

## A Message From the Headteacher



Dear Parents, Carers, students and friends of Swanlea School,

I am delighted to bring you this very special end of term edition of the

Swanlea Express. It is a real pleasure for me to be able to share with you the many exceptional opportunities available to our students and the many ways our students uphold the Swanlea School values: Respect, Aspire and Achieve.

As a school and a community we continue to build on the work we have done in the past few years to promote our school values and one of the ways we have

worked to embed the values into the school community is through our extensive charity work. This term alone we have held numerous charity fundraisers, not only for our work with United World Schools to build a school in Cambodia but our students and staff have also worked hard to raise money and awareness for the London Air Ambulance, the One Love Foundation, Beat Bullying, Remembrance Day and many more organisations and causes.

It is inspiring to see the positive impact our values have on everyone at Swanlea and I look forward to seeing that develop throughout the academic year.

I hope you all enjoy a peaceful Christmas and a very happy new year.

**Brenda Landers**  
Headteacher

## A Message From the Chair of Governors

My name is Ferdous Begum and I am the new Chair of Governors at Swanlea School. I became a parent governor in 2016 and since then I have witnessed the wonderful achievements of Swanlea students in reaching remarkable heights in their exams, especially in the current climate of mass educational changes.

I am very keen to support the parents/ carers, staff, students and governors at Swanlea to continually raise standards and improve outcomes for all children as well as the performance of the school.

I firmly believe education is a key component in changing lives, especially in eradicating unemployment and other social issues that has been prevalent in Tower Hamlets. We are privileged to see it happening right now but we must not be

complacent and instead work even harder to ensure the standard of education rise consistently year after year. Children also benefit from parental support whilst in education and my passion is to engage parents, especially minority groups, in supporting their children whilst in education.



### DATES FOR THE DIARY

Mon 7th Jan

**First Day of Spring Term**  
Late start of 9.30am for all students

Wed 23rd Jan

**Aim2Attain**  
Selected Students Only  
9am-3.15pm

Wed 30th Jan

**Year 10 Parents / Carers' Evening**  
4pm-7pm

**Half-Term Holiday**  
Mon 18th Feb - Fri 22nd Feb 2019

### FEATURE POEM

It's only the beginning now  
...a pathway yet unknown,  
At times the sound of other steps  
...sometimes we walk alone.  
The best beginnings of our lives  
May sometimes end in sorrow,  
But even on our darkest days  
...the sun will shine tomorrow.  
So we must do our very best  
Whatever life may bring,  
And look beyond the winter chill  
...to smell the breath of spring.  
Into each life will always come  
A time to start anew,  
A new beginning for each heart  
...As fresh as morning dew.  
Although the cares of life are great  
And heads are bowed so low,  
The storms of life will leave behind  
...the wonder of a rainbow.  
The years will never take away  
Our chance to start anew,  
It's only the beginning now  
So dreams can still come true.

By Gertrude B McClain ©



## InvestIN with Year 12 By Tarikur Rahman - Associate Assistant Head

Year 12 students, Samiha Khanom, Naimah Begum Hyder and Mehreen Ahmed took part in a programme run by InvestIN to promote a career in politics and investment banking. InvestIN aims to provide inspirational career experience programmes to students who aspire to break into some of the world's most desirable professions.

Samiha Khanom, 12N said, "The young politician program allowed me to learn skills such as speech writing, public speaking as well as debating skills. The programme allowed me to debate the future of Britain after Brexit."

This was a fantastic opportunity and we hope it will encourage more students to take part in the InvestIN programme.

## Building Ideas

*By Zara Islam - Media & Marketing Manager*

On Thursday 6th December a group of year 9 students visited Reach Out Makerspace at The Invention Rooms (Imperial College) to take part in the London School Challenge.

This was the second visit to The Invention Rooms as part of an ongoing 12-week project called The Maker Challenge. The Maker Challenge gives students the opportunity to design a product from scratch, from initial drawings to designing and constructing a prototype.

Students had a lot of fun getting hands on with building the prototypes for their products. At the end of the 12-week programme our students will showcase their projects for all to see. We can't wait to see what they come up with!



## Carolling for Charity By Daniella Blackford - Acting Head of Drama

Swanlea's choir have been very busy last week fundraising for not one, but two different charities! They first went carolling at the Royal London Hospital to raise money for the London Air Ambulance Service. The patients were singing along with them at the end!

The choir then sang Christmas carols at Sainsbury's in Whitechapel and raised a great £220 for our Cambodia Appeal! Our talented students had a lot of fun cheering shoppers up in this cold weather!

You can donate to our fundraising for Cambodia via our Virgin money page: <https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/SWANLEASCHOOLSWANLEASCHOOL>

## The Scholars Are Back! By Shahin Chowdhury - Parental Engagement/East1 Co-ordinator

East1 Partnership Scholars' Programme will be commencing in January. This will be our seventh year of running the programme.

The Scholars' Programme is an initiative which provides gifted and talented pupils the opportunity to participate in an extended after-school learning programme, including access to extension teaching and an introduction to new subjects outside of the normal primary curriculum.

Year 5 classes will begin on Monday 14th January and the Year 6 classes will start on Thursday 17th January. The programme will include French and Science lessons taught by Swanlea staff to the Year 5 group and Debating skills for the Year 6 group.

We can't wait to meet and inspire our new cohort of scholars!

