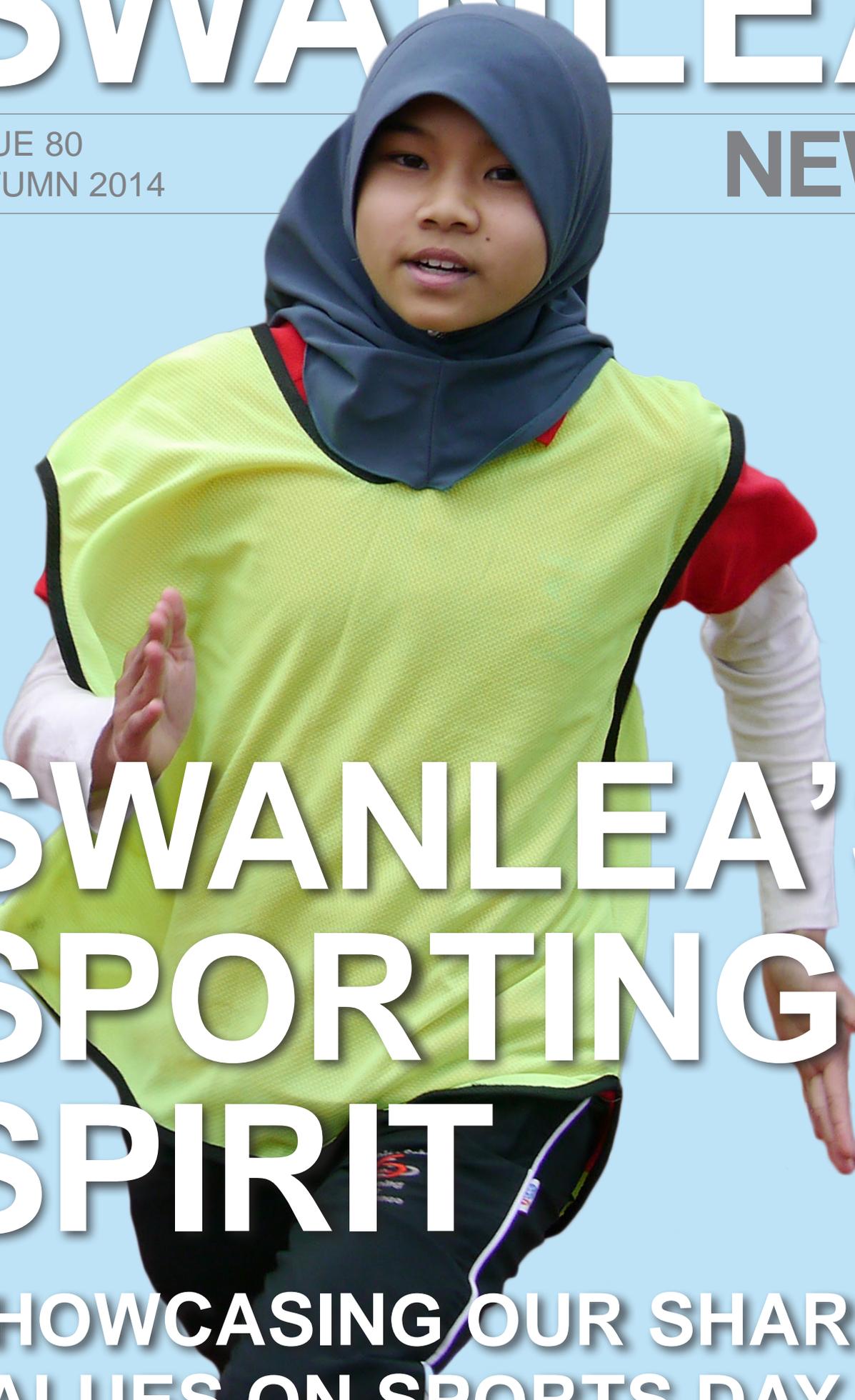


SWANLEA



ISSUE 80
AUTUMN 2014

NEWS

SWANLEA'S SPORTING SPIRIT

SHOWCASING OUR SHARED
VALUES ON SPORTS DAY

LETTER FROM THE HEAD

MS LANDERS,
HEADTEACHER

Dear Parents,
Carers, students
and friends of
Swanlea,

I am delighted
to bring you this
very special sports
edition of Swanlea
News. It is a real
pleasure for me to
be able to share
with you the very
many exceptional
sporting
opportunities
available to
Swanlea students.

Once again, there
have been so many incredibly special accomplishments
and events at Swanlea over the past term. Throughout
this issue of Swanlea News, you will be able to celebrate
the achievements of just some of our wonderful students
- Sadiya's winning poem, Mahfuza's well-deserved Jack
Petchey award, Petru's championship chess moves - the
list is quite amazing.

As a whole school community, we continue to build
on the work we have done over the last few years to
promote and embed Swanlea's Shared Values. This term
alone has seen workshops and events from Diversity Role
Models, the Anne Frank Trust, Oxfam Youth Ambassadors,
the Jewish Museum, Jack Petchey and Slambassadors
- to name but a few. It is wonderful to see the positive
impact our Shared Values has on all of us at Swanlea,
and I look forward to seeing that grow and develop
throughout the upcoming academic year.

Wish best wishes for an enjoyable Christmas break,

SWANLEA SCHOOL
31 BRADY STREET
LONDON
E1 5DJ

T: 020 7375 3267
F: 020 7375 3567
WWW.SWANLEA.TOWERHAMLETS.SCH.UK
EDITOR: EIMEAR DALY



LETTER FROM THE GOVERNORS

MS S. FANNING-TICHBORNE,
LEA GOVERNOR

Dear Parents, Carers,
students, staff and friends,

As a governor, it is a real
pleasure to be able to celebrate
the many successes and
accomplishments of
Swanlea students.

Swanlea's Governing Body
work to support students
in getting the very best
possible outcomes, and
Swanlea's Shared Values are the cornerstone of
everything that we all do - governors, staff, students,
parents, carers and friends. A commitment to uphold
Swanlea's Shared Values is what we all have in
common, and it underpins and informs our work.

