



Swanlea Stories

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The Headteacher

Brenda Landers
Swanlea Headteacher

Seeing our young people walk in through those doors on that first day back, was a grounding reminder that the new year has begun. What successes, what celebrations we may have had in the previous year, serve only as prologue for the journey ahead. I have said this many times before and I will continue to say it, the reason why this school is the way it is, lies in the quality of its personnel. That is our teachers, our governors, our support staff, our parents and of course, our wonderful young people. It has only been through the combined collaborative efforts of the entire Swanlea family that we have been able to do as well as we have. So as we begin afresh the new school year, let's keep this firmly in our minds. It is only by working with each other, for each other, that we're able together, to make the best of what this year has to offer. I am so thankful for our wonderful community and look forward to the adventure that will be the year 2016.



Chair of Governors

Fatima Shuaibu
Swanlea Chair of Governors

I am now coming to the end of my second term as Chair of Governors of Swanlea School. This term we have met as a governing body to review last summer's outstanding examination results. The governors and senior leadership team have examined the current school operational plan; ensuring that it is robust, and will deliver outstanding student outcomes in the future. For the coming year (2016) Swanlea Governors, the leadership team and staff will continue to review our performance plan against expected and actual outcomes, whilst putting adequate measures into place. Our ambition is to be an exceptional school by ensuring that we support our students to reach their full potential. I am a regular visitor to Swanlea School and the behaviour and attitude of our young people never fails to impress me. They are unfailingly polite and courteous and a wonderful reflection of their families and communities. I am also deeply impressed by the Swanlea staff; their commitment to our young people is awesome. Finally I would like to thank the members of the governing body and Swanlea's leadership team for their support for me personally as the Chair and their commitment to the School.

I am looking forward to meeting as many of the staff, parents/carers as possible in the new year.



Governor Profile

*Sophie Fanning-Tichborne
Swanlea Governor*

Hello my name is Sophie Fanning-Tichborne and I work as the Trusts and Statutory Fundraising Manager for a youth development charity called 'Teens and Toddlers.' I also serve as a governor on the Swanlea School board. I am what they call a 'Local Authority' governor, which means I applied and was appointed via the Tower Hamlets LA, based on the strength of my experience, skills and interest in education. I currently sit on the Curriculum and Resources committees. At Curriculum we monitor student progress across years and subjects, get detailed reports from faculty heads in regard to successes and challenges and hear about the changes in national curriculum. We consider how these will affect Swanlea students and how we can support the school to manage changes. Resources has a broader remit; personnel (support and teaching staff), school policies, budgets, facilities and premises issues. We discuss these in depth, including how they impact each other. The school has an excellent record and is improving every year on outcomes for the young people it serves. The dedication of the staff is clearly visible on every visit and there is no doubt that staff go above and beyond. The ultimate goal is for the school to be exceptional and it is evident that the staff and governing body are dedicated to this end.



PTA Computing Classes

*Shahin Chowdury
KS3 & Parental Engagement Coordinator*



Deesha is a special project aimed at helping marginalised women from low-income backgrounds living in Tower Hamlets to develop their written and spoken English skills. Effective communication skills help to empower the women to take charge of their lives and complete simple day-to-day tasks that may have intimidated them in the past. The qualifications on offer include: ESOL, reading, writing, speaking and communications skills. Entry 1, 2, 3; Literacy Level 1 and ICT at all levels. With the ICT classes taking place, students develop skills in word processing (MS Office), Excel (spreadsheets) and on how to set budgets using income and expenditure formats. They are also taught how to surf the net and download learning programmes that they can use to study at home. Deesha not only provides practical skills, but also gives women a chance to make new friends and widen their social circles.



Pupil Parliament 2015

Shahin Chowdury
KS3 & Parental Engagement Coordinator

November saw the annual gathering of the East 1 Schools' Pupil Parliament in the offices of Norton Rose Fulbright along the South Bank. The core aim of Pupil Parliament is to develop student voice by way of debate and discussion. The topics are all chosen by the students and together they work in groups to discuss, question and challenge the best ways to approach the problems in conference. In addition to this, a panel of experts comprised of local government and business leaders provide advice and perspective on the selected topics. This year some of the topics discussed included; managing waste in public spaces around Tower Hamlets, use of public parks and practical ways to address global warming. At the end of it all, each group presents its findings to the rest with actionable outcomes clearly stated. Pupil Parliament is a wonderful opportunity for the young voices of tomorrow to actively engage and contribute to the problems of today. A big thanks to Norton Rose Fulbright and the schools of the East 1 Partnership.



An Administrative Force

Kabir Miah
Deputy Head

The Swanlea School administration team are the unsung heroes of the school. Led by our office manager Rosie Gavens, this group of staff are central to the smooth running of the school. Every day from early in the morning until long after the last pupil has gone home, they make sure the school ticks. Our admin team deal with a whole host of things from first aid to lost coats, from calls home for pupils to making sure that everyone gets their food at lunchtime and a hundred other jobs in between. We spoke to Shaheda Khatun one of the longest serving members of the team and asked what she liked about her job and Swanlea: "It's never boring in the office. If I'm not doing the registers then I'm at reception or meeting new students and parents. Swanlea has become like a second family to me and I'm very grateful to be working with such wonderful people."

We'd like to give a big thank you to our amazing admin team.



Beginning Afresh - KS3

Madiha Khan & Liyana Iqbal
7A

Moving from primary to secondary school can be a big change, however it is a positive experience. At Swanlea there are many more classes such as Music, Food Technology and Drama. In addition to this there are many extra-curricular opportunities; such as enrichment and G.N.T. There are many ways to get involved and represent not only your form, but also your year group and school. By getting actively involved, before you know it you will make new friends. The transition has been something unique because through the experience, it has allowed pupils to develop their knowledge, increase their learning skills and become more creative. There is also a great deal of support for all new students. No matter what problem you may have, there is someone always there to help you from your LCO, to your tutor group leader, teachers and also friends. So far the experience of studying at Swanlea has been great and we look forward to continuing on with our journey.



Beginning Afresh - KS4

Zakaria Gulaid
10A

The transition from Key Stage 3 to Key Stage 4 has been very eventful. We have gone from red blazers to black blazers. We have gained more responsibility in the role of SPARCS and we now get into lunch earlier which is a good thing. As year 10s, we have had to adjust to what is needed of a year 10 as the classwork has grown harder and period 7 lessons are now needed to help us with our GCSEs, which we will be doing at the end of this year. Period 7 has been hard to adjust to for some of us as it is another period of learning at the end of a tiring day, but in the long term, it is for our benefit as it is one the major reasons why Swanlea has had great GCSE results. We have been given more responsibility in looking after the students in the lower years. The year 7s and 8s are seen going to the SPARCs when they need help and this shows that our responsibility levels have changed in the last few months. We're all excited for what the road ahead holds for us.



Beginning Afresh - 6TH Form

Marzana Begum
12N

Studying in sixth form differs greatly from studying in years 10 and 11; we have facilities like the Independent Learning Centre(ILC). The ILC provides a quiet place to study independently where distractions are at a minimum. This is useful for me because I can concentrate in a quiet environment which isn't always available at home. Also students have a mentor for each subject who helps us to address our weaknesses in each of the particular subjects. Instead of the teachers needing time to go over the lessons that they already taught, students can ask the mentor for help and get one to one support from the mentor. Since I am the head girl, it also means that I have a lot of responsibility and pressure since I am seen as a role model for the younger students. I have had the opportunity to volunteer in events like our Family Fun Day and hosting the Pupil Parliament, plus the Sixth Form London Challenge was a lot of fun as it allowed me to socialise with other students. Overall my sixth form experience has been very enjoyable.



