

SWANLEA NEWS



SWANLEA BUSINESS & ENTERPRISE COLLEGE

Issue 75
Spring 2013



SWANLEA CELEBRATES WORLD BOOK DAY!

LETTER FROM THE HEAD

Dear Parents, Carers, students and friends of Swanlea,

As you can see from the front cover, World Book Day was quite the event here at Swanlea! We had a whole array of activities, from visiting authors, to special student book reviews, a tea party held for the whole of Year 7 and their families, and, of course, members of staff dressing up as characters from their favourite books. It was an incredible series of events, all hugely enjoyed by all. Many thanks and congratulations to everyone who got involved.

Swanlea students have done much to be proud of this term. Whether it is about the the hard work of student council, or raising money for charity, or the incredible successes students have experienced in P.E. you will, I am sure, be as proud of the students as I am.

With best wishes for a restful break,

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LETTER FROM THE GOVERNORS

MS FANNING-TICHBORNE LEA GOVERNOR

Dear students, parents, carers and friends,

It was a great honour to be asked to visit the school on World Book Day and judge the student competition. Students were set the challenge of decorating their form rooms to represent their favourite book, and they did an absolutely fantastic job. It was very hard to judge the winner, as there were so many wonderful entries. Huge congratulations to 8E for their winning entry, and a special mention must go to the Nurture group who not only decorated their classroom and each wore costumes themselves, but were also able to recount the tale of King Arthur and the Knights of Camelot. I had a marvellous morning and was really impressed with the clear commitment and dedication by staff and students.

Congratulations all!

Sophie Fanning-Tichborne
LEA Governor



WORLD BOOK DAY

World Book Day is one of the most colourful and exciting days of the Swanlea year – reflecting the creativity and fun that books can bring to our lives.

The build-up to World Book Day

World Book Day lasts longer than just one day! Events in the build-up to the big day included a workshop for budding writers in Years 8 and 9 from popular children's novelist Suzanne LaFleur.

Meanwhile, keen readers from among the staff and students wrote reviews of their favourite books to be displayed as colourful posters in the library and around the school. So if you're wondering what to read next, have a browse of some of the reviews on display.

In the Art department, Year 7 and 8 students took part in a competition designing alternative covers for their favourite books and Year 9 students made beautiful illustrated Steampunk poems. Their work is now on display in the library – do have a look if you haven't already!

Assemblies were part of the preparations too, with staff and students sharing their favourite reads and their love of books.

The best-dressed World Book Day yet?

Visitors to the school on 7th March could be forgiven for being a little confused at first. Not only were there a number of extraordinary characters wandering around – everyone from a Death Eater from Harry Potter to the Mad Hatter, Tweedle Dum and Tweedle Dee – lots of the classrooms had also been transformed into books. Swanlea staff dressed as characters from books they loved, and students had the chance to win a competition by matching all of their teachers to their book characters. Winners of the best-dressed competition were Ms Byrne in role as Miss Havisham in full cobweb-covered wedding dress and veil, and Ms Sesay as Nanny McPhee in an amazingly convincing costume, with acting to match.



This year students took part in the dressing up fun by decorating their classrooms as the world of a beloved book. Competition was fierce, with an amazing amount of creativity put in by students and their form tutors, but the overall winner had to be 8E with their incredible Hungry Caterpillar display.



Books for all

The whole of KS3 were given a book to take home from a range of famous current children's authors – the books have been specially written for World Book Day! KS4 students were given vouchers towards buying their own books.

The World Book Day Reading Tea

The Library hosted its biggest ever reading tea party on World Book Day. Students were invited to receive their reading rewards for 7 vouchers or more, earned through their dedication to reading and their achievements in Lexia and Accelerated Reader. Prizewinners' parents and all parents of Year 7 students were also invited to share in the celebrations and enjoy a range of presentations. Not to mention the tea and cakes – which were homemade by members of the Literacy Team!

The presentations showed the huge range of reading activities that are available to Swanlea students. The Year 7 G&T girls' group gave a creative performance about the novel they have been reading, *Pride and Prejudice*. Tarin Pasha and Mariam Njie in Year 8 presented on their experience of the Tower Hamlets Book Award, hosted in November by Swanlea School. A group of boys from Year 8 shared the wonder of a recent reading rewards trip to the Warner Brothers' Studios where Harry Potter was filmed. Year 12 reading volunteers presented the highly popular lunchtime book club they are running for Year 7s. And Year 9 students Anika Haque and Harry Turner read aloud the powerful short stories they had written in response to working with novelist Suzanne LaFleur.

And still to come...

Fantastic local novelist Gareth Jones is coming to Swanlea on 14th March to give a special assembly to the whole of Year 7. Lucky students can look forward to Gareth's unique mix of interactive storytelling and hilarious music – and bring along their copies of the spooky *Constable* and *Took* for signing.

MS WARRINGTON, LEADER OF LITERACY, & MS BAMI, LIBRARIAN

PRIZE-EVENING PAGE-TURNERS!



Swanlea School was the proud host for the finale of the Tower Hamlets Book award 2012

The School Library was abuzz with the excitement as over 160 pupils from 18 schools joined in the fun to celebrate the close of the 6th annual Tower Hamlets Book Award on the 30th November.

