



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

[www.davenantschool.co.uk](http://www.davenantschool.co.uk)

Newsletter No. 7

5<sup>th</sup> March 2010

It felt like quite an achievement to receive the news that Davenant was the first Essex school (and in the first one hundred nationally) to become part of the London 2012 Get Set Network of schools and other educational institutions. It reflects **the school's commitment to the Olympic and Paralympic values of friendship, respect, determination, courage, equality, excellence and inspiration.**

To be accepted as part of the Network, we had to make a written submission that highlighted the work we are doing to develop these values within the school. This work includes the contribution of our student leaders (both in sport and in other areas of school life), the work we do to encourage Olympic awareness in other schools, our overseas links with schools in India and South Africa which emphasise the importance of co-operation through sport and the regular references made to Olympic and Paralympic values within our assembly programme as well as elsewhere in our taught curriculum.

As a sports college we do our very best to provide a wide range of sporting opportunities. Such opportunities, of course, are limited by resources that are available to us but, nevertheless, we still see sport as both an outlet for excellence as well as a means for participation and development for each young person within the school.

The focus on sports leadership has been widened to other areas of student life. These newsletters have been featuring examples of students who play important roles in the development of the school and whose leadership skills have been greatly developed as a result. Last month we featured the work of the Healthy Schools Group – an area of work that sits very well with the emphasis on fitness and well-being that are core values for us as a sports college.

Recently, I have attended two conferences with sport as the main theme. The 2010 Sports Colleges Conference at Telford featured speakers and workshop sessions on themes of leadership, teamwork and the contribution of the individual within the team. A key question was asked “How can one person's success be part of someone else's success?” We all recognised the application of that question to **any** team in which we operate - not just a sports team.

Also, at the end of last year, I was fortunate to be invited to a meeting of Headteachers from Roman Catholic schools. We discussed plans for 2012 and reflected on the words of John Paul the Second who often spoke of sport as a means for individuals and societies to “fully renew themselves”.

Davenant has been a sports college for nearly eleven years. It continues to offer us a great deal in areas a long way from the sports hall and the playing fields!

Chris Seward  
Headteacher

## **MEETING WITH SOUTH AFRICAN MINISTER OF SPORT AND RECREATION**

We were invited to meet the South African Government's Minister of Sport and Recreation, Rev Dr Makhenkesi Stofile, who was in London as part of his country's delegation on the State Visit of President Zuma. Mr Seward, Mr Taylor and Mr Doherty were accompanied by four Year 13 students to meet the minister in his suite at the Dorchester Hotel.

The purpose of the meeting was to talk about the contribution that sport can make in a school and to the local community. Dr Stofile was particularly interested to hear about Sports Colleges, the range of work that we undertake and the success of our link with Kgorathuto High School in the Free State.

With one hundred days to go until the World Cup, we also spoke about the prospects for the tournament. It was agreed that a South Africa and England final would be a great occasion-if very unlikely!



## **DANCE PRODUCTIONS**

Congratulations go to the students who participated in the February Dance production over two nights in the School Hall. This was a great effort by the students who had practised since September to be ready for the event.

Our Dance Teacher, Julia Vaughan, was particularly pleased. She said "once again, the students came up with a great show with lots of talent and commitment on show to the audiences. We had a shorter programme this time but there was more variety. Now we look forward to performing at the Summer Dance Show and at the Copped Hall Performing Arts Festival."

**FOCUS DAY**  
**Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> February**

Our second Focus Day of the academic year took place immediately before half term. Once again, it proved an excellent day where students found themselves exploring issues and skills that extended their understanding beyond what they find within the normal curriculum.

**HEALTHY SCHOOLS**  
**We Need Contacts in Health and Well-Being!**

Do you work in the health services? Do you have a professional background in the promotion or provision of good health? Would you be able to contribute to Davenant's Healthy Schools Programme?

We are looking to extend the number of parents and other contacts who can provide resources and give talks to students on aspects of health and well-being. We have been very fortunate to have had parents who have supported this work in recent years but we now need to refresh our pool of contributors!

Please contact Mrs Lamb either by telephone (02085080404) or via e-mail ([reception@davenant.com](mailto:reception@davenant.com)).

**FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT**  
**The Students' Contribution**

We are at the end of Fairtrade Fortnight. Churches, societies and, even, whole towns have been involved and Davenant has had its own programme of events.

Apart from a week of assemblies on the theme, our Fairtrade Group has been promoting the national SWAP campaign where we are encouraged to swap our normal purchases for those which are fairly traded. In addition, the fortnight was an appropriate time to install a brand new Fairtrade Vending Machine within the Sixth Form Centre dispensing a variety of fairly traded hot drinks.

Our Fairtrade Group has been led by Year 13 students Eleanor Redpath, Rebecca Pople and Stephanie Tribe. They have worked very hard to encourage the school community to see the importance of promoting Fairtrade and have spoken both to student groups and to meetings of staff about what can be done.

Eleanor says "we believe Fairtrade is not about charity but about justice - that is our key message." Stephanie says that she has really learnt a lot about how to campaign for an important issue and the hard work that it takes to "really make a difference". Meanwhile Rebecca says that they all feel that there is now a very good understanding of this global issue within the school.

**YEAR 7 ~ MyStickers**

Well done to **Daniel Rowden** who was awarded the top number of MySticker Credits during the November-February period.

### **Would You Like To Help Us Organise The History of Davenant?**

We are looking for someone with a bit of time and interest who could help us archive (i.e. organise) some of the many records and documents that we have which cover the history of the school. If you would like to help us – or if you know someone who would be able to do so - please contact members of staff Sandra Arter or David Moffatt at the school. They are waiting to hear from you!

### **CROSS COUNTRY SUCCESSES**

Congratulations to all the students who took part in the Essex Cross Country Championships in February:

**Serena Espeute, Isobel Bedeau, Katie Gant, Daniel Rowden, Aran Hayday, James Ilines, Harry Drew, Ronan Homer, James Varda, Carn Kargotis-Read, Katie Whiffin and Sinead Sheehy.**

### **IMPORTANT NOTICE DRIVING INTO THE SCHOOL GROUNDS**

**Parents are respectfully asked NOT to drive into the school grounds at the beginning and end of the school day.**

This is continuing to be a very hazardous time for both staff and pupils.

We ask that students be dropped off or collected approximately 100m or more away from the front gate and that consideration should be given to local residents when driving or stopping within the proximity of the school.

### **VACANCY ~ ICT TECHNICIAN**

We are looking to appoint an ICT Technician with relevant experience.

Details on our website [www.davenantschool.co.uk](http://www.davenantschool.co.uk)  
or contact Marylyn Greengrass (Headteacher's P.A.)

### **Dates for your Diary**

#### **March**

- 9<sup>th</sup> : Year 11 Preparation for GCSE's Evening, 7.30pm ~ Main Hall
- 11<sup>th</sup> : Year 10 Parents Evening, 4-7pm
- 17<sup>th</sup> : Prayer Meeting, 7pm ~ Main School Library
- 25<sup>th</sup> : Year 7 Parents Evening, 4-7pm

#### **April**

- 1<sup>st</sup> : End of Term