

BUILDING COMMUNITY, INSPIRING LEARNING

A Message from Our Executive Headteacher

As we move through the summer term, I want to take a moment to recognise and thank you for the ongoing partnership that helps bring our Silverwood vision of 'Building Community, Inspiring Learning' to life.

This has been a short but important term, one where we have seen real progress across the school. Pupils have continued to grow in confidence and independence, and there have been so many moments of joy, connection, and achievement.

Throughout this term, we have been exploring the value of Respect, and we have seen it reflected in so many ways, in how pupils support and care for one another, in the positive relationships across our school, and in the thoughtful ways you engage with and contribute to our community.

Your involvement, whether through reviews, events, or everyday communication, plays a vital role in building the strong sense of connection we value so deeply at Silverwood. We are truly grateful for the trust and partnership you bring.

Thank you again for all of your support. I wish you and your family a restful and enjoyable half-term break. We look forward to continuing the journey together and to all the exciting moments the summer term will bring.

Best Wishes
Sean McKeown



VALUE FOR TERM 5 RESPECT



Respect

Showing that we care about each others feelings, differences and points of view.

At Silverwood School, our shared values guide us in all we do and bring us together as one community.

We are proud to be part of the Values-Based Education network, we are committed to embedding these values into every aspect of school life from our curriculum to daily interactions.

Each term, we focus on one core value, taking time to reflect on its meaning and how we can live it out.

In Term 5, our focus was Respect showing we are caring for each other's feelings, differences, and points of view.

A wonderful example of this value in action took place at our Silverwood Sixth Form Coffee Shop.

Students from both our Chippenham and Rowde campuses came together to welcome visitors with warmth and respect.

Amy and Henry worked at the till with kindness and professionalism. Amy greeted guests using signing, while Henry's smile lit up the room.

Fletcher showed respect by signing to his peers, greeting others, and purchasing his cake with care and confidence.

The morning was a wonderful celebration of all the effort our Chippenham College students had invested in creating this event. We displayed this example of Respect on posters throughout Silverwood School.

We warmly invite parents and carers to support your child in living out the Silverwood Values at home. If your child has shown one of our values outside of school, we'd love to hear about it. Please feel free to share the story with their tutor so we can celebrate their efforts together.

Thank you for being such an important part of the Silverwood community.



A message from our Governor

Charles Burgess

I am honoured to be writing to you as a Governor of Silverwood School, especially as someone who has had a long-standing connection with this wonderful school.

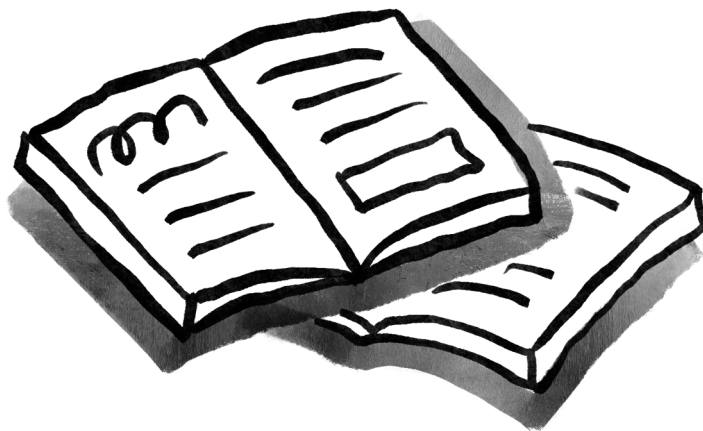
Before Silverwood, I had the privilege of serving as a Governor at Rowdeford School, and it has been inspiring to witness the development that Silverwood is today a truly inclusive, values-driven school that continues to grow and evolve.

My interest in disability and special educational needs stems from a personal experience. My father, who contracted polio at a young age, became a SEN teacher. His journey has shaped my deep understanding of access and disability issues, and I remain passionate about ensuring that all pupils, regardless of their abilities, have the opportunity to thrive in an environment that supports their needs.

As a Building Surveyor, I also bring a strong focus on health and safety issues, alongside a particular interest in building-related matters. This is of special relevance as we continue to work on the development of the New Rowde Campus, alongside maintaining and improving our existing school assets. I am committed to ensuring that our school buildings provide the best possible learning environment for our pupils and staff, with a particular emphasis on accessibility and safety.