Throughout this issue of Swanlea News, you will, I am
sure, see both the benefit of, and our commitment
to, our Shared Values. It is, I think, one of the things
that makes Swanlea so very special.

On behalf of my fellow governors, please let
me extend my thanks and appreciation
for all of the hard work that goes into
making Swanlea the tolerant, caring and
supportive place that it is.

With best wishes,

Sophie Fanning-Tichborne



SWANLEA STUDENTS: INSPIRATIONAL SPORTING STARS!

This year's Swanlea Sports Day was every bit as
exciting, thrilling and magical as the Olympics!

It was a hard challenge for the PE team to
try to match the success of last year's event,
but the hard work and preparation was all
worthwhile. The day started with the iconic
1954 Routemaster red buses taking 650
students from Swanlea to Mile End Stadium.

The arena stands were awash with colour as form
classes gathered, creating a wonderful atmosphere of
sporting spirit and enthusiasm. It was pleasing to
see how form classes teamed up, supporting and
encouraging one other. The 800 metres track
event started the proceedings, with an
impressive victory for Yaqub
Absiye, 9A, who achieved
a Swanlea record of
2 minutes and 42
seconds in his event!

Each event was hotly contested and tackled with
exuberance from competitors and supporters alike.
The noise and enthusiasm throughout the whole day was
infectious. Ms Brownlee was, once again, a fantastic compère
and started a countdown frenzy at the beginning of every track
event, which really added to the razzmatazz and fanfare.

There were some magnificent performances on the day, most notably
Maryam Nije, 9S, Zoe Lees- Walsh, 7W, and Waafiq Ali, 7C, who won
all 3 of their events to complete a hat trick of first place points for their
forms. Arguably the most impressive feat on the day was the shattering of
the Swanlea record in the Year 9 100 metre sprint, which was won by Farhan
Humayun, 9L, in an incredible time of 13.03 seconds.

There were also some very impressive sporting performances by staff in the Year
team tug of war event, and the 100 metre sprint race. The Year 8 team, led by Mr Miah
flexed their muscles and powered to victory. Ms Flannery showed great determination to
hold off the advances of Ms Ravenscroft to win the 100 metre staff event.

The magnificent day was concluded with Ms Flowers lifting the trophy for the best dressed teacher
in sports attire, and Form W lifting the shield as the champions of Swanlea's Sports Day 2014 with a
fantastic 440 points. Form S came a close second with 427 points, and Form E followed not far behind
to achieve 3rd place with 404 points. What started as an endeavour in sporting excellence and participation
manifested into a wonderful spirit of togetherness amongst staff and students that was very special to witness.
The day exemplified Swanlea's Shared Values, and the very best of Swanlea.

Mr Grant, Head of Department, PE

SWANLEA VALUES



WE WILL...

- ENCOURAGE AND SUPPORT ONE ANOTHER AT ALL TIMES
- BE POLITE AND RESPECTFUL TO EVERYONE WE MEET
- TREAT OTHERS AS WE WOULD EXPECT TO BE TREATED OURSELVES
- VALUE EVERYONE REGARDLESS OF AGE, RACE, RELIGION, GENDER, SEXUALITY OR ABILITY
- ACCEPT PEOPLE FOR WHO THEY ARE AND CELEBRATE OUR DIFFERENCES

At Swanlea we pride ourselves on challenging all forms of discrimination. Over the past two years we have worked with staff and students alike to develop our views. However, we are always seeking to promote these values even further. This year our work continues, all support staff and teaching staff have had training on what the Swanlea Shared Values are and how to effectively challenge discrimination.

The training, led by the Swanlea Shared Values Working Party, focused on what words, actions or gestures are discriminatory. They then worked with staff to know how to challenge these, on the rare occasions they occur. They then discussed any barriers which staff faced and how we could overcome them. The training was well received and the feedback from all staff very positive.

The work does not stop there. This year the Swanlea Shared Values are a focus of the School Council, Year Councils, appear in PSHE lessons and are discussed and promoted in all assemblies. This means that all members of our school community support our Swanlea Shared Values. Our work is being recognised by a number of other schools who have asked to come into get support on how to introduce similar things into their schools. Swanlea School welcomes all people, celebrates our diverse community and does not tolerate any discrimination. Our Shared Values make this commitment clear to all.

**MR GARDNER
SENIOR LEADER**

NICE NEIGHBOURS!

At the end of term I went horse riding at the Lea Valley Riding Centre with Fatema Rekha Abdul 7A, Ahmed Banori 7S and Tanbir Islam 7C. It was FUN! Our riding instructor's name was Nicky and she was funny and very patient.

We all found it a bit scary at first but gradually we bonded with the horses. We learnt many things, for example, how to control and sit on the horse correctly, with our heels pushed down and sitting upright.

When the horse first walked, I could feel him sway underneath the saddle. Walking was so relaxing. Next we learnt how to trot and it was exhilarating. The relationship between horse and human is incredible. I think horses are majestic creatures.

Thank you Nicky for teaching us. You are the best!

BY FARGENA KAZI, 8E



CHALLENGE PREJUDICE, REDUCE HATRED

On 26th November, Swanlea was chosen as the host for a key event for the Anne Frank Trust. We have worked with them over the past year as part of their Student Ambassador Program, and they were so impressed with our students they asked if we could showcase the work to their donors.

On the night, students gave a tour and presentation of the exhibition to the donors about what they had learnt.

Ms Landers also gave a speech about the impact the program had made at Swanlea. The visitors were very impressed with the students and what they had achieved. One said:

"The students spoke eloquently about the impact of the program and how they had challenged prejudice and discrimination in the school and with a local primary school."

Another said:

"The students are truly great ambassadors for the Anne Frank Trust and the school."

