

NEWSLETTER



The Swan School

HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

As we draw towards the end of our very first term, it feels like an appropriate time to reflect back on everything we have achieved in such a short period of time. The young people that we see before us are unrecognizable in terms of their maturity and confidence compared to the nervous children who walked through our gates a month and a half ago. They continue to impress us every day with how they embody our school values - our cygnets are truly becoming swans!

There have been so many special moments this term that it is impossible to be able to talk about them all. One thing we have been particularly proud of is the leadership shown by our student guides at our open events. We were overwhelmed by how many students volunteered to support and by the feedback from visitors who were, without exception, extremely complementary. I think I might just let the students sell the school next time!

On behalf of all the staff, I wish you all a restful break and we look forward to seeing everyone well refreshed on the 6th November.

NEW HOUSE NAMES

Thank you to everyone who participated in researching, discussing and voting for our house names. One of the benefits of being a new school is that students, staff and families get to have a very real stake in shaping our community together.

All of the house name candidates embody the values of AMBITION, DEDICATION, KINDNESS and INTEGRITY that are so important to us as a school. I am delighted to announce that our four houses will be named after:

- Malala Yousefzai 7Y
- Roger Bannister 7B
- Stephen Hawking 7H
- Tim Berners-Lee 7L

Names will be allocated to each tutor group during our celebration assembly on Thursday afternoon. We encourage you to talk to your child about which house they are now in and what it means to them.

NATIONAL POETRY DAY

Our inaugural poetry competition saw many excellent entries from across the school on the theme of Truth, which was this year's National Poetry Day theme. Poems by Catriona Porter and Philippa Moore were highly commended, but the winning entry was by Edie Lazzarini. The judges loved how her poem managed to be both funny and heart-wrenching at the same time. The poem speaks of the joy and excitement at childhood innocence and wonder, as well as the pain and disappointment of finding out the truth.

*When I was very little
I thought that centipedes had a thousand legs.
Then one day I was at school
and my teacher made me look a fool.
We were talking about animals,
I put my hand up high,
I got picked on my first try,
and I said... 'centipedes have one thousand legs!'
My classmates laughed and I said, 'what's wrong?'
and they said, 'they're not that long!'*

Aalian Malik and Judy Al-Ghamdi also read out poems during our family lunch to great applause.

Mrs Hinze

SWAN SPORTING SUCCESS

The Swan School have made an impressive start on the sporting front. Competing in many inter-form competitions as well as county matches and competitions. The students all showed dedication during the Matriculation week when they competed as tutor groups in the tug of war event with 7S prevailing this time round. This was then followed by a multi sports afternoon which saw 7W take home the house cup after a hard thought carousel of frisbee and rounders.

In September we had our cross country week where all students showed ambition to do their best. 7A came home as eventual

tutor group winners and took the house cup but our Swan School team then did exceptionally well at the county competition. Our Year 7 Boys team came second overall and our girls team came first overall, both qualifying the next stage of competitions.

Finally, we have made a start with team training for football and rugby with others to follow after half term such as netball. We competed against the Cherwell School at rugby and then basketball, unfortunately losing both matches but showing great integrity in our play and also some great individual highlights.

Mr Higgs

UPCOMING DATES

HALF TERM 2 BEGINS

- Wednesday 6th November (9.10am)

PARENT FORUM *An optional event for parents/carers to find out more about our approaches and ask questions about the school*

- Tuesday 12th November (5-6pm)

ASSESSMENT WEEK

- Week starting 25th November

DATA AND PLANNING DAY (INSET)

- Monday 2nd December

CAROL CONCERT

- Thursday 5th December

PARENT DAY

- Wednesday 11th December

OUR FIRST TERM AT THE SWAN

First impressions

As I'm sure you can imagine, it was a big shock going from primary to secondary school, especially coming to this school, as it's very different here compared to other schools. Different in a good way, of course. From the absolutely delicious vegetarian meals to the amazing teachers. We aim to strive in every subject using our school values.

Our school values

Ambition, Dedication, Kindness and integrity. Those are our values that we work by. We show ambition by working our very hardest all day, everyday whilst showing dedication by actually showing up to school right on time. Although the school has a reputation of being strict, it's quite relaxed when it comes to coming on time. We have from 8:30am to 9:00am to get to school. Students show dedication and integrity when it comes to getting up in the morning! Students also show dedication and integrity when doing homework.

Homework

We are given a folder at the start of the year, which we call a homework jotter. For every subject we have one or two sheets of information to do with that subject which we call a knowledge organiser. We put the knowledge organiser in our homework jotter so for our homework we have to learn a certain bit of the knowledge organiser. We write down our homework and when it is due in our planer which is like a diary, and we are given at the start of the year. This is really helpful because it helps us organise our time and not get stressed.

Lucy Fraser-Novak 7N and Mattie Williams 7N

PARTNERSHIPS WITH PARENTS

Parents and carers have such an important role to play in our students' development - we like to think of ourselves as colleagues, working together to ensure that our children achieve the best possible outcomes. In future newsletters, we intend to use this space to share parent perspectives on this - *let us know if you would like to contribute!*

- **Swan School Community Organisation** - this is the working title for our embryonic 'PTA'. You will have received an email recently outlining what has been discussed so far. The next meeting is on **Monday 18th November**. We would love as many people to be involved as possible, in whatever capacity they feel that they can, so please do let us know if you are unable to attend the meeting but would be interested in contributing in some way, however small.
- **Become a parent governor** - we are looking for a parent to join our governing body. Information about the role and how to apply has been emailed and is on our website. Let us know if you want to know more about the role. All applications should be handed into the school office by **Friday 8th November**.
- **Reading with your child** - We will be studying **A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens** after half term in English. It would really help your child to understand the complex language in this book, if they had already read it. There are a few copies of the book in the Swan Library and the Oxford Library Service (which we recommend all students to join) also has multiple copies. There are many audiobook versions on Youtube, such as this one https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n3fN_rupwo. Listening for 20 minutes per day, ideally whilst following the text, would complete the book in 9 days. Reading to your child is also highly recommended!
- **Year 7 Camp** - Please be aware that the camp is now 'live' on Parentmail if you would like to start to make payments.

MATRICULATION PHOTOS



7S



7W



7A



7N