



ALSO
IN THIS ISSUE...

SWANLEA CELEBRATES SUPER SOLVERS!



BRILLIANT BOOKS ... AND MARVELLOUS MATHS



World Book Day, 6th March was an exciting day in Swanlea School.

Recommended reads...
Are you wondering what to read next? Well, wait no more! In celebration of World Book Day, staff and students wrote reviews of their recommended reads for others to enjoy. Colourful posters with the reviews can be seen in the library and all around the school. Pupils and staff who are not sure what to read can choose their next read from the display!

Classroom competition....
While teachers were dressed up as characters the pupils were busy decorating their classrooms as books. The students were very creative in transforming the classroom into books they enjoyed. Classrooms across the school were decorated as "The Chronicles of Narnia", Charlie and the Chocolate factory", "James and the Giant Peach", "Jungle book", "The Little Prince" and many more. The judges had a very hard time choosing a winner! In the end, 7S, 7N and 7E were chosen as the winners by our head judge Governor Ms Fanning-Tichborne. Many congratulations to everyone who took part, the rooms all looked wonderful.

All dressed up.....
Visitors to the school would have seen Huckleberry Finn, Sherlock Holmes, Woman in Black, Pi with all his companions, Where's Wally and many other characters in the corridors. ... But the world hadn't gone mad, just reading-mad: Swanlea staff dressed up as their favourite character for World Book Day and students took part in a quiz to work out who was who.

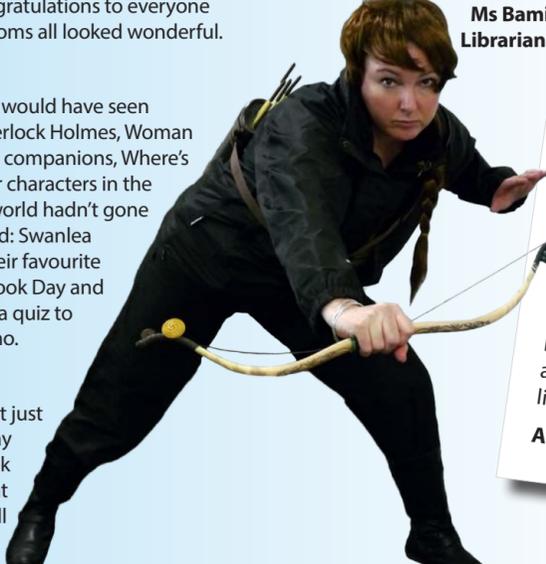
Assemblies...
At Swanlea we did not just have a World Book Day – we had a World Book week with events that celebrating reading all around the school.

We had Year group assemblies where teachers talked passionately about the books that had inspired them. Years 7, 8 and 9 had extended assemblies and Mr Miah, who talked about reading with his daughters and the importance of reading and libraries.

Word Millionaires....
Prizes were given to pupils who have been reading and taking quizzes. Pupils who had read more than a million words were handed prizes in assemblies by Mr Miah and Ms Fanning-Tichborne, Governor.

World Book Day Vouchers...
All Swanlea students were given a £1 voucher which they can use to buy a book in any bookshop during March.

Coming up...
On 24th March we have a famous author, Neil Arksey, visiting the Library and on 1st April a group of pupils will be visiting Stepney Green school to meet another famous author, Charlie Higson.



Ms Bami Librarian

LETTER FROM THE GOVERNORS MS AUSTIN, COMMUNITY GOVERNOR

Dear Parents, Students, Staff, Colleagues and Friends,



Literacy is an essential skill in our modern world. Every child who attends Swanlea School is encouraged to aspire to reach their full potential in all areas of learning, of which literacy is a key element.

My love of reading was instilled in me at a young age, firstly by my parents and later by the teachers I encountered in my school years. Books introduced to me an unknown world full of adventure, excitement and mystery. Over the years I have had the pleasure of living some of those adventures through my extensive travels both at home and overseas. I wonder if my passion for travel would have been as strong if it hadn't been for those great stories and my ability to interpret, comprehend and visualize, all skills I developed through literacy programmes.

Since my early school years the world of books has undergone a revolution. Children can access books not only in printed form but through various technological mediums. But one constant however is the importance of books in promoting literacy.

Swanlea school has a strong history of promoting literacy and as a Governor I support the importance of the literacy programmes. I was delighted to hear about World Book Day (6th March 2014) and the school's literacy initiatives which includes the Accelerated Reader "millionaires" programme. As a school we are celebrating a large number of students who have read more than a million words on the programme. Congratulations to all those students who have achieved such a marvellous milestone and let's continue to support every student in their endeavours in this programme.

I encourage all students to access the library facilities and for all parents and carers to encourage reading at home and share in the joys of the living word, especially as we celebrate World Book Day.

Annette Austin

LETTER FROM THE HEAD

What a fantastic term it has been at Swanlea – not only have we celebrated World Book Day, but this year, we also marked Numeracy Week in a real way. It was wonderful to hear students and staff all talking about the exciting challenges going on throughout the week, passionately debating the solution to a particular Math puzzle, or urging others to read a favourite book. The activities set by the Maths and Literacy teams caught the imagination of students and staff alike and there were few who could resist taking part. My thanks go to the many, many colleagues who helped make these events such a success.

As always, students have continued to impress me with their dedication and compassion. The work of the Oxfam Youth Ambassadors this term has been hugely powerful, with the group devising and delivering lessons for the whole school community. Swanlea Oxfam Ambassadors successfully organised students to write over 800 postcards in petition for support for those in need, and I could not be more proud.

I feel enormously lucky to work in partnership with Swanlea's parents and carers. This term I have had the opportunity to celebrate and speak with you at our many Reading Reward tea parties, the Maths faculty's cooking challenge, our Open Mornings, during our regular coffee mornings, and, of course, in my weekly drop in sessions (every Tuesday, from 9:00 - 10:40am). My sincere thanks and gratitude to you all for your ongoing support.

With best wishes,

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The first ever Numeracy Week in Swanlea School created a great buzz, stimulating pupils and staff alike. Each day presented different challenges for the students to compete against each other and put their mathematical prowess to the test. Starting with registration periods, tutor groups competed to beat the clock in completing a times table loop game. Monday was the "Chess Championship" where both girls and boys battled it out. Even lunchtimes had students queuing up to participate in "Estimation Skills Challenge" and the winners were awarded prizes for their accuracy.

