

NEWSLETTER

HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

Congratulations to everyone on getting to the end of a hugely successful first year at The Swan. This year has been highly unexpected but there is also so much to celebrate in terms of what students have achieved, both in school and while they have been learning from home. Clearly, the past few months have been challenging for all of us but they have also shown us the strength of our Swan community and how much we can achieve when we work together as a home-school partnership.

I am immensely proud of what our cygnets have achieved this year. In their academic studies, we have seen them take on and excel in challenging work well beyond their years. They have also shown dedication by striving towards their own personal goals - we know that classroom learning is harder for some children than others, and some of our biggest achievers are those that have overcome difficulties to master their foundational skills. Outside of the classroom, they have thrown themselves into electives, given amazing music and drama performances, and worked together with their classmates towards house competitions. Perhaps most importantly, they have shown great kindness to each other, welcoming new students when they have joined our school and building the foundations of lifelong friendships.

We have spoken a lot about the importance of integrity this year and our cygnets have demonstrated this value in bucket loads whilst they have been working from home. We have been so impressed by how committed they have been to their learning, even whilst we have not been physically there to watch them closely. This isn't easy for any of us, but we know that their integrity will pay off as they will be able to get off to a flying (re)start in September.

On behalf of all the staff, thank you for all that you do to support your children to achieve the very best and for the kind words of support that many of you have sent in during lockdown. We cannot wait to see our students return to us in September. When they return, they will no longer be 'cygnets' but fully fledged 'swans'. We are so excited to see what they will achieve next.

We wish you all a restful summer and look forward to seeing you soon.

Ms Wood



LET'S GET READING!

Swan (Audio)Book Club and the 2020 Swan Summer Reading Challenge

Thank you to all the students who have attended Book Club this term. It has been a real highlight of my lockdown that so many children have been so eager to come together and listen to and then discuss books! Over the summer we will not be running Book Club, but instead we are encouraging students to enter the 2020 Swan Summer Reading Challenge. This involves reading or listening to as many books as possible and then recording their reading by writing 3 short sentences about each book. The deadline for entries is Friday 11th September and there are some lovely new books to win as prizes! Further details have been posted on Google Classroom here. At the time of writing Audible is still making available free books for children and young people and the Oxfordshire County Library Service has reopened.

Blackwell's Summer Reading initiatives

1) Blackwell's Summer Reading Club: young readers can join the Blackwell's Summer Reading Club. Pick up a membership card in the Broad Street bookshop from the end of July. For every book read matching the description on the membership card, you will receive a stamp. When the card is full, you can claim a special Blackwell's Book Club Badge.

2) Blackwell's Book Doctor: the Children's Departments at Broad Street and Westgate can tailor a session for your child with their Book Doctors. Brilliant recommendations are personalised to the individual child, whether they are keen readers already or still to get into books. The sessions are free. Call 01865 792792 or email childrens@Blackwells.co.uk for more information and to book an appointment with the Book Doctors.

LOOKING FORWARD AND BACK

RETURNING TO SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER

Covid-19

We are excited to welcome ALL our students back as we recognise that, despite the excellent work of staff and parents during partial closure, school is the best place for our students to receive a world-class education. We wish all of our students to benefit from the aspects of Swan life that make our school special, including our rigorously academic curriculum, entitlement to enrichment, family dining, and clear routines/behaviour expectations.

We understand that the reopening of schools can never be entirely risk-free, however for the vast majority of children, the benefits of being back in school far outweigh the low risk from coronavirus (COVID-19).

[You can read more about our plans for a safe return to school on our website here.](#)

Matriculation Week

Year 8 students will return to school on **Thursday 10th September** at our **new site**. The first two days will be matriculation to introduce students to the new buildings and to remind them of school routines.

NEW STAFF!

We are delighted to welcome a number of new staff to our team in September. Students will meet them when they return to school and photos/information will also appear on our website next term.

