Welcome to the latest edition of the Herald. We’ve got even more people working on the Herald this year, with the addition of two trainee editors, Ms Pollard and Mr Stock, who will be taking over as editors next year. Ms Davies and I are really sad to be leaving, we’ve had a great time working on the Herald, but we know Mr Stock and Ms Pollard will do a great job next year. We’ve been locked away in Herald HQ beavering away, writing, checking and formatting, oh, and of course, eating a lot of cake! I hope the new editors remember how essential the cake is! Our little Herald Elves have been particularly busy this year, doing even more interviews and going out into the field to get you the latest news around site!

Well it’s certainly been a busy few months at Swanshurst, we’ve done so much we weren’t sure we’d be able to fit it all into one edition! This edition of the Herald is full of amazing articles, we have something for everyone. Whether you like sports, puzzles, poems, events or the latest Swanshurst news, there’s something for you.

We hope you all have a great summer! Don’t get sunburnt! See you all in September!

---

A Message from the Head

The summer term is nearly at an end and we will soon be enjoying the long holiday as we prepare for the new academic year in September.

I would like to thank everyone for their help, enthusiasm, support and willingness to get involved – again – in school life this year. All of this makes a real difference to the experience of our students and we are always very grateful to you all. I would also like to thank - last, but certainly not least, all our students. It is always really encouraging and very positive to see and hear them enjoy themselves and contribute so much to the life of our school.

I wish those members of staff who are leaving us at the end of term a very happy future and thank them very sincerely for all they have contributed to Swanshurst over the years. You will read more about our leavers inside. As ever we look forward to welcoming in September all our new Years 7 pupils, our new Sixth Form students and new members of staff to the Swanshurst community. Please look out for the arrangements for the start of the September term when Years 7 and 11 will start on Tuesday 4th September and the rest of the school on Wednesday 5th September. Sixth form students’ enrolment is separate.

We break up at lunchtime on Friday 20th July and I hope everyone has a happy, restful and safe summer holiday!

Elaine Kenney — Headteacher

---

A Message from the Editors

Welcome to the latest edition of the Herald. We’ve got even more people working on the Herald this year, with the addition of two trainee editors, Ms Pollard and Mr Stock, who will be taking over as editors next year. Ms Davies and I are really sad to be leaving, we’ve had a great time working on the Herald, but we know Mr Stock and Ms Pollard will do a great job next year. We’ve been locked away in Herald HQ beavering away, writing, checking and formatting, oh, and of course, eating a lot of cake! I hope the new editors remember how essential the cake is! Our little Herald Elves have been particularly busy this year, doing even more interviews and going out into the field to get you the latest news around site!

Well it’s certainly been a busy few months at Swanshurst, we’ve done so much we weren’t sure we’d be able to fit it all into one edition! This edition of the Herald is full of amazing articles, we have something for everyone. Whether you like sports, puzzles, poems, events or the latest Swanshurst news, there’s something for you.

We hope you all have a great summer! Don’t get sunburnt! See you all in September!
Whose got the moves? None of the teachers apparently!

Mr Beniston’s got the moves like Jagger!

Keep your eyes peeled for future opportunities to see teachers humiliating themselves for charity! We’re sure there are more to come!

PD

A fight to the death as teachers took each other on in an epic battle of dancing skills.

Spurred on by Mr Beniston a number of teacher Teachers decided that it would be a good idea to make absolute fools of themselves, and all for International Women’s Day.

In order to ensure that their humiliation would be complete Mr Beniston decided that it would be a good idea to get teachers and staff to play Just Dance on the Wii. People who wanted to watch their teachers getting embarrassed had to pay £1 to watch and then cakes and biscuits were sold to try and raise more money. All in all £330 was raised and this was split over two local women’s charities. The hall has never been so packed! Looks like teacher’s ritual humiliation was the hottest ticket in town!

Highlights of the event had to be Mr Tulloch and Mr Embrey’s epic dance moves! Girls were swooning in the aisles! Mr Fielding-Smith and Mr Griffiths definitely stole the show, jumping and hopping about the floor in a comic rendition of Madness’s ‘Night Boat to Cairo’. You were the mummy on the right Mr Fielding-Smith, not the camel!!

Just dance!
Go Ride!

Jess Potts is a specialist coach from British Cycling who had been in to Swanshurst to run Free cycling sessions with Year 7 and Year 8 pupils. The girls have been taking part in different cycle races which include track, MTB and circuit races. Bikes and helmets were provided by British Cycling and the girls were all able to ride a bike before they started.

Go ride has been set up for young riders to experience competition and they hope to encourage the pupils to continue to ride outside of school and to create a new pathway into the sport. It gave them the opportunity to compete in a real race environment against their own age group and ability.

All pupils had a fantastic time and it has helped to build their confidence and improve their cycling skills.

Chinns Up!

In the week of the 18th June, Year 7 took part in a Science and Geography trip. They walked to Chinnbrook Park and river to do lots of ecology related experiments. Whilst there, they sampled the biodiversity of Chinnbrook River and found out how healthy it is. Ms Ambreen said “I really enjoyed it; the kids loved jumping in the water and getting soaking wet as well as finding out about all the parts of the river. Luckily there was no rain and so we got to stay dry until everyone jumped in!” On the Geography side of things, they measured all types of things to do with the water, the structure of the river and how it was at risk of erosion. We spoke to a few Year 7s who had gone on this trip and they told us how the experience was for them:

‘It was a mixture of science and geography- my two favourite subjects!’ – Munibah 7U

‘I had a great time but it started raining. I didn’t mind because I love learning outside the classroom’ -Asma 7U

S.B & A.H
Playing Around in Brum

Friday the 29th of June saw the launch of the first ever Birmingham School Games; an exciting new sport competition for school children in England. The Games have been designed to build on the power and inspiration of the 2012 Olympics to enable every school child to participate in competitive sport.

The day saw the involvement of over 1,000 young people from across Birmingham competing in 10 sports, officiating, performing and getting involved in a whole host of media roles, it was also a day to celebrate the City's cultural and sporting excellence.

Through their hard work and determination in competition during the year Swanshurst were fortunate enough to be chosen to represent the south of Birmingham in Netball, Football and Trampolining.

An exciting opening ceremony at the Alexander Stadium, including drumming dancing and Marshall Arts was followed by a day of fierce competition, with our teams competing at 3 separate venues.

The netballers travelled to Stockland Green where in their pool they won two, lost two and narrowly missed qualifying for the semi-finals. The trampolinists competed at the prestigious GMAC centre where they finished in a very respectable 4th out of 10 competing against club and regional performers. The performance of the day was given by the U15 Football team who played at Moor Lane. They won all games qualifying top of their pool and securing a place in the final where they faced John Wilmot School. After a gruelling match and a top performance we were just beaten into second, but were presented with some much admired silverware. It was then back to Alexander Stadium for the closing ceremony. It was a long, tiring, but enjoyable day, which has left our performers with a thirst for victory. Well done to all!
Serving Up Some AEGON Classics

We were very lucky to be given the opportunity to take 30 Year 7 pupils to the AEGON Classic at The Priory in Edgbaston. This is an important fixture on the women’s tour and we were able to go along to show our support for the Great Britain players. The venue, Edgbaston Priory Club, is a where some of Britain’s top players receive specialist training and support as part of the AEGON High Performance Programme, to help them make the most of their talent.

The AEGON Classic is the year’s first opportunity for the leading players in women’s tennis to compete on grass court. The girls were able to watch the female players train and compete in a number of single and double games, also watching some great performances on the centre court.

The Year 7 pupils were keen to get on the courts and play some tennis and they were delighted to be taught by coaches from Warwickshire tennis club. They were able to improve their balls skills, play some short tennis and take part in some cardio tennis. We may even have the next Heather Watson on our hands! SP

Climbing Me Crazy

On Friday 22nd and Monday 25th June the GCSE PE group took to the dizzying heights of Creation Climbing Centre Moseley to face their fears as part of their PE assessment. After many complaints about helmet hair, and tight, hnnnnnn, harnesses, the group were strapped up and ready to go.