The contribution of others was also pivotal to the success of this week. An inspirational talk was given by Dr Juan A. Navarro Pérez, a volunteer from STEM project, who demonstrated the use of maths in his work as a researcher. Parents also showed their support through their participation in a cooking competition with the students, and primary schools took up the invitation to take part in an inter-school maths challenge.

My sincere thanks to all staff and Dr Pérez for making this possible. I am sure you will enjoy reading about some of the other activities that took place.

Overall, the week was a numerical success; who knew maths could be so fun?

Mr Uddin Senior leader



READING IS REWARDING!

This term has been another amazing reading term and we have been celebrating in style. Alongside pizza parties for Lexia finishers, we also took 130 students to see a private screening of the Lego movie at Genesis cinema to celebrate their incredible achievements in reading. This is the highest number ever of Swanlea readers.

We were also thrilled to be able to invite parents and students to two special rewards teas with Ms Landers. Each student received a personalised prize and we played games whilst we enjoyed tea and cakes with proud parents joining in. Again, this was our highest number yet.

Next term there will be more trips and parties and we have an extra special new trip planned for our top readers so watch this space... So keep reading and let's break some records.

Ms. Martin
Literacy team



MATH-STERMINDS!

Four of our primary schools who are part of the East 1 group took part in our annual Maths Challenge finale at Swanlea School; hosted by Ms Lulat and Ms Hussain. The primary schools who participated in our 2014 grand final were Stewart Headlam, Hague, Cannon Barnett and Osmani.

The top mathematicians in Year 5 competed with each other in answering questions under a strict time limit. Pupils were excited to see if they could beat their competitors again. Swanlea's mathematicians from Year 8 acted as mentors for each of the primary school. Our talented Year 8 students were also this year's markers for the competition: A fantastic job was done by Ishaan Ayub Ahmed 8L; Rahalla Koyes 8S; Asim Waqar 8E; Tasniim Shariff 8E

After much excitement, sadly Stewart Headlam was not able to hold on to their trophy from last year. Our new winners were.....Canon Barnett. Canon Barnett students were very clearly very pleased to have won. Well done to them for taking the trophy to their school

A big thank you to all the other participants who also did a great job in competing so enthusiastically. Swanlea School looks forward to seeing you all in next years' competition!



MATH-A-MAGICIANS!

Swanlea's top mathematicians have been taking part in some exciting activities this year. 40 of Swanlea's best mathematical minds have been meeting every week to put their skills to the test, and of that group, 10 finalists were put forward to take part in the UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge. The Intermediate Maths Challenge is aimed at the brightest mathematicians in Years 9, 10 and 11 in the country. This year over 200,000 students took part from more than 3000 schools across the UK.

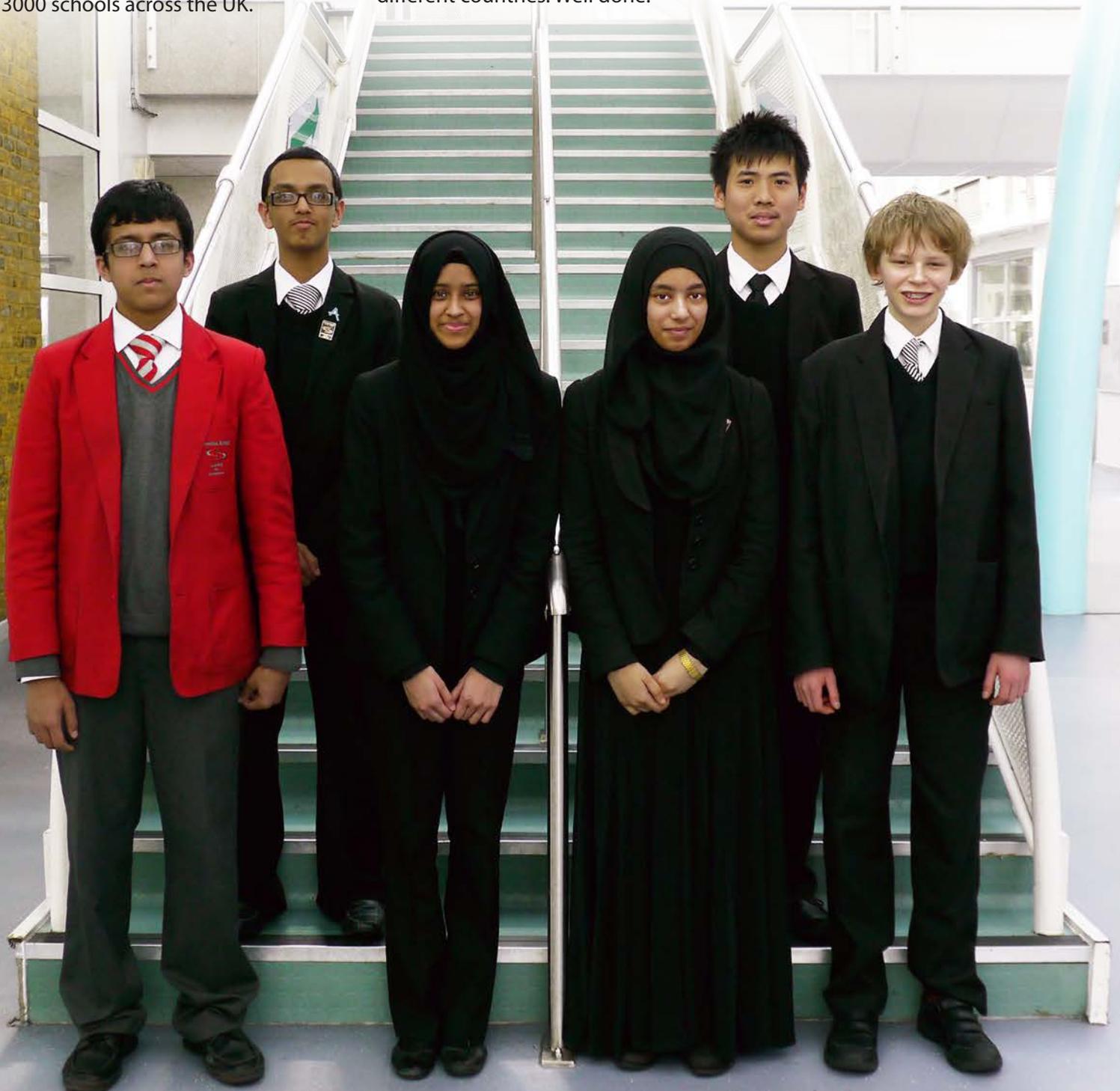
The students did a brilliant job on the day, putting aside their nerves and tackling the competition admirably. Very many congratulations to everyone involved.