It was amazing to see so many pupils being excited about reading and discussing books. Pupils from several schools made presentations about the books to convince the audience to vote for the book of their choice. St Paul's Primary, Cayley Primary, Hague Primary, Cyril Jackson Primary, Swanlea Secondary, John Scurr Primary, and Sir

John Cass Secondary schools all tried to convince the audience through music, drama and debates.

Syeda Tarin Pasha, Syed Emad Uddeen, Yasin Brown and Maryam Nije represented Swanlea School and presented a book discussion about the 8 shortlisted books.

The visiting authors Josh Lacey, Catherine Johnson and Candy Gourlay were struck by the enthusiasm of the children present as they signed books, answered questions and judged the presentations put on by 8 of the schools attending.

Over 30 schools in total followed the award and hundreds of votes were cast. Overall the award was a great success as it inspired children to read for fun and encouraged discussion about some of the best new books.

The winning book by popular choice was 'The Brilliant world of Tom Gates' by Liz Pichon.

**MIS BANI
LIBRARIAN**



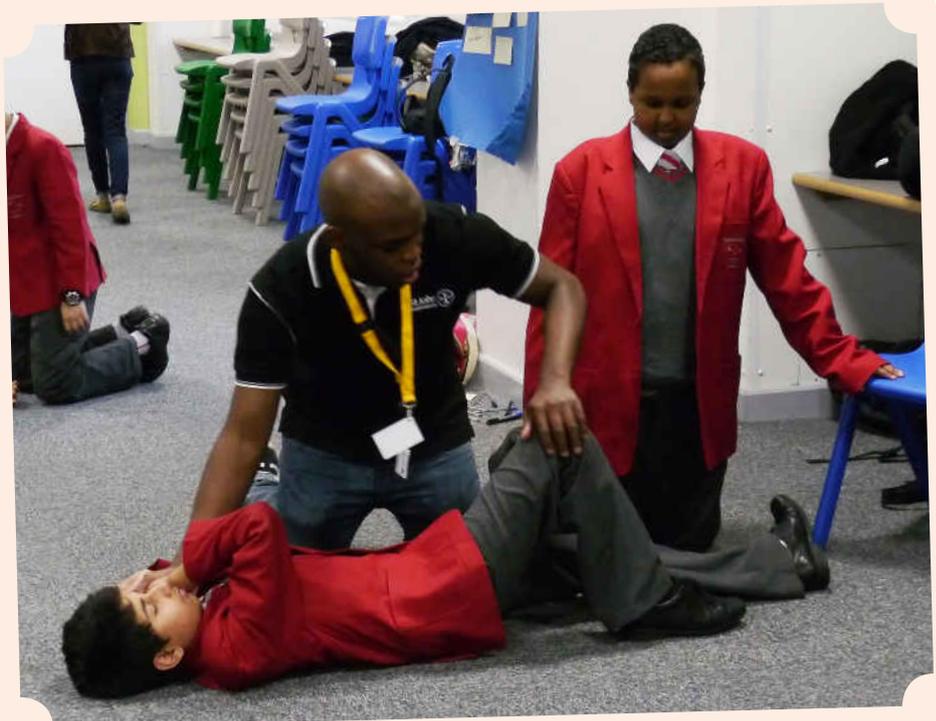
FIRST RATE FIRST AIDERS

KS3 School Councillors were absolutely fantastic on the 25th February when they took part in First Aid Training with St John Ambulance.

