# Enrichment for Life

*Swanlea Stories...*
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## Swanlea Headteacher

Brenda Landers

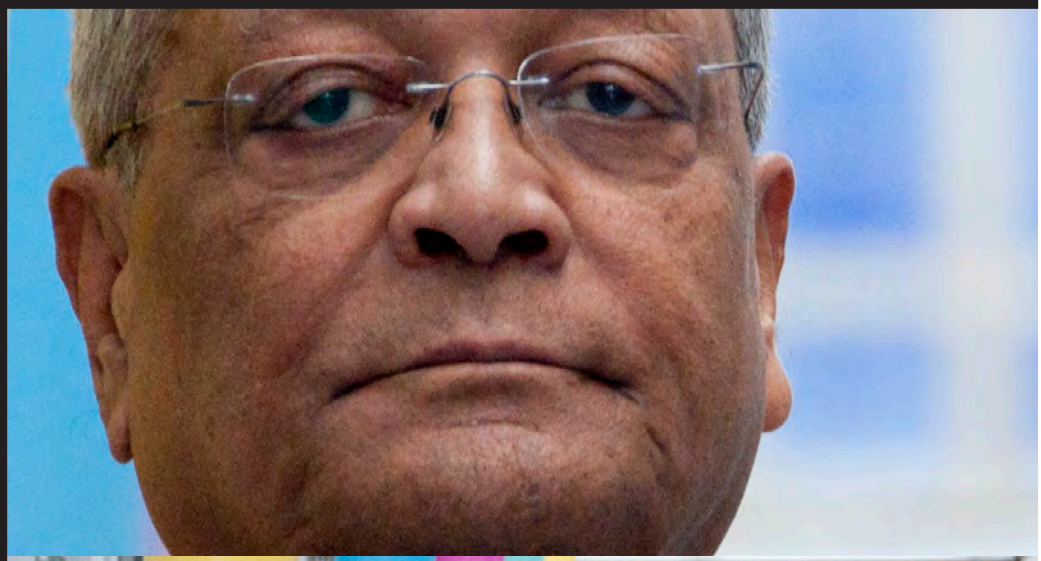
At Swanlea we pride ourselves on being a values driven school. Our 'Swanlea Values,' based on respect for all, underpin all that we do as a school community.

Securing academic excellence and developing well-rounded young men and women ready to take their place at the forefront of today's society is central to our vision as a school.

As you read through this edition of Swanlea News we hope that you will see our values and vision writ large in the wealth of opportunities that we seek to provide our students.

Partnerships play an integral part in the securing of this vision, the links that we have forged with institutions such as Deloitte and the Wolfson Foundation, have helped the development of our pupils academically and socially. We are grateful for the support of all our partners in the city and the wider community.

Our key partnership however, is with you, the parents and carers. Your continued support is greatly appreciated in securing the best possible future for your child. We hope you enjoy reading our latest edition of Swanlea News.



## Chair of Governors

Habib Rahman

It gives me immense pleasure to write a few lines for Swanlea News. We at Swanlea school take the business of fostering partnerships with parents and carers very seriously. We do know that we can achieve good results for our children by having a common and joint interest in the school. Keeping this in mind we always try to obtain greater participation of parents/carers in our school life. One of the many ways that a parent/carer can help the school is by actively participating in decision making. In the Governing Body of the school we have seven parent governors directly elected by parents/carers. We have just reconstituted our Governing Body and parents/carers will have eight governors out of a total of twenty. Currently we have three vacancies in this category and I expect that parents/carers will come forward to contest this election to be announced shortly.

I thank you very sincerely for your support over the years.

# Key Stage 3 Enrichment

Shama Malik

Our Enrichment Programme for period 7 is run by an outside agency called 'Let Me Play'. 'Let Me Play' is a sports, education and outreach organisation that specifically works with young people.

Some of the activities we have taking place after school are Cooking, Jewellery-Making, Basketball and Archery. Students are given a chance to try out a range of different and exciting activities throughout the academic year. It also gives them the opportunity to develop new skills, by working with experts in arts and the sports industry.

Every Monday as part of our Enrichment Programme we provide an exciting opportunity for Key Stage 3 students to join our popular cooking club.

This club is designed for students to have the chance to gain skills in order to independently cook both savoury and desert dishes. Examples of things we have made are brownies, cakes, toad in the hole, enchiladas, pineapple upside down cake and lots more.

Other skills that students learn in engaging in this particular activity are:

- Food preparation skills such as washing their hands before they start to cook, measuring and mixing skills using small appliances and cooking safety.
- Cultural knowledge; students learn about their own and others culture through cooking.
- Literacy skills such as reading for information and following step-by-step instructions.

We educate students about the importance of healthy eating, health and safety within the kitchen and specific skills such as creaming, kneading, and whisking. Students are able to gain experience in using different types of equipment that are essential to succeed in the cooking world such as weighing scales; being able to understand measuring in grams and ounces, as well as using cookers and understanding the importance of temperature when cooking different types of foods.

The service enables our students to gain valuable skills needed for when the time comes to lead a more independent life, whilst having fun at the same time.

Archery is also one activity that is popular for both the boys and the girls as they like getting into two teams and going head to head with one another.

Archery is the skill of aiming and shooting arrows at a target using a bow. The main

skills students pick up from practicing archery are discipline, following instructions, team work, encouragement from peers, increasing of self-confidence and maturity. Students will also develop their focus, concentration and hand-eye coordination, especially their depth of vision. The intricate detail of the sport also improves their fine motor skills and the constant lifting and pulling will improve arm strength.

Jewellery-Making is another one of our popular activities; this activity teaches the students the latest trends for 2015, for example, statement necklaces, textures of different types of beads, jewellery and colours. The pupils really enjoy this activity as part of their Period 7 as they get to explore the fashion world and design and make their own accessory. They also get to learn how to use the different types of equipment such as pliers for bracelets and earrings and the different types of glue used to stick on beads or Swarovski stones.

Another favourite for our students which always has a full class without fail, is Basketball. Basketball is a team sport and a great way to develop skills such as positive body awareness, increased self-confidence and social skills. It enables students to work together, communicate and also get to know one another's strengths and abilities by playing as a team.

Overall it is a team effort which means it requires contribution and cooperation from every member. Students also learn the basics of how to play the game, how to pass, how to dribble and how to shoot a ball. Learning these skills mean students are given the chance to develop their skills and will be motivated to enter competitions to go and play with other schools.

Our Period 7 activities offer students a wealth of opportunities, providing them with an enriching life!!

## Parental Engagement

Nozrul Chowdhury

This year we have organised around 14 parent meetings for parents to meet with staff/teachers to receive information on their child's learning. Some of these were in the form of Parent Information Evenings, which were a new addition this year and have been well received by the parents attending, as well as the annual Parent Evenings for each year group cohort. The focus of the Parent Information Evenings was to share important information about students' learning at Swanlea School, with presentations from the Learning Co-ordinators, faculties and external visitors providing overviews of the young people's learning and experiences expected during the academic year. Presentations provided an opportunity for parents to find out more about what the student is learning in subjects and what parents can do to support at home. Parents have said, 'Teachers explained subjects well', 'It was great to hear current and previous students speaking on their experiences', 'I liked the organisation of the event and refreshments provided – well done!'

## Swanlea PTA

Nozrul Chowdhury

This term the Swanlea School Parent and Teacher Association (PTA) have been running an unwanted clothes collection to raise money for the PTA. The funds raised will go towards Student Activities Day next term. The clothes will be recycled via the Bag2School scheme, which will reimburse the PTA for the collection. Parents wanting to donate clothes can do so by contacting the school office. There are plans for an educational tour for families to raise awareness of Higher Education. If parents have any suggestions or want to make donations for the event please get in touch. The PTA aims to raise funds for the school, organise social activities for parents/carers and staff, and foster and encourage links with the wider community. The PTA committee want to encourage more parents/staff to take an active role, by joining the PTA committee by completing the membership form and attending the PTA meetings. Please contact Mr Chowdhury (Assistant Headteacher) or Mr Gous Miah (PTA Chair) via the school office for membership forms.

## The Spirit of Giving

Kabir Miah

The spirit of giving is truly alive and well at Swanlea! A big thank you must go to the generosity shown by students, parents and teachers alike in their incredible support of the two charitable campaigns that the school engaged in this Christmas. The first was our food drive for the 'Whitechapel Mission'. The Whitechapel Mission is an organisation that helps support the homeless in providing their basic needs of food, shelter, clothing and medical care. Our campaign was an overwhelming success with the school being inundated with tinned food, chocolates, biscuits and food of all varieties. On the last day of school before the Christmas break, Swanlea students had the honour of taking all the collected items and donating them in person to the Whitechapel Mission where they were gratefully received.