As well as winning the Gold award, Ziming Zhu, 11E, has been invited to take part in the European round. This is the "Champions League" of Mathematics competitions, where he will be up against the brightest mathematicians from across 36 different countries. Well done!

RESULTS:

Rifah Anjum 11L – Bronze Award
Monsur Ali 10L – Bronze Award
Thanjena Begum 10L – Bronze Award
Harry Turner 10E – Silver Award
Md Nabil Choudhury 9W- Silver Award
Ziming Zhu 11E – Gold Award

MR UDDIN
MATHS TEACHER



WATER, WELLINGTONS AND WORK

Year Ten and Eleven Geographers set out on an adventure to Epping Forest this term to complete their controlled assessment data collection. They were given the challenge of investigating how a river changes from source to mouth. The students realised pretty quickly that they would not be able to measure the whole length of the river, so identified four different sites along Loughton Brook to collect data.

Students worked in teams to collect information about the size of the river channel and the velocity of the water. They also had to complete detailed field sketches at each site.

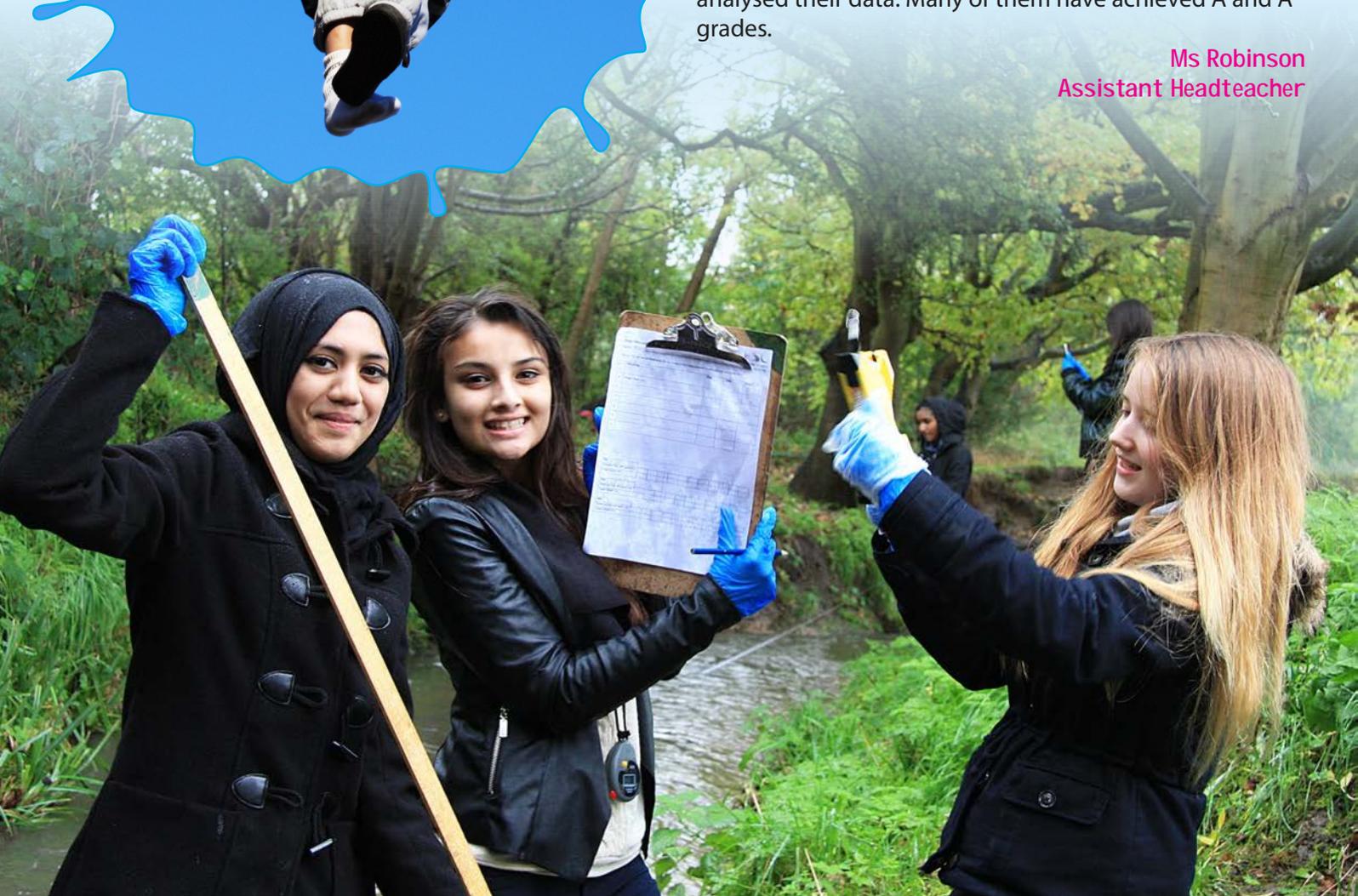


Unfortunately, we had chosen the worst possible day to visit Epping Forest as the rain was torrential! One of the river sites was too flooded to access, so we had to rely on secondary data.

We borrowed wellington boots from the Field Study Centre, but the water came over the top of them! Harry Turner, was the only student sensible enough to have brought waterproof trousers and he was the envied by all!

We got back onto the coach at the end of the day, tired, cold and soggy but it was definitely a day to remember! Students have since written up their coursework and analysed their data. Many of them have achieved A and A* grades.

