

# SWANLEA NEWS



SWANLEA BUSINESS & ENTERPRISE COLLEGE

Issue 71  
Autumn 2011



**OLYMPIC TRUCE EVENT  
LAUNCHED AT SWANLEA!**

ALSO

IN THIS ISSUE:

SWANLEA & CAMBRIDGE HEATH

CELEBRATE BEST RESULTS EVER!

## LETTER FROM THE HEAD



Dear Parents, Carers, students and friends of Swanlea,

Welcome to all the new students and families of Year 7 students, I hope you have found the first term at Swanlea to be successful and enjoyable. We were all buoyed upon our return to school in September following students' fantastic GCSE and A-level results this summer. Our GCSE results were the best in the school's history, and have put Swanlea as one of the highest performing school in Tower Hamlets. I am so proud of our students, both GCSE and A-level, and I look forward to building on that success in the coming academic year.

As many of you know, I hold a drop-in session for parents every Tuesday morning from 9:00 - 10:40am. I am, of course, still available to meet with parents outside of those hours and you can always make an appointment to do so. However, the Tuesday morning drop-in session are there as a weekly opportunity for parents to come into school without an appointment and speak to me about anything. I do hope that you will find this new facility helpful to improving communication between home and school.

With best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year,



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Business & Enterprise



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## LETTER FROM THE GOVERNORS

### MR M<sup>C</sup>CARTHY LEA GOVERNOR

Dear Parents, Students,  
Teachers, Colleagues and  
Friends,

I am pleased to introduce this issue of Swanlea News, having had a long association with our school. As an eastender I am very proud of the role that our school has played in the transformation of Whitechapel, but change continues with the significant building works that we see inside and outside the school. On behalf of all of the Governors I would like to thank everyone in the school community for their hard work, patience and perseverance. We are all focused on the prize - when works are complete we will have more space, improved facilities and a better environment for our young people to succeed!

As a Governor my responsibilities focus on business links and the curriculum. I am appreciative of the large number of business volunteers that visit our school on a frequent basis. With youth unemployment reaching record highs, any opportunities that we can provide to improve the employability skills and aspirations of young people must be encouraged.

Elsewhere in this issue of Swanlea News you will find details of our tremendous GCSE results. But our school curriculum is also undergoing change. With the Government introducing the English Baccalaureate we face the introduction of a different 'measurement system'. As part of my responsibilities I meet frequently with our outstanding teaching staff. Their passion and dedication is inspirational and bodes well for coping with yet another challenge.

As I write this we have just celebrated Eid-ul-Adha and will be looking forward to Christmas very soon. Despite the change we see around us and the challenges that we face we have many reasons to be joyful.

**Ken McCarthy**  
LEA Governor

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Editor: Eimear Daly

# P.E. PROMOTES PEACE



As part of a day of celebrations, World Athletics Championship Bronze medallist Andy Turner joined students at Swanlea School to launch London 2012's Olympic Truce programme on 21st October 2011, the United Nations International Day of Peace.



The London 2012 Olympic Truce programme offers young people the chance to learn about the Olympic Truce and to take part in sporting and cultural activities which help promote the themes of the Olympic Truce in their schools and communities.

The Olympic Truce originated at the Ancient Olympic Games when a truce was called to help athletes travel to and from the Games safely. The Olympic Truce was reintroduced to the modern Olympic Games in 1992 with the aim of using sport to help promote sport, conflict resolution and to build bridges between communities.

As part of the launch, Swanlea students worked together to explore the themes of the Olympic Truce. They took part in a creative workshop to develop design ideas for a new London 2012 Olympic Truce pin badge and came up with ideas



about how they can promote the themes of the Olympic Truce within their school and community.

Swanlea School was the first school in the UK to use new resources designed to support young people in learning about the Olympic Truce. The 'Get Set for the Olympic Truce' resources include films, assembly materials and activity ideas developed to encourage young people to debate and discuss the themes of the Olympic Truce and to promote friendship and mutual respect through sport or culture in their school.



Students from Swanlea also had the opportunity to create a special short film focused on the theme of truce as part of the Film Nation Shorts initiative.

