



September 2011

Dear Parents and Students

Welcome back to the start of the Autumn Term and the new academic year. It has been a very positive start to what is going to be a busy and exciting Olympic year.

- **Excellent exam results**
 - **Improved GCSE and A Level results**
 - **90% of students gained 5 or more A*-C at GCSE**
 - **61% of students gained 5 or more A*-C at GCSE with English and Maths**
 - **Oversubscribed for school places**
 - **New Academy status**



Delighted students celebrate their GCSE results

School Results

Excellent news about our exam results: our 5A*-C with English and Maths is now 61% and our 5A*-C are now a record breaking 90%, an increase from last year's 88%. Congratulations to all students and staff. In the Sixth Form the average points score has gone up by 20 points and is above the national average.

Start of the Year

Our start to the year has been excellent and very positive and I must thank the students, staff and parents for your support in this. A particular welcome goes to the new Year 7 students and to our new Sixth Formers. The Year 7 students, under the close supervision of their tutors and with the support and guidance of Ms Stott and Ms Herbert (Guidance Leader), have made an excellent start to their life at Uxbridge High School.

Awards Presentation Evening

We were able to congratulate our Year 11 and Year 13 students, many of whom are going on to university, at our recent Awards Presentation Evening. Our special guests included Councillor Mary O'Connor MBE (the Mayor of Hillingdon); Charlie Taylor (Government adviser); and Bobby Cummines OBE (Chief Executive of Unlock).

Attendance / Exceptional Leave (Holidays)

One of the school's many successes last year was to reduce student absence faster than the Government had requested. Please note that Holiday Leave no longer exists except for children of active service personnel, as set out in Department for Education guidance. Research shows that having less than 95% attendance has a detrimental effect on the achievement of students.

Summer Holiday Works

Thank you to everyone who worked so hard on the school site this summer. Big improvements have been made to our Library, school signage, Music rooms and a new Textiles / Food Technology suite has been built (*see photo on right*).



Over the summer we also ran very successful summer schools – one Transition summer school for Year 6 students coming up here in Year 7; a CSI : UHS science event and a Sports Summer Camp for our high achiever sports students.

Behaviour to and from school

We do expect the highest standards of behaviour from our students on their way to and from school. Transport for London have again reminded us of the need for all youngsters to be sensible on local buses and we will work with the police to sanction any student who does not behave correctly.

Student Voice

The first School Council meeting of the year takes place this week. There will be a packed agenda of items for discussion. Students will also be keen to seek places on the Hillingdon Youth Council.

Dance Festival

Students will soon be rehearsing for this superb event which takes place on Wednesday 19 October.

Peripatetic Music

Peripatetic Music classes are about to recommence. The Music Department would welcome new students and offers classes in a variety of instruments. For further information or if any parents would like their son or daughter to take up a musical instrument, please speak to Ms Van Hoogland, Curriculum Leader - Music, in the first instance.

Activities / Trips / Visits / Clubs

A wide variety of extra clubs, trips and visits are planned for the academic year including a Year 8 trip to Warwick Castle and a visit to a French Christmas market. Clubs this year include Latin, Chess, Music, Sports and cine club. Our clubs are free and as a school we are conscious of the financial pressures on families and endeavour to keep trip costs to a minimum.

London Olympics 2012

In the run up to the Olympics being held in London in 2012, Uxbridge High School has been officially welcomed into London 2012's Get Set network, in recognition of its good work in preparing students for the big event. The school hopes to receive some tickets for students to attend some of the events.



Open Evening / Open Mornings

Our annual Open Evening will be taking place on **Monday 26 September** from 6.00 pm to 8.45 pm. This is a very important event for the school and in order to allow time for preparation by both staff and students the school will close early that day at **1.15 pm**. Lunch will be available for those students who require it. School will start at the slightly later time of **9.40 am** on **Tuesday 27 September** given the large number of students from different year groups who volunteer to help at the evening. If your child is one of these students, you should have received a letter giving more details.

Open Mornings will be held at **9.45 am** on **Wednesday 28 and Thursday 29 September** and **Wednesday 5 and Thursday 6 October**. Excellent new brochures are available.

Friends of Uxbridge High School

The Friends always welcome new members, particularly parents whose children are new to Uxbridge High School. No experience is required, just an enthusiasm for working with students and the school. If you would like to join this important parents group, please contact the Friends Group via the school.

School Calendar

A school calendar for parents can be found on our website (www.uhs.org.uk). The key holiday dates for this academic year are:

Half Term Holiday	24 October – 28 October 2011
Term Ends	Friday 16 December 2011

Spring Term 2012

Training Day	Tuesday 3 January 2012
Term Starts	Wednesday 4 January 2012
Half Term Holiday	13 – 17 February 2012
Term Ends	Friday 30 March 2012

Summer Term 2012

Term Starts	Monday 16 April 2012
Half Term Holiday	4 – 8 June 2012
Training Day:	Friday 29 June 2012
Term Ends	Friday 20 July 2012

Academy Status



Mr Lang with School Council members in front of an example of new school signage

Uxbridge High School is now an outstanding Academy – an independent state school – with greater freedoms. The vast majority of students and parents will notice little immediate difference other than the new signage and my change of title from Head Teacher to Principal.

I look forward to continuing to work in partnership with you all at Uxbridge High School. We welcome a number of excellent new staff to the school, including Ms Michelle Stott, Assistant Principal.

Our outstanding Guidance and Inclusion Team (Ms Chivers, Mr Panesar, Ms Herbert, Ms Rawlings, Mrs Rahman and Mrs Fisher) represent London and South East in the Pearson Teaching Awards finals on 30 October which is being televised on BBC2.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Lang'.

**Peter Lang
Principal**