

SWANLEA NEWS



SWANLEA BUSINESS & ENTERPRISE COLLEGE

Issue 74
Autumn 2012



FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY AT SWANLEA'S NEW BUILDING LAUNCH!



LETTER FROM THE HEAD



Dear Parents, Carers, students and friends of Swanlea,
A special welcome to the new Year 7 students who have joined us this year. I know that the Year 7 team have been working hard to make sure that everyone is settled in, and they all seem to be off to a flying start already.

We have had a number of exciting developments and events this term, not just with the completion of the building work to the school - and our hugely successful Family Fun Day, but we also featured in this year's Open House weekend, where we welcomed visitors from all over Britain to come and look at our fantastic school. We had excellent feedback from guests, and we were delighted to be involved in such a prestigious event.

There has been a number of exciting developments happening at Swanlea over the past term, and my thanks go to students, staff, parents, carers, governors and friends of the school, for all of their hard work; it is much appreciated.

With best wishes for a restful Winter break,

LETTER FROM THE GOVERNORS

MS CHOUDHURY, PARENT GOVERNOR

Dear Parents, Carers, students and friends,

I feel honoured to be a part of this Swanlea News letter edition. To be a Parent Governor at Swanlea makes me feel proud.



I hope that every Swanlea student graduates with good results and sets the standard high. The pupils are only achieving due to the tireless efforts of students and teachers alike, I always try to get involved with the other parents. I have faith in the teachers' abilities.

I hope the results get better by every passing year. I try to stay as involved as I can with the Swanlea community. I hope that parents get more involved.

Jhorna Choudhury
Parent Governor



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



Eco-Schools
Bronze Award



Sustainable Travel
Accredited and Recognised
Sustainable level 2011

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Editor: Eimear Daly

On 15th September, Swanlea School opened its doors to the community to officially celebrate the completion of its multi-million pound refurbishment programme. The two-year long project has resulted in the addition to a whole new teaching block, as well as the entire building being upgraded, including the whole IT network.

Students and staff are delighted with the wonderful new entrance area, landscaped gardens, brand new, floodlight astroturf pitches, and exciting new outdoor learning environment.

I enjoyed every moment I spent here in Swanlea. The children and staff in Swanlea are very friendly and helpful. Overall Swanlea is the best in London!

N. Hussain (William Davis)

Ms Landers commented "I am very proud of this school, and of this community, and wanted to share our celebrations with everyone. We have been looking forward to this day for a long time, and it has been lovely to see everyone here, having a good look and taking part in all the exciting activities. The school has been upgraded and transformed into a fantastic 21st century learning environment; I am delighted that we are able make use of such wonderful facilities."

Really friendly, lovely light and space, really puts you on the map. Joshua (student volunteer) on the front desk was brilliant and very courteous.

T. Stewart-Davis (Olga)

It was a wonderful way to celebrate the fantastic new opportunities and facilities available to Swanlea students. We had well over 700 people attend and take part in the huge range of activities arranged for the day. Everyone seemed to have a great time and joined in – there was a bouncy castle, face-painting and craft activities, a segway

race course, trampolining, football, cricket, fencing, bouldering, bungee climbing and the opportunity to meet the animals from

Activities were really brilliant, everyone was very hospitable.

S. Mokbul (Swanlea)

Spitalfields City farm! It was a lovely day which will long be remembered by all who took part.

***Ms Daly
Media Officer***

Excellent school and behaviour.

N. Islam (Osmani)



SUPER LEARNING DAY!



In Swanlea, we actively encourage students to participate in a wide range of activities which enhance their skills, learning and character development. The range of such types of learning is at its peak on Swanlea's special Super Learning Days, the first of which took place on Monday 5th November. Most of our Year 11 students spent the day getting intensive support from their Maths teachers to make final preparations for the Maths exam the following day, while others had the opportunity to catch up on coursework in Science and Technology. Ms Williams, Deputy Learning coordinator organised for

some Year 11s to observe A-Level taster lessons, and interview Sixth Formers about making choices for Key Stage 5. Mr Al-Abbas from Enlighten education kept the Year 11s very busy with his active session on study skills to help them prepare for the GCSE exams. The Humanities faculty offered a range of activities for Geography, History, Sociology and RE students in Year 10, which even included research trips. Year 8 students enjoyed a number of carousel workshops with their PVA teachers, which included a thrilling murder mystery Drama activity, and about 50 students also enjoyed a visit to the Horniman Museum.

Our external partners such as **Young Enterprise** and **Youth Have a Say** provided Year 7s and 9s with very stimulating workshops around bullying and confidence building. Maryam Farooq, Tahera Khanom, and Musa

Ali, all from 9S, said "It was a really interesting workshop. It's good to talk about cyber bullying openly, that was we can prevent it from happening."

