

SWANLEA NEWS

SWANLEA BUSINESS & ENTERPRISE COLLEGE



Issue 70
Summer 2011

QUEEN HONOURS MS AUSTIN WITH O.B.E.!



LETTER FROM THE HEAD



Dear Parents, Carers, students and friends of Swanlea,

I am sure you all share my delight about the wonderful news of Ms Austin's O.B.E, it is indeed thoroughly well-deserved. It was an honour for me to work alongside her for so many years, and I am thrilled that her unerring commitment to the school has been recognised in such a way.

This term we saw our Year 11 students complete their G.C.S.E examinations, and I am sure that it has been a stressful and busy time for the families of the students as well as the staff here. On behalf of all of us at Swanlea I would like to thank all the parents, carers, siblings, cousins, aunt, uncles and friends who have helped our Year 11 students with their studies. I know that your support and encouragement is so important to them, and it is key a partnership which helps to support and reinforce the work we put in at school. Thank you for that, and I hope that all of you will have an enjoyable summer break.

With best wishes,

Handwritten signature of Linda Austin.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



LETTER FROM THE GOVERNORS

MS FAIRHURST, COMMUNITY GOVERNOR

Dear Parents, Students and Friends of Swanlea school,

A warm welcome to the latest edition of Swanlea News.



The articles reflect the vibrant, engaged and energetic community in Swanlea School, and as a Governor of the school I am very proud of both the involvement and achievements of our pupils in such a diverse range of activities. I am sure that you will find the pieces on music performances, sporting fixtures and the Merrill Lynch public Speaking competition as motivating as I do.

The Building Schools for the Future program is something that the whole school community is watching closely - so we have included an informative update in this edition, and I know we are all looking forward to exciting developments when we return in September.

Finally, I am thrilled that the front page story is the news of Linda Austin's O.B.E.. This is a remarkable recognition for Ms Austin personally, and also the wider school community. Under Ms Austin's headship we saw the school develop and grow, leading to our most recent Ofsted "Outstanding School" rating. Ms Landers is doing a sterling job as Head Teacher, in keeping with this tradition, so I look forward to the day I will be writing a Governors message about her invitation to Buckingham Palace!

With the very best wishes

Nicki Fairhurst
Community Governor

Swanlea School Business & Enterprise College

31 Brady Street
Whitechapel
London
E1 5DJ

Tel: 020 7375 3267

Fax: 020 7375 3567

Email: officeadmin@swanlea.towerhamlets.sch.uk

Web: www.swanlea.towerhamlets.sch.uk

Editor: Eimear Daly

Ms Austin has been awarded the O.B.E. for her services to the school and to education. Ms Austin was Headteacher of Swanlea for 18 years. She said, "I am proud to accept this award in recognition of the sustained effort of all the staff, governors, parents and pupils of Swanlea School in making it the great school it is."

"All of us at Swanlea are absolutely delighted that Ms Austin's hard work and dedication has been acknowledged in such a wonderful way. It is thoroughly well-deserved and we are thrilled for her."

Ms Landers
Headteacher,
Swanlea School

"I am delighted for Ms Austin. It is wonderful. I always knew that her services to education will one day be recognised. Her dedication and commitment to her pupils achieving has been her strength."

Mr Rahman, Chair of
Governors for
Swanlea School



MUSIC NOTES



This was an incredible year in music and I am delighted to report that the Swanlea students have excelled in music and represented the school with conviction and maturity. I am extremely proud of the work of students and staff and for those of you who have heard one of the many concerts this year you will recognise both the talent and hard work.

More than 200 students had access to individual music tuition this year. New instruments taught at the school this year includes Double Bass and Tuned Percussion. The school has been loaned 6 double basses, a marimba, vibraphone, new piano, second tuba and various other woodwind and string instruments from THAMES. The students are focused on learning instruments well and are participating in ensembles in school and in the borough. Several students toured to Belgium with one of the wind ensembles from THAMES. We have 27 students attempting ABRSM exams for the first time and this is by far the highest number from any school in the borough. These ABRSM exams have equivalency to GCSE exams from 1-5 and A Level for grades 6-8.