Beginning Afresh - Staff

Daniella Blackford
Music / Drama

My name is Miss Blackford and I joined Swanlea School in September. When I first came to Swanlea it was quite intimidating because there were so many new faces, however both the staff and students have been incredibly welcoming and I really enjoy coming to school every day.

It wasn't until I started sixth form that I realised how much I enjoyed Music and Drama and changed my plans so that I could study Music at university. It was through these subjects that I had the best experiences at school. I made lots of friends and got to do things and go to places that I wouldn't have done otherwise. I decided to teach Music and Drama so that I could help students enjoy similar experiences. There is nothing more fun than making music with a group of your friends!



University Applications

Megan Berrisford - Green
Academic Mentor

In the Sixth Form we pride ourselves on developing academically excellent students who are enthusiastic about and prepared for, university. Although the deadline for applications is early next year, our young people have already received a large influx of offers from some of the best universities in the country and we are eagerly awaiting more! We are especially excited for our two potential Oxbridge students, one of whom has applied for Medicine and the other for History and Politics. However, there are a great number of students who have received offers from other prestigious universities including Queen Mary, SOAS and Kings College. Particularly impressive is the level of variety in the subjects that our young people are applying for, which is reflective of the enthusiasm that Swanlea School has for academic diversity and the quality of teaching across the board. With offers ranging from Law to Neuroscience, Politics to Mathematics and Business Computing to Biology, the passion and ability of our students is truly inspirational and we wish them the very best of luck.



ILC

Megan Berrisford - Green
Academic Mentor

This academic year has seen an exciting development in our enrichment for KS5 students through the introduction of timetabled study in our new Independent Learning Centre (ILC). This is a learning space that is exclusive to the sixth form and is dedicated to independent and small group learning. It is supervised by our general mentors and the students have constant access to advice and resources to help them develop their written work – including their university applications. On top of this, subject specific mentoring sessions have been added to students' timetables in order to help them tackle any aspects of the curriculum that they may be finding challenging. Having a timetabled study period provides students with the opportunity to make excellent progress with their courses and they always have access to a quiet space in which to learn. The response from our young people has been fantastic and it has been great to see the space being used as an environment for both collaborative learning and structured individual work.



A Worthy Debate

Megan Berrisford - Green
Academic Mentor

A fantastic combined effort by students and staff saw the sixth form raise over £200 for Children in Need in November. A highlight of the fundraising events was a sponsored debate in which two of our sixth form teachers went head to head on some important current issues... although with a little added humour! However, despite being a unique and interesting way to raise money for charity, the debate was also promoting the launch of the Swansea Sixth Form Debate Club, which has been created at the request of students. Confident, eloquent public speaking is a hugely valuable skill and this club offers students a supportive forum in which to practise their public speaking and air their opinions on issues that matter to them. As well as being a massive boost to any CV, being a member of this society will offer students a chance to make new friends, broaden their horizons and have fun. It is open to everyone and we are excited to hear what our young people have to say!



The London Challenge

Megan Berrisford - Green
Academic Mentor

Our Year 12 students recently took part in The London Challenge, a giant scavenger hunt around London that was inspired by the board game Monopoly. In teams of 10, the students had to navigate the London transport system in order to solve clues, collect photographs and souvenirs and win points. Provided with a list of clues and a travelcard, they visited famous sites like 10 Downing Street, Trafalgar Square and Piccadilly Circus, enquired about theatre tickets on Leicester Square and posed for photographs on Regent Street. As well as exploring the city, the challenge was also an excellent opportunity for our young people to develop their problem solving, leadership and team working skills and it was great to see them working together without the instruction of staff members. Teachers were stationed at certain points around the route, and were all exceptionally proud of the way the students conducted themselves and impressed with the independence and common sense they displayed. Well done!



Successes at GCSE

Chris Curran
Head of PE

What a year and what a year group! All 41 pupils on the GCSE course made the department proud before they went into the exam. Our students have been engaged in PE from the start, spending Saturdays with Mr Grant at Hackney Marshes playing for the school football team. Pupils have continued to work with the whole department towards success. The residential to Cornwall was a huge success and saw pupils surfing in the sea for the first time. Rock Climbing at Shadwell Basin never failed to raise a smile even on those cold February mornings. The amount of Saturdays shared, building up coaching and leadership skills won't be forgotten easily, with a few cross bar challenges setting YouTube alight!

Pupils have represented themselves, the department and the school in a way that is humbling and incredibly positive. This really is representative of what can be achieved when both staff and students push themselves.

PE GCSE Results 2015: 100% A* - C , 26% A* - A



Our Women at Wembley

Karron Flowers
PE

What an amazing Summer term for girls' football at Swanlea School. Over 50 girls were involved in various Leyton Orient coaching sessions, culminating in a Leyton Orient tournament at their Academy.

Our girls were able to experience competitive matches against teams from Barking, Hackney and Walthamstow. Through 'bone-crunching' matches students were able to evaluate their own performances and in most cases made good enough progress to finish as runners up in one group and third in another. As a result of this tournament four girls were invited to attend the clubs' trials morning during the school Summer holidays.

The girls were rewarded for their achievements with an invitation to Wembley to watch the Women's FA Cup final in August 2015! This was the first Women's FA Cup Final to take place at Wembley Stadium, making it an extra special occasion.

The girls left the stadium in waves of smiles, laughter and hoarse voices from cheering!



Sports Leaders - Cricket Festival

Shahan Miah
Year 8 Learning Co-ordinator

As part of the East 1 Partnership Swanlea School co-hosted the year 4 and 5 cricket festival last term at Weavers field. The festival encourages Primary Schools to send up to two teams of 8 – 10 players. The players brought along their Dad, Grandad or someone who is interested in cricket. As part of our Sports Leaders project Swanlea sent around 15-20 sports leaders who delivered a range of cricket activities. The aim of these activities included reinforcing the community learning links between the E1 Partnership Schools, working together to engage young players and their parents/carers giving them the opportunity to talk about their joint learning experiences through cricket. The leaders applied all their knowledge and skills that they had gathered over the past year and delivered fun engaging activities. It was a fantastic day for both students and participants and we look forward to the next festival.



