



The Swinton High School

A High Performing Specialist School



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

Message From The Headteacher



We open this year as a High Performing Specialist School and look forward to the opportunities this will bring our pupils.

High Standards

As a High Performing Specialist School we have been invited by the Department for Children Schools and Families (DCSF) to take on this status in recognition of the above average levels of performance and the outstanding progress in all subjects made by our pupils in recent years

Good and Outstanding

Our recent Ofsted report of May 2007 judged The Swinton High School to be good in every section with a number of outstanding features. This judgement is also a factor in achieving High Performing Specialist School.

Additional Funds

With this status comes additional funding to further raise standards and you can rest assured that we are already making plans to spend this for the benefit of our pupils.

Higher, Faster

We see that High Performing Specialist School Status enables us to give our pupils even more opportunities at The Swinton High School and it is my commitment to you that we will continue to strive to achieve as we give our pupils the best possible education our additional funds can provide.

With every best wish for our continued partnership.

John Biddlestone
Headteacher

82%

5A*-C Grades

find out more about this inside...

Able, gifted and talented groups celebrate academic success! Miss R Webb



With the support of the governors and all staff, new 'super sets' have been formed in years 7-11 for our core subjects: English, Maths and Science. These teaching groups, numbering no more than 22 pupils per class, are aimed at encouraging pupils to achieve the very highest levels and GCSE grades possible.

Pupils are selected for these groups due to their enormous potential to achieve and their considerable talent in that specific curriculum area. Within these classes, the very highest standards of both teaching and learning are aimed for, thus enabling both pupils and staff to develop, share and celebrate the rewards of academic success throughout the school!



New Creative and Media Diploma, Ms A Welsh

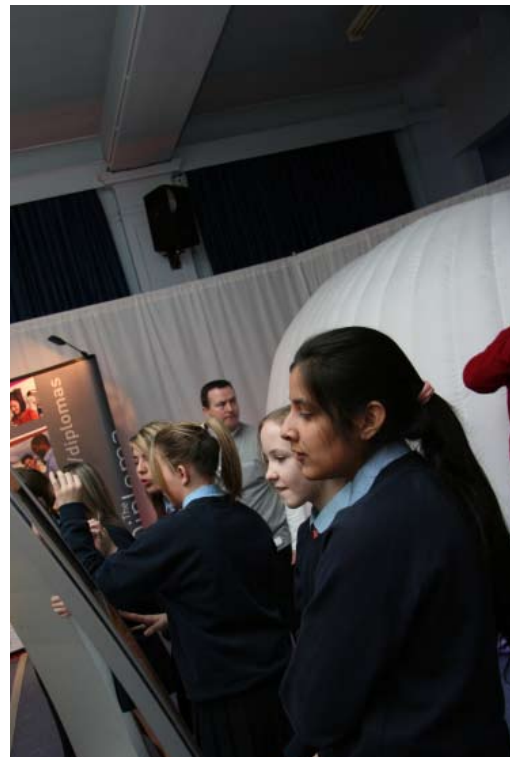
The Swinton High School began the Level 2 Diploma in Creative and Media this September. Currently, the qualification is worth up to seven GCSEs and is a two year course for years 10 and 11.

This Diploma is new, innovative and rewarding. Students combine the theoretical study with practical experience and develop skills highly valued by employers and universities.

The Diploma is part of a national programme to provide young learners with more options to encourage them to continue learning for longer. Students studying the Creative and Media diploma will learn how to think, question, explore, create and communicate. Students will master the process common to all creative industries.

“The new Diploma will be a great route into both university and work, and will be recognised as a direct equivalent of GCSEs and A levels.”

Connexions



2008 Exam Results - An Update, S Croston

What a difference a month makes. Our exam results now stand at 82% 5A* - C grades - the best ever results for us. Our 5A* - C grades including English and Mathematics are also the best ever results that The Swinton High School has achieved.

Congratulations go to all of our former Year 11 students and their teachers. Their dedication, hard work, after hours revision lessons and commitment to succeed has paid off.

You may be interested to know that this was our:-

- Third year of above national averages performance
- Seventh successive year of GCSE A*-C grade improvements
- Best ever 5A*-C grades including English and mathematics
- Best ever A*-C grades in mathematics, science and ICT
- Best ever A* and A grades
- Best ever 5A*-G grades and 1A*-G grades
- Fourth successive year that we expect to be members of the elite Specialist Schools and Academies Trust most Improved Schools Club

Outstanding Individual Achievement in this year's GCSEs

Our congratulations this year go to Danny Orwin, who achieved outstanding results of 13 A*-C grade GCSEs, with 11 of those being either an A or an A* grade.



Danny himself said, "I'm ecstatic with my results; all of the hard work that I have put in has really paid off. I would like to say a big thank you to all of the teachers and staff at The Swinton High School, for all of their help, guidance and support over my school career."