The effort and enthusiasm of the girls was amazing throughout the morning, with many overcoming their fear of heights to reach the top of a variety of different climbing walls, and also literally putting their life in each other’s hands to abseil back down to safety. With friendships strengthened it was back to school with huge smiles a great sense of pride, and a desire to conquer higher more difficult climbs.

AB
In May, 30 pupils headed to Oxford to take part in an action-packed week of adventurous activities (and a bit of shopping!) including orienteering, canoeing, fire building, low ropes courses and running around the forest! As well as the adventurous activities, there was a trip to London for a sightseeing tour, and visit to the Lyceum theatre to see the awesome Lion King! Pupils also spent a day looking round Oxford at shrunken heads, where Harry Potter was filmed.....and of course shopping!

Pupils stayed in dorms at Stansfeld Outdoor Education Centre – some in what is normally the boy’s dormitory much to their disappointment – from Monday 14th to Friday 18th May!

We can make you smile!!

Canoeing was a favourite activity for many of the pupils, but especially Miss Sambhi who said “I love canoeing, it’s so much fun”.....of course, people who went will know this isn’t true! Poor Miss Sambhi!

Pupils also watched a performance of The Lion King in London and visited the historic site of the University of Oxford where they stood on the stairs that featured in the Harry Potter films.

Tani, 9Y said “I really enjoyed going to London and Oxford and going shopping because they’re the things you don’t normally do on a school trip!”

Sarina, 9N who attended the trip said “It was great fun! We enjoyed it so much and I made lots of new friends! The best bit was visiting Oxford University and seeing a Harry Potter filming location by far!”

Nice face pack—badger poo, nooo!!

Splish, splash, splosh!

Quack Quack!
Kids of Steel

On Wednesday 23rd May, ten Year 9 students, along with Mrs Bray and Miss Place went to Handsworth Park and Leisure Centre to volunteer at the annual ‘Kids Of Steel’ Triathlon.

The triathlon was for primary school aged pupils and involved swimming 25m in the pool, riding 800 metres on a bike then running 400 metres to the finish.

It was a really hot day and as volunteers we were given different tasks to do throughout the day, all of which helped the children complete the Triathlon. We had to give the bikes out and put the helmets onto the children to make sure they were safe, direct them to make sure they didn’t go the wrong way, and give out medals at the finishing line.

It was a long, tiring day and the girls were on their feet all the time, helping the other children. But the day was really rewarding and we all really enjoyed ourselves.

We did get a free t-shirt and a nice lunch for our efforts. The girls involved were a real credit to Swanshurst and were acknowledged by the organisers of the event as being some of the best young leaders they have had.

Well done to the following girls;
Tani; Siobhan; Sam; Annaliese; Ava; Kate; Sarina; Becky; Kaiye; Adeeba.

Multitasking? No Problem for our Year 11s

The forty Year 10 Sports Leaders were put to good use on Wednesday 25th April at the annual Year 11 Multi Skills Festival at Billesley Tennis Centre.

Swanshurst sports leaders were in charge of organising, running and scoring sports stations and looking after teams of children making sure they all knew what they were doing and were having a good time.

Over 1000 children aged 5 were involved in the day and the sports leaders had a massive responsibility in ensuring the day ran smoothly. Primary school teachers commented on how fantastic the Swanshurst leaders were, and what a great job they did. The leaders had a really enjoyable day and are definitely more appreciative of how hard teachers have to work having done their job for the day.

Well done girls! If you are interested in becoming a sports leader please see Miss Ketley or Miss Place in the PE Department.
Sports Plus 2012 involved all Year 7 pupils actively engaged with two full days of sport. Throughout the day the theme of ‘Greater than Gold’ was explored to reflect the Olympic year. Across all activities pupils had fun, improved their fitness and explored the concept of our heart being our most treasured possession that is worth more than any gold medal that we might achieve. Each day we got ‘ready to rumble’ with the ‘battle of the batons’ before teams competed against each other during team challenge. Crazy croquet, human noughts and crosses, take the flag and boules were just a few of the challenges where teams competed against each other. In the afternoon pupils selected a sporting activity that they wanted to do and enjoyed specialist coaching in that chosen activity. Smoothie bikes provided everyone with an opportunity to make their own pedal powered fruit smoothie. Great fun was had by all and even the rain didn’t dampen our spirits!

During the summer holidays some of our Year 7’s will be heading to Brecon in Wales for a week of Sports Plus camp where they will continue to enjoy an intensive week of sport. Watch this space!

Pupil Quotes:

“Sports day was so good, we had so much fun. All the activities were fun and we enjoyed every single moment and hope to have sports plus day again. It was so amazing, we are so grateful that Christians in Sport came along and made our day so fun and enjoyable.” (Taiba 7E)

“We had so much fun, the thing I enjoyed the most was when we were in our 18 countries doing team challenge” (Laalibah 7E)

“I found it such a spectacular day. I enjoyed it so much I wanted to repeat the day. Hooray for sports day” (Hayat 7E)

“Christians in Sport and year 7 teachers this is a message for you – everyone loved it and we would be more happy if you do it again. I found it such a spectacular day” (Ammaara 7E)
The Americans are in Town!

Swanshurst has been very lucky to gain 15 tickets to visit the American Track and Field Team in their training camp based in Birmingham on Wednesday 18th July. Students will be welcomed into Alexander Stadium by a BBC presenter. This will be followed by an American athlete telling their story as well as getting to see the team in a training session. In the afternoon, students will get to experience another Olympic event - BMX riding. You never know we might find the next Shanaze Reade!

Do you like my flag?

Student Voice

When we began our journey at Swanshurst sixth form we came here to seek knowledge and skills needed in creating a fulfilling career in childcare and were never let down. Our tutors have inspired us and challenged us throughout this quest to help us achieve our individual potential and goals. Our family and friends stood by us and offered us support and encouragement.

During our time at Swanshurst we’ve really enjoyed ourselves, we’ve all had some great laughs as a tutor group. We really appreciate the help and support, our tutors have provided us with, as it wouldn’t have been the same else-where.
Our Swanlympic! Exellence Has Just Begun

Esther in Year 7 had an amazing once in a lifetime opportunity, as she was selected to carry the Olympic torch in Redditch on Sunday 1st July at 10.02am. Esther’s 510 yard leg involved carrying the torch along Plymouth Road and finishing on Evesham Road. A historical occasion!

A talented runner is the one to represent Swanshurst School. Through her sporting endeavours Esther has shown that friendships are an integral part of life that helps us feel good about ourselves and others. They share the celebrations and journey with you, offering support, encouragement and, through the demands of sport, work with you to overcome challenges that are presented.

We should all be so proud of Esther who ran through large cheering crowds with the Olympic Torch in Redditch this morning. Esther is an outstanding role model for the school, displaying a positive attitude, determination and commitment to her sport. Excellence can be seen through the improved times she has achieved!

A desire to succeed and strive for excellence can be seen running through Esther’s sporting career. Through Athletics, Esther runs with perseverance the race set out before her. A proactive approach to training can be seen as she trains alongside her father every weekend to supplement existing commitments she has at school.

“She was confident, smiling, waving to everyone as she ran and every inch the perfect ambassador for Swanshurst - even I had to wipe away a tear believe me!”

Esther 7A – Olympic torchbearer doing her best Will.I.Am impression.
SB
‘Where’s the gift shop miss..?’

A group of sixth formers had a school trip with a difference. Drayton Manor or Cadbury world were blown out the water when a group of Swanshurst Sixth formers visited Sainsbury’s in Kings Heath.

This group of Year 12 pupils were looking at the business behind the food to support their BTEC Business Level 3 course.

They had a meeting with the Store Manager to better understand the distribution process from the plantation to the shelves. Their visit included a session in the training room where they learnt about competition and how the store uses ICT to scan in goods, order them and to organise deliveries. They then visited the stock rooms, fridges and freezers and were amazed to see how little was stored in them. What there was plenty of though, was chocolate! ABM

Boxes of chocolate before the raid.

Take us to Torgon!