The Anne Frank Ambassador Program ran from January – July of last year and gave students the opportunity to:

- Understand the history of the Holocaust and its lessons for their lives and communities.
- Learn to become active citizens in their local communities.
- Continue to increase their confidence, public speaking and presentation skills.
- Develop their creative skills.
- Build their team-working and leadership skills.
- Develop positive behaviours and attitudes

We look forward to our new cohort starting in January.

Mr Gardner
Senior Leader



REMEMBRANCE DAY

On Tuesday 11/11 we remembered all those people who have given their lives in wars. The occasion was marked by a week of assemblies teaching our students why we have this day. We also marked the two minute silence and tutors explained how this linked to Swanlea Shared Values. The manner in which our students remembered this sombre occasion was a credit to them.

**Mr Gardner
Senior Leader**



FAMILY FUN DAY

This year's Family Fun Day was a wonderful event, and despite the rain, Swanlea was delighted to welcome about 800 visitors on the day – an increase on last year.

We had an even wider range of activities on offer this year. In addition to the farm, the segway course, the bouldering wall, the bouncy castle and story teller, we had balloon modelling, henna, biscuit decorating, face-painting and glass-painting. The PE team showcased the school's talents wonderfully, and visitors were able to take part in badminton, cricket, football, fencing and trampolining. We also had giant Jenga and Connect 4 games being played, as well as chess with the brilliant Maths team. A team of architects and staff from Sainsburys not only donated free drinks throughout the day, but also ran an interactive arts activity, which offered visitors the opportunity to suggest ideas for the proposed new areas on Brady Street, Cambridge Heath Road and outside Sainsburys. Crossrail supported the event again this year, and brought a whole team of volunteers along to showcase their engineering skills.

Over 30 Swanlea students - Year 10 SPARCS and Sixth Formers, volunteered their time on the day, working throughout as outstanding helpers and ambassadors. People made very many wonderful comments on the day, and a huge amount of fun was had by all. Many thanks to everyone who took part!

**MS DALY
MEDIA OFFICER**

YOUR NAME: Willow Stewart-Smith
 NAME OF CHILD'S SCHOOL: Malmesbury
 COMMENTS: Thanks for Thanks for an amazing morning. ~~Love~~ Swanlea is my first choice for Secondary!

YOUR NAME: Abdullah
 NAME OF CHILD'S SCHOOL: Lawdale
 COMMENTS: it was the best day ever!

YOUR NAME: ISHA
 NAME OF CHILD'S SCHOOL: MALMESBURY
 COMMENTS: Brilliant, wow, outstanding. Very welcoming. Very well organised. Enough staff at hand to support. A lot of activities to do. Wow.

YOUR NAME: S. BROWN
 NAME OF CHILD'S SCHOOL: SMITHY SCHOOL
 COMMENTS: Wonderful School Wonderful Day out

YOUR NAME: ANSHA B
 NAME OF CHILD'S SCHOOL: HAGUE
 COMMENTS: Excellent opportunity for a fun time. Really value the effort that has been put into this day. Many thanks to all staff Swanlea student helpes been wonderful.



EAST 1 SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP

This term Swanlea School has run a number of parental engagement courses, engaging not only parents/carers from our school but also involving the wider community as well as parents from the East1 Partnership.

Our Coffee Mornings are now on a Tuesday morning from 9.15 – 10.30am, with Mr Chowdhury, Assistant Headteacher, leading the mornings. Our coffee mornings are an opportunity to meet and chat to other parents, have a coffee or tea and some cake and to learn about a range of different things.

Presentations and workshops include ways to help and support your child with their learning and provide parenting advice and support on a wide range of matters. We have had a number of presenters this term including our Deputy Head, Ms Egwuma, plus our local police officer, PC Jeffries. They discussed a range of issues that parents were concerned about. Future presenters will be from the Healthy Living Team and the School Nurse.

Members of the Parental Engagement team also attended a coffee morning to introduce parents to the Triple P Teen Parenting Course. This is an 8 week programme suitable for parents of young people aged 11-18, and aims to help parents cope with the ups and downs of parenting a teenager. The course has been running at Swanlea with great success - a parent attending the course has said, 'this is a really useful course; I recommend all parents come, it has made me aware of many things.'

The East1 Partnership with the Deesha Project at Toynbee Hall is now into its second year of running highly successful ESOL and ICT classes for parents/carers and the wider community. We have over 250 learners attending the classes throughout the partnership schools, with many parents attending the joint ESOL/ICT class at Swanlea on a Thursday morning. Many of our parents are heading towards gaining GCSE equivalent qualifications. Keep up the good work!

Ms Chowdhury
Parental Engagement & East1 Co-ordinator



JACK PETCHEY AWARDS

Each month students in Swanlea are nominated for the Jack Petchey award. This prestigious reward which, in addition to the certificate and badge, also give students £200 to spend on a project of their choice in school. The Award is nationally recognised and a great achievement for any student. The award is given to any student who has gone 'above and beyond.' This could be in terms of academic progress, sporting achievement, representing the school, working in the community or overcoming adversity. Each month the Main School Council chooses the winner in recognition for their achievements. The winners this term have been Mafuza Salam, 8S, and Joel Gilvin, 8S.

The scheme will run all year and give all students the opportunity to be recognised for their efforts. They can give something back to the school by using their prize money to make Swanlea even better. Well done to the winners and all those who have been nominated so far. Keep up the good work.

Mr Gardner
Senior Leader



PRESENTS FOR PRESENCE!

Many thanks all students and parents/carers for all your support in our collective effort to improve attendance and punctuality. So far this year, the figures have been impressive - for the first half term attendance was as follows;

Year 7	97.39%
Year 8	97.61%
Year 9	95.71%
Year 10	96.02%
Year 11	95.67%
Average	96.48%

These figures put Swanlea students above the national average, which is a positive sign! I am aware that successful results very much come from a partnership between home and school. From the school's side, we are doing everything we can to support and encourage students. We have a system in place where students with excellent attendance and punctuality are awarded with Vivo points. We also have a weekly celebration for the form with the best attendance in the year. Students

with outstanding attendance and punctuality also get to go on reward trips! We do our very best to reward students who are committed to coming to school every day, on time and ready to learn.

