



The Swinton High School

a specialist college for the performing arts

NEWS FROM THE SCHOOL



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Message From The Headteacher



Many Opportunities!

I do hope you enjoy the latest edition of our newsletter. The articles in here give you an indication of the range of opportunities we give our pupils as we encourage the principles of **Respect** and **Strive to Achieve** at all times. I am sure you share with me the sense of energy and enthusiasm generated in our school.

School Uniform

I should like to thank all of those parents, carers, staff, pupils and governors who recently took the time to complete their questionnaires in our school uniform survey.

No Blazers!

I shall be writing to everyone after Easter outlining the changes that we will be making for September 2007. These changes are in response to your overall view that we make a few modest alterations and that we do not introduce blazers.

With every best wish for our continued partnership.

John Biddlestone
(Headteacher)

Holocaust Memorial Day, N Smith

Thirty students from years 8-11 took part in this year's National Holocaust Memorial Day which Salford Council held at Buile Hill Banqueting Suite. The day this year was entitled 'The dignity of Difference' in order to remember not only the Jews who were killed but the Roma Gypsies, the homosexuals, the political prisoners and people who fell outside of the Nazi's view of what was 'normal' or 'ideal'.



Our students performed their 'Peace and Conflict' Drama which was on tour in Belgium in summer 2006. They then laid symbolic stones in front of lit candles to commemorate the many killed during the holocaust and presented some poetry written by those who were holocaust survivors. Our very talented Instrumentalists played beautiful and thought provoking music whilst one of the local rabbi's gave the attendees an ancient Jewish Blessing.



We were shocked and moved to tears when one survivor who had fled her war torn country and moved to England stood up and told us her story. She detailed how she felt as a child seeing horrendous violence and killing, and then how traumatic the transition from her native country, to England had been. All of the students and staff involved in this event were proud to have taken part in such a commemoration and hope to be invited back again next year.

Win a brand new digital camera!!

This month's competition is being organised by the library.

We are giving you the chance to win a fabulous new Fuji Digital Camera.



We want you to design a new logo for the school library. You can find out more details on posters around the school and in the library, or by logging on to the school website:

www.swintonhigh.co.uk





READY, STEADY, COOK! 2007

On Wednesday 21st February, twenty Food Technology pupils from year ten took part in a "Ready, Steady, Cook!" Competition jointly organised by Lucy Butler from Salford Business and Education Partnership and Mrs Carter, Head of Design and Technology Faculty.

Working in groups of five with the assistance of a chef from The Worsley Novotel, The Marriott Hotel, or Pendleton College, the pupils had one hour to cook a special Pancake Day themed two-course meal. As on the T.V show, the pupils were given a selection of ingredients. These were a chicken breast, a lemon, potatoes, three other vegetables, a cooking apple and puff pastry. They also had access to a well-stocked store cupboard.

The pupils worked very hard throughout the morning and their results were superb. Many of them had obviously been practicing their pancake-flipping technique! They enjoyed working with the chefs and learning how to cook some unusual vegetables.

A panel consisting of Miss Timms, Mr Woodward, Karen Priest and Marvin McKenzie (both from Salford Business and Education Partnership) judged the food. The pupils also gave a presentation to the panel. Here they explained what they had made, what new skills they had learned and the cost of their dishes.



*The Winning Team
"The Bobby Dazzlers"*

Congratulations to the winning team "The Bobby Dazzlers" - Rory Wheeler, Rachel Linstrem, Jessica Berry, Rebecca Stanganini and Rebecca Hawthornthwaite - and their professional chef, Sean Kelly from The Worsley Marriott Hotel. Their menu included chicken breast stuffed with mushrooms and coriander, encased in puff pastry served on a bed of sweet potatoes, courgette and peppers, followed by apple pancakes with a delicious chocolate sauce.

The winners will be treated to an all expenses paid lunch at the Training Restaurant at Pendleton College. Many thanks are due to the college for providing this most generous prize. And thanks are also due to all of the professional and business people for giving up their valuable time to spend the morning with our pupils.

Year 9 Food Technology Visit

Two small groups of year 9 pupils were invited to Morrisons in-store bakery to see how the bread is prepared, baked, sliced and wrapped. We were surprised to hear that all of the bread is made by one person who works through the night. Even the prospect of the wonderful fresh bread aromas would not persuade any of our pupils to do that job - they all like to have people to chat to!



Here are some of their comments about the visit;

Samantha Graham 9H –

I felt that it was educational but fun at the same time. The breads have peculiar names such as hedgehog, submarine and tiger and Morrisons make 18 different types of bread.