A lot of hard work and preparation went into planning the varied range of activities in partnership with external partners. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved.

Mr Uddin
Assistant Headteacher



LYRICS IN THE LIBRARY, AND GHOSTS IN THE GRAVEYARD....

Year 8 pupils did not know what to expect when I told them we were having an author to visit. However, they soon realised that they were in for a treat, and really enjoyed the experience as he talked and sang about a world full of dragon detectives, murderous twins, family secrets, bureaucratic ghosts, ninja meerkats and the occasional talking mushroom.

Gareth P. Jones, the author of 'Thornthwaite Inheritance' entertained pupils not just by reading and talking, but by singing. He makes songs about the stories he writes and even played the guitar to accompany his stories! The pupils were immediately hooked in to listening to him.

Gareth then read them a story about a ghost chicken. He kept them engrossed as the pupils had to make a decision about the characters after every chapter. The story would only

proceed in the direction the pupils decided. They felt they were involved in the writing of the story and by the end, had become authors themselves.

Pupils asked Gareth questions and told him all about the books they were reading. Pupils were also able to buy the books and got them signed by him.

If you want to read books by this author visit the school library

To know more about Gareth P. Jones and his books visit the website

<http://www.garethwrites.co.uk/home>

MS BAMI
LIBRARIAN



CHILDREN IN NEED



Students at Swanlea School got in the Pudsey spirit on Friday 16th November to raise money for Children in Need. The School Council and tutor groups organised a whole host of events to raise money for the national charity. Highlights included the Sixth Form hot chocolate stall, the Year 7 copper collection and the Year 11 Council bake sales.

Thank you to all who contributed and helped Swanlea to raise an amazing total of **£711.11** for Children in Need!

Ms Robinson
Assistant Headteacher



JACK PETCHEY AWARD WINNERS



Swanlea School is proud to announce the names of our three Jack Petchey Award Winners for the autumn term.

They are:

Mohammed Syeful Islam in Year 7 for making an outstanding start to Year 7 and leading whole school work on anti-bullying.

Fartun Md Ai Omar in Year 7 for making an outstanding start to Year 7 and leading whole school work on anti-bullying.

Gahrn Rahman in Year 9 for 100% attendance and punctuality, excellent contributions to the School Council, work on the ASPIRE project, achieving Pupil Leadership Badges and raising money for Children in Need.

Each of the students have received a grant of £200 to be sent on a project within school. Watch this space to find out how they spend their money...

**MS ROBINSON
ASSISTANT HEADTEACHER**

BOOK CLUB

GET READING WITH SIXTH FORMERS!



Cambridge Heath Sixth Formers have launched a brand new, exciting book club! The spectacular book club has been set up for confident readers to explore their skills and to grab new opportunities.

We've set up this super fun-filled book club to help Swanlea students build on their love for books. We believe this will be a great opportunity for students to spend time with Sixth Formers and enjoy books in different ways. In addition to weekly meetings, book club members will be rewarded with amazing visits, exciting trips, treats and special privileges.

To find out more, ask for Nirma Islam, Salma Ali, or Nazifa Anjum in the Sixth Form block, or speak to Ms Warrington or Ms Bami.

NIRMA ISLAM, SALMA ALI, & NAZIFA ANJUM, YEAR 12

TOWER HAMLETS SCHOOL COUNCIL CONFERENCE

On Tuesday 16th October the Year 9 Council were invited to attend the annual Tower Hamlets School Conference at Oxford House. The students spent the day working with candidates for the Tower Hamlets Young Mayor to come up with a 'Youth Plan for Tower Hamlets.'

The Year 9 students worked with groups of students from other schools in the borough before presenting their ideas to an audience of 150 people, including local councillors.

The students agreed that the priority for the Youth Council should be to look at ways of informing young people about how to avoid peer pressure which can sometimes lead people into trouble.

The Year 9 Council represented Swanlea School brilliantly and were even congratulated by the Young Mayor, Nahimul Islam.

**MS ROBINSON
ASSISTANT HEADTEACHER**



BEAT-BULLYING WEEK
 Find out more about
Swanlea's
 Beat-Bullying
 week!
 19TH-24TH NOVEMBER 2012

It's not cool to be cruel.

Beat Bullying Week 2012

National Beat Bullying Week took place from the 19th-24th November. The national mission for Beat Bullying Week was to make bullying unacceptable for everyone, everywhere. This is a mission that Swanlea staff and students took very seriously. Throughout the week students and staff wore blue Beat Bullying wristbands to raise awareness.

At Swanlea the focus of Beat Bullying Week was to build respect and challenge prejudice and discrimination. All students from Year 7 to 13 took part in an assembly led by Bethan and Marouf (Head Girl and Head Boy from Year 11) and Fartun and Syeful (from Year 7). The students presented a very powerful message about celebrating our differences and challenging prejudice.