Ball games in the Borough

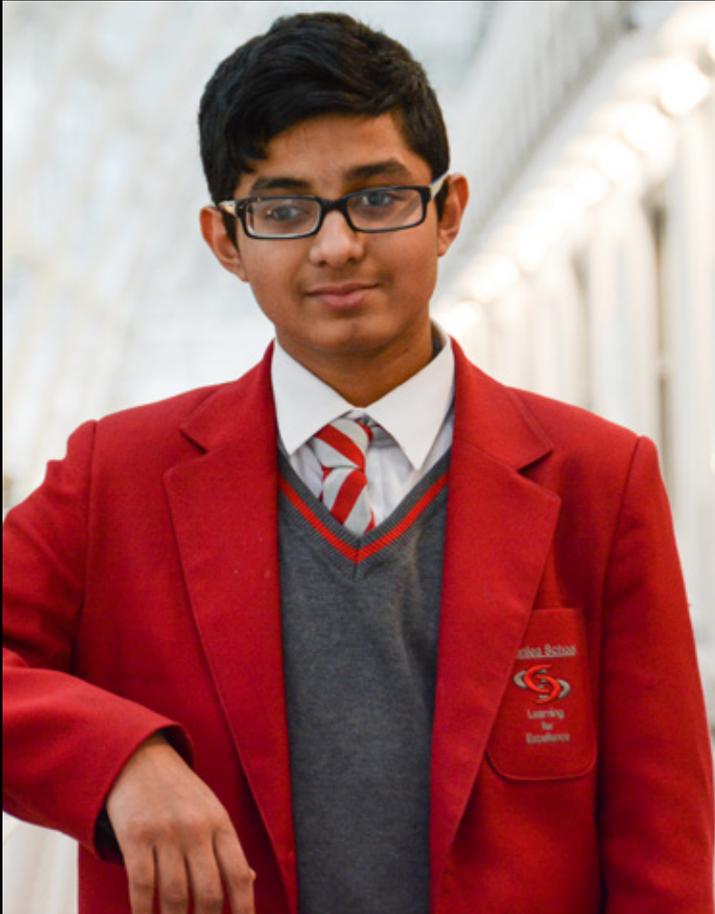
Megan Flannery
PE



The Girls Borough Netball Club is back! Last year the netball girls participated in the borough netball academy where schools in Tower Hamlets come together to train and develop their skills. We were lucky enough to have Yvonne, a fantastic England Netball coach, to be working closely with us. During the sessions you should expect to develop the fundamental skills of netball, including footwork, passing, spatial awareness and tactical knowledge. Last year, The Swanlea Netball team had great success, winning 90% of our games in the league and reaching the Borough semi-finals. Furthermore, we had many girls trial for the London Youth Games and also represent Tower Hamlets. This year our aim is to have more Swanlea girls represent the Borough and also play for Middlesex County. If you wish to trial for the Swanlea netball team and attend these sessions, please contact Miss Flannery for further information.

Jack Petchey

Nozrul Chowdhury
Assistant Head



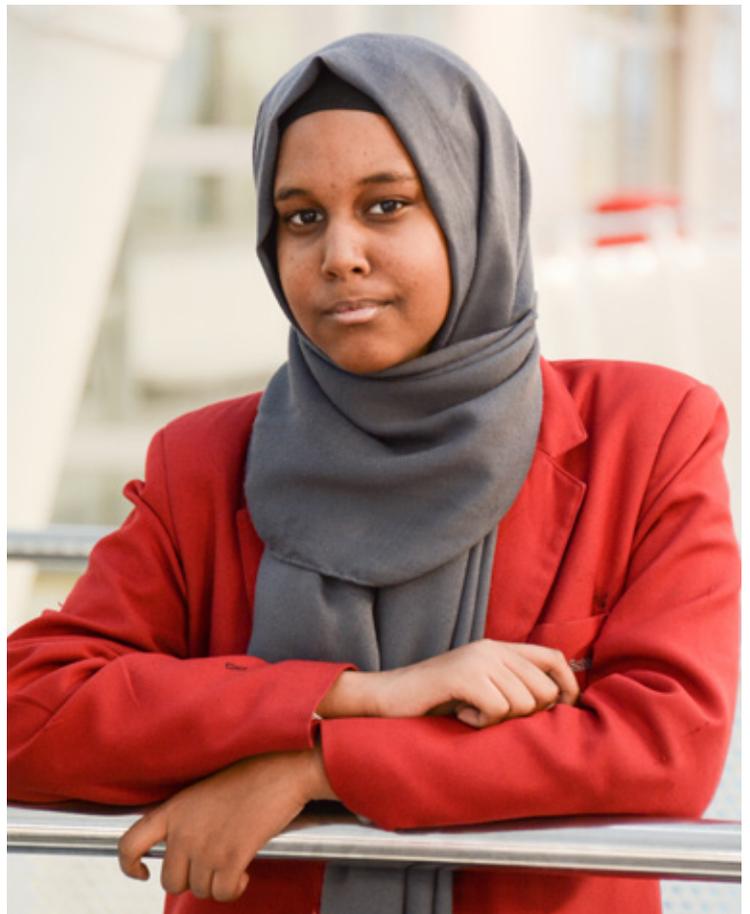
September's Jack Petchey award went to Kamran Miah of 9C. Previously in the Nurture group, Kamran was experiencing great difficulty and challenges in his classwork and also in how he interacted with other students and members of staff. However with great support from his teachers, Kamran has worked hard to address these areas and has made outstanding progress in not only his work, but also his social skills. He has taken some incredible strides forward to becoming an active and engaged member of the Swanlea community. Congratulations Kamran and keep up the great work!



Jack Petchey

Nozrul Chowdhury
Assistant Head

November's Jack Petchey award went to Rimaz Salih of 9W. Rimaz is a conscientious, intelligent and dedicated young lady who works hard and consistently produces work of the highest standard. She contributes to discussions, she always displays a great attitude and is a valued member of the year group and a role model for other students. Recently Rimaz spoke at a whole school assembly on the topic of 'Remembrance Day,' again demonstrating her contributions to strengthen a cohesive and reflective school community. Congratulations Rimaz!



To Inspire!

Rahima Khatun
Entitlement & Enterprise Co-ordinator

The I-inspire program is an exciting new mentoring initiative which aims to increase engagement and participation of some of our young male students by providing role models for them to work with and learn from. The mentors are volunteers from Deloitte, (a corporate partner and an organisation that Swanlea does much work with) and the program is its pilot stage, currently there are 5 students from year 9 participating in it. The sessions take place on the last Friday of each month and they provide an opportunity for the students to discuss challenging and difficult topics regarding their own personal development. Such topics include careers and career pathways, interviewing techniques, personal/professional conduct and presentation training amongst others. As the sessions themselves are one-to-one, it provides a great opportunity for students to speak openly and freely without the usual pressures which may accompany a more traditional class environment. Swanlea is very grateful for the wonderful effort by both its students and our Deloitte volunteers.



The Junior Journalists

Rahima Khatun
Entitlement & Enterprise Co-ordinator

In a first, the Junior Journalists this term secured the opportunity to film an interview with Sarah Byrne, who works with the Commercial Legal Counsel at Deloitte, a multinational professional services company. The interviews took place on site at Deloitte's London office; Tasniim Shariff, Zulaika Ali, Ima Begum and Samira Geldonne made the journey to conduct the interview. The interview focused on the specifics of Sarah's role and her educational journey to get to where she is right now. The experience was of great learning value, the girls were required to conduct themselves in a professional manner as they discussed the ins and outs of her role. With Ima operating the camera and Samira taking care of sound, Tasniim and Zulaika were in front of the camera presenting. The girls did a wonderful job and were able to have a great interview with Sarah. Work right now is being done in editing and completing the interview. A big thank you to Deloitte and our Junior Journalists.



Super Learning Day

Paul Gardner
Assistant Head

Super Learning Day happened on the 18th of November, a chance for students to engage in new experiences: a combination of school-based activities, or, for 700 others, a trip.

Years 7 and 8 worked on developing critical thinking and study skills and enjoyed solving huge puzzles around the site. Year 9 had 25 guests, who talked about their careers, including doctors, architects and music event managers. 50 students spent the day at Wadham College, Oxford University, learning about higher education. Year 10 took part in the London Experience, visiting historic and cultural landmarks, including The Tower of London, Tower Bridge, the London Dungeons, the London Eye and the Aquarium. Year 11 was fortunate enough to visit Harry Potter World, Whipsnade Safari Park or Wembley Stadium. Year 12 went on the annual London Challenge, a competition to find a number of checkpoints across the city. Year 13 completed a study skills workshop to prepare them for A Levels and academia post Swanlea. We are committed to a continued enriching curriculum for Swanlea students.



