



The Swinton High School

a specialist college 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



Everyone back and Raring to go!

After a well earned Christmas rest our staff and students have returned refreshed and ready to make progress in every possible way.

This term is particularly important for our year 11 and year 9 students who are moving ever closer to their GCSE and SAT exams. Good attendance, hard work and a good home-school partnership are the keys to success for any student, so I would urge all parents and carers, especially of those in years 11 and 9 to encourage their sons and daughters to attend regularly and to work hard. They're never too old to be asked a few searching questions from their parents or carers about their progress in school and they certainly enjoy praise and encouragement when they've done well.

Improving Attendance

Our attendance has improved at a fast pace over the last 18 months. Indeed, our overall pupil attendance is now 2% higher than it was two years ago. As we all know, good attendance is the key to success: those pupils who have achieved 5A* - C grades in recent years in our school have an average attendance of around 94%.

Well done and congratulations to all!!

Challenging Targets

Rest assured that as a school, we are determined to maintain our recent levels of improvement; indeed it's our mission to meet the challenge of achieving our sixth successive year of exam improvements for our students. Together, we can support our pupils to give them the best possible start in life.

With every best wish for our continued partnership.

John Biddlestone
(Headteacher)

Presentation Evening at The Swinton High School

On Thursday 16th November, The Swinton High School hosted its annual awards and presentation evening. This is a very important night in the life of a student, as it is the night when they celebrate all the hard years of being in school, receiving their awards and GCSE certificates.

The Swinton Globe was packed to the rafters for the evening, with former students, parents, staff and Governors all on hand to celebrate the successes as well as being entertained by the Steel Pans and a vocal duet from two of our star singers.

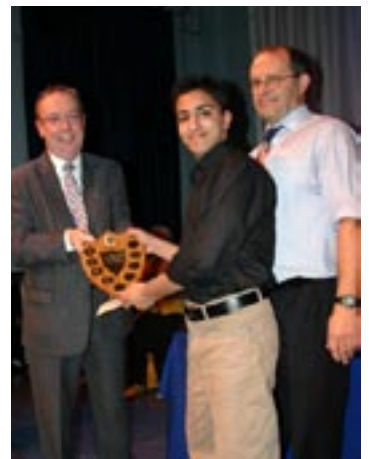
This year's guest speaker was Mr Peter Crompton, principal of Pendleton College, who inspired and entertained all with his speech.

Drinks and light refreshments were served after the event, allowing students, staff and parents to catch up with each other in a more relaxed atmosphere than they had perhaps been used to.

All in all, the night was a huge success for all concerned, including Mr Rowlinson who perhaps had more sleepless nights in the run up to the event than he had ever known before.



Award Winners Stacey Groom and Zulqarnain Majid with guest speaker Peter Crompton



Lunchtime Activities at The Swinton High School

Why not come along to sports coaching in the sports hall at lunchtimes?

Meet in the school changing rooms at 1:05pm with your kit and trainers. Girls and boys are all welcome.

Monday	year 9	football
Tuesday	year 8	football
Wednesday	year 7	football
Thursday	all years and GCSE groups for	badminton, basketball and volleyball
Friday	years 10/11	football

Please take all belongings to the sports hall with you. You must wear full PE kit.

For more information please see Mrs Hulton



WEST SIDE STORY

December saw perhaps our most ambitious and challenging school show to date. Almost 160 students auditioned for roles, however, only the most committed actually survived the experience!

The students all worked tirelessly, averaging ten hours rehearsal each week on top of their regular school work.

West Side Story is based on Shakespeare's play Romeo and Juliet with the story brought up to date and set in the violent West side of New York.

With a professionally choreographed fight scene, love scenes, singing and dancing, and the show culminating in a cruel twist, this surely was the show not to be missed. Including the show nights, over 1000 people eventually saw this musical extravaganza.

Reviews and comments came thick and fast, with many thanks and praise for such a wonderful night, including these words from a review by Chris Kelly, who is a Casting Assistant and Theatre Director.

“Bernardo (Sam Lathwood) and Anita’s (Kate Vasilyeva) physical agility and sophistication were matched by their confidence, flair and passion in communicating the high emotion of story.”

