

TWICKENHAM Talk

Dear Parents, Students and Colleagues

Academy life has many highlights but also presents challenges at times. We had problems with our ICT system this week, emphasising how reliant we now are on computers in the Academy. I was very grateful to all our students and staff who were patient and adapted to lessons relying less on new technologies. The good news is that we have already bought the servers we will be installing in the new Academy and were planning to start the process of setting these up and testing them in the old building before we move into the new Academy. We just have to keep the old servers running for a few more weeks, during which time we will also appoint a commercial partner who will deliver the ICT services in all three LST academies over the next couple of years. A big thank you to Wai and Graham, our ICT technical team, who worked extremely hard to get the system up and running again. We hope that we didn't lose any e-mails and that we've replied to everyone but I would be grateful if you could message us again if you think we have missed an e-mail from you.

We faced challenges with the weather as well this week. Although the snow was short lived, the low temperatures meant that our building contractors couldn't pour concrete. The special concrete mixture they are using can be poured at fairly low temperatures but it has to be above two degrees centigrade for the 'pour' to take place. On the other side of the coin this week was the scheduled meeting where we started thinking about how we will move from the old building to the new one. Anyone who has moved house knows the degree of organisation required, so I'm sure you can imagine the planning required in this case. Starting early and creating a really detailed plan will help the move to be smooth and uneventful. Students and staff both contributed to discussions on the colours we will use in the new school this week. I think the suggestions presented by the architects are really imaginative and will create a subtle but uplifting building. The use of colour in a building is really important so I have been keen that we spend some time talking to students and staff to come up with something special. We hope that a member of the architect's team will come and present the colour strategy at the upcoming Parents Forum, so please put 28th February at 7.00 pm in your diary. We have a lively agenda and lots to talk about.

The international dimension of Academy life shone through this week. Two more members of staff were able to spend a couple of days in one of our Swedish schools. They came back enthused by what they had seen and even better equipped to implement the learning approaches that are now making a real difference. We also welcomed some very special visitors from Uganda on Wednesday. Members of the Watoto Choir have all lost one or both parents but they refused to let this prevent them from providing magical entertainment, with exquisite singing and dancing. Year 7 and 8 students were joined by pupils from Heathfield and Bishop Perrin Primary schools. A number of our students bravely took to the stage, trying out some of the dance steps. This was followed by an opportunity to ask questions and find out about life in Uganda. I was very proud of all our students who were a wonderful audience. When asked if they had any questions one student said 'Can I give you a hug!'. I'm certain that every student would have gone up on stage if there had been time. The simple embraces that followed expressed both the compassion and gratitude. Compassion for a group of young people who had clearly come through very challenging times in their lives and gratitude to them for sharing their skills, talents and experiences with us. An uplifting and thought provoking experience!

I was lucky enough to travel to Africa for the first time last year – a memorable visit to an inspiring continent. It was great to be able to thank the Watoto Choir for bringing a taste of Africa to Twickenham. A big thank you to Christine Kirk for setting up the event.

Nick Jones, Principal

www.twickenhamacademy.org.uk



WATOTO UGANDAN CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Further to Nick Jones' account please see a photograph above of the heart-warming performance by the Watoto Children's Choir from Uganda. Each of the children in the choir had suffered the loss of their parents either through war or disease and their experience to travel with the choir gives the children exposure to other cultures, broadening their worldview. It also gives them confidence and boldness and helps them rise up out of their own situations of sadness and despair. The goal of the choir is raise awareness about the plight of the orphaned and vulnerable children of Africa. Issues such as poverty, HIV/AIDS, the effects of war and the child soldier crisis in Northern Ugandan are highlighted. We hope that they will visit us again in the future.

TERM DATES 2012/13

Autumn Term 2012

Friday 7 September 2012- YEAR 7 ONLY

Monday 10 September 2012 - ALL YEARS

Half Term

Monday 29 October - Friday 2 November 2012

End of Term

Thursday 20 December 2012

Spring Term 2013

Tuesday 8 January 2013

Half Term

Monday 18 - Friday 22 February 2013

End of Term

Friday 22 March - YEARS 7,8,9 ONLY

Thursday 28 March - YEARS 10 & 11

Summer Term 2013

Tuesday 16 April 2013 - Term begins

Half Term

Monday 27 May - Friday 31 May 2013

End of Term

Tuesday 23 July 2013

STAFF TRAINING DAYS

Wednesday 5 September 2012

Thursday 6 September 2012

Monday 7 January 2013

Monday 15 April 2013

Friday 5 July 2013

N.B. INSET days are subject to change

BREAKFAST AT TWICKENHAM ACADEMY

The kitchen will be offering a breakfast service for all students and staff after half term. Breakfast will be available to purchase from 8am to 8.30am daily.

INVITATION FOR YEAR 8 PARENTS

Parents of Year 8 students are invited to the launch of the 21st Century Legacy Project

Monday 27th February 2012

8:45- 9:45am - The Hall

For further information please contact Ms Boyle.

YEAR 9 - TRIP TO SWEDEN

The Year 9 students have the opportunity to go on a four day trip to Gambley in Sweden from the 13th to 16th June 2012 to take part in workshops of a range of practical studies for technology.

The trip is a fantastic opportunity for students to be introduced to the Learning Schools Trust methods in advance of their GCSE courses in Year 10.