Super Learning Day Photo Gallery



Swiss Science

Megan Oldham
9S

Who would have thought that spending hours after school each week would lead to a trip abroad? Eleven Swanlea students didn't! On 17th September the Swanlea Robotics Team stepped foot on a plane at Gatwick departing for Geneva, Switzerland. On our first day we were woken early to make our way to CERN to learn 'all things science.' Later that day we were given a tour around the Seujet dam and saw how hydroelectric turbines produce electricity for the city, followed by an evening walk around Lake Geneva where we witnessed bats swooping over our heads. The next morning we walked around the city and then crossed over the border to France to take a cable car up the mountain. At the very top we found people paragliding and a Buddhist temple!

On the final day we took a boat trip around Lake Geneva before making our way to the airport. We were privileged to experience an hour long sunset on the way home. We all had an amazing trip.

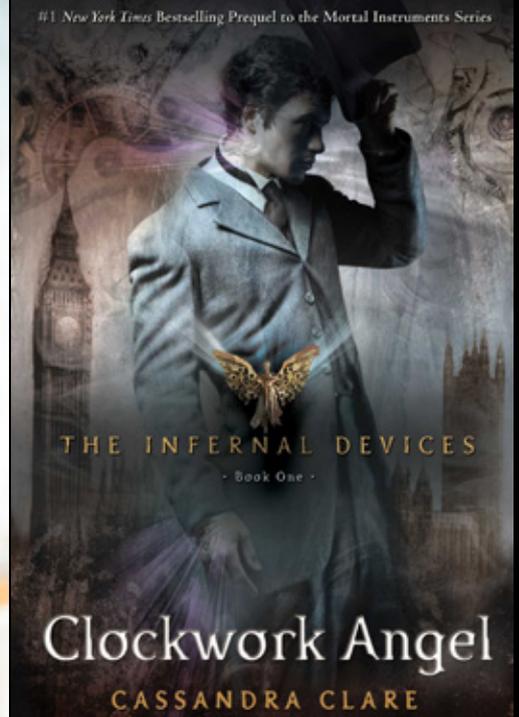


Swiss Science Photo Gallery



Book Review: Clockwork Angel Aissatou Djabi 10A

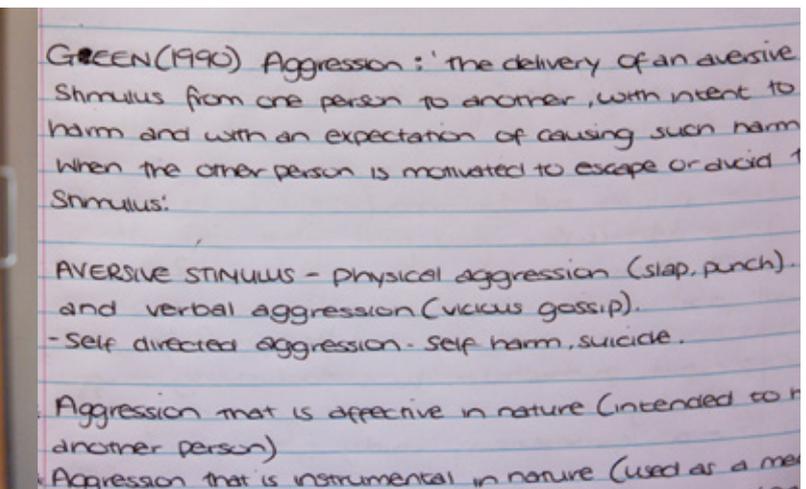
Clockwork Angel by Cassandra Clare is a very good book for those who like vampires, werewolves and creatures that are half-human, half-angel. The story is about a young woman called Tessa Gray who thinks she is human but doesn't realise that she's part of a hidden world of shadow hunters, warlocks and vampires. What is Tessa? A vampire or a warlock? Read the book to find out! I definitely recommend this book for people that love mystery, suspense and humour.



Mind and Memory Thasmin Jaman 13N

Psychology is the study of the mind and behaviour. There are many topics that we study at A-level such as Developmental Psychology which tells us how humans form attachments, how attachments may affect our behaviour and the type of attachments we have. Studying the effects of stress on our body is very interesting as it gives an insight into how it can affect our immune system.

Cognitive Psychology Memory made me more aware of how our brain works in terms of memory and how flexible and complex the human brain actually is. Leading female psychologist, Elizabeth Loftus, has had an integral role in my study of Cognitive Psychology at AS level. During my AS course I have studied, in depth, many of Loftus' studies on the malleability of memory and eyewitness testimony. I was given the opportunity to attend a conference based on her research, where Loftus spoke of such research based on false memories. I was able to ask questions about her studies, which helped broaden my understanding of the subject.



On Song

Simon Mustafa
Music

It has already been an exciting year in the Music department at Swanlea School. We now have over 230 lesson spaces and have had a huge uptake of instruments by our new year seven intake. Well done to them for getting involved! Our students achieved their best ever results in this summer's ABRSM exams. They achieved 15 passes, 15 merits and 4 distinction grades which is testament to all the hard work and practice they have put in. We have many groups and ensembles that our talented instrumentalists are encouraged to join. Running on a weekly basis, there is string orchestra, brass ensemble, chamber group, cello ensemble, tuned percussion group, flute group and the Swanlea 'All Stars.' Students will be taking part in a wide range of events in the new year such as a woodwind performance at the Barbican, a collaborative choir and composition project with the Royal Academy of Music at Queen Mary University and many other exciting performances! We look forward to seeing you soon.



Farewell to Mr. Euden

Simon Mustafa
Music

After six years we are saying farewell to Mr Euden who is off to the other side of the world to teach music in New Zealand. We would like to thank him for the tremendous amount of time and effort he has put in. Mr Euden not only taught KS3 and KS4 Music but also ran ensemble groups at lunchtimes, after school and performances such as Borough Beats and our very popular Swanlea Music Festival and Encore. He will be very much missed and we are looking forward to hearing about his adventures down under.



Returning to the Classics

Ayesha Als-Murchie
Latin & Classics

Salve! This year has seen the exciting introduction of Latin and Classics at Swanlea School. Latin is an ancient language which has had a huge effect on English; almost 60% of English words have a Latin root. Approximately 40 students in years 7 and 8 have been given the opportunity to study this fascinating and challenging language. Not only are they taught to understand and translate Latin passages but also able to develop their literacy skills as they find links between Latin and modern languages.

55 Year 9s have also had the opportunity to study the ancient world in greater detail through Classics. This term, they have been encouraged to consider the legacy left behind by the Romans in Britain in order to understand how much of an impact they have had on our lives. They will also be studying the importance of myths, Roman, Egypt and the Persian Wars.

Classics and Latin are engaging fascinating subjects which allows everyone to appreciate more of what we have today, thanks to the past.



The Joys of Pastry

Nathalie Nicholls
Technology



In Food Technology students have been learning how to make shortcrust pastry, specifically, to make tomato, basil and cheese tartlets. Short crust pastry is incredibly versatile and can be used for sweet and savoury products. This tart recipe can be adapted in many ways which the students will begin to learn about. The following lesson they will be adapting the recipe in order to use seasonal ingredients. The aim of this is to get students thinking about issues relating to sustainability, where food comes from and how we as consumers can make more informed decisions about the food we buy and eat. It also encourages students to be creative with flavour combinations as well as think about the nutritional value of the ingredients.

In the final lesson students will make their own recipe following their own plan of making. This will be an exciting lesson as students will demonstrate knowledge and skills independently and the outcomes will be completely varied and delicious!



