

TWICKENHAM Talk

Dear Parents, Students and Colleagues

There has been a focus on Year 11 this week and it was great to see so many parents at the consultation evening on Monday at this crucial stage in the year. We have applied a technique with Year 11 that many successful sports people and entrepreneurs use. It revolves around creating a vision of what you would like to achieve to reach your goal.

Jenson Button might, for example, imagine himself crossing the line at the British Grand Prix ahead of all his rivals. You might see Phillips Odowu with his eyes closed at the end of the runway visioning in his head the elements of the triple jump, imagining how the various phases might go together perfectly to achieve the ultimate world record-breaking jump. I'm sitting writing my blog and thinking of Andy Murray, currently playing very well in the Australian Open. You will often see him rehearsing shots and practicing them, mentally preparing for what might happen in the next rally or game.

This week we had a 'Mock Results day' for year 11. We rehearsed, after the mock examinations, what it would be like in the summer, to be given an envelope with the results in to open! Inside there were a combination of mock examination results and, for some, the results from real GCSE examinations taken in November. As you might imagine, there were a range of emotions. Some students were absolutely delighted with their results having put in an enormous amount of energy and preparation. For others the results might have been mixed, with areas of success but clear places where we need additional effort or support. We want all our students to imagine what it will be like to open their examination results in the summer and to know that they have achieved success.

These 'visioning' strategies and techniques are tried and tested – they work in very many areas of life. They are about building confidence and setting out simple pathways so that students and staff know what they have to do to take that next small step that will lead to success. I hope, lower down the school, that the simple structure of our Step Curriculum provides students with a framework that enables them to imagine and achieve each small step that will enable them to progress towards their bigger, longer term goals.

Returning finally to Year 11, over the next few months there will be lots of opportunities for them to access additional support at this crucial time. We will have a programme of intensive days in Maths and English, for those who need extra support in these critical subjects. Extra revision slots and coursework catch-up opportunities will be on offer. There will be activities in the February half term to provide the maximum possible support. Thank you again to all those parents who attended the parents evening. Your encouragement and support is also vital if we are to continue to achieve the very best we can for all our students.

Nick Jones, Principal

LONDON 2012 OLYMPIC GAMES Weeks to Go : 16

Fact of the week:

- The Olympic Stadium will have a capacity of 80,000 during the Games
- It is the lightest Olympic stadium ever built
- The fourteen lighting towers are needed because this is the first Olympic Games with HD TV freeze-frame coverage that will be essential to capture the action
- Part of the supporting structure of the roof is formed from 2,500 tonnes of steel tubing that was actually recycled from old gas pipelines



YEAR 11 MOCK EXAM RESULTS

Year 11 students had a foretaste of how they will feel in August when they receive that all important envelope containing their exam results. Students received their mock exam results on Monday afternoon at a special assembly.

The majority of students were delighted with their results and now have the opportunity to improve in their grades as most departments will now be running after school sessions in the run-up to the exams where students can get help and advice in specific subjects.

Year 11 students will be issued with their Prom Cards next week. This is part of Project ID where students can earn a reduction on the price of their Prom ticket or, in some cases, a free ticket for excellent attendance and punctuality, wearing correct uniform, good behaviour and attending the extra sessions provided by departments.

The mock results assembly was followed by the Year 11 Parents' Consultation Evening. The evening was well attended and we would like to thank our Year 11 parents for their continued support.



Twickenham Academy
a Learning School

PARENTS FORUM

We would like to invite all Parents and Carers to attend Twickenham Academy's Parents Forum to be held at 7.00pm on Tuesday 28th February 2012 New Learning Space, Twickenham Academy

WORK EXPERIENCE—YEAR 10

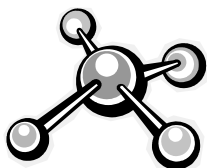
A reminder to all Year 10 students who have not yet returned their parental consent form/own job find form to do so ASAP.

Deadline 20th February 2012

Spare forms/advice available from Lorraine Andrew in the NLS

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



REMINDER TO YEAR 9 PARENTS

25 Jan 2012—Year 9 Education Evening

31 Jan 2012—Year 9 Parent Consultation Evening

REWARDS 4 LEARNING

We are having a January sale week beginning the 23rd January.

Many rewards half price, including footballs and basket balls for only 4 reward slips!

First come, first served closing date 6th February

Come and visit us in the New Learning Space,
Monday Lunchtimes

Mrs Gore and Mrs Mullins

EMOTIONAL WELLBEING & MENTAL HEALTH SURVEY

NHS Richmond and the Council are reviewing the Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Strategy and so are seeking the views of children and young people, parents and professionals on the current service and what they would want from a new service. The on-line survey is at: www.haveyoursayrichmond.co.uk

The closing date is the end of January 2012.

TWICKENHAM ACADEMY DRESS CODE

Thank you to all students who are looking very smart in their uniform. Here is a reminder of the Dress Code.

Students may pick from the following:

A plain black traditional Blazer
A Twickenham Academy Tie
A plain white shirt or blouse
A black cardigan with blue and purple stripe detail and Academy logo
A black jumper with blue and purple stripe detail and Academy logo
A purple polo shirt with blue Academy logo
A blue polo shirt with purple Academy logo
Plain black trousers or skirts

At all times students are required to show that they are part of the Twickenham Academy community by wearing at least one item from the uniform list that bears the Academy logo.