Students were able to engage in a variety of ensembles including a full school orchestra. This is the first school orchestra in the borough.

The senior choir and cluster choir have been particularly successful this year, with performances at Ms Austin's farewell, The Ideas Store, Royal London Hospital and as part of Spitalfields festival.

The regular ensembles and clubs rehearsing include:

- Flute choir
- Sax and Clarinet club
- Drum Club
- Tabla and Dohl club
- Choir – senior and cluster
- String Group
- Music Technology clubs
- Guitar club
- Tuned Percussion club.

Events we participated in this year:

- Linda Austin farewell events
- Spitalfields Festival Baroque Bootcamp
- London Symphony Orchestra Discovery series



- Borough Beats
- Tower Hamlets Showcase
- Tower Hamlets Wind Day
- 5th Quadrant, Palestinian workshop and concert
- Concerts at the Ideas Store
- 6 students performed with Roger Waters and the Pink Floyd band for 'The Wall' project at the O2
- Visited the London Jazz Festival with KS4 students
- Concerts at the Royal London Hospital



- Festival of London –NZ string Quartet workshop and concert
- Photo shoot with Mayor of London to launch new scholarship fund (front page of Evening Standard)
- Raw Slices
- Call Back – recital series
- Encore, plus encore for the Year 5 and 6 day.

One of our school bands – ‘The Mirrors’- was a finalist in the XLP Talent awards and ended up being awarded 4th place at the London finals. The boys also won the Tower Hamlets Battle of the Bands, and will be representing the school in the THAMES Showcase.

Super Learning Day events included Year 7 Music Technology workshops, Year 9 taster session for BTEC music in music production and the first full orchestral rehearsal day.

It was a very exciting year and my heartfelt congratulations and thanks to all of the students who made this a very musical year in Swanlea School. Well done!

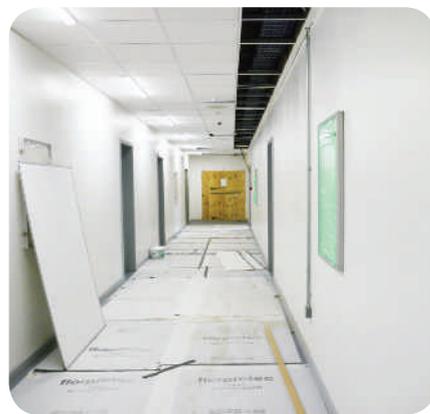
Ms Brownlee
Leader of Learning for Music



SWANLEA NEW BUILD: SNEAK PREVIEW

Improvements to Swanlea school as part of the Building Schools for the Future programme (BSF) have now made excellent progress with building work well on schedule. The Humanities and Learning Support faculties were the first subjects to move into the temporary block, which they did with great success. The temporary building has proved to be a great space for teaching and learning with its excellent facilities and accommodation. There have been a few issues with the electricity, but the school has worked hard with the BSF team to take steps to try to remedy that and we are very sorry for any trouble the power cuts caused.

The Humanities faculty will now prepare to move back into the main part of the school building and take up permanent residency in their brand new refurbished classrooms. Students can look forward to having their lessons in some extremely smart and stylish classrooms in the main building in September.



The Science faculty will soon move to the Temporary building, along with two classes for ICT (the other two go onto the first floor of the main building), and the Drama faculty will take up the second floor of the temporary building.

When we all return to Swanlea in September, we will have a newly equipped food Technology room, and all of the Art and Resistant Materials rooms will be looking smarter too. The school's reception will be in

the Mall so students, parents and visitors will all come in to school via the main front doors.

The student toilets, for breaktime and lunchtime, and PE changing rooms, will all be in a brand new temporary building in the playground.