Black History Month

Misbahur Rahman & Paul Gardner
9C & Assistant Head

This October saw the celebration of Black History Month; which aims to recognise and mark the valuable contributions from those within our BME (black & minority ethnic) communities. Black History Month is a time to remember and celebrate the important people from our past and present who have and continue to contribute and help build our wonderfully diverse society. To mark the occasion, Swanlea invited hip-hop artist and story teller Alim Kamara to speak to our KS3 students. Misbahur Rahman of 9C had the following reflection to share...

“Alim Kamar was a hilarious person. He taught us that no matter what colour you are, you should always follow your dreams. He also showed us that we shouldn’t let go of our dreams because of other people, but instead to always believe in yourself.”



Financial Rewards

Shahel Uddin
Senior Leader (Financial champion)

We are delighted to announce that in July 2015 Swanlea School was awarded the nationally recognised centre of excellence status for embracing financial education. Since September 2015 the Maths and ICT department have been working in partnership with PFEG (Personal Finance Education Group, part of Young Enterprise) to embed financial education within our curriculum. Many thanks to Mr Ali (Maths) and Mr Waller (Economics) for delivering effective personal finance lessons and innovative activities with support from external agents, including the FCA (Financial Conduct Authority). These programmes have resulted in our students gaining the skills, knowledge and confidence they need to manage their money and make independent financial decisions.

As a PFEG centre of excellence school, we were invited to share our expertise in this years’ annual national conference in Canary Wharf. We showcased how Swanlea used parental engagement to enhance learning about money with our Year 7 students. We are confident that the high quality financial education we are providing, as recognised by PFEG, will provide significant benefit to our students as they take their next step in life.



Christmas Giving

Syeda Tarin Pasha
11S

During the half term, all year groups participated in raising money for the international charity "Save The Children". Throughout 2015, a refugee crisis emerged across Europe, which is the reason why the main school council chose to raise money for "Save The Children", as it specialises in helping child refugees and even has its own "Syria Appeal". In the last two weeks of term, a variety of fundraising activities took place. From bake sales, to a sponsored silence, the Swanlea students raised huge amounts of money. One of the most popular fundraisers was the Year 11's sponsored silence. Although it was a very quiet day, together, the 15 silent students were able to raise £205!



Viva La Vivo!

Tasmin Zaman
8S

Being a Vivo ambassador is great fun! Every Wednesday during registration time, we go to Ms. Chowdury's office to give out the Vivo prizes to the pupils that have ordered from their Vivo accounts. The Vivo programme is a reward system where students earn points from teachers for a number of different reasons from being good, to coming to school on time, to also having the best tutor group of the week. The points go into your Vivo account and using these, you can buy items from the Vivo website. I enjoy being a Vivo ambassador because I can make sure that everybody that has ordered an item, gets them on time. I'm very thankful for this opportunity and I really enjoy working with my friend and I hope to carry on being a Vivo ambassador.





Academic Overview

A glance at all the action across different faculties...

Music Agnes McLaughlin & Isabel Reynolds 7A

The music department at Swanlea School is a welcoming place that will try their hardest to find you the right instrument(s). They have a wide variety of offers and opportunities for young people to enjoy. It is important for youths of many ages to express themselves using music and at Swanlea, the school makes it easy to do so. For those aspiring for a career in music, there is support in completing Music at the GCSE level and extracurricular lessons for those wanting to go even further in their learning. There are also many amazing trips and opportunities which are really fun and parents have the opportunity to watch their kids perform in concerts to see how far they have progressed. These are all good reasons to get involved with the Music department at Swanlea.



Drama

Tasniim Shariff
10E

In GCSE Drama, we have recently completed a mock unit 1 controlled assessment entitled 'Tomorrow's World'. We were given stimuli such as photographs, paintings, poems, TV shows and music to create a performance using certain dramatic techniques such as still images and thought tracks. In one lesson we were given a poem to analyse and were tasked in creating a performance using physical theatre. In drama we also learn skills such as observation and the need to pay attention to details in order to produce something interesting, because everyone wants to do something special, therefore we are challenged to think outside of the box. Another important skill is confidence - it is at times scary to present your ideas to your group and perform in front of a class, but drama teaches you to build your confidence and communication skills through rehearsals and discussions.



Physical Education

Mubeenur Rahman
12C

I started doing PE in year 7. I found it really enjoyable. I have a real passion for sport so I picked GCSE PE because it would allow me to carry on that passion and to develop my understanding.

In GCSE PE we have the opportunity to go on some very memorable residentials and in A-Level PE we learn what it takes to be an organiser, coach or performer and how these different elements all come together and interlink. There is also a very strong tie-in with Biology and the work we did in PE actually helped me a lot with my Biology work.

Traditionally people think that PE is just for having fun, but what we're finding out in A-level PE is that it's a lot more in-depth than what people give it credit for. There is a lot of pressure on people to sometimes go into the more traditionally 'academic' subjects, but I'd say follow your heart and look closely at what PE has to offer and you'll see there's a lot more to it than initially meets the eye.



Geography

Naajiya Saarah Sultana
10A



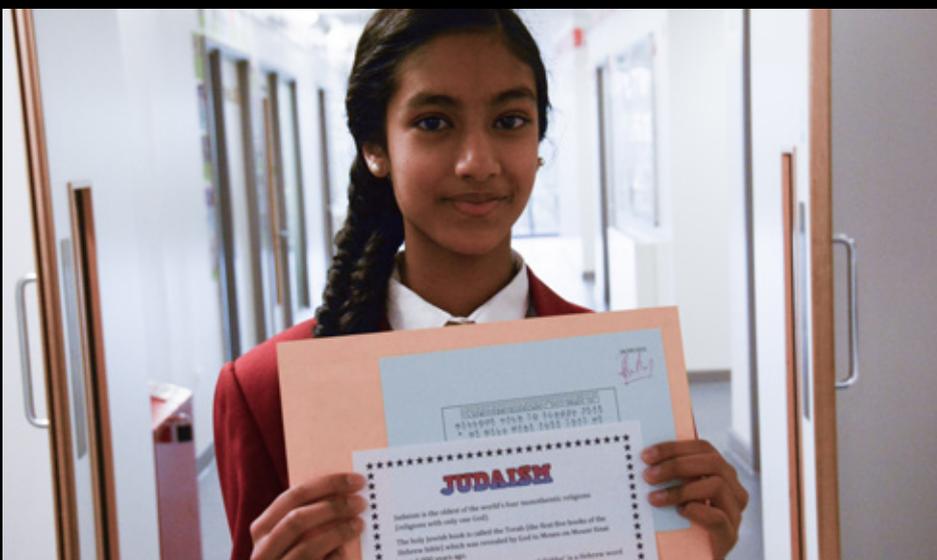
The year 10's and 11's who are currently taking their GCSE in Geography have been on a wild, adventurous trip trekking around Epping Forest for their controlled assessment! Students had put on their wellington boots in order to get into a river to conduct measurements for the field work they were doing. Whilst carrying out their work, they had a great time getting stuck in mud and falling over! One student even wanted to throw Mr Lee into the river! Students found this trip very enjoyable and hope to come back to Epping Forest again, although a brighter day would be nice! Thanks to Mr Lee and all the other staff members who went on this trip, we the students will definitely be able to get top notch marks!



