



The Swinton High School

a specialist school for the performing arts

NEWS FROM THE SCHOOL



The Swinton High School : Sefton Road : Swinton : Manchester : M27 6JU : Tel 0161 794 6215 : www.swintonhigh.co.uk

Message From The Headteacher



Active School!

Hello again and welcome to the May edition of our school newsletter which I do hope gives you a flavour of our activities and events in recent weeks.

Able, Gifted and Talented

Our governing body has recently taken the bold step of establishing specific top sets for able, gifted and talented pupils in English, mathematics and science. Operating this year in years 9, 10 and 11 we have found this to be such a resounding success that our governing body has asked us to extend this to all years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 in each of the core subjects: English, mathematics and science.

Improving Standards

Already our internal monitoring shows that this extra top set of around 21 able, gifted and talented pupils raises self esteem, improves opportunities for learning, especially collaboratively through discussion, and leads to good and outstanding pupil progress.

Smaller Classes

All pupils benefit from this arrangement because we have an extra, ninth, class in English, mathematics and science thereby giving us the opportunity to teach smaller classes to all pupils with the benefits that brings.

Improving Exam Results

We're confident that this arrangement will enable our pupils to maintain the outstanding level of progress to which we are now accustomed. Watch this space!

With every best wish for our continued partnership.

John Biddlestone
(Headteacher)

The Swinton High School Achieves Another Award Adam O'Brien, Yr10

The Swinton High School was recently presented with the Healthy Schools Award! This is an award for being a healthy school, which includes: The food served at the canteen; pupil voice; the amount of exercise we do in school and in after-school activities, and how many lessons of dance and P.E we have each week.



Healthy Schools Salford

To decide if we received the award or not, 15 year and form representatives were invited to a meeting with Mr Biddlestone, Ms Patel and five representatives of the local Salford Children's Services. They asked us a series of questions, which lasted about an hour and a half. The questions were about why we think we deserve the award, how the Student Forum has improved our school in the last couple of years, how many activities we participate in, and topics like that. Of course, we bombarded the representatives with perfect answers, which obliged them to give us the award!

It was a piece of (low calorie) cake! The representatives were singing our praises as they left the school delighted with our current performances, and they left the school in cheerful mood.

Mr Biddlestone said, "We're delighted that the range of activities and support we offer our pupils is recognised in this way. Our pupils love being active and they thrive when they feel safe and healthy."



Able, Gifted & Talented Science Detectives for the Day Brittanie Lark 7W

Friday March 14th 2008

We started our adventure at the beginning of lesson four. A group of Able, Gifted and Talented Year 7's set off for The Museum of Science and Industry to be detectives for the day. Ms Webb, Mrs Banks and Mrs Mooney accompanied us.

When we arrived we had a meeting with a policeman who explained what we were going to do and that we would have to solve a crime. We were separated into three groups and attended three workshops. I was in Mrs Banks' group.

In the first workshop we studied law and discovered how lawyers gather evidence and present it in court. The second workshop was with PC Conkah. We discovered how police gathered evidence at the scene of a crime e.g.: fingerprints, DNA and blood. We had a short break, and then the last workshop was on how scientists extracted DNA. We were given the chance to extract DNA from an onion.

By using the clues and examining the evidence, we solved the crime and won a prize.

My favourite part of the afternoon was when we extracted the DNA. We were allowed to take it home. If I open the container it will evaporate overnight, but if I keep it closed, my onion DNA will last 20 years!



The Deans Primary School Visits TSHS Miss C Bracegirdle

In March, The Deans Primary School came to visit the Art and Textiles Department at The Swinton High School. Previously, the pupils had taken photographs around their school and these were uploaded onto the network. The pupils had the chance to use the new iMedia suite and by using Photoshop the pupils were very quick to manipulate their own images.

The graphics work was amazing and they even had the chance to listen to music whilst they were working. All pupils worked incredibly hard and gained a lot of confidence with their new found graphic skills; they were a real credit to themselves and the school.



1st Class Year 11 Boy Racers! Miss D Patel

In March Miss Patel (Head of PSVE) & Charlotte Castelli (Connexions Personal Advisor) took Shaz Aslam, Scott Berrisford & Adam Bridgeford to the Daytona Karting Event in Old Trafford. As well as our 1st class drivers all being in the Top Ten for their record times around the Grand Prix racing track, they also gained valuable information about Motor Vehicle Apprenticeships for when they leave school! An entertaining day for both staff and pupils!



Year 7 Community Clear-up Mr M Gwinnett

On Tuesday 25th March, over 80 year 7 pupils took part in a litter picking project aided and organised by PC Grimshaw, Mr Gwinnett and members of the local council.

They spent all morning clearing litter from allocated areas that are routes top and from The Swinton High School. The result was over 80 bin bags full of rubbish and some very happy members of the public. This is an ongoing project which will lead to us having recycling facilities within the school, and will hopefully help brighten up our surrounding area for our local community.



Aimhigher (University Access)

Miss L Bardsley

Chester University Residential 18th & 19th March 2008

A number of Salford High Schools spent two days at Chester University, to enable students to have a taste of university life. Six students from The Swinton High School attended.

