

SWANLEA NEWS

Swanlea Business & Enterprise College



ISSUE 60 SPRING 2008

NEW ENTERPRISE INITIATIVE BACKED BY PRIME MINISTER LAUNCHED AT SWANLEA





Welcome, parents, students, friends and colleagues, to the new year. I hope you all enjoyed the seasonal break and have had a pleasant 2008 thus far.

Staff and students at Swanlea are never ones to rest on their laurels and you will see throughout this issue of Swanlea News just a snapshot of the many exciting events and activities that have occurred at school over the last term. From after-school parent and student workshops – most notably the recent one led by Ms Dudhia for Year 10, to the National indoor rowing championships, drama workshops and an all-female boxing team (meeting royalty no less!), Swanlea continues to grow, develop and excel.

I hope you enjoy reading about our accomplishments!

GORDON BROWN, PRIME MINISTER, PRAISES SWANLEA

Ms Daly, MRO

On Tuesday 11th March Swanlea hosted a visit by Gordon Brown, Prime Minister, the Chancellor Alistair Darling, the Business Secretary John Hutton, and the Chairman of Meryll Lynch, Bob Wigley to launch a new, government-backed National Enterprise Academy.

Gordon Brown spoke to staff and students about the importance of Enterprise education and held Swanlea up as an example. Peter Jones, who is partly funding the academy, talked about entrepreneurs creating a 'can do' society and how the new academy aims to be 'a catalyst for cultural change in the UK'.

Ministers spent time with students, hearing their ideas and debating issues. All the visitors commented on the exceptional confidence and self-assurance of Swanlea students, with Peter Jones even encouraging one group of students to set up their own website promoting Fairtrade products. Who knows, perhaps we'll see it on the next *Dragon's Den*!



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Business & Enterprise INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



ARTS COUNCIL
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Healthy Schools

YEAR 10: PARENT & STUDENT EVENING

Ms Dudhia, Assistant Headteacher

On January 24th staff, students and parents gathered in the hall to take part in a workshop targeted at working to support Year 10 students. Two consultants from Tower Hamlets, Ms Lynn Stone and Ms Sharon Sullivan came to help lead the group activity where parents and students alike worked to come up with effective working strategies. Both Ms Sen from the English Faculty, and Mr Chowdhury from the Maths Faculty gave presentations on their 'Top Ten Tips' to get ahead, and all attendants were given a pack of information, including the school's 'Top Ten Tips to be successful in Year 10'. The event was enormously successful, with representatives from the Parent Information Point also giving complementary resources to parents.

We hope to run many more sessions in the future and urge all parents and students to look out for letters home advertising upcoming events.

TEN TOP TIPS TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN YEAR 10: A GUIDE FOR PARENTS

This is your opportunity to re-engage with your child's education - Years 10 and 11 are crucial exam years and there is much you can do to assist.

1. Provide a quiet space for study or consider having special study times.
2. Attend any school events such as parents evening and talk to teachers about your child's progress or any concerns.
3. Keep informed about your child's progress through informal discussions with them and by checking their school planner.
4. Provide support and encouragement – be positive and avoid criticism.
5. Make sure you know about coursework deadlines and subject expectations.
6. Avoid making family demands at crucial times, such as coursework deadlines or exams.
7. Take an active part in your child's education, e.g. help with revision, testing them, reading their coursework, etc.
8. Keep your child focussed on their hopes for the future and their interests.
9. Encourage your child's interests in out of school activities, join clubs and community groups.
10. Record your child's favourite TV programme for 'treat times'.

SWANLEA STUDENTS: SEEK.STRIVE.SOAR

**Above right, Abid Uddin, 10N
Below right, Buluthan Karfal 10C**



SWANLEA BRINGS YOUNG ENTERPRISE TO PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Ms Pritchard
Business & Enterprise Coordinator

Swanlea is working in collaboration with Young Enterprise with five local primary schools to teach the children about enterprise, business, commerce and issues that concern the local community prior to coming to secondary school. Swanlea is pleased to be able to provide the funding for this exciting and innovative programme.

Young Enterprise has been a long standing and highly regarded charity that has 40 years experience working with young people. It offers a range of programmes, based on the principle of Learning by Doing, which brings volunteers from business into the classroom to work with teachers and students to develop skills and capabilities for business and enterprise.