Rebecca Ellison 9T –

The doughnuts have six different fillings, like apple, raspberry, strawberry, custard and so on. The bread products are always stacked well and look inviting on the shelves in the store. I found out that any unsold stock from the previous day is always reduced in price – they only sell today's bread at full price. So you know it will be good.

Timmy Alafe 9N –

We learnt about all of the different stages of bread making and saw all of the mixers and machinery. We also learnt the difference between the various kinds of flour that are used. All in all it was a great trip and I was glad to be chosen.

AGT News

Keeping students, parents and the community up to date with provision for Able, Gifted and Talented students at TSHS:

Sport

Three pupils in year 9 have been invited to take part in a Manchester-wide sports initiative, called 'It's all I the game!'. The pupils involved are: Adam O'Brien, Jamie Weston and Terence Skachill.

They have been chosen because of their specific talents in sport, as well as their strong academic performance in lessons across the curriculum. As part of this project these students will be finding out about possible careers in sports, varying from TV cameraman to footballer. They will be visiting Old Trafford's Lancashire Cricket ground as well as Manchester City Stadium, where they will have

the opportunity to meet sports personalities and professionals. Last year's group met Olympic champion Kelly Holmes!

A reception, hosted by BBC Grandstand presenter Rebecca Lowe, was held on the 1st of February, where pupils met the organisers of the events, as well as listening to a motivating speech by Olympic and World Champion swimmer (and former Prestwich resident) Adrian Turner.

Core Subjects: Booster Classes

Booster classes are now running in every core subject: English, Science and Maths. These classes are being led by subject specialists for pupils as well as SATs experts from Salford Education services, with AGT pupils being encouraged to attend to boost their grades.

The sessions are held on the following days:

Tuesday: English

Wednesday: Science

Thursday: Maths

New Staff



I am Miss Evans and I am the new resource centre manager. I was previously a librarian in a public library, and I am very much looking forward to meeting you all in the library. When I am not at work, I like going to the gym, reading and socialising.

Don't forget to check out the posters around school and the school website for details of the competition to design a new logo to the library.

We will also be starting a DVD Club in the library. Each lunchtime, we will be running a DVD. All year groups are welcome, but numbers are limited, so see Miss Evans if you are interested. A suggestion box will soon be put in the library so you can nominate your favourite film!

Cushh



On 29th January, Year 7 were lucky enough to attend a concert in The Swinton Globe with the up and coming duo 'Cushh'. The pupils all had a great afternoon!

Interview with PC Pinder, our School Based Police Officer by Rebecca Raymond and Joshua Wright, Form 7G

What is your role in school, and what do you most commonly deal with here?

In my job in the school, I deal with all anti-social behaviour, keeping the school in order and making sure that we have a safe environment to work in. I also deal with crime prevention, getting to know pupils, and teaching groups about the consequences of crime, drug misuse and anti-social behaviour.

What type of police work do you do out of school and which do you prefer?

When I am on patrol out of school hours, I do regular police work like all the other officers. I prefer working in school, although it is a refreshing change working outside of school, dealing with different types of police work and different sorts of crime.

Do you like being a police officer?

Yes, very much so, because no two days are ever the same. We deal with different people and different incidents every day. People are unique, and we meet a lot of funny characters as well as criminals, so we have a good laugh on the job as well. It is quite hard though sometimes patrol in pairs, so we have someone to back us up and keep us company.

Is being a police officer as exciting as it seems on the television?

Yes, for instance today, I've been involved with bike chases and helicopter pursuits, so every day is unpredictable. It can be quite boring though when we have to fill in all the paperwork, which there is a lot of.

Finally, do you ever feel like giving up being a cop?

Well, if I won the lottery I would definitely give up, but if that doesn't happen, I'll probably stay until I retire.



Work Experience Weekend

On Friday 22nd February, four year 11 pupils went to Hope Hospital for two work experience days. This was run by Manchester University and the medical mentoring programme, which our pupils take part in. This is to give them an insight into the medical profession which they have shown an interest in doing once they leave either school or college.



They arrived at the hospital for 9:30am on Friday and registered in the Crush Room in the Hospital Teaching Block. They were then introduced to one of the Professors, who gave a talk about various jobs within the NHS to do with Health and Social Care.

The pupils who went were very impressed with the two days and it has helped them to make decisions on what they want to do as a career. They also gained valuable experience from other medical students who supported them on the two days on what life is like working in the hospital.

Chez St Pierre!

Since September, a new postcard rewards system has been up and running for key Stage 3 pupils at The Swinton High School. To add a personal touch to the system we decided to give pupils the chance to design and enter their own subject specific postcards. We had some outstanding entries and the winning postcards were then printed. Many of you will have already received some!

