramics exhibition. We looked at very detailed pots with beautiful designs. We talked about how to improve our style and work. Pottery is a really interesting hobby which allows you to be creative and lets you make beautiful gifts or something you can keep yourself.”

by Kitty Borland

Pottery club runs on a Thursday 3pm-4pm in room 013

Pottery Club!



Pottery club is a great way to express creativity into a work of art. We make all sorts of lovely things such as: Pinch pots, Coil pots, Pinch spheres, Tiles and one of our members even made a Penguin! We have lots of fun in and anyone can join no matter how high or low their skill level is. It's a really relaxing experience after a hard day at school.

After we have modelled our clay into the perfect shape we dry them then put them in the kiln. We then glaze them with different colours of glaze to add even more creativity to our makes. We then take them home to keep and love for many years to come. They also make great gifts to family and friends. Miss Rowe teaches us a lot of things about pottery that are a great thing to know. For example wedging up. Wedging up is important because if you didn't

they your work could explode in the kiln because of air bubbles in the clay. This would not be good! We enjoy it very much and we have so much fun. Thank you to Miss Rowe for making pottery so fun and one of our hobbies!

**By Kitty Borland and
Tara Bermingham.**

Art and Enterprise

In September we joined Art and Enterprise that is run by Mrs Lucey. Her aim was to get us to make and sell our own artwork and products. Over the weeks leading up to Christmas, we've made a whole range of different crafts from cards to doorhangers. On Sunday 27th November, we had a small stall at the Commonwealth Christmas Craft Fair, where we sold 11 cards making a £10 profit for ourselves. We are having a joint sale with Young Enterprise before Christmas to hopefully sell some more of our work. The club has been really fun and everyone has enjoyed making things."

Emily Moore and Lola Newton 9SA1

**Check out our dedicated
arts web site
www.commonwealarts.co.uk**

Christmas Concert at Christ Church



Wednesday 21 December 2011 7.30pm

Sponsored by the Nationwide Building Society

Come and join us for a concert of festive music to support Christ Church's Development & Renewal. Tickets £10 from the parish office (01793 522832) or online at www.christchurchswindon.co.uk/tickets

Programme

A varied selection of short, festive pieces to put you in the Christmas spirit

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Resonemus Laudibus | Trad. Arr Willcocks |
| In dulci jubilo | Arr. Pearsall |
| Variations on in dulci jubilo | Denis Bédard |
| Sound the trumpet | Henry Purcell |
| Tico Tico | Zequinha Abreu |
| Myn Lyking | Richard R Terry |
| Il est né le divin enfant | Trad French arr. Rutter |
| Toccat: Il est né | Denis Bédard |
| Reading: Christmas | John Betjeman |
| Feelin' mellow | Tony Cliff |
| I sing of a maiden | Patrick Hadley |
| Sonatina for flute and piano 3rd movt | Lennox Berkeley |
| Melodia for flute and organ | Denis Bédard |
| Shepherds' pipe carol | John Rutter |
| Sussex Carol | Trad. Arr. Willcocks |
| Hark the Herald Angels Sing | Trad - All |

Admission includes canapés and drinks after the concert.

For tickets and more information call 01793 522832 or visit our website
<http://www.christchurchswindon.co.uk/tickets>

In its 160th year, Christ Church is raising funds towards the development of a new community hall and major works to improve the accessibility and flexibility of the church itself to ensure that it can be used for the benefit of the community for a further 160 years.

If you would like to support our fund raising further then please use one of the gift aid envelopes at the back of the church or contact the parish office if you would like to get involved or find out more.



Christmas Carol Services

With Commonweal School
Tel: 01793 612727

Carols @ Bath Road Methodist Church

Monday 12th December at 7pm - free

A traditional Carol Service featuring Commonweal Music Clubs and a selection of readings telling the story of Christmas.

Carols In The Gym

Thursday 15th December at 7.30pm - Tickets £3.00

A light hearted, fun-filled evening of singing, drinking & Christmas cheer for all the family. A mixture of traditional and contemporary music by students, staff & the audience.