Ms Robinson
Assistant Headteacher





ACTION, ADVENTURE AND ASPIRATIONS!

In January and February 2014, students in Year 10 were given the opportunity to attend Humanities residentials to help them focus on their forthcoming GCSE exams.

On 17th January, fifty Year 10 girls boarded a coach to Kingswood Activity Centre in Kent. Despite bringing suitcases big enough for a month's holiday, this was to be a weekend of intensive RE revision. Each day was spent doing revision for the exams interspersed with some outdoor activities. The girls got

the opportunity to try archery, night lines and to climb Jacob's Ladder. Being January, it was cold and wet, and some students spent most of the weekend caked in mud!

Two weeks later, on 31st January, it was the boys turn. This time the destination was Bowles Outdoor Centre, also in Kent. At Bowles the boys got to take part in a range of activities including low rope and high rope assault courses, caving, taking the 'leap of faith' and team building activities. When darkness fell, we took

part in an extremely competitive treasure hunt in the woods - the winning team is still disputed!

In between all the fun and activities, there was plenty of time for hard work and revision. Before we left on Sunday, all students had to sit a mock exam. We're confident that all the hard work will pay off and we look forward to some excellent results in the summer.

MR GARDNER
HEAD OF FACULTY, HUMANITIES

PTA AGM 2013: CHAIR'S REPORT



I would like to start by saying a big thank you to everyone who has worked so hard to make this a fantastic year. Thanks to everyone's efforts the PTA has raised an amazing amount of money this year - We have had a successful and exciting year fundraising for the school, as well as organising and supporting social events to promote and strengthen our sense of community. We are very fortunate to have the support to run such an enjoyable variety of events throughout the year. Thank you to everyone who has supported the PTA in some way; your help, your support and enthusiasm is truly valued and without it we would not be able to support the students, the staff and the school.

Links with the parents, students, school staff and the local community continue to grow and we hope that more people will be able to enjoy the benefits that these relationships bring. Please continue to offer your time, ideas and energy to the PTA; it will only continue to succeed if we get the support we need.

Achievements over the last year

- The P.T.A met 11 times
- 3 leaflets to promote events over the year
- One article printed in the school's newsletter
- Publicity through the school's screen at the front reception area
- One Fundraising Event- Mini- Fun Fayre on 8th May

PARENTS ARE TOP OF THE CLASS

East 1 Partnership events and activities are going from strength to strength, and it's not just the students who take part! Last term, the partnership along with facilitators from Toynbee Hall, introduced ESOL and ICT classes for our parents and careers to take part in. The classes have been enormously successful with parents asking for even more! At Swanlea, we host ICT classes every Tuesday, and every Thursday the

ESOL classes; the courses are accredited and our some of parents will be taking their exams this summer.

Apart from learning the parents have also enjoyed end of term events and workshops held at Swanlea. The most recent workshop was part of Safer Internet Day, where the East1 parents learnt about Cyberbullying from PC Jeffries, and learnt more about on how to keep their child safe online,

Our biggest thank you goes to all the parents of children at Swanlea School that have supported the PTA over the last year. You have shown your support by organising events, bringing donations in, and by coming along to the events and spending your money. The PTA can only be successful with your support and I do feel that, over the last year, the PTA has had this support.

You turn up, whatever the weather, whatever the hour, whatever we ask ready to dig deep and spend your pennies. You are really generous, thank you very much.

In terms of a wish list next year it would be great if we could.....

- Continue with sponsorship of parent SMS texting
- Continue with sponsorship of coach travel (educational visits)
- Continue to support Literacy – books

Finally I would personally like to thank the committee, the Senior Leadership Team and the school office staff for their help, support and patience as I have found my feet during the past 12 months.

We look forward to our committee meetings when these ideas can be further discussed and we wish the PTA well for the forthcoming year. Thank you for a great year and good luck for this coming year!

A big, big thank you to everyone and long may this continue!

**Kazi Gous
Miah
Chair
PTA**

PARENT/ CARER MONDAY COFFEE MORNINGS

Don't forget to drop in on the parent/carer coffee mornings held every Monday from 9.15am in the Parents Room. In a warm and welcoming atmosphere parents can get advice and support. This term we have had also a number of guest speakers including from the Drug & Alcohol Awareness Team plus the Metropolitan Police giving parents advice on cyber bullying and discussing any local issues.

**Ms Chowdhury
KS3 Administrator**

plus practical demonstrations from Mr Basith's sixth formers.

Parents are also welcome to join the accredited Money Management Course which is held every Monday and Thursday. If you wish to join any of the courses or get more details please contact Ms Chowdhury .

**Ms Chowdhury
KS3 Administrator**

SCHOOL COUNCIL UPDATE

It has been another busy term for the School Council at Swanlea. This term the council have hosted a range of visitors from London, other parts of the UK and abroad. Our School Council are real ambassadors for the school and have impressed visitors from places as far ranging as Portsmouth and Italy!

The School Council have continued to lead work on challenging bullying. One of the main focuses for the Council this term has been to re-write the whole school anti-bullying policy. Students wanted to make sure that everyone knows where to go for help if they, or someone they know is being bullied. The work of the School Council in challenging bullying has seen the introduction of a page in the Student Planner telling students what to do if they are being bullied and the setting up of an email address for students to confidentially report bullying.

In the next few weeks, the Student Council plan to write student and parent/carer friendly versions of the anti-bullying policy and to talk to the Year 6 students at local primary schools about their work to make Swanlea a bully-free zone!

MS ROBINSON
ASSISTANT HEADTEACHER

CONGRATULATIONS
to the following student company who won the cross curricular Business and Maths Share Dealing Activity during Numeracy Week:

Company name: SRF Ltd
Sakib Ahmed 9L (CEO)
Raihan Naeem 9S (FINANCE OFFICER)
Sheikh Fahim Ahmed 9S (STOCK BROKER)

Groups were given an imaginary £1000 to invest in shares from various different sectors. The Share Dealing activity involved buying and selling shares over 3 rounds. The goal was to try to generate as much profit as possible by the end of the trading day. SRF Ltd managed to make a profit of over £450, £11 more than their closest competitors!