The building of the new teaching block is ahead of schedule, and will be ready for occupation towards the end of the Autumn term. The Learning Support team get specialist rooms on the ground floor which will open out onto a sensory garden (the garden will be ready in 2012). All in all, very exciting progress has been made!

Ms Manning
Bursar

THINGS TO LOOK FORWARD TO:

2011-2012:	Every classroom will be repainted and have new furniture
2012:	Astro turf sports pitches
2012:	Relaunch of the library



6 *View of the new building from the school playground.*

My Lords, Ladies: 'Literature!'

Six Year 9 girls from Swanlea had the opportunity to be part of history at the House of Lords on 29th June. A new book was launched there 'But it's Not Fair' by Aneeta Prem as well as the first 24 hour helpline to help children

and teenagers facing up to the problems of forced marriage. The book and helpline was launched by the Freedom Charity and the event was hosted by Lord Toby Harris of Haringey and attended by Keith Vaz MP.

Pupils had the opportunity to take part in a discussion about forced marriages and ask questions about the new charity from Aneeta. She said that the charity was established to with the intention of offering fast, practical help and advice to young people who was being forced into marriage. Pupils and teachers were also interviewed by BBC Asia Network.

All pupils were presented with a copy of the book, which tells a fictional story about a family who is affected by a neighbour and school friend who is taken to India and forced to marry.

Lord Harris then showed the pupils around the Houses of Parliament which they enjoyed tremendously even though they were tired walking the in the long corridors of power!!

Ms Bami
Librarian



CHEEKY Ts raise a smile

Eight of our Sixth Form students were successful at the Young Enterprise Company Programme Inner East Final with their T Shirt Company 'Cheeky Ts'. They were crowned winners of Tower Hamlets. Over Easter Cheeky Ts attended a Trade Fair at Greenwich where they sold their produce to keen customers. The Pan London Final takes places on 25th May. If you see the following students please show them your support! Go Cheeky Ts!

The students involved are:

Aminur Rahman Abdullah Islam
Mahfuz Hussain Faisal Khan
Abdul Noman Muhi Ahad
James Rolfe

Ms Pritchard
Business & Enterprise Coodinator



JUDGES SPEECHLESS AT STUDENTS' STANDARDS



whether austerity could ever be defeated; Flora McLaughlin who gave a thought-provoking presentation on her role model, and Maisha Begum who gave an engaging, cheerful, fun presentation on what she wanted to be when she grew up. All four finalists' presentations were truly excellent.



The final was held on 14th June at Bank of America Merrill Lynch. Ms Landers attended as did Ms Williams, Mr Whittingham and Ms Daly, as well as Ms Pritchard who

On 18th May, fifteen students from Year 9 participated in what was Swanlea Schools highest quality semi-final in all the years of the Bank of America Merrill Lynch Presentation Skills Competition in. At the end of the semi final, only four students were selected to represent Swanlea School at the final against students from Mulberry and Bow. These finalists were; Thahir Chowdhury, who gave a moving presentation on his role model, Martin Luther King; Bethan Turner, who gave an outstanding presentation on

was coaching the students before they went on stage. The finalists gave their best presentations and wowed the judges with their content and presentation skills. Swanlea School achieved 2nd place for Bethan's presentation on 'Austerity and whether it could ever be defeated'. All the finalists were a credit to themselves, to Swanlea School and to Miss Pritchard who was proud of all their hard work, effort and commitment to the competition. Well done!



Ms Pritchard
Business & Enterprise Coordinator



Calling Colombia!

Students from the Children of the Planet Club, together with students from 7A and 8C have recently been involved in making contact with a school in Colombia. Colombia is a country in South America where people speak Spanish. It is a beautiful and varied country with a lot of pretty towns and cities in the Andes mountains and near the Caribbean and Pacific coasts. Our link is with



BARRANQUILLA - CARNIVAL
CARIBBEAN REGION



CARTAGENA - COLONIAL BALCONIES
CARIBBEAN REGION

a secondary school in Combita, a town in a region called Boyaca. We have been telling our Colombian friends about our school and what we like and don't like about it. We have also sent some letters about food and what we eat on a typical day. We are also collecting favourite recipes to send to them and hope they are going to send some back.