The ski visit took place from the 9th-17th March 2012 in Switzerland at the ‘Resort Torgon,’ where 40 girls from years 8-10 were accompanied by Miss hill, Miss Johnson, Mrs Ramage, Miss Ketley and Mrs Alexander. Everyone enjoyed being able to ski every day and join in with other schools. There were also evening activities such as night skiing, rock climbing and the night walk. A great experience from the trip was that the students were able to ski from Switzerland to France by the end of the week. It was also a great chance for girls to mix with other years and make new friends.

Here are some quotes from year nine students who attended the trip:

Lizzie 9U ‘It was good, I enjoyed the snow and the instructor was lovely.’

Aleena 9T ‘Wear your goggles-I got sunburnt eyes, but overall it was a very enjoyable trip and I can’t wait to go next year.’

Roisin 9s ‘It gives you experience in skiing and you have the chance to travel Europe which is fab.’

Annabelle 9U ‘I enjoyed the fact I had the ability to ski freely. The food was lovely; we were real-
Clash of the Titans

Picture the scene... The sky over Swanshurst goes black, the air fills with an atmosphere that could only be cut with a chain saw. Everyone who’s anyone knows this can only mean one thing it’s time for: Teachers VS Year 11 (dun dun dunn).

Both Teams took part in a series of activity’s including egg and spoon, skipping with a hula hoop, relay, dribbling with a basketball etc.... The teachers brave enough to face the fierce Year 11’s included: Miss Osgood, Mr Braim, Mr Tulloch, Mr Millard, Dr Ghani, Ms Taylor, Mr Beinston and Mr Alberry.

The Highlights of the events included Mr Braim’s skilful skipping (the Year 11’s maintain he is half kangaroo), Miss Osgood’s amazing egg and spoon skills along with Kanisha’s awesome dribbling skills (not meant literally).

Teachers won with 5/4 against the Year11’s.

Racing for Gold!

Year 8, 9 and 10 students were selected to represent Swanshurst in the South Birmingham Athletics Trials on Thursday 17th May. There were a number of memorable performances notably Alice (9Y) who came first in the 1500m in 5:19mins and Tanesha (10U) in her race over the shorter distance of 200m, clocking a time of 27.81secs. Both these performances earned them a place on the South Birmingham Team in the forthcoming championships – Good Luck! Well done to all those who competed!
Flowers for Dame Helena

Swanshurst has had a long connection with the work of the British Lung Foundation, mainly through the work of Mrs Hayes, our school nurse, who holds a 'No Smoking Day' each year. This connection led to the school being involved in gathering signatures to try to prevent adults smoking in cars when children are present. The British Lung Foundation is a wonderful charity that doesn’t get the recognition that it deserves despite the fact that many people suffer from lung related illnesses. In recent years it has had a much higher profile mainly due the efforts of Dame Helena Shovleton who has worked tirelessly on the Foundations behalf. At the end of the day when Dame Helena had made her speech, Eve and Stevie had the privileged of presenting her with some beautiful flowers.

On 27th June we were invited to attend Dame Helena’s retirement meal to present her with flowers. Mr Smith took Eve (Year 9) and Stevie (Year 8), who were involved in the original petition. We sat through a very interesting afternoon being entertained by a choir, entirely made of people who have all suffered with lung disease, as well as listening to talks by leading doctors. Nice blooms ladies!

Youth Parliament

In November I will be attending the Houses of Commons for a live debate with the rest of the UK’s Youth Parliament. It will be a live filmed session so I’ll have to look my best!

Again thanks for the support and votes during the election period. ABM

Swanshurst girl set to be next Prime minister?!
This year we had the honour and privilege of listening to Mindu Hornick, an Auschwitz survivor, speak to a large assembly of pupils and staff about her experiences during the Second World War. She was interviewed by Tahira (Year12) and filmed as part of our Oral History website.

Mindu spoke of her family, of their life in Czechoslovakia before the war and how eventually her family was taken to the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp.

The large audience listen intently in hushed silence as Mindu movingly and with great dignity recounted her story. She explained how not long after the Germans had invaded Czechoslovakia her father was taken away and she never saw him again. Then, in 1941, the remaining members of her family were herded into cramped cattle trucks and were taken from what is now Slovakia to Auschwitz. Once there Mindu and her sister were separated from her mother and two younger brothers. As a child of 12 she said "we didn't know where we were, we had no idea". She remembered “SS men, barking dogs, a pandemonium of loudspeakers, panic, and disorientation. You thought you had entered hell”, she said. "We were stripped, our heads were shaven and our parents were nowhere to be seen. It was hell on Earth. There was no way we could plan survival, we just had to rely on luck," she said.

Living on starvation rations, surrounded by disease and the constant procession of people being taken to the gas chambers it is a wonder that Mindu and her sister survived. As she told her moving story a number of people in the audience and tears in their eyes. What saved Mindu was the fact that she and her sister were selected to work in an ammunitions factory and were taken from Auschwitz to a slave labour camp close to Bremen. "Once you were out of the camps and you were doing useful work, you had a chance of survival," she reflected. Here, though awful, the conditions were better than at Auschwitz. Having said this she went on to explain how her job entailed handling very dangerous materials without protection as the Germans were not bothered if they were to die. Many of the people working there breathed in dangerous chemicals which either killed them fairly quickly of left them with lingering health problems. As well as this they had to endure hunger and very poor sanitary conditions, as also they lived under the constant fear of being killed by their guards.

As the war came to an end the decision was made to move the camp away from the advancing Russians and so once more Mindu and her sister were placed on a train. There was a chance now that they would be freed and for the first time for a long time her friends, the people that she had been working with, had smiles on their faces. Then tragedy struck as Allied planes seeing the train assumed it had a military purpose and bombed it. Many of Mindu's friends were killed and it was the only time in her talk where she visibly cried telling the tale. Not long afterwards Mindu and her sister were freed. After the war, Mindu and her sister joined a surviving aunt and uncle in Birmingham. Mindu concluded by saying how very important it was that future generations knew what happened in the Holocaust so that it could never happen again.
In the Summer term many girls in Year 10 were practicing for their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh. They spent lots of time learning to be independent, especially when trying to find their way round using nothing but a map (no GPS allowed here I’m afraid!). They even planned their own route and then when they were there had to cook the own meals. A lot of pre-planning also went in to which foods they were going to bring and if it was suitable for overnight - you wouldn’t want any bugs turning up in your tent now would you? They also had to think about the amount of food they would bring, especially as everything they took they would have to carry when they were walking. To do this they went to different places so they were different routes.

When asked by the Herald team to sum up the Duke of Edinburgh experience Mr Embrey said ‘Have you ever been in the middle of nowhere with only your skills and your friends to get home safely for tea?’ It sometimes feels that way when you’re working hard on the Herald!

PD&TC

Recently, Ms Anbreen was promoted to Deputy Head of Year 9 and has now introduced a new healthy eating scheme, helping students to understand the importance of vitamins and getting a good breakfast to start the day!

“We’re kick starting a lot of new projects over summer, such as healthy cooking master classes and little healthy food recipe booklets. Also, when the Year 10’s come back in September we’re hoping to have little samples of healthy food on cocktail sticks for their assemblies. The other thing we’re trying to encourage is breakfast. When I asked in Year 9’s assembly who had breakfast there were very few girls with their hands up! There were even less when I asked if the breakfast was healthy. So, things like muesli and porridge. It’s so important to have a healthy diet.”

Ms Anbreen’s idea will hopefully help encourage us all to eat healthier, exercise more and generally more fit and active. It isn’t just our size that is affected, but our hair, teeth and skin also. The healthier someone is the better they look and feel. So let’s help to kick start healthier eating and make a difference!
Duke of Edinburgh is a charity which if you partake in, you receive an award. To get this, students must do a lot of different things like camping, voluntary work and more. Swanshurst girls went to Herefordshire as part of their camping section and this is what they experienced:

‘Well it started in a very scary way - the sky went black, torrential rain, thunder and floods - it seemed like we were being washed away from Herefordshire - especially as the coach driver thought that we were going to Hertfordshire!!

Still things can only get better - and they did! The students were fantastic at both campsites - a credit to us, even the coach driver said how impressed he was with their behaviour - on the way back it may have been exhaustion. Of course, things did not go totally according to plan - I have never seen so many blisters. It might have been the damp, but there were some serious navigational errors. There was also the River Wye, which happened to be in the way when they wanted to get to the campsite. If you want any info about what happened with the bulls and the tree climbing you will have to ask Ms Hill for further details as I wasn't there - in fact sadly there are no photos!