We also had a poster campaign around school reminding people that 'everyone is welcome and Swanlea' and introducing the 'Swanlea Commitment' a reminder of our shared values as a school community.

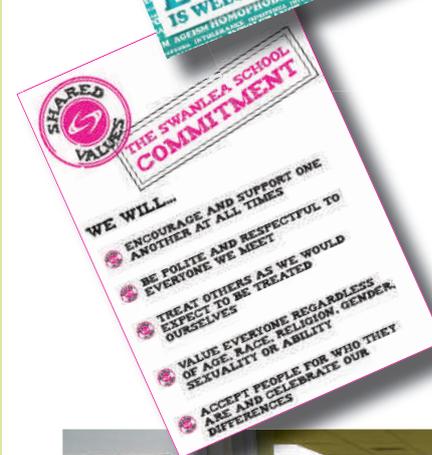


Some students took part in making short videos about what 'respect', 'prejudice' and 'community' mean. In PSHEE and Citizenship the whole school took part in a workshop on challenging bullying and prejudice and completed a survey about these issues. All members of staff completed a similar survey. The results are being analysed to create a whole school action plan.

Other activities in the week included Year 7 students watching a play about bullying, students from the Year 10 XL group organizing a cake sale to raise money and awareness and students from Year 7 attending the School Council Safety Conference at Thomas Buxton Primary School.

We are delighted to announce that Swanlea School has now become a 'Stonewall School Champion.' As part of this programme we will be working with Stonewall and other schools to address homophobic bullying, celebrate diversity and promote a safe and inclusive learning environment for all of our students.

Ms Robinson
 Assistant Headteacher



SWANLEA SCH

Speak to us, join us, and see

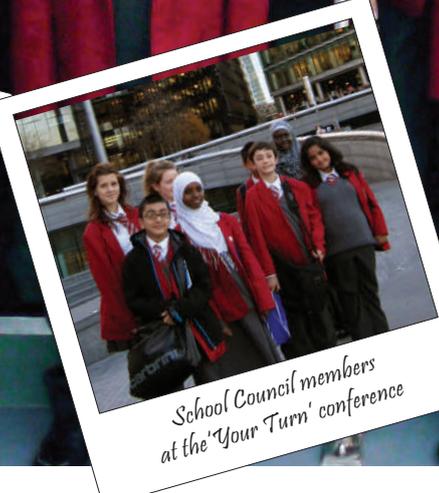
Swanlea's School Council is going from strength to strength this year. In the first half term two students were elected from each tutor group to represent them on their Year Council. Each Year group has their own council with elected officers in the positions of Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. Each council manages its own budget and regular fortnightly meetings are held.

Each Year Council has three members who are elected to sit on the Main School Council, which meets once a month. The black School Council Badges that they wear on their blazers can identify school Council members around school.

This year the School Council have got off to a tremendous start and have been involved in a range of activities; including raising money for Children in Need, raising



Your Turn' conference organised by Common Purpose



School Council members at the 'Your Turn' conference



22nd & 23rd November - School Council



22nd

SCHOOL COUNCIL: *what it's like to be in charge!*

awareness during Beat Bullying Week, leading assemblies and evaluating transition from Year 6 into 7.

On the 22nd and 23rd of November ten members of the School Council took part in the 'Your Turn' conference at the NSPCC Headquarters and Price Waterhouse Cooper in central London. This conference, organized by international development agency, Common Purpose, was designed to empower young people to take charge

of the future in positive ways that influence and inspire others.

The School Council has big plans for the year ahead including developing our respect and anti-bullying work, taking part in debating competitions at the House of Commons and developing ways in which students can be involved in reviewing learning.

Ms Robinson
Assistant Headteacher



& 23rd November -
School Council



The conference was held at the NSPCC &
Price Waterhouse Cooper headquarters.



'Your Turn' conference organised by
Common Purpose



School Council member
at the 'Your Turn' conference

STEP UP TO THE CHALLENGE!

During the summer of 2012, I, together with about 200 other students from all over Britain, was invited to take part in a Summer camp, known as "The Challenge". I had a rough idea of what it would involve, but I had no idea that it would take such dedication. Over the next few months, I was put through physical challenges, such as rock climbing and orienteering, as well as taking part in fund-raising, volunteering and petitioning for the local community. I was astonished how I could develop these skills in such a short period of time, and was surprised at how much the organisers were expecting from us. Initially, I did not think that I could meet their expectations. At the start of summer, I was sent to Pembrokeshire in Wales, for the first part of the challenge, known as "The Physical Challenge". This part of the programme involved me working together with my group, known as "Team Ward" to help overcome the obstacles the organisers had thrown at us. While I do admit it was very tough, it was a lot of fun, and meeting new strangers never seemed more pleasurable. I was then plunged into "The Big Challenge" where my team and I had to use our entrepreneurial

