



# SOUTH WILTS GRAMMAR SCHOOL FOR GIRLS



S U P P L E M E N T A R Y   B O O K L E T   2 0 1 7 - 1 8

[www.swgs.wilts.sch.uk](http://www.swgs.wilts.sch.uk)



## SCHOOL AIMS AND ETHOS

### 'Learning for Today, Preparing for Tomorrow'

South Wilts is a progressive grammar school, with a vibrant and energetic learning environment. The academic success achieved by South Wilts students, coupled with the exceptional support and guidance offered, ensures that students leave fully equipped for adult life in a modern world.

We encourage responsibility in our students so that they can flourish in a supportive and nurturing environment. Our relationship with parents is very important and students are encouraged to be involved in the local community.

Students leave South Wilts as resilient young people with the resources and skills to thrive whilst having compassion for others. They are empowered to make a difference to the world in which they live.

## STUDENT NUMBERS

998 students on roll, including 323 in the sixth form.  
Planned Admission Number is 160 in Year 7.

## TUTOR GROUPS AND PASTORAL SUPPORT

Every student at South Wilts is placed in a tutor group; the tutor is responsible for their pastoral care and for monitoring their progress. The tutor looks after all aspects of the students' welfare, including checking attendance and homework diaries as well as collating and writing reports. In both Key Stages 3 and 4 the Head of Key Stage and the Pastoral Support staff work closely with the tutors and the Deputy Head responsible for pastoral care.

Settling into the school in Year 7 is very important and so students are invited into the school for a day in the Summer Term prior to entry and, with their parents, attend an Induction Evening before starting at South Wilts. The first day of term in September is also exclusively for Year 7. There are sixth form prefects for every Year 7 form and they help students settle in and enjoy their time at South Wilts. Other prefects have a special responsibility for those who join South Wilts after Year 7.

Students are supported in all areas of their lives at school. Beyond the teaching staff there are Sixth Form students trained as academic mentors who work with students, perhaps in a subject where they are struggling or to help with their general organisation. Other students run a peer listening service and an email advice line under the watchful eye of a member of staff.

The school also offers additional support through a confidential counselling service to help individual students cope with emotional challenges and issues. In addition, the Lay Chaplain is available, offering support and a listening ear with a Christian perspective but will not be seeking to influence the views of students themselves. The School Nurse is also available for a drop-in session once a week, where all health related matters can be discussed in confidence.

## SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

At South Wilts we see the support of students with any individual educational needs as extremely important. We use specialists in this field to identify specific learning needs and to plan and carry out appropriate support. Whilst it remains the responsibility of the individual class teacher to cater for the needs of each student, they receive expert guidance on strategies to support those with any kind of special need.

We also identify and follow up students' special educational needs through the recommendations of feeder schools, school performance data and liaison with parents. Progress of those individuals with a special need is carefully monitored and an on-going dialogue is held with parents. Parents and staff work together with the exams officer to ensure any special access arrangements for public exams are put in place.

## FINANCIAL SUPPORT

The school has a strong belief in free education and goes to great lengths to ensure that home financial circumstances are not a barrier to any student wishing to attend the school or take part in all the opportunities available.

Support for students who are in receipt of the Pupil Premium includes payment for educational trips, music tuition, revision guides and public transport costs. We also provide additional printer credits, mentoring, careers guidance and pastoral support. In some circumstances, travel costs to and from school may be paid for, and for some students, free school meals are available.

Other parental financial support requests will be considered on an individual basis. If you think your daughter may be eligible for the Pupil Premium or for free school meals, or you require any other advice or guidance about financial support, the school Finance Office will be pleased to help.

The school offers a range of educational trips to enhance the education of its students and costs are kept to a minimum. However, to be able to run such activities, the school relies on voluntary contributions from parents, and if there are insufficient contributions, some educational visits and activities may not be possible.

## KEY STAGE 3 CURRICULUM

In Key Stage 3, all students study these subjects: English, Mathematics, Science, Computing, French and German, History, Geography, Religious Studies, Art, Music, PE, Drama, Design & Technology and PSHE.