There is significant evidence that high attendance and punctuality has a link with student success. We want all students at Swanlea to be the very best they can be, and it has been proven that students who have high school attendance rates do better in their GCSEs. It is because of this that we ask parents and carers not keep children off school for minor medical issues, as missing school work impacts upon their learning and can cause them to fall behind their fellow students. Coming to school, on time, every day, is a critical part of our home-school contract, and as a result, Swanlea school follows the government's policy on penalty notices for unauthorised absence during term time.

MR COWLEY
EDUCATION WELFARE OFFICER

THINK YOUR ATTENDANCE IS GOOD?
THINK AGAIN!
DID YOU KNOW THAT IF YOUR ATTENDANCE IS **96%**, THAT MEANS YOU HAVE MISSED **45** LESSONS?

SWANLEA STUDENTS AIM FOR 100% ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY

YOUR FUTURE, YOUR EDUCATION, OUR SCHOOL

On the 30th September election fever hit Swanlea. On this day, during PSHEE, all students in the school voted for their form group student council representatives. After this, the Year Council elected three people on to the Main School Council. The quality of students' campaign speeches was excellent and competition was fierce. Since then the School Council have been involved in a number of activities.

As part of Open Morning they have been tour guides; they have been delivering Beat Bullying Week assemblies; providing guidance for staff on what they think makes a good

form tutor; choosing the monthly Jack Petchey award winner; highlighting areas of concern for their year group; raising money for charities; hosting local primary schools to support Pupil Parliament and promoting Swanlea Shared Values. All this and studying hard at the same time.

On the 28th November, Ms Chowdury and Mr Gardner took 9 Main School Council members to Pupil Parliament. This was arranged as part of the East 1 Partnership and held in the glamorous Norton Rose offices in Central London. Amina Khatun, Year 12, did a wonderful job as chairperson. The panel, consisting

of Rushonara Ali MP and representatives from the police and local community, heard young people from the East 1 Partnership schools debate a range of issues about crime and anti-social behaviour, the environment, equality and human rights. The Swanlea students impressed everyone with their erudite questions and socially motivated ideas. Well done to all.

Mr Gardner
Senior Leader

Students from Swanlea's Year 8 School Council recently raised an impressive £132 for this year's Children in Need appeal. The industrious sweet sellers tempted staff and students with pots of pick and mix sweets, which went down a treat. Thank you to all those who contributed to this amazing charity.

Ms Flannery
Deputy Team Leader for Year 8

SENIOR MATHS CHALLENGE

On Thursday 6th November, a small group of highly talented mathematicians were selected to take part in the UK Senior Maths Challenge.

This year there were more than 100,000 other students across the UK taking part in the SMC. Pupils are given a set of extremely challenging questions to tackle within an allotted time period.

Although the challenge is primarily aimed at the top performing Year 12 and 13 students, we entered a few of our Year 11 students, and they didn't disappoint. Congratulations to the following students:

Rafee Ahmed, Year 11 – Silver Award
Azmul Hudha, Year 13, Abdugani Ali, Year 13, Shanjida Begum, Year 12, Azhar Khan, Year 12, Marzana Begum, Year 11 – Bronze Award

MR UDDIN, MATHS TEACHER



NATIONAL POETRY DAY

To celebrate National Poetry Day 2014, thirty lucky Year 8 and 9 students had the fantastic opportunity to take a trip to the National Poetry Day Live Event, conveniently located pretty much on our doorstep, at the lively Southbank Centre.

It was a jam-packed afternoon with an extremely diverse line-up; from spoken word artist Joelle Taylor, with her thoughts and rhymes on growing up in East London, to Raymond Antrobus who performed a hilarious poem about the characters in 'The Lord of the Rings', which had our students roaring with laughter. Also, in line with the event's theme of 'memory', the students heard some poems that performers had memorised for their performance, or remembered from their childhood, sparking lots of conversation about their favourite poems that they've encountered both at Swanlea and primary school.

Before the students left, they got the chance to do some creative writing themselves, playing around with word order on a stamping machine, and creating some rhymes based on their own childhood memories.

As usual, the students represented the school in a more than exceptional manner, and we headed back to school with lots of great new memories of our own. Happy National Poetry Day everyone!

MS MOYES

DEPUTY LEARNING COORDINATOR FOR ENGLISH - KS3



BEAT BULLYING

Beat Bullying Week is an annual event where we work to cement and highlight our commitment as a whole school community to making all people welcome and happy. As part of our Swanlea Shared Values, we respect all people and do not tolerate people feeling isolated or alone. During Swanlea school's Beat Bullying Week, students from the Main School Council wrote and presented assemblies to all year groups, tackling the issue of what we can do to stop bullying. Year 10 students gave an assembly with our Sixth Form students, to make sure that everyone knows that they have a personal responsibility to do whatever they can to stop bullying in all its forms. Year 7 council members also all did an assembly for their year group. The assemblies were excellent, and highlighted not only the problems that bullying causes, but also what we can do to stop it from happening. Well done to all students who took part.

Mr Gardner, Senior Leader

SLAMbassadors

Congratulations to Sadia Ahmed who was one of the 7 final winners of this year's Slambassador Poetry competition! Over 900 films were submitted this year, making this the largest slam in the UK – as well as the longest running and the only one to focus on developing solo spoken word artists.

As one of the winners, Sadia took part in a special poetry workshop, and then performed her work at the Southbank Centre. A truly wonderful achievement – congratulations Sadia!

