Best results ever!

Congratulations to all our year 11 students and Sixth form students on their exam results. We achieved a wonderful 100% A-E pass rate in year 13 and our year 11s had the best results ever! 92% passed at least 5 GCSEs at A* - C, 66% passed 5 GCSEs including Maths and English and a staggering 49 girls achieved at least 8 A* and A grades. These results yet again place us in the top 3% of all secondary schools for adding value.

Top tips for ensuring your daughter achieves her best

- Know what sort of grades she should be getting and check that she is! You will find her forecast grades on line on her Tracker, and in the back of her planner.
- Make sure she has outstanding attendance— this is one of the easiest ways to ensure she has access to all the learning she should
- Check her planner regularly and see what homework she should be doing—you can also encourage her to use the school’s ‘eLibrary’ resources on days when she has time to do extra work
- Help her plan her time, whether it’s homework, coursework or revision and help her find a quiet space to do it
- Encourage her to make the most of all the extra curricular learning opportunities, either through department or through Study Support groups in both libraries

Fame Auditions!

After the huge success of ‘High School Musical!’ earlier on this year, the performing arts department are now holding auditions for the cast of the next musical extravaganza— ‘Fame’. If your daughter is a budding singer, dancer, actor or general all-rounder, she can pick up an audition piece from PA3. Auditions will be held after school on the 27th and 28th September.

Uniform reminder!

Please ensure all girls are now wearing a school V neck jumper or cardigan with the school logo on it— sweatshirts are no longer.

Welcome New Year 7!

It was wonderful to see so many eager faces on the first day back, and it’s even nicer to see that even after a week they are still as super keen to learn! Every year we are amazed by how quickly the girls settle down and make new friends, how resourcefully they find their own ways of navigating the site and how confidently they begin to tackle new subjects and ways of learning.

There are still a few ways you can really help them to be ready for school:

- Check their timetable (in the back of their planner) and help them pack all the books they need the day before
- Check their planners every night and help them plan how when and where they are going to do their homework
- Try to make sure packed lunches have a healthy mix of energy foods that includes fruit, carbs and juice or water and avoid crisps and energy drinks—if they are having school lunches, make sure they aren’t spending all their money on biscuits and cakes!

It’s a Doddle!

The school has just purchased a very comprehensive ‘on line’ package called ‘Doddle’ to give the girls additional access to high quality teaching and learning resources outside of their lessons. Each department has its own area with lesson notes, revision powerpoints and homework questions and tests. It replaces a very similar package that was already used by Modern languages, but the newest version has even more capacity. When the system is properly up and running, parents will be invited in for a crash course, so you too can access and support your daughters on line.
Sixth Form Centre Opens

The grand opening of the new state of the art Sixth Form Centre took place last week, with our Head student cutting the ribbon. The Centre has been dedicated to Theresa Stewart, a Governor who has worked with Swanshurst for 32 years! The new centre includes an extended silent study library, a quiet group study area with wifi access and a bank of laptops and desktops and a new social study area with café. The outside space is also being updated to a design drawn up by trainee architects and landscape designers from Birmingham City University, to include a new urban hedge and outdoor learning Zone. The work has also led to a refurbishment of the whole of the History and Geography departments. If you would like an opportunity to look around the new facilities please don’t hesitate to call and book an appointment.

Inspirational Women

As part of Learning 4 Life, the year groups and their tutors were asked to nominate inspirational women to form a permanent display on the staircase to Upper School. The nominations were extremely wide and varied, drawing from popular culture, the world of science and humanitarians who have dedicated their lives to helping others. The final selection included Brenda Hale, Justice of the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom and most senior female judge ever, Jane Goodhall, anthropologist, primatologist and UN messenger of Peace as well as more ‘household’ names such as Michelle Obama and Beyonce!

The girls are currently thinking with their tutors about other women we could have for displays in other parts of the school—it would be good if parents could get involved in these discussions too. Some girls actually nominated their Mums and Aunty's as their role models and heroes, which was lovely!

Safe and considerate parking

There are many safe places to park to drop off and collect your daughters, including the Billesley car park, and the side entrance to the school by the tennis club. It is extremely dangerous to stop on the roundabout, at the traffic lights or anywhere near the school's entrance on Brook Lane. The police do regular patrols around this area and will either hand out fixed penalty notices to anyone parking dangerously, or take the car’s registration, do an insurance and MOT check and then award a fixed penalty notice.

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