

SWANLEA NEWS



SWANLEA BUSINESS & ENTERPRISE COLLEGE

Issue 67
Summer 2010



Swanlea Music Department



LETTER FROM THE HEAD



It was with great optimism and pride that Swanlea staff said farewell to this year's Year 11 students at their leaving ceremony recently. We wish all our students the very best in whatever they go on to do, and look forward to celebrating their examination results with them in August.

As the academic year draws to a close, we continue our efforts to celebrate the many wonderful accomplishments our students have achieved over the course of the year. This year's Whole School Awards ceremony was truly a great celebration of students' hard work, and very many thanks go to Ms Gardner for putting together such a marvellous evening.

The school's international links continue to grow, and we were delighted to welcome some Headteachers from Bangladesh to our school this term (above). Ms Williams has coordinated a number of valuable projects with our link schools, and you can read more about the international banner project within this edition of Swanlea News.

The official opening celebration of the new Music Department was a particular highlight of this term. Ms Brownlee has created what has only been imagined before, and I look forward to future performances with great anticipation.

With very best wishes for a restful Summer break to all students, parents, staff and friends of Swanlea.

Linda Austin



LETTER FROM THE GOVERNORS

**MR ULLAH,
VICE-CHAIR
OF GOVERNORS**



Dear all

This gives me enormous pleasure to be able to write for Swanlea Newsletter. As many of you will know I have been always connected with the London Borough of Tower Hamlets where I live and work. My children is in Swanlea School and in October 2007 I have been elected as a parent governor. Currently I am also one of the two vice chairs of the School Governing Body.

My role as a parent governor has been very rewarding. I have been able to see from close quarters the way a very large outstanding school works and this is not easy. Naturally I am very proud of our children, the way they have been achieving and progressing in their lives. They are well behaved and when I compare our children with children of other similar schools immediately I find our children are miles ahead. They are miles ahead in manners and also in the way they dress. They just stand out from others. This makes us all very content and the job that we do as governors become worthwhile.

My contact with parents and carers contribute in my understanding of the aspirations they all have for their children. This is no different from what I expect from my own children. Consequently I rededicate myself for the work that I do as governor for Swanlea School.

**SALIM ULLAH
PARENT GOVERNOR**

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AMAZING SPACE:

STUDENTS HIT THE HIGH NOTE

Swanlea was treated to a musical extravaganza on the official opening ceremony for the new Music Department on 14th June. Students performed a wonderful piece in the brand new amphitheatre, composed and arranged in collaboration with members of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra (RPO). Students attended a special workshop with the professional musicians from the RPO over the weekend and spent the time writing music and rehearsing for the opening concert with them.

The lucky guests – students, staff, Governors and special friends of the school, were stunned by the quality of the music being performed. The audience were further delighted by the fantastic fanfare performed by the brass ensemble to welcome guests to the new music facility. The music treats were not yet over – after Ms Brownlee’s speech, suddenly a troupe of expert flutists appeared as if from nowhere and surprised

us all with their brilliant and accomplished performance of “Hot Chilli”.

It was a wonderful day, and the students had much to be proud of. Sincere thanks and congratulations go to Ms Brownlee, Head of Music, for this most magnificent launch of the Music Department. We all look forward to the many more performances to come.

**MS DALY
MEDIA OFFICER**



GREAT BALLS OF BOCCIA!



After a year of practising their Boccia skills and some rather tough training in Mall every Tuesday, the P Level class were finally ready to face the competition at the London Youth Games. On May 24th the P level class represented Tower Hamlets in an all day Boccia tournament. Five of Swanlea's finest athletes made up the team; Foridha Yasmin and Rizwan Miah of Year 7, Absar Miah Year 8, Kamrul Islam and Shofiqur Rahman of Year 9.

It was an early start for the eager competitors who took the school mini bus all the way to West Way Sports Centre in Hammersmith.

The team took on five other boroughs, including Ealing, Croydon and Hackney. The P Level team remained undefeated, winning four and drawing one game. This was enough to qualify for the quarter finals, the furthest the P Level team from Swanlea had ever made it before.

