

SWANLEA NEWS

SWANLEA BUSINESS & ENTERPRISE COLLEGE

Issue 73
Summer 2012



**SWANLEA STUDENTS TAKE CENTRE STAGE
AT SPITALFIELDS MUSIC FESTIVAL!**

ALSO

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THE BIG BOOK BUY

STUDENT VOICE AT PUPIL PARLIAMENT

YEAR 7 GIRLS GO TO AN AMAZING ADVENTURE ISLAND

LETTER FROM THE HEAD



Dear Parents, Carers, students and friends of Swanlea,

It may be the end of an academic year but Swanlea staff and students show no signs of slowing down! This term, we have been treated to a whole array of music performances, the fantastic exhibition by Year 11 Art students, Pupil Parliament, the Bank of America/Merrill Lynch Public Speaking competition, and much, much more. Students have gone on a whole range of trips, from all of the girls from Year 7 going on a weekend residential trip to a poetry slam workshop on the Southbank, to nearly 100 Music students being treated to the West End show, "Singing in the Rain" - Swanlea students have done it all!

It has been a tremendously exciting term, but also a challenging one with the examination season. Year 11, 12 and 13 students worked hard, and I am sure they will reap the rewards of their hard work in their results come the summer. Very many thanks to all of you who helped and supported them, from staff, family and friends, I know that it has been a huge collective effort and I am very grateful to you all for that.

With best wishes,



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



LETTER FROM THE GOVERNORS

MR HALL, COMMUNITY GOVERNOR



I am very pleased to introduce this edition of Swanlea News. I am a sponsored Governor asked to join the Governors by The Sutton Trust who are a well known charity supporting talented students. What strikes me most about Governors meetings is that everybody places students at the centre, all the [sometimes boring!] policies that have to be decided, the reviews of the faculties are all designed to help Swanlea students achieve the best they can. The results speak for themselves be it inside or outside the classroom. The coalition Government is attempting to make many changes in education in this country, there is evidence that in the State funded sector we are falling behind in the international comparisons. Schools such as Swanlea are great examples of what can be achieved with good leadership, good teaching and students who want to learn and do their best. I feel it is a real privilege to serve on the Board of Governors and be a small part of a really super school.

Best regards

David Hall
Community Governor

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THE BIG BOOK BUY!

Swanlea School Library now has a massive stack of new and exciting books chosen by our own students from Year 7 and 8. Our student reading experts spent a whole day browsing in the flagship Waterstones bookshop in Piccadilly, accompanied by librarian Ms Bami and myself.

The students – Syed Emad Uddeen, Syeda Tarin Pasha, Anika Haque and Shaker Ahmed – were invited to choose books for the library as a reward for their outstanding passion for independent reading. They all took their role as book selectors very seriously, coming along with lots of requests and recommendations from other keen readers in Years 7 and 8. The biggest problem was trying to choose from the hundreds of books on offer – we ended the day with over 100 exciting new titles ready to be boxed up and sent to us at Swanlea.

Waterstones gave us a celebrity welcome, with our own reading sofas, book trolleys and complimentary drinks and coffee at a special table in the stylish café, which has amazing views over London. Waterstones staff were so impressed by our students they let them write their own recommendations cards about their favourite novels, to join the staff recommendations on the bookshelves.

The new books will be on the library shelves this term, so come along and borrow an exciting new read, chosen by our own students.

**MS WARRINGTON
LEADER OF LITERACY
ACROSS THE CURRICULUM**



LITERARY LUNCH



On the 15th May Swanlea School Library hosted our first ever top readers' tea party. 25 Year 7 students and their parents were invited to come along to celebrate the students' outstanding achievements in reading this year. Some students had made excellent progress in the Lexia reading programme, while others were Accelerated Reader award winners. All of the students had shown an exceptional commitment to reading, using their free time to develop their reading skills and love of books.

Parents and students sat together among the bookshelves at cafe-style tables decorated with flowers. Ms Landers gave a speech and presented each student with an Accelerated Reader book light – yet another reason to enjoy curling up with a good book! After the presentations everyone enjoyed a true tea party feast, with delicious cakes baked for the occasion by Ms Martin, Ms Warrington and Ms Djaafar.

Ms Warrington
Leader of Literacy Across the Curriculum



POLITICS, PHILOSOPHY & ECONOMICS



Wednesday 20th June saw the culmination of 6 months worth of preparation by students from Year 9. About 200 students across the partnership schools took part in the Bank of America Merrill Lynch speaking competition this year, learning about all aspects of public speaking and presenting. From that group, 15 students from each school were selected to go forward onto the semi-final,

where they delivered their presentations to a prestigious panel of representatives from Bank of America Merrill Lynch. Four students were then given the opportunity to take part in the final at King Edward Hall, and compete against students from two other schools, Mulberry and Bow Boys. Rebecca Lambert-Neu, Yousef Haque, Md Naeem Khan and Azhar Khan all prepared outstanding presentations and impressed everyone who heard them throughout the process.

Students addressed serious topics such as the banking system, equality within the workplace, and government and taxes. Each student did brilliantly and we are all very proud of them.

