

Swanlea's Careers Fair Inspires!



By Nozrul Chowdhury - Assistant Headteacher & Tarikur Rahman - Senior Leader

On Thursday 14th February we hosted our very first careers fair. Professionals from various industries and companies set up stalls with information about their job roles to inform and inspire our students. We had individuals from the Home Office, NHS, Bank of America, Metropolitan Police, the London Air Ambulance, StructureTone, Canary Wharf Group PLC, VISA, the Department of Work and Pensions, UCL, Goldsmiths University, SOAS and many more. The purpose of this event was to guide students into thinking about their career choices and provide them with information about different pathways.

Throughout the course of the day we had year 10 and 11 students, sixth formers and selected KS3 students go to the event. At the end of the school day, all parents and all students were welcome to attend. The event was an astounding success, with over 30 companies attending. The students were very positive about the whole experience, some even applying to carry out work experience during the Summer holidays.

The professional visitors were also impressed with our school and students.

A staff member from St Bart's Health commented, "the students were engaged, polite and driven."

Jeremy York, from the Metropolitan Police said, "the students have shown a positive attitude to police work."

Sonia and Natasha from the Department of Work and Pensions said, "we identified a variety of career goals from students that show they have real passion and ambition, especially when it comes to helping people."

Rhiannon Evans from the London Air Ambulance mentioned, "the students were genuinely interested and engaged, asking lots of questions. It's always nice building a local connection as the Air Ambulance is right across the road from Swanlea School!"

Mark Jones, from StructureTone commented that the careers fair was, "a great opportunity to support and provide insight to local schools and to engage with students who express an interest in construction."

Thank you to all the companies and individuals who supported this event and helped make it so successful.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Thurs 21st March
Super Learning Day / Year 8 IAP Day

Mon 25th March
Year 12/13 Parents Information Evening
4pm-5pm

Wed 27th March
Year 9 Options Evening & Parents Evening
4pm-7pm

Fri 29th March
INSET Day

Easter Holiday:
Wednesday 10th April -
Monday 22nd April

FEATURE POEM

Two roads diverged in a yellow
wood,
And sorry I could not travel both
And be one traveller, long I stood
And looked down one as far as I
could
To where it bent in the under-
growth;

Then took the other, as just as fair,
And having perhaps the better
claim,
Because it was grassy and wanted
wear;
Though as for that the passing
there
Had worn them really about the
same,

And both that morning equally lay
In leaves no step had trodden
black.

Oh, I kept the first for another day!
Yet knowing how way leads on to
way,
I doubted if I should ever come
back.

I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two roads diverged in a wood, and
I—

I took the one less travelled by,
And that has made all the
difference.

By Robert Frost



Swanlea's Alumni

By Zara Islam - Media & Marketing
Manager

As part of Aspire Week Swanlea hosted visits from some of our ex-students, all of whom have now gone onto to amazing opportunities. The visiting alumni held assemblies with our KS3 and KS4 students and talked about their experiences at Swanlea and what they're doing now. The alumni visits were very interesting to our students and we hope they were inspired by the personal stories they heard.

Samina Mukit is currently a civil engineer at Galliard Homes. She came to Swanlea Sixth Form to study Psychology, Economics, Politics and Maths. After sixth form Samina studied Civil Engineering at Southbank University, for which she received a first class degree.

During her time at Swanlea she wasn't sure what she wanted to study at university but knew she wanted to go into the construction industry and so she got involved in the Budding Brunels Programme, organised via Swanlea. Through that programme Samina secured her first construction internship at TFL, where she experienced the different pathways in construction and from that, she realised that she wanted to study civil engineering.

The advice she would give to our current students is to utilise the opportunities given by the sixth form because the sixth form department can help you discover what you want to do.



Erdo Yongo studied Maths, Economics and Politics at A-Level and after sixth form she went onto study Politics, Philosophy and Economics at the University of Manchester. She is currently a policy analyst for GSMA, a mobile trade organisation.

Erdo was involved in the Deloitte reading group which was organised by Swanlea and this helped her in Economics and at university. When choosing her A level and university subjects, Erdo based her choices on her interests as well as what she was good at. This is one of the reasons she ended up in a role she really enjoys.

Erdo encourages students to research their interests and try out different opportunities as this helps with the process of finding out what they do and don't want to pursue.

Iveren Yongo is currently a graduate trainee underwriter at Traveller's Insurance Company. At sixth form she studied Economics, Chemistry and Maths and went onto study Chemistry at the University of Manchester.

Iveren took part in an internship at an asset management company, organised by Swanlea sixth form which made her realise that it's positive to take as many opportunities that are given to you. During university Iveren took part in another internship at an insurance company where she discovered underwriting. During this intership she found a link between the company and phramaceuticals, which linked to her degree.

Iveren mentioned that while her degree may differ from her current role, students should think about choosing a job role that suits their personality and what they enjoy as this makes a big impact on their future progression.