Finally I would like to give a special thank you to all the wonderful helpers, they were all marvellous and I am sure that the girls would agree how they were very supportive at all times - a calm voice in a storm - literally!

I asked Adiba 9L, a few questions about it, how she’d feel if she went and what she would enjoy.

‘I’m hoping to go and if I did, I would be ecstatic! I’m an outdoorsy person and I love outside activities like assault courses and getting muddy! The award is, I hear, really good and it looks good on your CV as it shows employers that as well as doing the normal, indoor/work stuff, you can also work well in unfamiliar environments and that physically, you’re capable of pretty much anything!’ JP
1) How long have you worked here?
I’ve worked at Swanshurst for 4 years.

2) What has been your favourite moment of your time at Swanshurst?
I had lots of them, in particular I loved watching the end of term talent shows and seeing all the hidden talent emerge. It's lovely seeing students in such positive things out side of lessons!

3) What will you miss?
I’ll definitely miss seeing all the students around school and grow up.

Leavers - Miss Johnson

1) How long have you worked here?
I’ve worked here for 4 years

2) What has been your favourite moment of your time at Swanshurst?
I loved spending time with my form and taking students to any kind of field trip

3) What will you miss?
I’ll miss everyone, but definitely not the stairs!

Leavers - Miss Lodwick
Leavers - Miss Beaven

1) How long have you worked here?
I've worked at Swanshurst for 3 years

2) What has been your favourite moment of your time at Swanshurst?
I loved high school musical and all my fantastic students. I especially loved teaching the year 11s and watching the year tens holocaust performance.

3) What will you miss?
I'll miss my entire form, 9N, they've been fantastic

Leavers - Mrs Boothroyd

1) How long have you worked here?
I've been working at Swanshurst on and off for 26 years

2) What has been your favourite moment of your time at Swanshurst?
I enjoyed helping girls so they could overcome their issues. I also really enjoyed being a head of year

3) What will you miss?
Working with girls to improve their behaviour
Leavers – Dr Drakeford

1) How long have you worked here?
2 years

2) What has been your favourite moment of your time at Swanshurst?
The look of satisfaction on the girls’ faces when they completed their Duke of Edinburgh.

3) What will you miss?
The pupils, her form and the staff. I won’t miss the stairs to my classroom though!

Other Leavers

We are also going to miss a few other members of staff who are also leaving us this year……

Dr Ghani, well what can we say? Dr Ghani joined the school in 2010 and has been an integral part of the Maths Department ever since. The thing we will miss most about Dr Ghani is her fun-loving attitude and her ability to get involved in EVERYTHING that is going on in school. Many of us will remember her meals on the DofE walks, her amazing array of fancy dress costumes, and of course her smile as she walks round school.

Mr Kalinda is also moving on to new opportunities. Mr Kalinda also joined the school in 2010, and was a well loved teacher and form tutor.

And last but not least, another member of staff whose absence has definitely been noted is Mr Wynn, who has moved abroad to find new experiences and adventures.

We at the Herald would like to wish all staff leavers all the best for the future.
A life cycle in poems!

A GIFT  A.H & S.B

Born into the world as a mere and innocent being
In its eyes life is worth living
Clueless of what the future entails
This is a world full of fairy tales
They say that everything in life is a prize
But soon they'll realise
That it's all lies.

FAME  A.B.M

You'll be famous you'll be a star
You'll have a big house, a flash car.
People watch you as your fame and new life un-coil
Cause, they'll know you'll be as big as Susan Boyle.
Forget the big X cause since then you've come miles
But watch your step... watch your style
Because people will mutter

AIR  A.H

Everyone needs me
And I'm always there
I don't care who you are
I treat everyone fair
I give you what you can’t live without
And what do I get in return?
I am everyone’s friend
I’m loyal and kind
But when I need someone
They’re nowhere to find
I give you what you can’t live without
And what do I get in return?
Sometimes I want to disappear
In sight, smell and sound
It wouldn’t matter if I wasn’t here
Because nobody would be around!
I give you what you can’t live without
So if I take it away, you’re dead.

A life cycle in poems!

WHAT IS LOVE?  A.H

Some say love is like a journey
A journey with a beginning, climax and an end
Some say love is like a letter
A letter with a purpose and one free to send
Some say love is like a battle
A battle worth fighting, rights to defend
I say love is a strange little thing
That is impossible to comprehend

PASSING ON  S.B

Here’s death again-always there
Watching...waiting- e’ere the stare
Every time one looks behind-
What does he find?
A glimpse of gloomy hood.
To where he once stood
The adamant phantom don’t you know?
He will but wait until it’s time.
For me to hear his fatal chime:
For death to hail and tell me
‘You’re next, you have to be’
This term the school library introduced a brand new service called ‘The Book Doctors’ to help students (and staff) choose their next brilliant book to read! You can make appointment to see a Book Doctor in upper library at various lunchtimes throughout the week (staff can make an appointment at a convenient time for them). You’ll be given a questionnaire to complete so The Book Doctor can assess your reading health and prescribe the appropriate medicine - in book form! At the appointment, The Book Doctor will discuss with the patient their reading preferences and other interests such as your favourite TV programmes, films and hobbies then prescribe the perfect book remedy.

Many students have already been successfully treated by the Book Doctor. Here’s a testimonial from a patient they’ve cured: “the Book Doctor was amazing! I was a bit reluctant at the beginning but it ended perfectly well. I had an appointment with Dr Hopkins who was wonderfully professional and she recommended a book that I could not let go of once I had it. And guess what? It didn’t hurt one bit! So don’t be afraid and get an appointment!” Sarah 9Y

So what are you waiting for? If you’d like to know more or want to book an appointment then come to upper library.
So you think you can dance?!

On Friday 10th February at lunchtime we held a dance show to raise money for the Taylor Roberts Fund. There were seven different dance acts, showing a big range of dance genres including: contemporary, hip hop and salsa. Altogether we raised £300, which will be sent off to help him live as comfortable as possible as he has a brain tumour at only 4 years old. Everyone who came to watch enjoyed the show and the performers got to do something they have a passion for in front of an audience, while raising money for a great cause.

The girls involved in the performances had rehearsed every lunchtime for weeks in advance and every minute of rehearsal time counted as there were difficult moves in all of the dances. The audience members all paid 50p or more as entrance fee and we would also like to thank them for their generosity.

We all felt very happy to have helped make little Taylor’s life easier!

By Tani 9Y and Eve 9E

Leaders of the Dance!

Over the course of this academic year, the Year10 GCSE Dance students have studied the Level 1 Award in Dance Leadership with Mrs Faulconbridge, alongside their GCSE Dance course. In order to complete the course, the girls had to undertake 6 different units of work including a 60 minute leadership session. This is the first year in which the course has been run at Swanshurst and it has been so successful that all the students have passed the course with flying colours!

Aiysha 10A had the following to say about her achievements undertaking the course:
'I enjoyed learning more about different styles of dance and how to deliver and perform them. My team taught a Zumba session to a group of Year8s during the course, which went really well. I have gained more confidence and now I know how to be a better dance leader through using a range of communication strategies. A huge thank you to Mrs Faulconbridge for leading the course and giving us further opportunities in dance and to Miss Gardner and Miss Ketley for supporting us along the way’!

The girls involved were: Blue, Annie, Katie, Zoe, Rose, Poppy, Aiysha, Chloe, Helen, Ruth, Iona, Kate, Pearl, Holly, Chanelle and Fatima.

We are extremely proud of the girls and they have worked very hard – Well Done!!!
Our School says ‘Hi’ to Musicals!

After many long months of rehearsals (they started in November of 2011!), the performance of High School Musical took place on Tuesday 24th and Wednesday 25th April. Planning had first started back in June 2011 and after the auditions in September, the show went into production. Starring roles went to Hannah (9Y) who played Gabriella Montez and Iona (10A) who played Troy Bolton. They were supported by a fantastic cheerleading squad, basketball team and many other dancing and singing characters. The show was a great hit!