Ms Khatun
Enterprise & Entitlement Coordinator



MUSIC NOTES



Well Done Swanlea Music on the most successful and musical year yet.

The Year 11 BTEC class continued the outstanding history of 100% A*-C for the GCSE. Their final recording projects were highly original and demonstrate how creative the students are at Swanlea School. A selection of their CD covers can be seen in the music display on the 1st floor. Congratulations Year 11!!!! The music department wishes you every success in your future ventures.

This year our Traditional Drumming Group performed at a number of concerts, including at the Mehendi of our maths teacher Ms Begum. They took centre stage as part of the opening of the Spitalfields Festival and they were a featured act at the Borough Beats Concert.



Our Swanlea School Choir continued their run of concert success. They recently performed at the Opening of the Spitalfields Festival Mid Summer Street Party. Earlier performances this year also include performing at the Bank of America Merrill Lynch. A group of music students who were nominated by the music instrumental staff were recently taken on a reward trip to see 'Singin' in the Rain'. It was a fantastic musical and the students made me extremely proud of both

their behaviour and positive attitude. These students were selected after their participation in the recent Swanlea Music Festival. It was a fantastic two days with over 103 students participating. Again my thanks go to THAMES (The Tower Hamlets Arts and Music Education Service) for their continued support with staff and instruments. The loan of big orchestral percussion has made a big impact to our orchestral arrangements this year.





We are again hosting the Tower Hamlets Youth Orchestra rehearsals at Swanlea School on Sunday the 8th of July and very much look forward to their concert on Thursday the 12th July. Best wishes to the 8 Swanlea School students who are performing with the orchestra.

- Encore –5th July (4.30)
- Year 5 and 6 Day - 6th July
- Awards evening 11th July
- Tower Hamlets Youth Orchestra 12th July
- ABRSM Exams Monday 16th July

who have supported their children's musical development this year. I really appreciate seeing parents, carers and families at our events and look forward to an even more musical 2012-2013 academic year.

I would also like to extend my personal thanks to the parents/carers

Ms Brownlee
Leader of Learning for Music



TREASURE ISLAND

In April this year, Year 7 girls went on a weekend transition and team building residential trip to the Isle of Wight. The girls spent a memorable and event packed weekend doing a variety of activities; from working as part of a team to solve a mystery, to supporting each other on obstacle courses, 3G Swing, fencing, archery, indoor laser, quad biking to name a few of the things. In the evenings, the girls took part in activities such as singing and roasting marshmallows round a campfire – luckily the rain held off that! A particular highlight was a game of beach rounders on a beautiful Isle of Wight beach. The whole trip was a great learning experience from start to finish. Maryam of 7S said, 'it was the best trip I've ever been on and helped me make friends from other classes!'

Thanks to Ms Khatun, Ms Reilly and Ms Iyer for giving up their weekend, and helping to make the residential such a success.

p.s. The Year 7 Boys have not been forgotten, they will be going out on a fantastic team building trip to Grosvenor Hall in Ashford this term.

MS CHOWDHURY
PUPIL/PARENT
PROJECT
CO-ORDINATOR



STUDENT VOICE



On Friday 29th June, 75 students from the 6 schools within the East 1 Schools' Partnership gathered for the annual Pupil Parliament event, hosted by Norton Rose. An exciting opportunity for students consider and challenge their own opinions, Pupil Parliament allows students to learn more about government, leadership and democracy. School council representatives from Swanlea and Canon Barnett, Kobi Nazrul, Osmani Primary, Stewart Headlam and Thomas Buxton Infant and Junior School, were selected to take part in the fantastic, day-long

event. Having prepared questions in advance, students were invited to ask the panel questions on topics which the students thought were important. Issues about the environment, bullying, crime, out of school opportunities all arose, and students from both primary and secondary sectors worked together to come up with proposals to take forward in their own schools. Students were treated to a prestigious panel of guest speakers – Trevor Phillips OBE, Chair, Equality and Human Rights Commission, Rushanara Ali MP, Member of Parliament for Bethnal Green & Bow, Shatha Ali, Associate, Norton Rose, John McLaverty, Youth and Schools Campaigner, Oxfam, Tony Burton, Police Sergeant, and Marcus Duran, Community Learning Manager, Toynbee Hall. The day was also skilfully chaired by Adeeab Razak, Head Boy of Swanlea School. Everyone had a wonderful time and really enjoyed being able to work with

other students across Tower Hamlets to explore and discuss such issues.

An exceptionally valuable opportunity for students to develop their own voice and learn how to take action for themselves, this year's Pupil Parliament was yet again, a wonderful experience. Very many thanks go to Norton Rose for their support and sponsorship of the event.

Ms Daly
Media Officer



Parents online

Swanlea parents of students from Years 7 & 8 were invited to brush up on their ICT skills in our exciting new computer suite on the ground floor. Parents enjoyed the ICT lessons taught by Ms Uddin and learnt a number of objectives including setting up email accounts. The course ended with a Cyber Bullying Awareness Event for all parents run by Ms Uddin and PC Trevor Jeffries.