State of the Art Computer Suite in Design Mr A Blackburn

Design and Technology finally saw the completion of its Computer suite that had an investment of over £40,000. The suite enables the pupils to work on packages such as Pro Desktop, 2D design Techsoft and Photoshop. With the investment Technology has 30 computers, Laser printer, A4 printer, A3 printer, A3 scanner, CNC router, Digital Camera, Stikka machine and CAMM 2 machine. The most important addition to the suite is a Laser Cutter that along with the CNC router have improved the quality of GCSE practical pieces in all subject areas. The £15,000 Laser cutter has made The Swinton High School one of the best-resourced Technology faculties in Salford.

The courses in Technology are very popular with year 10 and 11 option groups and Design Technology continues to develop to meet this demand.



Open Evening @ The Swinton High School Miss S Withers

In spite of some of the heaviest rainfall of the year, on Tuesday 7th October The Swinton High School hosted perhaps its most successful open evening yet!

We estimate that over 800 people attended on the night itself, enjoying activities in all areas of the school, from exploding cans in science, cooking in food technology, drama performances, French lessons and more.

The staff and pupils worked enthusiastically all night, entertaining visitors, answering questions and guiding our potential new recruits around the school.

We received a lot of comments from parents and pupils about the night, here is what a few of them had to say:

“A pleasant and informative evening. Our guide was very enthusiastic about the school and answered all our questions.”

“My eldest daughter has done fantastically well at your school so my youngest daughter will hopefully do the same. Many thanks to you all.”

“Overall, I saw very good standards, also the school guide was extremely helpful. My child felt very welcome and I hope my child can attend this school.”

If you were unable to attend the open evening, and would like to arrange a visit, please contact the school by telephone to arrange an appointment to see Miss Withers, Assistant Headteacher. 0161 794 6215.

Science do the Can-Can Mr S West

Year 7 had a can collecting competition for the science department in preparation for open evening. It was a splendid effort by everyone. Mr Woodward and Mr Robinson had their work cut out during open evening trying to explode all 480 cans.

The three winning forms were Miss Pashley's, with 110 cans, Miss Smith's, with 103 cans and Miss Meadows's with 90 cans. Well done to all of year 7!!



Helping our Community S Croston



On Tuesday 30th September, three of our pupils, Jamie-Leigh Brook-Parkinson, Louise Parkin and Rebecca Chapman were all given special permission to be absent from school for part of the day. They have all been involved in project to redevelop the Clifton Youth Centre, and were going there to meet Anne Wienstock, The Youth Task for Minister for England, to discuss the plans.

Jamey-Leigh Brook-Parkinson in year 10, said, “On Tuesday the 30th September 2008, we met a lady called Anne from the government. The reason we met her was so we could tell her what equipment we would like in Clifton youth Centre. A couple of months ago we bid for roughly £443,000 . The bid was granted . We get the money anytime soon, then we can start to buy new equipment like, DJ Mixing Equipment, new pool tables, and computers. We are also having some new rooms built.

I am really proud that I was able to be a help in getting the money for the centre.”

Denae Cassidy, Clifton Area Youth Work Manager said, “These three girls have been instrumental in progressing this project and bidding for funding to help make this redevelopment a success. I am very proud of the work they have achieved. They are a credit to their community and their school.”

Well done girls!!

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

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:	Monday 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)

Ballet Rambert visits The Swinton High School

Mr S Kerns



The Swinton High School played host to a workshop by the prestigious Ballet Rambert Dance Company, after their successful premiere of their new work “Eternal Light” at the Lowry Theatre. Pupils from the school took part in music and dance workshops, composing their own songs and creating contemporary movement pieces, taking inspiration from the Eternal Light choreography and musical score, composed by Howard Goodall, and Rambert’s Artistic Director Mark Baldwin.

Heather Talbot, The Swinton High School’s Head of Dance said of the day, “We were delighted to host a workshop from such a prestigious company, and our pupils were very fortunate to have such experienced amateurs on hand to give them a glimpse into the demanding pace of a professional dancer’s daily life! The pupils have already asked me if we can perform their devised pieces in front of an audience, so watch this space!”

Stephen Kerns, Community Arts Director at the school added, “For Ballet Rambert to have premiered their new work, “Eternal Light” in Salford, at the Lowry Theatre, and then run workshops exclusively with our pupils is a great honour, and underlines The Swinton High School’s belief in the importance of the role that the Arts play in a child’s development. We hope they’ll come back again soon.”

Important Dates For Your Diary

2008	
Friday 24th October	Break up for Half-Term
Monday 3rd November Tuesday 4th November Tuesday 11th November Friday 21st November Friday 28th November	Back to School Today!! Year 11 Parents’ Evening Presentation Evening Year 10 Review Day School Closed for Staff Training
Monday 1st December Tuesday 16th December Wednesday 17th December Thursday 18th December Friday 19th December	Year 11 Mock Exams Start School Production - We Will Rock You School Production - We Will Rock You School Production - We Will Rock You SCHOOL CLOSSES FOR Christmas!!!!!!!!
2009	
Tuesday 6th January	Back to School Today!! Year 9 Mock SATs start