Our second campaign aimed to tackle the Ebola epidemic which has effected parts of West Africa. The 'Lunch Box Gift' was our cause and donations were collected to provide freshly cooked meals for patients and frontline healthcare workers in the Ebola emergency treatment centres across communities in Sierra Leone. The money was raised through many student driven initiatives including cake stalls, a non-school-shoe day where students paid £1 for the privilege of wearing trainers to school and a sponsored silence by our Year 10 students (very popular with their teachers!). Through the combined efforts of all our staff and children, we raised a grand total of £2,430 all of which will go to support the fight against Ebola!

Year 8 students Maud McLaughlin and Angelina Fontaine summed up Swanlea student's feelings when they commented "It was an important cause and one where we all could participate in. It was great to make an honest contribution."

A huge thanks to everyone who contributed.

# World Book Day

Manjot Bami

As posters of pupils and staff reading appeared around the school, everyone knew that the World Book Day celebrations were around the corner.

Weeks before WBD, Swanlea School Library had a bookshop so pupils and staff had an opportunity to buy books. It was a great success and the library earned £100 worth of books as commission. Pupils received World Book Day Vouchers which they can use to buy books from bookshops.

The morning of the 5th arrived and many characters stepped out of the books. We had the Mad Hatter, Queen of Hearts and even playing cards from Alice in Wonderland. Red Riding Hood, the Wolf and Snow White emerged from Brothers Grimm Fairy Tales. There were characters from Harry Potter, Lord of the Rings. The Wizard of Oz, Macbeth, Pippi Longstocking, Narnia, Sherlock Holmes and James Bond. We even had The Colour Purple and The Boy in the Dress! The pupils as always enjoyed guessing the characters and there was a photo booth in the Library to capture the images of all the characters before they stepped back into the books.

While the staff represented the characters, pupils got a chance to transform their rooms into their favourite book and the best decorated class won a prize. Many books including Harry Potter, Skulduggery and Holes inspired the pupils.

Elsewhere, the Sherlock Club asked pupils to turn detective. Pupils had to unscramble clues to find the hidden silhouettes of the famous detective.

Through the week we had assemblies and pupils and staff talked about what they enjoy reading. Prizes were given to pupils who have read over a million words and classes that have read the most books.

So many of our pupils are reading so well, that we had to have two reading teas. Parents and pupils were invited to an afternoon of celebration in the library. Prizes were handed out to the pupils who are reading well and making excellent progress in LEXIA. Everyone enjoyed the tea and cakes too!

Thanks to staff, pupils, parents and governors who made it such an enjoyable day.

## Authors Have A Word

Manjot Bami

Last term the Library hosted authors Karen McCombie, who writes about issues facing girls and Sufiya Ahmed, who has written about forced marriage.

Karen McCombie needed no introduction as her books are popular amongst the female students who were looking forward to meeting her.

Karen's talk was inspiring. She talked about where her ideas come from, using anecdotes and short readings. Karen's aim was to fire the imagination of students, expressing that little ideas lead to big results.

Sufiya Ahmed became an author after having various jobs, including working in the Houses of Parliament. 'Secrets of a Henna Girl' is about a girl who is taken back to Pakistan and expected to marry to protect her father's honour. Sufiya posed the question "what choices did she have?" Getting students thinking about the choices they would make and the consequences was her aim.

Visit the school library to find out more about the authors and their books.

## The Book of Dreams

Susanna Janner

*A book is a dream that you hold in your hands.*

Three year 11 students (Yunas, Yusuf and Kibria) from the Nurture Class held a dream / book sale as part of their in-school work experience and to raise money for Red Nose Day.

The boys all took on important roles; Kibria welcomed everyone to the sale, Yunus replenished the books on the table and gave the prices and Yusuf was in charge of the money. The boys were ably supported by Yaqub Absiye, 10A who mingled with the crowds, offering a bespoke service by finding out individual's reading preferences and recommending books; Misbahur Rahman, 8C volunteered to organise the encyclopedias.

A huge thanks to the premises team for setting out the tables and transporting the book boxes at very short notice - and a massive thanks to everyone who bought a book.

Finally: how many dreams have you held in your hands this year? Look out for future book sales!

## Super Learning Day

Jane Brownlee

Both Super Learning Days this year were magnificent! Our latest one was full of superlative experiences for students and we are delighted with the outcome.

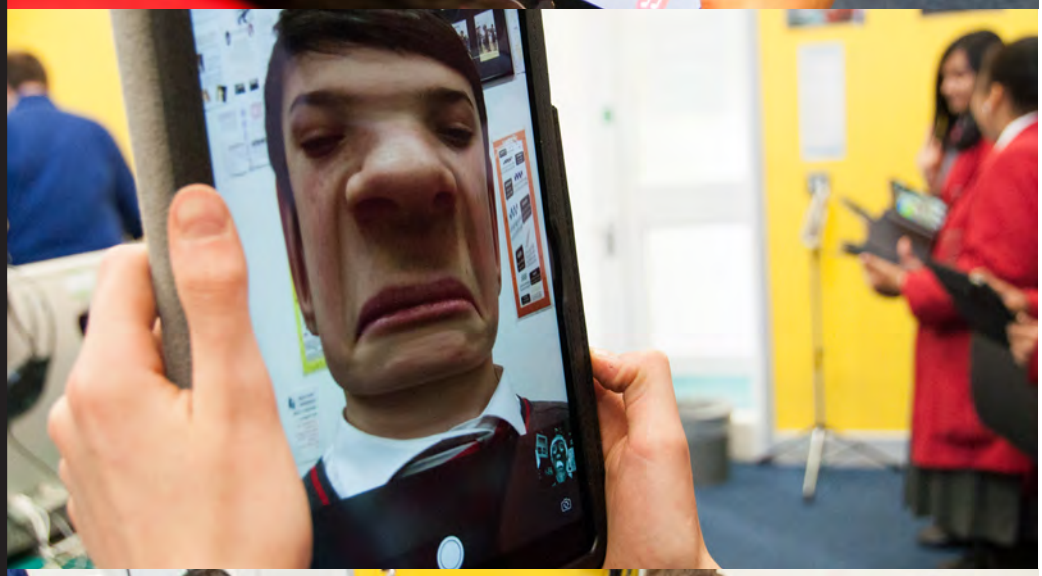
Year 7 visited the musical Wicked. The feedback from other theatre goers was incredible as our students were engaged in the performance, enthralled by the story and displayed exceptional behaviour. The observations from students were incredible "It was great. It is not about judging people by the colour of their skin but by their actions. You should never judge a book by its cover."

Year 8 had a fantastic day at the Warner Brother Studio tour of Harry Potter. Judging by the photos, it is difficult to see who had the most fun – staff or students? Our students could see the difference between 'working' on a film rather than just watching it. Their imagination was stirred, and we hope our students are able to transcend the ordinary and aim for originality and greatness.

Year 9 completed their IAP day. The atmosphere in the library was very supportive. It was clear to anyone who saw students making the brave decisions about their future studies that our year 9 team made students and staff aware of the possibilities, and helped our students make decisions to set them on a course for achievement.

Year 10 had a fantastic day completing a Humanities carousel. The students demonstrated a focused attitude and our Humanities team presented a highly valuable day, preparing students for their GCSE examinations. Year 11 rotated around Maths, English and Science. We hope that this vital intense learning makes the difference with students reaching their target grades. Many thanks to our Core subjects staff who presented revision, examinations, A-Level taster sessions and coursework catch-up. The year 12s visited a number of sites of religious and cultural significance, including: Bevis Marks, Westminster Abbey, the Whitechapel Jewish Cemetery, Buddhapadipa Temple and the Wesley Centre. I have been greatly impressed by the mature and punctilious responses from Year 12, who all felt the trip was informative and enlightening.

Sincere thanks to all staff who provided Swanlea School students with superb and challenging learning experiences this year.



## A New Instrument

Jane Brownlee

In February 2014 the Swanlea Music department started a program called 'Swanlea Composes'. Students worked on original compositions in class and in weekend workshops during 'Composers Week'. We realised that we could develop this program with some more specialised equipment which led to us submitting a proposal to the Wolfson Foundation.

The Wolfson Foundation is a charity awarding grants to support and promote excellence in the fields of science and medicine, the arts and humanities, education and health and disability. Their funds are generated through endowment. They have awarded over £750 million in grants since their establishment in 1955 supporting nearly 10,000 projects.

Our Wolfson Foundation grant has allowed us to purchase 76 iPads. The iPads are being used by many groups across the school to foster creativity and innovation. 13 of the iPads are for the sole use of the nurture group students and they have already started using musical Apps to create new musical works.