Before the end of term we are hoping to have a Colombia party to try some Colombian food and listen to some Colombian music.

If you are interested in knowing more or want to join in the fun, see Ms White (room 9) or come along to COTP Tuesdays room 6 at 1.10pm.

¡Hasta luego!

Ms White

**Deputy Coordinator of learning
for Year 11**



FAUNA - PALETA MERON
PACIFIC AND CARIBBEAN REGIONS

SIXTH FORM NETWORKS FINANCIAL WORLD

On Friday 18th March Swanlea had the pleasure of welcoming Jim O'Neil, Chairman of Goldman Sachs alongside Robert Peston, the BBC Business Editor to the school as part of the Pilot Programme for Speakers for Schools. Speakers for Schools is a not-for-profit, online network of voluntary speakers dedicated to giving back to schools through free, inspiring talks for students. Mr O'Neil and Mr Peston spoke openly and honestly to our Sixth Form students about some of the factors that led to the meltdown of the banking sector. They also gave some background about how they got to where they did and what obstacles they faced. The discussion was both informative and enjoyable for the students, who were able to ask questions and be involved in discussions with both speakers.

**Ms Pritchard
Business & Enterprise Coordinator**

POETS PERFORM PROFESSIONALLY!

Ten Year 8 pupils took part in the Poetry writing workshop in the library. They worked with a professional performance poet Joelle Taylor and wrote poetry about 'Identity'

Pupils then recorded their poems on video that will be put on the Poetry society website.

Three pupils Naaem, Shadia and Rumena have been selected to perform their poetry in the Rich Mix Theatre along with other Tower Hamlets schools.

**Ms Bami
Librarian**

OSMANI PUPILS LEAD YEAR 7s TO THE HEART OF THE MATTER

On the 19th May, 40 Year 7 pupils from Swanlea School participated in a project entitled 'Embodied Emotions' aimed at helping students develop their emotional literacy – the ability to put what other people or ourselves might be feeling into words. Their tutors were not whom you might expect however, as they were 11 Year 6 students from Osmani Primary School. The students have been working in liaison with Ali Campbell, Senior Lecturer Applied Performance, from Queen Mary, University of London, as well as other professionals over the past few terms to help develop a programme to teach to others.

The Year 6 students demonstrated remarkable confidence in delivering and explaining difficult activities to Swanlea students, who responded admirably. Swanlea students enjoyed their sessions enormously, many commenting on how well the Osmani students were at explaining the task. Overall the session proved to be both fun and developed the confidence of all those who partook in the project. Many thanks to Ms Riley, Deputy Headteacher of Osmani school for letting us take part in such a worthwhile project.

Mr Euden
Music & EMAG teacher



NEWS FROM THE P.E. TEAM...

Ms Flowers, Ms Foley, Mr Grant, Mr Guzda, Mr Thomas, Mr Cronin & Mr Kennedy



P.E Dept have had a massive half term to celebrate with success and triumphs starting with our Year 7 Super Learning Day. Our theme for the day was Olympic and Paralympic events.