Ms Beaven said “High School Musical was a much more a complex performance than Annie (the show from the previous year) had been. The girls worked so well to make the performance brilliant and put a lot of effort in. I was in no way nervous of how it would turn out because with such a multi-talented cast it was sure to be brilliant!” TC

The Titanic? It as us that sank it!

Of all the events that Swanshurst has been involved in surely one of the most unusual must be the event we held on the 14th April to mark the 100th anniversary of the sinking of the Titanic. Firstly Mr Smith booked Cannon Hill Park to hold the event and then he contacted the Royal National Lifeboat Institute for their cooperation as he wanted the event to help raise money for their organisation. Then he contacted a local Sea Cadet group and also the Bourneville Model Yacht Club.

If we were going to sink the Titanic we would first need a Titanic to sink! Mr Smith contacted the Art Department and Mrs Bartholomew and her team made the most beautiful Titanic out of cardboard. It really was a work of art and looked just like the real thing with its four funnels and windows. In fact, it looked so nice that we really were reluctant to sink it!
A group of Year 7 students were invited by the library to form the first Greenaway Award Shad-owing Group at Swanshurst. The prize is award- ed annually by librarians for the most outstand- ing Illustration in a children’s book. It runs alongside its’ perhaps more famous relation, the Carnegie Medal, awarded for the most outstand- ing writing.

The group met at lunchtimes to read and discuss the quality and style of the illustrations in the shortlisted books over hot chocolate and lots of biscuits! Students had their own shadowing webpage where they posted their reviews and could watch author videos to find out more about finalists. On the day of the winners’ an-nouncement, a gold envelope revealed the stu- dents favourite; ’There are no cats in this book’ by Viviane Schwartz and the official winner chosen by the judges, ‘A Monster Calls’ illustrated by Jim Kay, written by Patrick Ness. Omema from 7S said “ It was really fun. The best book was ‘There are no cats in this book’ because it was imaginative and colourful!”.

In an historic first, ‘A Monster Calls’ won both of the Greenaway and Carnegie awards! The stu- dents were presented with certificates for taking part along with lots of other Greenaway good- ies.

If you’d like to know more about the Greenaway Awards or take a look at the shortlisted books then come to upper library or check out the li- brary homepage.
Swanlympics!

Following on from the inter-form Swanshurst Olympic Qualifiers this year, we have had the finals for each of the events; there has been a lot of excitement and competitiveness from all the Year 7 and 8 finalists.

How did they do? Well done to everyone involved and the champions for each of the events are...

Indoor Athletics: 7L and 8E
Badminton: 7D and 8D
Rowing: 7T and 8T
Volleyball: 7D and 8S
Hockey: 7Y and 8D
Football: 7E and 8R
Basketball: 7E and 8Y

Overall Medals table for the Inter-form Olym- pics: Year 7 overall winners are 7T taking home a total of 5 medals.

Overall medals table for the Inter-form Olym- pics: Year 8 overall winners are 8D taking home 5 medals.

The Storm Strikes!

Birmingham’s first ever positive storm!

The Impending Storm” Dance Project with Dance Xchange and Remix Dance Company!

“On the 28th, 29th, 30th March and 1st May I took part in a Dance Xchange activity with Ellie Daniels, Aleena Dillon and Ikra Hussain. It was an amazing experience as working in new surroundings with people we became close to. It was an excellent experience and I would definitely love to participate again and would recommend other people to volunteer for it too. The dance, and outcome of the experience was mind blowing and I have learnt a lot from it”. - Samantha 9T

The project was working with the Dance Xchange, a professional dance company “Remix”, and four other schools that cater for pupils with special educational needs. This gave our pupils an appreciation of people with differing abilities and needs, a truly holistic and nurturing experience. SB
Sun, Sea & Shopping in Spain

On Saturday 2nd June, 35 girls set off on their adventure to Cantabria, Northern Spain. Our trip started with a 25 hour coach journey Eastbound, an hour of which was spent on the ferry. After a long night of travelling, we arrived at Hotel Campomar in a quiet little cove directly opposite an amazing beach. We went for a walk around the area and got our feet on Spanish sand for the second time that day.

Next day: shopping. We went into the town of Santander, where we visited a market and spent two hours looking around shops. After an afternoon spent in the picturesque village of Santillana del Mar, we went to a huge shopping centre and got in lots more shopping!

On Wednesday we got up early and headed for the ‘Picos de Europa’ mountains where we got in a cable car and headed to the top to have lunch. The views were beautiful and you could see for miles – as would be expected being 1850m above sea level!

Thursday held last minute packing and eventually getting on the coach to head home to rainy England (not a particularly nice experience after the sun of Spain). All in all, it was a brilliant holiday of Spanish cuisine, going to the beach daily and playing games; sun, friends and excellent views!

TC & ZVE

Tuesday morning we headed off to the Altamira Museum where we looked around a replica of the caves. We also did a workshop about how they hunted their food in the ice-age – which involved a lot of spearing the ground when throwing failed! In the afternoon we visited a nature reserve where we admired the amazingly cute animals (including bear cubs and tigers) and watched a sea lion show.
Ernie Griffin- at the time of the war he was only young, therefore he was not able to help out. So the young children were sent off into the countryside to distant families where they would be safe. However, as his mother was always worried about him, she only let him stay there for three weeks. After that time he came home and helped out his mother whilst his father was away at war.

Doug Skinner- Doug was only 6 at the time of the war, therefore like Ernie he wasn’t able to contribute to the war itself. He was sent to his grandfather who lived in the countryside. He stayed with him for the time of the war as it was too dangerous back at home in Birmingham. He always worried about his father working, but he knew that everyone had to do their bit. So, he accepted that his father was helping people.

Gordon Duggins- At the time of the war Gordon was 19, so he was able to volunteer for the war, and did for 7 years. Others that didn't want to volunteer still had to help out as they needed as many people as they could get but they were only made to help out for 2 years. Gordon worked in Korea as a soldier and then a cook; he said that the conditions were as rough as the weather was terrible, because in the summer it would be really hot and then in the winter it would be really cold. Also, as their main camp was near a river at spring time (monsoon season) their camp was flooded as the river rose by 9 metres! But the thing that upset Gordon at the end of it is although he lost over 1000 soldiers. Peace has not been declared and he knows in spite of losing lots of people and many being injured there still isn’t an outcome. The war carries on.

Veteran’s Day

Quotes from the veterans:
(girl runs past) “Should trip her up!”
“When I was in egypt one morning I woke up to a blue sky-and no tent.”

“Go for your dreams and don’t let anything get in your way like I did.”

“My biggest regret is that I only visited the family I was evacuated to once”

“Everytime you feel something get in your way look in the mirror and you’ll realise how much you really have.”

“My tie is green brown and red. Green for the grass, brown for the mud, and red for the blood soaking into it.”

(when asked what his favourite memory is) “Kissing my German girlfriend!”

“For your tommorrow, we gave our today.”

AB
On the 2nd of July Swanshurst School commemorated Veteran’s Day, a day of remembrance for everyone who has served in the armed forces for our country. At the beginning of the day there was a parade in honour of the fallen, then all the veterans filled into Upper Hall to look at the historical items on and in front of the stage. During lunch the school choir sang songs that the Veterans would recognise and sing as well, and finally the Year 9s interviewed them about their experiences in the war, these are some of the interviews:

Doreen
What was your role in the armed forces?
‘When I was twenty I became a nurse at the women’s royal air force. I did that for four years and I enjoyed every second of it. I loved meeting all the different people from all walks of life, and I am very proud that I was a part of it all.’
Are there any stories or memories that you have during your time there?
‘I remember in Cambridgeshire there was a Canadian pilot who was in a plane crash and had severe burns. I treated him for three weeks but unfortunately he died. Even though it was sad, I am still happy that I got to treat him and I believe I used all of my knowledge as a nurse to try and save him.
One of the happier moments was when I was working in the maternity ward ,and a woman named her new born baby after me.‘
Why did you stop after four years?
‘I was in Cyprus and there was me my husband and my three children. Fighting broke out in Cyprus and me and my children had to be evacuated back to England while my husband stayed and fought. It was the worst nine months of my life. I didn’t know whether my husband would come back or not. While he was away, my youngest daughter, who was three, was actually

Dave
(While Doreen was evacuated, Dave stayed and fought in Cyprus)
What was your role?
‘I was part of RAF photographic intelligence, which took photographs of targets.’
When did you join?
‘I joined when I was seventeen and a half and worked for 9 years.’
What places did you go to?
‘I’ve been to Cyprus, Malta, Gibraltar, North Africa, and the Middle East.’
Are there any memories or stories you have during your time?
‘I was a child in the war and I remember one Sunday morning when the sirens went off I rushed with my mother to an air raid shelter and I saw a German plane, flying so low I could actually see the person in the aircraft. I remember then seeing a spitfire ten minutes later going to chase it away.
Another memory I have was when I was in the Middle East and I was doing a practice run in my Shackleton aircraft. We were practicing dropping bombs, but one of mine got stuck in the bomb bay. When we got back and we were just about to land, the bomb became unstuck and dropped to the ground. Luckily it didn’t go off, but it was absolutely terrifying!’