The P level team were feeling confident after winning the semi-finals without a hitch. The final was a very tense game with both teams scoring point for point. It all came down to the last game with Tower Hamlets in front by one ball, until a strategic throw from our competitors placed them

closest to the jack. The Swanlea P Level students tried their very best, surrounding the jack with all 6 of their Boccia balls. It came down to the last ball. The umpire has to make a difficult decision to determine who would win the London Youth Games. We came 2nd by 1cm and are extremely excited by the result. We were each presented with a silver medal. We are very proud of our efforts and are aiming to win gold next year!

**MS ORCHARD
P LEVEL TEACHER**

SWANLEA PARENTS HAVE IT ALL SEWN UP

In May, some parents from Swanlea began a 10 week embroidery course run by Eden Soloman from The Parental Engagement Team; Eden had previously run the successful Crotchet Course last year.

The Embroidery Course proved to be extremely popular and our parents learnt a number of different stitches and have produced an embroidered panel which will be displayed in the school. Due to the popularity of the course, there was a wish for the club to be continued. Ever vigilant to the wishes of parents, we are delighted to announce that the club is continuing every Wednesday morning in the school library! Standards are very high, and the skills those within the club have acquired are admirable. Members are now using their new

embroidery skills to create attractive patterns onto cotton bags which will be sold as part of a business venture. We hope to expand the range of embroidered products, and orders are more than welcome!

The club is open to all to learn embroidery skills, but please feel free to come into the library when the club is running or pop into my office when you have time and view their work and give me your orders.

The quality of the needlework of the bags is superb, but most importantly our parents have gained a very productive and enjoyable new skill.

**MS CHOWDHURY
PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT
COORDINATOR**



FLASH FORWARD TO FUTURE SUCCESS!

In a bid to raise the motivation and aspirations of a select number of students in Year 10, Ms Pritchard & Ms Khatun enlisted the help of young social entrepreneur, Mr Lodhia, who has recently set up his own company, The Small Business Consultancy. The Small Business Consultancy works with groups of people typically thought of as hard-to-reach, and works to try to help inspire them to become more successful, increase their confidence, and learn to thrive.

20 students worked for 5 weeks with Mr Lodhia and his team to develop their vision of where they want to be in life. The students have learnt skills which have helped them adjust their perspectives and adopt a more positive 'can do' attitude. The programme has been brilliant and we are all encouraged by the progress students have made.



The five week programme culminated with a visit to Cass Business School on Monday 17th May, where Mr Lodhia, alumni of the university, has just launched a scholarship fund. Students had the opportunity to speak to staff and students and have a tour of the building. The trip contributed to helping change the

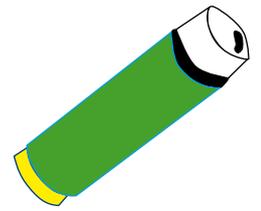
young students' perspectives and mindset. We hope that they now have a clearer view of what they want to achieve in life and feel they are now better equipped with the tools to accomplish what they want.

Ms Pritchard
Business & Enterprise Coordinator



THE PEN HUT

The Young Chamber is a Business Enterprise supported by the London Chamber of Commerce.



The Pen Hut stocks a large range of stationary & equipment for school.

It includes students from Years 7, 8 & 9 and a few sixth formers.



The club is held every Wednesday lunch time.

The chamber is a collection of 240 schools across the country that help to develop enterprise activities in schools.

The Pen Hut is the idea of the Young Chamber Business club.



The Pen Hut also stocks books and was recently lucky enough to host a book launch & signing.

Mr Berk's book - "School Work: one day in the life of an outstanding secondary school" was unveiled this June to great success.

The sales in the Pen Hut has been £220 in 15 working days.



So far the Pen Hut has achieved its daily sales targets & has been very pleased with the positive response from students & teachers to the initiative.

The Pen Hut is a profit making business and members of the Young chamber hope to reach daily sales target of £10 in order to reach their goal of going to Disneyland Paris...



WRITE ON-

This year, pupils from across the East 1 Schools' Partnership have been involved in a new and exciting writing project. The project involved 60 Gifted and Talented pupils from Years 2-8 working together to produce a book about their experience of London.