Religious Studies

Masuma Begum
8C

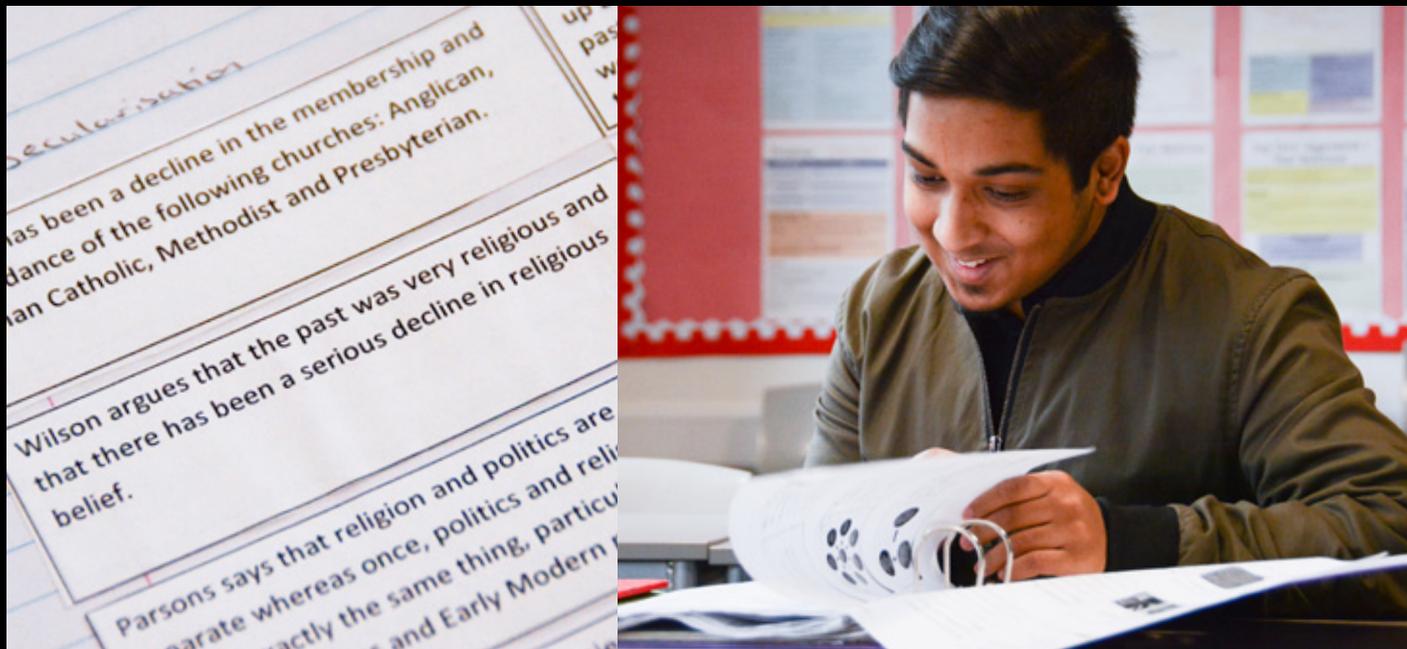
As part of our education in year 8, we are currently studying Judaism. Personally I really enjoy R.E because every lesson is interactive by having well prepared lessons that teach us about different cultures. This particular subject expands my knowledge as I learnt a lot about Judaism, for example I have learnt that Jewish people celebrate a lot of festivals such as 'Pesach' (Passover), 'Rash Hashanah' (New Year) and 'Yom Kippur' (the day of atonement). Other topics that I have learnt about include where they worship, what they wear, what they eat, their beliefs and all their traditions. R.E is one of my favourite subjects because I like exploring different religions and their traditions. The skills that I have developed through studying R.E include expanding my confidence when working with others, solving problems individually and also when placed in a group to work as a team. This allows the opportunity to practice my leadership skills.



Sociology

Samadul Rahat
13N

A-level Sociology is a subject for those who are interested in society and how different societies have different norms and values. What I enjoy about this subject is the research methods involved and the opportunity to carry out my own social experiments. This allows me to use the theory that I learn to see whether it actually occurs in our society. I also enjoy studying the older theories by sociologists and seeing whether their theories are still applicable today. With Sociology I can go into a career working as a government researcher. It can also help you into career opportunities overseas. Overall, Sociology is a subject that can help broaden people's views and make them more tolerant towards other people and societies around the world.



Government & Politics

Raihan Uddin
13N

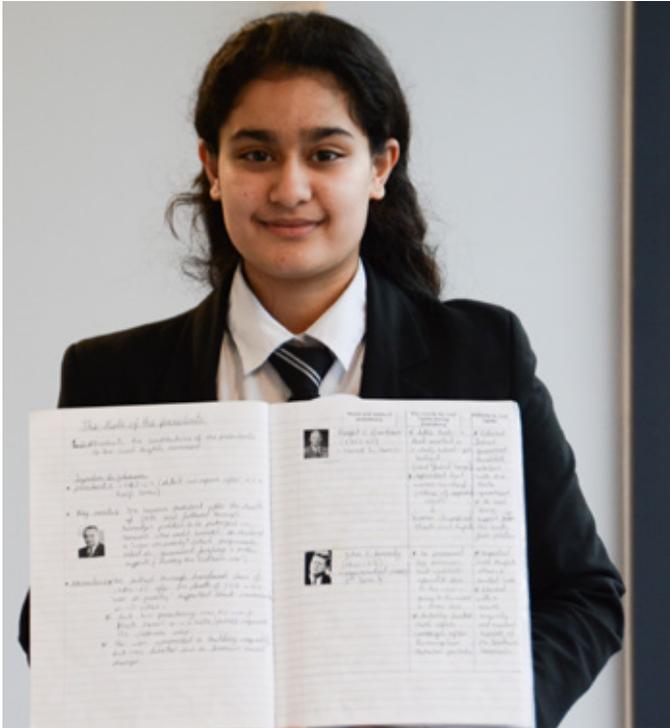
Currently in A2 Government and Politics, we are studying about political ideologies which have been significant in regards to the way in which society was constructed in the past and present e.g. Socialism and Conservatism. I enjoyed the challenge of understanding how such ideologies informed socio-economic and political circumstances, while also building my knowledge on why numerous governments in different eras undertook the actions that they did. The utmost crucial skill that studying Politics has given me, is the ability to understand, challenge and construct arguments in a confident manner within the debates that have taken place in class. Overall, this new ability has developed me as an individual, as my oral communication skills have improved immensely, therefore I believe that this has made me well-equipped for the world of work which demands such a skill.



History

Umaimah Huda
10A

In History we have been doing our controlled assessment where we have explored the history of America during the period of the civil rights movement. Also we have studied the lives of past presidents such as Lyndon Johnson and John F Kennedy and their involvement in the civil rights movement. Overall whilst doing the controlled assessments, I have been grateful to have had the opportunity to explore the history of America with greater depth.



Name and dates of presidency	Key events
 Dwight D. Eisenhower (1953-61) - served 2 terms -	He had a wife but...
 John F. Kennedy (1961-63) - assassinated during 1st term -	He had a big family but after he was going...

Media Studies

Syeda Tarin Pasha
11S

In Media Studies, I am able to express my creativity in many ways. Recently we have been focusing on magazines and how they are produced. By looking at the codes and conventions (specific features) of many magazine covers, content pages and double page articles, I have gained an understanding as to why companies put these particular features into their publications.

Annotating several issues has helped me come up with ideas for my own magazine. I have decided that my genre will be film and it will be called "SCREEN". Looking into many movie magazines has made me understand the features that are needed in my issue. I will be including interviews, posters (that I will photograph), as well as intriguing and informing articles.