AB
On Wednesday, 14th March, Swanshurst had the author Bali Rai visit. He was signing copies of his books. He also writes books about families and how families of different cultures tackle the various problems they face, sometimes leading more into heartbreak and despair than happiness.

A few Year 9 English classes were lucky enough to hear Bali talk about his life and his books. I talked to Sunna, 9N and she said 'The advice he gave was very interesting and inspirational. He kept on talking about his friend and he was very funny! He inspired me and opened up the career path of writing and becoming an author. Overall, I really enjoyed it! His visit was a great success and I hope that Swanshurst continue to bring in authors to talk to students!

A group of pupils from Year7 and Year8 were involved in the project for the International Dance Festival. They spent several weeks rehearsing a piece that would relate to them. They then performed this piece in the city centre. After weeks of work the dancers went to “the hub” with Miss Gardener where they met the other dancers and rehearsed a whole dance piece including over a 1000 dancers!

Soon to experience ‘International’ fame

They then danced through the streets of Birmingham and the Bullring. It was a great -but very hardworking- weekend. The group would like to say thanks to DanceXchange for creating the opportunity and the dance teachers for involving them. ABM
Potterhead’s Party

We sold Butterbeer, Bertie Bott Every Flavour Beans, Sherbert Lemons and Cauldron Cakes to make it feel just like Hogsmeade. Mr Beniston held a *Darker than the Dark Lord* cave for students to confess their sins – if they were evil enough you got a badge to display your level of evil! Miss Hopkins turned into a crazy Divination teacher and read people’s palms, crystal ball gazed and asked her pendulum questions. All in all we raised £88.23 which has been sent off happily with memories of an action-packed lunchtime! TC

On Friday 22nd June Potterheads flooded to the school library for a huge Potter Party! The event was to raise money for the charity ‘Lumos’ set up by JK Rowling to help to make a difference to the lives of disadvantaged children. Newly transformed Hogwarts students took part in Sorting Hat tests to determine their house fate and OWLs to find out how well they know Harry Potter.

Baking for the Queen

Swanshurst held a number of competitions to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee in style. The main event was a cake competition, open to all year groups and even teachers!

Many students entered the contest and quite a few teachers, including Ms Taylor and Ms Sam-bhi. A variety of different cakes were entered in from fairy cakes to large delicious sponges! The winner of the competition was Becky, 8Y, and the runner up was Samina.
Crown the Winner

As well as the Great British Bake Off, the Zone held a crown competition. The challenge was to try and make the best crown from scratch that would be fit for a queen!

It was open to Year 7’s only and all the entries were brilliant. They varied from big and beautiful to small and special. Each crown was certainly fit for the queen on her special weekend. However, there could only be one winner and that was Samina in Year 7 and the runner up was Georgia.

Great British Stamp Off!

If creating crowns wasn’t enough, Year 8 entered stamps in a huge variety of colours and designs!

Although every entry was superb, there could only be one winner and that was Mariya (8S). Mehwish (8Y) and Wing Sze (8L) were declared runners up. Overall, the Jubilee in Swanshurst was well celebrated and the monarchy would be proud of the inventive creations made by our pupils! EJ &AB
Gifted and Talented art students from Year 11, 12 and 13, who are currently doing their GCSEs and A-levels, have had the opportunity to display their artwork at the South Birmingham Network Exhibition.

The exhibition took place on the 25th of June at the Bourneville School of art, which also presented artwork from 11 other schools. As there was no theme, there was a large variety of different artworks including sculptures, paintings, photographs, ceramics and many more.

Artwork from Swanshurst was especially impressive and attracted a lot of attention from the public. Sophie Hall’s etchings amazed two printers and Isabelle Good’s huge charcoal drawing of her horse was so remarkable, both teachers and members of the public wanted to buy it.

Two sixth form students (one who did portraits with a colourful carnival theme, the other who painted close ups of pigeons), both enjoyed the exhibition, especially the wax sculptures. All of the artwork at the exhibition has been entered into the student art prize at the Saachi Gallery, and the Principle of Birmingham City University was so impressed by everyone’s artwork that he decided that next year he would make the event even bigger and have it at Margaret Street.
**Swanshurst got a taste of the X Factor!**

Year 7 was in for a treat when Nu Vibe’s own Bradley Johnson paid a visit to Swanshurst held a very special performance, just for them!

> “It was nice to see a role model talk to the girls about why education was important!” Miss Gardener.

Bradley was in Nu Vibe on X factor 2011 and was mentored by Tulisa, from N-Dubz. They were sent out very early in the competition. The group left in week 2, but that didn’t stop Bradley from performing. He told the girls about his behaviour at school and how education helped him to achieve his goals.

---

**Poetry Live**

Every year the English Department take a group of Year10s to see Poetry Live and this year was no exception. On a rather damp morning Ms Boughey, Mrs Hardwick and Ms Osgood took a group of 30 Year10s to The Symphony Hall to watch Poetry Live, a massive event featuring some of the most popular poets performing their work.

Year10s also got the chance to gain valuable information from examiners on their anthology work.

The poets who performed their work included Caroline Ann Duffy, Simon Armatige, Grace Nichols (who performed previously unheard rap), Gillian Clarke and John Agard. Ms Osgood said John Agard “stole the show” and was very popular with everyone. The Q&A session also gave students the opportunity to ask them some burning, and at times quite challenging, questions. The Year10s enjoyed it immensely and said that it was very helpful to their work.
STEM Club

**STEM** stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.

STEM Club is for girls who are interested in working in teams on interesting and challenging problems that can be solved using Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths. It is run from October-April on Friday lunchtimes by Mr Qureshi and Fatima, Kuynaat, Zoya, Saba and I, Maryam have all been regular Year7 members of the club.

The first project we completed was to do with energy and electricity. We had to imagine that we were choosing an alternative energy source for school. As we had a limited amount of money we chose to spend it on 6 solar panels and place two on Upper, Lower and Centre buildings.

For our next project we were on a mission to create a bridge that could hold 100 pennies in a cup! We tried out many different methods before we succeeded.

Our final project was great fun as we had to create a pyramid using newspaper and selotape. We all had roles such as Team Leader, or Quality Controller. We made lots and lots of very thin tubes of paper and then stuck them together to from triangles which were then stuck together to make one big pyramid! We really enjoyed the challenges of STEM Club and hope it will run again.

By Maryam 7T

Breakin’ Convention

On 14th May Miss Gardner and Mrs Falconbridge took Year 10 and 11 GCSE students to the Hippodrome to watch the Breakin’ Convention.

There were live (some famous) DJ’s and dancers and then a dance show by current double b-boy champions- VAGABOND CREW!

They watched some inspirational performers and left the place totally buzzing and inspired by the routines. They left the place feeling totally inspired.

We’re hoping there are many more exciting events in store!!

The very best, most influential artists from around the corner and around the world in the form of BREAKIN’ CONVENTION! Breakin’ Convention Birmingham is part of International Dance Festival Birmingham 2012 and we were lucky enough to experience it for ourselves! Breakin’ Convention is much more than just a show - it is an experience! Take part in freestyle sessions with live DJ demos in workshops from top international artists, plus much more to be confirmed.