Ms Daly, Media Officer



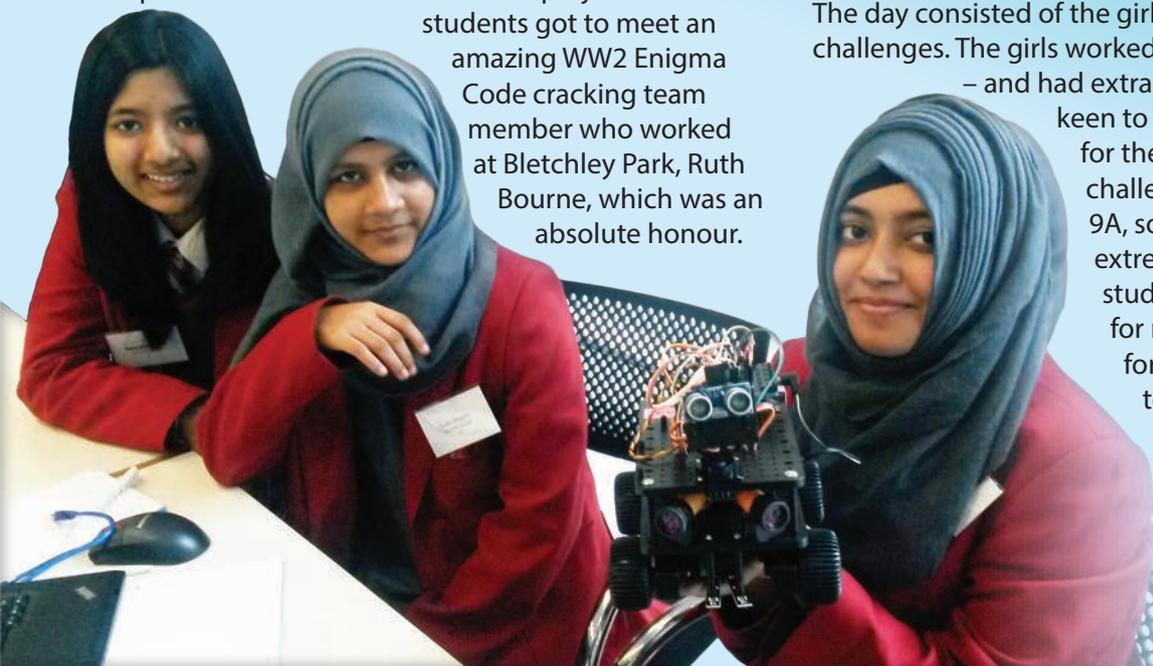
CRACKING TIME AT CODE CAMP!

On 10th November, Year 9 girls were invited to attend Barclays headquarters at Canary Wharf, to promote women in IT as part of Swanlea's STEM outreach project. Our

students got to meet an amazing WW2 Enigma Code cracking team member who worked at Bletchley Park, Ruth Bourne, which was an absolute honour.

Bletchley Park was the code-breaking centre that helped to win the Second World War and launch the modern computer.

The day consisted of the girls taking part in 6 different challenges. The girls worked really hard on their challenges – and had extra motivation to win, as they were keen to get the prize of an android tablet for the best 'design of the future'. The challenge was won by Sadia Ahmed, 9A, so congratulations Sadia! It was an extremely fun and exciting day, with students learning how to write code for robots, they designed gadgets for the future and some even got to use the enigma breaking code machine.



**MS KHATUN
ENRICHMENT
ENTERPRISE
COORDINATOR**

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

In celebration of Black History Month the History department ran a series of external workshops in KS3 Humanities lessons with the spoken word poet, Beyonder. The aim of these workshops was to broaden students' understanding of marginalised issues in History and consider the relevance of BHM.



The workshops focused on *Diaspora Diaries*, a documentary filmed and edited by 'Beyonder' as part of his tenure as artist-in residence for Africa '05. In it we discovered how the African diaspora has been shaped, hearing from members of the diaspora about the countries of origin and their lives in Britain, as well as their views about the future of the diaspora.



Our students conducted research and were split into teams, taking part in a quiz about what they have seen. This was then followed by a live poetry performance by Beyonder.

It was fantastic to see how enthusiastic and motivated the students were by the learning and performance alike. Beyonder was even able to offer some performance advice to Swanlea in residence poet Sadia as well!

Ms Layzelle
History teacher

Passion, possibilities and power

On 10th October a group of Year 10 girls went to an education conference organised by Mulberry School. The aim of the day was to bring together 300 young women from schools across the UK, with the focus being the importance of an education tailored to the needs of twenty first century women. The students discussed young women's passion to make positive social change, and the possibilities that lie ahead for them. The students also had the opportunity to learn from a variety of successful women from a range of artistic, political and business backgrounds. The students benefited from this inspiring event, and a wonderful time was had by all.

Mr Gardner
Senior Leader



CONNECTING

Over the past three years Swanlea School has worked closely with the Jewish Museum in Camden and completed a number of events, including our annual Holocaust Memorial Day and Connecting Lives Workshop. Since November, all Year 8 classes have completed a workshop with the Museum. The workshop aims to challenge students' preconceived ideas about Judaism and Jewish people by encouraging interfaith understanding and respect for others. This connects to our Swanlea Shared Values where we aim to challenge discrimination in all its forms. The results of the sessions and a recent unit on Judaism in Year 8 RE have been positive. Students have commented that:

"I did not know anything about Jewish people, now I do and Judith from the museum was really great"

We look forward to 6th January where Year 9 will spend a day on workshops about the Holocaust and have a Holocaust survivor come and talk to them.

Mr Gardner
Senior Leader

LIVES

The Maths Faculty's Chess Club has gone from strength to strength over the past term. So much so, in fact, that we held our first Chess Championship in July.

Over several months, 16 participants battled it out to be the victor. The competition was intense, and the enthusiasm of all learners who participated was exceptional.

Sadia Ahmed reached the quarter finals, and the contest for third place took place between Ibrahim Raynor and Muhammed Asif Rahman.

The final was a hard fought game between Mazhar Alam, 8A, and Petru Guran, 8S, refereed by our 'Grand Master' mentor, Mr Buabin.

After an intense battle, Petru claimed the victory in front of a raucous crowd of pupils in the mall.

Many congratulations to the following finalists:
Petru Guran – Gold
Mazhar Alam – Silver
Ibrahim Raynor – Bronze

Mr Uddin, Maths teacher

CHECK MATES



BORED OR BOARD? CHECK US OUT!