As part of end of term activities, budding French speakers in Year 5 at St Peter's C. E Primary School were also given the chance to enter the competition. When all entries were in, although the decision was a difficult one, we selected our three winners!



*Winners Robert Cowley,
Bethany Yearsley & Matthew Norris*

Oldham Coliseum Workshops

The Applied Performing Arts students in year 10 & 11 started off the new school year with some workshops from Oldham Coliseum Theatre. The year 10 students were taught about life in the Theatre and job roles. They had to problem solve some situations that might arise in a professional performance venue. They had to be in role as part of the workforce during the task, it was good to see that not only had year 10 learnt some information, they could solve some very complex and demanding situations.

Years eleven on the other hand were able to regress back to earlier childhood during their session as it was about Theatre in Education. How do professional theatre groups create performances for younger pupils? The Year 11 students are presently involved in their own commissioned pieces where they have to improvise and create a performance based on Myths and Legends for year 6 or 7 students. We wish them all the very best with their exams and no doubt they will be able to pull off some very highly skilled pieces.

Year 11 GCSE leisure and tourism trip to Chester Zoo, by Luke Hinton

Upon arrival, we were soon greeted by the welcoming stench of the monkey house while the Red buffed Lemurs made some friends from the class that they'll never forget.

Although we were under unfortunate time constraints, the class was still able to get a good look around the zoo. So we were soon on our way to the on-site education centre, however we were met with an unwelcome rainfall, which provided me with a chance to experience some true journalism as my notes, became utterly saturated.

Once seated in the education centre, the class was introduced to Andrew Moss, the education officer who would be giving the talk. The primary focus was on the marketing and financial side of the zoo. I was particularly surprised to discover that the zoo only receives a sum of around £18 million per year. Having compared this to the total annual income of many other companies and organisations, it became clear that it really is a small figure.

When you consider the sums of money that our government waste annually, it is a shock to find that they do not sponsor the Zoo in any way. I learnt that John Prescott often pays a visit to aid the promotion of various new attractions: a nice gesture one might say. I am sure there is a contradiction in there somewhere.

A sum of around £1 million a year is spent on marketing, which again, isn't a great figure when one takes time to investigate that the average company ploughs an estimated 10% of their profit into advertising. A large amount? I would answer no, because McDonald's spend a mind boggling 40% of their annual profit on advertisement alone. I am presuming that the remaining 60% is profit for the investors. Or at least they hope.

Given the fact that the subjects discussed were not those usually discussed by my peers and myself there was a lot to be learned from the talk and the class had become unmistakably enthralled. Had the Leisure and Tourism class been subject to a spot of market research carried out by the zoo? Who knows? But what I do know is that the day was definitely a benefit to Leisure and Tourism class of year 11.

Important Dates For Your Diary

2007	
Tuesday 20th March	Year 9 Parents' Evening
Tuesday 27th March	Year 8 Review Day
Thursday 29th March	School Closes for Easter

Extra curricular Activities

This term has been a busy term for exams within the Performing Arts but there are still some clubs available

Monday:

Lunch: Open house for GCSE students- music, Dance, Performing Arts and Drama
3:00-4:30pm Year 10 & 11 rehearsals- Drama Theatre and Studio

Tuesday:

Lunch: Open House rehearsals for talent show
3:00-4:30pm Year 10 & 11 rehearsals- Music rooms and Drama Studio
3:00-4:00pm MC'ing club in Drama Theatre

Wednesday:

Lunch: Open house for GCSE students- Music, Drama, Dance and Performing Arts
3:00-4:30pm Year 11 audition classes

'Bums and Tums' and cheerleading/street dance with Ms Dawson and Ms White- Years 9-11

Thursday:

Lunch: Open House rehearsals for talent show
3:00-4:00pm Cheerleading and Street Dance- years 7-8 Ms Dawson and Ms White
3:00-5:00pm Exam rehearsal for arts subjects

Friday:

Lunch- closed
3:00pm-4:00pm open house rehearsals

Talent Showcase Heats

Nearly 60 pupils took part in the Talent Showcase Heats which took place over seven lunchtimes in the Drama Theatre. Entrants ranged from Year 7 to Year 11, and showed talents in singing, dancing and even MC-ing!! There were some amazing performances, and the final will take place on Wednesday 28th March in The Swinton Globe.

Young Consumer of the Year 2007

Lucy Hardman, Rebecca Bootman, Chelsea Fuller, Amy Forshaw and Matthew Greenhalgh have got through to the regional finals of the Young Consumer of the Year contest, which will be held at the Trafford Centre of Wednesday March 21st. Well done and good luck!!