The 'Swanlea Composes' program aims to develop creativity and individualised learning with musically gifted students by giving them access to iPads while participating in a specialist music composition program.

As a result of the initial composition workshops, all students involved were highly motivated to continue composing. Students recorded compositional ideas at school and were able to continue working on these motifs or soundscapes. The participation of students using computers with music software in the music department outside of formal lesson times is extremely vibrant. Students have had their eyes opened to the possibilities of composing and have made some incredible leaps in terms of presenting abstract thoughts and ideas through music.

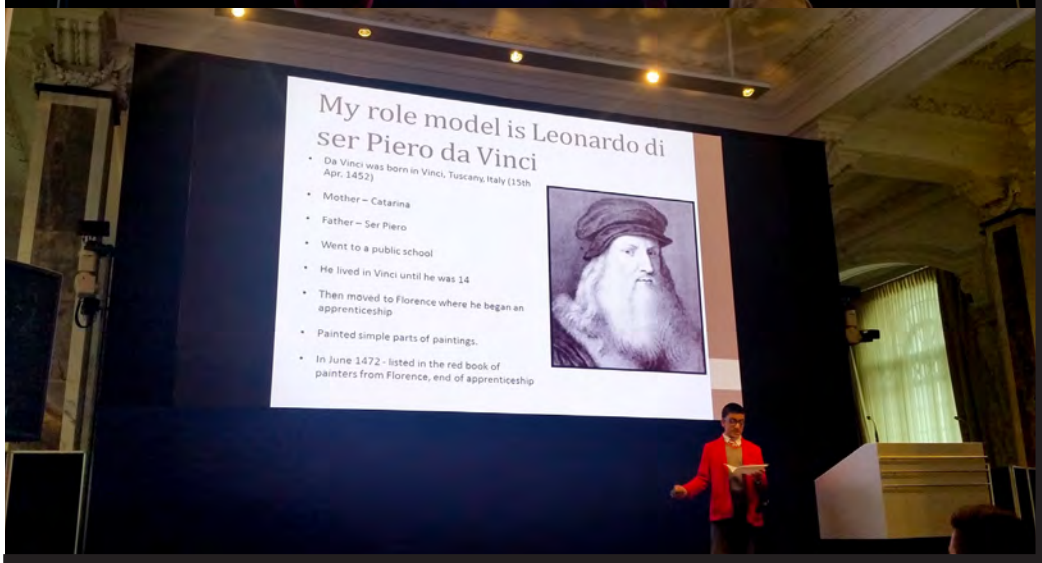
Swanlea School is very grateful to the Wolfson Foundation. This grant will open another avenue of possibilities for our students and we hope that our students become even more courageously creative.

## Taking the Stage

Rahima Khatun

The next stage of the Bank of America Merrill Lynch Presentation Skills Competition is fast approaching. With this in mind, ten Swanlea semi-finalists from Year 9 were invited to a practice run at King Edward Hall. This was a valuable experience for our students as they were given the chance to go on stage and present in front of BAML staff and experience what it would be like during the next stage of the competition. After their practice run, BAML staff helped the students, suggesting points they can improve and how to recognise and develop their strengths.

The topics chosen for the competition ranges from politics to role models to whether or not technology is taking over. While this covers a wide range of talking points, we have every confidence in our students and wish them the very best in the next stage of the competition!




## Inspiring the Future

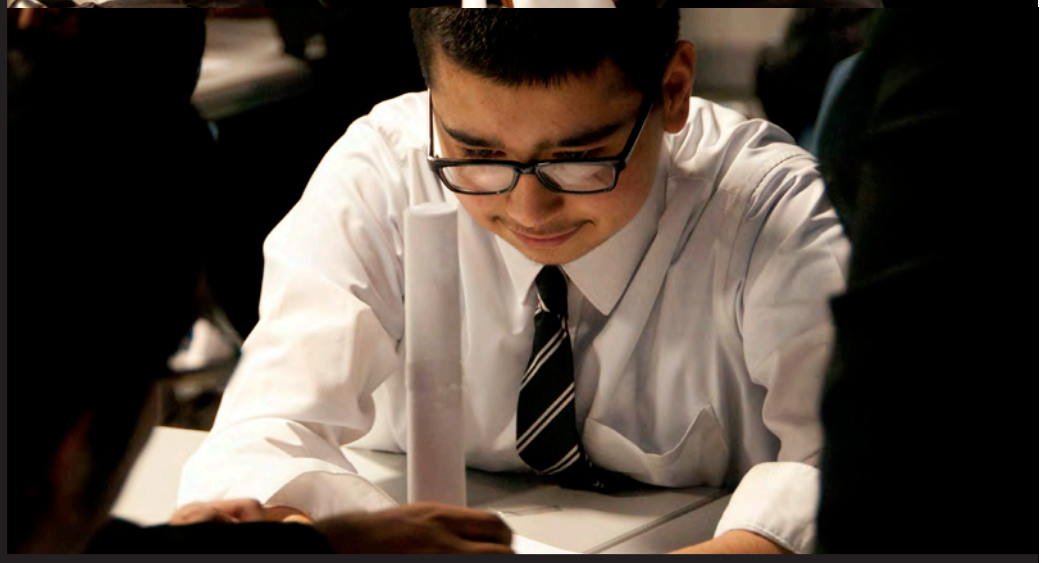
Sadia Ahmed, 9A

On Thursday 12th March, female students across Key Stage 3 visited Mulberry School to meet highly successful and influential women in a 'Speed Mentoring Event' run by the organization 'Inspiring the Future'.

We had the unique opportunity to meet senior female representatives from all walks of industry, including Miriam Gonzales, an eminent international lawyer and spouse of Nick Clegg, as well as managers from companies such as BT, Google and Microsoft. We gained useful insights into their careers, and how they overcame various obstacles on the way.

We were informed of the startling figures regarding the lack of women in STEM-related career paths and in senior positions. Many believe that STEM subjects are traditionally for boys, but young women have the capability to follow their dreams in any occupational field, if we learn to reject stereotypes and believe in ourselves.

The event was very inspiring and the participants left feeling motivated and determined to defy cultural and social expectations.



## It Starts with a SPARC

Rahima Khatun

SPARCs were recently given the opportunity to attend two workshops run by Deloitte LLP. The objective of these workshops was to focus on leadership training in order to make our SPARCs the very best they can be. During this training students learned how to build the skills needed to become mentors, deal with conflict and support one another.

The first workshop explored what leadership is and the qualities needed to be a good leader. The second workshop helped our students develop an understanding of self-awareness, making them consider what skills and qualities they already have and how they can develop and take responsibility for these.

With the help of Deloitte LLP, the workshops were a huge success and an amazing opportunity for our students. Our SPARCs took a lot away from this training and by the end of both workshops they created a community between them, making a stronger, more reliable and helpful group within Swanlea's Student Leadership Team.

## The Young Reader's Club

Rahima Khatun

Since September, Swanlea has been working with Deloitte LLP to run various workshops to support and develop our students further. The book club provides a safe environment for students who struggle with reading to practice and improve. Deloitte LLP volunteers help students by talking about books and taking turns to read with the group. The Newspaper Club offers students an opportunity to broaden their horizons into the world of media. Students read articles from different newspapers and discuss the impact the articles have on themselves, the UK and globally. This club strengthens our student's debating skills and gives them a chance to provide their own opinion. 'I-inspire' is a one-to-one mentoring programme between Deloitte LLP volunteers and male students.

This programme increases engagement with boys at Swanlea by providing role models for them to work with and learn from. The Swanlea/Deloitte LLP Access relationship has provided numerous opportunities as well as providing an enriching experience for our students.

## Budding Brunels

Hannah Fox

Year 12 students with an interest in engineering and construction have been taking part in the "Budding Brunels" programme, which is organised by the Construction Youth Trust. Students spent three days visiting construction sites, such as the Crossrail sites at Victoria, Bond Street and Tottenham Court Road. They also met representatives from a range of organisations, including major building and civil engineering companies such as Sir Robert McAlpine, Balfour Beatty and Conway. Several students were then invited to take part in work experience during their half term, at these organisations.

The students were glowing about the programme. Abeer Ali said, "Taking part in 'Budding Brunels' has helped me to have more of an insight into what careers there are in construction and widen my horizons." Hussain Miah said, "I enjoyed my work experience at TFL because I got to work among project managers and engineers. I realised there are different types of management roles in the construction industry."