The international festival of hip hop dance theatre is with another line-up of jaw dropping performances by international and local dance crews.

Our swans had the opportunity free but watch out as in 2012 Breakin’ Convention comes to a city near you!!
On the 3rd of July, Swanshurst School hosted a Maths Challenge where different schools from around Birmingham took part in various math based activities. The schools who took part included Baverstock, Bishop Challoner, Hall Green, KE Camp Hill Boys, KE Camp Hill Girls, Kings Norton Boys, Kings Norton Girls, Kings Norton High, Moseley, Queensbridge, Wheelers Lane and of course Swanshurst. Throughout the day they had to complete a range of different challenges, with some requiring them to work independently, while others included a group work. One of the activities was based around ‘Countdown’ style questions. At end of each round the pupils answers are given into the teacher to ensure there was no cheating. When the full day was complete, groups received trophies and medals depending on how well that they had done.

Aden from 9A who was competing said ‘I was chosen by my teacher because he believed I was capable of doing it. I thought it was really hard, but, I really enjoyed it because it was different from normal lessons. I’ve learnt some really useful skills that will help me in real life situations. I think it really helped with my team work skills, as well. I’ve got to meet some new people from my year and from different schools!’

Hajrah from 9R said ‘I was chosen by my maths teacher to compete in the Maths Challenge. I found it really difficult at first, but, it gradually started to get better. I really enjoyed it because it’s helping me improve my team work skills; because I’ve spoken to a few people I’ve never met before.’

Well done to our Swanshurst Team- Annabelle 9U, Hannah 9Y, Khadija 9Y, Nur 9A, Aden 9A and Hajrah 9R!

By, A.S, P.D, A.B &E.J!

Mr Tulloch??
Spot the Difference

ComParrot by Bonnie Malcolm
Can you spot 12 differences between these pictures?

Finish Line

Maze
Summer Search

August
beach
bikini
boat
camping
fan
fishing
hat
hot
ice cream
hot sun
July
June
lotion
mosquito
shorts
sunburn
sunglasses
suntan
Swimming
tent
vacation

www.bogglesworld esl.com
Term Dates

2012-2013

**Autumn term 2012**
Monday 3\(^{rd}\) September  
To  
Friday 19\(^{th}\) October

Half term

Monday 29\(^{th}\) October  
To  
Friday 21\(^{st}\) December

**Spring term 2013**
Monday 7\(^{th}\) January  
To  
Friday 15\(^{th}\) February

Half term

Monday 25\(^{th}\) February  
To  
Thursday 28\(^{th}\) March

**Summer term 2013**
Monday 15\(^{th}\) April  
To  
Friday 24\(^{th}\) May

Half term

Monday 3\(^{rd}\) June  
To  
Tuesday 23\(^{rd}\) July
BEAT Eating Disorders!

A few weeks ago we were lucky enough to have the Beat team in to give guidance to Year 10 on eating disorders. They gave presentations, speeches and students got involved in activities all with the aim of make them ‘change their thoughts on eating disorders’. Teenagers today are put under so much pressure to fit into a very rigid model of beauty. Beat works hard to help to change this so that we can all ‘Beat’ eating disorders together!

All involved found the session with Beat a success and hopefully they succeeded in changing opinions and got a lot more insight to the world of eating disorders. So thank you BEAT!

BEAT is changing the way people think.
BEAT support us.
BEAT Campaigns.
BEAT speaks.
BEAT gives knowledge.
BE A BEAT SUPPORTER!

If you’re interested or in help check out: www.beat.co.uk
- Helpline (adults): 0845 634 1414 (Mon-fri 10.30-20.30 sat 10.00-16.30)
- Youth line: 0845 634 7650 (Mon-fri 16.30-20.30 sat 13.00-16.30)

The Perfect Prefects

You may have noticed the shiny new set of prefects that have been seen round school, sporting their new black or grey jumpers. Well this new group of prefects weren’t just chosen. They had to apply and collect references from teachers and friends as to why they should be chosen as a prefect.

Then after the application period there was the interviews where they were kept on their toes with scenario based questions like: ‘What would you do if a group of Year 9’s tried to get into Upper during lunch and were to rude to you when you said no?’.

Now we have 77 prefects, 30 of which are student leaders so are allowed the grey jumpers/cardigans instead of the typical black or green. Then at the start of May they were all awarded their prefect badges in the award ceremony. Teachers spoke and all the girls’ parents attended.

They have now all started their duties. These include the door duties and some prefects have been assigned to Year 7 or 8 forms. They are doing a fab job so far and are gaining more confidence as time passes. ABM
In February 2012, a group of lucky Year 9 students made their way to Wales for an adventurous week of outdoor activities! Some of the activities included dry slope skiing, sea level traversing, gorge walking, rock climbing, orienteering and canoeing/kayaking. With the weather not being the best, the activities were even more adventurous than usual with the wind and rain to contend with.

The group manage to pose despite the wind and rain!

And the fun wasn't just outside. The evenings were just as fun, if not quite hair-raising as the day time. They included skiing, orienteering and a team challenge, which involved completing several tasks around the site at night. The last night they had a disco in the common room. A talent show was held, with the winner being Ida, 9Y. Also, there were prizes for the cleanest room and one chocolate bar for the best performer in each different group. Mrs Faulconbridge and Mrs Poole joined us on the trip and possibly enjoyed it even more than the students. They were brilliant and we would like to say a big thank you for the experience.

Students who went to Ogwen

Ellie-Mae (9T): ‘Ogwen was great! I made a lot of new friends and celebrated my birthday there, which was really nice’

Alice (9S): ‘I really enjoyed it and it was a brilliant experience.’

Larisa (9T): ‘It was a good experience because the activities were really adventurous, even though a bird stole my lunch and I cut my finger on a rock.’

Ogwen itself is situated opposite a large lake and is surrounded by mountains, so the scenery is amazing and it is generally very peaceful. The food is delicious and there is a three course meal every night! All the instructors at Ogwen were really nice and helped us a lot with overcoming our fears.

All geared up and ready to go!

“Thank you to Mrs Faulconbridge and Mrs Poole for letting us have an amazing week!”

“It was great—we had lots of new experiences.” - Eve Bolt 9E

“I had an amazing experience and my favourite part was the all-day canoeing, we jumped off a tree into the lake!” - Alice Campbell 9S

EJ & AB
As we near the end of yet another school year it is a time for me to reflect on the highlights of our year in the Zone.

In the Zone we are always very busy during the school day and support pupils with a range of needs, in all years from year7 through to Sixth Form. Most girls are referred by Heads of Year but we do accept self-referrals and quite often friends will come and share their concerns about an individual. Our doors are always open and you need to remember that we are here for you. Apart from seeing individuals we also run a number of groups which target different students. We work on attendance, self-esteem, improving emotional resilience (the Friends package), as well as behaviour. This is all so you can go on to achieve your potential.

Many of you however, associate the Zone with dinnertime activities and again we have organised a variety of activities and events to keep you amused. We were lucky enough to purchase a WII Dance this year which we offer to all years on a Monday – all you need to do is turn up and join in the fun. Miss Chambers usually leads the singing!!!! Tuesday’s tends to be an arts/crafts day led by Miss Khatun, whilst Wednesday is drama related. Thursday is known as Pink Thursday where a qualified beautician runs the session and she has a different focus each week. And we finish the week with our old favourite – Bingo Friday – still really popular with us having to run two games over the dinnertime to cope with the numbers. Apart from this we manage the playground equipment with the help of our Peer Mentors – all we need at the moment is some good weather.

Another Successful Year in the Zone!

The Zone led a number of competitions (Crown, Stamp and Cake) to mark the Queens Diamond Jubilee just before the June half term. These were judged by Miss Saleh and Mr Griffiths in Upper Hall. The cake competition got the largest number of entries from all year groups and the standard was truly amazing. All winners received £30.00 New Look vouchers – so as you can see our competitions are worth entering. Look out for the first in the New Year.