instincts to come up with a board game for the elderly population. This required us to conduct a survey at a home for the retired community, which was definitely a different experience. It led me to question some of my own preconceptions, and I was left with a new found respect. Finally, we moved on to "The Real Challenge" where we had to set up our own campaign which we pitched it to a den of 'dragons', who were there to help fund us, and maybe make our dreams into a reality. My group was successful in this, and we were given a grant to launch our initiative. Our campaign was called "Go for Gold" where we petitioned for the local community to help introduce better careers advice for young people, as we felt that careers advice for some young people in London, was not pointing them in the right direction. We ended up getting a lot more signatures than we thought we would. Apparently, the local community agreed with us and they were very enthusiastic in furthering our cause.

After graduation had eventually hit me, I realised that "The Challenge" was more than just an organisation for young people, they had opened my

eyes to how big the world really is, and even though we were young, we could make a difference in our own terms. It really took me out of my comfort zone, and I would really recommend it to anyone who was up for an incredible experience that would really develop them as a well-rounded person.

"The Challenge" gave me the bravery to go out there and do the things that I wanted to experience. It gave me the courage to apply to a number of different Sixth Form colleges, and to see them first hand before making my final decision. Before joining Cambridge Heath Sixth Form, I attended another Sixth Form college, and if it had not been for my experience during this summer, I would not have been able to find the belief that I could reapply to Cambridge Heath, as I wasn't happy with my initial decision. I now had the conviction to take action straight away, and the self-belief to pursue what I really wanted. "The Challenge" taught me that if you are not happy with something, you need take action and change it for yourself.

IFTIKHAR LATIF, YEAR 12

GEOGRAPHERS JOURNEY TO THE CENTRE OF THE EARTH

Year 10 Geography students have been studying 'The Dynamic Earth' and have learned all about volcanoes and earthquakes. On Super Learning Day, Monday 5th November, Year 10 Geographers set off on an intrepid adventure.

Students visited 'The Power Within' exhibition at the Natural History Museum, where they discovered what causes these violent and destructive events, what they feel and look like, and how scientists work to predict them.

The students had the chance to step inside the volcano room in the gallery and find out how and why volcanoes erupt, when the intense heat at the centre of the Earth builds up. One of the highlights of the visit was experiencing what it would have felt like to be in Kobe, Japan at the time of the 1995 earthquake. Students left the museum as experts on the power of the earth and with lots of extra information for their GCSE Geography exam.

**MS ROBINSON
ASSISTANT HEADTEACHER**



PUPILS FOR PEACE: THE TOWER HAMLETS SCHOOL COUNCIL CONFERENCE



On Friday 23rd November, School Council members from across the East 1 Schools' Partnership got together and took part in the first ever cross phase School Council conference.

Hosted by Thomas Buxton Primary school, students met with Margaret and Barry Mizen, from the Jimmy Mizen foundation, as well as Wendy Philips from the Kids Taskforce, and Superintendent Dave Stringer, Borough Commander for Tower Hamlets, was also on hand to answer students' questions.

Margaret and Barry Mizen spoke to students about why they started the Jimmy Mizen Foundation, and brought with them, the 'Peace Car' as part of the 'Release the Peace' mission of the foundation. Students were invited to

take their photos with the car, and make a promise to try to show support for the foundation's causes by working towards promoting peace in their own community.

Representatives from each school had worked on and prepared a presentation about one topic which was most important to their school. Issues ranged from cyber bullying, lack of respect for property, it being too dark in the streets



at night, problems related to a homeless shelter next to school, to gang violence. Students presented to each other, and then worked in groups to discuss and suggest possible ways each school could make progress on their particular issue.

It was a very interesting and productive day for students. Each School Council member now has the chance to feedback to their school, and try to work to resolve the issues what concern them. Swanlea representatives, Umaimah and Eva, Year 7, were fantastic ambassadors for the school, and came up with some really interesting proposals for the rest of the school council to act upon.



Ms Robinson
Assistant Headteacher

SWANLEA GOES GREEN!



**Eco-Schools
Bronze Award**

We are delighted to announce that in November 2012 Swanlea School was awarded the nationally recognized bronze Eco-Schools award.

In September a group of students and staff got together to form the

'Eco-Committee' this is a group of people who are committed to making Swanlea a more eco-friendly and sustainable school.

So far the Eco Committee has created an 'Eco-action Plan,' set up a partnership with the London Wildlife Trust and started to raise awareness amongst students and staff.

The committee's next steps are to lead assemblies and plan PSHEE and Citizenship lessons to teach the rest of the school what they can do to make Swanlea a more sustainable school. The Eco-Committee has ambitious plans which include spreading their message of sustainability to local primary schools, parents/carers and the local community. The committee has already started on its sustainable journey towards the silver award!

