

TWICKENHAM Talk

Dear Parents, Students and Colleagues

The news that Lord Hill, Minister of Education, has approved the opening of a Sixth Form at the Academy is a truly ground-breaking decision. So many decisions in life are made for the wrong reasons but this one, I believe, is grounded in the need to give students in Richmond the same choices available to many other young people across London, namely the opportunity to stay on at a school where they are known, valued and supported – if they choose too! They now have that option!

We have been working on Sixth Form Developments for many months now and with our Ipswich Academy already running post-sixteen courses, there are a significant number of these available for students to see on our Learning Portal. We did not wait for the decision to come before starting staff training and the development of other courses, so they are already well under way and staff are really excited by the prospect of introducing them to our students.

There are many educational and operational reasons why a school with a sixth form is of benefit. For students, it is possible for them to see progression through their studies from GCSE on to A level and BTEC courses. Some students may well progress more quickly and, rather than holding them back, it will now be possible for them to push ahead with their studies towards the next level. Our unique approach to learning, as it grows and develops and with the move to the new building, will support this approach.

There will be benefits for staff as well. I started my teaching career in an 11-16 school but moved on for an opportunity in a school where I could also teach A-level. This is not uncommon, with teachers wanting to expand their experiences and develop a career plan where they have taught the full secondary age range. Over time, we will be able to offer this opportunity to our staff and I am sure that this will help us to retain the many bright and gifted teachers we have at the Academy, securing high quality learning throughout the school.

I also know that the impact of having higher level studies going on in the Academy will be beneficial as well. Seeing A-level and level 3 BTEC quality work around the Academy, in a wide range of subject areas, will help to raise the bar for our younger students. They will be able to see for themselves the enjoyment and challenge of studying a whole range of subjects at the next level.

It seemed fitting that the sixth form announcement came on the day when we introduced the options process to our Year 9 students. I mentioned last night that I always look forward to this evening. It is the point in their education where students can start to make some significant choices and often begin to think about their future lives. Some students have a very clear view of what they would like to do, while others are not yet certain and need to keep their options open. This mix is quite normal and we are used to providing advice and support in both situations. Last night was the first time in the history of the school that we were able to think about GCSE choices and know that we could frame any decisions that are made in the context of being able to think how a future move to advanced studies could now happen within the Academy. This is a significant milestone.

Could I thank all the Year 9 students and the many parents who attended last night and also the staff who supported the event.

Nick Jones, Principal

www.twickenhamacademy.org.uk

DUKE OF EDINBURGH BRONZE AWARD CEREMONY

This week saw a momentous assembly at Twickenham Academy as we presented the 2011/12 Bronze participants their awards. Our successful students have completed their physical, skill and volunteering sections of at least three months each and in one section six months. They have also completed their expedition. This is a two day, one night walk of 7 miles a day carrying all their own kit, not quite the kitchen sink but their tent, sleeping bag, change of clothes, food and tranger cooker. Although the expedition is only a quarter of the award it is the part where memories are made and teams are built.



Parents were invited to the assembly and proudly looked on as all 27 students received their award. Congratulations to Emma Legge, Hannah Fern, Clare Chamberlain, Liam Faulkner, Rhea Charan, Jessie Au, Megan Spink, Ella Marsahll, Sophie Cowderoy, James Beal, Michael Anderson, Max Goldie, Jens Formesyn, Tom Foster, Marcus Haggman, Tom Kearns, George Roberts, Vish Arora, Luke Crawford, Robbie Lefever, Tom Cope, Jonathon Pratt, Richard Shelly, Leo Monti, Shahrukh Khan, Kyle Kinsella and Sunny Singh. Izzy Godfrey is nearly there and will be receiving her award in March. Seventeen of these students are progressing onto the Silver Award and will be in the New Forest during July completing their three day, two night expedition. May I encourage the students in years 10 and 11 who are working award on both their bronze or silver awards. I hope this has inspired you!

Gilli Gore

PARENT'S FORUM VICE CHAIR AND ACADEMY COUNCIL MEMBER NOMINATION

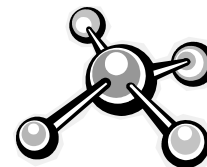
Letters were sent out to all parents on 10 January inviting nominations to fill the vacancy for a vice chair of the Parents's Council and parent representative member of Twickenham Academy Council. Disappointingly, no responses were received by the deadline given of 20 January. We would like to have this agreed by the next Parent's Forum meeting on 28 February and in time for the next Academy Council meeting on 06 March. At the last Parent's Forum meeting there was agreement that it should be an open and democratic process but this can only work if volunteers put themselves forward. A valuable contribution is made by two student members of the Academy Council and this is a rare opportunity for a second parent to be involved, be well informed and to have your say during a period of evolvment and exciting change.