Many thanks to Ms Foley and Mr Grant for coordinating such a wonderful and successful event!

**Ms Daly**  
**Media Officer**



# SWANLEA + CAMBRIDGE HEATH

**Swanlea School, Business and Enterprise College, celebrates best results in the school's history!**

This summer, students at Swanlea celebrated a record-breaking set of G.C.S.E results this year, with 77% of students achieving a minimum of 5 A\*-C grades, and 65% of students achieving 5 A\*-C grades including English and Maths (up from last year by 17%). An impressive improvement on last year's results, Swanlea students have gained some fantastic qualifications.

Congratulations to students, family and staff for all of their hard work!

This is a truly outstanding result, I am absolutely delighted for our students. This tremendous set of results reflects the hard work and dedication put in by students, staff and parents. Strong academic qualifications open doors for our students and enable them to have the life chances they truly deserve. I am thrilled for them all.

**Ms Landers, Headteacher**

I am really happy with my GCSE grades, I did work hard for them, and am really glad that it paid off.

**Zakaria Hassan-Abby, Year 11**  
(14 GCSEs – 8 As, 4 Bs, 2 Cs)

I am overjoyed with my results! I was so nervous waiting for them, but now I have them I am over the moon. It was hard work, but worth it.

**Shunaz Begum, Year 11**  
(16 GCSEs – 2 A\*s, 8 As, 4 Bs, 2 Cs)

I am so happy! I am really relieved to finally get my results and for them to be what I hoped for. I would like to thank all my teachers at Swanlea for all their hard work. They were always there for me, staying late after school and enabling me to do my very best.

**Gannaty Rahman, Year 11**  
(17 GCSEs – 6 A\*s, 6 As, 3 Bs, 2 Cs)



# = OUTSTANDING SUCCESS!



Over 60 students from the 2011 cohort will be continuing their studies at University, having

successfully achieved the grades required for the courses. Students achieved 99% pass rates at A Level with the following outstanding achievements among others:

- Maya Haynes - English and Media at Keele University
- Abdul Koyes (Triple Distinction at BTEC) – studying Business Management at Kings College London
- Rupa Akthar Ali -Biomedical Sciences at St. George's Medical School
- Polly Wilson Art at Kingston College
- Annalie James -History at Leicester (also 1st Winner of the Lloyds Bursary worth £3000 per annum)
- Santarna Scott –Musical Performance at the London Centre for Contemporary Music
- Nashir Uddin - History at SOAS

This was the first cohort graduating from Cambridge Heath Sixth Form which was formed in 2009 as a collaboration between three outstanding schools in the area local to Swanlea. Our partners in the federation are Oaklands and Morpeth School. The Sixth Form was set up to meet the demands for high quality provision in the north part of the borough and everyone connected with this new provision is delighted at the success achieved by the first cohort of students.

Although academic excellence is the objective of CHSF, we also promote enrichment. Student experiences include visits by students to many universities throughout the UK for

special study days in medicine, science, history and politics. A group of students went on a study visit to New York and students also participate in the Duke of Edinburgh Awards Scheme, mentoring schemes run by businesses in the City of London including Lloyds and a number of practical workshops ranging from Drama to 'start your own business' activities.

We are looking forward to a higher number of students applying for and achieving university places in the 2012 cohort. We must congratulate 3 outstanding students who have achieved Cambridge interviews this year, they have received each received personalised coaching for the interviews from someone experienced with the Oxbridge Admissions process. All of our students are provided with subject level support from our team of Academic Mentors. I am sure you join us in wishing all the Year 13 students every good luck throughout the UCAS process and in the January Examinations.

**Ms Coker-Adeleke**  
**Director, Cambridge Heath Sixth Form**



# SWANLEA

# BUILDING

# UPDATE



The Autumn term has been an exciting one with lots of changes and a whole new wing of the school open! The new extension has been up and running since the Autumn half term, and the Humanities and Learning Support faculties have enjoyed being able to take up residence there and make use of the wonderful new facilities.