MS ROBINSON
ASSISTANT HEADTEACHER

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

STUDENTS CELEBRATE DIVERSITY

October was Black History Month, when schools and organisations around the UK focused on the achievements of great black people in history and today.

At Swanlea there were special assemblies to celebrate Black History Month led by Ms Sesay, Ms Robinson, Mr Whittingham and Ms Dudhia. Students were encouraged to think about the contribution that black people have made throughout history. Students talked about past heroes such as Jesse Owens who competed in the Berlin Olympics in 1936 and modern day heroes such as Mo Farah

who broke records and won medals in the London 2012 Olympics.

In History lessons students in Year 9 had lessons on the history of slavery and the Civil Rights movement. Students studied the life of slave Olaudah Equiano and the contribution that he made to history.

On Super Learning Day Year 7 students also took part in a range of exciting workshops about Black History Month.

Ms Robinson
Assistant Headteacher

CALLING ALL PARENTS/CARERS, TEACHERS AND STAFF OF SWANLEA SCHOOL- YOUR PTA NEEDS YOU

Our PTA will

- **Raise funds for Swanlea School**
- **Organise social activities for parents/carers**
- **Foster and encourage links with the wider community**

Come and be a part of our new group and help us build a warm, welcoming and important organisation.

A parent-teacher association (PTA) is a formal organisation composed of parents/carers, teachers and staff that is intended to facilitate parental participation in a school and raising funds for equipment and fun activities in the aim to foster community cohesion.

Don't forget, if any parents or carers would like to speak to Ms Landers about anything, you can always call in on her during her weekly drop in mornings, held every Tuesday from 9:30 - 10:30am.

MS SESAY
ASSISTANT HEADTEACHER

KEY DATE FOR YOUR DIARIES: 14TH JANUARY 2013

PTA Committee Officials will be elected, and we want you to be part of this process.

*This is
not just any
Coffee morning...
this is a Swanlea
Coffee morning...*

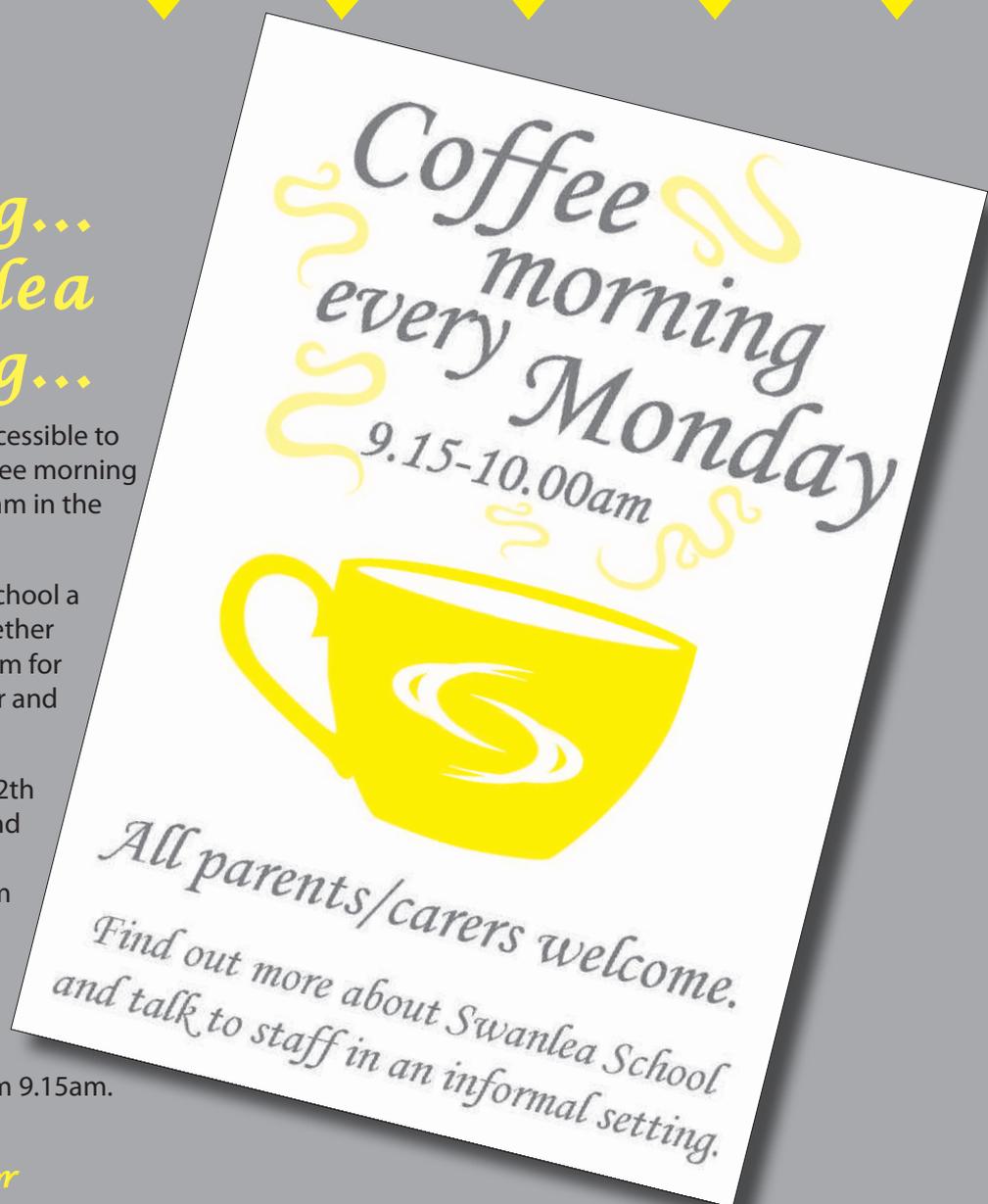
As part of making Swanlea School more accessible to parents, the school is holding a weekly coffee morning every Monday morning from 9.15 to 10.15am in the Parents' room.