## Head to Head

Hannah Fox

In February, Swanlea Sixth Form students spent a day taking part in "Head to Head interviews." Students were able to experience a realistic mock job interview with volunteers from various businesses, including Barclays, Deloitte and KPMG. They received individual feedback on improving their CVs and on developing their interview techniques, including body language and how to answer interview-style questions. This was a very useful experience and will help the students as they apply for part-time jobs, work experience and even university interviews next year. The feedback from students was very positive. They were nervous beforehand but came out of their interviews smiling. One of the students, Syed Farah (pictured) said, "This experience has taught me so much on a personal and professional level. It showed me that a first impression is the most important impression during an interview. I will be able to apply what I have learnt in the future."

## The Ambulance Service

Hannah Fox

A former student of Swanlea School, Ahomadun Ali, now works for the Ambulance Service as a Medical Dispatch Officer. He came in to school to talk to Year 12 Health and Social Care students about his job role and about working for the ambulance service and the NHS. The students had lots of questions for Ali about the challenges and rewards of his job role and they were inspired to think about a range of careers that they hadn't previously considered. From Paramedics to Ambulance Care Assistants, there are many interesting careers in the ambulance service and in the NHS. There are more than 350 different career roles in the NHS as a whole, and we are hopeful that some of our Health and Social Care students will come back to Swanlea to talk about their own future careers in one of these roles in the health service!

## The Next Big Thing

Hannah Fox

A group of Year 13 BTEC Business and ICT students took part in an enterprise competition called the "Next Big Thing." NBT is a unique business enterprise development programme where students gain the opportunity to see what it is like to be an entrepreneur. Over seven weeks the teams of students worked with expert mentors to develop their business ideas, and received expert coaching in communication skills from professional actors from RADA. All teams worked extremely hard at coming up with innovative ideas and all gave a great presentation at the final, alongside students from other schools in London. The final was a "Dragon's Den" style event, presented by Levi Roots, with a panel of expert judges from the business world. One of our teams won second place and Monsur Ahmed won a work experience opportunity at Fablemaze, a media and entertainment company. Congratulations to all who took part!

## Jack Petchey Winner

Sukaina Sesay

Kawsar Ahmed of Year 13 has lead the operation of the Pen Hut which has mainly benefited the lower school and through his hard work has raised several thousand pounds for the use of the school. He is there every lunch time and is responsible for opening the hut, managing the other student volunteers and handling the money collected. I find it hard to think of another student in his year group who has contributed so much, so consistently to the school.

The Pen Hut is probably the most successful student enterprise from a commercial point of view ever run by the school and Kawser has been its main volunteer.

Kawsar also is the first point of call for teachers in the 6th Form when we need a volunteer or interpreter. He offers his help without hindrance and has been an extremely positive role model.

He is a worthy winner of our Jack Petchey award for the term.

## Happy as Harry

Zara Islam

Swanlea welcomed back The Jewish Museum and with them came a once in a lifetime opportunity for Year 9 Students to meet Harry Spiro, Holocaust survivor. After telling his story, the students had the opportunity to ask Harry questions and wrote letters to Harry in workshops held by The Jewish Museum.

Harry told us of his time at Buchenwald Concentration Camp and how at age 12 he knew he would never see his family again. He spoke of how he walked with 3000 other Jewish prisoners to Theresienstadt in what was called the Death March as only 300 prisoners survived. Luckily he was one of 700 survivors under 16 to come to Britain and start a new life.

Harry left students and staff with a feeling of awe at his positive attitude, leaving the message that we should never hate and discriminate because we are all human. Thank you to Harry Spiro for allowing us the privilege of hearing his story.

## In Memory of Anne

Paul Gardner

In January, Swanlea School welcomed the Anne Frank Trust back for the second time. Students in Year 9 were chosen to become peer guides who would guide other young people around the exhibition, gaining an in-depth knowledge of the story of Anne Frank as well as a sense of achievement. The students spent the first day being trained on how to be good presenters and learn the key parts of Anne's life. Over the next two weeks the exhibition was seen by Year 7 and Year 8. The aims of the project are:

- Understand the consequences of unchecked prejudice and discrimination.
- Explore, understand, respect and celebrate cultural diversity.
- Learn more about themselves and their local community.
- Increase their confidence, as they develop their literacy and presentation skills.
- Develop respect for others

All of the peer guides really enjoyed the experience. It taught them not only about the story of Anne Frank, but also how we all have a role play to challenge inequality and discrimination. Feedback from staff and students was overwhelmingly positive. Mohammed in Year 8 said:

*"The guides explained really well what happened to Anne Frank"*

Challenging all forms of discrimination is a key part of our Swanlea Shared Values. As a school we believe the chances of young people are enhanced by ensuring that they do not let prejudice or discrimination hold them back in achieving their goals. This project taught staff and students about the consequences of prejudice and discrimination. It also taught valuable skills students can use for college, university and job interviews. As always students showed themselves as the best ambassadors for their families/carers and Swanlea.

Well done to our Peer Guides:

Sharmin Chowdhury, Shakil Rahman, Shirin Akhter, Daniela Sabarova, Sara Shimul, Rezaul Hoque, Samiya Ahmed, Nazma Begum, Sumiya Begum, Md Zahid Habib, Md Abdul Jahid, Rabbi Uddin, Abdi Fatah Adam, Abubakor Mahmoud, Nazim Hoque, Majeda Uddin, Kadiatu May Conteh, Tania Choudhury, Habib Al Mahmud Rapu, Parbina Begum, Sufia Begum Omar Riaz

## Volleyball

Andrew Grant

Volleyball within Swanlea School has really taken a huge step towards cementing future success and progression by winning the Tower Hamlets under 15 Boys competition. The competition was hosted at Swanlea School for the first time and saw several competitive teams attend. Specialist Volleyball academies Ernest Bevin College and Chadwell Heath School were invited to take part, adding an even more competitive edge.

It was always going to be a tough ask to go up against the two specialist Volleyball academies as they were able to easily dispel of Sir John Cass School, Stepney Green School and Bow Boys to be the highest ranked Tower Hamlets school at the competition. The Swanlea team consisted of, Hamza Hashi, Mubarak Ali, Mazhar Alam, Mubrarak Ali, Ibrahim Alex Stanley and Petru. In preparation for the event, the boys committed themselves to training three times a week and were excellent on the day. The boys will represent the borough at the London School Games Finals on March 12th at UEL SportsDock. Let's wish them luck!

Coached by the dedicated and charismatic Mohammed Sliti, the numbers of pupils participating in Volleyball is growing. The coaching programme is in its third year and has instilled a sense of discipline, hard work and determination amongst the students. Amina Khatun and Roda Abokor, now at Swanlea Sixth Form continue to play and train outside of school. Swanlea pupils Blaze Emin, Zakaria Gulaid and Umaimah Huda in Year 9 used their enthusiasm for Volleyball to complete a Level 1 Junior Sports Leaders course that was run over half term.

## Badminton

Christopher Curran

Swanlea School has a long history of Badminton achievement. Having previously been Tower Hamlets Champions in KS3 and beating a number of teams in the East London round, the pupils were hoping to repeat that level of success.

Eight schools arrived on the day and our team started playing very well, beating Bow School without losing a game. Then moving on to beating Morpeth and Stepney Green B teams convincingly.

Then came the final with Stepney Green A team.

The opening game started with a bang Zihad Hussain 11C beat the number one player from Stepney in a singles game. Giving him some potential bragging rights for being the best year 11 player in Tower Hamlets currently. His power was immense throughout but what really separated Zihad from the rest was his tactical knowledge and consistently varying his shots to put the shuttle in difficult positions for the opponent.

The rest of the team also played very positively during the final with Tuhin and Rabbi playing very well as doubles partners. But alas it was not to be this time. Stepney moved away from us and Swanlea had to contend with second place in the whole of Tower Hamlets.

The boys conducted themselves well throughout being polite, well mannered and supportive of their team mates.

Well done Zihad Hussain 11C, Tuhin Ahmed 11S, Shafiqul Islam 10E and Rabbi Uddin 9N

## Netball

Megan Flannery

Year 7 had their first ever Netball tournament where Swanlea played with determination. Some excellent shooting from Fatima Khanom 7C, meant they stormed through the first game against George Green with a 3-0 victory.

Competing with Central Foundation Blue, Masuma Begum and Anisa Hussain 7C played well in attack and at the end of the quarter, we were leading. Goals kept coming and Central B was powerless to stop the force of our game. Asma Yusuf 7C and Nusrat Begum 7S consistently took up good positions and accurate passing from Masuma meant we kept a solid momentum going throughout the game, winning with 4-0.

Playing against Central Gold was challenging as they won their last two games. Passing, movement and spacing around the court was the best it had been, however at half time we were 1-0 down. We lost 3-1 but Somia and Khadija did very well in defence, making it a low scoring game.

It takes a whole team to make a good game and the girls should be proud of their performance. We still have a long way to go but this was a very positive start!