Mr Ali
Maths Teacher

CONNECTING LIVES

Our partnership with the Jewish Museum has continued to flourish this year! During December all Year 8 students took part in workshops in their Humanities lessons facilitated by the Jewish Museum. This was part of a national project called 'Connecting Lives'. The project challenged students' preconceived ideas about Judaism and Jewish people by encouraging interfaith understanding and respect for others. The students were given the opportunity to

discuss Judaism with a specialist from the Learning Team at the Jewish Museum using artefacts from the museum's collection as a springboard for discussion.

"I learnt more about Judaism and the differences and similarities between my religion." Tasnim, Year 8

MS ROBINSON
ASSISTANT HEADTEACHER



LESSONS FROM THE PAST

This January, the Anne Frank Trust brought their exhibition to Swanlea School. Ten History GCSE students from Year 9 were selected to be specially trained as peer educators and guide classes around the exhibition.

Mukith Khalisadar, a former student of Swanlea School is now the Senior Project Officer for the Anne Frank Trust. He led workshops with groups of students and supported the peer educators as they shared the story of Anne Frank with classes throughout the two week period. Students not only learnt about Anne's inspiring story, but also gained a valuable insight into the impact that prejudice and hatred can cause.

Anne Frank never stopped believing in humanity, despite knowing what was happening to her Jewish friends and neighbours at the time. Anne's rejection of hatred is an inspiration to people everywhere. Her ideals of respect and acceptance continue to be relevant to us today.

On January 27th, Holocaust Memorial Day, Swanlea School will be continuing to learn about this tragic part of History with a visit from The Jewish Museum and Holocaust survivor, Rudi Oppenheimer.

Barwaqo Jama, 13, one of the peer educators said:

"I was really nervous at first about presenting Anne's story to other students. Not only have I learned an important lesson in history, taking part in the project has also boosted my confidence. I presented to large groups of students and adults over the course of the two weeks. It has made me think about how people were treated because of their race and how wrong it is to mistreat other people. We all have a role to play in ensuring that this tragic period of history is never repeated."

Ms Robinson
Assistant Headteacher

Following on from their work with the Anne Frank Trust, students delivered assemblies to the school about Holocaust Memorial Day.

The theme of this year's HMD was 'Journeys' and the students spoke about how journeys were undertaken by people who were suffering from persecution during the Holocaust.

They also reminded us of the journeys people have taken during the subsequent genocides in Rwanda and Sudan. Students lit a candle for peace and a minute of silence was observed.

Ms Robinson
Assistant Headteacher



Following on from the Anne Frank Exhibition, on February 5th Year 9 took part in a very important seminar about the Holocaust, to mark Holocaust Memorial Day.

In the morning the whole year group sat together and watched a very powerful film called 'Defiance.' The film is an account of the Bielski partisans, a group led by three Jewish brothers who saved and recruited Jews in Belarus during the Second World War

Following the film, Year 9 were incredibly lucky to be visited by Rudi Oppenheimer, a survivor of the Holocaust. Rudi was living happily in Amsterdam as a child until he and his family were rounded up in June 1943 and sent to the transit camp Westerbork, situated in the north-east of Holland, not far from the German border. From this transit camp Rudi and his family were moved to Bergen-Belsen camp in Germany. Rudi was only twelve years old when he was held prisoner in Bergen-Belsen. After a year being held in the camp, his mother and father tragically died, leaving Rudi and his brother as orphans. Rudi's grandparents were sent to the gas chambers at Sobibor, leaving Rudi and his brother Paul alone in Bergen-Belsen. Luckily the boys survived and were liberated from the camp when Rudi was thirteen.

DEAR RUDI,

I am extremely grateful that you came in to Swanlea to share your horrific story. I feel as though I should now take responsibility, along with the rest of the people in my generation, to make sure that this terrible part of history is never repeated.

I also feel immensely privileged to have met you as I know that most people never have the opportunity to meet someone like you. I am sure that meeting you and hearing you speak will always be something that I remember for the rest of my life. I shall treasure this day and make sure that I tell everyone that I know about you and about your story. What happened to you will never be forgotten.

You are truly an amazing person Rudi. You have surprised me in so many ways and you have made me realise that I want to do my very best to stop prejudice and discrimination. Today I realised that nobody should be hated for being who they are. It should not matter what nationality, skin colour or religion you are.

I really want to thank you for sharing your story.

Yours truly,
SULEEGHA

Despite Rudi's tragic story, he spoke with great courage and answered student questions openly. Rudi ended his talk with a very important message:

"DON'T BE A BYSTANDER."

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

It was an inspirational day for all who took part and helped Year 9 to learn a very important lesson from History. Year 9 were clear that Rudi's message 'don't be a bystander' needed to be spread to everyone in our school community and beyond.

MS ROBINSON
ASSISTANT
HEADTEACHER



MUSIC NOTES

Already in 2014 we have taken all of Year 7 to see Wicked. This was a fantastic trip and despite some hurdles with public transport all of the students really enjoyed the performance.

In February we introduced a new event to the Swanlea School Music Department, our first ever 'Composers Day'. We had 28 budding composers who developed ideas with a number of staff and tried to create motifs for the Royal Opera House composition project – Fanfare. The students loved the event and it was a wonderful experience to see so much creativity. Well done to everyone involved.

Our project with the Royal Academy of Music, Spitalfields Music and Stuart Headlam School was an overwhelming success. The feedback from the Royal Academy of Music from Mr Julian West was:

“ *Thanks to Swanlea School Choir for your energy and enthusiasm in supporting this project. Your choir is a real testament to that! I don't think I've ever seen young men, of that age in particular, allowing themselves to enjoy singing in a choir like yours did. I agree with you that it was a fantastic event, and certainly something that deserves further exploration in the future.* ”

Mr West
Head of the Open Academy

Hopefully we will continue our collaboration with Stuart Headlam School in 2014-2015 and continue the incredible singing that was heard in the concert.

It is not long until the choir trip to France. We are delighted to announce that we have passed the audition for Euro Disney and we will be performing there on Saturday the 24th May 2014. I will be sending letters home to parents for a special France trip update after the Easter break.

