

The Anne Frank Exhibition



By Diane Wells - Library Manager

Last month the library was transformed for 2 weeks into the Anne Frank exhibition. Banners with details of Anne Frank and her life during the second World War were displayed around the room, ready for our staff and students.

Every year the Anne Frank Exhibition is set up and a number of students are selected to take part and be trained as student peer guides for the trust. This year 18 year 9 students were selected to take part in an intense day of training with Rachel Sandler and Laura Shepherd from the Anne Frank Trust.

The day after the training, our students had become fully trained peer guides. This meant that they had gained enough knowledge to take guided tours around the exhibition. Throughout the week all students from key stage 3 had the chance to see the exhibition during their library lesson. The peer guides were outstanding, with their knowledge and confidence improving after every tour. Soon they were answering every question put to them with no help!

After the exhibition ended, Rachel and Laura chose 6 students that they felt would be great Ambassadors for the

Anne Frank Trust. The students will participate in a one-day workshop on 'Switch off Prejudice' where they will create a video. They will be supported by Andy, a freelance photographer who works with the Anne Frank Trust. On 4th June the chosen student ambassadors will complete the video at a venue in Finsbury park, where schools from around the UK will come together to do the same.

Working with the Anne Frank Trust was a great experience for all involved. Andy from the trust mentioned he travels all over the country and "Swanlea students are the best [he's] ever worked with!"

Our students also greatly benefited from this experience. Peer guide Umar, 9W, said, "This was a good experience because I learnt things I didn't know about Anne Frank and the Holocaust."

Nadia, 9A, said, "I feel honoured to be part of this experience."

Thank you to all those who supported the exhibition, with special thanks to the Anne Frank Trust.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Tues 9th April
Last Day of Term

Tues 23rd April
First Day of Summer Term
Students start at 9.30am

Mon 29th April
I AM ME Part 2 Event
3.30pm-4.30pm

Mon 6th May
Bank Holiday
School Closed

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

FEATURE POEM

Forever we remain
oblivious to the future,
lost to the past and
enduring our torture.

Forever we take chances
to settle our scores,
losing some battles and
winning some wars.

Forever praying out loud
hoping someone will
hear,
forever crying softly but
never shedding a tear.

Forever exists behind a
disguise,
but the belief in forever
keeps our hearts alive.

**By Terri Nicole
Tharrington**

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Characters Come Alive!



By Janet Bergin - Miah - Senior Leader

On Thursday 7th March 2019 students were thrilled to see staff members dress up as their favourite book characters for World Book Day.

We had a range of characters from the world of Roald Dahl, the Fantastic Mr Fox to Matilda! Roaming the hallways of Science was a wicked stepmother with an apple in hand, ready to get Snow White. Thankfully Snow White had all her seven dwarves to protect her and Prince Charming! From Bugsy Malone, The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy, The Hunchback of Notre Dame and about three Wallys (from Where's Wally), the halls of Swanlea looked like they had come straight out of a storybook! Students had to guess which characters staff dressed up as during break and lunchtime.

It wasn't just the staff who got to have fun during World Book Day. Students had a week long worth of exciting activities centred around a specially designed booklet. From literary crosswords, word searches and a draw yourself as a character competition, students had a great week of literary fun!

We had so many great costumes, but after much deliberation, huge congratulations to Ms Khatun from the Science department for winning best dressed staff member with her costume of the wicked stepmother from Snow White and the Seven Dwarves!

Thank you to everyone who got involved and supported this event! Everyone had a lot of fun and we can't wait to find out what characters we'll see next year!

'The Exam' by the Senior Drama Club



By Janet Coulson - Head of PVA & Daniella Blackford - Head of Drama

The Senior Drama Club took centre stage last week with two performances of "The Exam" by Andy Hamilton. A cast of 12 from Year 8 to Year 13 came together for 6 weeks of intense rehearsals to perform to staff, parents and friends in the drama studio.

Adi Khan Yr 8, Harriet Nodder Yr 8 and Yasmeen Raynor Yr 9 took the lead roles of Chas, Bea and Andrew and gave superb performances of their characters. There were plenty of giggles and a sharp intake of breath as Miss Baxendale (Anjuma Anbia Yr 13) landed a slap on the cheek of Mr Biggs (Adam

Hajallie Yr 9) outside the tense exam hall!

Mohona Qader Yr 12 gave a perfectly believable performance of Salsa dancing Mrs C with shoes so bright that the audience needed sunglasses!

Well done to all who took part. We look forward to seeing you all in our next performance of Bugsy Malone in July!

Senior Drama Club is held after school on Thursdays and is a terrific opportunity for all students to get involved in!

Samurai at Swanlea!

On the 12th March Swanlea was visited by author, Chris Bradford. Chris talked to our year 7-9 students about his Young Samurai series, which he did in full Samurai dress and sword included!

Chris explained his love for martial arts and how for his Young Samurai series, he trained in laido (Samurai Swordsmanship), Karate, Ninjutsu and earned his black belt in Zen Kyu Shin Taijutsu, trained in Judo, Muay Thai and kickboxing. He put on an amazing performance, telling students how disciplined the martial arts are.

The next day all his books were borrowed from the library and it's still a topic of conversation during break and lunchtimes!



Super Learning Day

By Nick Lee - Assistant Headteacher

Super Learning Day was a massive success with a range of activities taking place across years 7 to 13. Year 7 students went to the theatre to watch "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime" and year 9 students got involved in a young enterprise activity.

Year 12 visited different places of worship while year 13 took part in a study skills workshop, helping them improve their exam revision techniques.

Students and staff had an amazing day. A big thank you to everyone who got involved in making this Super Learning Day great!



Ruth's Story

By Margaret Williams - Senior Leader

Last month 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. I hope I have challenged and inspired them to learn more about the Holocaust and genocide and to think more about the issues raised."



Chineke!

By Janet Coulson - Head of PVA

Musicians from the Chineke! Orchestra visited Swanlea School last month to work with some of our talented students. Founded in 2015 by double bass player Chi-Chi Nwanoku, Chineke! are championing diversity in Western Classical Music and Orchestras.

Over 3 days they worked with our students to create brand new pieces on the theme of "Beginnings." The whole project was in collaboration with prolific composer Errollyn Wallen OBE, the first black lady to have one of her compositions performed in the BBC proms series in the Royal Albert Hall.

The final performances were premiered in front of students and a host of VIPs including Errollyn, members of the British Arts Council, Tutors from Thames Music Services and Karen Brock OBE.

Thank you Chineke!