Swanlea Sixth Formers will also be volunteering with Young Enterprise and will be working alongside specialists from the UK's leading Business and Enterprise charity in order to help deliver the programme. This is an exciting opportunity for our Sixth Formers and for the primary school children concerned and will help motivate, inspire and educate students from a young age about what it means to be enterprising.

SWANLEA STUDENTS WIN ENTERPRISE CHALLENGE!

Ms Pritchard
Business & Enterprise Coordinator

Swanlea's triumphant win at the Hackney and District Challenge

Swanlea School brought 10 students to Cardinal Pole School on the 26th February to compete against other schools within Tower Hamlets and Hackney in the Enterprise Challenge. Their objective was to come up with a game or toy for under 10s that was innovative, unique and fun. The first group, which consisted of Jakir Hussain, Protima Begum, Khadiza Begum Miah, Joynul Alom and Masum Uddin made a Frisbee that turns into a ball to encourage young people to get out and exercise therefore combating obesity. The second group who included James Stockings, Courtney Chin, Javid Gokce, Fahmida Khanom and Sheldon Porteous came up with a wearable dartboard with Velcro balls. The aim of the game was for each opponent to try and get the highest score by throwing the balls at the other opponents dart board. Again this is encouraging exercise in the under tens and working towards cutting down on obesity. Both teams came up with excellent ideas, which showed great enterprising potential. Swanlea took both the first and second position, which was a magnificent victory. The teachers and Enterprise Challenge coordinators all stated how well behaved the Swanlea students behaved and what a good role model they were for Swanlea

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY EXTRAVAGANZA AT SWANLEA

March 8th 2008

On a Saturday afternoon at Swanlea school a wonderful event unfolded. It was International Women's Day, celebrated all over the world for the past 99 years. Ordinary women and girls celebrating their struggles for peace, equality and justice. And Swanlea wanted to be a part of that celebration. Girls and young women from all over the Borough performed with us at Swanlea. New Avenues Youth and Community Project, City Girls Project, Project Space, St. Hilda's Settlement and Cubitt Town Junior School were part of the audience and the performance. Delicious food was served by Ms Ayaz to over 250 women and girls. We had a 'magical' afternoon with dance, singing and a Fashion Show.

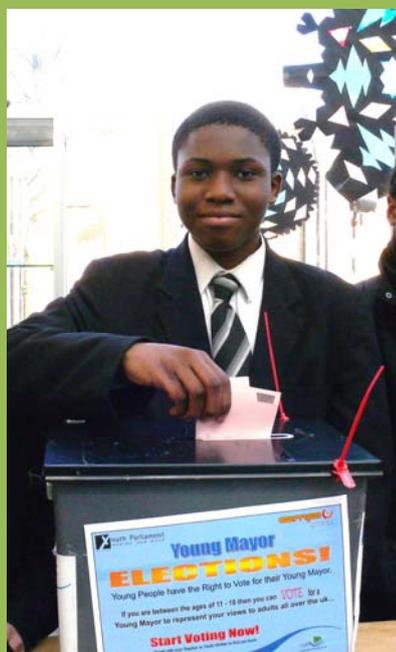
Ms Chadwick, Extended Schools Manager



NEW YOUNG MAYOR FOR LONDON?....

Mr Goodman, Deputy Headteacher

The start of February saw some serious political debates amongst the staff and students at Swanlea as we considered the future candidate for Young Mayor of Tower Hamlets. Our very own candidate, Alex Kuye and his campaign team, Ashley Nelson, Tarik Britton and Patrick Kidwell, supported by our ever helpful SPARC student leaders, have worked tirelessly to spread the message of the importance of involvement within local community and participation. Hundreds of students cast their votes during their lunchbreak and we awaited the results with baited breath...



Left, Alex Kuye, right, Ataur Rahman, 9E



We were all delighted to learn a week later that Alex had been elected Deputy Mayor – a significant accomplishment and a testament to all the hard work and effort he and his team have

put in. Alex will be called to represent London at a number of high profile events over the coming year, and will also continue his mentoring and role-modelling duties to all at Swanlea.

YEAR 11 GCSE EXAMS - THE FINAL COUNTDOWN

Ms Hartigan, Assistant Headteacher

Year 11 will begin their final written examinations shortly after the Spring Holiday. They will begin on 12th May and continue until 20th June. This will give pupils the opportunity to show what they have learned during their secondary education.



It is vitally important that all pupils should spend a significant amount of this holiday revising each day.

