

NEWS letter



The end of term is always a mix of excitement and reflection, as well as looking forward to the new opportunities that lie ahead in 2022. This term has been incredibly successful and an exciting time to be a pupil and a member of staff – we have achieved so much.

On page 2 you can see some detail on the ways Swanshurst has developed to be even better in Autumn 2022.



It's now time for some rest, relaxation and time with loved ones before we return for the Spring Term in 2022.

Thank you to staff and parents/ carers for all of the excellent support given to Swanshurst pupils this term, and to pupils for your outstanding efforts and achievements in 2021.

Have a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Mike Dunn
Headteacher

Odd Socks Day Anti-Bullying Week

On Friday 19th November staff and students wore odd socks and made a contribution of £1 to support the anti-bullying alliance organisation raising over **£260**.

This is nationally recognised as **Odd Sock Day** within **Anti-Bullying** week and it is designed to be fun! It was an opportunity to encourage people

to express themselves and celebrate their individuality and what makes us all unique!

Our values of being **Kind** and **Respectful** are even more important today than they have ever been. The isolation of the last year has underlined how little acts of consideration can break down barriers and brighten the lives of the people around us. This is one of the reasons that this year's slogan '**One Kind Word**' seemed to speak loudly to all of us at school!



This term has been incredibly successful and an exciting time to be a pupil and a member of staff –

‘we have achieved so much’

Here’s just some of the ways Swanshurst has developed to be even better in Autumn 2022:

- Introduction of The Swanshurst Way – a consistent frame work for exemplary behaviour
- New and improved approaches to feedback – including **‘Whole Class Feedback’**
- Swanshurst Learning Principles – a consistent framework for excellence
- Mental Health First Aid training for all staff
- Implementation of our new Student Leadership structure: Prefects and Anti Bullying Ambassadors
- Appointment of a new school nurse who is a specialist in Mental Health and Wellbeing
- We have taken part in an Ofsted Research Review for COVID Recovery and Tuition
- The PSHE rolling period and a new curriculum has begun
- We have launched our new Safeguarding Curriculum
- COVID Recovery Tuition and School Based Tutoring has begun
- We have achieved superb levels of attendance (*significantly above national*)
- In-house catering has been a huge success

In lessons, homework, PSHE and personal development, our pupils’ determination, hard work and aspirations have continued to grow as they make excellent progress. For a typical pupil with 100% attendance, here is an average snapshot of the education they have received:

- 14 weeks of school
- 70 Days of school
- 210 lessons
- 350 Hours of learning
- 11 Hours of PSHE
- Over 100 pieces of pre-learning or consolidation homework
- 39 Pieces of feedback to support their progress

As you can see, everyone in the Swanshurst community has been incredibly busy and pupils have been superb.

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Mike Dunn : Headteacher

Springfield Pantry

Continuing a Swanshurst tradition, an eager group of community spirited Year 12 students completed their virtual training this week with the **Springfield Project** and the **Springfield Pantry**.



They have volunteered their own time over the Christmas Holidays as Pantry Assistants where they will be involved in welcoming customers into the Pantry and assisting them with their shopping. They will have responsibility for keeping the Pantry well stocked and well presented at all times.

There were lots of enthusiastic Year 12 volunteers for this project and our first group completed their training with flying colours.

We are really proud of these young people who all clearly displayed Swanshurst values by making a difference in their community.

Sixth Form News

Enrichment

It has been a very busy but rewarding term for Year 12 as they have taken part in a variety of activities designed to enrich their time in sixth form.



Reading buddies returned this term with Year 7 and 8 students buddied up with Year 12 students to support the whole school focus on reading.

All students involved have benefitted enormously from the experience. Medics from the University of Birmingham put our Year 12's through their paces on a first aid training course which could quite literally save lives. Using the tagline 'CPR for Dummies' our students were trained by the medics in the basics of resuscitation and the use of defibrillators.

Undoubtedly this experience will have inspired our Year 12 students to look to working in the medical professions. **Ms Ramage**



Pathway to Healthcare Programme

We are very proud to have five Year 12 students secure offers from Aston University, on their innovative Pathway to Healthcare Programme which has been designed to expand knowledge, develop skills and give an insight into what university life is really like to those students with ambitions to study a medicine or a healthcare related degree for university.

