

ACTON HIGH SCHOOL

YEAR 11 NEWSLETTER

Newsletter Date: 20th October, 2011



MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD

This has been a busy and exciting half-term for Acton High, and I have very much enjoyed the beginning of my time at the school. There are so many developments in a large school that I cannot discuss them all here, but I would like to mention how impressed I have been by the work being done to ensure that Y10 and Y11 students are well prepared for the exams that will take place in November, by the many activities involved in celebrating Black History month, by the way that our new Y7 students have settled into the school, by the innovative and effective use of Flexidays and other curriculum extension strategies, and by the enthusiasm of staff working to prepare for the launch of our Sixth Form in 2011. It is becoming increasingly clear to me that there are many things that make Acton High special. Next half-term, our main priorities will be to continue to focus on developing excellent questioning as a way to embed and accelerate learning for all students, on using a whole school approach to developing students' skills in reading, writing, communication and mathematics, and on providing the mentoring, support and guidance that our Y10 and Y11 students will need as they approach the end of their compulsory schooling and begin to consider their options for the future. It promises to be an equally challenging and rewarding half-term, so I would ask all students and staff to enjoy their break and to come back refreshed on October 31st, ready for action.

ACTON HIGH STUDENTS 'SPEED DATE' WITH LOCAL POLITICIANS



On Tuesday 11th October, ten Ealing councillors visited Acton High School to give students a unique opportunity to ask them questions about their role and their position on local political issues.

In a mock speed dating scenario, each councillor was asked questions by three students and then asked to move on to the next group every five minutes for a different set of questions. At the end of the session, the councillors gave feedback to the student group. Each political party in the Council was represented. From the Conservative group David Millican (Leader of the Conservative Group), John Popham (Chief Whip), Phil Taylor and Colm Costello attended. The Labour councillors present were: Brian Reeves (Chief Whip), Shahbaz Ahmed, Patricia Walker (Cabinet Member) and Chris Summers. The Liberal Democrat representatives were Jon Ball (Whip) and Harvey Rose.

The event was organised by the Democratic Services of Ealing Council. The Year 10 and 11 History students had been prepared in advance by the Youth and Connexions Team to ask open questions and these ranged from asking the councillors for their views on Acton High School and opinions on why the riots had taken place in the summer, to the reasons behind the council's decisions on investment in communities. Throughout the process, students rated the councillors on their approachability, listening skills, ability to understand issues and the likelihood that they would vote for them.

Acton High School Headteacher, Dr Andy Sievewright commented on the event:

"This was a fantastic opportunity for our students to have a taste of local politics and understand elements of political history. We appreciated the councillors giving their time to demonstrate the democratic process and to show our students that their opinions are valued. The feedback from the councillors was extremely positive and I am delighted that they have enjoyed the interaction with our students. I am sure that this will be an important step in developing those students who took part as politically aware and politically active citizens."

RAP ARTIST BREIS PERFORMS HIS POETRY AT YEAR 11 ASSEMBLY

On Monday 14th October Breis (pronounced Breeze) a Nigerian Hip Hop Rap artist and writer performed a selection of his poetry to inspire Year 11 to achieve great things. Here is one of the poems he performed:

THINK BIG

I'm crossing borderlines with broader rhymes
 I generate ideas that blow your mind
 You see my awesome mind does more than rhyme
 I'm thinking all the time with thoughts of mine
 My thoughts are 3D and HD, all combined
 Sharper than the spines on a porcupine
 Signed, sealed and delivery is - full of imagery
 Vividly visualised through my eyes, spoken terrifically
 I'm so unique; my own shadow can't even mimic me
 My visions make me think into infinity
 Do things differently with authenticity
 And aim high specifically
 Cos inside of you and inside of me
 There's a place that we hide that no one can see
 Do you know what you want and who you want to be?
 We're bigger than we think but it's hard to see

Fling your mind to the edge of the world....now bring it back
 Think outside the box and in your thinking cap
 Dream bigger than you think your dreams can be
 Open up your mind's eye so it can see
 Possible impossibilities
 Unlimited things to achieve so don't be limited
 Or prohibited from getting into it
 My intuition is telling me your ambition is big
 Don't let people get you mad, get even
 Always think big and believe in
 Your ability to do things you thought you couldn't
 You might think that you can't, but really you shouldn't
 Cos inside of you and inside of me
 There's a genius inside that no one can see
 Do you know what you want and who you want to be?
 We're bigger than we think but it's hard to see

On the positive things place your emphasis
 To neutralise the negative blemishes
 Ever since my youth I knew that I was meant for this
 Sent with this to help you fly like Pegasus
 You might blame others for your bad sentences
 But sometimes we're our own arch nemesis
 In the crevices of your premises, the premise is
 Achieving greatness is your genesis



EXAM DATES

Tuesday, 8 th November	am	English	Paper 1 'Reading - Non-fiction and Media' and 'Writing to Argue, Persuade and Advise'
	pm	Science	
Wednesday, 9 th November	pm	Maths	Paper 1 (non calculator)
Friday, 11 th November	pm	English	Paper 2 'Poetry - Poems from different Cultures' and 'Writing to inform, describe and explain'
Monday, 14 th November	am	Maths	Paper 2 (Calculator)
	pm	Science	
Tuesday, 15 th November	am	Science - Core retakes	

In order to prepare students for these important exams, there will be additional support sessions available during the half term holiday:

Maths	Monday 24 th & Tuesday 25 th October	10.00am to 1.00pm
English	Wednesday, 26 th October and Thursday, 27 th October	10.00am to 1.00pm

Please note - **all exams dates** can be found on our Acton High School website.