On a personal note, I have a deep love for the outdoors, dogs, and horses, and I find great joy in walking and spending time in nature. I'm excited about the opportunities Silverwood provides in engaging pupils in outdoor activities and working with animals.

I look forward to continuing my work with Silverwood and contributing to its success, ensuring that every pupil has the opportunity to learn and grow in a supportive, inclusive environment.



Chippenham Campus



Term 5 has been a busy and exciting time for everyone at Chippenham Campus, filled with a wide range of activities, learning opportunities, and memorable moments.

This term, we have been thinking about William Shakespeare and the pupils have been learning about *The Tempest*.

As part of their learning some children created the beach from the play and explored the sand and made sand pictures. This hands-on activity not only helped bring the play to life, but it also allowed the pupils to engage with the story in a creative and tactile way.

Others experienced a 'sensory storm,' where they were able to engage with the sounds, textures, and sights inspired by *The Tempest*. This immersive activity allowed pupils to explore the play in a completely new way.

Classes have been exploring the shopping topic through role play activities and becoming familiar with what different types of money looks like. Some children visited the market and garden centre set up in school, where they had the chance to look for items on our shopping list. They practised putting items in our shopping basket and handling coins.

To support this learning, we have used different forms of Total Communication to make requests from various types of shops, including the music shop!

Some children have visited shops in our local community, giving them the chance to practice these skills in a real-life setting.

Yellowhammer have enjoyed doing art for VE Day, practicing scissor skills and motor skills through painting. The class has also been planting seeds and taking care of them, learning about what plants need to grow.

Skylark class has been learning about the different parts of plants and what they do. We even had a go at assembling a sunflower and planting our own!

Starling class has been busy making healthy snacks all term. The pupils enjoyed matching the fruits to their coreboards, and there were plenty of vocalisations throughout the activity.



Trowbridge Campus



Term 5 at Trowbridge Campus has been busy and varied.

Doves have been showing an amazing awareness for our value Respect; they have been demonstrating this through interventions such as Chloe's farm, where the pupils are able to show how gently they handle the animals.

Doves have also been accessing the local community by visiting the park and local Tesco express, when out in the community, following road safety instructions and also being respectful in waiting their turn on equipment or at the till. We are very proud of our Doves pupils!

Eagles class have been learning about money as part of our current theme 'Shopping', ready for their walk to Tesco. They created a shopping list of ingredients they needed for their cooking. They ticked these off as they put them in their basket and paid for their shopping with some money.

Eagles all had a great time walking to the shop. They successfully used their road safety skills to look and listen for traffic before they crossed the road.

The 8th of May 2025 marked the 80th anniversary of VE Day (Victory in Europe Day). To celebrate this significant occasion, Swans and Swifts classes came together for a special picnic and enjoyed a range of joint activities.

Finally, thank you to parents and staff for all of your support and hard work. Please enjoy the half term break and we look forward to seeing you all in Term 6.



Rowde Campus



It has been an incredibly busy and exciting term here at Rowde Campus, with so many wonderful opportunities for our pupils to learn, explore, and grow beyond the classroom.

One of the major highlights this term has been the fantastic array of trips, visits, and sporting events that our pupils have eagerly taken part in. These experiences have offered valuable enrichment and unforgettable memories for all involved.

Our Year 11 Drama groups had a particularly inspiring visit to the Egg Theatre, where they were treated to a captivating performance of Romeo and Juliet. Meanwhile, Hawthorne Class enjoyed a beautifully sensory and interactive play, bringing theatre to life in an inclusive and engaging way for everyone.

Aspen Class has also had some amazing adventures this term, spending time outdoors and bonding with animals, an experience that was as educational as it was heart-warming.

In a delightful twist over the Easter period, we were met with a surprise of the fluffy kind! Our adventurous school rabbit decided to explore the wilds and returned with quite the gift four adorable kits! These baby bunnies have brought joy to both staff and students as we watch them grow and thrive in their new, loving environment.

Looking ahead, preparations are in full swing for several key events. Our Year 11 students are getting ready for their Duke of Edinburgh Silver Expedition, while Year 9s are gearing up for their Bronze Expedition. Not to be left out, Year 8 pupils are eagerly anticipating their upcoming residential trip.