Year 7

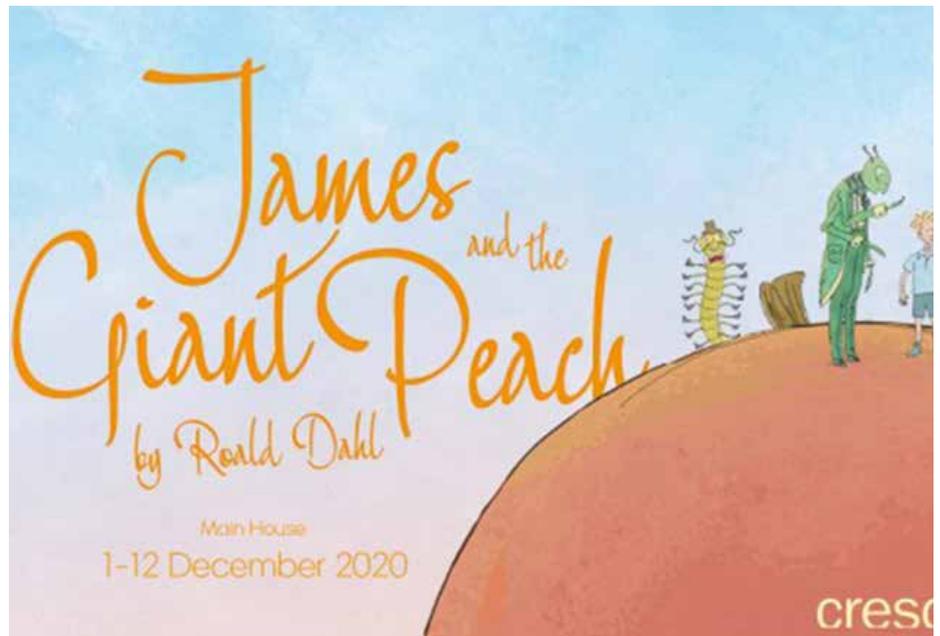
Are wowed by James & the Giant Peach

Year 7 have had a wonderful first term at Swanshurst and we're so proud of how they have settled in. They are working incredibly hard in lessons and are becoming key members of the Swanshurst community through their work with school council, sports clubs and the Christmas talent show.

All of Year 7 went to the **Crescent Theatre** to see their production of **James and the Giant Peach**. Our 300 plus girls joined James on his classic adventure in a wonderful piece of imaginative theatre.

We have come back full of ideas for our own drama lessons and want to start looking for other artistic events that Birmingham has to offer. Well done Year 7, have a restful break and we'll see you in the new year!

Ms Douglas



Pupils from year's 7 and 8 are learning **Makaton** through singing. The Makaton choir has formed this term and as well as singing, we are signing the words in Makaton.

The song we are learning over the next few weeks is **'Thousand Years'** by Christina Perri. You may have seen this on the national news recently because of the Youtube video produced by 50 Mums / 50 Kids / and 1 Extra Chromosome.

We start with an energetic warmup led by Ms Daubney who is also teaching us the melody and actions. Everyone is learning the to sign the words really quickly and thoroughly enjoying themselves while singing. Look out for the choir at the next music event at school! **Ms Hanvey**

Year 8 Continue To Excel!

The Year 8s have continued to demonstrate **Swanshurst Values** this half term. It has been lovely sharing their successes in assembly each week from pictures of amazing cooking to detailed Maths work and Design Technology pieces.



The Year 8s continue to strive for success with over 100 already achieving their Bronze Recognition

Award and **Martha and Dalila** achieving their Silver.

I continue to feel a real sense of pride in the positive attitude that the students have towards all aspects of school life and nothing sums this up more than when I ask staff to nominate the student of the term.