Overall, Media Studies is definitely my favourite subject. The wonderful GCSE has helped me interpret not only the magazine industry, but also film and advertising productions (in recent assignments). Studying the media is both interesting and important, as it informs us on what today's public are attracted to.



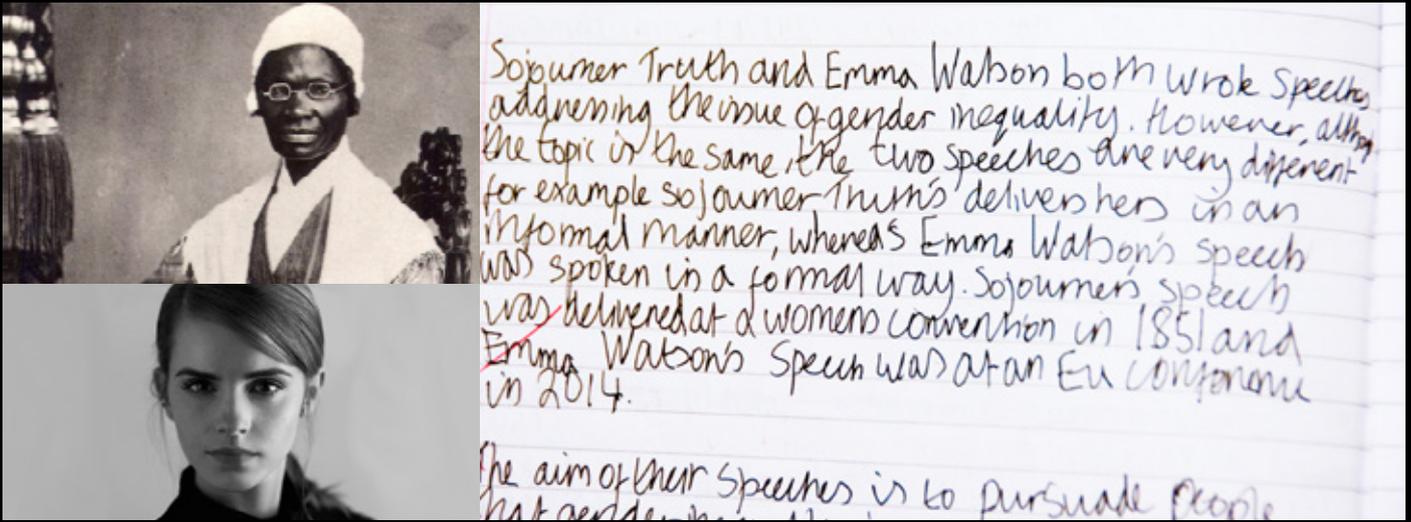
English

Zoe Lees-Walsh
9W

In English we have been studying speeches. We have been focusing on the topic of gender equality and equal rights. We studied two different speeches one by Sojourner Truth titled "Ain't I a woman" and one by Emma Watson as part of the "He for She" campaign.

We looked at the speeches and compared the different writing styles used and the techniques in their speech to put their opinions across. It was interesting looking at how over the years the attitudes towards gender equality have changed.

After carefully studying and comparing the speeches we got to write our own on the topic of the death penalty. We had to write a speech using the techniques we had looked at. I found it interesting as we got to learn more about the death penalty and it gave us an opportunity to voice our opinions. I feel like my speech writing skills have gotten a lot better after this topic and I learnt a lot from it.



Literacy

Khaled Ahmed
Senior Literacy Tutor



The Literacy Intervention has changed significantly this academic year, more notably with the year-long group sessions and the introduction of the Ruth Miskin 'Fresh Start' program (for all KS3 groups). 'Fresh Start' is a 33 week intervention, centred mainly around phonics, which ensures all children can read confidently before secondary school. Students start the program on different modules depending on the outcome of their initial assessment and we do not begin the intervention until they have been tested by the SEN department. The test consists of decoding (simple and complex) graphemes, multi-syllabic words and passage reading (where the assessor keeps a running record of their accuracy). Each of the modules have a uniform structure. Like the test, they begin with a set of graphemes to be covered by the module, multi-syllabic words, and passage reading, which are followed by 'Find it' (retrieval) questions and 'Prove it' (inference) questions. They also have a step-by-step writing task (differing across the modules) and end with spelling and fill-in-the-blanks activities.



A 2 Art requires us to produce a body of artwork on a personal topic, of our own choice. We begin by trying to understand our topic and what message we would like to convey in our artwork. We then research artists and choose up to 3 whom we believe may be relevant to our chosen topic (but have good quality art pieces), followed by studies of their artwork to be able to understand their technique of creating. This helps us develop our own pieces through the use of the artist's techniques. All this work is to develop our own final pieces. We later, throughout our academic year, get another unit which will be our exam unit with a 15 hour examination.

Overall the three of us have enjoyed art alot because it is the only subject where there are no wrong or right answers, as instead it allows us to explore ourselves through expressing our views and allow us to perceive things in a positive manner. It also helps us to develop our patience.



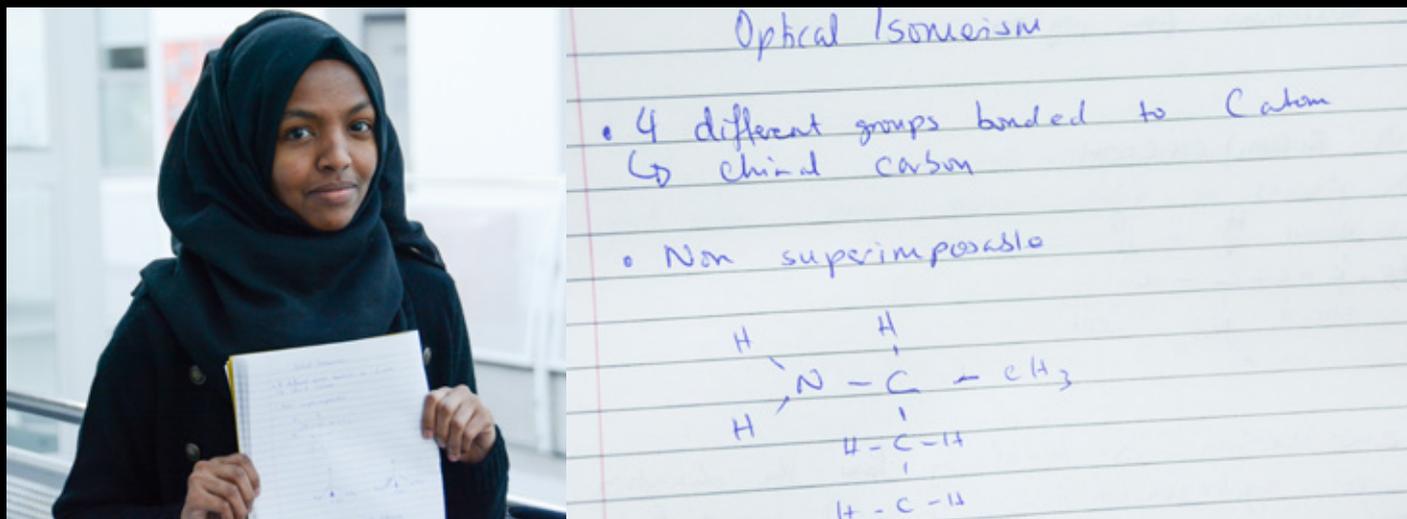
Graphics & Resistant Materials

Hazera Rahman Nisha
10A

I am a student in both Graphics and Resistant Materials. I enjoy being creative, thinking my way through problems and making new and innovative products which is why I chose these two subjects. Graphics also known as 'Product Design' is said to be an examination subject which maybe the reason why many people do not choose it as a GCSE course. However I have chosen it as this subject stood out as a challenge to me. Graphics and Resistant Materials are two subjects that have linked-in projects. For example in Graphics, I have made a prototype chair and am currently making a package for it and in Resistant Materials I am creating a prototype shelf - a furniture of my choice, as I have already made a chair. I enjoy Graphics and Resistant Materials very much, learning and taking something away from every lesson.



