



The sun is shining, the blossom is just about to come out on our beautiful trees and if you are ever on site late in the afternoon you might catch sight of one of our foxes sneaking across the field. But the start of spring also means something else for our older students—exam season is on its way!

We try our utmost to make sure all our students are ready for their exams when the time comes but the next few months are crucial and there are lots of things you can do as a parent to make sure your daughter gets the best results she can.

Firstly, make sure you establish a routine and find somewhere where your daughter can work and will not be easily disturbed. Secondly, make sure she is ready to learn each day by ensuring she has a healthy diet and lots of sleep. We are finding more and more that girls go to their bedrooms early but then spend time on their phones or laptops and are coming to school tired. Thirdly, every girl revises differently, but most will benefit from writing notes, drawing mind maps, or recording their thoughts onto a phone. Talk to your daughter about what works best for her.

There are lot of online revision sites your daughter can use if she has access to a computer—individual departments will tell her the best ones but here a selection to choose from:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebiteize>

www.linguascope.com (MFL can hand out passwords)

<http://www.swanshurst.org/microsites/technology/>

<http://www.wikihow.com/Revise-Successfully>

<http://www.businessstudiesonline.co.uk/live/>

www.mathswatchvle.co.uk

Centre ID: Swanshurst Username: firstname.surname Password: 123

<http://www.docbrown.info>

www.mymaths.co.uk Username: Swanshurst Password: Octagon

Parent Questionnaire

We are constantly striving at Swanshurst to support your daughters in every way we can by actively making a positive impact in all aspects of their lives. We value the input from our parents and appreciate that you know your daughters best. Therefore we would appreciate it if you could take the time to complete our on line questionnaire to help us plan targeted support around areas you feel are important for your daughter's future. You can find the link to the survey on the front page of the website or type this into your web browser. Thank you for your time.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/VHQTMRW>

Energy Drinks Ban

Many of our girls are given money to get breakfast which they then spend on energy drinks or crisps and chocolate. Please try and encourage your daughter to eat healthily. Any energy drinks in school will be confiscated.



We made it to the finals!!

Our Year 7 netball team have had a successful season finishing top of division 2 and winning all of our games. Last night they played with great team spirit and the final was a close call against Kings Norton Girls School. It was 6- 6 which led to sudden death, unfortunately the opposing team scored the final goal. We congratulate the team and wish them luck for next year when we will win the shield back!



Hannah Brereton, Rebecca Rampton, Eleanor Jones, Tess Elkington, Molly Faggon, Eveyln Norman Long, Olivia Pearce, Imogen Baker

Brass Day

Following the success of String Day last term, Friday March 14th was Brass Day here at Swanshurst. Mr Vivian our peripatetic brass teacher was joined by fellow brass teachers, Tim Baptiste and trainee Mathew Shaw. They did a wonderful job teaching four pieces to the 40 players from area primary and secondary schools, whose ages ranged from Year 4 to sixth form.



Ski Trip

Four Birmingham schools collectively ventured out to the slopes to embrace all the challenges that the mountains offer. The whole party comprised of 112 (99 pupils and 13 staff).

Spring like conditions meant we were skiing in temperatures that averaged 20 degrees every day – and snow turned to slush by the afternoons.....difficult to ski through! We've returned with very tired but exuberant pupils who are a credit to us.



Pupil Premium—we are currently assessing impact and reviewing the action plan for how we spend Pupil Premium. A detailed outline of the current budget is available on line. If you have any thoughts about how else we could use this to raise achievement or aspirations I would be grateful to hear them. Please email Rebecca.tigue@swanshurst.org

'Hungry'

The Science and Performing Arts departments joined forces last week to think about the issues involved in healthy eating. The 'Theatre of Debate' company came in with a production of 'Hungry' which looked at lots of issues raised by food, including health issues, issues around food poverty and why we so often make the wrong choices about food when we know what we should be eating! In a survey of year 9 students, only 25% said they had a healthy breakfast and 50% said they didn't eat anything until lunch time. Research is increasingly highlighting how important breakfast is, so please encourage your daughter to eat something before she comes to school! Our school canteen is open from 8.15 if students want to grab something in school.

You can find some excellent recipes for interesting breakfasts at NHS.uk/breakfast



Apple Pie porridge



Banana, kiwi and mango smoothie

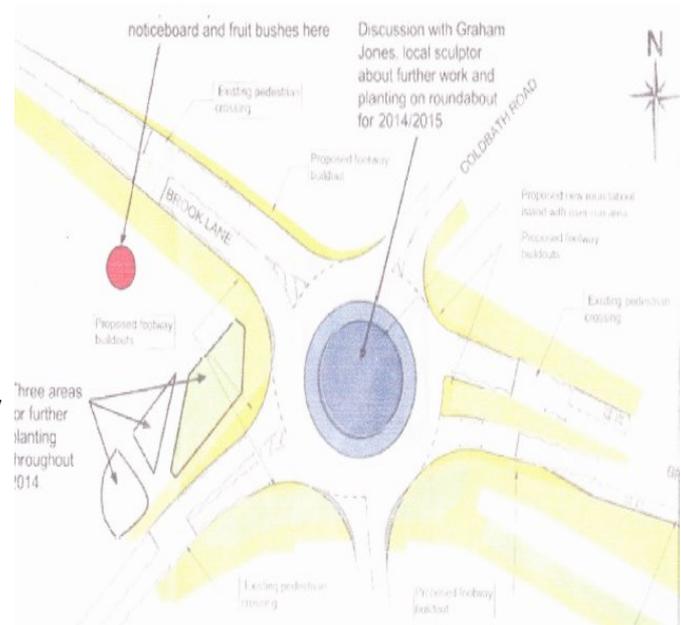


Fruit and seed flapjack

Swan Corner

Local residents, local councillors and students at Swanshurst are taking part in a project called 'Swan Corner' to try and celebrate the environment around the traffic island outside the school. Unfortunately a few of our more inconsiderate parents have been parking on the grassy area and turning the green space into mud. Our dance students will be performing a piece of work on the area in the summer term to celebrate our local environment. In the meantime, you can see some willow sculptures that have been created by a local artist.

The project forms part of a wider traffic plan being looked into to alleviate the issues faced by local people with so many parents parking inconsiderately at pick up time. A focus group of students have met with the local police and suggested ideas such as CCTV cameras that will automatically fine parents, and perhaps adding red lines to the areas around the roundabout. They also offered solutions such as using the big empty car parks off the Yardley Wood Road and parking by the tennis club so students are safer. As days become lighter again the best solution is to encourage as many students as possible to walk to school, get the bus or share lifts to minimise the traffic around school.



Symphony Hall

Our Year 7 were INCREDIBLY lucky to have had the opportunity to attend [The CBSO's Guide to the Orchestra](#) at Symphony Hall. We watched live performances of the full City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra conducted by Michael Seal and presented by Alasdair Malloy. The response from all of our year 7 pupils has been overwhelmingly one of excitement, awe and wonder!



Tickets for 'Guys and Dolls'

After months of hard work, we will soon be able to see the next Swanshurst Spectacular 'Guys and Dolls' on the 9th and 10th of April.

There are limited numbers of tickets available from the Finance Office so buy yours today!

**GUYS
AND
DOLLS**