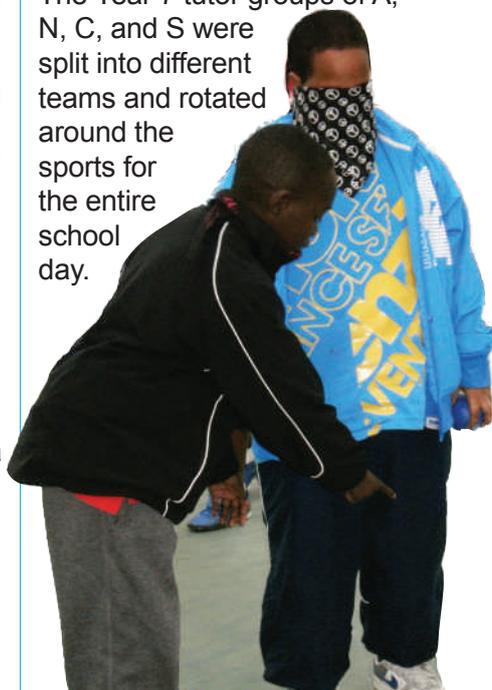
On Thursday 5th May, 2011 Swanlea school held a Super Learning Day. The whole school was involved in a variety of super learning activities organised by different departments of the school. The Physical Education department hosted an Olympic / Paralympics day with a number of the Year 7 cohort. The aim of the Olympic / Paralympics super learning day was for Swanlea students to participate and learn about a variety of sports that are going to be competed in at the 2012 London Olympic / Paralympics games.

The Physical Education department organised 6 sports and experienced specialist coaches to run sessions throughout the day. The sports we decided to run were Badminton, Judo, Fencing, Seated Volleyball,



Visually Impaired Bocce, Kick Boxing and Hockey.

The Year 7 tutor groups of A, N, C, and S were split into different teams and rotated around the sports for the entire school day.



Each group were asked to give 100% at each activity hopefully enjoying the variety of different sports, with some sports like Kick Boxing, Judo, Seated Volleyball and Visually Impaired Bocce, many of which students may never had the chance to experience. After each coaching session students were asked to fill out a question and answer sheet regarding the sport that they just participated in. Who knows we could have the next Olympic / Paralympics athlete amongst those students in a few years to come.

The entire day was a fantastic success as we saw students' enthusiastically engaging in sport and students' behaviour was extremely good. The PE department would like to thank the Tower Hamlets School Sport Development Officers and our own National champion kick boxer Ruqsana Begum for giving up their time to come in a coach the Year 7 students.

SUPER LEARNING DAY

For the past 2 weeks 8WAN and 8LS have been participating in some rock climbing and abseiling. The boys involved have impressed the instructors at Mile End Climbing Centre with their enthusiasm, skill and behaviour throughout the lessons. Some of the skills which the boy's have learnt have included putting on a harness, tying knots, partner spotting and evaluating climbing routes.

The boy's have not lacked courage during the abseiling at all! Every member of both classes have abseiled the 15 metre 'wall of terror' although some of the boys faces were white at the bottom. The skill and courage the boys showed in climbing some of the giant walls were also very impressive.

Congratulations to the boys of the work they have put into the Rock climbing and the way they have represented Swanlea High School. Let's hope the following weeks can be as productive as the previous two weeks!

Swanlea may have potential swans of the future as swimming sessions take off in the P.E dept! Our cygnets have taken to the water in style look out for up and coming Thorpes, Adlington and Phelps in the 2020!

ALCOHOL AWARENESS PROJECT

Mr Grant, our Healthy Schools Co-Ordinator, facilitated an Alcohol Awareness Project which was co-ordinated by The Tower Hamlets Healthy Lifestyles team aimed at the whole of Year 9 which comprised of theatre performance followed by 1hr workshops for each tutor group in May 2011. 26 Year 9 students were chosen to become peer mentors to work alongside The Healthy Lifestyles team in primary school with the pupils, speaking the children about issues such as affects of alcohol on young people and the legal age of drinking.

NEWS FROM THE P.E. TEAM...

Ms Flowers, Ms Foley, Mr Grant, Mr Guzda, Mr Thomas, Mr Cronin & Mr Kennedy



GIRLS KS3 CRICKET

Excited to be invited to represent Swanlea School at the Tower Hamlets v Blackheath District Schools U13 Girls CRICKET Competition, students and the PE team set off on a beautiful sunny morning - who knew what was in store for us! The journey was made all the more enjoyable by random verses of the 'wheels on bus' and Justin Bieber 'Next 2 U'.