In Chemistry we are learning about optical isomerism, these are identical compounds that are non-superimposable (e.g left & right hand are non-superimposable mirror images). An example of an optical isomer is a drug called Thalidomide. This drug is used to treat morning sickness but its mirror image, causes deformities in babies. This shows the significance for the need to carry out research and testing on drugs in pharmaceutical companies. Currently, in Biology we are looking at genetics and how mutations are not always harmful, it can be neutral as well as beneficial. In addition, I was intrigued to find out the behaviour of a person's genes doesn't just depend on the genes' DNA sequence - it's also affected by epigenetic factors and the field of epigenetics reprogramming in the future can be used to diagnose and treat rare and common diseases. In Physics, we have learnt Newton's Law of Gravitation and centripetal force and how combining these two equations can be used to work out the mass of the sun and also the period (the amount of time taken for a single rotation) of any planet orbiting the sun.



Maths

Nadim Chowdhury
9N

Maths is a skill for life, from paying for items to even planning for birthdays, there is always something mathematical to do. Maths is like a puzzle, there is always a right and wrong answer and giving up will mean you will not finish this puzzle.

In my Maths lesson, I am learning about fractions. Fractions may seem like a simple topic, but there are many things about fractions that we do not think of straight away. For example, we do not think of top heavy fractions, converting mixed numbers into fractions, etc. Learning about fractions will help us later on in life. For example, business people might use fractions to calculate the profit on an item or service that they have put on sale. When I grow up, I want to be a businessman because being a businessman will mean I can manage my own company and will give me the flexibility in my life, so I can still do the things that I enjoy.



Economics

Azhar Khan
13N

As a person, I am driven by the need to find answers which has fuelled my interest in Economics. I have found myself applying economic theory on rational choice and game theory in everyday life.

Game theory was popularised by the film 'A Beautiful Mind' in which Russell Crowe plays the well-known mathematician and economist, John Forbes Nash Jr. One very famous example of the game is the Prisoner's Dilemma. In this game, two accomplices in a crime have been arrested by the police. Each suspect is placed in a separate cell and offered the opportunity to confess to the crime. The game can be represented by the following matrix of payoffs (see below).

Note, how if both deny the crime, they receive the minimum sentence of 1 year each. However, this strategy is risky as each prisoner has an incentive to cheat by confessing, thereby reducing their sentence. The safe bet would be to confess as it is the most risk-averse option.

Game theory is applied in strategic decision making such as auctions and pricing in a market dominated by a few firms. It was recently in the news when the former Greek finance minister was accused of devising 'bluffs' and 'stratagems' in his negotiations with the Eurozone.



		Prisoner A	
		Confess	Deny
Prisoner B	Confess	2 years/ 2 years	4 years/ 10 years
	Deny	10 years/ 4 years	1 year/ 1 year

Computer Science

Sadia Ahmed
10A

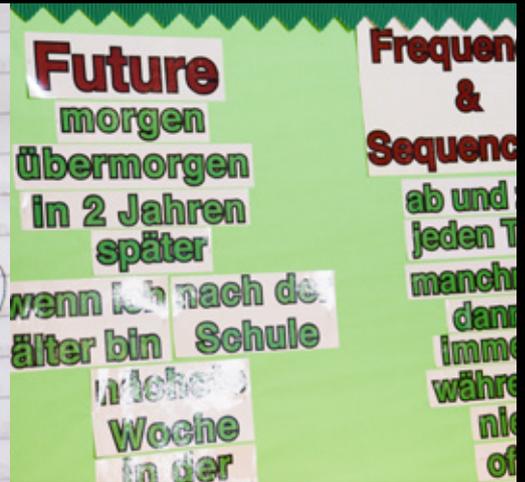
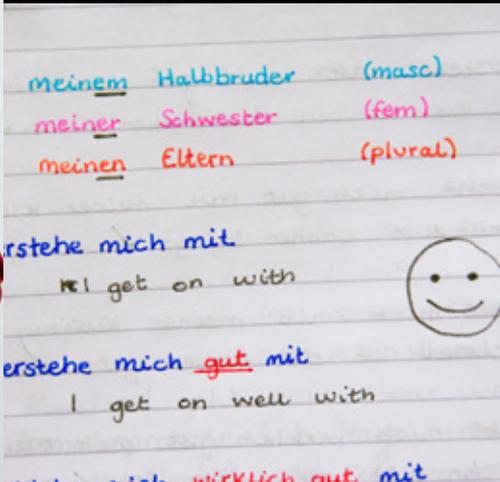
When it comes to choosing GCSE options, most of us opt for traditional, popular subjects such as History and Food Technology. Granted, these subjects are very interesting and have numerous real-life applications, there is a subject whose content is becoming more and more useful in this day and age: Computer Science. The world we live in is a world fuelled by technology, from the applications on the phones we use incessantly, to the traffic lights, security systems and databases that ensure a safer, more efficient society for the benefit of humankind. The world is in desperate need of more computer programmers and the Computer Science GCSE course is an excellent way to develop a fundamental understanding in the world of programming. The course is composed of two controlled assessments (together worth 60% of the entire course) and a final exam. This GCSE is becoming increasingly favourable to the government, universities and employers. If you are a curious, creative and technical individual, Computer Science is for you.



Modern Foreign Languages

Megan Oldham
9S

For many people learning a new language is a hard thing to do but this term in German, we have been learning the ways that people find most effective to learn new words and phrases. For some people this is aurally but for others they have to write and re-write these words to remember. This has helped with upcoming assessments as well as in the future for other subjects. As well as learning these new techniques, year 9 has also been learning how to describe themselves and the people around them. This includes their appearance and personality. We have also been learning how to describe our relationships with people and why. These haven't been the only things we have covered this term though. We have also recapped on how to make our sentences more interesting which will then gain us extra marks. When learning a new language this can be difficult as, like German, the word order can change. I hope to learn even more in the upcoming terms to advance my knowledge on the language.



Inclusion

Natascia Maita
Nurture Group

Every Thursday, the Nurture Group make their way over to the Music department for instrumental lessons. This last term, the instrument of focus has been the Xylophone. The key goals of these sessions is to promote participation and enjoyment. The two songs the Nurture Group students have been working hard on include the pop-hit 'Happy' by Pharrell Williams and the Christmas classic 'Jingle Bells'. The benefit of these two particular pieces, are that they are 'accessible', meaning the students are able to feel that they are a part of the performance. From all accounts, the students love their musical sessions and look forward to continuing them into the new year.



FOR THE DIARY...

20th Jan

Year 9 Options Parents/Carers Information Evening (4pm - 7pm)

10th Feb

Year 9 Parents/Carers Evening

15th - 19th Feb

Half Term Holiday

10th Mar

Super Learning Day

18th Mar

INSET Day (PM review/Year 6 interviews)
School closed to students

**25th Mar -
9th Apr**

Easter Holidays

11th Apr

First Day Back - School reopens for students
(9:30am Start time)



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The Swanlea Choir performing and raising funds for the Royal London Hospital