Anybody interested should speak to Mrs Halpenny as soon as possible as places are based on first come first served.

MIGRATIONS EXHIBITION AT THE TATE MODERN

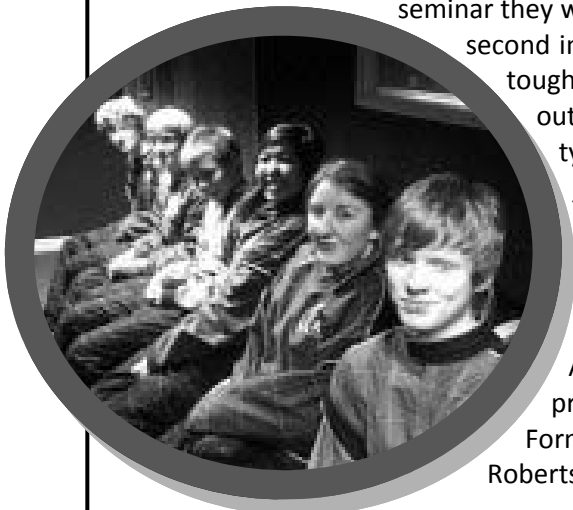
Last week Year 10 and Year 11 Art and Design students visited Tate Britain for the Migrations exhibition. On what was a very cold and icy day the students travelled by train to Vauxhall and walked across Vauxhall bridge and along the Embankment to the Art Gallery. The students thoroughly enjoyed the interesting and inspiring work from British artists throughout history and the Migrations Exhibition showed how travel and immigration has affected art work in the UK.



YEAR 11's GO FORMULA ONE

A selection of students were given the fantastic opportunity to compete in a Formula 1 Go Karting competition held at Heathrow. This was a treat for their superb behaviour, effort and achievement throughout school and an opportunity to get away from their studies for a few hours. Students attended the Go Karting facilities for their training session in preparation for the competition to be held on 9th February. A number of schools across Middlesex have joined the competition to claim King or Queen of the track.

When we first arrived students were able to watch how the professionals do it, and after a health and safety seminar they were set loose on the track. Jens showed his hidden talents and finished second in his practice heat. Others needed a few more laps to get used to the tough steering and tight corners, one to mention would be Clare's outstanding turn and crash that landed her cart deep into the barrier of tyres. This did not stop her determination to conquer the skills and jumped straight back into the cart to give it another go.



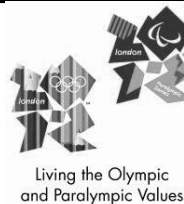
These students are a few of the many who work hard and on route to achieve great things. It was a pleasure for the PE staff to take them, their behaviour and efforts showed what a true credit they are to the Academy. Their performances were impressive and showed good promise for the next round. These new formula 1 Go Karter's are Jens Formesyn, Clare Chamberlain, Rhea Charan, Richard Shelley, George Roberts and Robert Lefever.

LONDON 2012 OLYMPIC GAMES Weeks to Go : 24

Fact of the week:

The fastest time experts calculate that it is humanly possible to sprint the 100 metres- 9.20seconds!

And it will be 2037 before experts predict we can reach this time.



SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM

Heathfield Team Whitton and Heathfield SNT
Queens House
2 Holy Road
Twickenham TW1 4EG
Email: Heathfield.snt@met.police.uk
Phone: 020 8161 9484
Ward Mobile 020 8721 2913

JOB OPPORTUNITY

CATERING ASSISTANT

Catering Assistant required to join the team in the kitchen
20 hours/week
4 a day (9am to 1pm)
Please contact Hazel Westbury on
0208894 4365 or 07811178578



RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION

Twickenham Academy is a member of the RFU Education Partnership

YEAR 9 INTERNAL EXAMS

Monday 20 February – Friday 24 February 2012

	Period 1 8.45 – 9.35	Period 2 9.35 – 10.25	Period 3 10.25 – 11.30	Period 4 11.30 – 12.20	Period 5 13.00 – 13.50	Period 6 13.50 – 14.40
Monday 20 February	French Speaking Gateway					
			French / Spanish Speaking Gateway			
Tuesday 21 February	French Speaking Gateway					
Wednesday 22 February	French Speaking Gateway					
Thursday 23 February	Geography Dome		RE Dome		French / Spanish [Read/Write] Dome	
Friday 24 February	French [Listen] Hall	Spanish [Listen] Hall				

EXTREME WEATHER CONDITIONS

In the event of extreme weather conditions we will always endeavour to keep the Academy open. Closure would only be on Health and Safety grounds. This could be because we were unable to staff the Academy at an acceptable level or the playground and/or buildings became unsafe.

How to check whether the Academy is open:

- Please check the website for regular updates www.twickenhamacademy.org.uk
- Please ensure the Academy has your correct email address on our system enabling us to send an email message to you from the Academy.
- Check the OpenCheck website which gives information on all schools in the borough. This can be accessed by telephoning 0208 408 7508 quoting our DFE no. 3186906. This website can also be accessed from the London Borough of Richmond website by going to Education and Learning/Schools/School Status. This site will be updated during the day by the Local Authority.
- A message will also be placed on the school answer phone.



TO REPORT STUDENT ABSENCE TELEPHONE 020 8894 4503 EXT 202