



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

---

Newsletter No. 11

19<sup>th</sup> June 2009

Earlier this year we sent out a questionnaire to all parents. The questionnaire covered a range of issues including the curriculum, our pastoral programme and a focus on what parents judged as being important in the children's education. Approximately 50% of parents replied and an analysis was undertaken by a commercial company working on our behalf. This company has much experience of working with parent questionnaires and is able to compare responses and give the school an indication of how well it is doing.

The report concludes that the school has "an excellent overall performance score" with 16% of parents saying that the school has improved in the last year and 6% saying it had got worse (78% felt it had remained the same or didn't know). Comparisons were made with the previous survey in 2006 and it was noted that five academic subjects were thought to have made considerable improvement over that period while no subject was seen to have significantly gone backwards.

A selection of other responses is as follows:

- 79% think that DFS encourages a healthy lifestyle through diet
- 84% think DFS encourages a healthy lifestyle through exercise
- 93% are happy with the school's delivery of a Christian ethos
- 99% have access to internet at home

The quality of teaching and learning was judged as being good in the whole school and outstanding in the sixth form while the quality of curriculum and other activities was outstanding in the whole school and good in the sixth form. The quality of care, guidance and support for learners was perceived as being outstanding throughout the school.

Parental responses confirmed that maintaining the quality of teaching and standards of behaviour remain their priorities. There were mixed responses about the amount of homework set and the extent to which students are pushed hard enough with Year 8 showing the biggest cause for concern.

All of this information is very helpful to us. We will continue to use the report and to analyse the results. I would like to thank all parents who took the time and trouble to participate in this valuable exercise.

Mr Seward.

## THE FUNERAL OF JANE GANT, TEACHER OF MATHEMATICS (1997-2009)

The school closed on the afternoon of 15<sup>th</sup> June to allow staff and students to attend the funeral of Mrs Gant. The service was held at St Mary's, Theydon Bois and was taken by Canon Colin Travers. Bethany Thorndyke, a member of the Sixth Form, sang the beautiful Pie Jesu.

Mrs Gant was held in high esteem by all who recognised her commitment and professionalism as a teacher. However, more importantly, her many friends on the staff recalled a cheerful and loyal companion who somehow managed to balance her roles as teacher, mother and friend.

**We have opened a collection in memory of Mrs Gant which will allow us to present a cheque in her memory to Breakthrough Breast Cancer. Any parent who would like to contribute may do so by visiting the website <http://www.justgiving.com/inmemoryofjanegant> to make a donation.**

## JOHN POWELL M.B.E.

We were delighted to learn that John Powell, Head of Music and Performing Arts, was awarded the title Member of the British Empire in the Queen's Birthday Honours List. This was for his services to education.

Last year, Mr Powell was recognised by the Teachers Awards for his Lifetime Contribution. It is clear that, by any standards, Mr Powell's service to Davenant (since 1971) and to the wider world of education has been outstanding.

We can look forward to some extra loud applause when we all meet for the Summer Concerts in July!

## JACK PETCHEY AWARDS 2009

The Jack Petchey Foundation makes a major contribution to supporting young people especially in London and Essex. For some years the Foundation has organised the **Student Achievement Awards** where individual students are recognised for their contribution in school or in voluntary organisations.

This year's Davenant student winners are listed below. The Foundation gives £250 for each of the students to spend on improving one aspect of the school that they choose. Well done to the following:

Michael Preedy 10T  
Ciarrai Homer 9A  
Zach Cohen 11N  
Jessica Murray 12T  
Caroline Ashby 12E  
Laura Hull 12A  
Tyler Lawrence 12D  
Harry O'Brien 13F  
Rebecca Coburn 8V

Also, the Foundation presents the **Staff Leaders Award**. This year the recipient at Davenant is Mrs Arter, our Librarian. She has worked at Davenant since 1988 and, in the past year, has organised a number of successful projects that have encouraged and captured the imaginations of many of our young readers. We are all delighted for Mrs Arter- another highly deserving winner!

### **JULIA GOLDING CREATIVE WRITING AWARD**

Julia Golding is a former Davenant pupil and a very successful children's writer. She has donated a grant that aims to encourage budding writers through the organising of a competition by the English Department.

The Key Stage 4 Competition was won by Rose Mortimer, she wrote a script set in an old people's home.

The Key Stage 3 Poetry Competition has just been launched-information is available from the English staff.

### **SCHOOL TRIATHLON-4<sup>TH</sup> JULY**

The Parents Association is organising a Family Triathlon and BBQ on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July. This is a fun event open to all parents, students and staff to either participate in one or all three disciplines or just come along to watch and support the participants. Doors open at 3.30pm with the Triathlon starting at 4.30pm. The entry cost is five pounds for adults and three pounds for students. We hope many will come and join in this fun event and day!

### **EVENING PARKING IN LOUGHTON LANE**

Parents need to be aware that a car parked in the rear lay-by was broken into during a recent Awards Evening. We would advise therefore that you park on the school site.

### **DATES FOR THE REST OF THE TERM**

#### **June**

**23:** School Links Working Party

**24:** Year 11 Leavers Service and Prom

**25:** Year 13 Leavers Service

**26:** Year 13 Ball

**26:** A Level Biology Field Trip until **1<sup>st</sup>** July

**26:** New Year 7 Induction Day

**26:** Year 12 School Superfair

**29:** New Year 12 Orientation Day

**30:** Dance show 7.30pm

#### **July**

**1:** Dance Show 7.30pm

**2:** Year 7 Awards evening

**3:** Year 12 Spanish Work Experience until **11<sup>th</sup>** July

**6:** Inset Day- School is closed for students and shall re-open on 7<sup>th</sup> July

**9:** Summer Concert 7.30pm

**10:** Summer Concert 7.30pm

**13:** Summer Concert 7.30pm

**14:** Year 9 Awards evening

**16:** Charity Walk and Activities Day

**17:** End of term- School finishes at 12.30pm

### **August**

**20:** A Level Results

**27:** GCSE Results

### **TERM DATES 2009-10.**

**Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September:** INSET Day  
(Years 12/13 Enrolment and Induction all week – t.b.c.)

**Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September:** Year 7 Induction

**Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September:** Year 7, and Year 10 Induction

**Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September:** All students in school (except Year 11 on work experience)

**Other INSET Days:** 12<sup>th</sup> February  
19<sup>th</sup> March  
+ two twilight days

### **POSITION VACANT- RECEPTIONIST**

37 hours per week, term-time only

Salary pro-rata £15,377

(Local Government Pay Band 2, Scale Point 11, including Inner Fringe)

We are looking for a School Receptionist to present a professional, warm welcome to all visitors and members of the school community and to deal with the daily enquiries which occur in a busy secondary school. Word Processing skills and a good telephone manner are essential. A First Aid certificate will be a requirement for this post although training can be provided.

We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. Those appointed will have CRB checks and be expected to share this commitment.

Further details of the post and the school along with application forms are available from the Headteacher's P.A. Marylyn Greengrass. The closing date is Friday, 26<sup>th</sup> June.

### **Cover Supervisor**

We will be advertising for the post of Cover Supervisor. This role is to cover for teachers who are absent from school. It involves working in the classroom with students and requires good communication skills, the ability to engage with young people, patience and good organisation.

Details will be on our website from Wednesday, 24<sup>th</sup> June