

D.I.S.S.

**DANCE HAS COME TO SWANLEA SCHOOL.
READ ON TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE
EXCITING NEW OPPORTUNITIES OPEN TO
STUDENTS AT SWANLEA...**

DANCE IN SWANLEA SCHOOL



LETTER FROM THE HEAD

Ms Austin



Photo above, Mr Goodman, Associate Head, congratulating Tajida Akhtar Chowdury, from BGTC, for coming up with winning name for the new Youth Service.

I was delighted to get a visit from one of our ex-students, Rabbi Fozelay, (above) this term. He wanted to share his good news with us after receiving his A-level results - he has been accepted into Exeter College at Oxford University to read Law. We are all extremely proud of this wonderful achievement, and wish him all the very best in his studies.

The start of this academic year has seen the start of many wonderful projects. We are delighted with the progress and valuable contribution the new Cambridge Heath Sixth Formers are already making to the community, and look forward to seeing more from them as the year progresses.

We have also held the launch of the new Youth Service for Local Area Partnerships (LAPs) 1 and 2. Swanlea, together with partners the Osmani Trust, City Gateway, and St Hilda's, have taken over the running of the Youth Service in these two LAPs. We have called the new venture iLEAP - individual Learning, Excellence, Achievement in Partnership. We are very excited about undertaking this fantastic project and hope to expand on the already wonderful practice taking place across the borough.

With every best wish for the festive season,

Hinda Austin

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

DISS

DANCE I N SWANLEA SCHOOL

You will see from the front page that Dance has well and truly arrived at Swanlea. We are very excited about this incredible new venture - launched when the fantastic professional dance company, Boy Blue, came to conduct a special workshop with over 160 students at Swanlea. Students from across Key Stage 3, boys and girls alike all took part in a day-long project with Boy Blue, where they got a crash-course in Dance and ended the day with a special performance. We now have two dance groups running after school. One group will be showcasing

their new talents by performing a powerful dance to a well-known human-rights song, accompanied by the school choir. The other group have been taking lessons by Step Into Dance, sponsored by the Royal Academy of Dance, and will be

flashmobbing the school with their Michael Jackson-inspired routine, so keep your eyes peeled!

MR SHI NDLER
LEADER OF LEARNI NG
FOR PVA



SWANLEA ON THE SILVER SCREEN

Last summer 30 Year 7 and Year 9 pupils explored an exhibition called 'Radical Nature' at the Barbican.



Working with a dancer, an animator and an artist they shot over 30 hours of footage. 4 students edited it down to 5 minutes, an amazing effort by Ousman, Tasnia, Sadik and Hamdi.

The film was shown at The London Children's Film Festival. Many of the pupils went along to the premiere at The Barbican, enjoyed the food and watched the film in the cinema. It can now be viewed in the SOS library. Congratulations to all involved!

SWANLEA ON SCREEN LATEST

Some Year 9 boys are making a film about how 'Little things can lead to big things' to be used in PSHE. Watch this space

Mr Brayne is helping some pupils run their own movie club. Watch out for 'arry Trotter' to be screened soon!

DRAMA NEWS

YEAR 10 PRI MARY TOUR

The 2 GCSE Year 10 drama groups have created their own plays to be toured at the end of term in 4 local primary schools. The GCSE students have learnt what it takes to work in a team and have quickly grown in confidence. We are sure the Year 6s will enjoy their great drama!

YEAR 10 GCSE CAREERS I N THEATRE

The Year 10 GCSE students spent the day at The Half Moon Theatre working with professionals from the theatre such as lighting designers; stage managers; musicians; writers. They worked with Oaklands School to put on a performance in the Theatre. A truly exciting and creative day full of learning.

L I V E THEATRE

GCSE students have watched several plays both in and out of school as part of their course

30 Year 9 girls spent the morning in a workshop with the actors at The Brady Centre and then went to Wilton Music Hall to watch a play. An excellent day!

THE NATIONAL THEATRE I N SWANLEA

The National Theatre ran a series of workshops for Ms Lennihan's Year 8 classes. Students learnt about Brecht, a famous theatre practitioner.

1000 PUPILS GO MEAT-FREE FOR WORLD FOOD DAY

1000 Swanlea students opted to have a vegetarian lunch on Wednesday 14th October, to make a powerful statement ahead of World Food Day.

The lunch was part of a morning organised by school in partnership with Oxfam, which aims to promote global citizenship amongst young people.