## Cyber Advice

Sadia Ahmed, 9A

We've all heard it before - it is frequently thrown at us in assemblies, workshops and the like: the internet is a dangerous place. Our generation is one that evidently relies on the glorious internet for a wide variety of things: homework help, catching up with friends and stalking celebrities who are completely unaware of our existences. Whilst there are, undoubtedly, an innumerable number of advantages to using the internet, there are an equal number of disadvantages. We've all heard about the danger of talking to strangers, and I think we're all smart enough to evade such a risk.

Albert Einstein (the universal legend) once said: "I fear the day that technology will surpass our human interaction. The world will have a generation of idiots." He wasn't wrong.

Humans are the only beings with souls, and our souls cannot ever be replaced with phone screens, and our true friends can never be replaced by our followers.

## Inclusion Annual Review

Natascia Maita

Every year the Inclusion department have an annual review for the statemented students. This is a great opportunity for parents and teachers to meet to discuss the progress and needs for each student.

Normally annual reviews are more for the parents, but this year we've changed the format, making it more pupil-centred. Questions are now asked directly to each pupil, making them more involved in their reviews.

My class is a complex needs one and because of this I put together picture based questions to help the students understand the questions. The picture based format creates a more accessible form of communication for the student, meaning they are able to follow and participate in the conversations. We also set out to find targets for the students to achieve, which are used to create a sense of independence and confidence for the student.

The pupil-centred annual review has had positive results and we hope to follow this format in the future.

# Academic Overview

*A snapshot glance at all the action across our different faculties...*

## Music

Jane Brownlee

The Swanlea School Music department has had a very exciting year of music making so far. On the 9th of February Swanlea School presented a world premiere concert in collaboration with The Royal Academy of Music and Spitalfields Music. The Concert was directed by Suzi Zumpe, who is the joint artistic director of the Royal Opera House Youth Opera Company.

The performance featured choirs from Swanlea School and Year 5 class choirs from Canon Barnet and Shapla Primary schools. The concert called 'Space', featured newly created works written in collaboration with the student choirs and three up and coming composers, Sam Ripley, Gidon Finerman and Elo Masing. The composers work-shopped lyrical and musical motif ideas with the students and created works of epic proportions.

Swanlea School Music very much appreciates the support of the Royal Academy of Music and Spitalfields Music.

## Drama

Laura Ellington

Drama students Aissatou Djabi 9A and Zakaria Gulaid 9A recently explained why they believe the subject to be so important in school.

Aissatou and Zakaria both agree that drama has allowed students to develop their leadership skills, helping pupils communicate with each other and collaborate as a class. Role play is one of the many forms in which they develop these skills along with bouncing ideas off each other and looking at scripts from different plays.

Aissatou loves the opportunities drama presents in furthering her skills. She said, "I am very interested in the actual process of acting and developing my artistic voice."

Zakaria loves acting, which is the main reason he loves drama. "I love the freedom that comes with drama, the freedom to express oneself without getting into trouble."

A versatile and enjoyable subject, we look forward to seeing what drama has in store for our students next term!

## Physical Education

Christopher Curran

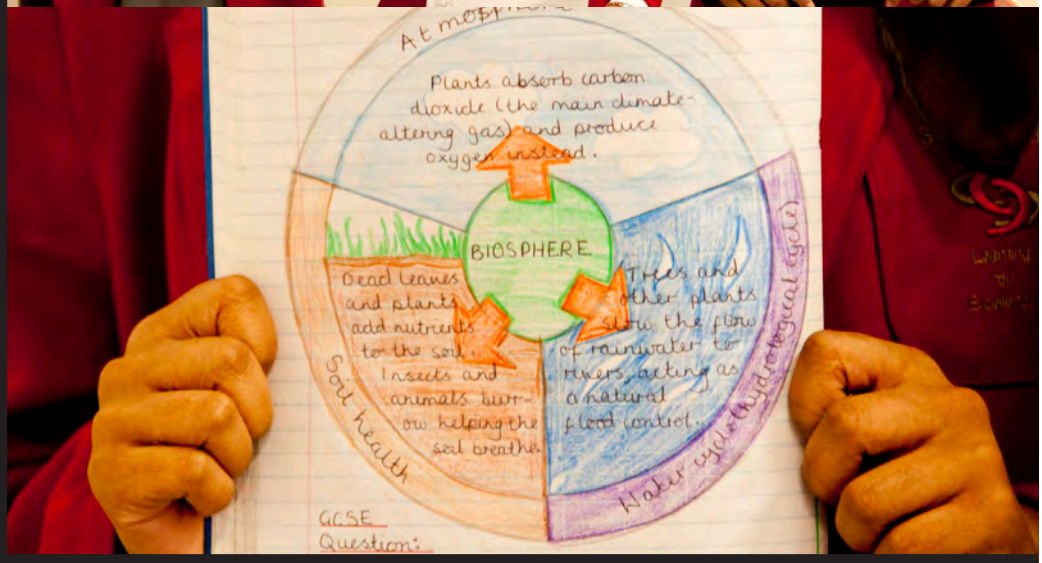
Congratulations to Nadim Miah, 9C for competing in the 2014 Commonwealth Games Taekwondo Championships and winning bronze!

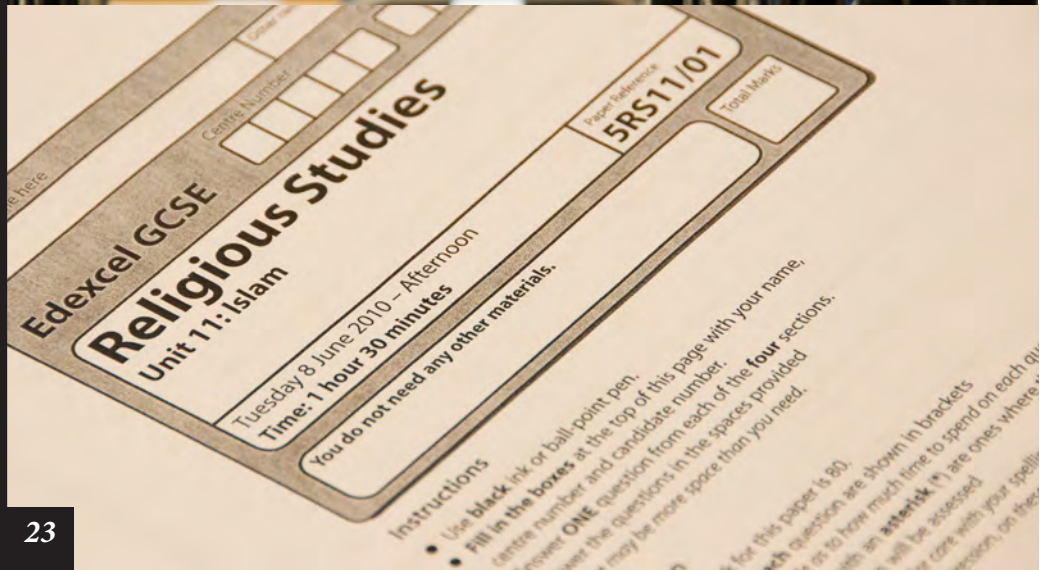
Nadim's success at the Commonwealth Games began from the age of 8 when he began Taekwondo. After sparring for just eight months he was deemed good enough to enter his first competition, where he won silver. He described this competition as a 'memorable' day with the excitement of people cheering him on giving him the adrenaline rush and motivation needed to stay focused.

A few years later, then aged 12, he was competing in his first ever national competition, again winning silver but the next two times he competed, he took home the gold.

Nadim continues to be an inspirational student and sportsman with a bright and successful future ahead of him. He advises those wanting to pursue sports to never give up and keep focused.

We wish Nadim every success in continuing his sporting ambition of competing overseas and maybe the future Olympics!






## Geography

Nicholas Lee

Geography is thriving at Swanlea and this is most evident among our GCSE students. 9BGG is a class that exemplifies the quality of learning and progress achieved, where all students enjoy lessons, work hard and flourish.

Naajiya's outstanding achievement is owed to her interest in the subject; "I love geography because I've always been fascinated by the world and nature, what is out there for us to see."

Tajwar in 9N realises the importance of geography in everyday life; "Geography teaches us how to improve our daily lives and what to expect from the planet we live on."

Emad in 9A enjoys geography and takes great pride in his work "Geography brings life and fun into learning about the processes that create our world."

## Religious Education

Paul Gardner

Year 10 students have been studying hard since the start Year 9 for their GCSE in RE and their upcoming exams are in May and June. During GCSE RE students study both Christianity and Islam and learn about the various religious and non-religious views around marriage and the family, religion and community cohesion and philosophical arguments for and against the existence of God. Recently students have been studying the relationship Islamic belief and practice and on Super Learning Day completed a carousel of activities about Hajj and the activities completed by Muslims on this pilgrimage. At the end of the spring term students completed their final pre-public exam to ensure they are fully prepared for the rigours of their GCSE after the Easter break.