We are so proud of all our students and the effort they have put into preparing for these trips, and we look forward to hearing all about their adventures when they return.



Rowde Campus

As the term progresses, our dedicated staff are also working hard to prepare for the much anticipated Sports Day in June parents are warmly invited to join us for a day of fun, competition, and community spirit. We are also looking forward to celebrating the achievements of our Year 11s at their Prize Giving ceremony at the end of June.

Following our Year 11 Prize Giving ceremony, an occasion full of pride, celebration, and heartfelt reflection, we turn our eyes to July, a month of both warm welcomes and fond farewells.

We are thrilled to welcome our new Year 6 pupils to Rowde Campus as they begin their journey with us. Transition days are always a special time, filled with excitement and a touch of nervous anticipation as these young learners take their first steps into the next phase of their education. We look forward to helping them settle in, make new friends, and become part of our vibrant school community.

At the same time, we prepare to say goodbye to our wonderful Year 11 and some Post-16 pupils. As they move on to colleges, apprenticeships, and new adventures beyond school, we send them off with our warmest wishes and immense pride in all they have achieved. Though it's always bittersweet to see them go, we know they are ready for the next exciting stage of their journey and we will be cheering them on every step of the way.

As ever, the end of term reminds us just how much our pupils grow, achieve, and contribute throughout the year. We could not be prouder of each and every one of them.

With so much already accomplished and even more to come, this term truly reflects the energy, enthusiasm, and excellence that defines life at Rowde Campus. We are excited for what is ahead, and we cannot wait to see what our pupils continue to achieve in the months to come.



Total Communication at Silverwood



Something we are really proud of at Silverwood is our work around Total Communication. All of our pupils have access to a 'Total Communication Environment' where all forms of communication are honoured and celebrated.

The Communication Bill of Rights sums up everything we strive to achieve at Silverwood. It is a tool that informs our pupils and supporting adults as to what and how communication should take place.

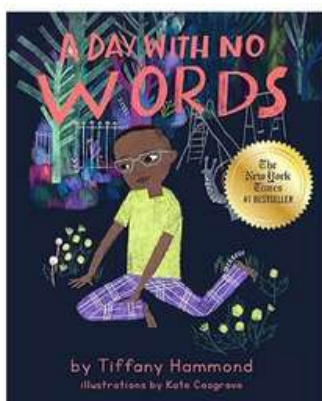
It speaks to pupils about feeling confident to advocate for themselves, ask questions and seek support with their communication. It helps adults to set their expectations too, in terms of what support they should be providing and considering when working with our students.

A Day With No Words

It is a colourful and engaging picture book that offers a glimpse into the lives of families who use nonverbal communication.

The book highlights the tools they use to embrace this unique method of speaking.

We will definitely be investing in this beautiful book for our school libraries.



If you need support with communication at home or in the community, please don't hesitate to reach out to your class teacher.

We are here to help and will do everything we can to support you.

Silverwood core symbols



Silverwood School



Dates for your Diary



Crazy Hair Day
23rd May 2025



Sports Day 19th June 2025



Charity Trust Open evening
Friday 27th June 2025



School Prize Giving Celebration
Friday 27th June 2025
10 -12.00 am



Prom
Wednesday 9th July 2025

- End of Term 5: Friday 23rd May 2025
- School Closed: Monday 2nd June 2025 TD
- Start of Term 6: Tuesday 3rd June 2025
- End of Term 6: Thursday 24th July 2025



Attendance Matters

We would like to kindly remind you that in line with Wiltshire Council absence policy, Silverwood School is unable to authorise any pupils leave of absence requests for leisure activities, such as holidays.

95%	=	47 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR 8 days in total or 1 week and 3 days
90%	=	95 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR 16 days in total or 3 weeks and 1 day
85%	=	142 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR 24 days in total or 4 weeks and 4 days
80%	=	190 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR 32 days in total or 6 weeks and 2 days

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

WHAT DO YOUR
ATTENDANCE
FIGURES
ACTUALLY MEAN?



Important Reminder for Parents/Guardians

As we begin to enjoy the warmer weather, please ensure your child is prepared for spending time outdoors. We kindly ask that all pupils come to school with a sun hat, wearing long-lasting sun cream, and bring a refillable water bottle to stay hydrated throughout the day.



Important information

Medication



Any medication coming into school please could you pass onto the Driver or PA with the correct paperwork. This will then get passed onto the adults in school.