In Year 7, some of the year group study French and some study German. In Year 8, students add the other foreign language, either French or German. From Year 9, students are set in Mathematics, and they begin GCSE Sciences – Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

## HOMEWORK

Homework is an integral part of the learning process and there is a homework timetable for all years. In term one Year 7 students can generally expect to be set 20 minutes homework per subject every two weeks, increasing to 30 minutes in term two. In Years 8 and 9 homework is approximately 30 minutes per subject. Some core subjects will set homework every week. At Key Stage 4, homework is approximately 40 minutes per subject per week.

## EXTRACURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES

Education at South Wilts is enhanced by a vast range of enrichment opportunities both inside and outside the classroom. Preparation of young people for life is central to the work we do and so we provide opportunities to promote leadership, community engagement, resilience and responsibility.

A great many students of all ages and abilities take part in a wide range of activities offered by the Music Department, including three orchestras, a wind band, guitar ensemble and three choirs. These groups perform in many concerts both within the school and in a variety of venues in Salisbury as well as singing services in Salisbury Cathedral. Visiting music teachers give individual instrumental lessons; a fee is charged for this tuition.

Our Drama department is very active and the KS3 Drama Club, run by sixth formers, is very popular. Whole school productions regularly occur and involve a large number of students. Recent performances include 'Kindertransport' and 'Bugsy Malone'. Students also enrich their learning with frequent visits to both local and national theatres.

The Art department participates in the annual Salisbury Schools Art Competition and exhibition where our students' award winning work is showcased in Salisbury library.

We invite students to enter national competitions such as the National Schools Arts Award run by the Mall Galleries, London, as well as cross-curricular competitions including British Science Week posters. KS3 lunchtime Art Clubs are run by our sixth form Art prefects and KS4 and Year 9 students have the opportunity to learn oil painting.

We hold the Artsmark Award at Gold Level in recognition of the outstanding work done in music, art, drama and other aspects of the curriculum and extracurricular activities. Within school we offer students the opportunity to gain the Arts Award and, as part of this, support them both in their own experience of the arts and their leadership of others in this field.

PE provides opportunities for all students to gain a sense of achievement and enjoyment of physical activity through a variety of roles such as performer, coach or official. School sports teams compete at a high standard and have an excellent reputation in the area. There are plenty of opportunities to join clubs, on a recreational or competitive level, in a wide range of activities. We enjoy close links with local sports clubs and there are regular residential trips, including visits in the UK and further afield to Barcelona.

Mathematics offers a wealth of enrichment opportunities. Many students participate in the UKMT Maths Challenges and the UKMT Team challenges. We participate in enrichment events run by the Further Maths Support Programme, and we have a keen group of code breakers who take part in the National Cipher Challenge.

The English Department works very closely with our fantastically well-stocked LRC and knowledgeable librarian to provide a range of extra-curricular activities. This includes the Year 7 Book Club and the Carnegie Award Shadowing group, as well as local book awards and fun activities on World Book Day. We also run writing groups for different year groups and, for the past few years, students have had the opportunity to write a novel in a month.

The Science department organises an annual Science Day for Year 10, bringing scientists from a variety of different fields into school. The KS3 Science club looks at some fun aspects of the subject from walking on custard to making slime.

In Religious Studies, all Year 7 classes participate in the Spirited Arts Competition. Year 10 students also participate in a visit to the Medinah Mosque in Southampton.

To enhance their foreign language skills, students can take part in national competitions, such as the Spelling Bee and Linguistics Olympiad. They gain insight into French and German culture, through penpal contacts, celebrating festivals and reading authentic texts. The European Day of Languages and the Year 9 Languages Day offer students the chance to learn about new languages and customs.

Geography offers a wide variety of opportunities beyond the classroom. At KS3, students use the school grounds to collect data and hone their geographical skills whilst also attending trips to Lulworth Cove and Longleat Safari Park. During GCSE Geography, students explore the south coast including Hengistbury Head, Sandbanks and Studland as well as investigating Salisbury.

