

Shene News

For
Pupils & Parents

8th June 2010



HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

The exam season has now started in earnest. Maths, English Language, history, French Listening and applied science are all taking place this week, each preceded by revision sessions. The geography exam (which takes place on Monday 14 June) will have its revision session on Friday afternoon. Students should continue to work and revise up until the last minute: since we have no way of knowing what will come up, there is as good a chance as any that that last little bit of revision being asked about is in the exam.

I WOULD LIKE TO REMIND PARENTS/CARERS AND STUDENTS THAT SCHOOL UNIFORM IS MANDATORY FOR EXAMS.

Mobile phones should not be brought in to school during exams. If they go off, the student risks his/her name being forwarded to the exam board who may decide to annul the paper. This is considered a very serious infringement of the regulations and students have been warned.

It is very important that students are mentally set for working, and uniform can help with that mindset. I would also ask that, if students come for a pre-exam revision session in the morning, they should bring lunch and a drink with them. This prevents the office staff being continually badgered to open the visitors' door and allows the students to have only the exam to worry about.

Friday 18 June, weather permitting, is Sports Day, one of the nicest in the year. Students get dressed up in House colours and spend a lot of time cheering on their fellow House members. The

atmosphere is always very enjoyable, positive and a good time seems to be had by (almost) everyone. A reminder to parents/carers/students that, if the weather is hot, students may need hats, sun cream and water.

Two other important dates are the 5 July, for the Academy Stakeholder Reference Group (SRG) meeting and the 17 July for the Sheen Festival. The SRG meeting lasts about one hour, from 4 – 5pm, and is held in the new Palewell building. Parents/carers can have their say and find out 'hot off the press' information. It is hoped we will have heard definitively from the Department for Education about the Academy by this date. Please ring or email my PA, Ms Barlow, if you would like to attend: dbarlow@sheneschool.net or phone 020 8487 1930. The Sheen Festival promises to be an excellent social event with a variety of stalls, foods, music and displays to entice and interest you. This will be held during the day, and the final programme will be coming out shortly.

Finally, we have said '**good bye**' recently to a couple of languages staff, Ms James (who has emigrated to Australia with her new husband) and Ms Pilot. We have been very fortunate in being able to replace them with trained languages teachers, Ms Blanco for Ms James and Ms Ryznar for Ms Pilot.

Ms L Kirby
Headteacher

MENTOR/BUDDY PROGRAMME

Pupils who would like to be trained to be a Mentor/Buddy to another pupil can see Mrs Warren with a view to attending the sessions run by the Charity Beatbullying (this is good information for your C.V. to say you have taken part in community work in your school by helping others).

Once trained, pupils will receive a peer mentor Badge and certificate and will

continue to be supported by ongoing sessions and mentoring by Mrs Warren to support them with their buddying-up and any concerns they have. The training is fun, interactive and is an ideal way to meet other pupils who are like-minded and enjoy trying something new.

Please see Mrs Warren P21 The Base. Thank you.

THE HOME ACCESS PROGRAMME

This Government scheme aimed at giving more children and young people access to technology to help them learn at home, is now being rolled out across England. Home Access will initially target learners in Years 3 to 9 and aims to benefit more than 270,000 households that currently lack access, by March 2011. More information on how your school can support and benefit from the programme is available at www.homeaccess.org.uk and www.becta.org.uk/homeaccess. Families can call the Home Access grant helpline on 0333 200 1004. They will then be taken through a basic eligibility check and, if eligible, will be sent an application pack.

A WORLD OF BOOKS—FACT, FICTION, FANTASY & FUN. OUR WONDERFUL LIBRARY

Until recently, 'library' was, for most of our pupils, little more than a name on a door. Now, thanks to the enthusiasm of our new - now official - librarian, Diane Bowe, they have a newly stocked, properly catalogued, efficiently administered and much used library. It is an increasingly appreciated room full of atmosphere, colour, variety and order where all pupils are welcomed

Shene News



and where all can browse through - and borrow - a wealth of literary choices.

On the day of my visit I was bowled over by the changes which had taken place over Diane's first six trial months. There were tables of book displays which she had pulled out to interest and stimulate that morning's young visitors. These displays, she tells me, are changed frequently so that reluctant as well as accomplished readers are attracted to - and made aware of - more and more titles. Books about history, adventurers, super heroes, science, detectives, geography, sprites, computer technology, fairies, fashionistas, family sagas, secret societies, language learning, sport - and more, lots more - are there to be fingered, browsed through, borrowed and enjoyed.

As well as getting to know her young borrowers and their tastes, Diane uses - in tandem with books - challenging puzzles and games to stimulate interest. A prize was on offer for the pupil - or governor - who could complete a rubic-cube-type multi-shaped brain basher. After twenty minutes of abject failure I gave up and my history doesn't relate whether the prize still remains unclaimed ...

Diane is very strict about library behaviour - a good life lesson for our pupils who will, in the course of further educational studies, have occasion to use municipal and academic libraries. Diane's 'charter' is pinned up in every classroom, underlining that her library is not only for fun but for earnest too.

As my visit was coming to an end, a visiting member of staff browsing in a corner caught my eye. It was Dr Rinne - not there to teach but to find

a manual which might help him to improve his golf game. So comprehensive was Diane's new library stock that he found what he was looking for and left with a smile on his face and his literary treasure under his arm. My history doesn't relate if the manual delivered the goods. Is he on his way, yet, to St Andrews, I wonder?

Mona Adams
Community Governor
May 2010

A few weeks ago pupils in the Art classes were asked to design their own logo ideas for the Richmond Park Academy Competition. One hundred designs were submitted and they were judged by AET, not on artistic talent, but on the ideas behind the logo which represented the new Academy and the local area. We were really pleased that the winners were: Faye Hahlo, Becky Anstee, Olivia Brouillard and Pawel Tkacz. In addition 14 pupils were recognized as runners up. The winners will receive prizes such as vouchers to spend. Further, on the 20th May, the pupils participated in a workshop in the Digital Media Suite with the Academy's graphic designers to combine all their ideas and create the new logo.

Congratulations!
Ms Jacob

PREPARING FOR WORKING LIFE

On Friday 7th May 2010, our Year 10 students took part in a day with a carousel of activities to prepare them for working life. The day looked at areas that relate to the world of work such as hazard identification and healthy lifestyles, the changing world of work and employment opportunities, economy and finance, personal awareness and working relationships. The students also took part in a team Enterprise activity; the Sugar Cube Crossing.

Each team had a pack containing every day items. Teams had to work together to transport as many sugar cubes as possible across a 1 metre gap within the space of a minute.



The activity taught students in a very practical way about transferrable skills which make them employable young people, such as Communication, Time Management, Teamwork, and Problem Solving. The activity also developed their personal learning and thinking skills

Ms K Pritchard

MEASLES

Measles is circulating again with several cases of confirmed and suspected measles amongst children in South West London. The best way to protect children from measles is with two doses of the MMR immunization. Please contact your GP if you have any concerns or would like your child vaccinated.

Ms L Waddington

Shene School

Park Avenue
London
SW14 8RG

Phone: 020 8876 8891
Fax: 020 8392 9694
E-mail: info@sheneschool.net
Web: www.sheneschool.net