Ms Austin said, "We wanted to heighten pupil awareness of the

world food problem and take positive action, rather than just discuss the issue in assembly. We wanted pupils to understand that food is a fundamental requisite and therefore a shared responsibility for us all as a human community."

Mr McLaverty, Youth and Schools Campaigner for Oxfam in London, said "The poorest people across the world depend on grain as their staple

diet. With the soaring demand for it to feed livestock for rich countries, the price means that grain is becoming something that is beyond the reach of millions of people. By going meat-free for just one lunchtime, the pupils are making a wonderful gesture for World Food Day".

Ms R. Dudhia
Assitant Headteacher



Oxfam



SWANLEA GETS THE LOW-DOWN ON HIGHER EDUCATION

On Monday 30th November we held the first Swanlea Careers 'Question Time' event. A small group of Year 11 students came to the library, where we had some snacks and a bit of juice to get ready for some serious talking! Mr Allen then introduced the evening by reminding us about the bursary available for some students who want to continue studying after they finish school here. We then had the opportunity to question a number of ex-Swanlea students who have already been through the process of applying for Sixth Form colleges and university. Most of the visitors are studying currently at universities across London and are doing some very interesting degree courses eg. Criminology, Psychology. We had 3 minutes to question each visitor before moving on to the next one. In this way we were able to pick up a lot of valuable tips and information about leaving school and what to do afterwards. At the end we had a chance to say what we all learned and we all thought it had been really useful. We hope to run another event like this next term, so do keep an eye out for further information!

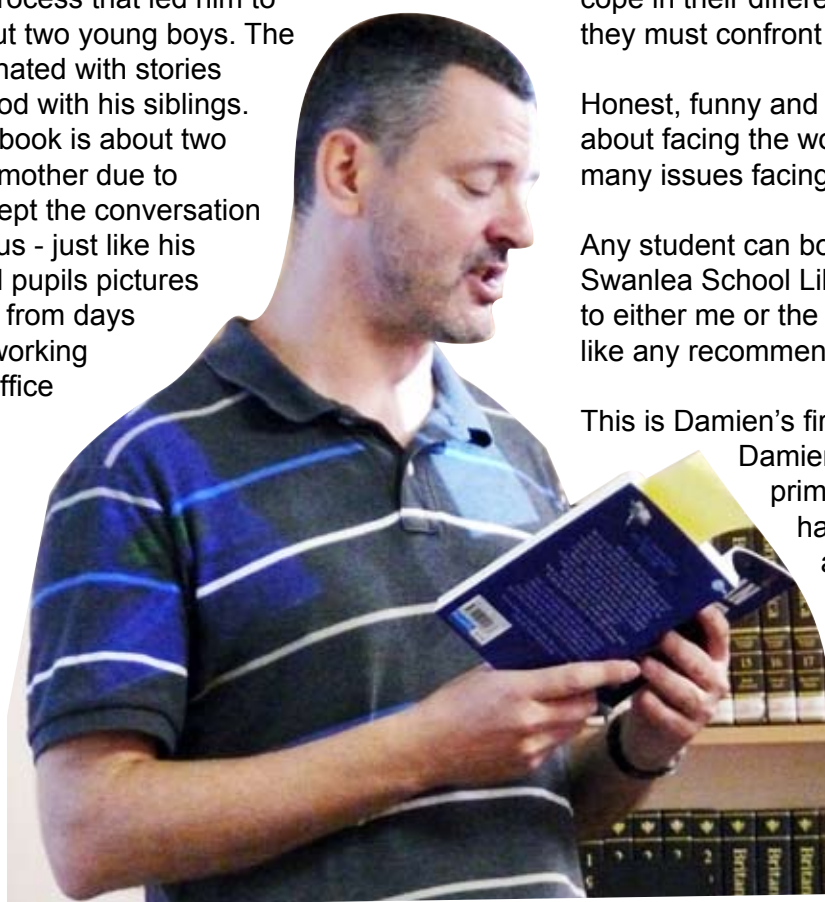
Ms T. White
Deputy Coordinator of Learning
for Year 11



Damian Kelleher, Uninterrupted

Damian Kelleher, author of *Life Interrupted*, certainly interrupted the goings on in Swanlea school's library on Friday 25th September 2009. He spoke to a group of Year 7 pupils and told them about the process that led him to write a book about two young boys. The pupils were fascinated with stories about his childhood with his siblings. Even though the book is about two boys losing their mother due to cancer Damian kept the conversation light and humorous - just like his book. He showed pupils pictures of his life ranging from days on the beach to working in a newspaper office and the students were amused by the fashion and hairstyles of his younger days.