Throughout the year, pupils took part in 3 trips, including one to a theatre to see the play *Oliver!*, a trip along the Southbank (including a ride on the London Eye and a 4D film experience) and, finally,

a summer trip to Kensington Gardens. "It was an adventure for everyone discovering new places that pupils have never seen before," said one pupil involved in the project. "What we saw was interesting and fun. The activities were fun because we are writing our own book and having it published is a great thing."

The trips provided the pupils with experience of different aspects of London and gave them much to draw upon in their writing. After

each trip, the pupils participated in a writing workshop with award-winning children's author, **Val Rutt**. We were hugely fortunate to be able to work with such a talented and exciting author.

"The writing project has been a fantastic experience for both the children and the adults involved. It has given these children a chance to approach writing in a creative and stimulating way, which has hopefully inspired them to continue to enjoy writing."

East 1 Teacher

"It was an exciting journey because we got to experience new things like going on the London Eye and we got a chance to write about what we saw which is going to go into the book. It was nice that lots of schools from Tower Hamlets came together"

East 1 Student



EAST 1!

During these workshops they developed their writing skills and learned how an author edits and produces writing for a book. One of the teachers involved in the project said "I think the project's aim to let children experience (first hand) the sights and attractions of London to enhance writing has been achieved." The project finished with an illustration day with an artist where the pupils produced artwork for their pieces of writing.

The book will be launched during the autumn term of next academic year.

Ms Allen
Project
Manager

"The writing project has been a wonderful experience for the children and for myself. The shared experiences have been a catalyst for some fantastic pieces of sustained writing. Some of the children involved have never visited the West End, the South Bank or Kensington Gardens before and this project has allowed them access to these places and has really inspired their writing"

East 1 Teacher

It was a once in a lifetime experience. I enjoyed the way everyone worked together.

East 1 Student



CHILDREN OF THE PLANET HAVE A WALES OF A TIME



Following on from Ms Pritchard visiting schools out in Oman as part of the British Council's 'Connecting Classrooms Project', Ms Chowdhury & Ms Pritchard have created a 'Children of the Planet' club, which has run every Tuesday for the past two terms with Key Stage 3 pupils.



recently had the opportunity to go to Orielton, Wales to take part in an Eco Field Studies trip. Students built dens in the forest, went on coastal walks, built bird boxes and learnt more about conservation and the environment. Everyone had a brilliant time and really enjoyed learning more in such an amazing and vibrant environment.

An unforeseen but particular highlight of the trip was the strong friendships that the students made with another group of young people from a school in Manchester. Despite initial reservations, both



groups of students put aside their nerves and soon formed wonderful friendships. A trip to Manchester is now in the pipeline!

Ms Pritchard
Business & Enterprise Coordinator

Students have done a range of activities, from writing letters to pen friends, exchanging photographs, and learning about different cultures each week. In September, Swanlea will host a visit from a group of teachers from Oman. We look forward to being able to share with them the work that Swanlea does, and discuss in greater depth how it compares to their schools in Oman.

The 'Children of the Planet' clubs aims to make children more culturally, environmentally, nationally and globally aware. So, as part of the club's activities, 23 'Children of the Planet' students



BANNERS BOURNE ABROAD

An exciting banner project took place over 2 days on 28th and 29th June.

Three banners were designed and printed by students from KS3. They worked with the artist, Sarah Pimenta who has deep links with Swanlea. The banners depicted different well known places in

London that Swanlea students wanted to share with our partner schools in Italy, Japan and Oman.

Samina, Ambia, Aeron, Madia and Ekrem from 8A, Bushra from 8C, Sadik and Shah from 8N, Ashley and Simran from 8S, Fokrul and Salman from 7C and Mahbuba

and Hanna from 9S all took part in the project. They are all to be highly commended for their hard work, terrific team-work skills, and admirable artistic abilities.

MS WILLIAMS
DEPUTY COORDINATOR OF
LEARNING FOR YEAR 8



G&T PE SPREE!

Bell-boating, jet-skiing, high-ropes and quad-biking were just some leadership activities 10 lucky Gifted and Talented Physical Education students had the opportunity to participate in during their residential trip to Stubbers Outdoor Adventure Centre. This residential had the works -marshmallows by the campfire, trekking, late evening football matches, a treasure hunt, playground competitions and loads more.