The aim of the coffee morning is to make school a friendlier place, get parents and carers together to chat, feel included, and provide a platform for parents and carers to meet with each other and with staff.

Our first coffee morning was on Monday 12th November and a good number of mums and dads attended. There was an interesting discussion on the school's maths curriculum and teaching with Ms Sesay, Assistant Headteacher, and also general discussion on children's wellbeing and what Swanlea can do for parents/carers.

Please come and join us every Monday from 9.15am.

*Ms Choudhury
Parental Engagement Coordinator*



LITERACY REWARDS

yet another reason why reading is rewarding!

Year 7s and 8s have been working hard on their reading. Many students have received certificates and prizes. 80 students were able to attend a fantastic reward trip to the cinema before half term -thanks Ms Warrington for the chocolate!

Remember that vouchers can be earned through reading, passing Accelerated Reader quizzes and passing Lexia.

There is still time to get places on the next trip which is booked for **Friday 7th December**. There is also a prize-giving award tea party with Ms Landers on **19th December** to work towards. So keep reading!

MS MARTIN

LITERACY INTERVENTIONS MANAGER, KS3

SWANLEA GETS GOLD

Swanlea School in Whitechapel has been awarded the British Council's prestigious International School Award in recognition of its work to bring the world into the classroom.

The International School Award is a badge of honour for schools that do outstanding work in international education, such as through links with partner schools overseas. Fostering an international dimension in the curriculum is at the heart of the British Council's work with schools, so that young people gain the cultural understanding and skills they need to live and work as global citizens.



Swanlea School's international work includes links with school in Japan, Columbia Oman and Sri Lanka.

Many thanks to all who have helped in achieving this award.

Ms Williams
Deputy Head of
Year 11

Sixth Form Theatre News



CAMBRIDGE HEATH REVIEW

Hedda Gabler – no angelic belle...

The play delves into the life of a young Norwegian aristocrat, Hedda Tesman nee Gabler. At the beginning, Hedda returns to her villa in Kristiania following her honeymoon, but it soon becomes clear that she finds her married life with her husband Jorge Tesman mundane.

Not quite the angelic belle, Hedda's devious character is projected marvellously by Sheridan Smith who exhibits the nature of the character as venomous and dishonest through her tone of voice and body language. This cunning and deceitful character strongly mirrors that of other literary and dramatic heroines, to whom we devote ambivalent feelings of alliance and spite, such as Catherine Earnshaw in 'Wuthering Heights' and Lady Macbeth. Hedda is a lady seeking power in a world that does not allow her any.

Ibsen's play deals with many hard-hitting themes such as expectations of female behaviour and the conflict of power and dreams. It is timeless and powerful even one hundred years after it was first performed!

Roll on February when we are all off to see 'Kiss Me Kate', the musical based on Shakespeare's The Taming of The Shrew'!

This term a group of Year 10, 12 and 13 students were lucky enough to see a stunning production of 'Hedda Gabler' at the Old Vic Theatre. Swanlea is a member of the 'Old Vic/ New Voices' partnership which involves students attending four plays at the world famous Old Vic Theatre as well as receiving four two hour workshops from Old Vic educational staff the day before each play.

