D T C News

Dartford Technology College
Heath Lane, Dartford, Kent
DA1 2LY

July 2011 Issue 65

Dartford Technology College

College Office
The office is open from 8.00 am -5.15 pm, Monday – Thursday and 8.00 - 5.00pm on Friday.

FROM THE HEADTEACHER

It is with some trepidation that I write this Newsletter as it will be my last communication with you. It has been a privilege and an honour to serve the College especially since I have been Headteacher since 1997. Much of what has happened fills me with pride, but the most exciting event was the opening of the new building in 2009. It took up hours of time and on many occasions I thought it would never happen but persistence and patience and a touch of bad temper got us through. Our students deserved the best and while there were some disappointments DTC ended up with a wonderful new build which was not Private Finance Initiative or Building Schools for the Future. Students have really looked after the building and only two incidents of vandalism have been recorded in 2 years. There are still some outstanding building issues to be sorted most notably the drains. Drains in the Sports Hall and Main Building will be rebuilt during the summer break.

I have enjoyed working with DTC parents and families and I wish you every happiness for the future, I know the College will go from strength to strength. I wish you all, including all my colleagues whose unstinting support I have enjoyed, a happy and relaxing summer and a good start to DTC's new chapter in September.

COLLEGE WEBSITE

At last, after months of work, the new website is expected to go live the week beginning 1st August. The cost of buying a professional website was prohibitive so the Network Team undertook the task. It took much longer than anticipated. Please take a look and contact the College with your comments - positive or negative.

QUALITY IN EXTENDED SERVICES AWARD

On 14th July DTC submitted for the QUES Award and was rewarded by obtaining the Award at Extended level with a recommendation to apply for the Advanced level. The Award is in recognition of the range and number of extra curricular activities on offer and the relationships DTC has built up with the community.

Working Together in the Community

DTC and Westgate Primary School have been working together to produce heart monitor holsters for Darent Valley Hospital Cardiac Unit.

The holsters house wireless heart monitors and will be used by patients on Chestnut Ward allowing them to move around the ward freely without the need to be connected to a machine next to their bed.

Students from both schools have worked with staff from the Study Centre to redesign, sew and package the holsters ready for delivery to the Hospital.

A further production run of holsters is planned for use by the Cardiac Unit at the Medway Maritime Hospital.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the students and staff from both schools for their hard work and willingness to share their skills and talents with those in our local community. Well done.

STEMNET

DTC has been a STEMNET School since 2007. As an organisation STEMNET promotes the value of Science, Engineering and Mathematics and its impact on our lives. It also encourages young people to go into careers with a Science & Engineering bias. Our STEMNET club runs weekly after school and is specifically aimed at KS3 students. It is well attended so the College was very pleased when STEMNET asked us to be a Hub School for Kent. This means DTC encourages and trains other schools to establish their own clubs. Our staff are supported by STEMENT Ambassadors and the Regional Director Dr A Sharman. Dr Sharman is also an Associate Governor of DTC.

ADVOCATE SCHOOLS

The Specialist Schools and Academies Trust have appointed DTC as one of only a few schools to be an ICT Advocate School. This will involve the College in advancing the role of ICT in education.

SPA

This after school club has aimed to encourage fitness and healthy eating. Activities like Golf, Walking and demonstrating Nutritional Food have been enjoyed. This club is particularly for students in KS3 and it is proposed to continue next year.

BIG TREE

DTC has long served students from the Tree Estate and is therefore delighted to be part of the Lottery funded activities planned by the community of the Estate. DTC planned to be involved with a range of clubs and activities and is in talks with David Evans, Community Officer. We have already taken over an allotment and a group of staff and students are very excited about growing vegetables ready for next year.

REPORTS

Although reports are being issued in hard copy from now on they can be accessed in future on line. To receive your daughters report online Parents must be registered for the Learning Gateway. To do this go to www.dtc.kent.sch.uk/regform.htm

LETTINGS

DTC lets out facilities in the evenings and at weekends to sports clubs and local associations. If you run or are involved with a club and want a new venue, please contact Mrs Harding, Business Manager 01322 224309 for prices and availability.

COLLEGE CAR PARK

Parents are reminded they are not allowed to use the College Drive between 7.45am & 9.15am or 2.45pm & 3.45pm. The only exceptions are on medical grounds when a letter from the College has been requested. This policy is for the safety of all our pupils.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The bank will no longer accept cheques payable to DTC. Please ensure any future cheques are written in full to Dartford Technology College.

COLLEGE CALENDAR

Academic Term Dates 2011/2012

Bank Holidays:	**Monday 29th August**
Autumn Term 2011	**Thursday 1st September - Friday 21st October**
Half Term	***Monday 24th October - Friday 28th October***
	Monday 31st October - Friday 16th December
Spring Term 2011	**Wednesday 4th January - Friday 10th February**
Half Term	***Monday 13th February - Friday 17th February***
	Monday 20th February - Friday 30th March
Summer Term 2011	
Half Term	**Monday 2nd April – Friday 13th April**
	Monday 16th April Friday 1st June
Half Term	***Monday 4th June***
	Friday 8th June
	Monday 11th June Friday 20th July
Bank Holidays:	***Monday 26th December***
	Tuesday 27th December
	Monday 2nd January
	Friday 6th April (Good Friday)
	Monday 9th April (Easter Monday)
	Monday 4th June
	Tuesday 5th June
	Monday 27th August

Staff Development Days :

Thursday 1st September
Friday 2nd September
Monday 3rd October
Monday 31st October (Joint WHD training day)
Monday 16th April

Want to comment?
Want to submit news items for the next issue?
Write or e-mail admin@dtc.kent.sch.uk
College website address - www.dtc.kent.sch.uk
College Extranet