Our second Chess championship will take place in the summer. All members of Swanlea School are more than welcome.

The Swanlea Maths Club is an inclusive club that promotes the Swanlea Shared values. Players of all abilities and backgrounds

are welcome. We currently have a mix of 32 players of different backgrounds and genders. We would welcome new faces to keep our existing players on their toes.

We also teach new players how to play, so why not come on down and have a go?

SUPER LEARNING DAY



Our first SLD for this academic year took place on Thursday 20th November. We had over 700 students out on trips, experiencing a range of cultural and educative possibilities. All students learned a great deal and it was inspiring to see the high level of excitement and participation from staff and students.

In school, Year 7, Year 8 and some students from Year 9 had a fantastic day. Activities included study skills blast off workshops, a GCSE and university planning workshop with the Tower Hamlets Education and Business Partnership, a London Fire Brigade workshop, a PE carousel of sports and a really challenging and fun time with the problem solving company.

Year 12 participated in the London challenge with Anwara, Parvin, Mustafiz and Faroz from Ms Compton's class taking first prize in the challenge. Year 11 visited central London with a turn on the London Eye and the London Aquarium. Year 10 had a study skills blast off in the morning followed by visits to iconic museums and London landmarks such as: The V&A, Tate Britain, Tate Modern, The Centre of the Cell, Wembley Stadium, The Transport Museum and Tower Bridge. Students from Year 9 visited Oxford University and another group visited the University of Sussex.

It was a great day and both staff and students really enjoyed all of the wide and varied learning opportunities. Look out for our next exciting SLD on Wednesday 11th March 2015.

Ms Brownlee
Senior Leader



AS EASY AS A, BEE, C?



On 12th November, Year 7 students experienced their first ever inter-tutor spelling bee competition. After a fierce intra-tutor battle, each form had found their walking talking dictionary champion to represent their form. The competitors were; Abida Begum 7S, Mihrab Choudhury 7W, Mohammed Azhar Ali 7A, Mohammed Umar Choudhry 7N, Nadir Choudhry 7L, Muhammed Yusuf Hussain 7E and Alnasim Awal 7C.

In the Sports hall, with 202 students cheering their names and listening to every word being uttered, each competitor took their place under the spotlight, with the hope of winning 3000 Vivos for their team prominent in everyone's mind. As each round went by, it got tougher and tougher, with contestants being knocked out at each stage. The final was undertaken by Mihrab and Azhar,

who battled it out to the very last word. Unfortunately, Azhar missed out just one letter, leaving Mihrab with the task of making sure he spelt his word correctly and be crowned the champion speller for Year 7. With a bit of hesitation, Mihrab managed to get his word right, and was crowned the champion.

Well done to all those who took part. Students showed great courage, leadership and confidence to compete in front of so many, with so much pressure. A special well done to all the tutor groups for demonstrating excellent Swanlea School values throughout; encouragement, support, good sportsmanship and - most importantly - respect for the opposition. I look forward for the next inter-tutor competition.

**MR MIAH
HEAD OF YEAR 7**



Swanlea upon Avon

On November 12th twenty Swanlea A level English Literature students had a fantastic day out at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre in Stratford upon Avon, birthplace of William Shakespeare.

The RSC put on activities especially for our school. First up, we participated in an actors' workshop in which the three central actors and director explored their own interpretations of a key scene in 'The White Devil', the play we had come to see that day, and then answered students' questions.

This was followed by a lecture given by a member of the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust giving all the background information students needed on John Webster [the playwright] and seventeenth century Revenge Tragedy, of which 'The White Devil' is one of the most celebrated examples. We learned just what a controversial play this is and how the RSC will only stage it with a female director! This fascinating talk was one of the highlights of the day for most students.

At 1.30pm we took our front row seats to see the RSC's modern day version of 'The White Devil' and it was a thrilling performance. Students commented: *'The performance was great, energetic, bloody and brutal'* [Sadik Year 13]; *'The performance was amazing – the way the ideas were strung together'* [Samina Year 13]; *'I felt a lot of emotional involvement... There was a surprising amount of blood'* [Rhiane Year 13].

Year 13 students can't wait now to study the play next term!

*Ms Gardner
Assistant Headteacher*

MUSIC NOTES

What a year for music in Swanlea School. Our first international music tour was fabulous and we have witnessed some incredible feats of brilliance from the Swanlea music students.

Our 6th consecutive year for outstanding results in BTEC Music was a great credit to Mr Euden and all of the BTEC music class. We look forward to this year's class performing well in the first ever BTEC Music exam on 14th January 2015. Our GCSE Music class also earned absolutely incredible results with only A and B grades awarded to all students. Congratulations!

Our 2014 ABRSM results are exceptional and the latest honour board has been unveiled in the music department. Congratulations to all students for your excellent results. To support students in their quest for excellence in the higher grades this year, we are introducing a ABRSM technical warm up event. This will give the students an opportunity to present all of the technical requirements that they are working on for their 2015 instrumental exams. Parents, please make sure that your child knows what they need to do.

This year our choir will be participating in three extraordinary events starting with a performance at the Roman Road Winter Festival on Sunday 7th December 2015. Please support our choir in their 12pm performance slot.

In February the choir will be performing at the Royal Academy of Music. This is a highly prestigious concert and the RAM has commissioned new works to be composed for Swanlea School. This concert will be a world premiere and we will be joined by students from Shapla and Canon Barnett primary schools. Leading this performance will be internationally renowned choral conductor Suzi Zumpe. There will be 3 after school rehearsals which all children in the choir will need to attend from 3.15 – 5.00.