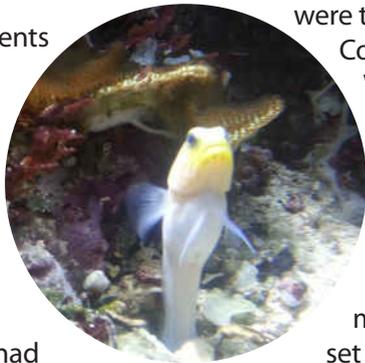
Ms Gardner
Assistant Headteacher

Review by Zak Abby & Sonia Khan, Year 13

MUSIC NOTES

Another exciting start to the year in the Swanlea Music Department

We recently took 30 students from Year 8 who are learning to play musical instruments on a trip to the Horniman Museum in South London. It has one of the finest musical instrument collections in the world. While we were there the students had the opportunity to play percussion



instruments and learn about instruments from all over the world. We also had a chance to visit the aquarium and the students had a fantastic day.

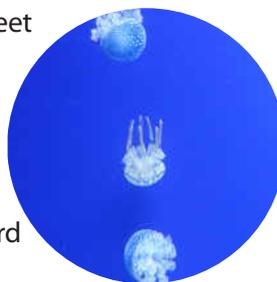


11 of our students who are learning string instruments performed with The London Symphony Orchestra at the St Luke's Arts Centre. They performed on Monday the 26th November two sold

out concerts. The music was extremely exciting and two of the featured pieces were the Bach Double violin Concerto and The Gypsy Violin.

The GCSE music class will be attending a concert at the Wigmore Hall on Wednesday 12th December. They will be seeing a minimalist concert featured set works for their GCSE. This will feature virtuosic percussionist Joby Burgess.

Swanlea School Choir is again performing for the Bank of America as part of their End of Year celebrations. The concert will be in the Bank of America headquarters Canary Wharf. The students in the choir will also get a chance to see the building and meet with many of the managers from the bank. If last year was any indication we have an exciting event to look forward to.



Our first big concert this year will be on Thursday the 13th December – RAW SLICES. We will hear a selection of performance from mostly Year 10 and Year 11 students as they prepare for their GCSE performance exams. This year we will feature quite a few small jazz groups and I hope you are able to support the students by attending.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY FOR 2012 - 2013

- 🎵 London Symphony Orchestra and Swanlea School - 26/11/12
- 🎵 Raw Slices Concert - 13/12/12
- 🎵 Swanlea School Choir - 17/12/12
- 🎵 Year 7 trip to WICKED - 9/10/13
- 🎵 Call Back Concert - 21/03/13
- 🎵 Swanlea Music Festival 27-29 June 2013
- 🎵 Encore Concert 4/07/13

Ms Brownlee
Head of PVA Faculty



WE WERE THERE!



“Amazing, epic and unbelievable” are just some of the words that describe the London 2012 Olympic Games. I was lucky enough to be chosen, with a group of other students, to go along with Ms Bami and take part in the Guard of Honour event for the London 2012 Olympic Games. It was truly amazing. We had a fantastic tour around the Olympic Park and learnt all about the various venues in the village. After the exhausting tour, we had lunch and relaxed in the Copper

box Arena. This all led to the main event. Around 8pm, the Swanlea Guards of Honour, together with other schools across the country, witnessed the arrival of the dedicated athletes to the Olympic Stadium. Athletes from all countries walked past us, giving their time generously, to give us their autographs, flags, pins and pictures. Swanlea students had made an excellent banner to welcome the athletes from Sierra Leone. When they walked by us and looked at our flag, their smiles were like a reward for our hard work, and they all posed and took pictures with the flag that we had made for them.

A special highlight of the night for me was meeting... Usain Bolt! It was unbelievable. Also, we met the inspirational athletes from Team GB. It was an absolute pleasure to meet Tom Daley who was leading the Team GB procession. The night kept on getting better and better every minute. When it all came to an end, I was overwhelmed that it was over. It was an unforgettable night, I will treasure the pictures and autographs. If it weren't for the school, the other students and staff, I would not have experienced the epic night and be part of the 2012 Olympics.

SYEDA TARIN PASHA, 8S

NEWS FROM THE P.E. TEAM...

Mr Grant, Ms Boller, Mr Cronin, Mr Curran, Ms Flowers & Mr Poynor

TOWER HAMLETS GIRLS BADMINTON TOURNAMENT

Year 7&8s

Representing Swanlea School for the KS3 team were Tanha Kazi, Fatema Begum, Laura Laiper and Umaimah Huda. All of the girls played extremely well, with Tanha and Fatima making it through to the doubles final. Although they deserved first place, unfortunately they just missed out and finished as runners-up. The girls displayed great sportswomanship and were a credit to themselves and the school.

