



Christmas 2010 NEWSLETTER

Academic Tutoring Day

Monday 20th December is the first Academic Tutoring Day of this academic year. Tutors in each Year group will meet with both parents and students in order to discuss progress, set targets for development and provide any support that may be needed. Communication between the tutor, student and parents is an essential factor in the success of the Academy and this Academic Tutoring Day is part of this process. Also, for Year 11 students the day is an important element in the preparation for Post-16. As the Academic Tutoring Day is a normal school day all students are expected to attend. We look forward to seeing you on Monday 20th December.

Building Progress

The new internal walkway and additional classrooms are now covered and work is taking place to fit the building out internally. The development should be complete by the end of February which will greatly ease movement around the Academy.

Top 2% of Schools Nationally

The government recently released the annual report for each school that outlines their performance against all schools nationally. Based on our GCSE exam results in 2010 we are placed in the top 2% of schools nationally, in terms of the value we add to students' education from the time they join us in Year 7 until they leave in Year 11. This means that we are in the top 60 out of over 3,000 secondary schools.

Snow

The unexpected recent fall of snow led to the unavoidable closure of the Academy for three days. We try very hard not to close and consequently disrupt the education of our students but in this particular situation the disruption to public transport made it impossible for the Academy to open with enough teachers. The system of using the Academy website to inform parents and students by 7.30 a.m of any potential closure worked well and so we will use the same system in the future.

Mufti Day

The annual end of Autumn Term Mufti Day will take place this Friday, 10th December. Students are invited to wear their own clothes in return for the payment of £1 which will go towards Beckenham and Penge Gateway Club. Students are reminded that no false colouring of hair is allowed and that normal sports kit is needed for PE lessons.

Start of Term

There is an error in the student planners that states Tuesday 4th January 2011 is a staff training day. Please note that this is incorrect and that **ALL STUDENTS START THE NEW TERM ON TUESDAY 4th JANUARY 2011.**

Testing Day

The Academy has again received over 2000 applications for places in Year 7 for September 2011. We have to test all applicants and so the Academy will be closed to students on Monday 13th December as it is Testing Day.

Important Dates:

Monday 13th December 2010: Year 6 admissions testing day – Academy closed to students

Monday 20th December 2010: Academic tutoring day

Tuesday 21st December 2010: Staff training day – Academy closed to students

Wednesday 22nd December 2010 – Monday 3rd January 2011 (inclusive): Christmas holiday

Tuesday 4th January 2011: First day of Spring Term

Happy Christmas!