When we return to school in January, the Mall area and new reception will be completed, although the automatic doors will not be completed until Easter. The English, Maths, PE and Science faculties will all have made their final move and will be settling into their newly-refurbished rooms. Science will have four brand new laboratories, as well as four rooms where the Science teacher has a demonstration podium and the pupils have tables together



with 30 computers. In January the final areas within the programme will be started so ICT and MFL will be in temporary locations.

Thank you to everyone for their hard work and patience. The BSF work continues to operate on schedule (or indeed, ahead of schedule) and although the Autumn term has been, at times, tricky, everyone has managed the temporary adjustments brilliantly.

**Ms Manning**  
**Bubear**

## HO! HO! HO! SANTA CLAUS COMES TO SWANLEA

The Nurture Group pupils from Swanlea and Mulberry School's got together to celebrate Christmas in style in the brand new building that we moved into at the beginning of this half term. Pupils dressed in their finest clothes. Foridha Yasmin looked stunning in her emerald green Salwar Kameez. The tiara and earrings, that she received as a Christmas present from Santa, complemented the look perfectly and gave a rather regal look.

Fun was had by all as they played exciting games like pass the parcel (which was won by Yusuf Abdulazeem (8E), sang along to the tunes of The twelve Days of Christmas whilst enjoying the strains of a range of Christmas Carols playing in the background. One of the highlights of the day was cake decorating. Ms Reilly and the Nurture Group baked delicious chocolate cupcakes the day before and together with our visitors these were fabulously decorated using chocolate buttons and a variety of other toppings.

We also personalised Christmas cards that Ms Daly had designed. They looked like a fairy had sprinkled glitter dust all over them. Mohammed Kibria (8A) designed his card especially well using a collage effect.

Both groups enjoyed the event thoroughly and hope for a repeat event next year.

**MS IYER**  
**SENCO**



# MUSIC NOTES

What an exciting start to the year. Already we have had more students than ever before enrolling to learn instruments at Swanlea Secondary School. Inspired by our fabulous results at the ABRSM exams last year we can see that many more students want to participate. We have also been given access to an oboe plus scholarship for lessons if there is a student who might be interested.

Our first Super Learning day of this academic year was on 3<sup>rd</sup> November. We took a group of exceptionally gifted students from Year 8 to visit the Horniman Museum. The Horniman houses one of the biggest musical instrument collections in the world with five separate collections all in the one museum.

Collections within the Museum:

- The Adam Carse Collection (European wind instruments, archive)
- The Dolmetsch Collection (European string, keyboard and wind instruments)



- The Wayne Collection (concertinas and free reed instruments)
- The Boosey and Hawkes collection (European wind instruments, archive)
- The V&A loan (European string, keyboard and wind instruments)

It was a fantastic day and congratulations to our students who represented the school so well.

A reminder that our first concert of the year RAW SLICES has been postponed until 2012.

### Other dates for your diary for 2012

- Call Back – 29<sup>th</sup> March
- Music Festival 22-23<sup>rd</sup> June
- Spitalfields Mid Summer Festival 23<sup>rd</sup> June
- Encore – July 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>
- Awards evening 11<sup>th</sup> July
- Tower Hamlets Youth Orchestra 12<sup>th</sup> July



**Ms Brownlee**  
Leader of Learning for Music



# SUPER LEARNING DAY!



The Autumn term has seen the first Super Learning Day of the academic year, and it certainly started us off well! So many wonderful

activities took place across the school throughout the day, from Olympic-themed activities ranging from card-making to chocolate-making, exciting trips and visits, to intensive sessions focused on supporting students in Year 10 and 11.

The Art department did some brilliant work with Year 8 students. Ms Bruce's and Ms Dever's groups did some wonderful work in the

style of the artist, Jim Dine, while Ms Denis's class looked at clock mechanisms and created some fantastic work around that.

The Design and Technology department did a project with students setting them an Olympic-themes teamwork challenge to make and design medals. The students came up with a large range of impressive designs and presentations which showed off well their enterprise skills.

The Learning Support Faculty ran a programme of activities also based on themes connected to the upcoming Olympics. Students were set the challenge of designing and making greeting cards and postcards which tourists may wish to use. They explored ideas and brainstormed about what Olympic greeting cards might look like, and what tourists might write on them. With prizes

on offer for the best cards, students were fully engaged in the task, demonstrating excellence in art and craft. A fabulous day of learning and fun!

