



### Shakespeare Meets "Rawhide"



The governors would like to give congratulations and thanks to all the pupils and staff who worked both on stage and behind the scenes to achieve a fantastic evening's entertainment at the Shakespeare Schools Festival, which took place earlier this month at The Point in Eastleigh.

Three Hampshire secondary schools (Testbourne, Southlands and Swanmore) presented 30minute abridged versions of three Shakespeare plays – Macbeth, Othello and A Midsummer Night's Dream respectively. The original scripts of the plays were retained but each group devised their own settings, costumes and atmosphere for their performances.

Swanmore College's performance of Midsummer Night's Dream was set in the American Wild West; Oberon was an Indian chief with Titania his squaw; the fairies/spirits Indian braves; the labourers were hill-billies; and the humans residents of the frontier town of Athens! Who would have thought that Shakespeare could meet "Rawhide"? The totem poles were inspired! This showed just how accessible Shakespeare can be for modern teenagers and enjoyable and exciting for everyone.

All the individual talents came together to result in real team effort that was thoroughly appreciated by the audience and the SSF director. The young people who took part in the Festival learnt to appreciate the genius of Shakespeare, and to take pride in their achievements. The opportunity to perform in a professional theatre to a paying audience will have provided them with a truly memorable experience of a lifetime. Brilliant!

### Pupil Wellbeing

Governors are pleased to report that the new Health and Wellbeing Clinic is working well and that we are especially grateful to Mrs Bruce, a professional nurse, who has volunteered to run special 'Stub it Out' sessions to help a group of pupils quit smoking. We are very grateful to Mrs Bruce for donating her time to this venture.

### Training

Three governors were delighted to be able to join staff for the professional closure day, and attended a number of training workshops including a session on dyslexia.

This continuous professional development is part of our college improvement plan to further develop our provision of inclusion and interventions for pupils that need any extra help with their learning.

### New Governors

We are delighted to welcome **Mr Rob Beard** who joins us as a Community Governor. We are awaiting confirmation of a nomination for an LA Governor, and the parent governor elections have generated considerable interest. We will let parents know the position as soon as possible after the closing date of Monday 29th November.

Thank you to everyone who has made contact with the college to find out more about the role of a parent governor.

## WHAM7 Gardens Project

The governors are very excited about the new opportunities for learning in a college garden/allotment that is being developed at the front of the site.

The aim is to provide the pupils with a very different extra curricular activity where they can get stuck in with designing and building a garden from scratch. Also it is hoped that all areas of the curriculum will eventually get involved from testing the soil in science to cooking up delicious dishes with the produce in food technology.



If you have a child that enjoys learning through hands on activities, then send him/her along to join in on Thursdays 3:10 'til 3:45pm. All ages are welcome.

An inter-house competition also is being developed (including Year 7) culminating in a 'Come Dine With Me' cook off at the end of the summer term!!!

## National Changes in Education



Governors are keeping a close eye on central government's changes to the education system including the Education White Paper published this week. We will communicate further with you

as any pertinent issues arise.

One thing that is not going to change in education is the national attendance targets. It has been consistently proven that pupils achieve better results with higher attendance at school. Missing lessons due to unauthorised absences causes pupils to fall behind in their studies and in turn causes unnecessary stress and anxiety. It is not worth it in the long run, especially when you consider that your children's further education and career opportunities are greatly affected by the grades they get at GCSE.

Any request for absence during term time therefore must be for exceptional circumstances only. Please consult the college website for further guidance.

## How to contact us

We can be contacted by email at the following address: [governors@swanmore-sec.hants.sch.uk](mailto:governors@swanmore-sec.hants.sch.uk) or by letter addressed to the college, which will be passed to us.

## Staff News

**Mrs Hillier** has now confirmed that her date of departure from the College will be the end of December 2011. The process to recruit a Head Teacher has now begun, and we will keep parents notified of the progress to ensure the right candidate is appointed to lead the college in the future.

We would like to thank the many parents who expressed support and good wishes to Mrs Hillier during her husband's recent illness, and the governors are grateful to her for the extended period of notice she has been able to offer to allow us to undertake the appropriate recruitment process.

## Forthcoming Events

Governors are looking forward to meeting as many parents as possible at the following events

<b>6 Dec</b>	<b>Swanmore Tea Dance, 6:30 - 7:45pm</b>
<b>8, 9 &amp; 10 Dec</b>	<b>Alice The Musical</b>
<b>15 Dec</b>	<b>Swanmore Community Christmas Celebration, St Barnabas Church</b>
<b>16 Dec</b>	<b>Attenborough Fashion Show (in aid of Stepping Stones Nigeria)</b>

**With all good wishes for the festive season**

## 'Emergency closures'

In the event of an emergency closure the college will publish details on the website [www.swanmore-school.co.uk](http://www.swanmore-school.co.uk) and VLE and the closure will also appear on the Hampshire County Council website page for school closures <http://www.hants.gov.uk/schoolclosures>.

Parents who have registered to receive information from ParentMail will receive notification by email and also by text if mobile phone details have been provided.