We wish them every success!

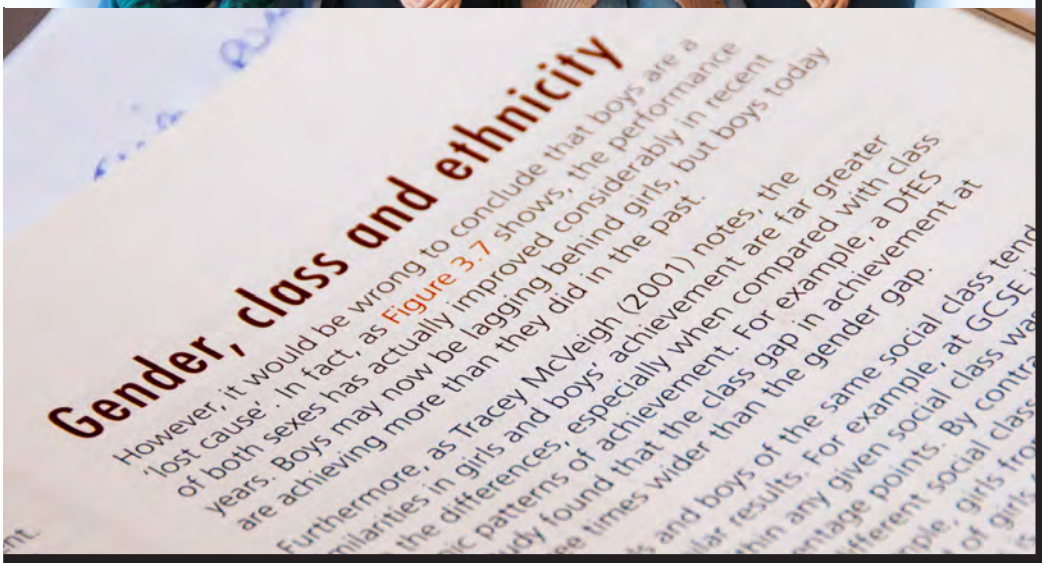
## Sociology

Shadeka Mirza

Year 12 Sociology students are interested in delivering PSHEE lessons to both male and female Year 9 students. These lessons will be on how to reduce low level sexism in school, something which has, in their opinion, become part of the culture and therefore should be challenged in a consistent manner throughout school and society.

Our year 12s will act as ambassadors aiming to change the culture of low level sexism embedded in school (and possibly pupil's home lives) through real life examples of how this is happening. The AS students will deliver presentations and carry out group discussions to educate the lower school on types of sexism. They will also aim to work with the Year 9s to deliver a whole school assembly on sexism awareness and how to prevent it becoming a culture and norm.

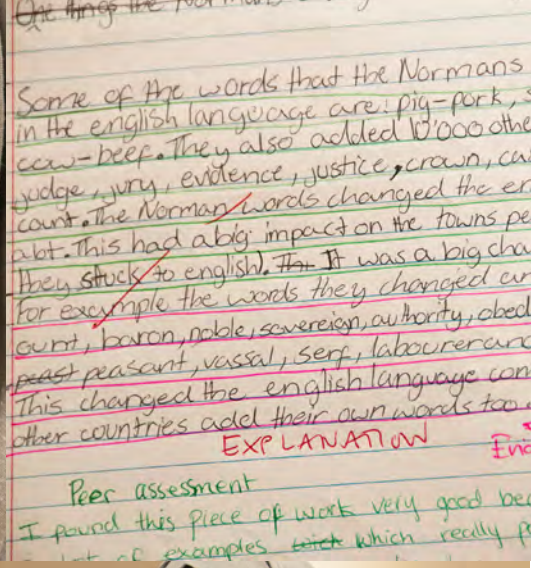
Good luck to all the students involved in this inspiring initiative!




## Government & Politics

Sinead Layzelle

This year in Government & Politics we have introduced 'Seminar week' in Years 12 and 13. The sessions have aimed to create an academic environment that encourages critical thought and discussion through the development of speaking. All seminars have a no pens approach and we have built conversations webs with ribbon and sitting in a circle to help prepare the students for university style learning. The students must also complete reading and come prepared to lesson with notes and ideas so that there is no one joining in uninformed! The seminars are all based on the argument questions on the paper and students write up their answers at the end. It has been great to see an increase in confidence and articulation amongst the students and we have had some passionate debates around key topics. Questions have included – 'Is feminism dead?' 'To what extent can the Conservative party be considered united?' and 'Do Anarchists demand the impossible?'



## History

Sinead Layzelle

The History department has been working on an exciting academic writing project for Key Stage Three. The "Fetch Me a Pen" collaboration with schools from across Tower Hamlets and the Institute of Education has enabled both staff and students to further their knowledge and appreciation of in-depth grammar skills and literacy across the curriculum.

A Year 8 Scheme of Learning on slavery has showcased the lesson planning, review and reflection cycle in which students have been able to use modal verbs and modifiers to help develop a more fluent written style. Students enjoyed a competitive element to lessons where they aimed to write high-point scoring sentences which enriched and extended their vocabulary with analytical and significance words for historical argument.

## Media Studies

Almass Rahman 11N

Media Studies is a subject that inspires your creativity and develops your understanding as to how today's printing press operates. In this particular task, I had to design and create my own magazine, using Microsoft software, such as Publisher. I choose the sports genre, specifically football, and started by looking at existing examples out there in the market today. This assisted me with my ideas for my own magazine, as well as giving me guidance as to what conventions a football magazine should include. I then started planning and carefully outlaying my magazine's structure, contents and other aspects. Having done that, I set to work on it, designing its pages, choosing its images, fonts among others, as well as implementing my ideas that I attained from my research. There was always room for improvement on the road to the final piece, but I felt that I really enjoyed the entirety of the task, and Media Studies as a whole. Undoubtedly, it has to be the most enjoyable GCSE I have taken this year.

## English

Joanna Martin

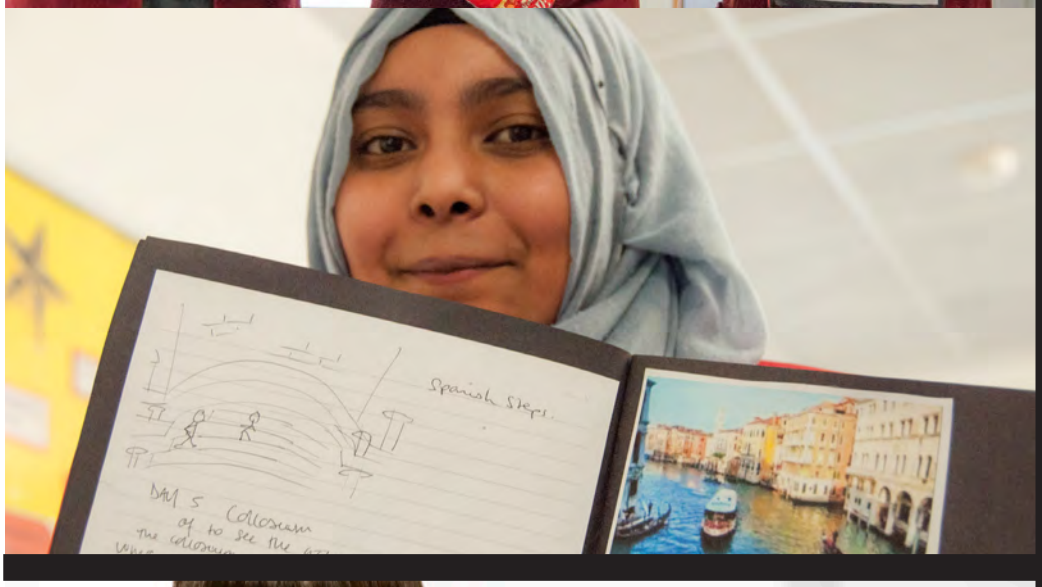
After learning about journeys in English, we were inspired by the book 'Witch Child' to produce a scrapbook. 'Witch Child' is about a young girl called Mary, who embarks on a journey to America after seeing her grandmother executed for being a witch.

Muntaha Begum, 7W said, 'I interviewed my sister-in-law as she has traveled all over the world. I interviewed her about her recent trip to Venice. She said it was an amazing experience which she would never forget.'

Marayam Alam, 7W, researched a variety of people including; Einstein, Mo Farah and her mum. Marayam said she 'felt a bit like Mary as reading and writing about real life journeys helped me to understand more about the reason people travel.'