- **Teachers** - Ms Mullin (Pastoral Leader), Ms Inscoc (Head of Creative Technology), Mr Evans (Science), Ms White (PE), Ms Babb (Maths), and Ms Blair (Geography/Humanities), Ms Siddle (SENCO)
- **Educational Support** - Ms Bradburn, Ms Gezsti and Ms Sarfatti (Accelerated Learning Champions), Dr Roynan (Librarian), Mr Sexton (Science Technician)
- **Support** - Ms Whatmough (Receptionist)

GETTING TO SCHOOL

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT PARENTS ARE NOT PERMITTED TO DROP THEIR CHILDREN OFF AT SCHOOL. NO CARS WILL BE ALLOWED TO DRIVE INTO THE SCHOOL SITE.

We are committed to sustainable travel as a school and want to encourage as many staff and students to walk, cycle, or take public transport to school. You can find out more about getting to our new site on our [website here](#). Swan Travel Action Group (STAG) are also happy to support families to plan walking or cycling routes to school. Their details are on the website, please get in contact if you would like more information.

CELEBRATING OUR SUCCESSES!

We have put together a montage video of all the fantastic things our cygnets have done this year. It made us so proud (and a little teary) to remember what they have achieved. [You can watch the video here.](#) Don't forget that all of our school videos are available on our [YouTube channel](#). Feel free to share with others!

OUR YEAR IN PICTURES!



Top L-R: Christmas Carol Concert at Trinity College, staff rock World Book Day, Saba paints a canvas inspired by Climate Change.

Mid L-R: Sahar, Aoife and Lucy press flowers after one of our lockdown walks, Ms Walton's car boot full of donations for the foodbank, Asmaa does 'Show your brave' during mental health week.

Bottom L-R: Mr Higgs presents the House Cup after our first full term, students attend The Bodleian Library.

OUR YEAR IN PICTURES!



Top L-R: Mrs Hinze boogies at the school disco, Irfaan tries using a printing press, 7L celebrates winning the House Cup.

Mid L-R: Students talk with Richard Adams's daughters about Watership Down, Mr Robinson helps students with literacy.

Bottom L-R: Heidi shows us girls can do STEM too, Edward and Liam experiment with oil pastels.

CELEBRATING A SUCCESSFUL YEAR: MESSAGES FROM STAFF

Favourite memory: Singing together at the end of matriculation week. It was amazing to see everyone settled in, looking so smart in full uniform; ready to go. Knowing we were ready to show the school values and make a success of the year!

Mr Macnaughton

I have absolutely loved my first year working at Swan and two particular moments stand out for me: firstly, in March, 25 Swan students took part in the UK Linguistics Olympiad. I was very impressed with how hard they worked on the linguistics puzzles, and half of them managed to reach bronze or silver, which was a fantastic result! Secondly, a group of students took part in Miss Playford's Christmas concert, singing German and French carols confidently and beautifully. I was incredibly proud of them and will certainly do more singing in French and German in the future!

Mme McCoy

What is your favourite memory of your first year at The Swan?

World book day - the amount of effort made by not only the children but the staff as well. Such a fun day had by all. Christmas dinner - how welcomed I felt into The Swan School on my very first few days.

What are you proudest of this year?

Working in such a happy and supportive environment.

Ms Cimmermanis

Whilst I have so many happy memories of my first year at The Swan School, one that stands out is the whole school assembly at the end of Year 7 matriculation week where we sang The Best Day of my Life. It just felt so special seeing the joyous sense of achievement from both staff and students that after all the anticipation, preparation and hard work that had gone before, we had finally made it!

Ms Williamson

My best memory from this year was when my first drama elective group performed their version of A Christmas Carol in the Christmas concert. I have also loved being a form tutor to 7B and the fact that 7L always laugh politely at my (bad) jokes.

Ms Shakespeare

My favourite memory is the suspense during the house draw ceremony at the end of Cycle 1. I am proudest of being able to work with highly motivated staff and students has been a pleasure.

Mr Higgs

My favourite memories of the year are World Book Day costumes and Christmas assembly. I am so proud to see how polite and responsible the students are.

Ms Fraser

Being a part of The Swan School this past year has changed my life inexplicably. I never thought I would actually enjoy getting up at, what I call the crack of dawn, and stand in what is usually a cold playground. However, seeing how much our current year 7s have flourished really makes everything worth it. I can't wait for all the years and adventures to come.

