

TWICKENHAM Talk

Dear Parents, Students and Colleagues

I'm sure that many parents must wonder what happens when the staff are involved in INSET days that occur from time to time during the year. The INSET day at the start of this term was filled with a range of training and development sessions associated with many of the activities taking place in the Academy. For the first session of the day we welcomed colleagues from Hampton Academy and a very special guest. What better way to start 2012 than with a famous Olympian presenting a project that is being rolled out in all three Learning School Trust Academies.

David Hemery was a gold medalist at the 1968 Mexico Olympics, breaking the world record for the 400 meters hurdles at the same time. He is a quiet, unassuming but immensely impressive person who, despite major learning challenges in his early years (he couldn't read until he was ten years old!) has gone on to become Dr David Hemery, combining academic excellence with his sporting successes. The programme he is leading, 'Be The Best YOU Can Be!' encourages young people to set and work towards achieving their goals, equipping them with the skills and strategies to do so. There is a clear synergy between this approach and our learning model.

David was asked by Lord Coe to set up this project as part of the Olympic legacy and we are delighted that it will be accessed by students in Year 8 in the first instance, through the thematic programme, PSHE lessons and PE. Having targeted this year group however, a number of staff have been using some of the coaching methods he introduced with a range of classes this week. If you would like to find out more about this exciting programme there is a website that can be accessed at www.21stcenturylegacy.com.

There were many other interesting training sessions throughout the day and I'm looking forward to telling you about the outcomes from these in the weeks to come. I hope you had a good Christmas and I would like to extend best wishes for 2012 from the Academy to all our students, parents and friends.

Nick Jones, Principal

IMPORTANT NOTICE - STUDENT SAFETY

We are concerned to report that there have been two incidents over the past week of Twickenham Academy students being robbed by strangers whilst waiting at bus stops in the Whitton and Hounslow areas. The young offenders concerned have not been known to the students and have been in groups of three and four.

The students involved have not been harmed or injured but personal belongings have been taken. Very bravely, parents of one of the students apprehended one of the offenders and detained them until the police arrived. The police have been informed on both occasions and we have also warned other local schools, so that they too can highlight this danger.

We would ask all parents to speak to your children about these incidents and ask them to be extra vigilant and, wherever possible, to travel home by the most direct route and with a friend. Please also refer to the advice overleaf from The Children's Safety Education Foundation.

www.twickenhamacademy.org.uk

SAFETY ADVICE FROM THE CHILDREN'S SAFETY EDUCATION FOUNDATION:

Mobile Phones

Many of you have mobile phones. Mobile phones belonging to young people are one of the hottest targets of street robbery in the UK.

- Make sure you get your phone security marked
- Keep it out of public view

Safety when you are Out and About

Most victims of crime on the streets are young people. Large amounts of cash or property may not be taken but it is very traumatic for the victims.

- Always be aware of where your purse and wallet are.
- Keep any keys in a safe place.
- Keep any valuables such as mobile phones out of sight
- Stay in bright, well lit and busy areas
- Stay with your friends, wherever possible.
- Be Aware—Don't walk and text at the same time, as you are not aware what is going on around you.
- Leave valuable jewellery at home.

DUKE OF EDINBURGH

Training is underway for the coming expeditions this term. We have three groups of Silvers and one group of Bronze with many year 10 students finishing their awards in February and March. Please check your training diary for dates.

There will be a presentation assembly for bronze award holders so watch out for your VIP invitation arriving in the post. We have a special guest speaker, Mr Rob Clark, who is the Duke of Edinburgh Manager for our borough.

Many of you are logged on to eDofE and completing your sections well. Keep up the good work.

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

DATES FOR THE DIARY

16 January 2012— Year 11 Parents Evening
Appointment times have been posted home.

25 Jan 2012—Year 9 Education Evening

31 Jan 2012—Year 9 Parent Consultation Evening

Film Club

This term's film club got off to a spooky start with the screening of **Twilight**. Students enjoyed romance, fear and a good storyline.

As with all our films shown at **Film Club**, Twilight was a student request. So if you have a film you would like us to show and you would like to watch, please e-mail Mrs Kingdon.



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 Feb

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

Mrs Gore and Mrs Mullins

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.

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 start again from Monday 16th 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.

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 then go to charity if not claimed.

The PE department are also concerned with the amount of personal kit/clothing that is being left in the changing rooms after PE lessons. Jumpers and polo shirts are the main pieces of clothing that are being left, but amazingly shoes and trousers are also being left. All kit that has a student's name in it is returned to the student via their tutor group, however it is estimated that 90% of clothing is unnamed, thus making it impossible to prove correct ownership and return it to the rightful owner.

Names can be written into clothing or a simple iron-on name label can be purchased. An example of a company that offers this service is given below. www.nametagsnlabels.co.uk

In addition, hooded jumpers (hoodies) that have been confiscated by PE staff over that last few weeks have been stored within the PE office. Students are asked to come to the PE office after school to collect their belongings as soon as possible.

Courses for Gifted and Talented Students Spring 2012

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

Medicine Weekends (ages 15-18)

14th/15th January; 4th/5th February; 26th February (cost £175 for weekend; £90 per day course).

These classes are ideal for those considering studying medicine or related disciplines at university. They cover neurology, cardiology, pulmonary, medical ethics, suturing, oncology, paediatrics, childhood development, immunology and surgical skills.

Law Masterclasses (ages 15 to 18)

21st and 22nd January, cost £90 per day.

There are two Masterclasses – the first covering Criminal and Family Law, the second covering Contract and Tort. They are both great opportunities for students interested in law to explore key areas of legal study and to give a realistic look at what law at university is all about.

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. Paggetti. Funding may be available.

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:

Ready, Steady, Sketch

Saturday 21 January or Sunday 11 March

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. Paggetti.



RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION

Twickenham Academy is a member of the RFU Education Partnership