The History department places great emphasis on the importance of extra-curricular opportunities. In school, KS3 students can attend History club, taking part in a variety of discussion and craft activities. Year 7 students attend a Roman mosaic workshop with a local artist, and higher years attend talks by visiting speakers. External trips are run throughout the key stages; Year 7 Old Sarum, Year 8 Portsmouth Historic Dockyards, Year 10 Battlefields trip to France and Belgium.

The vibrant Design and Technology department offers a wide range of projects and design experiences; we operate an open door policy during lunchtimes to maximize our students' opportunities. In addition, we offer enrichment in the form of lunchtime clubs, participation in nationwide competitions such as Design Ventura and various trips including the Young Designers exhibition and Food trips to the Good Food Show and a culinary tour of Barcelona.

Business, Economics and Computer Science offer a wide range of trips and extracurricular activities, including visits to the Olympic Park, the Bank of England and the JCB and Jaguar Land Rover factories. We have had rich success in competitions too, including being National Finalists in Microsoft's STEM Student Challenge and GCHQ's Cyber First competition.

Beyond the curriculum we also promote activities with broad educational value. The school has a tradition of charitable activities, with students organising a wide variety of events that raise thousands of pounds for charities. Charity prefects also organise major events such as quiz nights.

We are an accredited International School in recognition of the range of activities we offer. Year 7 trips to France and Germany, and GCSE and A Level exchanges with France and Germany, provide a European perspective. There are a huge range of overseas trips and in recent years, students have travelled to Iceland, Flanders Fields, Germany, Austria and Spain. We have developed links with schools in India and China, communicating via Skype video conferencing. The Lawrence Homan School near Lucknow in India has hosted gap year students from our school and visits from teachers.

We hold the Eco Schools' Green Flag Award in recognition of the work that takes place to promote sustainability within the school. We also hold the NACE Challenge Award, reflecting our sustained commitment to providing opportunities to extend and challenge our students.

As a school we hold the Wiltshire accreditation as a Healthy School at Bronze Level. This reflects excellent practice in many areas of the school, from healthy eating to pastoral support and from awareness of the importance of good mental health to the provision of a safe and caring environment where strong values are embedded in PSHE lessons, in policies and in practice.

## FRIENDS OF SOUTH WILTS

The school is supported by a very active Parent Teacher Association called the Friends of South Wilts. They work tirelessly to support the school in many ways, including considerable fundraising to help enrich education of the students. Parents are warmly welcomed to support the Friends in any way they can.

## SCHOOL DAY

8:45am - 9:05am Registration and Assembly

9:05am - 9:40am Period 1

9:40am - 10:20am Period 2

10:20am - 10:40am MORNING BREAK

10:40am - 11:15am Period 3

11:15am - 11:55am Period 4

11:55am - 12:55pm LUNCH

12:55pm - 1:35pm Period 5 and registration

1:35pm - 2:15pm Period 6

2:15pm - 2:35pm BREAK

2:35pm - 3:10pm Period 7

3:10pm - 3:45pm Period 8

## UNIFORM

The school has an on-site school uniform shop where items can be purchased. For opening times, please see the school website. Parents who are in receipt of some state benefits are entitled to financial help with school uniform for their daughters. Please apply to the Finance Office. Second hand uniform is also available from the Friends of South Wilts.

Make-up and extreme hair colour or style are not allowed. Jewellery is limited to one pair of stud earrings, a small ring and a plain chain. Please refer to the dress code on the website for details.

## COMMUNICATION

We believe that good communication with home is vital to support our students. We send all our communications home via email, and ask parents to complete annual questionnaires. A school newsletter is distributed every mini-term, celebrating the many and varied opportunities that have been undertaken. We post a wealth of important information on our school website including all policies, subject summaries and forms to complete. In addition, we have a Parental Portal allowing parents electronic access to their daughter's timetable, attendance, reports, exam timetables and assessment information. Our Pastoral Support staff are available on the phone during the school day for any queries, and will pass these onto the relevant members of staff.

