



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

www.davenantschool.co.uk

Newsletter No. 6

5th February 2010

We have completed our interviews with Year 11 students where we review the outcome of their Mock Examinations and discuss their plans for post 16 education. Many of the students have applied for places in the sixth form and we have also received a large number of applications from students currently in other schools. The Year 11 Parents Evening on 3rd February was a very successful occasion and we have been very pleased with the positive approach that has been taken by nearly all the Year 11's regarding their Mocks and the preparation for the summer examinations.

Meanwhile Year 9 students have also been discussing their future options with the return of their option forms to the school by Friday 12th March. A good number of students and parents attended the Careers Fair at Epping Forest College at the end of January and they took away ideas and printed material from a range of exhibitors (**n.b. any feedback on the event would be appreciated by our Careers Co-ordinator Mrs Ball either by letter or e-mail via reception@davenant.com.**)

The Careers Fair was organised jointly by the Epping Forest schools along with the College and is a good example of the joint working that is going on within the area to raise the standards and broaden the opportunities for students in the 14-19 age group. My fellow Headteachers are absolutely determined that the process should be successful and we are working with the College Principal so that students will feel confident about progressing on to the College if they wish to do so.

All young people up to the age of 17 will be expected to stay in education or training from 2013 (age 18 by 2015). While nearly all Davenant students would normally do this, it is important that ALL STUDENTS (including the most vulnerable) are provided for. A range of new courses (e.g. diplomas) is being introduced across Key Stages 4 and 5 and it is important that the quality of our Careers Advice and Guidance is good enough to ensure each individual student is able to progress successfully through their secondary education.

The professional development of our staff is a key part of ensuring that we provide the best service to students. I recently attended a very successful conference organised by the Prince's Trust Teaching Institute. Headteachers of many of the country's leading schools were present (both from the state and independent sectors) and we considered the vital contribution that the traditional curricular subjects should continue to make to the learning experience of young people even when there is such a drive towards more vocational programmes. Getting the balance right and tailoring your school's provision to the needs of your particular students is a real challenge and a key priority.

The Prince's Institute offers some inspirational INSET for teachers and, as a result of this conference, we can provide individual teachers with opportunities to attend courses such as a day spent with the Royal Shakespeare Company studying Hamlet and a visit with a leading astronomer to the Greenwich Royal Observatory. This can only be a good thing for our students who will benefit from motivated teachers inspired by cutting edge development programmes.

Chris Seward
Headteacher

HEALTHY SCHOOLS



Our Newsletters have been featuring articles about the contribution that students are making to the development of the school. This work is, of course, both important for the school but also gives a great learning opportunity for all the students.

We have been part of the Healthy Schools movement for a number of years. It has grown considerably and has become a really important driver for initiatives such as healthy eating, fitness and exercise, high quality P.S.H.E. and the developing awareness of issues around sustainability.

The Davenant Healthy Schools Group was established at the outset by Mrs Lamb who is a passionate advocate for its aims and objectives. The current student leadership falls to Loren Ttakoushis (Year 12) and Michael Preedy (Year 11). There are special groups for different aspects of the work such as catering, water resources and recycling. Students are now starting to find out about Eco-Schools (see the web-site www.eco-schools.org.uk.)

Loren has been involved since Year 7. She says “everyone is very positive and we have learnt a lot. Healthy Schools is a place where everyone is welcome, nobody is rejected and everyone can have a voice” Meanwhile, Michael emphasises that “students can really make a difference-the school wants students to contribute to the future of the school”. Both Loren and Michael emphasise that Mrs Lamb “is great” and that she has done so much to lead the school forward in this work.

DEBDEN LANE

Since the start of the term, I have written letters to elected members at the County and District Councils about safety measures that, we believe, are required on Debden Lane. There have now been six accidents on the stretch of road directly at the back of the school since the start of the academic year last September. Loughton Town Council is very aware of this safety issue and I have communicated with Councillor Pond who is actively pursuing the matter.

If satisfactory replies are not received by half term, I will need to take the matter to the local press. In the meantime, parents can put their concerns in writing to County Councillor Hume-please copy me into any correspondence.

C.J.S.

MOLENET

Anti-Discrimination and I-Phones

Twenty students from Year 11 and 12 at Davenant have joined forces with Epping Forest College and West Hatch School in order to raise awareness about discrimination. The project has been funded by a company called Molenet, whose objective is to promote the use of mobile technologies within schools. Each of the students involved in the project has received an Iphone or a Fizzbook Spin, a mini laptop/pda, for the duration of the project. These devices will be used to create digital content about discrimination and for students to communicate with one another.

In the month since the project has begun, students have collaborated both online and face to face to discuss their approach to the project. The students from Davenant will be the communication hub, producing a monthly newsletter along with a website to promote findings. They will also be creating digital resources about this important topic, including songs, poems, images, videos and more.

On the evening of Friday, 15th January, students went to Epping Forest College in order to receive training about Discrimination and meet the other students involved. The sense of purpose amongst the students to raise awareness of this important topic in the school community and beyond is impressive and we look forward to keeping you up to date with their progress. The website which has been created by Davenant Students for this project can be found at www.dontdiscriminate.net. Content is being added on an ongoing basis.

There will be a final 'Showcasing' Event taking place in July where findings will be presented along with entertainment, all based around Anti-Discrimination. If you are interested in attending please email dontdiscriminate@davenant.com.

RUGBY RECOGNITION

Many congratulations to **Matthew Robinson-Jayes** who has won the England Rugby Football Schools Union Heroes Award. This is given to a person who contributes off the field by their, largely unheralded, support for the game. Mathew is not able to play rugby but has been a loyal servant and of the field support to the school's Year 9 team. His reward includes two tickets for the England v Wales game at Twickenham-well done Mathew!

Also, once again, **Sonia Green (P.E.Department)** has been given the captaincy of the England A team for the Spring Internationals season. She remains part of the squad that is working towards the Women's World Cup that takes place in London this summer.

BADMINTON SUCCESS

Well done to our badminton players who won all their groups in the recent Essex Top Schools event. The girls from Years 7, 8 and 9 did outstandingly well as they had only recently been together as a team. The following students took part under the watchful eye of Mrs Perry.

TIMES BOOKS FOR SCHOOLS TOKENS

Thank you to the many parents who have helped us order an extra 52 books for the school's Library. Your diligent saving really makes a difference!

Dates for your Diary

February

6th : Band for a Grand fund raising event, 7.30pm

11th : FOCUS DAY

12th : Inset Day – School Closed

HALF TERM: Monday 15th – Friday 19th February

24th & 25th : Dance Show, 7.30pm

March

2nd : Home School Links Working Party, 7.00pm

Results Dates for August 2010

A Level - Thursday 19th August 2010

GCSE - Tuesday 24th August 2010