Please see our Silverwood School website for copies of this form.

ParentPay - our online payment service

You should have received a letter with an activation code for the new online ParentPay system.



Once registered you will be able to pay for items such as lunches & school trips online using your credit / debit card. Please refer to the school website for further information & guidance.

Pupil Services team will be on hand to help you register if you are experiencing difficulties, so please do get in touch if you require some support.

Nut Free School



This is a friendly reminder that if you are providing a snack for your child to bring into school, please remember that we are a **nut-free school**.

This policy is extremely important as we have pupils with nut allergies, and we need to ensure the safety of all children.

Please can we remind you that peanut butter and Nutella spread contain nuts, and we do not allow these foods in school due to our nut-free policy.



Young Carers

A Young Carer is a child under 18 who regularly helps care for a family member or friend with a disability, illness, mental health condition, or addiction problem.

At Silverwood, we are committed to supporting young carers. If you or a family member requires assistance, please don't hesitate to contact the school office or your child's teacher.

Important information

Sarah and Clare's Law



Sarah's Law (the Child Sex Offender Disclosure Scheme) allows parents, carers, and guardians to request information from the police regarding whether someone has a criminal record for child sexual offences.

Clare's Law (the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme) gives individuals the right to know if their current or ex-partner has a history of violence or abuse.

Please see our website for more information.



Unsanctioned and Unlicensed Treatments

We have recently become aware of several companies, both abroad and within the UK, offering treatments that claim to "cure" conditions such as epilepsy and autism. These practices are unsanctioned, unlicensed, and can be harmful to a child's well-being and health.

If you are seeking help and support with your child's condition, we strongly advise that you consult the NHS and a paediatric consultant to ensure that any treatment is licensed, medically sound, and safe for your child.

Please note that the school is unable to authorise any unlicensed treatments, medications, or therapies. Given the potential risks involved, any such treatment would result in a welfare referral.



Lockdown Procedures

As part of the safety requirements for all schools, we now have a set of lockdown procedures in place. These procedures are designed to protect our pupils in the event of a threat from outside the school or the local community.

A lockdown is the opposite of a fire drill and would involve keeping children safe inside the building until the threat has passed. As a special school, we benefit from being inside a secure building with additional security measures that have been specifically designed to ensure the safety of our children. Each class has a tailored lockdown procedure, considering their location, as well as the pupils' physical needs and cognitive abilities.

In the event of a lockdown at any of our sites, parents will be promptly informed and provided with further instructions via Seesaw and email.

Friends of Silverwood School (FOSS)



join us in some fun at school for

Crazy Hair Day

Friday 23rd May

At all Silverwood Campuses. No expectation to take part, this is just for fun.

Minimum £1 Donation to take part, CASH ONLY, labelled to FOSS please.

Welcoming back the new FOSS group, raising funds to provide extra supports around the school for the students.

Let's get crazy!!!



Wiltshire's Short Breaks Scheme enables eligible children and young people (6-18 years old) who have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), additional support to access activities and leisure opportunities.



Scan the QR code to visit the Wiltshire Parent Carer Council website for more information.



Silverwood School Charity Trust



Supporting children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities

Silverwood School Charity Trust plays a vital role in supporting pupils across all our campuses in Chippenham, Trowbridge, and Rowde. In 2024–25, the Trust awarded over £20,000 in grants to enhance learning, wellbeing, and enrichment.

Recent projects include:

- New play equipment and a sensory garden at Trowbridge
- A polytunnel and end-of-term rewards at Chippenham
- A sensory path at Rowde

Each project has made a meaningful difference to the educational experiences of our pupils.

While the Garden & Country Fair will not take place in 2025 due to ongoing renovation work,

We are delighted to invite families, friends, and supporters to a special **Open Evening at the Rowde Campus on Friday 27 June 2025 6:00pm till 8:00pm.**

The evening will include:

- A tour of our new Rowde Campus facilities
- A showcase of two exciting Charity Trust projects:
 - The Multi-Use Sensory Walkway
 - The proposed Animal Resource Centre

Light refreshments will be available throughout the evening.

Tickets are free, and donations to support the Charity Trust's work are warmly welcomed and can be made using the QR code below.

We very much look forward to welcoming you for an inspiring evening.