Damian then read extracts from his book, answered questions from pupils and signed books.



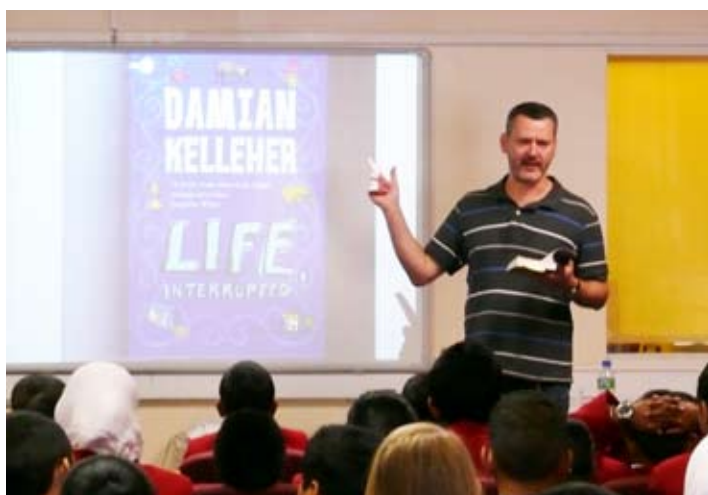
Luke's world is turned upside down when his mum collapses at the hospital where she works as a nurse. Fourteen-year-old Luke and his football-obsessed younger brother Jesse each cope in their different ways, and, as time passes, they must confront some painful truths.

Honest, funny and deeply moving, this is a story about facing the worst and surviving it deals with many issues facing young people.

Any student can borrow this book from the Swanlea School Library. Do come in and speak to either me or the student librarians if you would like any recommendations.

This is Damian's first book for teenagers. Damian has mainly written books for primary school children before. It has been shortlisted for many awards including Tower Hamlets Book award, and it was a privilege for us to have such a wonderful author come in a visit us.

Ms Bami
Librarian



SWANLEA SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES 2009/10

There are lots of before-school, lunchtime and after-school clubs available to students who are interested in improving their marks.

Did you know there is a special club run on Saturday for students who need a bit more help in their English? Speak to Mr Hussain or Mr Goodman about getting involved.

TEACHING FOR LEARNING

- Improve achievement at KS3/KS4 by aiming for the next level/grade
- Learning by completing homework
- following up on teachers' comments
- Asking challenging questions
- Planning work
- Using a variety of resources
- Developing writing skills

PUPIL DEVELOPMENT FOR LEARNING

- Join after-school clubs
- Aim to achieve as many rewards as possible
- Support each other to learn by following the 10 Golden rules
- Make your views known through the school council, Head Boys and Head Girls.

STAFF AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FOR LEARNING

- Ensure that your parents attend Parents' evenings and daytime classes, if possible
- Get involved in a Business and Enterprise or public speaking activity
- Try to do something to help the local or international community this year

Students' planners are an essential resource. Use them wisely and it will help enormously.

Do you know your new Head Girls and Head Boys? Make sure you let your school council representatives know your views, they are an important way of letting your voice be heard.

Parents' evenings are a vital part of home/school communication.
12.01.10: Year 11 Parents' Evening
09.02.10: Year 9 Parents' Evening
25.05.10: Year 8 Parents' Evening

MUSIC FACULTY

The music department has had a number of amazing events and activities happening over the course of the term. The Winter concert, Raw Slices, on 10th December went fantastically well, and we are all looking forward to hearing more from the performers.

There will be considerably more live performances happening this year, with the development of a new Saxophone/Clarinet ensemble, and the new String group, as well as two

groups of students were successful in being accepted into the XLP musical competition run by the borough.

We are very excited by the upcoming workshop run by the Royal Philharmonic on the next Super Learning day, plus the newest member of staff to the music faculty - Mr Manjeet Singh. Mr Singh will be our new tabla and dhol teacher has contributed to the soundtrack of many famous films, like Bride and Prejudice, for example. We

look forward to him joining the department in January.

Don't forget! Extra music lessons at Swanlea are FREE. If you are interested in learning a musical instrument, from drums, trumpet, guitar, singing, double bass and many more, speak to Ms Brownlee.

