



DAVENANT FOUNDATION SCHOOL
Chester Road, Loughton, Essex IG10 2LD

www.davenantschool.co.uk

Newsletter No. 4

4th December 2009

We were very pleased to welcome forty five representatives of local businesses to a Business Breakfast last week. An early start (7.30 a.m.) seemed to be no problem either for the business people or for the sixth form Business Ambassadors who organised the hosting arrangements, looked after the car parking and gave presentations about the school and about how we actively work with companies for, what we believe, is mutual benefit.

This event came at the end of a month that was very busy for those involved with employer links. Enterprise Week had seen special assemblies (delivered by the Business Ambassadors) that focused on the responsibilities of being a successful entrepreneur. Social responsibility, philanthropy and the imperative of making the most of the talents and gifts that God gives us were key themes from these assemblies. Also, during that week, we held our annual Enterprise Competitions where House teams competed to come up with the best idea for a new product. At the end of a long day, the teams presented to a panel including myself, a governor and two other local business people. The students were grilled about their ideas-not least about how their sums did (or did not!) seem to add up.

All of this activity links in with our Careers Education and Guidance work. Mrs Ball organises a full and well respected C.E.G. programme with taught units in all Key Stages and much individual support for students-especially from Year 11 upwards. Indeed, congratulations should go to Mrs Ball, Mrs Arben and other staff for the re-awarding of the C.E.G. quality mark (Recognition of Quality Award in Careers Education). The presentation at Chelmsford took place the evening before the Business Breakfast.

All of this is part of Davenant's work in ensuring we are an "outward facing school" that prepares students for a successful and fulfilling life in the adult world. We see these activities as just part of an education that emphasises both the skills they will require and the values that they will need to call upon when they take on the responsibilities of employment.

The Davenant Business Partners Programme is run by Mr Parker and provides members with opportunities to support the school in a variety of ways. For more information about being part of this project, please contact Mr Parker through the school's e-mail on davidp@davenant.com or look at our web site.

Chris Seward
Headteacher

P.S. Congratulations to the winning team in the House Enterprise Competition. Valley House were represented by **Liam Sanderson, George Lawless, Alex Farmikidis, Emily Benham Whyte, Daniel Lee and Lewis Wilkie**. Their new product was a healthy, organic drink.

KGORATHUTO HIGH SCHOOL



Our group of sixth formers returned safely after their journey to South Africa last month. The team worked hard during their stay to paint eight classrooms, mend some roofs and create a mural on a previously flaking wall. For those of us back at school, the highlight was the live link to our Key Stage 3 assembly when Mr Taylor and Mr Doherty arranged for a group of the Kgorathuto students to sing us the South African National Anthem with its uplifting words of freedom and unity. Hopefully many of our younger students would have felt interested and inspired to follow in the sixth formers footsteps in years to come.

One of the students, Chris Turner, took the trouble to write a lengthy piece about his reactions to being part of the visit. He wrote **“What was most humbling about the whole experience was the attitude of the South African people we met. I’ve never felt so welcome anywhere in my life.....I am certainly a changed person and I am now motivated to make something of my life, the opportunities I receive and am likely to continue to receive throughout my life.”**

The full article will soon be on our new-look web site www.davenantschool.co.uk.

Meanwhile, here is another example of how being part of an “outward facing school” can equip students with the skills and the values for adult life.

CONGRATULATIONS

Adam Corrigan-Smith is the English National karate Champion for his weight and age. Adam (14 y.o.) won the gold medal at the event in Sheffield and also brought home a team gold medal.

Also, **Edward Bird** (Year 11) has been selected for the Olympic Performance Team (a squad for top track cyclists in the Under 16 age group). He has been invited to attend a special sports camp at Loughborough University in January by the Youth Sport Trust.

Sonia Green (member of our P.E. Department) captained the England A Rugby Team against New Zealand last month. This match was part of the build up to the Women’s World Cup in England next summer.

