



Newsletter No. 5

19th December 2008

We have just finished the Upper School production of Sister Act 2. This was an ambitious project that really pushed the boundaries of what is expected from a school musical. Audiences were comfortably seated on especially hired, raked seating and the quality of sound and lighting was excellent.

However, it was the fantastic cast that was the essential element to the show's success. Singing, dancing and acting were all so good that audience members with little or no connection to the school were "blown away" with what they witnessed. Rehearsals had been taking place for many weeks but it was in the last five days that students truly mastered the demands of the script.

The staff team have finished the production understandably exhausted. The technical team was at school until 1.30 am one night before the show opened and everyone put in long hours. However, once again it is proof of what complete commitment and partnership between staff and students will achieve. This was another highlight in the illustrious history of the Performing Arts at Davenant!

The end of term means we say farewell to valued members of staff. We thank Mrs Thorpe (English Department), Mrs Le Chevalier (Science Technician for 23 years) and Mr Hayne (Sports Partnership Development Manager) for their important contribution to the school's success. We wish them well and feel sure they can look back on their time at Davenant with great satisfaction and fondness.

Finally, on behalf of all the staff and students at the school, I wish all parents and friends of the school a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

C.J.Seward

A VISION FOR ICT

We all know that the world of Information and Communication Technology is changing fast. We are continually updating our resources and equipment and, this term, with new staff in place we have begun to take a serious look at our long term plans.

A group of staff have begun to draw up some outline strategies and will continue to work hard on this over the rest of the academic year. They have come up with a simple Vision Statement that seems to cover what the school aspires to.

ICT at Davenant will enrich teaching and learning, enable achievement and prepare students and staff for an ever changing world.

Full consultation with staff, students and governors will take place next term but any comments from parents either about this statement or about the school's future provision would be very welcome. E mail reception@davenant.com with a heading ICT at Davenant.

DAVENANT AWARDED SPORTSMARK !

The school has been re-awarded **Sportsmark** as recognition of the overall commitment to sport that the school makes. In addition, the West Essex School Sport Partnership, based at Davenant, has been awarded the prestigious **Sports Partnership Award** which recognises the commitment to sport of the 41 primary, special and secondary schools within our area.

This is a great achievement and one that reflects very well on those who staff and participate in the work of the Sports College. It is incredibly difficult to maintain the breadth of sporting provision that is so evident at Davenant and in our Partnership schools. Occasionally students and parents comment that a particular activity is not so well supported but, overall, the provision is something that deserves the recognition it gets from nationally respected quality marks.

GIRLS NETBALL TOUR QUIZ NIGHT

A massive thank you to all who supported last month's quiz night. A total of just over 600 pounds was raised for the netball tour to Malta in 2009.

PARTIES FOR THE YOUNG AND THE OLD

The annual Christmas parties for toddlers and the Senior Citizens were arranged by Year 10 and Sixth Form students at the end of term. These were very enjoyable and we received some heart-warming messages of thanks from a number of the senior citizens who attended.

CHRISTMAS CARD-CHINESE STYLE

Congratulations to our Mandarin teacher Qian Yun who is on a one year placement from Suzhou, China. Her seasonal card was a successful entrant in the Loughton Town Council Christmas Card Competition this year. Her design was on the theme of goodwill between the nations.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

A feature of the end of term was the three Christmas services arranged for the different Key Stages. Led by staff and students, they offered an appropriate mix of reflection and celebration of the Christmas message.

RECYCLING FOR NEW YEAR

Please can parents to bring in any recyclable textiles in the New Year for our recycling clothes and shoes bank. We will earn £50 every time we fill the bank. Clothes and shoes should be brought in separate plastic bags. This is to be a New Year Healthy Schools initiative and we will be grateful for parental support.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT START OF TERM-5TH JANUARY

Term will start for students at 11.00am on 5th January. This will enable staff to complete important meetings and training before students arrive for the new term.