



UXBRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL

AN OUTSTANDING ACADEMY

October 2011

Dear Parents and Students

It has been a very positive start to the academic year at Uxbridge High School and once again promises to be another very successful year.

Please note the half-term break starts this **Friday 21 October** at 3.15 pm. The new half-term starts on **Monday 31 October** for all staff with a Staff Meeting and for students at **10.55 am** with registration until 11.15 am when students will start lessons at Period 3. Students are encouraged to be on site by **10.45 am**.

Standards

Standards have continued to improve. The school has received very positive feedback on its improving results which include:

- Improved GCSE performance 5A*-C 90% (up from 88%). 61% A*-C including English and Maths. Improvements at Post 16.
- Improvements in attendance rates: overall absence 5.9% from 6.1% and the small persistent absence rate down by 1%.

Year 7

Year 7 students have settled in well. They have been assessed in spelling and reading and have taken their CATS tests. Assessment week for Year 7 starts on 21 November and this data will be used to place students in appropriate sets for some subjects after Christmas.

Academy Status

The first full year of Uxbridge High School as an outstanding academy has begun. This is a time for consolidation and reflection on the new opportunities that this status gives. A commemorative UHS pen and bookmark has been given to all students. As an Academy the school has been able to introduce a new UHS Post 16 bursary up to £20 per week for certain students dependent on excellent attendance and participation. This replaces the outgoing Education Maintenance Allowance. The Year 6 – 7 Transition Summer school will also continue to run again as an example of the new outstanding Academy freedoms.

School Census

The school continues to grow in popularity and size. The school census was completed on 6 October and shows that the number of students at the school has increased to 1190, up from 1091 in 2009 and 1138 in 2010.

Dance Festival

The school held its annual Dance Festival on Wednesday evening this week, showcasing the talent of students of all ages in the school. It was a vibrant and lively event with the overall winner being Tilly Sampson in Year 11.



Other events which have been held so far this term include our celebration of National Poetry Day, a Year 7 Parents' Evening, the Big Draw, a Friends of UHS meeting, Black History Month including a visit by Paul Cannoville (ex-Chelsea footballer) and a Primary Heads liaison meeting. Sporting success has been enjoyed in netball, soccer and rugby and Rhianna Dean, a Year 8 student, has been selected for the England Girls soccer squad (*Rhianna pictured left*).

Awards Presentation Evening

This was held on 15 September for Year 11 and Year 13 students, many of whom are going on to university. Our guests included Councillor Mary O'Connor MBE (the Mayor of Hillingdon); Charlie Taylor (Government Adviser); and Bobby Cummines OBE (Chief Executive of Unlock). All agreed it was an excellent evening celebrating "Making Success Happen".

Activities / Trips / Visits / Clubs

A wide variety of extra clubs, trips and visits are planned for the academic year including a visit to a French Christmas market, a visit to the European Parliament in Brussels and a Sixth Form trip to Poland. Clubs this year include Latin, Chess, Music, Sports and cine club. Our clubs are free and the school endeavours to keep trip costs to a minimum.

Open Evening / Open Mornings

Open Evening and Open Mornings have been very well attended. The feedback has been very positive with many applications expected.

Remembrance Day

The Sixth Formers are selling poppies sent to the school by the British Legion and the school will come together on Friday 11 November for a two minute silence at 11am – 11/11/11/11.



Uniform

We have been working hard this term to maintain our high standards of uniform. Your support in ensure that your child arrives at school correctly dressed is essential. As you think about replacing items over the holiday, please remember that headscarves are only to be plain black or navy blue or white, that coats should be plain and dark in colour and shoes should be plain black. Hoodies and plimsolls are not allowed. We also have a non-visibility policy on mobile phones and headphones as we must never allow these things to interfere with learning in the classroom.

Key Dates for next half-term

Half-term holiday	Monday 24 to Friday 28 October
Year 7 Assessment Week	Monday 21 – Friday 25 November
Year 10 Parents' Evening	Tuesday 22 November
Sixth Form Open Evening	Tuesday 29 November
Year 11 Mock written exams	from Monday 5 December
Christmas Concert	Wednesday 14 December
End of Term	Friday 16 December
Staff Training Day	Tuesday 3 January
Spring Term starts for students	Wednesday 4 January 2012

We wish good luck to our Guidance and Inclusion Team, the South East regional team of the year, in the Pearson Teaching Awards finals being held on Sunday 30 October.

Yours faithfully

P Lang
Principal