Umar Chowdhury, 7N, wrote about his trip to Wales, saying 'I had so much fun and wish I could go back. Reading 'Witch Child' helped me focus and use writing techniques'.

Congratulations Muntaha, Marayam and Umar for winning 'best project'!




## Literacy

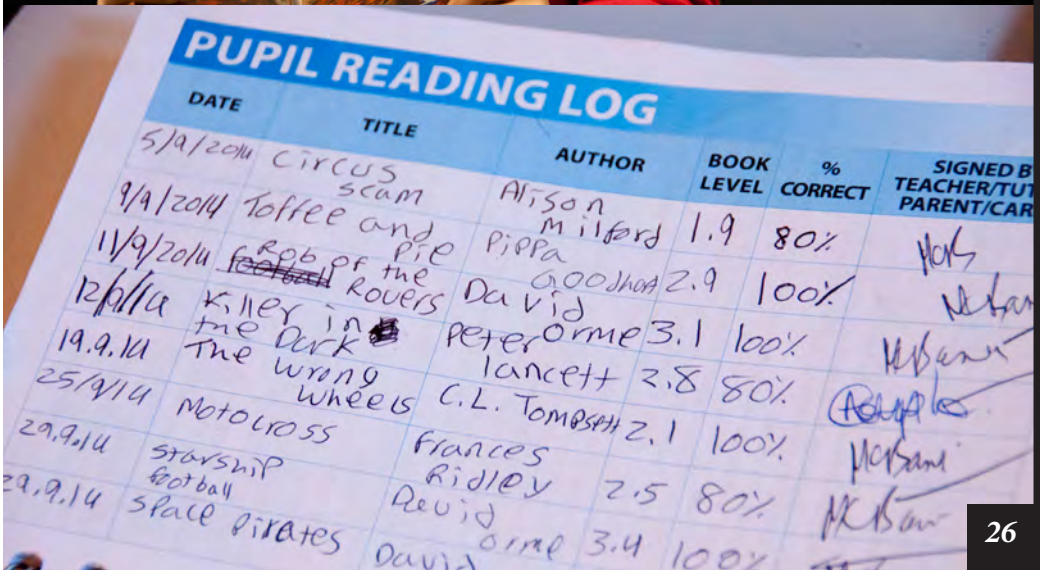
Rachel Warrington

Mahfuz Hasan 8C: reader profile.

'Reading practice' is the answer!' That's Mahfuz Hasan's advice. Since coming to Swanlea, he has become an avid reader (borrowing most of his books from Swanlea Library), and has enjoyed reading rewards including a cinema trip and the World Book Day reading tea.

Like all students in KS3, Mahfuz takes part in the Lexia and Accelerated Reader programmes. For every book Mahfuz reads, he does a quiz on Accelerated Reader. He also keeps a record in the reading log in his planner – he has read so much that he's had to request extra pages, and his dad is very proud.

Mahfuz started the year reading books at around Level 1 on Accelerated Reader, but now regularly reads at Level 5 and his average accuracy score is nearly 100%. Mahfuz told us he feels 'great' when he gets 100% on a quiz. What's more, because of his improved vocabulary, Mahfuz now finds reading easier in all his subjects.



## Art

Raihan Qadir, 11E

After 5 years of studying art at Swanlea I have learnt and taken away a lot from this challenging, yet inspiring subject.

Unlike many other subjects, Art has allowed me the freedom to express myself in certain ways that I am not able to do elsewhere. My journey has allowed me to see Art through a new light, exploring themes such as Identity (Y7), Gargoyles (Y8), Steampunk (Y9) and Portraits at GCSE.

I opted for Art at GCSE at the end of Y9 and since then the subject has given me the independence to channel my own thoughts, views and perceptions of the world around me. It has helped me develop my character, encourage self-awareness and inspire self-belief as I have found my own style through this sometimes stressful but satisfying journey – a visual rite of passage.

## Design & Technology

Sarah Turner

Pupils in year 9 recently had the opportunity to meet Rahemur Rahman, an ex-Central St Martins fashion student who grew up in the local area. Rahman once worked for Louis Vuiton and now works designing collections for 'Underground Shoes.' Pupils listened as he told them all about his journey, how he wanted to go to college to become a fashion designer. He showed them work he had done at college and gave them the opportunity to ask questions.

Pupils were really engaged and inspired, and asked lots of questions related to their subject choices. Sarbjit, from A Team Arts in Hanbury Street, works with schools and other young people in the community who are interested in pursuing a career in fashion and textiles. At A Team Arts she runs half-term and summer workshops in partnership with Central St Martins to give local young people an opportunity to work with tutors from one of the best places to study fashion in the UK. This is how Rahemur Rahman began his journey!

## Science

Anna Bower Taylor

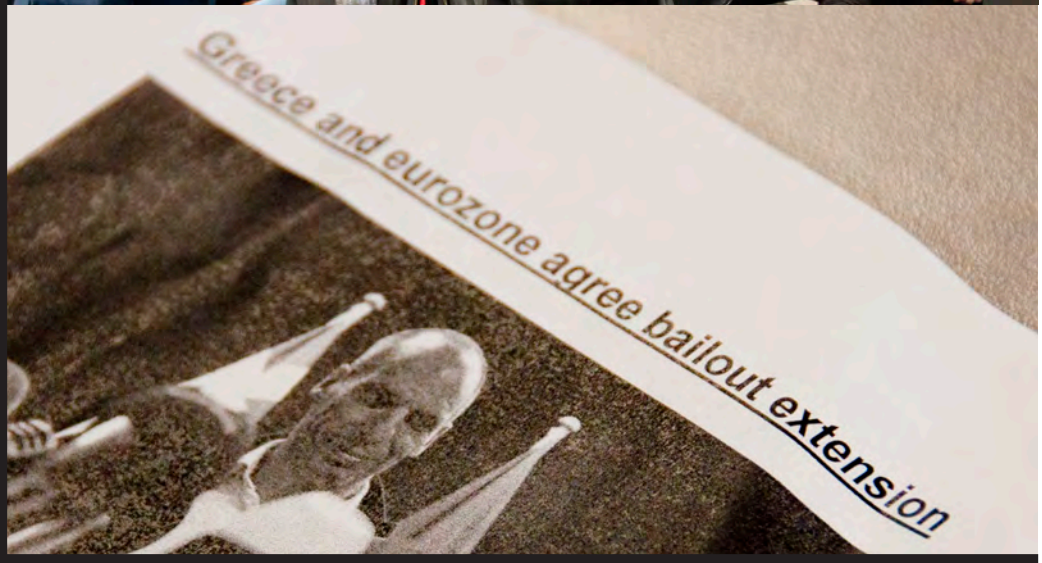
Chemistry A-Level students were recently treated to a Friday afternoon of mystery as they set about solving a murder using innovative spectroscopy techniques. Spectroscopy makes up an important part of the A level Chemistry course and in this session the students got to try the techniques out for themselves. The University of Greenwich, funded by the Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC), brought with them cutting edge equipment required for this exciting foray into the world of forensics.

During the afternoon the students were required to act as sleuths. A victim had been found surrounded by unknown medications and it was up to the students to use their Chemistry knowledge, along with the help of the spectrometer, to discover what might have killed him! The students had a great time analysing data and working hard to uncover the truth. The RSC will be visiting again next year providing more students with a chance to get their hands on some real science.

## Maths

Patrick Doolittle

During the week of the 5th March, Numeracy was everywhere at Swanlea. You couldn't turn a corner without bumping into one of the many games, puzzles and challenges that were on offer. Participants from the entire school had a go at memorising π, and a new Swanlea record was set! A massive 70 digits were memorised by Mihrab Chowdhury 7W, and an honourable mention for our runner up Aya El Kasri 9A, who memorised an impressive 36 digits. A number of students had a go at beating our chess champions and a few highly skilled (or perhaps lucky!) challengers managed to beat them. There was a great turn out for the numeracy quiz but it took a tie breaker to separate the top two teams. On the final day of numeracy week, students were tasked to hunt down the teachers wearing some rather fetching, bright yellow t-shirts. Using the clues on each shirt, 17 students were able to figure out the correct answer. We'd like to thank everyone who participated in this year's numeracy week and congratulations to all the winners!



## Business Studies

Tarikur Rahman

Year 12 and 13 Economics students at Swanlea took part in the monthly Financial Times reading club on the 26th of February. Students work with volunteers from the Deutsche Bank to meet and discuss current affairs using articles from the Financial Times newspaper. Some of the news items discussed included, the economic recovery in the Eurozone, rising house prices and the growing use of using zero hour contracts. Year 13 students are also given the opportunity at the end of the year to apply for the Bank's 'I Have A Dream Programme'. The programme offers exceptional A Level students from Black and Asian ethnic minority backgrounds an intensive three week paid placement with Deutsche Bank during the summer and on-going support and personal development. Students are given the opportunity to gain a real insight into the world of investment banking and take the first step on the career ladder of this exciting industry.