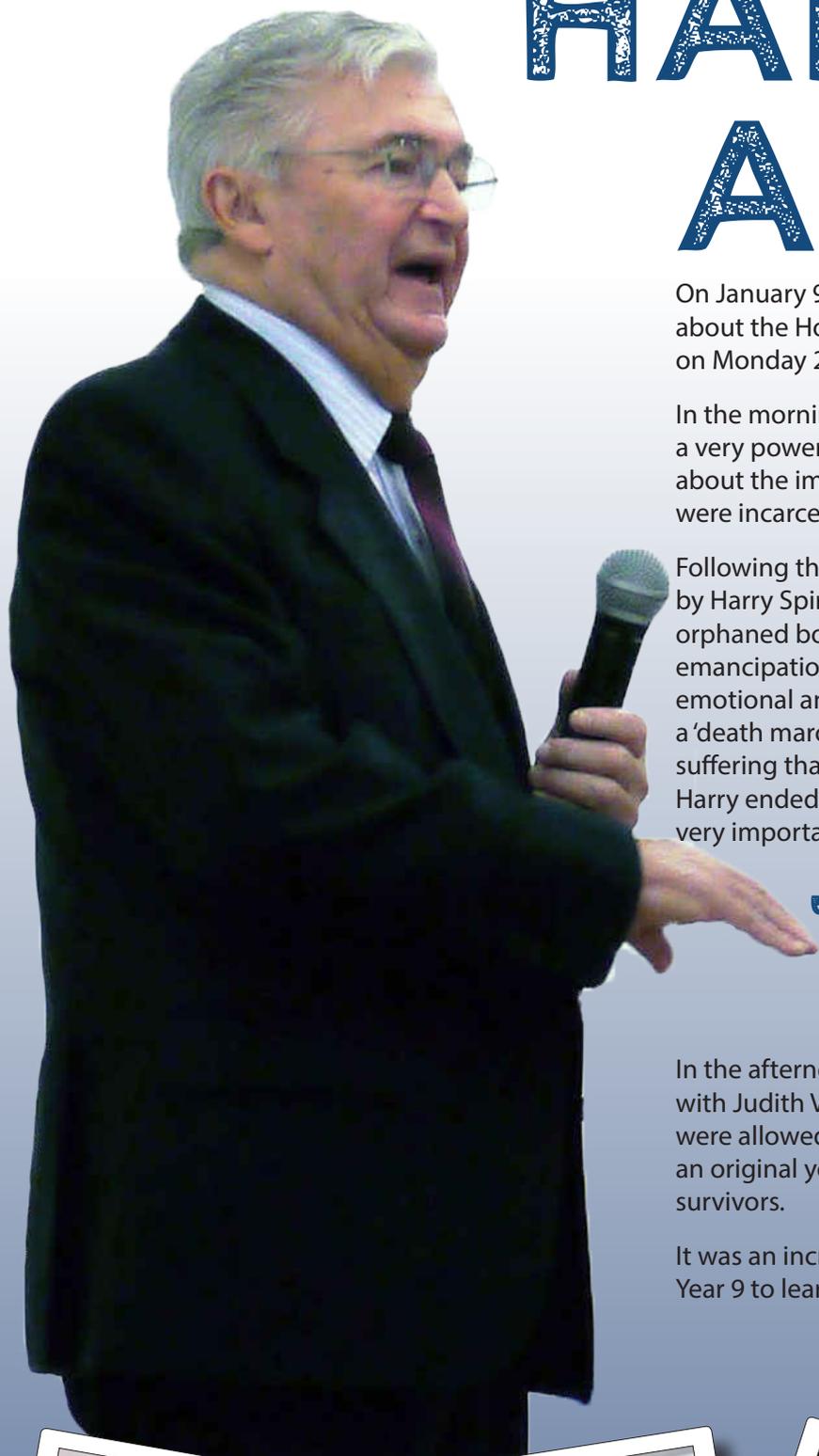
Students learnt all kinds of skills such as how to put on a bandage and how to put someone in a recovery position. An accredited, day-long course, students were able to develop their skills and knowledge about First Aid in a meaningful way.

At the end of the session each student was awarded with a certificate and a goody bag. Everyone worked really well together and had a wonderful time. Well done!

**M; Malik
Year 7 Learning Mentor**



SWANLEA STUDENTS SAY, HARRY IS A HERO



On January 9th Year 9 took part in a very important seminar about the Holocaust, in preparation for Holocaust Memorial Day on Monday 27th January.

In the morning the whole year group sat together and watched a very powerful film called 'Escape from Sobibor.' This film was about the impact of the Holocaust and a group of survivors who were incarcerated in a work camp during World War Two.

Following the film, Year 9 were incredibly lucky to be visited by Harry Spiro, a survivor of the Holocaust and one of the 732 orphaned boys who were given refuge in Britain following their emancipation from the labour camps. Harry told an extremely emotional and powerful story about the death of his family, a 'death march' across the former Czechoslovakia and the suffering that he and others endured at the hands of the Nazis. Harry ended his talk and question and answer session with a very important message:

“DON'T HATE ANYONE.”

In the afternoon, the whole of Year 9 took part in workshops with Judith Vandervelde from the Jewish Museum. Students were allowed to handle artifacts from the museum, including an original yellow star and passports of Holocaust victims and survivors.

It was an incredibly moving day for all who took part and helped Year 9 to learn a very important lesson from History.

**MS ROBINSON
ASSISTANT HEADTEACHER**



**STUDENTS WITH ARTEFACTS
FROM THE JEWISH MUSEUM**



**HARRY SPIRO SPEAKING
TO YEAR 9 STUDENTS**



**ARTEFACTS FROM
THE JEWISH MUSEUM**



**MS VANDELDELDE FROM
THE JEWISH MUSEUM**

JACK PETCHEY AWARD WINNERS



Congratulations to Foridha Yasmin, 10E and Naima Muhammad, 11C for winning the Jack Petchey awards this term. Foridha was nominated by staff for the award for her great determination and willingness to succeed against all odds. She is a friendly and warm student, is very popular, and greets everyone with a lovely smile. Foridha works relentlessly hard to achieve the best she can, and has made outstanding progress in all subjects. She welcomes challenges and approaches all difficulties with great determination and enthusiasm. Foridha wins this award for being an inspiration for all students and adults.

Naima was nominated for the award for her work in leading a group of Year 11 students to plan events for V Day (a campaign against domestic violence towards women), by making badges, raising money for Women's Aid and supporting students throughout the school. Both students have been fantastic role models to others, and have been given a grant of £200 each to spend on a project within the school. Congratulations to them both!

**MS ROBINSON
ASSISTANT HEADTEACHER**

DEMOCRACY IN ACTION

On Wednesday 30th January, the Humanities corridor at Swanlea School was transformed into a polling station! Election Officers from Tower Hamlets Council arrived with polling booths and voting slips for all Swanlea Students to take part in the election of the new Young Mayor of Tower Hamlets.

In the weeks running up to the election, various candidates had been invited into school to speak in Year Assemblies about why students should vote for them. We also had some active canvassing from Year 11 students for their preferred candidate.

