



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

www.davenantschool.co.uk

Newsletter No. 11

25th June 2010

At this particular moment, we seem to be facing in three different directions! We are looking back on the year and celebrating the achievements of our students. We have just held our first Key Stage 3 Sports Awards Evening where parents and students joined together to recognise the efforts of our sportsmen and sportswomen over the past two and a half terms. Particular congratulations go to **Daniel Rowden** who was presented with the award of 'Sports Personality of the Year'. Following that, we are now planning for the main Awards Evenings for Years 7-10 which we hope will be fully attended by parents wanting to support the hard work of their children and of their Year Group.

Very much in the present, however, we are looking forward to a number of important events that will enrich the life of our school before the end of term. These include the Inter House Debating Competition, the Performing Arts Festival within the grounds of Copped Hall in Epping, the Year 7 visit to the Kingswood Centre in Norfolk, Sports Day, Charity Walk and Activities Day and, not least, the Music Tour to Assisi which will take over 190 students. Before these events have taken place, Key Stage 3 students will have completed internal examinations and staff will be preparing grades to be sent home to parents for the end of term.

Meanwhile, looking into the future, senior staff and governors are turning their attention to "the new landscape" of education following the election of the new government. There are dark clouds on the horizon in the shape of likely spending cuts and it is clear that no sector of the public services is going to be immune. There are areas of brightness where schools are able to consider new freedoms that will benefit students and, most likely, make the running of our schools a little easier. Among these are the opportunities to consider a wider range of examination syllabii and a rolling back of the previous government's plans to register all volunteering parents and other volunteers with the newly established Independent Safeguarding Authority.

In the middle ground, surrounded with a little grey mist, lies another important feature. **The government has given a great deal of time to promoting the idea of schools becoming academies.** The philosophy is that these schools will be freed up even further from central administration and be able to develop their own curriculum and manage their own affairs without any reliance upon Local Authorities. Crucially, these schools will receive an amount of extra funding which, otherwise, would have been kept back centrally by the L.A's. At a time where budgets are likely to be reduced, this must be a very real consideration for governing bodies who wish to preserve all that is best about their schools in the years ahead.

Our own governors are beginning to address these issues in great detail. I can assure parents that I will be keeping the school community informed of their thinking.

Chris Seward
Headteacher

P.S. The Department for Education is releasing the names of the schools who have expressed interest in becoming an academy. This is likely to be picked up by the media. Davenant will be on that list but no decisions will be taken by governors until the full facts are known and there has been consultation with parents. This will not happen until next term.

NATIONAL SCHOOL SPORTS WEEK

In recent years the National School Sports Week (sponsored by Lloyds TSB) has become an occasion when schools arrange a number of events which aim to attract young people to participate in sport both within school and in local clubs. At Davenant, we have always arranged a good programme and this year is no different!

The week of 28th June sees special events at Davenant such as an Aquathlon and inter-house competitions, with tug of war and a 'cross bar challenge' at lunchtimes. Also, within the West Essex School Sport Partnership (co-ordinated from Davenant by our Partnership Development Manager, Julia Gardiner, and supported by a team of Link Teachers across other Epping Forest secondary and primary schools) there is also a planned programme that includes a major primary schools football festival.

To give profile to the impact of our Sports Partnership and to emphasise the achievements of the national programme, we have invited our M.P. Eleanor Laing who will visit the Partnership on Tuesday, 29th June and will meet staff and students.

There has been recent press speculation that funding for school sport will be reduced as part of the government's financial strategy. We hope that this important week will help make a strong case for why programmes should be preserved.



DEBDEN LANE

We are very pleased to learn that a proposal to reduce the speed limit along Debden Lane to 30m.p.h. is being taken for approval at the County Council. We expect that to be passed by the end of June and we understand that funding would be released accordingly.

We thank those parents who worked with the school to bring about this change and we also should thank Councillor John Knapman who has given his full and active support.

COMPUTER BASED LEARNING-THE V.L.E. **(OTHERWISE KNOWN AS FRONTER)**

An evening for parents was organised so that the use of our Virtual Learning Environment (Fronter) could be explained by Ms Theron from the ICT Department. Over one hundred parents attended and were given a presentation that is available to everyone through the web-site www.davenantschool.co.uk.