It is so wonderful to hear of all the ways the Year 8s are adding to our

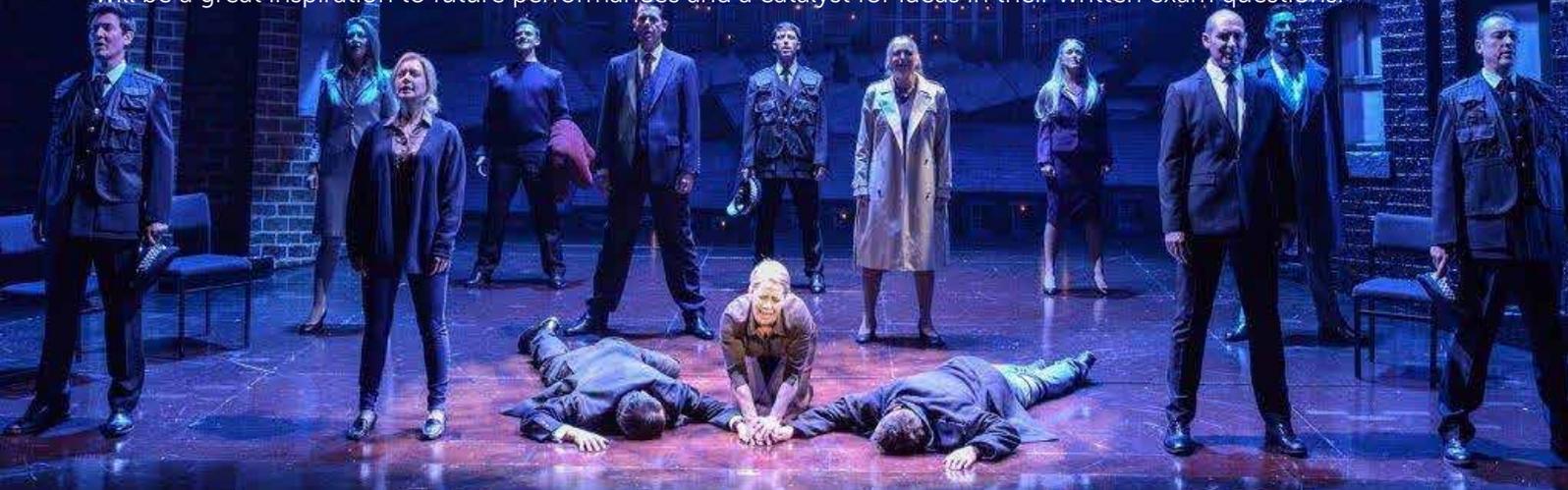
community and so difficult selecting which student to pick from such a long list.

Jaya and Anna were successful this term because they epitomise all our Swanshurst Values. I can't wait to see how the year group respond to the next exciting chapter of their Swanshurst Story.

Ms Gunn

Blood Brothers Visit

On Thursday 4th of November, GCSE drama students in Years 10 and 11 were joined by our year 13 A Level drama group on a visit to the **Birmingham Hippodrome** theatre to see **Blood Brothers**. It was great to see our students back in a professional theatre, audience laughing, crying and jumping at the sound of a gunshot. This performance will be a great inspiration to future performances and a catalyst for ideas in their written exam questions.



Being In Year 11

Rather than listening to Mrs Wright ramble on again, she thought it would be interesting to hear a year 11 student's view on the half term, so in the words of Taya Campbell 11A ...

"This half term for Year 11 has been a rollercoaster. Currently we are in the middle of mock exams which some of us are finding stressful. However we are learning new tips on how to revise and cope with the stress. It's not been easy, but as a Year 11 student I can vouch for the fact that we have an incredibly supportive year team by our side to help us when we need it.

Outside of exams there have been well over 50 applications for prefects willing to help around the school and help younger years. Over 40 were successful and they have started doing their duties

around the school and wearing their lanyards with pride. Since the start of this term, some of Year 11 have had after school and in school tuition and that has helped to prepare us for mock exams.

It has been done in a variety of different subjects and is very useful. Looking ahead to next term we all hope that Covid-19 doesn't stop us from doing our final exams in the summer. We are trying to keep up the positive vibe and we won't let Covid-19 stop us from achieving our dreams!"



Year 11 Prefects

Year 9

Saving The Planet Amongst Other Things

Year 9 have had a great start to this academic year, they are really getting stuck into and enjoying their GCSE options after a term of hard work.

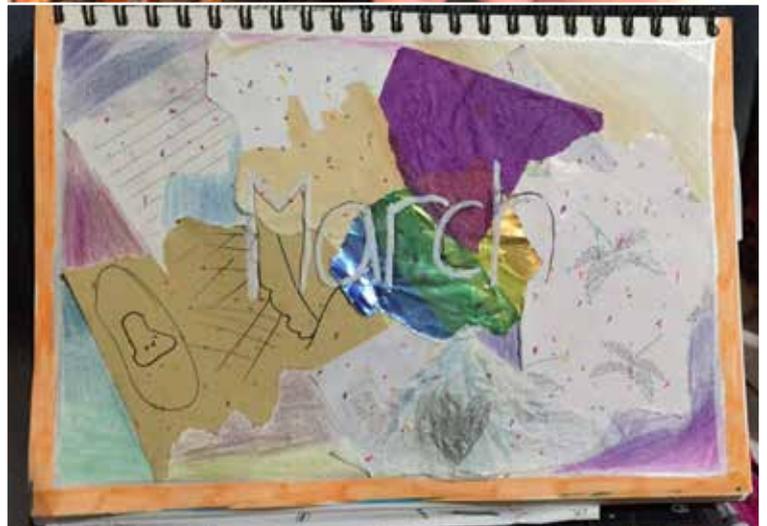
The year started with 200 students going to Drayton Manor after it was cancelled in the summer. Students had a thoroughly enjoyable day going on the rides and being with their friends for the day away from school. We hope to have all of the year group attend when the rewards trip comes round again.