“Maria (Robyn Fox) and the rest of the sharks coped admirably with the Puerto Rican accents – which are not the easiest to sustain. Tony (Edem Mbrou) made the songs plausible and truthful through his touching delivery and genuine sincerity.”

“Riff (Reece Storey) also demonstrated an effortless skill in delivery and a natural and easy-going approach to the leadership role. His girlfriend was also characterfully played by Rhian Corcoran chewing gum and pouting vacantly throughout.”

“For concentration, focus and understanding of the character, I felt that Lennard McCarthy’s portrayal of ‘Action’ was outstanding and consistent throughout each scene he played. He was well cast and approached the character with professionalism, owning it on stage.”

“The show is clearly the conclusion of a lot of hard work and dedication by so many and you should all be proud of yourselves for a fantastic Christmas show. Despite the show being sad, I went away feeling warmed by the experience of seeing so many young people working together to achieve something wonderful. Congratulations folks.”



The full review and more pictures can be found on the school website www.swintonhigh.co.uk

Fashion Show 2006

The fashion show is an activity where pupils must organise the various elements of a fashion show event and produce marketing materials. 19 pupils from the year 9 Able, Gifted and Talented Group were split into teams and were told they must work together to ensure the project was a success. The pupils were required to research, plan, design and build their fashion show and then present to the rest of the class.

The fashion show project encourages teamwork, communication, creativity, imagination, literacy and numeracy, risk-taking, researching, planning, decision-making and presentation skills.

The pupils worked very hard all morning and produced some excellent models with some very innovative ideas. All students said that they had enjoyed the project, one stating that they "really enjoyed today because we were allowed to create a catwalk and use our imagination".



Win a brand new ipod nano!!

We are looking for articles to be sent to a new column in the Salford Advertiser.



If you think you may have what it takes to be a journalist, then look out for the posters around school and on the school website when we launch this exciting new competition later this month!!

New Teachers in January



I am Miss Pashley and I have been teaching science in Hull for the last year. I have also taught in Holland and Worked in France and Spain. I am a trained professional dancer and cheerleader and hope to get involved with this at Swinton High. I am a biology specialist, having previously worked as a physio for some top rugby teams and hope to pass some of my knowledge on to the pupils of Swinton.

My name is Mr Hulton and I am the newly appointed SENCO. I have been teaching around 6 years. Outside of school I enjoy many sports, particularly football, both playing and watching.



I am Ms Webb and I have been teaching English and media studies for 6 years in South Manchester. I am pleased to have started as the able, gifted and talented co-ordinator at Swinton, where hopefully I will be able to help improve talented and able pupils and in turn raise pupils' achievement.

Community Service



On 14th December, PC Pinder, Mrs Edwards, Mrs Hargrave and three Community Support Officers took 22 Pupils out for a carvery Christmas Lunch at the 'Red Lion' restaurant. This was a reward from PC Pinder's department for the work in the community the pupils have been involved in.

Over the past seven weeks these pupils have worked with PC Pinder, three Community Support Officers, Mrs Goldie & myself collecting bags of rubbish from the surrounding area.

On average the pupils collected 18 bags of rubbish per week; the pupils also helped deliver the school news letter to local residents.

The 22 pupils who went to the restaurant behaved impeccably, the behaviour was commented on by a member of the public; they asked which school we were from and said how nice it was to see the children behave so well in public.

The Christmas Speed Chess Competition

by Paige Tunnacliffe

On Tuesday 11th December, there was a chess competition held at The Swinton High School. Altogether, four high schools took part. They were The Swinton High School, Wentworth High, The Salford City Academy and Moorside High School.



As it was all for fun, we had tasks to do during the matches. In the first game we had to suck on a chocolate all the way through, in the second we had to suck on a lolly, and in the last game, we got more chocolate.

The hardest bit was that the chess games were against the clock, and we only had five minutes to win a game. It sounds easy but it was quite hard... well, for me anyway... I am the only girl on the chess team, everyone else is a boy.

The Swinton High School got through to the quarter final, but unfortunately we only managed to come in third. Our prize... wooden spoons!