We look forward to the next Super Learning Day on 9<sup>th</sup> January when our Year 10 students will have the opportunity to visit art galleries and museums amongst other things.

**MR UDDIN**  
ASSISTANT HEADTEACHER





## FREE BOOKS AS YEAR 7 GET BOOKED UP!

There was much excitement in the Year 7 classes on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> November as Ms Landers and other senior staff visited Year 7 tutor rooms to present pupils with a book that they had chosen for themselves. The best part of the deal? They did not have to pay for it or return it to the Library...Year 7 had been BOOKED UP.

BOOKED UP is a national scheme funded by publishers and supported by the Government where every Year 7 child in the country receives a free book. Booked Up's goal is to encourage pupils to read for pleasure.

Year 7 pupils chose their free book from a list of specially selected titles and they get to keep the book they choose.

In this era of owning computers, Nintendo and X Box books tend to take a back seat. Reading is an essential skill and reading books for pleasure is the best way for pupils to become independent learners. So HAPPY READING Year 7.

To find out more about this and other reading sites on line go to

[www.bookedup.org.uk](http://www.bookedup.org.uk)

[www.cool-reads.co.uk](http://www.cool-reads.co.uk)

AND visit the school library to choose more exciting books.

**MS BAMI  
LIBRARIAN**



# SMOOTHIE OPERATORS

This November, 16 students from Swanlea took part in an exciting programme of activities as part of Global Enterprise Week. Run by Pacesetters Learning Zone, students were set the challenge of developing a healthy smoothie to sell at school. Students had to consider issues relating to Marketing, Finance and Sales, and well and use their imagination and business skills in order to be successful. The students were split into two teams, and had to try to sell as many of their smoothies as possible to their hungry classmates at breaktime. The participating students were extra-motivated as they knew that any profits from their enterprise would go towards their chose charity, Children in Need. In the end, students managed to raise a total of £65 for the charity – a wonderful achievement given they only had 20 minutes of break time to do it! Students learnt a lot, and had a great time in the process. Well done!

**MS KHATUN**  
**ENTERPRISE & ENTITLEMENT**  
**COORDINATOR**



# SEVEN MILLS RISE TO THE BAKING CHALLENGE

On Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November 25 students came together in Swanlea school's food technology rooms to take part in a special wartime cookery lesson. Students from Seven Mills Primary school visited Swanlea, and under the leadership of Mr Sharp, Deputy Headteacher from Seven Mills, they learnt about wartime rationing and baking. The students made shortbread and apple crumble, which filled the hallways of Swanlea with a wonderful scent. It was a great

experience for us to be able to host a visit from the students from Seven Mills, and it was particularly nice for the Year 7 Swanlea students, Riwad Ahmed, 7C, and Anisur Rahman, 7N, who helped as they were keen to help their former primary school. Everyone involved had a great time and learnt a lot, and we hope to continue our collaboration together in the future!

**MR MIAH  
ASSISTANT HEADTEACHER**



*Below, article from from On Track Whitechapel*



## Sponsoring sport at Swanlea School

Swanlea School students are enjoying rock climbing sessions at Nile End Climbing Wall thanks to an exciting new sports programme sponsored by Crossrail.

As part of the enabling works necessary to build Crossrail, we must strengthen a major storm relief sewer that runs under Swanlea School. This underground work must take place before tunnelling under Whitechapel can begin. For the work to be carried out safely, we must temporarily take over a small area of the school's playground for a worker escape route. As decreasing the school's play area may restrict the sports that the school can offer, we are sponsoring a sports programme that provides pupils with the opportunity to explore a range of activities including swimming and rock climbing.

The sewer that runs beneath Swanlea School is 1.8 metres in diameter and serves a large area of north London. The sewer must be reinforced because it is situated very close to the path of Crossrail's running tunnels.

Work to reinforce the sewer is scheduled to be completed in July 2011. When the work is complete, the escape route will be secured and the area of ground will be returned to the school.



Swanlea School students enjoying rock climbing thanks to sponsorship from Crossrail.