**MS BROWNLEE
LEADER OF LEARNING
FOR MUSIC**

MONDAY

Lunchtime – String Club
After School - Music technology club



TUESDAY

Before school (8:00 – 8:45)- Drum club
Lunchtime – Choir



WEDNESDAY

Before school (8:00 – 8:45) – Jazz Band
Lunchtime – Guitar Club



THURSDAY

Lunchtime - Tabla club
Lunchtime – Music technology club



Swanlea student finds publishing joy - & much more at uni

One of our students, Zakaria Hassan Abby, attended a Summer university course, organised by Swanlea School, at the London South Bank University. They invited him to write an article about his experience which was then published in their newsletter! Zak's article is published again for you below, but you would like to see it on the web, please follow the link below: <http://www.lsbu.ac.uk/news-php/news.php?newsid=488>

Ms Fox
KS4 Coordinator



My week at LSBU

If you were given a choice to travel to and from university and study a topic of your choice for one week - what a choice! - What would you say?

I thought about it a lot and it took me some time to reply but I thought, what I would lose and what would I gain?

Travelling to LSBU for one week with a cardholder around my neck as a pass to anywhere within the University was a privilege. Travelling back on a train for forty-five minutes packed with people during the hottest part of the year with the police sending out heatwave precautions... well that's another story. The card got me a lot of attention; people stared at me on the train and must have thought "He's a university student, who is short and a geek, looks the sort who skipped Year 11".

The first day made me nervous but the moment I stepped into LSBU I felt really, really welcome. I started to think I wouldn't mind skipping secondary school and going straight to uni!

Well, everything is positive - the freedom, the chance to study a subject, the privilege of not having to be in uniform and to be able to call the teachers by their first name. Then there were the ambassadors; when I saw them in the student union they looked as if they still had some child element in them. They were in the middle of the bridge - stuck between being a teenager and adult. They were all great though, really friendly.

When people ask me if I'm a university student (I've kept my badge!) I reply "no, not yet".

Zakaria Hassan Abby, 10E

Swanlea School Annual Languages Week 2009

The Modern Languages Faculty organised a series of events to celebrate languages from around the world.

Not only did students find out about languages but also about the cultures and traditions of foreign countries, through film, music, books, quizzes, games, display and food!

If you didn't get a chance to participate in any of these events, you can still come and check out the array of new foreign language books in the library. Ask Ms Bami for more information.

Ms Filby

In the next issue: School trip to France, Business Language Mentoring and French Drama!



SWANLEA SLAYS THE DRAGONS!

This year's Summer Business School which took place in Swanlea for Year 8s & 9s for Swanlea, Bow and Mulberry students in July 2009. The week-long programme of activities involved students making their own products such as photo frames, jewelry and greetings cards. They

then had to make a business plan and present their company to a panel of Dragon's Den-style judges! The winning team comprised of Liban Ahmed (Year 8) Farhan Ahmed (Year 8) Mohosin Ali (Year 8) and Ramazan Kayran (Year 9) from Swanlea School. A special mention goes to Liban

and Farhan who bravely undertook the presentation by themselves on behalf of their team. Look out for information on forthcoming Business School events over the holidays!

MS PRITCHARD
BUSINESS & ENTERPRISE COORDINATOR



To all parents/carers,

At the end of the summer term Swanlea School had a fantastic cross-Curricular project week, organised by Mr K. Miah, Assistant Head. It was a brilliant, four-day event where students got involved in all sorts of different projects.

Excitingly, a group of parents/carers joined in one of the projects and made it extremely successful. This project was called 'A Wider Appreciation of the World' and was a collaboration with the Horniman Museum in Forest Hill London.

Not only were parents tasked with improving their English skills through writing articles and stories, but they also created masks and dramatised versions of their stories. Pupils and parents/carers helped each other and enjoyed thoroughly all the sessions.

The teachers at the Horniman Museum, along with the teaching assistants, Mr. M. Ahmed, Mr. S. Khan and Ms. C. Muhaymeen (the community ICT tutor), were all involved and praised for their initiative, enthusiasm and great support to run this project with such success.

Parents commented 'It was a great experience! We had a wonderful time at museum and also in the lessons at school. We learnt about different countries, their cultures and their beliefs through the masks. We also improved our English!'

Parents also joined our summer school activities along with the pupils in a jewellery making course under the guidance of Mr. Walmsley from the Technology Department.

They enjoyed learning about designing jewellery (including using computer-aided design!) and created beautiful products.

Our literacy class of English for parents/Carers which started on September 2004 with only 6 parents/Carers is continuing robustly every Wednesday afternoon. Following parents' requests I also introduced an ICT basic skills class after school from April 2005 which is still very popular. The community tutor Ms. C. Muhaymeen, a qualified IT expert, bi-lingual in Sylheti and English, runs this session every Wednesday after the literacy class.