The G&T students really showed their colours on the high-ropes. It was a very difficult course to conquer being approximately



20 metres high with challenging trails. Who would be the first brave enough to try it, we wondered... All the girls in the group - Resna, Shunaz & Reshmin took on the challenge without a flicker of hesitation. The boys were varied in their responses to the height but overall found it a very exciting activity. Even the rabbits could hear the shrieks of fear from Ms Flowers, however, as she speed down the zip wire. Gold!!

Continuing on with the 'Flowers' theme, Ms Foley decided to run a treasure hunt to challenge two willing teams. The end prize of boxes of chocolates was nearly lost and forgotten as one group, lead by the teacher that smells of roses, decided to write the description of the clue for the destination at the ...destination. Oh dear. Lets just say that if Mr Grant's group hadn't recruited Sakib and Suman as spies, then the treasure would still be hidden!!

As a department, we were proud of each student who attended the residential and are looking forward to another exciting chapter of the G&T PE Residential.

Many thanks to Ms Flowers, Mr Grant & Mr Guzda for assisting to make this residential such a success.

MS FOLEY
HOD PE



NEWS FROM THE P.E. TEAM...

Ms Flowers, Ms Foley, Mr Grant, Mr Guzda, Mr Heenan & Mr Thomas

CRICKET

With Mr Thomas and Mr Grant's hard work, Cricket is well and truly alive and kicking at Swanlea. There have been some excellent team and individual performances throughout the term. Swanlea has some very talented cricketers who are achieving some excellent results, both within and outside of school with their respective clubs. The Physical Education Department would like to congratulate all the students who have participated and represented the school with such distinction in Cricket. Below are some of the results from the term:

The Year 10 Cricket against Morpeth school was won by 7 wickets:

Sayedul 23

Hassan 16 not out

Outstanding Performance

Ankar 10A – 4/17 and took the first hatrick ever by a Swanlea student!
Year 10 Cricket – Stepney Green (semi final all London 20/20 cup)
We played like Bangladesh
They played like England
Therefore we LOST.

An outstanding performance by Mahi of Year 8 with figures of 4/15

Year 9 Cricket match

against Ernest Bevin Sports College was won by 10 runs to reach the London Semi Finals, with Shaykul at 78 not out. Shahruck and Mohosin bowled particularly well and Juned kept the wicket to a very high standard. Unluckily, the boys were beaten easily in the Semi Finals.



Year 8 Cricket

Year 8 is very fortunate to feature a young group of very talented and developing cricketers who will form the nucleus of Swanlea's Cricket Team into the future. These exciting players are:

- Shahruck
- Mahi
- Samsul
- Kamrul
- Mahi
- Jahangier
- Jamil

Students have been able to share their cricket expertise with other boys who do not have such an extensive cricketing background to record some excellent team performances.

Girls Cricket



A group of Year 7/8 girl students on Monday June 21st went on an excursion to the home of cricket, Lords. The girls were lucky enough to perform a number of cricket activities on the ground and get a tour around the famous MCC pavilion. Also, the World Champion Womens' English cricket team were doing a photoshoot on the day and were more than happy to take a photo and chat with the Swanlea girls.

The participants were

- Cindy Wong 7E
- Narmeen Naeem 7E
- Suki Rathore 7E
- Warda Abbey 7C
- Rububaina Aayahee 7E
- Shamima Begum 8S
- Bushra Hussean 8C
- Koli Begum 8C

HEALTH & RELAXATION DAY FOR YEAR 11 GIRLS

Year 11 girls had received lessons on different aspects of health-related fitness during the term and had thoroughly mastered the meditation section of the programme. They had all done so well that it was decided to treat them to a pamper day as a reward. This included a carousel of activities such as massage, facial treatments, nail treatments, hair braiding and Henna. Students were also given guidance on relaxation techniques - yoga and tai chi for example, to assist with the effects of stress. Students could use these techniques to help them cope more effectively with stress related to examinations. Guests speakers were invited to discuss general & women's health issues, and the importance of balance of body, mind and soul. Students were also given career guidance in these areas.

The participation was overwhelming with each young woman receiving a care package. An open invitation was taken up by some of the female relatives, who even had head massages and henna experiences! Even during the exams the year 11 students were asking for more sessions which shows the value of this programme and the enjoyment they obtained from it. All excellent news!