## NEWS FROM THE P.E. TEAM...

**Mr Curran, Ms Flowers, Ms Foley, Mr Grant & Mr Guzda**

A group of Year 8 boys took part in the Tower Hamlet Volleyball U15 competition on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2011. A huge undertaking, having only just been introduced into the sport as recently as 3 weeks ago, the students took up the gauntlet laid down by their coach Mr Stiti and myself. The boys turned up in their pristine Swanlea PE kit and commenced warming up with the coach. As the opposition began to arrive their eyes began to widen in horror - would they really be playing these giants - it was like a scene from "David and Goliath"!

The boys played valiantly and with heart (sweat and my tears). They were, however, outwitted and outplayed by the opposing Year 10 and Year 11 boys. Nevertheless, the

team made Swanlea proud with their excellent performance!

The team have even asked when the next tournament is, showing their determination and great spirit. Well done!

### THE TEAM!

- Jahed Ahmed 8C
- Rafee Ahmed 8C
- Tahir Alam 8C
- Iqbal Hussain 8E
- Lorent Ismaili 8C
- Kashshaf Mohammed 8E
- Nafee Khalik 8E
- Sufian Abu 8E
- Rayhan Uddin 8E
- Sabir Hyder 8C
- Kamran Qaisar 8C

**Ms Flowers  
PE Teacher**

# NEWS FROM THE P.E. TEAM...

Mr Curran, Ms Flowers, Ms Foley, Mr Grant & Mr Guzda

## ***The Year 9 Swanlea School's Cricket Team friendly fixture in Hampshire.***

Are we there yet? Was the echoing sound that filled the mini bus after approximately 1 hour and 45 minutes of our journey. The response of "not far now" really heightened the excitement of the boys.

On arrival at the gates of our destination Wyvern College in Eastleigh, Hampshire, the boys were taken aback by the huge grounds of the school and the accompanying greenery. They were even more impressed by the outside sporting facilities. The greeting awaiting us was just as impressive. We were given a warm welcome by Mr McCracken from the PE Department treated to prepared sandwiches, cakes, fruit and drinks. It was plain to see that our hosts were pleased to have us and equally pleased to ensure a great visit.

As the boys changed there was keenness and a sense of excitement to get the game started. During the walk down the path to the pitch the boys mingled and spoke courteously about their backgrounds and their schools which set the tone for the afternoon. If the boys were impressed by the school's outdoor facilities they were left speechless when we walked along a short path backing onto the school and saw the grass wicket which had been prepared for our game. "This is a first class wicket" one of the boys shouted out and with that in mind they were all eager to test their cricketing skills.

The mood amongst both teams, as the captains went out to the wicket for the toss, filled with an air of tension and joy. Wyvern School won the toss and decided to bat. After 20 overs they reached the target of 77 for 9 wickets. It was an impressive bowling and fielding performance by Swanlea. However their conduct in the field was even more impressive. As a team they really embraced the true gentleman's spirit of the game

by clapping each new batsmen into the crease and clapping out each batsmen whose wicket had just fallen. This maturity in the field was a pleasure to see and be a part of. By the 14th over of the Wyvern innings, the rain that held off so gallantly throughout the afternoon, started to gradually fall and consequently continued through most of our innings. What seemed like a very achievable target became very difficult with the wet conditions and the slippery surface. However this did not dampen the spirits of the boys and they battled with the elements. Unfortunately the rain took its toll and the wet ball and tight controlled bowling, saw Wyvern take a firm grip on the game. With defeat in sight Swanlea managed to reply with four theatrical slips that had all roaring with joy.

The game ended with a Wyvern victory, but Cricket and education was the winner. The sportsmanship on display amongst both teams was excellent and the sense of friendship shared amongst the boys was heart warming.

The post-match meal was a great end to a magnificent day. The boys indulged themselves on hamburgers, jacket potatoes and chicken. Both teams ate together and enjoyed each other's company.

As we entered the last quarter of the Journey back To Whitechapel, the pressing question upon a number of the boy's lips. Are we there yet?

The trip was a resounding success and we look forward to hosting Wyvern School in a return fixture next summer.

**Mr Grant**  
Deputy Leader of Learning for PE