Among the issues that were raised by parents were access to the V.L.E. for the partially sighted, access to the V.L.E. for parents, the use of the V.L.E. by different departments (for a number of reasons some are much more advanced than others) and the difficulties faced by a very small minority of students without internet access.

The further development of Fronter is a main part within the school's Development Plan for 2010-2011.

JACK PETCHEY AWARD WINNERS

This year's Jack Petchey Awards were presented to winners in all the Epping Forest schools at a special event at Waltham Abbey Town Hall. Students who were recognised for their commitment, service and special contribution to the school during the past year were as follows: **Jonathan Huff, Dominic Jomaa, Stephanie Tribe, Marius Vermaak, Hannah Liebeschuetz, Ellen Tysterman, Laura Couldrey, Loren Tkouskis, Chris Turner and Tony Dawkins.**

In addition, the Leaders Award for an adult member of the school community was presented to **Pam Bollen of the Davenant School Parents Association.** Pam has led the DSPA for ten years and has co-ordinated numerous events that have raised money and brought the school community together on many happy occasions. Well done Pam - we are all delighted for you!

COPPED HALL CONCERT

Our Festival of Music, Dance and Drama at Copped Hall is fast approaching. Over 300 Davenant students will be performing at this event so please come along to support them. Saturday 10th July 2010, gates will open at 3.00pm. There are still a few tickets available at a cost of £15 each. Parentpay is the preferred method of payment, or cheque made payable to DFS Arts Fund.

The festival will open with our Drummers followed by performances from the School Choir, School Band, School Orchestra, Years 9 – 13 Girls Choir, 'Swing' Band, 6th Form Choir, as well as dances from Years 9 to 13. The Drama Department will show you the best of the Year 9 Drama Guild Play Competition and our electric guitarists, sound and lighting crew will provide a dynamic finale against the backdrop of the beautiful Copped Hall Mansion.

TAXI SHARE - CLAYHALL, BARKINGSIDE, CHIGWELL ROW etc

There are vacancies within a taxi share scheme which currently runs from the above areas and also covers Hainault and Chigwell. This is a long established service and offers **door to door transport to and from school.** Contact Russell on 07956603125.

STAFF VACANCIES

We currently have three vacancies for September details of which can be found on the school web-site www.davenantschool.co.uk

- **Spanish Language Assistant**
- **Science Technician**
- **Male Teaching Assistant**

Dates for your Diary

July

- 1st : Year 8 Awards Evening
- 3rd : Henry Taylor Uniform Sale ~ 11.30am - 1.30pm
- 5th : Year 12 Orientation Day
- 10th : Copped Hall Festival
- 12th : Sports Day
- 13th : Year 9 Awards Evening
- 16th : School Charity Walk
- 19th : Focus Day
- 20th : School Year ends with a 12.30pm finish

Results Dates for August 2010

A Level- Thursday 19th August 2010
GCSE - Tuesday 24th August 2010

2010/2011 TERM DATES

Autumn Term: Wednesday 1st September - Friday 17th December 2010

Year 11 Work Experience : Tuesday 31st August – Friday 10th September 2010

Wed 1st Sept - INSET Day: School closed

Thurs 2nd Sept - Years 7 & 12 Only

Fri 3rd Sept - Years 7 & 10

- Year 12 - Peer Mentoring Training

- Year 13 Enrolment

Mon 6th Sept - Years 7 - 10, Years 12 & 13

Half Term: 25th - 29th October 2010

Mon 1st Nov - INSET Day: School closed

Spring Term: Tuesday 4th January - Friday 8th April 2011

Fri 18th Feb - INSET Day : School closed

Half Term: 21st - 25th February 2011

Summer Term: Tuesday 26th April - Friday 22nd July 2011

Tues 26th April - INSET Day: School closed

Mon 2nd May - Bank Holiday: School closed

Half Term: 30th May - 3rd June 2011

Wed 6th July - INSET Day: School closed