Arriving at the cricket ground our joy turned to disappointment as we were told the Blackheath schools had dropped out, however, this did not last as we were made aware the opposition in the final would be none other than Oaklands - our nemesis (we lost to them in a previous closely fought match last year with a Year 8 and 9 girls team). The girls were apprehensive, as they had only been together for two weeks, although they had been training hard. I, however, had great confidence in them and encouraged them to go out and do their best, with Nazia Choudhury, 8W, exclaiming 'Its about having fun!'.

Oaklands won the toss and elected to bat - third ball of the over and their first batter was OUT. Bowled by Cindy Wong, 8E, things were looking up! However Oaklands settled and reached 251 all out. However, through superb bowling

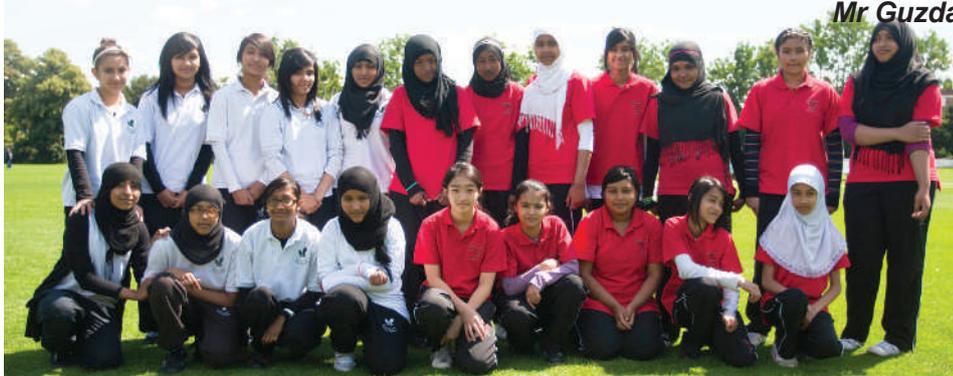
from Cindy Wong, 8E, Nazia Choudhury, 8W, and Lucky Aktaur, 8L, excellent wicketkeeping by Amina Khatun, 8L, (who had 3 catches) Swanlea were still in the game.

Roda Aborkor, 8L, and Rifah Anjum, 8L, were our first batswoman who put on a fabulous display and edge ever closer to Oaklands' score. With Roda hitting a six and a boundary and quick off the mark with singles the runs were mounting - and so was the excitement! Pulling off a tired Roda we decided to opt for our 'big hitter' - Fajiah Hussain, 8W, and her presence secured 3 boundaries (for those of you not up with cricket terms 4s!) and 2 sixes, taking our score to an impressive 259.

We ended up beating Oaklands by 8 runs and 6 wickets to spare.

WELL DONE GIRLS. I'm so proud of you all!!

Woman of the Match - Roda Aborkor, 8L



The organisers were so impressed with skills of some of our players, Cindy, Lucky, Fajiah and Roda have been invited to train with Tower Hamlets District squad to join Nazia who already trains with them. Watch this space England Girls Team Selectors!

THE TEAM

Nazia Choudhury 8W
Fatima Hussain 8W
Fajiah Hussain 8W
Sharmilly Begum 8W
Urmilla Begum 8W
Roda Aborkor 8L Captain
Rifah Anjum 8L
Lucky Aktaur 8L
Rohima Choudhury 8S
Razna Begum 8S
Amina Khatun 8L
Cindy Wong 8E

Ms Foley

BUSINESS IN THE COMMUNITY GAMES

40 Year 7 Swanlea students participated in Community Games on Friday 24th June. The aim of the community games was to give the students an opportunity to make a difference in communities that need support. Friday community games used sport to make a positive impact on key social issues whilst developing key themes such as leadership and communication. Students also had the opportunity to participate in new sports such as fencing, rugby, judo, handball, squash, sitting volleyball and baseball.

All Swanlea School students represented the school with distinction and at the end of the day received a medal. Well done.

Mr Guzda