If anybody else knows how to play chess and you fancy a competition, why not see Mrs Howarth about being part of the chess club, or even just come to the conference room at lunch times in the A-block.

Anti-Bullying Event @ The Lowry

A number of pupils entered an anti-bullying competition based on the theme of 'The Bystander'. The competition involved pupils designing posters and writing poems.

The Swinton High School attended the final of the competition, held at The Lowry, and won the prize for the most 'creative response on the theme'.

The following pupils won an award for their entries:
Mishal Tariq,
Hannah Jepp,
Rachel Smith,
Bethany Pritchard
and Jazmin Hall.



Girls' Football Teams:

Since September we have been running a 6-a-side girls' football team in year 7 and years 8/9. Our teams have been playing unbelievably well in the Salford league at the Sports Village complex losing only two matches between them so far!

In December we were invited to take part in an under 13's indoor tournament at The Cliff training ground by the Manchester United development scheme. On the back of our success in the Salford league we took a squad of our seven strongest players to play against other teams from the North West region.

Once again our girls did not disappoint us! We reached the final in fine fashion beating all of the teams in our group and then going on to beat Wellington High in the next round. Our opponents were Flixton Girls' High School, another very strong team who we held to 0-0 during normal match time. The decider was to be a two minute golden goal round. Unfortunately, we came unstuck here and lost 1-0.

A big thank you goes to all of the participants from years 7, 8 and 9 who have competed in the Salford league and the tournament at The Cliff. They have been fantastic so far, keep it up!!

Girls' Netball – Year 7:

Well done to our year 7 netball team who have been competing in the Salford Schools' League. They have played three matches so far and lost only one (very narrowly!). A huge amount of talent has been shown by these girls and they have gelled nicely as a very strong team. Very well done to the squad for your performance so far.

Salford Schools' Volleyball Tournament:

We will be hosting the annual Salford Schools' Volleyball tournament in the very near future at The Swinton High. Anyone who is interested in playing (years 7-11) should keep an eye on our new notice board for notification of practices.

New Notice Boards:

We have brand new notice boards in PE next to the girls' and boys' changing rooms.

Keep an eye out for information if you are interested in taking part in extra-curricular activities or if you do GCSE PE.

Important Dates For Your Diary

2007	
Tuesday 30th January	Year 11 Review Day
Friday 9th February	Year 9 Review Day / School Closes for Half Term
Monday 19th February	Back to School
Monday 26th February	Year 9 Theatre in Education Project
Wednesday 7th March	Year 10 GCSE Modular Exams
Tuesday 20th March	Year 9 Parents' Evening
Tuesday 27th March	Year 8 Review Day
Thursday 29th March	School Closes for Easter

Win a Laptop Competition



Last November, we launched a competition to win a brand new laptop computer. This wasn't an easy competition to win, and the standard of entries was amazing.

Pupils had to design a poster advertising our new school website, as well as creating ideas for new areas on the site.

Professional designers from a company called AEP came in to judge the competition in mid-December.



The competition was a close run thing, with the judges torn between a final four. Eventually, a winner was chosen - it was James R Taylor. Not only did he win the laptop, but this month he is spending a morning at AEP where they have very kindly offered to recreate his winning poster into a computer generated graphic design.

There was also second and third prizes of vouchers which went to Toni Johnson, Dylan Collier and Paige Tunnacliffe.

You can see the winning designs in the next newsletter - and be sure to look out on our website for the all the new areas that the pupils came up with.

Golf Taster sessions



Thanks to the support from Phil Newnes (a parent and golf coach) and funding from the Golf Foundation and the school sports partnership it has been possible to set up two golf taster sessions for pupils in year 8.

Approximately 20 pupils were involved over two weeks at the Astley golf and driving range. Students were introduced to the game by Mr Newnes, given some basic coaching swinging the club and stance and then given the chance to practice hitting the ball using a range of clubs.

Each session lasted for an hour and in that time some of the pupils were beginning to consistently hit the ball a reasonable distance and in the right direction.

It is hoped that these taster activities will encourage some pupils to take up the game of golf.