On Election Day itself, many students took the opportunity to register their vote. Congratulations to Mahdi Alam who was successfully elected as the next Young Mayor of Tower Hamlets with 59% of the total vote. Next year we're hoping to have a Swanlea candidate on the platform!

**MS ROBINSON
ASSISTANT HEADTEACHER**



WORLD AIDS DAY

December 1st was World Aids Day. This is the day when people around the world remember those who have died from Aids or are living with the virus. On World Aids Day this year, the Year 9 School Council sold red ribbons around school. They were very popular and by December the 1st, red ribbons were everywhere! The Year 9 Council also put up posters around school and presented a very informative assembly to the rest of their year group.

In January the students received a thank you letter and certificate from the National Aids Trust, thanking them for raising £200 towards research into finding a cure for HIV and Aids.

Sornnaly from 9C said

“ I really enjoyed selling the red ribbons and raising money to help people with HIV and Aids. ”

**Ms Robinson
Assistant Headteacher**



ACTIVATING ENGLISH

Funded by East End Community Foundation and Morgan Stanley International Foundation

On 7th December, a group of Year 11 students and staff headed off for weekend of studying and fun! Over the weekend, students took part in English study sessions, with a focus on listening and speaking, but also got a chance to undertake all kinds of amazing activities, such as orienteering, skiing, traversing high ropes and a night walk.

The English study sessions were fun. Everyone got to contribute and I feel that our confidence grew as we supported and encouraged each

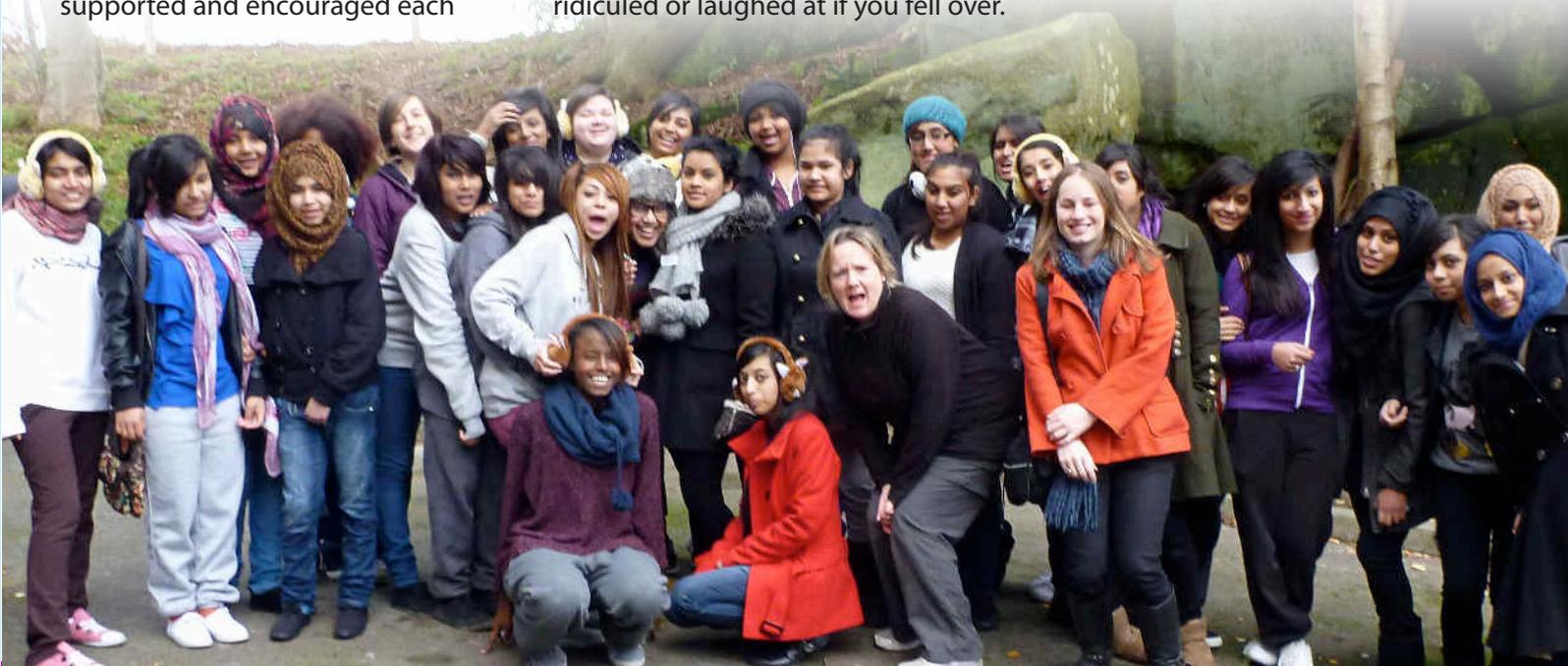
other to participate. The atmosphere was light and stress free, and this helped everyone to get involved. There was not any pressure, and we were encouraged to speak out and be heard.

The outdoor activities were fun and very energetic. We tried things that we had never done before. Skiing was awesome even though it hurt our legs. I think the fact that it was an all-girl trip helped us to enjoy it more. We all bonded together, and no one was ridiculed or laughed at if you fell over.

