



SWANSHURST PARENTS' NEWSLETTER

OUR ATTENDANCE HOTLINE IS: 0121 464 2413 JUNE 2011

A 'Rich' Experience

Year 8 were treated to a fantastic musical experience when **Jeff Rich**, world famous drummer from



Status Quo

offered not only a first-hand insight into the music industry but also an enjoyable and educational experience for everyone.

Jeff has now left Status Quo after 16 years of touring and recording to concentrate full time on presenting these Masterclasses and has visited over 5000 primary and secondary schools sharing his love of music. We are very proud of our musical curriculum at Swanshurst, and it was wonderful to see everyone (including the teachers!) really getting involved.



For more info on how your daughter can take part in music, either through instrument lessons or clubs and classes, contact the Performing Arts Department.

A Right Royal Celebration

Lower School students, assisted by some very glamorous 'brides', celebrated the Royal Wedding with a Street Party in Lower Hall. Students decorated the hall in red, white and blue and shared food they had made at home. There was a 'design a wedding dress' competition and a prize for the best dressed 'bride'.



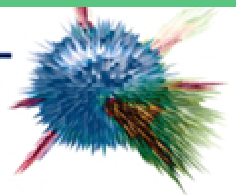
Lord and Lady Mayoress Visit

Birmingham's Lord and Lady Mayoress visited last month and got a real taste of Swanshurst life. They took part in an assembly and several lessons and were keen to see how The Zone is continuing to develop its excellent work at providing support for students. The Mayor's daughter attended Swanshurst in the 1970s and he sat as a very active and valued member of the PTA during this time.



STEMNET

Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Network



Congratulations to:

- Elisabeth Grey 7R
- Rachel Brain 7T
- Shannon O Hare 7R
- Charlotte Rudge 7R
- Ilham Dahmani Fikry 7R
- Dhinal Patel 7R

who took part in the STEMNET national challenge. The challenge involved the girls giving a 10 min presentation answering questions about their design for a website to promote paralympic athlete Rachel Morris (Hand cycle competitor). The girls did fantastically well and the judges' feedback was all excellent, commenting that the girls were confident, displayed great teamwork and were very worthy contenders against other older year groups (as the competition is open to all KS3).



Tickets for sale... tickets are

now on sale for 'Annie' from the Finance Office, priced £4.50 for adults and £2.50

for students. They are sure to sell out fast! Performances are on the 15th and 16th June at 6.30.

L4L—Learning for Life

A recent survey of Year 9 parents showed that quite a few of you are unaware of what L4L stands for, and what it is—so we thought we'd enlighten you! L4L



Year 11 learn how to pamper themselves and relax as part of an L4L session on how to cope with exam stress

stands for Learning 4 Life, and consists of a series of lessons and tutorials taught throughout the week to all students. It's a mixture of life-skills and personal, social and health related topics that enable our girls to learn about the things they need to help them make safe and informed decisions about their own futures. There are a huge number of units taught across year 7—13 ranging from how the electoral system works to how to manage money, and from sex and relationships to choosing the right career to name but a few. The lessons are also supported by whole days of L4L where there is a focus on a particular topic; 'Staying Safe', 'Pathways to University' and 'Health and Relationships' for example.

The L4L programme also ensure that all the skills employers and Universities are constantly after—such as being able to work independently, the ability to problem solve and reflect on our own practice—are taught discreetly and practised.



Year 9 make resources to send to the nursery school we are twinned with in Ghana in an L4L session on being a world citizen

We will soon be able to offer parents their own access to the L4L website where you can see for yourself some of the Units we are teaching, and help you support your daughter's learning. Details to follow!!

Attendance Matters

Congratulations to everyone who has worked so hard to make this term's attendance the best ever, at over 95%. Please remember that we are supporting other local schools in not authorising any term time absences for trips or visits abroad.

Please try and ensure doctors and dentists appointments are made out of school hours, or that your daughter attends for the session before or after the appointment where this is not possible. We understand there are often very genuine reasons for absence, and ask you to contact the attendance hotline or your daughter's form tutor to talk through occasions where you know your daughter may be off school for more than a few days.

Read All About It!!

The library is currently organising some fantastic events for our readers of all ages, and has a new website link from the Swanshurst website so you can keep up to date with what's on. Year 8 are currently taking part in the Carnegie Shadowing Competition, reviewing the books nominated for this year's prestigious Carnegie prize. We also have the award winning author Keith Gray in school on Tuesday 14th June, to talk about what has inspired him to write and give some top tips to our budding young writers. If you want some help in guiding your own children in what to read, try looking at the www.lovereadng.co.uk website for booklists and other literacy related topics.



Great Plans

Architect Plans for the new Sixth Form Library and Study Centre are currently being submitted for planning permission, with the new build hopefully starting in the Autumn term. The space will provide state of the art study facilities for all sixth form students, and massively increase the library capacity. A group of teachers, support staff and students are working together to ensure the new space meets the growing needs of our increasingly successful Sixth Form.



Best of Friends

Every year the Music Department is invited to perform music to a most appreciative senior citizens group in Kings Heath called the 'Friendship Club'.

This year the concert took place in May, with over 40 girls from Key Stage 3 singing and playing their instruments. The senior citizens really enjoyed the event, and thanked the girls for their professionalism and unbounded cheerfulness. Well done everyone!

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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