As always I have been impressed with the amount of students who go along to our extra-curricular clubs. This provides them with additional skills and confidence away from the classroom. Lots of Year 9 students applied for and were selected to be an Anti-Bullying ambassadors. Eight of our year 9s were selected to be student Librarians and are doing incredibly well to support the Library and encourage other students to read.

As part of the Year 9 Inspirational Woman's award, we have set the year group challenges to engage with. We have been blown away with the response: ideas on how to protect the planet and ideas on how they themselves can break down barriers. We encourage all of you to continue to get involved in all extra-curricular opportunities offered..

Well done on embracing the Swanshurst Way and being role models to others with the way you have conducted yourselves!

Ms Dyson



Hitting the Right Notes!

The following girls achieved external Music examinations.

Ammarah Latif Grade 3 violin.

Imaan Salem Grade 2 violin.

Navaeh Choudry Grade 2 violin.

Zarah Henry Grade 1 violin with merit.

Evie Stait Grade 5 oboe

Emma Vincent Grade 2 piano with distinction

Holli Gardner Grade 2 piano with distinction

A Special Thank You to Unsung Swanshurst Heroes

As we end another year, we want to reflect on the importance of teamwork and celebrate the sense of community we have in school - both staff and students. The level of care we have shown each other during the pandemic has never been more evident and, although everyone played their part, particular thanks go

to the Site and Cleaning Staff. They have worked hard and diligently to keep us all safe, cleaning and sanitising our school, giving us the confidence we needed to return to "normal". In addition to the cleaning, we removed around 30 tonnes of

furniture and equipment from the site to create our COVID "bubbles" all of which has since been brought back and is, mostly, in the right place! We hope these staff, in addition to all of our Swanshurst family, have a well-deserved break.



Year 10 Thoughts

As we break up for the holidays, We would like to congratulate Year 10s on a successful term and wish them a peaceful holiday. The hard work will all pay off at the end of Year 11, but now is time for a rest. Thank you from **Husna** for the beautiful picture of Swanshurst that she took on the way home from school. I think this is a timely reminder to stop and appreciate the beauty around us and what we have.

Sometimes we lose sight of the wonders of the world, especially when we are stressed with exams, assignments and deadlines and the added worry of Covid. In Year 10 we are passionate about looking after our mental health and each week in assembly we have a focus and this week it was 'rest'.

As we break up for the 2 week holiday, we would encourage everyone to embrace rest and being mindful. Take a break from daily stresses to look around you and appreciate the world away from social media and switch the gadgets off for a while.

Wishing you all a very happy holiday and a healthy and successful 2022.

Ms Revell



Tragedy For A Level English Group

In December, Year 13 A-Level English were able to participate in an online 'English in Action: Aspects of Tragedy' lecture series. This enabled them to consolidate and develop their growing knowledge of the tragic genre. The guests included both university academics and Globe Theatre directors, giving them a more holistic insight into the texts that they have studied in class.

The students thoroughly enjoyed themselves and are now fully equipped for their PPEs. They're bound to do well and there's certain to be no tragedy involved there!



Year 11 Progression Into Sixth Form

Year 11 have begun the exciting process of thinking about life after GCSEs! Students have all been thinking about what they might like to do next academic year and where that may be. Next steps include an interview for each Year 11 student with a senior member of staff to discuss individual, tailored pathways. This will take place on what we call '**Brown Envelope Day**' on Wednesday 26th January when students will collect the results of their PPEs – hence the brown envelope!

The week prior to this, on Thursday 20th January, we will hold our **Sixth Form Open Evening (6pm in CDS)**. It will be an excellent opportunity to learn about the 6th Form and the fantastic courses and opportunities on offer. We hope to see all Year 11 parents & pupils there and look forward to discussing progression to the 6th form on **Brown Envelope Day**.

There will be a letter in January inviting parents to both events.

WINTER WONDERLAND 2021

Even though we were unable to perform to a live audience, the annual Winter Wonderland performance went ahead this year but was recorded to give families and friends at home the opportunity to see the hard work that our students in music, dance and drama have done this term.



Please keep an eye out on our youtube channel to catch a glimpse of our talented students in action.

Well done to all performers and staff involved and a special thank you to Paul Hayes for putting together the video recording.



MERRY CHRISTMAS

From a Seasonal Year 9 Netball Practice Group!



Taking time off our practice drills to wish you all a **Merry Christmas** on behalf of **Swanshurst** staff and pupils,



Head Teacher: **Mr Mike Dunn**

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