Despite it being cold, we had a great time and we all want to go back. The instructors were friendly and encouraged us to have a go even if we were scared on the high ropes, they gave us words of encouragement and we felt amazing when we succeeded!

Thank you very much!

**ASHLEY STANFORD, 11S &
SABRINA MIAH, 11S**



COUNCILLORS COUNSELLING

Following the success of November's Beat Bullying Week, students have continued to promote the Beat Bullying message at Swanlea School. Activities this term have included student focus groups discussing the reasons why some people are bullies and looking for ways of supporting victims of bullying.

Students have also begun to work with an organization called Leap Confronting Conflict and some of the SPARCs (Swanlea Pupils Are Resolving Conflict) have taken part in two days of formal training in peer mentoring and mediation. These students have been trained to look out for signs of bullying and also how best to support students who may be being bullied. Trained peer mediators will be going into assemblies to ensure that all students know what to do if they ever find themselves in a situation where they, or one of their friends is being bullied.

**MS ROBINSON
ASSISTANT HEADTEACHER**



EPIC IN EPPING

On January 16th, eighty one Year 11 Geographers set off in the snow to Epping Forest to take part in a day of fieldwork.

On arrival at the Epping Forest Field Study Centre, students were kitted out with wellington boots and encouraged to wrap up warm before braving the freezing temperatures.

They spent the day working in groups to take measurements at three sites

along the course of Loughton Brook, deep in Epping Forest. Students measured the velocity of the river, the wetted perimeter and the size and shape of the bedload. They used these measurements to reach conclusions about how a river changes from source to mouth.

Despite their cold hands and feet, students worked incredibly hard and collected valuable data, which

has enabled them to complete their controlled assessment (worth 25% of their final GCSE grade).

Yusuf, Year 11: "The field trip was a really valuable experience because it allowed us to see things that we had only learnt about from books before. We also got to use equipment that we had never used before. I now have a much better understanding of how a river changes."

MS ROBINSON
ASSISTANT HEADTEACHER



A* ASPIRATIONS

The Year 10 Team held a successful achievement meeting for the more able and Gifted & Talented students in Year 10 on Wednesday 27th February.

The event was well attended with over 40 parents and their children attending the after school workshop to look at how to better support their children in achieving A/A* in their GCSEs.

Parents and students looked at scenarios to help overcome barriers to learning, with top tips shared by core subject co-ordinators.

Parents and students with support from their tutors went on to identify changes to impact positively on future achievement.

Mr Choudhury
Head of Year 10



A Christmas Carol

Last term Swanlea School's KS3 Drama club performed Charles Dickens Christmas classic 'A Christmas Carol' for family, friends and staff. This was our first performance and was met with great success. Despite the nerves on the night all of the students performed with enthusiasm and professionalism and most importantly fun was had by all! A great big thanks to everyone involved and all those who came to support us on the night.

We are already busy rehearsing for our next performance which will be a collection of short one act plays based on Folk tales from different countries. Hope to see you there!

*Ms Symonds-Hall
Drama teacher*

CONNECTING LIVES



“ This workshop was really interesting and fun. It made me change the way I think about Jewish people. I was really surprised to learn about how many similarities there are between Islam and Judaism and many words in Hebrew and Arabic sound similar. ”

Mohammed, 8A

**MS ROBINSON
ASSISTANT HEADTEACHER**



During February all of Year 8 took part in workshops facilitated by the Jewish Museum. This was part of a London-wide project called 'Connecting Lives.' Students met two Jewish women from the museum who talked to them and answered questions about their lives, culture and faith.

Students were given the opportunity to handle artifacts from the museum including a kippah (skull cap), sheitel (wig) and a replica Torah scroll.

The workshops really challenged students' perceptions and allowed them to develop an understanding of the similarities between a range of faiths.



History Month

2013

LGBT

Lesbian Gay Bisexual Trans



February 2013 was the fifth national LGBT History Month and the first time that it was celebrated at Swanlea School. The focus of LGBT History Month in 2013 was STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) and focused on the contributions that LGBT people have made to developments in these areas.

All students from Year 7 to 13 listened to an assembly about LGBT History; particularly focusing on the story of Alan Turing, a great mathematician and computer scientist.

Students from Year 10 and Year 11, who are part of the Amnesty Group, put up a colourful display in the mall, which attracted a lot of attention from students throughout the month. The same students also attended a debate at the Law Society about LGBT Refugees.

At Swanlea School we are proud to hold Stonewall School Champion status and are continuing to promote equality and celebrate diversity.

**Ms Robinson
Assistant Headteacher**



EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY,

EQUALITY OF CHOICE

On Tuesday 5th February, Swanlea School's Amnesty International Youth Group attended the 11th annual Stonewall lecture hosted by the Law Society.

We were all really looking forward to the lecture but when we arrived the venue was so grand that we felt a bit intimidated. However, after some refreshments, we were acclimatised and were ready for the lecture.

This year's lecture was entitled "From Silence to Safety: Protecting the Gay Refugee" and coincided with LGBT history month. The lecture was delivered by S. Chelvan, a barrister from No. 5 Chambers and a specialist in immigration and asylum law. We found the lecture extremely interesting, and were pleased that, although the majority of people present were lawyers or barristers, we were still able to enjoy and understand all of his material. His lecture was thought provoking and showed us that, despite all the work that groups such as Amnesty International and Stonewall have done to improve human rights, we still have much to do. We learnt a lot and took from it lots of important lessons that could be applied in many parts of our lives.