For PE lessons students are expected to be appropriately dressed. The PE clothing consists of:

Reversible rugby top-purple and sky-unisex
Contrast polo purple (main colour) and sky
Sky coloured socks
PE shorts/jogging trousers black

Students may not wear jeans, leggings or jogging bottoms.

Students can choose between black shoes or plain black trainers **without** any colour, logos or coloured laces. For safety reasons shoes should not have high heels. Could parents please ensure that footwear conforms to these specifications.

Students may wear a simple stud in each ear and one ring but they need to recognise that they are responsible for this and this requirement is so that we reduce health and safety risks.

Make up should be minimal and look natural.

Clothing in the Academy should at all times be smart and in a good state of repair, in keeping with a modern school. We are, however, sensitive to the need to adapt clothing occasionally to meet the requirements of religious observance. Standardised clothing expectations are not in place to exclude students from any background and therefore a parent having genuine difficulty providing items of Academy clothing should contact your child's College Director in confidence.

UNIFORM CHECKS

Uniform Checks will continue into next week beginning Monday 23rd January. PE staff will be outside the gate on Monday and please note that students without the correct uniform will be refused entry to the Academy.

The PE department will call home if a student arrives incorrectly dressed and they will advise parents they are being sent home. If a parent cannot be contacted, the non-uniform item will be confiscated (where possible) and student given a letter to take home that night. Please refer to the Twickenham Academy Dress Code.

Please remember that hoodies of whatever colour are not part of the school uniform and students will be asked to hand them in if worn to school.

INTERNET SAFETY RESOURCES FOR PARENTS

Childnet, the national charity specialising in internet safety training in schools, has launched A Parents' Guide to Technology to help empower parents with the knowledge they need to support their children to use modern technologies safely and responsibly. The online resource introduces Smartphones, gaming devices and other internet-enabled technologies such as the iPod Touch and iPad, helping parents to understand how young people are using these devices as well as the potential risks they may face.

For more information go to <http://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-and->

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

Courses for Gifted and Talented Students Spring 2012

The educational organisation Debate Chamber is running a number of courses in London this term.

Economics Masterclass and Financial Markets

Masterclass (ages 15 to 18)

28th January and 29th January, cost £90 per day.

The Economics Masterclass will help students gain a better understanding of global economic affairs, and give them a taste of how macroeconomics is taught at university.

The Financial Markets Masterclass provides students with an accessible overview of share, bond and currency markets.

PPE (Philosophy, Politics & Economics) Weekend (ages 15-18)

4th/5th February, cost £175.

This two-day event will appeal to bright, engaged students who enjoy the discussion of challenging issues. It is ideal for any students considering studying PPE or any of its constituent disciplines at university.

History Masterclass (ages 15-18)

11th February, cost £90.

Is history driven by 'Great Men', by ideas, or by the relentless unfolding of social structures? Does the study of the past help us to better understand the present, to learn from our mistakes? Or is it all, as Ford said, more or less bunk? The History Masterclass offers a chance to investigate these questions.

English Literature Masterclass (ages 15-18)

12th February, cost £90.

This one-day Masterclass is particularly suited to anyone considering studying English at University.

Young Lawyers Weekend (ages 11 to 14)

25th-26th February, cost £145.

A fast and furious two-day introduction to criminal law, concluding with a full Mock Crown Court Trial, with students playing lawyers (dressed for the part in real barristers' wigs and gowns). This is a great course for students who are considering law as a career, or who are just curious about what it is like to stand up in court and address the jury.

Creative Writing Weekend (ages 15 to 18)

3rd-4th March, cost £145.

This two-day event offers the advanced tuition needed to develop writing technique. It will look at both prose fiction and poetry, and will inspire further creative endeavours.

Further details of these courses may be obtained from Ms. Paggett. Funding may be available.

ATTENDANCE

Please contact the Academy on 020 8894 4503 ext 202 if your child is unable to attend school for any reason.

If your child does not attend registration or sign in at reception and we have not received a call from you a standard text will be sent to advise you of your child's absence.

CYCLE TRAINING FOR PARENTS AND CHILDREN

The Safety Education Team is offering one-to-one cycle training to adults and children for £5 for a 2-hour session until March 2012. If you are interested in taking part please visit the website for further details regarding the training at www.richmond.gov.uk/1-2-1_cycling_adults_and_children

Masterclasses for Gifted Artists

An organisation called GIFT has organised a series of one-day masterclasses at the Tate Britain Gallery in London for next term. The classes are aimed at students in Years 7 to 11, and are based in creative sketchbook art, the history of art, and creative writing with art as a stimulus. Topics and dates are as follows:

On the Horizon: An Escape into Landscape

Saturday 4 February or Sunday 26 February

Portraits and Identity

Sunday 4 March

The Language of Art or the Art of Language

Sunday 25 March

The cost is £33 per student for each day. Funding may be available. Please contact Ms. Paggett.



RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION

Twickenham Academy is a member of the RFU Education Partnership