Our spring term Concert – Call Back is on Thursday 27th March. This will be an exciting concert as it will be the dress rehearsal before our Paris concerts. Also we will be unveiling an exciting new ensemble in the school.

CALL BACK – Thursday 27th March
4.30pm

Ms Brownlee
Head of PVA Faculty &
Senior Leader





NOW PRESS PLAY

Earlier this term Year 7 had the opportunity to participate in an immersive educational workshop during their science lesson, delivered by a fantastic company called *Now Press Play*. This was no ordinary science lesson. Gone were desks and sheets of paper. Instead the students arrived to an empty room and a set of wireless headphones. Once their headphones were on, the students were plunged into an educational story linked to the topics that they have been studying.

Surrounded by narrative, students became a character in a story: journeying through space to save humankind or becoming a sub atomic particle in the CERN supercollider in Switzerland. Participants had to listen to instructions and follow movements as guided by their story. It was wonderful to see the concentration on the faces of students as they lay on the floor, gripping onto their 'seatbelts', ready to man the controls of their space craft as it left the Earth's atmosphere.

All in all this was a wonderful experience for Year 7 and we had some brilliant feedback from students who commented on how real it felt. We hope to have Now Press Play return in the summer term to deliver some sessions for Year 8.

**MS ROBERTS
SCIENCE
TEACHER**



UP FOR DEBATE

A debate is a discussion in which participants articulate, justify, and clarify their positions on an issue. The Swanlea Debate Club, working with Debate Mate, started in November last term and has gone from strength to strength. They have debated on a range of subjects and have participated in the Debate Mate National School competition, competing against local schools and being very successful in their debating outcomes. All Keystage 3 children are welcome to join the Debate Club which runs every Tuesday from 3.30-4.30pm.

Ms Chowdhury
KS3 Administrator

Sharing Shakespeare

Every Tuesday after school I attended an after school Shakespeare club. The play that we studied was *The Tempest* by William Shakespeare. During the sessions we would act out different parts of the play. I thoroughly enjoyed this club because Jen (short for Jennifer) showed us many different acting techniques.

Jen had a wild and funny personality and I think it would be great if she came to do another project. I would recommend this club to other students and would definitely enjoy participating in another similar project.

Before the after school sessions began we were all taken on a visit to the Globe Theatre. We were lucky enough to actually stand on the stage of the theatre. We were told about the fascinating history of the theatre. I would like to be taken to the Globe again to learn more about William Shakespeare and his amazing plays.

By Angelina Fontaine, 7C



LAWYERS FOR SCHOOLS

This term 9S have been taking part in the Lawyers in Schools programme, working alongside lawyers from top firms. As part of the programme students attended weekly sessions learning about a wide range of legal issues relevant to young people. These included copyright and information law, the law relating to cyber bullying and the legal age at which young people can do things like babysitting, working or driving. 9S worked in small groups with the

lawyers to learn how the law works in relation to young people, how it affects their lives and discuss their own opinions of what the law should be. The groups showed excellent speaking and listening skills and enjoyed the opportunity to debate and discuss issues. All students gained a certificate in recognition of their hard work.

Ms Brown
History teacher



THE BRILLIANT CLUB!

12 students from Year 7 have been participating in the Brilliant Club this year. The Brilliant Club is an award-winning, non-profit organisation that exists to widen access to top universities for pupils from outstanding schools.

We all attended the opening ceremony of the Brilliant Club at Kings College London, and we met our tutor, Ms Bond. Each week we had a session with our tutor and were set an assignment to be handed in the following week.

The first assignment we were set was a 200 word essay on 'What does the word terrorism mean?'. We all worked really hard on it and we hope it gave Ms Bond a really good impression of pupils at Swanlea. Every session, we all learnt more and more, and Ms Bond helped us structure and understand the subject.

During the sessions we were asked to give feedback based on the topic of Philosophy. Our final assignment was a 1,500 word essay, which sounds long but it isn't really. When it was time to write it, it was very easy because we already had the knowledge from the past sessions.

After all that hard work, we went on a graduation trip to Warwick University to get our final grades on 14th February, which was a great day out.

It was really enjoyable being part of this programme. "It was really fun learning about university life." said Milan Ly.

Having the opportunity of being part of the club has helped us learn how life is for university students. We have also learnt the structure of assignments and what you need to include in within them to get the highest possible grade. Furthermore, we have learnt what grades you need to achieve in order to go to a good university. It was a great experience which we will never forget.

BY FATIMA NOOR, 7A AND NINA DUJAKOVIC, 7S



JACK PETCHEY AWARD WINNERS

We are proud to announce that three more exceptional Swanlea Students have been awarded the prestigious Jack Petchey Award this term.

The Jack Petchey Foundation was established in 1999 to recognise the positive contributions young people make to society and to support them in achieving their potential.

Sadia Ahmed, 8A was presented with the award after leading a whole school anti-bullying initiative. During Beat Bullying Week, Sadia filmed and edited a film about the impact of bullying which was shown to the

whole school during a special PSHEE lesson.

Zakariya Gulaid, 8A received the award after showing real initiative in organising a campaign around raising awareness of mental health issues and reducing the stigma attached to talking about mental health. Zak coordinated a group of students to raise money for 'Time to Change' a national campaign to support people with mental health conditions. He also designed a tutor time activity which the whole school took part in.

Siddiqah Khanom, 10S was successfully nominated for the award due to her outstanding contributions to school life at Swanlea. Siddiqah is a SPARC (peer mediator) as well as a coordinator of Swanlea's highly effective Oxfam Youth Group and the WOW group (Women of the World). Siddiqah's tireless work in raising awareness of inequality and supporting others within our community and beyond has been exceptional.

**Ms Robinson
Assistant Headteacher**

SEEN AND HEARD

Students from Swanlea School's Oxfam Youth Ambassador group have been working on Oxfam's "Seen and Heard" campaign this term. This month marks the three year anniversary of the start of the conflict in Syria. 9.3 million Syrian citizens are now in need of humanitarian support - almost half the total population. More than 2.25 million Syrians have fled

to neighbouring countries as refugees and more than 100,000 have died as a result of the conflict.