ParentPay is used for communication and finance. Parents are requested to use the ParentPay facility to pay for trips, printer credits, work experience, exam resits, and items such as revision guides and equipment.



## SCHOOL TERM DATES 2017-18

	September				October					November			
Monday	4	11	18	25	2	9	16	23	30	6	13	20	27
Tuesday	5	12	19	26	3	10	17	24	31	7	14	21	28
Wednesday	6	13	20	27	4	11	18	25		1	8	15	22
Thursday	7	14	21	28	5	12	19	26		2	9	16	23
Friday	1	8	15	22	6	13	20	27		3	10	17	24
Saturday	2	9	16	23	7	14	21	28		4	11	18	25
Sunday	3	10	17	24	1	8	15	22	29	5	12	19	26

	December				January					February			
Monday	4	11	18	25	1	8	15	22	29	5	12	19	26
Tuesday	5	12	19	26	2	9	16	23	30	6	13	20	27
Wednesday	6	13	20	27	3	10	17	24	31	7	14	21	28
Thursday	7	14	21	28	4	11	18	25		1	8	15	22
Friday	1	8	15	22	5	12	19	26		2	9	16	23
Saturday	2	9	16	23	6	13	20	27		3	10	17	24
Sunday	3	10	17	24	7	14	21	28		4	11	18	25

	March				April					May			
Monday	5	12	19	26	2	9	16	23	30	7	14	21	28
Tuesday	6	13	20	27	3	10	17	24		1	8	15	22
Wednesday	7	14	21	28	4	11	18	25		2	9	16	23
Thursday	1	8	15	22	5	12	19	26		3	10	17	24
Friday	2	9	16	23	6	13	20	27		4	11	18	25
Saturday	3	10	17	24	7	14	21	28		5	12	19	26
Sunday	4	11	18	25	1	8	15	22	29	6	13	20	27

	June				July					August			
Monday	4	11	18	25	2	9	16	23	30	6	13	20	27
Tuesday	5	12	19	26	3	10	17	24	31	7	14	21	28
Wednesday	6	13	20	27	4	11	18	25		1	8	15	22
Thursday	7	14	21	28	5	12	19	26		2	9	16	23
Friday	1	8	15	22	6	13	20	27		3	10	17	24
Saturday	2	9	16	23	7	14	21	28		4	11	18	25
Sunday	3	10	17	24	1	8	15	22	29	5	12	19	26

 Teacher Training Days

 Holidays

 Bank Holidays

This information is correct at the time of publication –please check the school website for updates.

## 11+ INFORMATION

To gain a full overview of the 11+ process and how to apply for entry to South Wilts, please visit our website: [www.swgs.wilts.sch.uk](http://www.swgs.wilts.sch.uk)

**Open afternoons:**

Tues 27th June, 2017	(2pm - 3:30pm)
Wed 28th June, 2017	(2pm - 3:30pm)
Thur 29th June, 2017	(2pm - 3:30pm)
Fri 30th June, 2017	(2pm - 3:30pm)
Mon 3rd July, 2017	(2pm - 3:30pm)

**Special Access form deadline:** Wednesday 5th July, 2017

**Test registration deadline:** Friday 1st September, 2017

**Familiarisation test  
for registered candidates:** Saturday 16th September, 2017

**11+ test date:** Saturday 23rd September, 2017

**Test Results posted:** Tuesday 10th October, 2017

**Deadline for application  
to your Local Authority:** Tuesday 31st October, 2017

**National Offer day:** Thursday 1st March, 2018

## ADDITIONAL IMPORTANT INFORMATION

All information is accessible on the school website: [www.swgs.wilts.sch.uk](http://www.swgs.wilts.sch.uk)  
Paper copies of the following documents are readily available to pick up at the open afternoons, or by contacting Mr Evans, Admissions Officer at South Wilts:

- 11+ test registration form
- Special access form
- 11+ information leaflet
- Examples of 11+ questions

If you require any of this information in an alternative format, please contact the school.





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For a digital version of this prospectus use this  
QR code or visit the school website.

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