1. 22/01/15
2. 26/01/15
3. 02/02/15

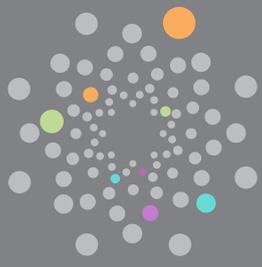
On Saturday 22/11/2014 we took 54 students to see 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory'. This was a reward trip for all of the superb efforts in music this year. Well done!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2014 - 2015

- Raw Slices Concert – 11/12/14 (GCSE performances)
- Swanlea School Choir - Roman Road Winter Festival – Sunday 7/12/14
- ABRSM technical Warm up – 18/12/14
- Composers Week - 06/02/15 – 13/02/15
- Choir performance at the Royal Academy of Music – Monday 09/02/15
- London Philharmonic Orchestra GCSE Music trip 23/02/15
- Year 7 trip to WICKED – Wednesday 11/03/15
- Call Back Concert – 19/03/15
- Swanlea Music Festival 12-13/06/15 (tbc)
- Encore Concert 15/06/15 (tbc)

Ms Brownlee
Head of PVA Faculty





Challenging homophobia- Diversity Role Models



In November and December, Swanlea was delighted to welcome back Diversity Role Models. Over the course of three days, lesbian and gay role models came in and spoke to Year 8 about their lives. This is part of our work in promoting our Swanlea Values and to teach our students that prejudice and discrimination will limit their life opportunities. As a school we welcome everyone and embrace people from all backgrounds and beliefs.

This is the third time in a year that we have welcomed Diversity Role Models, and Navah Bekor of the organisation has said how much she enjoys working with our young people and the overwhelmingly positive outlook they have to this work.

The workshops are led by trained facilitators and they discuss stereotypes of gay people. The students also have a chance to ask anonymous questions afterwards. All students complete evaluations afterwards and the response was that they had learnt a lot about why challenging homophobia is important for all people.

Mr Gardner
Senior Leader

STRATEGIC THINKERS!

The Swanlea Maths Faculty has been running a hugely successful lunchtime activity club since September. Pupils take part in various activities that develop numeracy skills linked to the new KS3 Curriculum. These include problem solving, creativity, teamwork, working systematically, thinking strategically and mathematical reasoning.

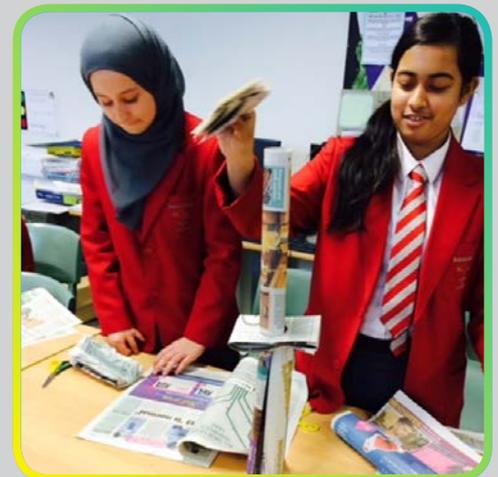
One of the most popular events held this year was the Mathematical Music competition. This is where famous

artists such as One Direction, N Dubz and various other singer/songwriters sang mathematical questions to the tune of their most popular hits. Congratulations to the following mathematical musical maestros: Riaz, Yamin, Sadia, Mazhar, Fatima, Mokbul and Hamzah.

In the recent games day, pupils were given a taster of how every day games are linked to mathematics. Students were given the opportunity to develop their thinking and logical reasoning skills whilst playing everyday games such as Connect 4, Chess, Towers of Hanoi and Noughts and Crosses.

Pupils were also challenged to "beat the teacher", and discovered strategies based on mathematical theory to ensure that they would never lose.

Our latest STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) challenge saw students put their teamwork and thinking skills to the test. Pupils were



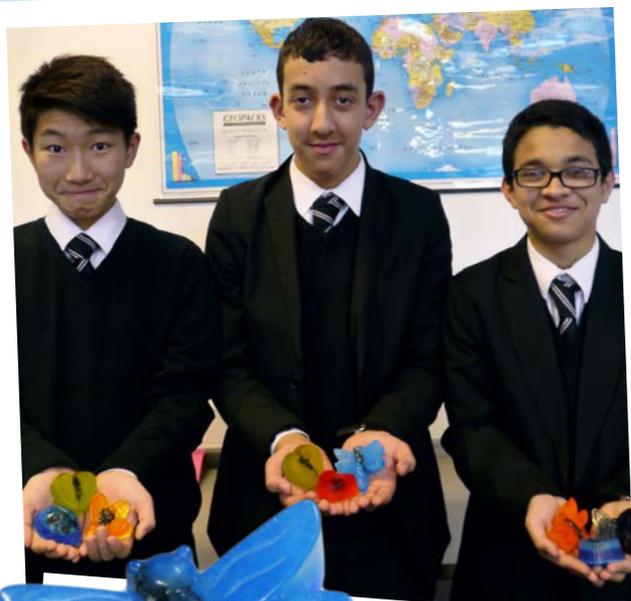
given a brief of creating the tallest stable structure possible from a single Metro Newspaper and no binding agent.

Sami, Year 7, was able to put his engineering skills to the test and came up with the winning design, which stood an incredible 1.2m tall without any support.



MR UDDIN
MATHS TEACHER

TAKING A STAND FOR SUSTAINABILITY



The past year has seen our Oxfam Youth Group grow and develop. As well as a high profile campaign "Seen and Heard" last year, a visit from Roshanara Ali MP, we have now been visited by a range of international visitors who work with Oxfam. The group have made such an impact they were chosen to host the project team of Schools for Future Youth (SFYOUTH). SFYOUTH is a 3 year project to support teachers and young people across schools in Europe to use youth participation through global citizenship to enrich learning and support youth led activism. The project is taking place through schools in the UK, Italy, Cyprus and Poland, being led by the Oxfam Education and Youth team, and begins in January 2015.



Swanlea was chosen because it allowed the project partners to see first-hand how the school has used the Oxfam Youth Ambassadors model to support youth led activism in school. The Youth Ambassadors model will be used in schools in each country during the project.