Swanlea students have been taking action to try to raise awareness and to be the voice of Syria's children, who make up half of the refugees. Swanlea students want Syria's children to be Seen and Heard, and the

Oxfam Youth Ambassadors have been working hard to try to make that happen. Swanlea students wrote and delivered assemblies to the whole school, as well as planning and peer teaching a special lesson. The whole school community took part in the campaign and have written over 800 postcards to their local MP, Rushanara Ali, petitioning her to support their campaign in Parliament.

"The compassion and kindness that students at Swanlea have for others is enormous, and I am so proud of their commitment to Oxfam's Seen and Heard campaign. Swanlea students have not only worked incredibly hard to help fellow children in Syria, but they have also helped others learn more about this terrible crisis and to take action themselves."

Ms Landers, Headteacher

MS DALY
MEDIA OFFICER



HEARD We believe the children of Syria should be seen and heard. Help raise their voices today.

To Rushanara Ali

If the tragedies in Syria were happening around you - how would you feel? If this was affecting your family, your friends, all your loved-ones, how would you expect peace to intervene? All I ask of you is to do whatever you can. For the mothers without their children. For the children whose lives are being taken brick by brick. Bullet by bullet.

Jaasmine 95

HEARD We believe the children of Syria should be seen and heard. Help raise their voices today.

Mo Riyadh Mian

We are aware of whats happening in Syria and there is no action that has been taken. The war started on march 2011 and it is still going on. At this time just reflect back... At this point this could be you your brother or your sister it could be any one. WE NEED TO MAKE A CHANGE

HEARD We believe the children of Syria should be seen and heard. Help raise their voices today.

To Rushanara Ali,

I understand what is happening to Syria and am aware about the seriousness of the situation. I would like to contribute and help with the situation and do my part as I feel touched and would like to help improve their life. However I can not do this by myself. I wish you to raise this issue to parliament even if Syria is not part of our country we need to do this as better human beings.

HEARD We believe the children of Syria should be seen and heard. Help raise their voices today.

I have just watched a short video clip and it scares me about how people in Syria have to deal with this on a daily basis. Our nightmares are their reality. I cannot describe how I feel, I feel guilty that I have all these facilities. We urge you to help us because how would you feel if you had to deal with this?

your sincerely
Ali Kanwal

Rushanara Ali

History Month

LGBT

Lesbian Gay Bisexual Trans

In February Swanlea School celebrated LGBT History Month. LGBT History Month reminds us of the achievements of LGBT people in British society, past and present. It is an opportunity to show that prejudice about LGBT people must be challenged. This year's theme was the highlighting of LGBT people in music; from Tchaikovsky to Frank Ocean and Jessie J.

During the month students learnt about the contributions of LGBT people to history in special PSHEE lessons, through assemblies, displays around school and in tutor time.

LGBT History Month is an important month to focus on the Swanlea Shared Values and remind everyone that at Swanlea we 'accept people

for who they are and celebrate our differences.'

Swanlea continues to hold Stonewall School Champion Status and is highlighted as a model of good practice for challenging homophobia in schools.

Ms Robinson
Assistant Headteacher

Mulberry Youth Conference

On 27th February 2014, five Year 9 students attended the 'Power of Voice' Youth Conference at Mulberry School. This award-winning conference, brought students together from across a whole range of backgrounds to explore key social and political issues in contemporary life. Topics were hard hitting and contemporary. The conference has gained a reputation for its challenging discussion and powerful speakers, drawing students from all throughout

Britain. Students came together in discussion groups, and afternoon workshops, to explore issues, and consider means of becoming active in their communities.

One of the highlights of the day was when the Swanlea students were given the opportunity to take the floor to share their points of view on the topics raised. Students also participated in discussion groups, facilitated by Mulberry students. Workshops were led by a wide-range

of external groups and artists and the day was further enriched by great hip-hop and music performances, cutting edge poetry, drama performances and art.

Asma in Year 9 said; "I thought that this was a really inspiring day. We had the opportunity to meet so many influential people and share ideas about what we can do to improve our community."

Ms Robinson
Assistant Headteacher



EAST LONDON KS3 BADMINTON TOURNAMENT

After being crowned Tower Hamlet Champions the KS3 badminton team were entered into the East London stage of the national badminton tournament. After smashing (excuse the pun) a number of great sides from Hackney and the surrounding areas, Swanlea came up against Bancroft School in the final.

After a hard fought number of games the score was 4-1 to Bancroft. Hard times for Swanlea but an incredible effort to get so far and represented the school values in every game.

The Team: Brian Wong, Sakib Ahmed, Rabbi Uddin, Imman Uddin and 'Star Man' Kawsar Uzzol

Mr Curran
PE teacher

Great Britain boxer Hannah Beharry visited Swanlea as part of Sky Sports 'Living for Sport' initiative and delivered a specialist boxing PE session to girls in Years 9 and 11.

Hannah is nine times British champion, European medal winner, and was one of the first women to fight for England and Great Britain.



Students participated in team game activities where they had to overcome barriers, problem solve, effectively communicate and work as a team. Hannah then talked to students about her journey to becoming a boxer and how she was initially turned away from a boxing gym as they did not train women. Hannah then challenged them, and after persistence and determination, they took her on. Without her perseverance she may never have become as successful as she is.

Hannah emphasised the importance of hard work, dedication and motivation, and how this can be reflected in choices you make in life and at Swanlea.