## ICT

Tajmina Chowdhury

Year 12 and 13 students studying BTEC ICT attended Bletchley Park and Museum of Computing on January 2015. The students visited the Tunny and Colossus galleries to better understand the reason for building one of the world's first computers, including seeing the 1944 Colossus Mkll rebuild.

At the museum students were given the opportunity to program and adapt a game on the BBC computers understanding how programming not only controls what we see in a computer but also what we are capable of doing.

Visiting the Government Code and Cypher School – Bletchley Park; students learned of the role the British played in shortening the Second World War by two to three years. Students were able to see replicas of the famous German Enigma Cipher and learn about the importance of communication through secret encoded cypher messages.

## Modern Languages

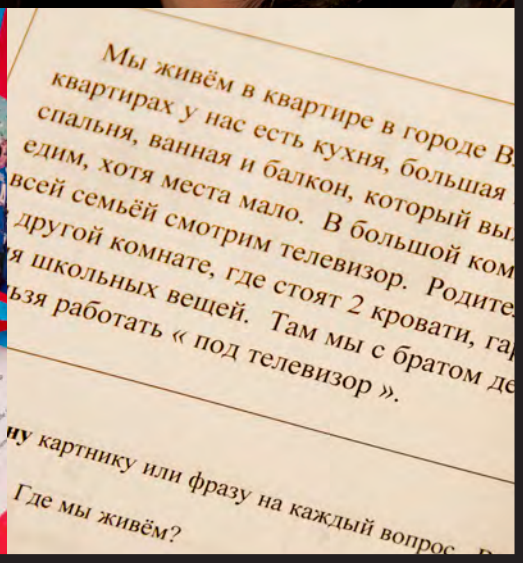
Malika Bouamama

Do you speak and write any of these languages? Urdu, Turkish, Mandarin, Cantonese, Persian, Portuguese, Dutch, Polish, Arabic, Gujarati, Modern Hebrew, Punjabi, Italian, French, German, Japanese, Russian, Spanish.

The MFL department provides coaching for students who decide to take a GCSE in their home language. We have been running this scheme for over 10 years and all students achieve grades A or A*! This is a true asset when applying for college, university or future jobs. It is also a fantastic opportunity for students to meet up once a week and keep their language alive.

We currently have a group of 26 students preparing for their GCSE, ranging from year 7 to year 11.

If you want your child to take part and attend the community languages club, please ask them to see me in room 1/055 every Wednesday at lunchtime and/or every Thursday during period 7.




## SEN

Janet Bergin-Miah

A group of year 8 & 9 pupils were offered a unique opportunity to take part in a series of interactive workshops run over a six week period, tackling issues such as peer pressure, relationships and staying safe online.

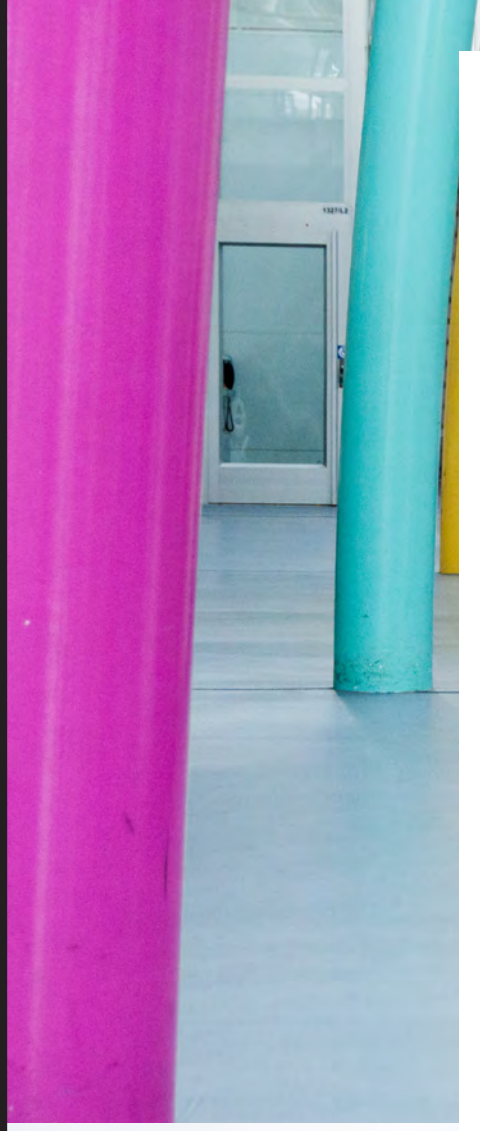
Using large 'Spitting Image' type puppets, the tutors introduced the theme by enacting a likely scenario. We then had the opportunity to take on the role of a character in the scene and get involved in the action!

We explored important issues in a really fun and engaging way. We all had a chance to take on the role of puppeteer and discuss quite sensitive issues which we might otherwise have been too embarrassed to talk about.

We got to know our teachers much better and we really enjoyed seeing them play roles that took them outside of their comfort zone!

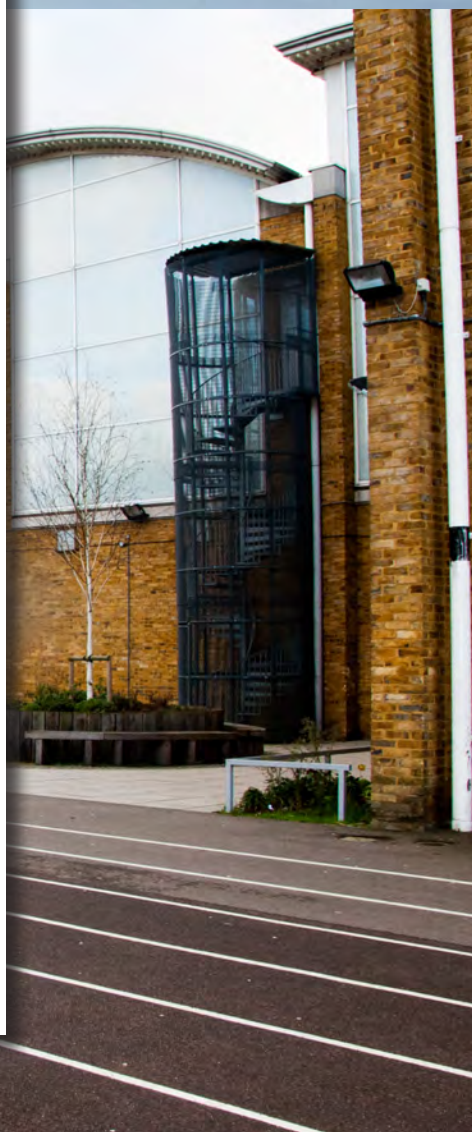
We also made some new friends along the way.

Who knew learning could be so much fun?



# For the Diary...

| | |
|---|---|
| *13th May* | Year 7 Parents Evening |
| *8th June* | Year 6 Parent Information Evening (4pm) |
| *11th June* | School Sports Day |
| *12th-13th June* | School Music Festival |
| *15th June* | End of Year Concert (4:30pm) |
| *25th June* | Awards Evening |
| *2nd July* | Inset Day |
| *3rd July* | Year 5/6 Day |
| *17th July* | Eid al-Fitr |
| *20th July* | Year 11 NRA |
| *21st July* | Last Day of Term |

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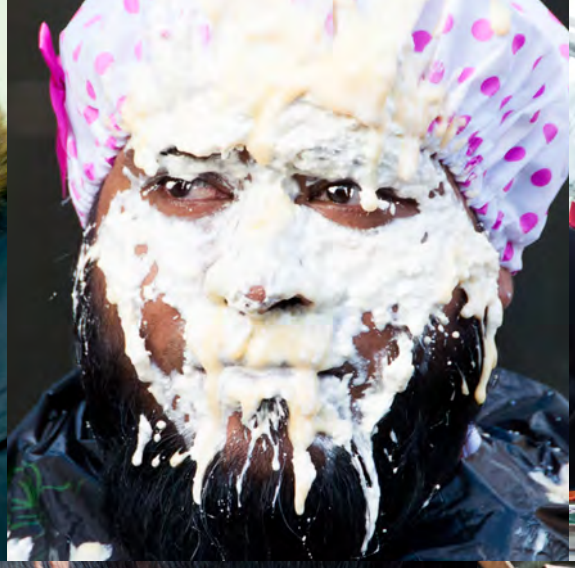

*A special thanks to all students, parents, teachers & support staff for your contributions to the life & times of Swanlea School.*