Pupils have been encouraged to make a revision timetable and so we would like parents to check that a significant amount of revision is being done every day.

HOLIDAY REVISION SESSIONS:

The school is offering structured revision classes at the following times:

- ⇒ Monday 7th April 9am- 3pm
- ⇒ Tuesday 8th April 9am -3pm
- ⇒ Wednesday 9th April 9am -3pm

Classes are being offered in the following subjects:

- Year 11 Applied Science: Mr Choudhury
- Year 11 Science: Ms Amoa
- Food Technology & Graphic Design: Mr Compton
- German Mock Oral: Ms Soares
- History: Ms Hartigan
- English: Ms Scholtz
- Humanities: Ms Ludlow
- Media Studies: Mr Browne

IN SCHOOL LEARNING - NO STUDY LEAVE

Students are expected to attend school every day until their final written examination on 20th June. Therefore there will be no Study Leave. It is vitally important that pupils are present and on time for every exam for which they are entered. Please arrange any medical appointments outside of this time. If you are unsure please contact the school.

SWANLEA HOSTS VISIT FROM THE WORLD MINISTERIAL SEMINAR ON TECHNOLOGY IN SCHOOLS

Mr Firth, Assistant Headteacher

On January 7th Swanlea was privileged to be invited by the Department for Children, Families and Skills to host a visit by the World Ministerial Seminar on Technology in schools.

Swanlea was selected to be visited for its exemplary use of technology, and we were very happy to lead the delegates – which included Ministers of Education from all around the world, on a tour of Swanlea's facilities.



"It was a great opportunity, meeting Ministers of Education from all around the world. I learnt a lot from listening to them." **Year 10 student**



"It was enlightening - everyone commented on the incredible resources available to students at Swanlea – it made me realise how lucky students are."

Ayesha Begum, 11L, above

GOOD LUCK

We wish all of Year 11 success with their revision and their examinations and look forward to their fantastic results in August!



SWANLEA GAINS HEALTHY SCHOOL STATUS

Ms Hartigan
Assistant Headteacher

Its official! Swanlea is good for your health!

In December 2008 Swanlea achieved Healthy School Status which is a national award. This recognises all of the work being done by pupils and staff to raise awareness of, and adopt, healthy lifestyles. This is reflected in the taught curriculum, extra-curricular activities and recreation times. The number of PE lessons has increased and there are numerous sports clubs after school and on Saturdays. The PSHE curriculum also includes units on Healthy Eating, Drugs Awareness and Relationships and the school restaurant provides a variety of nutritious, healthy lunches. Evidence suggests that pupils perform better if they are not dehydrated so this year all Year 11 pupils were given a bottle of water during their Mock exams and were encouraged to drink water every day.

We are now working towards even more improvement. This year we are raising awareness about packed lunch choices and the importance of eating healthily in and out of school.

HEALTHY SCHOOL LUNCHES

We are delighted that the vast majority of pupils are eating a healthy lunch every day. An increasing number of pupils are eating a school prepared lunch in the restaurant and the school catering manager, Ms Ogun, works very hard to ensure that lunches are healthy and varied. Salads and fruit and a vegetarian option are available daily and chips are only offered once week.

WHO HASN'T BEEN TO DINNER?

A small number of pupils may not be eating lunch. We would be grateful if parents could monitor this. If your child is not eating a school prepared meal please ensure that they have a packed lunch or a home prepared meal. All pupils can apply to be allowed home for lunch by completing a form available from the school office.

PACKING A HEALTHY LUNCH

While the majority of pupils bringing packed lunches are choosing healthy options, a small number are not. Please can parents monitor this carefully.

Salty or sugary snacks and drinks should not be included in packed lunches. Fizzy drinks are forbidden in the restaurant and should not be brought into school at all. Water is freely available in the restaurant and at other points.

A HEALTHY PACKED LUNCH



HOME DINNERS

It is pleasing to know that some of our pupils enjoy a healthy home prepared lunch. In order to have time to eat this we expect all pupils going out for lunch to be at home at this time. For this reason pupils going home for lunch should have left school by 1pm at the latest and they should return no earlier than 1.30pm. Pupils being allowed home for lunch should not be using fast food outlets nearby the school and if any pupil is found doing so the privilege of being allowed out will be withdrawn.



READING CHAMPIONS COME TO SWANLEA



Reading Champions is all about getting boys to think differently about reading. It's about getting boys to read, enjoy and understand different books.