We felt that this was a worthwhile experience and are glad for the opportunity to be able to go. Special thanks to Ms Fanning – Tichborne, Governor, for giving up her valuable time and coming along with us and Ms Daly.

**Laura Humayun, 11S &
Rebecca Lambert-Neu, 10L**

GREAT DEBATES



“ *I'm just writing to pass on my thanks to the students and staff who came to the Student Parliament, it was a great success and the students were impeccably behaved and spoke really well, I know that Lord Davies was impressed by the depth of detail advanced in the students' arguments.*

Rebecca Lambert-Neu as closing speaker was particularly impressive and very helpful in filling a different role at the last minute. ”

It has been another busy term for the Swanlea School Council. The Year 7, 8, 9 and 10 School Councils have all taken part in a series of training workshops run by Debate Mate. Students have developed debating skills and prepared a debate to take to a very important forum.

Each of the Year Councils was invited to debate an issue at the House of Commons or House of Lords. The issues ranged from the impact of video games on young people, to whether the voting age should be reduced to sixteen. The opportunity to present and debate an issue in this forum was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and the Year Council were all a credit to Swanlea School.

Emma Wright, Education Visits officer for Parliament, was so impressed that she wrote to the school afterwards -

In addition to preparing for the debates, the Year Councils and Main School Council have continued to meet regularly to discuss issues of key importance and develop strategies for change. Discussions have been around planning for key events such as International Women's Day and Red Nose Day, considering options for extra-curricular activities and continuing to look for ways to promote equality for all, celebrate diversity and challenge all forms of prejudice and discrimination. In the next meeting the School Council will be looking at the Swanlea School's Behaviour Policy and contributing their ideas.

Ms Robinson



OXFAM YOUTH GROUP:

CAMPAINING FOR CHANGE!

In January, John McLaverty Oxfam's Youth and Schools Coordinator, came to speak to Year 9 in assembly about setting up an Oxfam Youth Group at Swanlea School. John spoke to the students about other groups in the UK and what they had achieved. Year 9 were so inspired by the assembly, that 43 of them signed up to be part of the group!

The initial meetings of the group are taking place and students are deciding on their campaign focus. The issues that the group has been considering include the Arms Trade, the education of girls in developing

countries, deforestation and land grabbing.

Through being part of the group, they will develop important public speaking and campaigning skills. They will also learn how their voices can be used constructively to influence change at a local, national and global level.

MS ROBINSON
ASSISTANT HEADTEACHER

A WOMAN'S PLACE
IS IN THE HOME...
(& THE CLASSROOM
& THE BOARDROOM
& THE NEWSROOM
& PARLIAMENT)

ONE BILLION WOMEN ON THE PLANET WILL
EXPERIENCE VIOLENCE IN THEIR LIFETIME.

SWANLEA WOMEN WILL BE HOLDING A GATHERING ON THURSDAY 14TH FEBRUARY, AT
LUNCHTIME, IN THE ASSEMBLY HALL, TO RAISE AWARENESS FOR THIS CAUSE.

WE WILL BE COLLECTING DONATIONS FOR WOMEN'S AID
REGISTERED CHARITY 1052686

ALL FEMALE STUDENTS
AND STAFF WELCOME.



The Year 11 Girls who are part of the English Speaking and Listening Group and the Amnesty Group decided to get together to organise an event to celebrate V Day on February 14th.

V Day was an alternative to Valentine's Day and was part of the international 'Billion Women Rising' campaign against domestic violence. The students organised a dance for all female students and staff in the main hall at lunchtime. They compiled their own playlist of tracks featuring female artists and Ms Daly prepared a slideshow for the event featuring photos and quotations from powerful women in History.

The students also spent their lunchtimes in the week leading up to the event with Ms. Daly, making badges to raise awareness. These were sold to students and staff and raised almost £300 for Women's Aid, the leading UK charity campaigning to stop domestic violence.

The event was a resounding success with over 200 students dancing and hoola hooping all lunchtime. The atmosphere in the hall was electric and the students were so pleased with the success of the event that they repeated it on March 8th, International Women's Day.

During the week leading up to International Women's Day, we were privileged to have Tobi Okeowo, speak to the whole school in assemblies about her life and the empowerment of women.

**Ms Robinson
Assistant Headteacher**

SWANLEA ECO-COMMITTEE GETS SILVER AWARD!

The Swanlea Eco-Committee is setting records in sustainability! Having only achieved the Bronze Eco-Schools Award in October, they have already gone on to achieve the Silver Eco-Schools Award. As part of their work towards the award, the group set up a team of students who have the role of checking that everyone in Swanlea is using power efficiently. Students have responsibility for different areas of the school, where they

check that lights and computers are turned off in unused classrooms. In the next month, the Eco Committee will be working with the London Wildlife Trust to look at ways of encouraging biodiversity around our school grounds. Another priority of the group is to tackle the problem of dropping litter and encourage more recycling.

**Ms Robinson
Assistant Headteacher**



**Eco-Schools
Silver Award**

MUSIC NOTES



2013 has started with a bang in music. In January the Music and SEN department combined to start a specialist drumming group for our nurture students. They are drumming once a fortnight and we are planning to feature our nurture students drumming in an upcoming concert. Look out for this wonderful new group.

