

NEWSLETTER

HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

Well, doesn't time fly?! Amazingly, we are already at the end of the first half term of our second year. So much has happened over the last seven weeks that it is hard to understand how we have managed to fit it all in! There have been highs and lows, opportunities and challenges, but it has been absolutely wonderful to see how our community has come together to overcome everything that has been thrown at us!

One of the first hurdles that we had to overcome this year was moving into the building. Of course, the delay to the completion of our partial area was far from ideal but it is great to have moved in. The facilities are so much better than what we were used to last year, with particular highlights being the fantastic library space and outdoor sports facilities. I am pleased to confirm that the developers are currently on track to complete the rest of our building and outside spaces by the end of November. Although we won't spread ourselves over the whole building straight away, we will immediately start to benefit from enhanced facilities for music, science, art, and DT, which will be brilliant in helping to enhance our curriculum offer.

The second challenge, which will not have escaped anyone's attention(!), is the continued uncertainty around Covid-19. Much of our staff's energy has been spent on trying to maintain the purposeful but fun 'feel' of school whilst keeping our community safe. We think it is right, given how long children have spent out of school, to ensure that their experience is as close to 'normality' as possible. It has been interesting to see the creative solutions that teachers have used to try to overcome the restrictions - for example filming virtual assemblies that get streamed into tutor rooms, or use of visualisers so that we can maintain social distance in the classrooms where possible. Overall, we are trying to take the positives out of a difficult situation. If nothing else, this is a great opportunity to learn new skills and approaches!

Ms Wood



WELCOME TO OUR NEW SCHOOL - don't forget you can also watch our virtual tour on YouTube [here](#)

POETRY AWARD - Ms Hinze

Freya Leech commended in Foyle Young Poets of the Year Award 2020

We are delighted to inform the Swan school community that Freya Leech (8B) has been selected as one of the 85 commended poets in the Foyle Young Poets of the Year Award 2020. Freya was selected from over 6,000 entrants and over 15,000 poems this year from across the world, a truly amazing and impressive achievement. We would like to extend our congratulations to Freya; her winning poem will be published on The Poetry Society's website and featured on their YouTube and Vimeo channels later in the year, and will appear in an online anthology in the spring. With such an enormous number of entries this year winning really is phenomenal. I hope this will inspire all of our students to keep reading, writing and reciting poetry.

What is lockdown?

A wall called 2m

A world called www.

A wish called 'When this is over'

A warming called rainbows in the window

A warning called 'Keep safe'.

LIBRARY NEWS - Dr Roynan

So many wonderful things have happened in the Library already -- I cannot believe only four weeks have passed since we opened our doors for the very first time! 52 students borrowed a book on Day One - and now around 80 students are borrowing a new book every week. And one student likes to read an entire book every day ...

I have now processed and shelved all of our most recent new stock, which includes both demanding and more accessible texts by writers ranging from Jamila Gavin to Arthur Conan Doyle. Many are enjoying our Barrington Stokes super-readable collection, and our recently launched series of Lemony Snicket, Artemis Fowl and Horrible Histories are flying off the shelves. We have also benefited from several generous donations of very high quality books.

Our weekly Friday Challenge activities have generated great excitement and a loyal following: so far these have included 'Match the book to its blurb'; 'Write your own last verse to a famous poem'; 'Be a Lunchtime Librarian'; and 'Match the history book with its opening sentence'.

National Poetry Day was a resounding success, and our changing displays have highlighted our beautiful poetry anthologies, texts that connect with the whole school's Guided Reading, and our strengths in History, which is our showcase subject for October.

It is lovely to see familiar faces returning time and time again to browse the books, enjoy some peaceful reading or get ahead with homework. Do ask your child if they have visited the Library yet this term - if not, I look forward to meeting them very soon!

Dr Roynan, School Librarian



STUDENT COUNCIL - Madame McCoy

Elections for the school council took place last week in each tutor group. The first meeting was held on Tuesday 20th October. Our student representatives are full of enthusiasm and ready to work on making our school even better. Here is our school council:

- 7B Mohib Hedri, Mya Stone
- 7H Wunmi Abebiosu, Omer Eltahir
- 7L Gabriele Angelici, Frankie Campbell
- 7Y Greta Charles, Omar Hassan
- 8B Aayan Ashraf, Freya Leech
- 8H Aalian Malik, Morrigan Ogg
- 8L Rosie Joyce, Younes Rachidi-Broadway
- 8Y Amelie Beck, Aiman Shah, Amir Sorkhabi



STARTING LIFE AS NEW CYGNETS - YEAR 7 VOICES

Since I started The Swan School back in September, I have enjoyed every moment of it. I was excited but also a little nervous about starting secondary school because I didn't know many people and it was going to be a challenge. But now, after just a few weeks, I feel like I have really settled in. The teachers have been really welcoming and my form is very friendly. I have also made some new friends in other classes.

I have always liked running and I was pleased to find out that Mr MacNaughton has a 5k club every Monday. I have done two runs so far and I am really looking forward to my next one. I also cycle to school every day so I am getting lots of exercise!

At break and lunchtime I enjoy hanging out with friends, visiting the library, playing basketball and also eating with my family dining group. The vegetarian food is tasty and there is a lot of variety. When the teacher gives us a discussion topic at the start of lunch it's been a good opportunity to have a really good chat with people in my group. My favourite topic so far has been about exploring life on other planets.

It's really hard to pick a favourite lesson because the teachers make all the topics really interesting and engaging. The homework system and supervised study are different to what I have been used to but I like them. I've found self-quizzing especially helpful because it allows me to measure my progress. I also like the way supervised study allows me to complete most of my homework at school rather than at home!

Overall, I am having fun, enjoying the learning and feeling really glad I joined The Swan.

Fiachra 7B

The Swan School is a place where children can feel safe and can learn new things with the amazing curriculum and brand new building. My favourite part of The Swan School is family dining. Family dining is where year 7 & 8's come together and have a hot nutritional vegetarian lunch. Everyday we are given a topic to discuss with each other, it could be something that is going on in the news, it could be about anything.

Now I know what The Swan School is all about, I don't ever want to leave. It is amazing!

Eden-Mai 7B