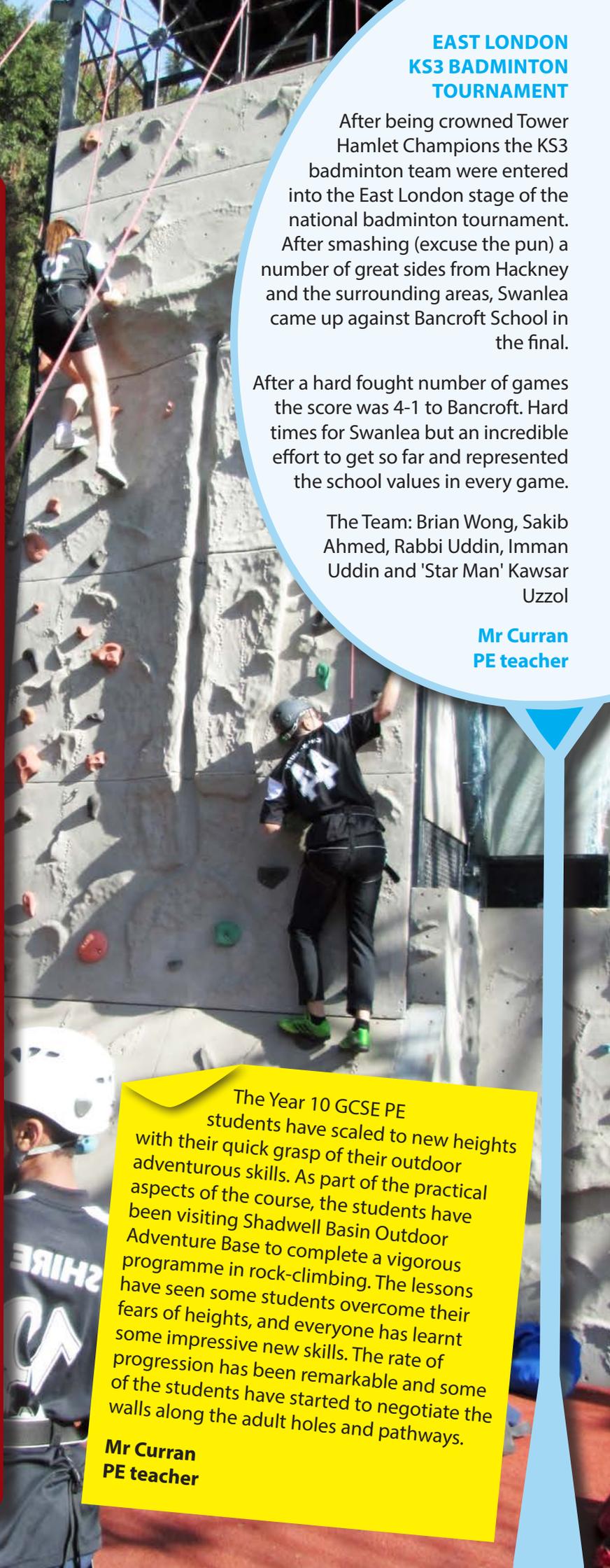
Students were then able to benefit from Hannah's professional expertise as she led a specialist boxing session for students, putting them through their paces in various boxing exercises, such as sparring and pad work.



The session was enjoyed by all, and many students spoke how inspirational Hannah had been. They were also provided with a unique opportunity to experience a sport that most of them have never tried before.

Hannah's visit as part of the 'Living for Sport' initiative is just one of the many bonus activities available at Swanlea through the broad PE curriculum offer.

Ms Flannery, PE teacher



The Year 10 GCSE PE students have scaled to new heights with their quick grasp of their outdoor adventurous skills. As part of the practical aspects of the course, the students have been visiting Shadwell Basin Outdoor Adventure Base to complete a vigorous programme in rock-climbing. The lessons have seen some students overcome their fears of heights, and everyone has learnt some impressive new skills. The rate of progression has been remarkable and some of the students have started to negotiate the walls along the adult holes and pathways.

Mr Curran
PE teacher

NEWS FROM THE P.E. TEAM...

Mr Grant, Mr Curran, Ms Flannery, Mr Lee & Ms Ravenscroft



SWANLEA HOST BOCCIA CHAMPIONSHIP

Swanlea was the proud host of the Tower Hamlets Primary and Secondary Boccia tournament on 26th February. A fantastic sport, made even more popular following the Paralympics last summer, it was wonderful to see so many students taking part. Swanlea students learn Boccia during their after-school club on Tuesdays, and students studying Sport at GCSE level study it also.

There was some fierce competition throughout the tournament, and students demonstrated their knowledge, skills, and sporting spirit admirably. Swanlea students from the Sport GCSE programme acted as officials during the tournament, and did a wonderful job, both as referees and as ambassadors for the school; it was a fantastic day for everyone involved.

"It was a real privilege for us to host the Boccia tournament at Swanlea school. Students really enjoyed meeting athletes from other schools and competing together. It was a brilliant day, and a great experience for all concerned."

Mr Grant
Head of Department, PE



WE DON'T JUST LIKE CRICKET, WE LOVE IT!

The Year 8 Cricket team continue to grow and gain London-wide success in the indoor format of the game. This term, Swanlea's cricketers have won with impressive fielding displays against Hill House School who we managed to bowl out for 31 runs. They also overcame a determined Mossbourne Academy who managed to score a total of 34 runs. The pick of the bowling came from Suliman Hussain who nearly achieved a hat-trick of wickets with consecutive balls. The team's skills have developed to a high standard and all that hard work has led to our win at the 2014 Inner London, Indoor Cricket final.

The final was a tense affair and lived up to all the pre-match excitement. Hammersmith Academy, the other finalists, also had impressive wins under their belt to reach the final. We lost the coin toss and Hammersmith elected for us to bat first. In the past this has been a bit of a bad luck omen for our team, and indeed, we had a shaky start, losing 3 wickets for 22 runs. However, Mazhar steadied the ship with an impressive

25 run retirement. This took our innings to a respectable 64 all out.

Mounting pressure with devilish spin bowling tipped the balance of the game towards us. Saifur Mahfuz

was the main protagonist behind the mesmerising deliveries. Rabbi Uddin took the final wicket in the last over to win the game with Hammersmith Academy only needing 8 runs to win. The win was met with euphoric screams from the whole team.

Congratulations to everyone involved! We look forward to a great match at the Greater London Indoor Cricket finals.

TOWER HAMLETS BADMINTON ACADEMY AT SWANLEA SCHOOL

Swanlea's resounding success in the KS3 and KS4 Boys and Girls Tower Hamlets Badminton competition has resulted in us being selected to host the Tower Hamlets Badminton Academy. This academy has allowed us to develop our players under the guidance of a professional coach. It has also given students the opportunity to experience a greater range of competition by playing against other aspiring badminton players from across the borough. Greater success is on the horizon so watch this space!

Mr Grant
Head of Department, PE