We took Year 7 to see the production of WICKED in January as part of the Super Learning Day program. It was a really exciting trip as many students

had never been to a theatre before and they thoroughly enjoyed every part of the experience.

On 4th February we took 40 Year 9 students to see a combined performance from the London Philharmonic Orchestra and the Globe Theatre. It was a concert featuring musical works that tell the story of Romeo and Juliet. The students got a taste of programmatic music and between each musical excerpt actors from the Globe acted out vital parts of the play. It was a

wonderful concert and was extremely inspiring.

Swanlea School Choir performed for the Bank of America as part of their End of Year celebrations. The concert was in the Bank of America headquarters Canary Wharf. It was very well received and the students were superb ambassadors for Swanlea School. Currently they are working towards two very special performances before Easter – including a special surprise ‘Command’ performance!!!



Congratulations to our Year 11 GCSE Music class who have completed all of their performance recordings. Some of the final performance were incredible and reflected the dedication and musicality of the Swanlea Students



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY FOR 2013

- 📅 Call Back Concert 21/03/13
- 📅 Swanlea Music Festival 27-29/06/13
- 📅 Encore Concert 4/07/13
- 📅 Year 5 and 6 Day and music party 5/07/13

Ms Brownlee
Head of PVA Faculty

MAKING IT ALL ADD UP ON WORLD MATHS DAY!



On 6th March, World Maths Day at Swanlea School was celebrated by Year 7 with the help of the Happy Puzzle Company. Pupils had the opportunity to participate in a wide range of activities, from solving simple 3D hands-on puzzle tasks, to developing strategic approaches to finding solutions in teams. They developed their mathematical knowledge through problem solving and creative thinking, and were really challenged in the process. The tasks set were difficult, but students' perseverance and resilience shone through and they did not give up. Everyone had a really enjoyable time -well done Year 7!!

Ms Sesay
Assistant Headteacher



SWANLEA BOOK CLUB

Last term we introduced the Swanlea book club aimed at Year 7 students. Fortunately, we had a tremendous turn out and had a large number of students were keen to join our book club. The book club is originally aimed at students who enjoy reading books for pleasure and would like to build on their love for books.

This is the second term running and we have successfully completed reading a handful of books; from adventurous books to books with humour and mishaps. Students have developed an opinion of the different genres of books that they enjoy reading through discussions and conversations with each other.

Moreover, the students are given the opportunity to read a book that they usually wouldn't pick up and they surprisingly find themselves enjoying the genre. A typical book club meeting consists of the book club members being split into two groups where they each have read two different books from each other; they then tell each other about the book that they have read and their opinion based on it/the reasons for their opinions.

In the future, we plan to reward the students with the chance to go on a trip as a way of congratulating them for working so hard. The trip will not only be really fun and enjoyable, but will also help students realise that hobbies can lead to fantastic rewards!

Nirma Islam, Salma Ali, & Nazifa Anjum, Year 12

NEWS FROM THE P.E. TEAM...

Mr Grant, Ms Boller, Mr Bunting, Mr Curran, Mr Poynor & Ms Ravenscroft

Year 11 BTEC / GCSE Cornwall Residential

A first for many and hopefully not the last, the PE Outdoor Adventure Residential happened earlier this school year. As we arrived in Bude, Cornwall we were greeted by the smiling faces of the instructors who were about to give us a taste of the wonderful countryside and the adventures it can offer.

The first day started with a splash, as surfing was the first activity. It was well enjoyed by the entire class, especially Imran Ali, who showed that its not just Californians who have the balance needed to master a surf board.



Afterwards, students undertook rock climbing, and pupils showing the agility and body strength needed to climb any surface. Rubaiyat Haque and Samsul Ahmed were the main contenders for Swanlea Rock Climber of the year! This two-day focus on rock climbing ended with pupils receiving high grades during the moderation section, which all of the pupils should be proud of.

The final activity that crowned the weekend was the orienteering course through Bude. It was a shame that the boys didn't really get to see much of the countryside as they spent most of their time getting lost. Well done Zaynab, Tharema and Farhana for having some real success and being able to show the others how orienteering is done.

The whole weekend genuinely brought a smile to the faces of all involved and was one of the most enjoyable experiences I have had teaching. Many thanks to Ms Reilly and big thanks to all of the GCSE/ BTEC PE students for representing Swanlea and themselves so well throughout.

Year 8 and Year 9 Badminton Team

After having a rip roaring victory in the Tower Hamlets leg of the competition beating St John Cass, Morpeth, Bethnal Green Academy and a host of other schools, Swanlea School went on to the East London stage of the National Centre Parcs Badminton Tournament. As the

representatives of Tower Hamlets the weight of the world was on their shoulders and they took that in their stride.

The team, including Tuhin Ahmed, Shipon Miah, Brian Wong and Sakib Ahmed travelled to the University of East London to compete against schools from all over east London. The completion was well fought and a number of very talented players were there representing their schools.

Swanlea beat a number of schools to finish third out of eight on the day, gaining a bronze medal. A great performance at a very high level of badminton. Many congratulations to all members of the team, especially Brian Wong who was player of the tournament.