The students were picked up from The Swinton High School at 9am and taken to Chester University. Students received a programme and campus map; they watched a DVD about university life and were taken on a campus tour.

After lunch in the main university canteen, students were split into groups relating to their chosen subject. The subject sessions included: Performing Arts, Social Sciences, Health & Social Care and Sport. The students then spent an hour in their chosen subject session, working with university lecturers. The students learnt about their subject and how a university lecture was delivered.

After a short break the students all came together to work with a speaker. The subject was "Be the star that you are," delivered by Pete Hawkins. The students listened to a motivational speech and were then split into smaller groups to work on a number of activities. Students looked at priorities in life, their future aspirations and dreams.

Later on that evening, the group of students were all taken ten pin bowling. Students then experienced a night in the halls of residence. Each student had their own room to sleep in with their own en-suite shower and toilet.

The next day students experienced Law and Finance lectures. In these classes the students participated in practical negotiation exercises and in a finance game enabling them to manage money and meet deadlines.

The students then watched a drama performance by '2Engage'. This was a performance encouraging students to opt for Higher Education.

At the end of the day the students were all brought together in the main lecture theatre to receive certificates and prizes, as well as to ask any questions they had.

Our students agreed that the experience gave them a sense of independence, enhanced their interpersonal skills and reinforced their commitment to Higher Education. Overall the 2 days at Chester University were very informative and fun.

The students from The Swinton High School were extremely enthusiastic and participated a great deal in the classes. They were a credit to the school.



Ambassador Scheme - Workshop Series - Year 10 Mrs F Royle

As part of the school's participation in Aimhigher, our school cohort was involved in a series of interactive and stimulating workshops over a period of four weeks. Our pupils benefited from the opportunity of focused workshops delivered by young, fully trained vibrant Student Ambassadors from Manchester University.

By the end of the series our students clearly understood what university is all about, what it can offer them and what they will gain from it. In addition, the experience indirectly, improved their motivation, heightened their aspirations, which will in turn, hopefully, be reflected in an increase and attainment and determination to achieve their potential.

**You can find more AimHigher news on the
school's website:**

www.swintonhigh.co.uk

The School Terms and Holiday Dates for the School Year 2008 / 2009

Summer Term 2008	Term Starts :	Monday 21st April 2008
	Half Term :	Monday 26th May - Friday 30th May 2008
	Term Finishes:	Wednesday 23rd July 2008

Autumn Term 2008	Term Starts :	Wednesday 3rd September 2008
	Half Term :	Monday 27th October - Friday 31st October 2008
	Term Finishes:	Friday 19th December 2008

Spring Term 2009	Term Starts :	Tuesday 6th January 2009
	Half Term :	Monday 16th February - Friday 20th February 2009
	Term Finishes:	Friday 3rd April 2009

Summer Term 2009	Term Starts :	Tuesday 21st April 2009
	Half Term :	Monday 25th May - Friday 29th May 2009
	Term Finishes:	Wednesday 20th July 2009

School Closed: Teacher Training : Friday 28th November 2008
 Teacher Training : Monday 5th January 2009
 Teacher Training : Monday 20th April 2009
 May Day Bank Holiday : Monday 4th May 2009

School Office Hours

8:00 am - 4:00 pm Monday to Friday
 (Also open during school holidays but not on Bank Holidays)

Important Dates For Your Diary

2008	
Tuesday 13th May Friday 23rd May	Year 10 Exams Start School Closes for Half Term
Monday 2nd June Tuesday 3rd June Tuesday 24th June Tuesday 24th June Monday 30th June	Back to School Year 7 Parents' Evening Primary School Sports Action Challenge Year 10 Parents' Evening The Deans, Clifton & Wardley CE Intake Visit
Tuesday 1st July Wednesday 2nd July Thursday 3rd July	St. Peter's CofE & non-feeder schools Intake Visit Mossfield & St. Augustine's CofE Intake Visit Intake Evening
Wednesday 23rd July	SCHOOL CLOSSES FOR SUMMER!!!!!!!

Year 7 Enterprise day Mr N Kay



All year 7 pupils recently took part in an enterprise day called "Dream Homes". The day was organised by the Salford Business Enterprise Partnership and was designed to develop teamwork, communication skills, organisation skills, creativity and confidence. The pupils worked in teams of four or five.

Each team took on the role of a new company of architects, planners, designers and builders, which was being given the opportunity to design a Dream Town for the local council suitable for families and elderly people. Each team had to compete to win the right to build their Dream Town.

The team then decided on the types of buildings they would put in their town and had to think a meaningful name to give their town. Each team member took on a role within the company and had to decide who would be the Managing Director, Finance Manager, Architect, Marketing Manager and Researcher.

The groups then had to calculate the cost of their development, create a plan of how their Dream Town would look, find a name, logo and Strap line for their town and an advertisement for their town.

Finally, each group had to make a model of their town. The quality and creativeness of all of the models was outstanding. It was almost impossible for the local council to pick only one winning team.

