

6th October 2009

Dear Parents

As the academic year is now well underway, it seems a good time to update you on the latest developments at Belvedere.

Examination Results

As you may already know, our students performed extremely well in their external examinations with 100% gaining 5 A*- C grades at GCSE with over 50% of all grades at A* or A.

At A2 level, 67% of all grades were either A or B and 99% of grades were A-E. Two students, Elena The and Laura Carson, gained places at Cambridge and Oxford respectively to study Medicine and Physics and many more are beginning their university courses across the country. We wish them all every success.

I would like to congratulate all our students on their outstanding examination results and to thank staff for all their hard work as well as parents for their crucial support during the examinations period.

As usual, we will celebrate our examination successes and recognise the many achievements of our students at our annual Prize Giving which will take place in Liverpool Cathedral on Monday, 9th November beginning at 1.30pm. The guest of honour this year will be Mrs Barbara Harrison, former CEO of the Girls' Day School Trust who are the main sponsors of the Belvedere Academy.

We would be delighted if as many parents as possible could attend the ceremony to help us pay tribute to the superb work of both staff and students at Belvedere.

Buildings Update

At long last, we are approaching the end of the building programme. We will shortly move into the newly refurbished classroom block which will house English, Maths and Religious Studies. The builders will then complete the link between the classroom block and main building which will mean that, for the first time, Belvedere will be connected throughout, with students and staff being able to move around the building without having to go outside. This is significant, not only during inclement weather, but also from a safety perspective. The final handover date for all works is 2nd November 2009.

I should like to take this opportunity to thank our builders, Mansells, and in particular Mark Parker, the Project Manager and Ian Andrew his assistant, for all their hard work and for their cooperation in keeping disruption to a minimum during what has been a difficult period for everybody.

Open Evening/Open Day

Parents and prospective parents' first opportunity to view the new facilities will be on Wednesday, 14th October when we hold our annual Open Evening. This starts at 4.00pm and

concludes at 7.00pm. I will be addressing prospective parents at 4.15pm and 6.30pm but existing parents are very welcome to have a look at our new buildings during this evening. Mrs Cliffe, Director of Sixth Form, will address prospective Sixth Form students and parents at 5.15pm.

Open Day is on Friday, 16th October at 10.00am – 12 noon and 1.30pm – 3.00pm and, once again, existing parents are welcome if they wish to view the new facilities.

Please note that there will be no Enrichment on Open Evening and that coaches will leave shortly after 3.15pm on this day.

Sixth Form

I am pleased to report the Sixth Form is expanding in line with our plans and 31 girls joined us from other schools in September 2009. I would like to welcome all our new students and their parents to Belvedere and wish them every success here. We will monitor their progress carefully and keep parents informed. The first indication of your daughter's performance will be Grade Card 1 which is due to be issued on 21st October. The Year 12/13 Parents' Evening will take place on 30th November at 4.00pm – 6.30pm.

HPV Vaccine

As you will be aware, a 14 year old girl in Coventry tragically died shortly after receiving the HPV vaccine. Following a post mortem it has now been established that there is no indication that the vaccine was a contributing factor to the death which was caused by 'a large malignant tumour of unknown origin in the heart and lungs.' I have enclosed a letter from Liverpool NHS Primary Care Trust which contains contact details and a website for parents wishing to make further enquiries. Vaccinations will, therefore, continue as planned.

Calendar of Events

I have enclosed a Calendar of Events for 2009/2010 which was originally sent to you in July but which will not have been received by parents new to Belvedere. I hope you will find it useful.

You can keep in touch with what is happening at Belvedere Academy by logging on to our website www.belvedereacademy.net

Carol Service

Our annual Carol Service will take place at Liverpool Cathedral on Thursday, 17th December at 2.00pm. Once again, we would be delighted to welcome you to the Cathedral for what I am sure will be a wonderful occasion.

Yours sincerely

P M Kennedy
Principal

Encl: Calendar of Events
Letter re HPV vaccine