Ms Chowdhury
Pupil/Parent Project Co-ordinator



SPEAK OUT



Maisha Begum 10W and Flora McLaughlin 10A were selected to take part in the Jack Petchey's "Speak Out" regional final on the 26th April at Bow Boys.

The two Swanlea students worked hard to prepare and deliver an engaging and interesting speech to a tough panel of 8 judges. They were up against 6 other Tower Hamlet schools, and everyone was very nervous. The standard of the speeches was extremely high, but Maisha and Flora's delivery was perfect. The students did a great job of representing Swanlea and should be very proud of their achievement. Well done!

Ms Williams
Coordinator of Learning for Year 10

SWANLEA SUPPORT SCHOLARS

The East 1 Partnership Year 5 Scholars Programme has been running now for 2 terms, and has proved to be very successful. The programme involved 25 children from the East 1 primaries, who came in for extra-curricular activities every Wednesday and Thursday at Swanlea. The children have been learning the art of debating every Wednesday and have learnt how to put across their viewpoints very well! On Thursdays, students took part in science lessons with Ms Khatun, making bath bombs, cell investigations, examining cell structure - including looking at their own cheek cells under a microscope. The programme helps to extend students' knowledge further, as well as give them invaluable experience of Swanlea and secondary learning.

MS CHOWDHURY
PUPIL/PARENT PROJECT CO-ORDINATOR



LONDON YOUTH GAMES: AMAZING ATHLETES!

On a beautiful sunny mid-June day, a group of Swanlea students attended one of a number of exciting sporting events held this year - the London Youth Games, held at Mile End Stadium. It was a really wonderful event as students from 28 boroughs took part. It was really special to see so many young people getting together and enjoying sports.

Foridha, Jay, Absar, Kibria, Shafeen, Yunus and Yusuf have taken part in a wide range of events on the day, including the 100, 200 and 400 meter race, the javelin

throw, the wheelchair race, and the standing long-jump. Each of them performed to the best of their ability and made not just the school, but the whole of Tower Hamlets, very proud. They were all champions! Absar did particularly well, as he not only completed the 400 meter race, but was a medal-winner in the javelin event too! Well done!

MS MAITA
LEARNING SUPPORT TEACHER



NEWS FROM THE P.E. TEAM...

Ms Foley, Leader of Learning, Mr Grant, Mr Curran, Ms Flowers & Mr Guzda

YEAR 7 INTER TUTOR CRICKET TOURNAMENT

It is cricket season at Swanlea and this is the time of year when the bats get dusted off and the whites get put through an extra wash. This has very much been the case for Year 7 students in particular, as a number of students put each other to the test with an indoor cricket tournament that will be savoured in the minds of everyone involved.

The tournament saw some shocks, some trials and some definite tribulations. An early surprise was a no-show from a form that shall not be named, and then following almost directly after that 7L, the fans' favourites, were knocked out. The tournament then continued with balls coming thick and fast and some excellent batting to match. The final came down to 7C and 7N, with what felt like the whole school at a standstill with anticipation. When the final commenced, the excitement was palpable, and the match certainly did not disappoint. The result ending with a convincing win to 7N, worthy champions but only time will tell if their winning ways will continue on through to next year.

A big thank you goes out to Mr Danson, Mr Whittingham and of course, Daniel Lambert-Neu for being not only a world class umpire but also a true gent during the presentation ceremony.

YEAR 7 CRICKET TEAM

The Year 7 Cricket Team at Swanlea have had a lot of outings this year and have represented themselves and



the school admirably throughout. Throwing themselves into games with utter gusto and enjoying every minute, they have demonstrated great athleticism and team spirit. Highlights include more than one trip to Lords already this season, playing in front of a test match crowd at one point. Other fixtures have included matches against local rivals Central Foundation Boys School and Dulwich College. The fixture between Central being a rip roaring victory with Swanlea finishing on 133 all out and Central managing 13 runs in response. A great day for the team and for the school.

Sakib Ahmed has been a true star this year for the team and has been just as successful outside of school, with Jawad and Daniel also shining throughout. However, nothing can be taken away from all of the players who have represented Swanlea this year. The team have made it through to the Semi Final of the London Cup and have an upcoming fixture against George Green School. Another dogged fight it is to take us through to the final, a task well within the Year 7's capability.

YEAR 10 VALUE GAMES

The Year 10 GCSE PE group are a great class, with many aspiring to be PE teachers of the future. With that in mind, the pupils were set the challenge of being PE teachers for the day.

Pupils worked in groups to teach sport to approximately 400 primary school children in Victoria Park. A mix of activities were taught, from tug of war to seated volleyball with a variety in-between. The group really did put in a great effort throughout the day, especially given the heat and humidity, with pupils enjoying the responsibility and the rewards of being teachers. A few pupils definitely put their name in the hat for Swanlea PE staff of the future - Rubaiyat Haque, Lyak Ahmed, Zaynab Ahmed and Bushra Hussein all did brilliantly. The rest of the Year 10s showed great maturity throughout the day and everyone represented themselves in a positive manner. Well done Year 10!

Mr Curran
PE Teacher

