



## Swanley Link is open for business - and you're all invited to come along!



As newly re-opened community gateway 'Swanley Link' gets back into the swing of things after nearly a year of renovations, you just have to walk through the front door to see that they have well and truly hit the ground running!

The transformation of this impressive centre has revitalised the community and now enables visitors to access a whole range of important and useful community services, all under one roof.

Over the last few weeks Burning2Learn has been working with young reporter, Tegan, who was keen to improve her reading and writing at the start of the summer holidays. We took her to see the new library within the Link last week, and in the short time between then and now she has racked up her reading tally to an astonishing four books in 8 days.

This week, Burning2Learn went back to the Link to help Tegan practice her communications skills and to find out more about what's going on in our community.

Community Development Librarian, Janet Davies sat down with the Burning2Learn team and spoke about all of the exciting things happening within the Swanley Link. Tegan was shocked to discover that the Link is also home to a Post Office, a cafe, West Kent extra and several other community service providers. Mrs Davies spoke of the importance of sharing resources and working together within the community:

*"My job involves making sure that people realise that there's lots of important stuff for them to access."*

Mrs Davies explained that she works with a variety of people within the community from a range of standpoints, to include; adults with learning difficulties, foster children, young people who are home schooled and some of the homeless.

*"I can't think of anything else I'd rather do, I always liked the idea of being able to help people, I didn't really want to work in an office and I liked books."*

Mrs Davies went on to explain that whilst there are an impressive 20,000 books in this library, there is a total of 2.2 million books in the 99 libraries across Kent - any number of which are free to send over to the Swanley Link.

Tegan was amazed at the number of books that were available for her to read and said that she thinks the library is 'inspiring'. So much so that she is also taking part in the library's Summer Reading Challenge.

*"Every year about 15,000 people in Kent read 6 books over the summer holidays. On our first day alone we had 70 children take part in the challenge and once they have finished their six books they will each get a medal!"*

The challenge is aimed at primary school children and encourages them to continue reading and learning through the school holidays in a fun and engaging way. In some libraries young people even volunteer to help the children with their challenge and to keep them motivated through the summer!

So if you haven't already been in to have a look it is well worth a trip to the Swanley Link to discover all of the things it can do for you. Or you can access their online resources, where you'll find support with CV Writing, Health information, Newspapers, Ancestry subscriptions and many more interesting services. And for those of you without a computer at home, it won't be long before you can try out the computers at the Swanley Link which are set to be up and running by the end of August!