



## Message from Kevin McKellar

Dear Parent/Carer,

We have a very special awards ceremony on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> November. It is called the Community Awards Evening, a celebration of citizenship and altruism at Hendon School. Noelle Doona and Owen Hobbs our Student Voice Coordinator, have worked together to come up with a whole series of awards for students who give so much to our learning community and beyond. It is from 6pm to 8pm. If you would like to attend then please contact Noelle Doona at [doonan@hendonschool.co.uk](mailto:doonan@hendonschool.co.uk).

Changes to the examinations system. Thanks to the parents who have asked me about the changes to the exams. There is so much to go through and it is impossible to summarise it for the purposes of this bulletin. We will be explaining the proposed changes on our school website. This may take some time. For example, I am currently looking through the qualifications which will count in 2014 for the Key Stage 4 performance tables. From September 2015, we will have new GCSE's in English and mathematics with the first examinations in 2017.

It is hard to start planning for all of this when you have no concrete examples to work to. I have already spoken to the school leadership team about challenging students at Key Stage 3 with a razor sharp focus on progress and achievement. I would like us to be challenging students who come in on a high level 5 and perhaps a high level 4 with level 7 work from the start of Year 7. We also need to look very carefully at the teaching of reading, writing, spelling and grammar, and our whole school approach to literacy and numeracy.

The demands are ever increasing, but we can rise to any challenge. Our aim is to get the very best out of all students and we want to be seen as a school which has very high standards academically. If you would like to ask us any questions about the changes to examinations then please contact Chris Rawlinson on [rawlinsc@hendonschool.co.uk](mailto:rawlinsc@hendonschool.co.uk). He is responsible for our school website and we can have a 'your questions answered' section. We really do want to move forward in the best possible way and we want to keep you in the loop as much as we possibly can.

Do not hesitate to get back to me if you would like any more information.

And finally.....

Fred, our chocolate Labrador animal therapy dog died on Friday. Many of our students have been celebrating his work within school, recognising that he touched so many of our hearts. Fred was the first and best animal therapy dog. Staff and students remember him for his kindness, his obedience, his gentle temperament and his loving nature. Mrs Weatherhead will miss him. We will all miss him. Thanks to the parents and students for expressing their kind sentiments. Students have already talked to me about organising a plaque for Fred. More information to follow.

Kevin McKellar



Monday 18 November - Friday 22 November		
Tuesday 19 November	Year 7 Conflict Resolution (Hall) Year 12 & 13 Art Trip Year 7 Football Training	Period 1-3 All Day 3.30 pm
Wednesday 20 November	Year 8, 9 & 10 Music Trip Year 8 Football Training Whole School basketball training Community Awards Evening	All Day 3.30 pm 3.30 pm 6-8 pm
Thursday 21 November	Physics Trip to Switzerland Year 8, 9 & 10 Music Trip Year 9 & 10 Creative Choices Trip GCSE Maths Intervention Sixth Form Information Evening	All Day 3.30 - 4.30 pm 5.30 - 7.30 pm
Friday 22 November	Physics Trip to Switzerland Sixth Form Badminton	3.30 pm



# ATTENTION All Parents!



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