Year 9 boys who are known to read and enjoy reading have been selected to be paired up with Year 7 boys. The Library has invested in many new, high interest "books for boys" which are targeted especially at boys of this age and concerning subjects that many boys are interested in such as sport, super heroes, cars etc.

At the beginning of the session the Year 7 pupils choose a book they want to read from the Reading Champions shelves and the Year 9 students buddy these younger pupils, getting them to read or reading to them. The session lasts for half an hour and all this time the library is for the use the Reading Champions alone, so they get to chose what and where they read, on the bean bags, sofas or anywhere else in the library.

Apart from attempting to challenge these younger boys' views about reading, we also hope through this initiative to develop the Year 7s reading level and general confidence in reading, writing and expressing themselves.



Ms Bami and Ms Musa

Rokki Parvez, 7A and Sadeeq Abdi, 9L

SWANLEA ALUMNI: FORMER HEAD GIRL WINS SCHOLARSHIP



Ratia Begum, with Mr Pennick, Art Teacher

Ratia Begum (Swanlea Alumni 2006) has been granted £5000 scholarship for Art and Design by Allen and Overy, a prestigious international legal firm.

"I had to submit a portfolio of evidence and then go through a panel interview, which was really nerve-racking, but I got through it OK in the end. It was good because the mentor I was given through Allen and Overy helped me with my personal statement and my interview preparation."

Ratia plans to use the scholarship to fund her tuition at university where she hopes to study interior design. "I wanted to come back to Swanlea and tell Ms Austin and Mr Pennick – who was my art teacher and started all of this off for me. I wanted to thank him for all his help."

Ms Daly, MRO

YEAR 11 CELEBRATE RESULTS

Ms Hartigan, Assistant Headteacher

Year 11 had a special award ceremony in January to celebrate their hard work in their mock examinations. Students were awarded certificates and prizes from all subjects, in both 'top mark' and for significant effort. Congratulations to the pupils who achieved 'Top Marks' in their class and well done to pupils who achieved certificates for all round improvement. The following pupils received special awards for their achievement, exemplary attitude and service to the community.



EXEMPLARY STUDENT AWARD

Peter Tackacs Patrick Damiani Silva
Mohi Uddin Mohammed Ahmed
Tahina Begum Nazia Sultana Rob
Iolanda Diana Boros Nusrat Jahen

SERVICE TO THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY

Peter Takacs – Head Boy
Abu Hassan – Head Boy
Iolande Diana Boros – Head Girl
Aysha Begum – Head Girl

★ YEAR 7 SPELLING STARS! ★

Twelve Year 7 pupils took part in the final spelling competition on 13th February in assembly. They got there by winning the spelling competition in their own form groups.

There was absolute silence in the sports hall as each pupil spelt words that were chosen from a list of words taken from the National Curriculum subject lists. All the participants did so well that we had to have three winners!



Syed Imran Ali (7W), Ruhena Begum (7E) and Nalima Begum (7E) spelt all the words correctly.



They all received a signed copy of a book by famous children's author, Darren Shan.

Congratulations to all the pupils who took part and WELL DONE!

Ms Bami, School Librarian

CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP



There were some future writers in the Swansea School Library on the 12th February

Budding writers from Year 9 had an exciting day as they got their creative juices flowing, inspired by a talk by local author, Catherine

Johnson who has written many children's books. She read extracts from her book and then spoke to pupils about how they can use their personal experiences to inform their own writing.

Ms Johnson spoke to them about several objects she had in her bag e.g. a CD, diary, stone, etc and then asked them to choose two objects to use in writing the beginning of a story. The pupils got writing and then shared their stories with the whole group - I definitely want to know the end of some of the stories the pupils wrote!

Pupils also had an opportunity to ask Ms Johnson questions about her writing and get books signed by her.



Mohammed Abu Thair, 8C

Ms Bami
School Librarian

SPARC-LED FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT UNITES YEAR 7

On 18th January SPARC students went to the Cardfield Centre in Essex to participate in workshops designed to help us become better leaders. One of the ideas that came from our trip was to arrange a series of football tournaments, designed to help unite Year 7 students.

Having spoken to students myself, I knew that a number of them had a desire for more activities as lunchtimes, as well as a sense of unease about the lack of communication between groups of students within Year 7. In an attempt to help, I, together with Mr Basit, Learning Mentor, had held a series of tournaments – this term for boys, and next term for girls.