On the day, the students completed an assembly with Year 7 on Climate Change and then talked to our visitors about how they were using hand-made soap in the shape of Bees to get their attention. The group were amazed and the socially active nature of our students and the impact they are having is now international. Well done to all students, Ms Daly and Mr Jones for their hard work.



Mr Gardner
Senior Leader



NEWS FROM THE P.E. TEAM...

Mr Grant, Mr Curran, Ms Flannery, Ms Flowers & Ms Ravenscroft

On 13th November, 8 GCSE and BTEC students were given the opportunity to watch the ATP Masters tennis at the O2. We set off, excited at the prospect of watching live Intentional tennis.

The students were to watch a singles match between David Ferrer and Kei Hishikori, and a doubles match between Daniel Nestor and Nenad Zimonjic v Marcel Granollers and Marc Lopez. The students absorbed the electrifying atmosphere and the splendour of the O2 arena. The singles game was an end to end contest with each point fiercely fought. Just as the game was reaching a climax of 4 v 4 in the first set, the group had to leave. However, throughout the return train journey, the excitement of the possible outcome was hotly debated, who would reign - the "powerhouse" Ferrer or the "new kid on the block" Hishikori?

These students attended the ATP Masters Tennis:

Shojad Miah 10A
Nayeem Alom 10N
Sharley Chowdhury 10W
Brain Wong 10N
Fatima Begum 10C
Alisha Begum 10L
Sakib Ahmed 10L
Jawa Haque 10C

Ms Flowers
PE teacher

YEAR 7 AND YEAR 8 CRICKET TEAM RETAIN THEIR SHIELD

Congratulations to the Year 7 and 8 Cricket team, who performed with great skill to retain the Tower Hamlets Under -13 Indoor Cricket Competition title. En route to being crowned champions, they beat Langdon Park School, George Green and Sir John Cass in the qualifying rounds. The semi -finals was a tense affair with great bowling and fielding displays from our opponents, Morpeth. We managed to overcome our opposition, however, by Ridwan Karim, 8N, and Mahaz Ria, 7N, making 25 runs each and having to retire. In the finals, we were matched up against our arch cricketing rivals, St. Pauls Way School. We won the toss and decided to bowl first. Kamrul Amin, 7W, took three wickets to cap a great day's work with the ball. We reduced St. Paul's Way to 70 runs after 8 Overs. With a bounce in our step, we took to the crease in impressive style, with Imon Khan, 7E, displaying some classy shots. We managed to reach the designated target with 3 wickets intact and 5 balls remaining.

Mr Grant
Head of Department, PE



Above: Mijannur Rahman 8S, Enayet Hussain 8N, Ridwan Karim 8N, Hamza Yusuf 8L, Nahid Hussain 8W, Shakil Anjum 8S, Shojad Ali 8L, Mahaz Riaz 7N, Kamrul Amin 7W, Imon Khan 7E

NEWS FROM THE P.E. TEAM...

Mr Grant, Mr Curran, Ms Flannery, Ms Flowers & Ms Ravenscroft



On Tuesday 11th November, Year 8 girls participated in their inter-tutor Netball tournament.

The cold temperatures didn't deter the girls from going into this competition with only one thing in mind - winning! The first round displayed fantastic effort from all of the girls; team spirit and sportsmanship were at the forefront throughout. Despite some fantastic Centre court play by Masuma Begum, 8C narrowly lost in a one nil defeat to 8E. In the other match, 8A (with some help from players from 8C) lost to 8S, who were showing some amazing set plays, in a 2-0 conquest.

8W, who received a bye in the draw, were playing to head for a place in the finals against 8E. 8Es Sadia Begum led the team in some great attacking pieces, which led them to having plenty of chances. However, in the first quarter the ball did not want to drop through the net, and often circled the hoop. In the 3rd quarter, 1-0 down, after an amazing goal from Milan Ly (8W), Sharmili finally got her goal to make it 1 apiece. Tension rose as both teams knew a goal was needed. 8E and 8W battled it out, passing the ball up and down the court very quickly, however, in the last 30 seconds, after a disguised bounce-pass from Zoe Lees-Walsh (8W), to Layla (8W), in the D, took her first shot at goal, and scored! 2-1 victory for 8W.

The finals came down to 8S v 8W. Ms Flowers stood on the side line, cheering on her form, alongside Rimaz

with her colourful pompoms and her Wolves mask. By this time, the girls were tired, but the drive to succeed was still prominent. An early first goal came from 8S (Megan Oldham) which made the crowd go wild. This spurred on 8W, who came back to equalise from the centre pass. During the second and third quarter, no goals were scored due to fantastic defending from 8W's Jennifer Leiper and Nina Dujakovic (8S). Yet, again, in the last 30 seconds of the final quarter, a goal was scored. Milan (8W) dodged her marker to get herself placed perfectly to the side of the post, and almost in slow motion, she took a well composed shot at the net and it dropped through the hoop. Final score 2.1

8W Netball Inter tutor Champions 2014!

Well done to Nina Dujakovic, who was named player of the tournament, but also to everyone who took part, you were all incredible, and I look forward to the Netball league in February next year.

Ms Flannery
Deputy Team Leader for Year 8
& PE teacher

INTER TUTOR-FOOTBALL YEAR 7

The first Year 7 sports competition kicked off this term with the inter-tutor football tournament. The draw was conducted in front of a crowd of supporters, players, coaches, team managers and owners (form tutors) who all witnessed the fever of a Swansea School Cup draw. Each tutor group were awarded a premiership club name to replicate the premiership experience, and the draw produced some exciting fixtures.

All the games were intense and thrilling, with some excellent Brazilian style, one touch football on display. The two finalists, 7L and 7S, managed to score a total of 14 goals between them before reaching the finals.

The final proved to be a real thriller with both teams level on 1 – 1 before half time. Some strategic thinking and good organisation by the boys in L helped them secure a convincing 5-1 win at full time. Team captain, Nahid Ahmed, was thrilled with his team victory, and they look forward to collecting more silverware this year.

Mr S. Miah
Learning Co-ordinator Year 7
& PE teacher

