



NewsFlash

MAY 2008



Message from the Headteacher, Staff and Governors

The Swinton High School is officially designated a High Performing Specialist School in the arts, mathematics and computing

Outstanding news arrived by letter this week from DCSF to John Biddlestone, headteacher of The Swinton High School: with effect from September The Swinton High School will be officially designated a high performing specialist school (HPSS) an invitation only made to a minority of all secondary schools across the country.

In order to achieve HPSS a secondary school must meet the most challenging targets in all aspects of its performance

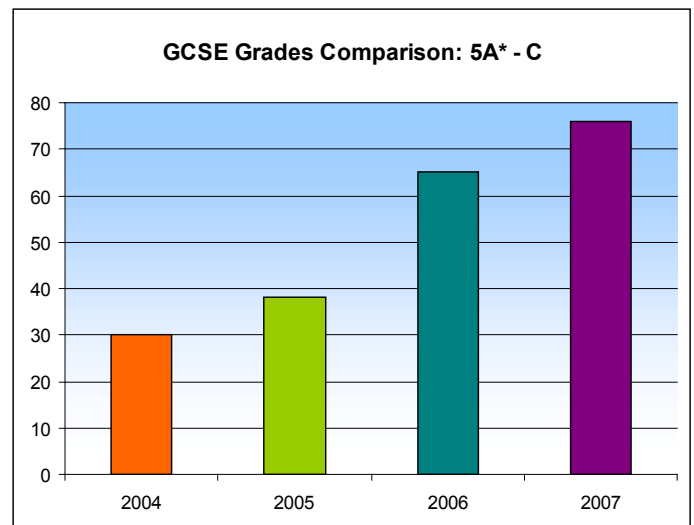
- Pupils must make outstanding progress when compared with all other schools across the country.
- English and mathematics GCSE results must significantly exceed challenging targets.
- The school's most recent ofsted inspection judgement must be good or outstanding.
- The school must prove itself to have been a successful specialist school for at least four years.

HPSS comes with a responsibility and a commitment from The Swinton High School to:

1. Maintain its position as a good and outstanding school in all aspects of its work.
2. Support and advise other schools as a Leading Edge agent for wider school improvement.
3. Continue to develop as a centre of excellence as a specialist school for the arts, music, dance, drama, music technology and art.
4. Take on the additional specialisms likely to be in mathematics and computing as a centre of excellence.
5. Spend the additional funding given to us as a High Performing Specialist School to maintain this high level of progress over the next four years.

A delighted chair of the full governing body Mrs Jacky Davies said: "Amazing. We've come a long way to get to this point. Watch us go now!"

Headteacher, John Biddlestone said: "It's a privilege to be asked by DCSF to become a High Performing Specialist School. Our pupils, staff, parents, governors and community deserve this. We can't wait to get started and continue to make a difference for all of our pupils!"



Outstanding Attendance!

The Swinton High School is this year on course to achieve levels of attendance significantly above the national average. Since becoming a specialist school for the performing arts in September 2004 our attendance has rocketed by a remarkable 4.3%!

Carole Craven, The Swinton High School's Social Inclusion Officer responsible for attendance puts it down to hard work, good teaching and learning and effective partnerships.

"All absences must be explained by a parental note and all parents of absent pupils are contacted from day one, no question. Every day of absence from The Swinton High School is a missed opportunity for our pupils and we find our parents invariably work with us to ensure their children make the most of the first class teaching and learning that our school offers."

Mrs Craven also paid tribute to the outstanding support and advice given to The Swinton High School by Salford local authority attendance experts Joanne Marsh, Elaine Duke and Carole Saunders.



We've won the league!!!

by Sam Viller, Year 11

The year 11 league decider between The Swinton High School and Harrop Fold ended 5-4 in our favour after a thrilling game.

Early pressure from Andy Hill gave The Swinton the lead, with a shot from the edge of the area. Almost immediately though, Harrop equalised with a shot deflecting off Phil Williamson. Fortunately, skipper Sam Viller rose above a player twice his height to score with a bullet header from at least 15 yards.

Alex Griffiths then brilliantly took on four players, setting Andy up for his second of the game. With THE Swinton now tearing Harrop apart, Jammy Curran crossed for Ian Black to make it 4-1. After half time, Harrop rallied to bring the game to 4-3. The defence held on and with minutes to go 'Blackie' scored again. A late goal from Harrop right at the death eventually left the score at 5-4 - a thrilling game that crowned us the champions of Salford.

Outstanding Improvements at Key Stage 3

We are delighted to receive congratulations from Ed Balls, Secretary of State for Education on our progress at Key Stage 3. The Swinton High School is the 33rd most improved school in the country based on 2004 - 2007 Key Stage 3 results in English, mathematics and science.

Ellen Pope, deputy headteacher said: "We are pleased that the hard work of our staff and pupils is recognised. It's vital that our pupils begin their GCSEs at Key Stage 4 with the best possible start in the essentials of English, mathematics and science and our progress at Key Stage 3 will give our pupils that very good start. We look forward to further improvements at both key stages 3 and 4 this summer and beyond."

Pupils make Exceptional Progress

League tables issued recently show that pupils at The Swinton High School make exceptional progress from Key Stage 2 - 4. Solid foundations are laid at Key Stage 2 in our primary schools. This gives us the opportunity to build on these foundations by adding outstanding value and ensuring that our pupils progress as much as possible. The most recently published secondary league tables show that pupils make greater progress at Key Stage 4 at The Swinton High School than 98% of all secondary schools in the country.