The project has proved to be a huge success, with many students approaching me to tell me how well they have come to know other Year 7 students, and how much they have enjoyed the activity. It has also been a useful deterrent for unsportman-like behaviour, both on and off the

pitch. If a player receives 2 yellow cards in a tournament, they are automatically banned from playing in the next match, unless they demonstrate exemplary conduct within lessons.



Andrew Brand, 7L, above
celebrating success

Mohammed Zahed
Ahmed 10E

Year 7 students, below,
watching the tournament

YEAR 7 FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT



I IS A LONG MEMORIED WOMAN: DRAMA STUDENTS ENTHRALL SCHOOL

Mr Shindler, Head of Drama/PVA

On the week of 11th January a group of students from arrange of year groups took part in a play created to mark this year's commemorations on slavery. The students explored the historical events of slavery, as well as wider contemporary issues such a gun crime, the murder of Steven Lawrence, and modern slavery. The students explored Grace Nichol's collection of poetry 'I is a long memoried woman' and drew inspiration from workshops with Afro Reggae, a capoeira company, as well as an African Theatre company.

The cast performed to each year group during assembly, with an additional evening performance on Thursday 14th January – all in all performing to over 800 people. It was a considerable task and one that the cast handled with grace and poise. All worked incredibly hard and it was clear from the audience reaction that everyone enjoyed the performance greatly.

"I found it entrancing; the performance encapsulated the confusion and absurdity of racist ideology." Mr Hassany, Parent

"I found the way the play dealt with slavery and still managed to be humorous to be very special" Year 9 student, Swanlea

Quotes obtained by Jacob Delaz-Hassany, Year 10

CONGRATULATIONS TO

COURTNEY, BETHLEHEM, JACOB, BATOOL, SYMONE, MICHELLE, YOLANDE, SHAHINA, PROTIMA, LEONORA, CHIEZLZA, AMAL, FARZANA, JENNIE, ENIOLA, YASMIN, STEFAN, ROSIE



YEAR 7 FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT



SPORTING FIXTURES AND RESULTS



As part of curriculum studies, all Year 10 students have been participating in non-contact boxing sessions run by Wayne Llewellyn, the 'Boxing for Schools' co-ordinator.

On Tuesday 22nd January, a number of Year 10 girls were selected to represent Swanlea School at the York Hall's-Present & Past Launch. A big highlight to the day was the arrival of the Duke of Kent to view the exhibition. Miss Foley had an opportunity to meet HRH the Duke of Kent to discuss how well the girls at Swanlea School were performing in the boxing program. This was a publicised event that encompassed a range of different initiatives running in the borough.

Congratulations to the following girls for a fantastic effort in representing Swanlea.

Many thanks go to Wayne (Boxing for Schools), Miss Chadwick and Ms Daly (MRO) for the support on the day.



Above, Sultana Begum, Shumina Chowdhury, Shahina Begum, Rahima (Jennie) Begum, Aklima Khanom and Shahana Begum at York Hall.

NATIONAL YOUTH INDOOR ROWING CHAMPIONSHIPS

18 Swanlea students qualified for the National Youth Indoor Rowing Championship recently. Shayful Hoque in Year 7 came 2nd and Ali Akbar came 7th – an outstanding result. Well done to all students who took part.



Left to right: Rashmin Begum, 8S, Bodhrul Islam, 10L, Michelle Chongan, 10W, Justine Gonzales, 9L, Shayful Rahman 7N, Saiduz Zaman, 9S, Anthony Williams, 8N, and Tahmina Choudhury 7S

SWANLEA TAKES PART IN ALL LONDON INDOOR CRICKET FINALS AT LORDS

A group of Year 8 students represented Tower Hamlets in the all London indoor cricket finals at Lords and won their first 2 games. They then lost by only 1 wicket in the final – a superb performance by the team and their coach, Mr Grant.

The team: Mitu Ahmed (Captain), Abbas Ali, Barak Chowdhury, Ankar Ali, Foyzul Hussain, Waliur Rahman, Jahed Hussain, Rashed Ahmed, Ali Akbar and Shaydul Hoque.

BADMINTON CHAMPIONS

Year 7 – Shaydul Hoque

Year 8 Mitu Ahmed 8A

Year 9 Shahan Hussain 9W

Year 10 Arif Ahmed 10N