The ICT classes are also popular and more ICT classes were introduced by Mr. S.Miah supported by Ms. C. Muhaymeen from Autumn 2007. These are now running on each Monday morning.

This is my last newsletter as Leader of Learning with Parents and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all the parents for all the support and enthusiasm they have shown for my projects.

Mrs. Sinha-Das
Leader of Learning with parents



NEWS FROM THE P.E. TEAM...

Mr Thomas, Mr Ellis, Ms Flowers, Ms Foley, Mr Grant & Mr Guzda

Despite the poor weather and facilities disruptions usually associated with the winter term, there have once again been numerous outstanding achievements within the PE department. The whole of the PE department has rallied together and worked extremely hard to provide the pupils with numerous intra/inter school competitions and inter-borough events. The results of this hard work are most visible in the following sports:

BADMINTON

Cindy Wong (7E) and Feven Dantem (8A) proudly represented the school in the inter-borough championships. They performed outstandingly, winning all of their matches and in the process were crowned Tower Hamlets champions and have qualified for the London championships. A delighted Mr Thomas expertly coached the girls to this fantastic achievement.

CRICKET

In the Tower Hamlets Year 8 Super Cup, Swanlea defeated local rivals Stepney Green by the score of two games to nil and went on to finish runners-up in the competition. The team that managed this impressive achievement was; Mahi Mahfazul, Ali Hussain, Jahangir Rahman, Samsul Ahmed, Shahrukh Khan, Jamil Ahmed, Mahboob Ahmed (Y8) and Alonghir Rahman (Y7). Mr Thomas (who coached the boys) offers his warm congratulations to these boys. Year 10 boys also celebrated a victory over Stepney Green in the same competition. Well done!

VOLLEYBALL

Swanlea arrived on the volleyball scene with a bang in November's East London championships. Coached by a delighted Mr Ellis, two boys teams turned in magnificent and somewhat unexpected performances. Team 2 made up of; Metican Gunes, Mahbubur Rashid, Liban Ahmed (Year 9) and captained by Ankar Miah (Year 10) won three out of five group matches and only missed out on a Semi-Final spot on point difference. Team 1 tore up the form guide by winning the event, having finished top of their group and winning tight Semi-Final and Final matches. Huge congratulations to Shaykul Hoque, Khairul Amin, Foysol Ahmed (Year 9) and captain, Mitu Ahmed (Year 10).

FOOTBALL

Well done to the girls football teams that represented Swanlea in the Tower Hamlets league. They finished a respectable fifth despite only fielding five players in some matches! In a series of thrilling matches, goals were scored by Cindy Wong (7E), Ashley Stanford (8S), Feven Dantem(8A), Reshmin Begum (10S) and Shumaya Begum (10S). Bethan Turner of 8A deserves a special mention for some spectacular goalkeeping. These performances were keenly managed by the tenacious Ms Flowers.

As mentioned at the start it has been a great term in regard to pupil achievement and this is very much down to the hard work of the pupils involved in these tournaments and the determination of Ms Foley, Mr Thomas, Mr Grant, Mr Ellis, Ms Flowers and Mr Guzda.

WHAT A SUPER LEARNING DAY!

The Year 10 indoor cricket team made the most of the first Super Learning day by learning a valuable lesson on the importance of commitment, focus, determination and team work. The Year 10 indoor cricket team were crowned champions of Tower Hamlets in the annual borough cricket competition. Comprised of a very talented team of students from Years 8, 9 and 10, they saw off the challenges of Langdon Park School, Bow Boys, and Bishop Challoner School to reach the finals against our main competitors, Stepney Green (who beat Swanlea in last year's final).

Stepney Green students were felt to have the upper-hand, and a lot of our students started the match feeling apprehensive. However, after a strong fielding display, (a special mention to Ankar Ali, 10A, who make some great catches, and Hassan Ahmed, 10A, who was magnificent as wicketkeeper) Stepney Green managed to make a respectable 64 runs off 7 overs. The game was very much in the balance.

We started the game with great success with Mahi Mafizul of Year 8 playing some clever shots to retire at 15 not out. With a slight dip in the performance in the middle order, we needed to score 19 runs off 12 balls. We managed to score 12 runs off the first six balls, with Walihur Rahman, 10L, standing steadfast in the front of the wicket. The last over brought a thrilling end with us needing 1 run off the final ball for a hard-fought victory. The final run was met with mass jubilation and cheer. A super victory on Super Learning day.

Mr Grant