**Required as soon as possible
Performing Arts Technician**

- 10 hours per week, term-time only
- Requirement to work extra hours during periods of productions/concerts
- Some evening/weekend work may be necessary
- Salary according to qualifications

For further details and a job description please contact Marylyn Greengrass, Headteacher's P.A. Closing date – Monday, 14th December

Dates for your Diary

December

- 5th : P.A. Christmas Fair
- 18th : End of Term – School finishes at 12.30pm

January

- 4th : Start of Term (Week 1)
- 12th : Home School Links Meeting, 7pm – Library
- 21st : Year 8 Parents Evening, 4-7pm
- 27th : Prayer Meeting, 7pm
- 31st : Closing Date for Sixth Form Applications

PEER MENTORS

In the third of our series on the work of student groups in school, we focus on the sixth form mentoring group. We now run a programme that is very popular with sixth formers and well valued by the younger students who they mentor.

The Sixth Form mentors are trained in relevant skills as well as in the necessary aspects of child protection. Each one is then linked to a student from Key Stage 3 who, in agreement with parents, is thought likely to benefit from weekly meetings with an older student mentor. These meetings take place every Wednesday morning.

Two of the mentors are Denzil and Catriona. Near the end of their first term in this role they can look back with enjoyment and satisfaction. Catriona says that “it is really good to see the confidence of younger students when they are with the mentors-they have really developed their social skills and built up their self esteem.” Meanwhile Denzil says “the training has helped us find ways of approaching situations that we are now coming across. We are confident about dealing with any sensitive issues and know when we should be referring anything to staff. We have learnt skills that will help us in our adult lives”.



OUTREACH

The Christmas Senior Citizens Party took place on 2nd December. Over fifty local residents were able to attend the event which was organised by sixth formers in the Community Church Hall. Entertainment included music, carol singing and readings which were all accompanied by an excellent tea.

Students have supported the annual **shoe box appeal** which, this year, was organised by our chaplain Beth Rushmer. 92 boxes were sent off to the local centre for Operation Christmas Child from where they will be dispatched to Eastern Europe, Africa and Asia.

The Slum Survivor Project that involved a group of sixth formers erecting a shanty town on the grass in front of the school has raised over £3K. The students wish to thank everyone who supported them in any way as well as the generous neighbours who donated metal and sheeting for the temporary construction!

The Davenant Christmas Card will be on sale at the Christmas Fayre on 5th December with proceeds going to a project for the homeless based in Ilford. The plight of the homeless will be a main theme of our Christmas Service at the end of the term.

Students are organising cards to be sent to prisoners of conscience through **Amnesty International**. Staff and students are invited to write a message and pay for the card to be sent to prisoners supported by Amnesty in Mexico, Turkey, Gambia and Nepal.

DEBDEN LANE

Parents in Theydon Bois have been kept informed about our concerns regarding safety in Debden Lane following four serious accidents that have taken place near the school since September.

On 30th November, we met with representatives of the Road Safety Department to discuss what the Essex County Council would be prepared to do about this situation. The meeting was also attended by County Councillor Knapman who supports our concerns.

The outcome of the meeting was that some limited improvements would be made in the New Year. These include better signage and road marking, more clarity on the speed limit of 40 m.p.h. and more regular enforcement of this limit. The officers also intend to put more restrictions on parking so that parents will be unable use the lay-by or the stretch of road at the back of the school for dropping off/picking up at most times (including 8.30 and 3.30). The measures will have little impact on drivers for the majority of the day. In particular, there need to be measures that will reduce speed and ensure enforcement – Councillor Knapman certainly supports a change of speed limit from 40 m.p.h. to, at least, 30 m.p.h. even though it appears that such a change cannot be made without great difficulty.

We will continue to press for improvements and will make our case to politicians as well as to officers of the local authority. Parents are encouraged to make known their views to elected members – particularly at the County Council who are responsible for highways.