Ms Walton

My favourite memory of this year was playing tug of war during matriculation week. We hardly knew each other, but we cheered each other on and tried really hard to do our best for everyone in the form.

Mr Maulkerson

My favorite memory is the Christmas concert! It was amazing to be part of such an ambitious concert and to see everyone come together and read, make music, perform drama and sing so beautifully and in such an incredible building. At the rehearsal, our students were straining in their seats to take it all in, leaning over the pews like they were at a gig!

I am proudest of the way Swan students have risen to the challenge of the English curriculum, even during lockdown, experiencing their first Shakespeare play via remote learning, and doing such an excellent job. They have shown such incredible dedication under very difficult circumstances.

I will also never forget on National Poetry Day; we printed off poems onto coloured paper and Ms Walton folded them into origami Swans. We put them on the tables at lunchtime and they generated such excitement. I will never forget Aalian reading his poem out; it was a beautifully well read and brought tears to my eyes.

Ms Hinze

CELEBRATING A SUCCESSFUL YEAR: MESSAGES FROM STUDENTS AND PARENTS/CARERS

The best bit about the Swan was that the teachers were all really nice and the environment elective and the ensemble elective. I particularly remember the visit to the recycling place where they showed us a drill that went round corners and planting trees in the environmental elective.

I am proud of how I did in some subjects before lockdown particularly English, French and Science.

Joseph 7L

Our favourite moment from this year was watching the staff and pupil music video – “Can’t stop the feeling”. It was wonderful to see everyone enjoying themselves and neatly demonstrated what a great school the Swan is. We are proudest of seeing Rosie become Head Girl and how she has developed and grown personally as well as academically.

Rosie 7L and Shelley Joyce (parent)

What I am most excited for next year - Being able to go to our new school building because working in our new classrooms will be fun and the sports hall will be amazing! I can't wait!

Heidi 7B

Im looking forward having lockers because sometimes bag is heavy and my back aches!

Ester 7H

I have enjoyed making new friends - Irfaan 7L

I am proudest of improving my English speaking and making lots of friends - Zyad 7L

My favourite memory this year has been when 7B won the house point trophy because we worked hard as a team. I am most proud of improving on subjects that I found really challenging at the start of the year.

Elmisa 7B

My most memorable moment was when my house managed to get to the final of the netball Tournament and everyone was so excited! 7B had not been in a final before, everyone was very happy!

Edie 7B

I am looking forward to the new sports facilities especially the cricket stuff and the table tennis tables next year. A favourite memory this year is watching Mr Maulkerson's (the famous youtuber) maths videos.

Benjamin 7L

My favourite memory was when I had to represent 7B when I went to the front of the stage to get the trophy.

Aayan 7B

I am most proud of making friends by myself because in primary, my parents introduced me to my friends and those friends made friends for me.

Ciara 7H

My favourite memory is being at school instead of being at home! I am looking forward to being in our proper school.

Zac 7L

My favourite memory was working together with my form when doing the netball inter house competition and winning, because I felt really proud at the end and it was really fun!

Aiman 7Y

I am looking forward to next year is having a new building with much more space and being a role model to the new year 7 !!!!!

Imaan 7Y

My proudest thing I've done in my first year at the Swan is beating my 5k record with Mr. MacNaughton! The personal best at the moment is 22 mins 45 but next Wednesday we could get a better time!!

Edward 7H

My favourite memory was when we went to the building (Trinity College) near Christmas and seeing some of the school sing the songs. I am proudest of not flopping my assessments, even during lockdown!

Nehan 7B

I am proud to study in a school with values like: ambition, kindness, dedication and integrity, where we have good support on learning with dedicated teachers and good quality in general. I've been learning these values and our normal school subjects, but I would like to absorb more.

My favourite memory was the disco party and basketball competition!

Gabriela 7Y

My favorite memory from this year is the netball matches that we did against other schools. Although we didn't always win it was great fun. I am really proud of getting full marks on french listening 1 and I am glad that my hard work this year has been rewarded. I am looking forward to helping the new year seven cygnets next year become swans like we have

Philippa 7Y