

# NEWSLETTER



# The Swan School

## HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents/Carers,

Can you believe that we are now at the mid-way point of the year? It is hard to know where the time has gone! As we move into the second half of the year, we now start to think of our cygnets becoming role models for the younger students who will be joining us in September. We are confident that they will continue to embody our school values and set a superb example to our new cygnets.

Our big focus this half term has been on recruiting teachers to join our team next year. Many of our students have contributed to the process by taking part in interview lessons, guiding visitors around the school, and welcoming them to their lunch tables. I am delighted to announce that we are fully staffed for teachers for September and that the calibre of those we have appointed is extremely high. This is particularly pleasing in light of the national teacher recruitment crisis - it is great to see so many talented colleagues wanting to join our school.

We will be starting to look for support staff after the holiday so please do let any friends or family who might be interested know.

Have a restful break.

Ms Wood

## INTER-HOUSE COMPETITIONS

### Netball

As always, our inter-house sporting competition was a very closely fought affair. The competition was in two halves – firstly the semi-finals where 7H competed with 7B, and 7L took on 7Y. It was a close run thing but the eventual semi-final winners were 7B and 7Y. The highlight of the semi-finals was Hannan Hasan scoring in the final seconds of the last match, after four attempts, to win the game by a point and put 7B into the finals!

The whole school went out to watch the final during period 6 when 7B took on 7Y. Four matches were played in total, with the eventual winners being 7Y. Special mention should go to Catriona Porter in 7Y for being the highest scorer of the afternoon.

We were so impressed by the sporting attitude and team-work displayed by all of our students. It was brilliant to see them encouraging each-other and cheering on the teams from the sidelines when not playing.

### Languages

The contest was based around our students' love of learning new languages. Each form class had to work as a team to decode sentences in a completely new language – Yolmo. Yolmo is a Tibeto-Burman language spoken in Nepal by around 10 000 people. Students were first introduced to some simple phrases with their translations and had to work out what each of the different words meant. Armed with this knowledge, they then had to translate some other, previously unseen, sentences. The competition was a real test of students' decoding and problem-solving skills. They also had to listen and work together.

The winning form class was 7Y. They managed to achieve a score of 8 out of 9.

## UPCOMING DATES

### HALF TERM 4 BEGINS

- Monday 23rd Feb, 9.10am

### WESTON LIBRARY SCHOOL TRIP

- Wednesday 26th February
- Wednesday 4th March

### PARENT FORUM (SOCIAL TIME CONSULTATION AND ROUTINES)

- Tuesday 10th March (5-6pm)

### ASSESSMENT WEEK STARTS

- Monday 16th March

### DATA AND PLANNING DAY (INSET)

- Monday 23rd March (school is closed for students)

### SWANCOMM INTERNATIONAL EVENING (TBC)

- Wednesday 25th March

## SCHOOL PLAY UPDATE

Preparations are already well underway for our very first school play, which will be held in July. The production will be *A Midsummer Night's Dream* by Shakespeare and we want as many students to take part as possible! Weather-permitting, the play will be held outside in the school playground.

Auditions for acting roles will be held after the half-term holiday but there are plenty of other ways that students can get involved, even if they don't want to be on the stage. For example, we are also looking for musicians, set-designers, and make-up artists to name just a few.

We are also keen to draw on the expertise of parents and carers so if you are interested in getting involved in any capacity, please do let us know! You can email the school office or get in touch directly with Ms Hinze, Ms Shakespeare, or Ms Walton who are organising the production. Thank you so much to all of them for the work they have already put in and will continue to do over the next few months.

## PARENT PARTNERSHIPS

It has been great to get to know so many parents and carers over the last term. We really do value your contributions to our school community so do please continue to get involved.

**SwanComm** - Following the success of the Christmas disco and mince pie event, SwanComm are starting to plan an International Evening on the 25th March. This will be a great chance for everyone in our community to get involved and meet new people. The next meeting will be on **Monday 2nd March**. All welcome to come along and find out more.

**Classlist** - Is a good way to connect with other parents in a more informal way, recreating the 'school gate effect' that many parents/carers miss when their children join secondary school. All parents have been sent an email with log in details. Please let us know if you need help with this.

**Shape of the Day Consultation** - We would love to hear your thoughts. Please do read [this document](#) which outlines the proposals. We will send round a survey form to gather opinions following our Parent Forum on **10th March**. If you have any questions in the meantime, please do let us know by emailing [headteacher@theswanschool.org.uk](mailto:headteacher@theswanschool.org.uk).

## NEW SITE PROGRESS

Thursday 13th February marked a very important day in the life of The Swan. It was the day of the Closing Out Ceremony when the roof of our main site building finally became water-tight. Ms Wood and Paul James (CEO of the River Learning Trust) were entrusted with sealing the final piece of cladding on the roof - so if it begins to leak in September, we know who is to blame!

We also had a tour of the site to look at progress with the build. It is absolutely fantastic to see the scale of the building and the state-of-the-art facilities that are going to be available to our staff and students. The main structures for both the school building itself and the sports hall are now completely finished so we were able to walk down the corridors and really get a sense of the space that will be available. We are very lucky to be able to work and learn in such an amazing environment.

We are pleased to be able to report that progress of the build is going really well. The school is on track for partial completion (as planned) in September, with us taking occupancy of the full building in November. I am sure that you will agree that, whilst we have made a fantastic start to the school in our temporary accommodation, we are all looking forward to being in our permanent home!

You will be able to view more images of the construction site in progress on our website soon.