Year 9 G&T and the great outdoors

30 Year 9 Gifted and Talented pupils braved the cold temperatures of a Saturday in January to experience the great outdoors at the Stubbers Outdoor Adventure centre. The pupils were involved in a set of tasks related to team challenges and challenging physical activities. The pupils took to the challenges with confidence and with a great willingness to persevere and overcome. The pupils underwent sessions in raft building, abseiling, and climbing the high ropes. The focus on the day was to develop communication, team work, leadership, problem solving and determination.

Their reward for facing the challenges heads on with a smile was a fire place gathering, with the delights of marshmallows and popcorn.



Swanlea take courtside seats at the 2013 Badminton World Championships

As recognition for our commitment and dedication to Badminton this year, we were offered the prestigious opportunity to volunteer as Courtside Assistants at the All England World Championship Badminton Competition at the N.I.A in Birmingham.

9 pupils, undeterred by the 6 hour round trip were magnificent ambassadors for Swanlea School. The pupils were Daniel Lambert- Neu 8W, Istiak Ahmed 10S, Sufian Chowdhury 10L, Rahim Ahmed 10N, Cindy Wong 10E, Brian Wong 8N, Amina Khatun 10L, Roda Abokor 10L and Rubaina Aayshee 10E

Students wore their Swanlea PE kit with pride and worked very diligently on the court. It was a real test of character as they had to complete their task in front of a thousand plus spectators. They displayed great maturity and professionalism throughout.

Not only were they able to enhance their leadership and volunteering skills but they were able to marvel in the great speed and power of the top International players in the world, from only 4 metres away. Their display of efficiency was celebrated by the organisers and as a result we have been informally invited to volunteer at another championship at the Olympic park later this year.

Lucky 7

Victory in the Tower Hamlets Indoor Rowing Championship has been a long time coming, 7 years in fact! Finally the Swanlea boys Indoor rowing team have tasted the sweet taste of victory. Jubilation was summed up by team captain, Aminul Islam 11N, who said "I was first introduced to Indoor Rowing by my big brother Bodrhul (an ex-Swanlea student who is currently at university) when I first came to Swanlea in Year 7. My brother had already spoken to me about the previous battles with Stepney Green & Bishop Challoner School. Unfortunately we were unable to win the competition whilst he was at Swanlea, but I have finally done it in my final year at school".

They were some magnificent performances, notably Tajwar Uddin 7N who rowed 534 Metres in two minutes, Justas Zagurskas 8L rowed 814metres in 3 minutes and Gabriel Olanrewaju 9A rowed 1063 in 4 minutes. All three boys won their respective races. In the girl's competition there were some brave performances, with Bethan Turner 11A rowing 1379 metres in 6 minutes to finish in second place. The girls finished third overall in their competition. In the joint competition it came down to the wire with us being piped to first place by Sir John Cass School, who won with the smallest margin of two points.

NEWS FROM THE P.E. TEAM...

Mr Grant, Ms Boller, Mr Bunting, Mr Curran, Mr Poynor & Ms Ravenscroft



Middlesex Girls Inner Borough Final U13s

After winning every match played in the Tower Hamlets tournament, the U13 cricket team went on to compete in the Middlesex Inner Borough final. The girls played extremely well, winning all matches in their group and getting through to the final. Unfortunately the final victory wasn't to be, but they can hold their heads up high as the second best team in London!

The team: Anisa Yasmin, Blaze Emin, Saira Akhtar, Fahmida Begum, Hani Elmie, Tanha Kazi, Fatema Begum, Juma Begum, Tashreefa Rafeek and Fathima Khatun.

U15s

Again, after winning every match in the previous tournament, the U15s cricket team went on to compete in the Middlesex Inner Borough final. They were determined to go one better than the U13s, although their matches were not as easy in the group stages. The team fought through to gain a place in the final. However, not far into the match, we were unlucky with some of our best batters being caught or stumped out. The team claims the title of second best in London. Well done!

The team: Hani Elmie, Fatema Begum, Roda Abokor, Amina Khatun, Lucky Aktaur, Cindy Wong Jamie Irvine, Shanjida Begum, and Rifah Anjum.

All girls involved were an absolute credit to themselves and the school, displaying great sportswomanship throughout.

Center Parcs National Schools Badminton Championships

The KS4 badminton team - Cindy Wong, Roda Abokor, Amina Khatun, Lucky Aktaur and Jamie Irvine,



went along to the National Schools Badminton Championships on February 12th. There was some tough competition to get through. The first singles game was very tense, with our number one player, Cindy, up against their number one player. It was against the team we had our eye on, and knew we needed to beat! Cindy triumphed, winning 15-13. However, the rest of the games against them did not go down as smoothly. Overall we managed to gain a place in the semi-final and came out 4th. The girls gave it their best and were a credit to the school. Well done!

Year 8 Dodgeball Inter-tutor

The dodgeball inter-tutor tournament was a first of its kind in Swanlea School and a winner for the best movie based intertutor PE competition in 2013. Pupils competed hard and competed fast, they ducked, dipped, dived and dodged as if their lives depended on it. The eventual winners -after a hard fought contest with 8L, were 8C. Well done 8C!

The next inter-tutor tournament will be cricket and is coming up on Tuesday 19/03/13, so Year 8 better get ready!