Year 9&10s

Representing Swanlea School for the KS4 team were Cindy Wong, Roda Abokor, Amina Khatun, Lucky Aktaur and Jamie Irvine. All five girls put in a very good performance, but it was Cindy and Amina who stole the show, winning every game they played and making it through to the semi-final. There the girls faced a tense match against Bishop Challoner – the same school who had defeated us the previous day in the final of the KS3 tournament. I whispered,

“smash them”, and the girls did just that, winning 11-3 to gain a place in the final. Cindy and Amina went on to win the final in style, making them the reigning doubles champions in the district of Tower Hamlets.

Well done to all of the girls who participated.

TOWER HAMLETS GIRLS INDOOR CRICKET TOURNAMENT

Year 7&8s

A group of year 7 and 8 students took part in the Tower Hamlets Cricket Tournament on November 9th. Although I had a sneaky feeling we would ...cont...



NEWS FROM THE P.E. TEAM...

Mr Grant, Ms Boller, Mr Cronin, Mr Curran, Ms Flowers & Mr Poynor

...cont...

do well, my already high expectations were exceeded. Not only did the girls win overall but they did it in style, winning every game they played. After each result was announced a cheer went up, with high fives all round. They were an absolute credit to themselves and the school, displaying great sportswomanhood throughout.

Year 9&10s

The year 9 and 10 cricket team also made it through the rounds with a touch of class, again winning every game they played. The semi-final was going on at the same time as the KS3s last game, so I didn't know which way to look! I was under the impression that the KS4 semi-final was close but judging by the result, we sailed through to the final. Semi-final results: Swanlea 40 runs for 3 wickets; George Greens 36 runs all out.

The final was a very tense game, with some of our top players being caught out early on. Central Foundation batted first, so we knew we had to score more than 45 runs to win. Every time one of our players got caught out I broke down! After each new batsperson went on, the team knew how many runs we needed and it wasn't looking good. Somehow we did manage to reach 45, even though our star players didn't get a decent batting chance. At this point we were left confused as to who had won. The umpires deliberated for what seemed like forever. As you can see below, the result was extremely close. Cheers went up as soon as it was announced that we were the winners. All of the girls were very proud of themselves, and rightly so. Both their attitude and performance was spot on, and they represented the school in the best possible way. Final results: Central 45 runs for 6 wickets; Swanlea 45 runs for 5 wickets.

Other schools who took part in the tournament included Langdon Park, George Green, Central Foundation and Oaklands.

Ms Boller



YEAR 8 FOOTBALL TEAM

The Year 8 football team has seen some highs and lows already this season. After a stroke of bad luck with drawing a London Cup side that have a history of success in London Nautical School, this was the first time a lot of pupils had played 11 a side and resulted in a quite healthy loss.

In the league this season, Swanlea School are unbeaten having played four fixtures. The team have seen some battles and have reaped the rewards from toiling away in the deepest darkest pitches that Hackney Marshes has to offer. Wins have come against Cardinal Pole, Morpeth, Sir John Cass and St Pauls Way. Results have varied from closely fought games, ending with only a two goal cushion, to out and out free-scoring affairs, such as the 10-2 win over Sir John Cass.

Students have had a fantastic season so far, but still another 6 games remain. Will the Year 8 Swanlea side see promotion? Stayed tuned to find out.

YEAR 8 FOOTBALL INTER-TUTOR TOURNAMENT

The Year 8 inter-tutor tournament was intense and exciting. Challenges on the pitch were made like lives depended on it, and the competition was fierce. Goals were being scored like they were going out of fashion in some games and others were as tactical as a game of chess.

Unlike in previous years, the out and out favourites, 8L, had some real success making it to the final alongside outsiders 8W. After a hard fought match it ended in a draw with a hairs breath splitting the

two. After a very tense penalty shoot-out the eventual victors were 8W.

Well done 8W - a well deserved victory.

TOWER HAMLETS KS3 BOYS BADMINTON TOURNAMENT

A number of boys were chosen, after extensive sessions on Friday nights, to come and represent Swanlea School in the annual Tower Hamlets Badminton tournament. We took two teams from Year 8 and one team from Year 7.

A grand effort was put in by all concerned, with Kamrul Islam shining in the group stages. The real success, however, was in the later rounds for Year 8, with Kawsar Uzzol and Farhan managing 4th place. The current reigning doubles champions for the district of Tower Hamlets are Brian Wong and Sakib Ahmed, with an encounter that they ran away with in style to finish first. A great effort boys.

YEAR 8 TOWER HAMLETS INDOOR CRICKET TOURNAMENT

The Year 8 cricket team were out in full force for the Tower Hamlets Indoor Cricket Tournament. The competition was fierce and we were the team to beat having become the district champions of the hard ball code at the end of Year 7.

We managed to have a convincing win over George Green with us batting 70 runs from 7 overs - an impressive score. Unfortunately, the rest of the games didn't quite go to plan and we left with our tail between our legs in the group stages.

The pupils involved did represent themselves positively throughout and fun was had by all.

Mr Curran