On a slightly sad note – well for me anyway – I will be moving on to a new post in September – still working at Swanshurst but not based in the Zone. The last three years have flown by and it has been a privilege to work with such committed staff who work with our teachers to provide support to those of you who need it, in whatever way, and I would like to wish everyone the very best for the new academic year.

Mrs Boothroyd

Queen for the day!
Zone Productions

Miss Khatun invited a group of our Year10/11 students to work with Marlene McKenzie (Mooville Productions) who organises drama workshops. The group looked at the issue of identity and how it affected themselves as young women, with anorexia, bullying and role models being particular focal points. The end product entitled “The beauty of a woman,” was performed to an audience of mainly friends in September in school and was then taken to the Mac in March to be part of an evening’s celebration of women. All of the other participants were established dramatists/poets etc. and I wondered how our students would be received by the audience. I need not have worried as is always the case our girls made us very proud to be a part of Swanshurst and were composed, confident and thought provoking in their roles.

Anti – bullying week always features on our yearly calendar and took place in November. This year’s theme was “Stop and think – words can hurt.” We deliberately looked at the form of rapping as it is an art form that appeals to your age group and clearly the words used in rap are very powerful. Year 7 took part in a workshop and made videos of their group rap which got the message over loud and clear that the words we use are so important!

Miss Campbell has written and produced two short plays over the past year. A very talented lady! First was the Nativity – a unique event at Swanshurst – where parents, staff and pupils attended the dinnertime performance. Costumes and props were most impressive and I know that many people were amazed at the quality of work that came out of this dinnertime activity. Secondly came “The sad and sorry tale of Ilyana,” which centred on the topic of bullying. Year 7 students took part in this and demonstrated how harmful taunts and verbal abuse can be. Again this play reminded us of this very important topic and that it is something we need to be aware of all year round. Mrs Taylor and Mrs Orford felt the performance was so powerful that it is to be shared with the whole of Year7, followed by discussion activities with their form tutors. So this play will have had a real impact on a large number of students.
Stepping up to Sixth Form

A week after their ‘Dress to Impress Day’ Year 11 students were back in school for their Swanshurst Sixth Form Induction Day. The aim of the day was to welcome students into the Sixth Form, attended taster sessions in the subjects they have chosen to study post 16 and to find out about what life would be like as a Year 12 student in Swanshurst Sixth Form. This is what Jenny, Teri, Katie, Sadia and Ma-rasm thought about the day.

Why did you decide to progress into Swanshurst Sixth Form?

I know that the teachers are supportive and I know I will do well here. I want to be able to concentrate on my work and the familiar surroundings, people and my friends will stop me getting stressed.

Why did you think it was important to come today?

I wanted to find out more about my subjects and what I topics I was going to cover. I also wanted to meet up with my friends and get a look at the new study areas and library.

Do you think the day has been useful?

Very useful. I know what to expect when I start in September. The topics I’m going to study, and what is expected of me. The buffet lunch was nice and it made me feel part of the sixth form.

What are you looking forward to?

I am looking forward to starting my new courses, meeting and mixing with new people.

Year 12 Engineer Success

This year we took part in the EES (Engineering Education Scheme), which involved us being partnered with B Mason & Sons – a copper alloy manufacturer. Our task was to produce a report on looking at ways of implementing renewable energy to cut down on their carbon footprint. After our research we recommended to the company that installing solar panels would be the best option. During our time on the scheme we got to visit the factory site, which was really interesting! We also got to go on a short residential workshop at Birmingham City University. There were many other schools there; each with their own projects. We used our time there to work on our model, which visually represented our ideas. A lot of our time was spent looking at data and producing a report for the company, spending nearly all our lunchtimes working on it since January.

In April we had Celebration and Assessment day, when we had to present our project to senior engineers – it was a bit like Dragon’s Den! We also got to see the other school’s projects and we were presented with certificates and British Gold Crest awards.

Over the course of the project we developed many skills including; time management, team work, research skills and presentation skills. It was a great opportunity as these skills will help us with our A Levels as well as in the future. Overall, we all think it was an amazing experience that gave us an insight into the engineering industry and even made us consider it as a career option.

By Aneesha, Madeeha & Joey (Year 12s)
To celebrate the successful completion of their A2 courses and to wish them luck as they progress on to the next phase of their careers Year13 students were invited to attend a Buffet lunch and awards ceremony in a Marquee set up outside Centre.

This is an annual event that gives students, tutors and staff the opportunity to celebrate achievements and to reflect upon shared experiences.

The afternoon began with an excellent buffet lunch (the samosas were particularly good) followed by an opening address from Mrs Kenney and the presentation of subject awards.

The rest of the afternoon was then given over to tutees & tutors who shared joint & individual memories of their time spent at Swanshurst Sixth form. Certificates and awards were distributed to tutees that tutors had identified as having ‘extra special talents’ such as ‘Little Miss Sporty’, ‘The dynamic duo’, ‘The person to ask the most stupidest question award!’

The afternoon finished with laughter, smiles, tears and plenty of photographs.

Lookin’ Good!
Thursday 28 June 2012 was quite an eventful day for Year 12! Not only did we get caught in the thunder and lightning storm, we also went to the UCAS Convention at The University of Birmingham in Edgbaston. The Convention attracts over 134 other Universities who bring their own stand and each is staffed by experienced admissions/liaison. They were able to answer our questions which had been prepared during L4L before the event.

It was a great opportunity for us to research and gain valuable advice and information about Higher Education courses. We thought it was a great day; even with the rain and the storms and in the Great Hall we could see that the preparation for the graduation ceremonies were well underway and we are looking forward to seeing graduation photographs of our ex Swanshurst Sixth Form Students. We would recommend that all students in Year 12 attend this event as it is so valuable to help you with your Post 18 choices.

Year 12 have been taking part in many activities to enhance their 'UCAS' (University) applications ready for when they apply in September. This is so they have the extra 'edge' on other applicants, and shows that they have been thinking about University for a long time.

They have been attending ‘masterclasses’ at our local partnership universities including Aston and The University of Birmingham and have attended lectures and workshops covering Study Skills, Geography, Sciences and Business.
Dress to Impress 2012

Dress to impress this year was full of beautiful dresses and stretch limos. 300 Year 11 pupils all made their way down the school drive and waved goodbye to Swanshurst for the last time. As they paraded past in their gowns and dresses, taking pictures, the limos and some fire engines arrived to take them around Birmingham. Many of the teachers and students came along to cheer them on and watch as they had a dance along with the Indian drummers.

After arriving at school that morning, the pupils attended a celebratory assembly. Mrs Kenney, their Form Tutors and Heads of Year all took turns to make speeches. Some girls from the year group also presented thank you gifts to their Form Tutors. They had a lovely lunch and then it was time for the limos to pick them up. Despite the rain, the girls' hair remained intact. ‘Carriages’ included a Fire Engine, limousines and one very special handmade car – the hard work of Rehanna and Asiyah!

Puja Kaur 11D: “It was raining but that didn’t dampen our spirits!”
Izzy Kelly 11R: “If it wasn’t for the rain, things would’ve been much better, but that couldn’t be helped”.

Toot toot yeaahhh, beep beep!
Meet The Team!

We are a bunch of Year 9 girls, along with some teachers!
Here are some random thoughts:

**Alice Bettis Marsh** - :) smiles are contagious, so smile!

**Adeishe Hyera** - Listening to Dubstep and eating cake. Oh yeah, and working...

**Shaira Begum** -
(dvertisement)Buy FORTUNE-Chris Brown! Team Breezy <3

**Talie Colbourne** - Two days of being called Axwell! And eating cake.

**Annabel Butcher** - I hate thinking of quotes...

**Ellie Jefford** - Bradley Johnson xx

**Aida Burazorovic** - Silence, you are being questioned by the press team.

**Priya Digpal** - Two days of no lessons and cake.

**Aroosa Sanghar** - Sigh.

**Jenal Parmar** - My iPod has been abducted by the teachers. :

**Miss Osgood** - Keep bringing me cake!

**Miss Pollard** - Please Mr Stock, can I have some coffee?

**Ms Davies** - Please Mr Stock, can I have some coffee too?

**Mr Stock** - It’s all going to change next year.

So from the Herald Team, we wish you a Great Summer Holiday!