



Options and Opportunities

Year 9 are currently entering a very exciting time in their school career where they are beginning to think about their options for the future. The Pathways Process began this month with a



'Live-n- Learn' presentation, helping the girls to think about what their options are after Sixth Form, and a presentation from 'Visible Women' that has given the girls some real life examples of academic and vocational pathways that are available to them.

What can you do to help?

- Attend the Pathways information evening on the 12th January at 6.30
- Talk to your daughter about what subjects she enjoys, what she might want to do in the future and encourage her to do as much research as possible
- Look at the Swanshurst website to see what subjects are available at GCSE, what the progression pathways are for these subjects both into Swanshurst Sixth Form and beyond into higher education and employment



Swans-Aid Single is Number One!

Over 200 hundred students, the orchestra, choir and staff have been singing their hearts out to record the new Swans-Aid single to raise money for the Pakistan Flood Appeal.

The single is available to buy for £1.50 from the Finance Office



Remembering The Blitz

Birmingham was the second most heavily bombed city in the country, and along with the whole of Merseyside it lost more of its citizens to enemy action than any other place outside London. The Blitz killed 2,241 Brummies and seriously injured another 3,010, with 3,682 harmed slightly.



To remember the impact that the Blitz had upon the lives of thousands, Doug Smith, Swanshurst staff and students organised and hosted an event at the Banqueting Suite at the Council Houses for dignitaries, veterans and school children from all over the area. It was a hugely successful event and we thank all those who took part.



Tres Bien!

Congratulations to Ciara Cagney and Eleanor Burgess in year 9 who came first in a prestigious French Speaking Competition held at Birmingham University last month. Rachel Darby and Niamh Zarlucki were Highly Commended.

Ho Ho ho!

Swanshurst had a surprise visitor last week who popped in to help Year 9 raise money for World Challenge, in order to send a group of our girls to Ghana to build a nursery. A merry time was had by all!



Lucky Year 11s are to have the opportunity of a lifetime by taking part in The Challenge. What is The Challenge? It is a charitable organisation that provides opportunities to develop life skills that young people will be able to use for the rest of their lives. Representatives from The Challenge team will be coming in to a Year 11 assembly in the New Year as well as attending Year 11 parents evening on Wednesday 26th January. Want to know more? Log on to their website and have a look <http://www.the-challenge.org/>



6th form Working at the Carwash!



As part of their Sixth Form enrichment opportunities, students in the Sixth Form can choose to take a CoPE qualification alongside their A level or BTEC qualifications.

Throughout the year, the girls have to develop their interpersonal skills by planning and organising events, coming up to solutions to key problems and practise working together as a team.

This group of enterprising young ladies chose to wash the teachers' cars to raise money for Charity.

Uniform Reminder

A reminder to parents that the uniform guidelines state that girls should wear sensible black shoes, or leather look boots. We are increasingly getting girls coming to school wearing Ugg style fabric boots. As a school we try to keep the uniform list practical and sensible. 'Proper' Ugg boots are expensive, and having labelled items in school is extremely divisive. Suede and fabric boots also get wet through very quickly and girls end up walking around with freezing cold feet in inclement weather. Girls may wear whatever footwear they like to and from school, and many choose to wear wellies etc when the weather gets really bad, but please can you ensure they have sensible shoes or boots to change in to once they get through the gates.



Survival of the Fittest!

As part of their L4L day, students in year 7 and 8 focussed on developing the skills they need to make the right choices in life. A range of activities helped them to focus on each of their TRIC skills (being a good Team, Reflective, Independent and Creative learner). Throughout the day they had to solve a murder mystery, run a greetings card company, and survive on a desert island.



Do you know what your daughter eats at school?

We have achieved the 'Healthy Schools' award, and strive to make sure our canteen menus are not only healthy, but also appealing. There is always a wide range of hot and cold options, including salads, fresh fruit and vegetables. However, girls increasingly stop at the corner shop on the way to school, and often forfeit lunch for a packet of crisps and an energy drink. At some point in the new year, we are hoping to be able to let parents access their daughters' canteen accounts so you can see what they are spending their money on. We would like your thoughts and comment on this. Please email me if you think this would be a good idea at enquiry@swans.bham.sch.uk

Our attendance hotline is 0121 464 2413. Please ensure you let us know of any absences, and encourage your daughter to come to school unless she is really sick.

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