On Saturday 14th April Swanshurst marked the 100th anniversary of the day when RMS Titanic hit the fateful iceberg by taking over Cannon Hill Park to re-enact the event, including a real life sinking of a model ‘Titanic’ built by the art department. There were tremendous performances from the pupils, especially Kelsey Evans as the heroine Rose but special mention should also go to the orchestra of Shannon Jones, Samantha Evans, Zoe Osman and Eleanor Burgess who played on, and beautifully, as the ship sank. Altogether over £200 was raised for the RNLI.

Sixth Form Centre Update

We are on schedule for the completion of our superb new post 16 study facilities for September. You will be able to see that the outside is really taking shape and looking good.

A group of year 10, 11, 12 and 13 students met with Landscape Architects undergraduates just before the Easter break. Our students discussed with them how they would like to use the external space and what they would like to see there. They also launched a competition for the BCU students to come up with designs for the space. Our years 10, 11, 12 and 13 students will be involved in the judging of the entries to be turned into reality by September.

Eco Warriors

A group of 3 and 4 year olds from Selly Oak nursery came to see what we do to support Sustainability. Our students showed them around and explained how the wind turbines and solar panels work, how we try and recycle all our paper, and then showed them the Eco garden and chickens.

BBC Newsflash

Upper school pupils took part in ‘BBC School Report’ last month March where they produced a live web feed of news and filmed a news bulletin. BBC reporter and former Swanshurst pupil Sam Naz was their mentor. It was a great day and the girls worked very hard. The results of their web feed can be seen on the school website – please have a look.

DanceXchange

A group of Year 9 students have been working with the ‘Remix’ dance company to support disabled young people through dance. The group had been devising a piece that has been performed as the curtain raiser at the premiere performance of ‘Impending Storm’ at the Hippodrome on the 2nd May as part of the International Festival of Dance.
Every newsletter will try and give you some tips on how to help your daughter achieve her best. This edition, there’s guidance from the English department.

Learning to talk more formally

The way we communicate changes depending on who we are speaking or writing to (the **audience**), the reason we are speaking or writing (the **purpose**), and where and when we are speaking or writing (the **context**). We all know that how we speak to our friends is different to how we would speak in an important interview, and that how we write a text message is different to how we would write an important letter.

We tend to use **informal** language in normal, everyday situations, and more **formal** language in serious or important situations. All exams now require pupils to write in formal English, and the best way to practise this is to use it more when we talk.

**What can you do?**

- Talk about situations where you might have had to use more formal language as an adult, and when you might use more informal language — it is important to know when to switch.
- Encourage girls to watch the BBC news or read a quality newspaper, so they recognise more formal language.
- Encourage them to recognise slang or informal grammar structures in their own speech when they are talking to you, their siblings or their friends, so they can learn to recognise and avoid it in their writing.
- For more information have a look at [http://www.wikihow.com/Avoid-Colloquial-(Informal)-Writing](http://www.wikihow.com/Avoid-Colloquial-(Informal)-Writing) or talk to your daughter’s English teacher.

Parents, if you have an instrument languishing away at the back of a cupboard or love playing but don’t have an outlet for your music... this could be for you! ‘The People’s Orchestra’ are a new Birmingham based project looking for new musicians to star! There will be instrumental master classes with selected CBSO Musicians and they already have their first concert booked at the Adrian Boult Hall in November. Please check out their website. For more details and online application forms please check out our website [www.thepeoplesorchestra.com](http://www.thepeoplesorchestra.com)

Congratulations to three sixth formers Madeeha Bano 12JAN, Joey Pang 12RHU and Aneesha Bhardwa 12JAN who have been involved in the ESS Engineering Education scheme — you can find out more about exactly what happened by reading the next edition of the Herald!

**Attendance Matters**

A huge thank you to parents who are making sure their daughters come to school every day, on time. Attendance this year is the best it’s ever been. Analysis of results from last year show that 70% of girls who had outstanding attendance reached their forecast grades — only 5% of students who had poor attendance reached their forecasts. We understand that there are sometimes reasons why a child cannot attend — if you want to discuss issues around attendance please call your daughter’s form tutor.