Iftekar Latif attended Swanlea from year 7 to sixth form. He studied Economics, Sociology and History at A Level and went onto study Law at Oxford University. He is currently a Publishing Assistant at Sage Publishing.

After university he realised his interest leaned more towards the academic side of law, rather than the practising aspect and this was what led him into the publishing industry. Iftekar mentions how his Law degree is incredibly versatile and there are many transferable skills from his degree, which he is utilising in his current role, such as, processing information articulately and organising ideas in a logical and coherent manner.

Iftekar talked to our students about how it's ok to ask the teachers for help, they will support you and help you create opportunities for yourself.

Tony Gallagher Visits Swanlea School



By Furqan Rashid - Year 12 Student

On Thursday 31st January year 12 students had the privilege to welcome Tony Gallagher, the editor of The Sun. In a 50-minute session, students were given the opportunity to hear about the career that Mr. Gallagher had chosen and how he got to where he is now, despite his humble beginnings.

Tony Gallagher was faced with some challenging questions provided by sixth form students, who were eager to question his association with a newspaper that generates both acclaim and controversy nationwide. Students agreed that Mr. Gallagher gave comprehensive answers to their questions. He was very astute in his speech and was very skilled at expressing his viewpoints on the matters put forward before him.

Born 2nd November 1963 in Bow, Tony Gallagher came from a working class background. Like many Swanlea students, Mr. Gallagher was brought up in the bustling East End area. It would be quite the understatement to say that Mr. Gallagher had a very illustrious career, which started at Bristol University, where he began his journey as a trainee journalist. In 1990, Gallagher became a reporter for The Daily Mail (one of Britain's largest newspapers) where he was famed for his exclusive coverages pertaining to Princess Diana.

In 2006, 16 years after joining The Daily Mail, Gallagher became Head of News at The Daily Telegraph. He progressed from Head of News to Deputy Editor in 2007.

In 2009, he was promoted to Editor finally relinquishing his role in 2014. In 2015, he finally became the Editor-in-Chief of The Sun.

Students were inspired by Gallagher's prominent position, despite his background, especially as he did not have friends working in the sector to pull any strings for him! He is the epitome of what you can achieve with hard work and dedication.

Tony Gallagher's visit to Swanlea was beneficial to us as students as we realise that like Mr Gallagher, we must seize the moment to make an impact whenever an opportunity seems to present itself. All students went away knowing that there was hard work remaining in order for us to achieve our goals but that the reward will be worth the effort!





Peeking into Parliament

By Shayla Woods - Year 7 Student

On Monday 25th February myself and 19 other year 7 students visited the House of Parliament, as part of our pupil parliament project.

We saw the statues of the old Kings and Queens of Britain and went on a tour of the House of Commons, which is much smaller than what you see on TV! After the tour we did a workshop about old politics and votes for women. We learnt about different ways we could have an impact on laws such as lobbying, protesting and social media.

It was a really interesting trip and we all learnt so much about politics in the UK.

An Eye for Art!

By Jackie Bruce - Art Teacher

On Wednesday 27th February, teachers and students from the Swanlea School Art Department were involved in an exhibition at Mile End Pavilion.

The Tower Hamlets Art Teachers (THAT) network showcased student's and teacher's artwork from schools across the Borough of Tower Hamlets. THAT has been fundamental in promoting and supporting the Arts in the borough.

Naajiyah Sultana, of year 13, was awarded First Prize! She is pictured here with her winning portrait of her neighbour, Peggy, who is the main feature of her Art A-level topic.

We are all so proud of Naajiyah and cannot wait to see more artwork from her in the future!



Singing for East London!

By Janet Coulson - Head of PVA

On Monday 11th February, the Swanlea Choir took part in the Stratford and East London Music Festival, an annual competition for all musicians in South Woodford.

The choir were entered for two categories, Youth Choir-Open and Youth Choir-Theatre. In the Open class they performed in Latin, "Panis Angelicus" by Cesar Franck and "Colours of the Wind" from Pocahontas by Alan Menken. After giving a most musical and confident performance they were awarded second place!

In the Theatre class Swanlea sang "Little Shop of Horrors" and "Seasons of Love" from Rent, bringing home the trophy for first prize!

Well done to all who took part this year.

Ruth's Story

By Margaret Williams - Senior Leader

On Wednesday 27th February, Ruth Barnett visited Swanlea to talk to a group of year 9 students about her experience as a Kindertransport Child.

Prior to the outbreak of WW2 ten thousand children were saved from the horror of the Holocaust by being evacuated to Britain in the 'Kindertransport.' Ruth was one of these children.

Our students listened intently and were shocked by the events of the Holocaust. They understood what a privilege it was to hear Ruth tell her story.

Ruth was very positive about our school, saying, "It was a lovely group, they were so easy to engage and some of them were remarkably knowledgeable."