Therefore this is a second invitation for nominations to be received by Friday 03 February. Should you have any questions, please email parentsforum@twickenhamacademy.org.uk

Minutes of the meetings can be viewed on the website. Trevor Clarke, Chair

BTEC SCIENCE CATCH UP CLASSES

BTEC Science Catch up classes every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday
3.00pm - 4.00pm
in the science block
with Mr Iqbal and Mrs Johnson



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.

REMINDER TO YEAR 9 PARENTS

31 Jan 2012—Year 9 Parent Consultation Evening

WAR HORSE AT THE NEW THEATRE LONDON

Last Wednesday Year 10 Drama Students got the rare opportunity to watch the critically acclaimed *War Horse* at the New Theatre London.

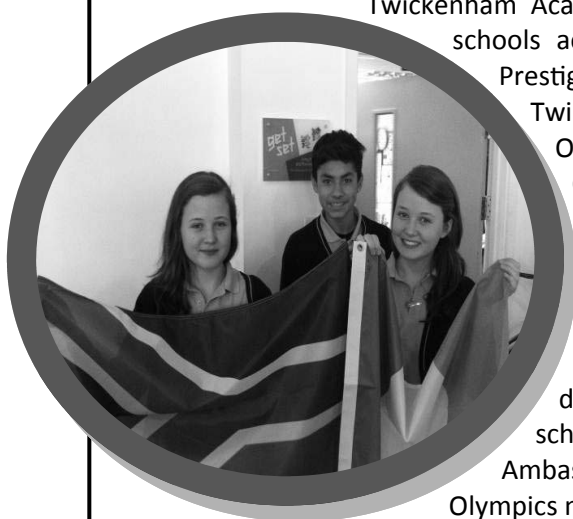
This was an invaluable trip and as part of their coursework the students will write a Theatre Review on *War Horse*. The students were a credit to the Academy. Well done to all the students that came. Miss Hart and Miss O'Doherty



TWICKENHAM ACADEMY AND THE RICHMOND SCHOOL SPORT PARTNERSHIP LINK WITH SCHOOLS IN SOUTH AFRICA AND IRELAND

Twickenham Academy will be supporting South Africa and Ireland in the London 2012 Olympics. Here are photos of our Olympic Ambassadors Harvey, Heather and Beth holding the flags of our two link countries.

Twickenham Academy and the Learning Schools Trust have many international link schools across the globe. Recent visits between Twickenham Academy and Prestige College in Pretoria South Africa have forged a close link. Twickenham Academy will be supporting South Africa in the London 2012 Olympics and Richmond Borough will be welcoming the South African Olympic team to St Mary's University for a pre games training camp in July.



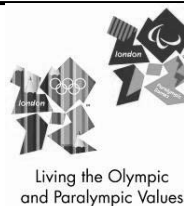
The Richmond SSP is linked to St Fintan's School in Dublin, Ireland. The link will see Irish students visiting Twickenham Academy in the spring and summer term. Even though the schools are so close in distance, student life is still quite different. St Fintan's is a boys only school that excels in Gaelic football, Rugby and Basketball. Our Olympic Ambassadors will be exchanging information with theirs to find out what the Olympics means to the Irish. James Giblin, 2012 Olympic Co-ordinator

LONDON 2012 OLYMPIC GAMES Weeks to Go : 26

Fact of the week:

From Twickenham Academy's Olympic Ambassador Heather Sutherland.

- The Shard building in London is planning to light up one of its floors every time GB win a medal at the Olympics and Paralympics



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

LOST PROPERTY

There is a significant amount of lost property in the reception area including coats and school uniform. If you have lost an item of clothing we would kindly ask parents and students to check this asap as it will go to charity if not claimed by February half term.



RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION

Twickenham Academy is a member of the RFU Education Partnership

Get with Apprenticeships Event

KINGSTON
College

Wednesday 8 February 4.30pm-7.30pm



Do you want to know more about apprenticeships and whether they are right for you? Then come along to our exclusive Apprenticeships Event where you can speak to tutors and employers directly, book your place today on www.kingston-college.ac.uk or call 020 8546 2151

Some of the companies Kingston College works in partnership with:



A wide range of established apprenticeships available at Kingston College:

- Accounting
- Business Administration
- Childcare
- Customer Service
- Engineering
- Hairdressing
- Health and Social Care
- Hospitality
- Information Technology
- Motor Vehicle
- Plumbing
- Retail
- Team Leading



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:

- Every effort will be made to post a message on the Academy website. 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. This can be accessed by telephoning 0208 408 7508 or log on to map.lgfl.org.uk/opencheck. This site will be updated during the day by the Local Authority. There is also a link to this site from the London Borough of Richmond website.
- A message will also be placed on the school answer phone.

