



# Devonport High School for Boys

## NEWSLETTER EXTRA

Autumn Term 2007

### News from the Headmaster

#### PTFA AGM

The school has benefited greatly over the years from the support of the PTFA. This support has included their involvement with on-going consultation on a variety of issues: new curriculum developments, information talks on general issues of concern to parents (such as drugs and behaviour) and updates from Heads of Faculties and staff in charge of activities. We also appreciate their friendly faces at school functions and their exceptional capacity to raise funds to support OUR school.

We always seek to expand our active membership and you are all invited to the AGM which will take place in the LRC (Library) at 7.00 pm on Wednesday 14 November 2007. At this meeting you will have an opportunity to become more involved and to help steer the PTFA through the next year.

All welcome, especially those parents who currently feel that they are disengaged from the school.

#### Headship Recruitment Update

Mr Evans, Chairman of Governors, and his Headteacher Selection Panel were disappointed by the small field who applied for the post in October 2007. They will re-run the advertisement in late January and aim to interview in March 2008.

Three of the first applicants have been invited to apply again in this second round.

The reasons for a small field are various and include the remoteness of Plymouth (!), the shortage of aspirational senior staff to take on headship as the current 'bulge' of Heads approach retirement, and the high and increasing level of responsibility faced by Heads.

With the successful OFSTED report to refer to and the innovative work that the school is leading, the selection team remain optimistic for a large and strong field in February.

#### Bus Behaviour & Uniform in Public

Our boys should wear uniform properly at all times to and from school, and in school. Parents, please help by ensuring that full uniform is properly worn as your son leaves home (or gets out of your car) each morning.

Behaviour on the buses also needs to be exemplary: recent episodes place at risk some services across the city. Boys must travel in a civilised way if they wish to continue to benefit from the school specials or service buses.

#### Extra Non-Pupil Day

The DCSF (formally known as the DfES) has allowed schools an extra staff training day in this academic year. DHSB staff will take this day on Wednesday 2 January 2008, with school recommencing on Thursday 3 January 2008.

#### Term Time Holidays

Under new legislation, parents can be fined if they take their child out of school without prior authorisation. AT DHSB parents should refer to the policy described in the pupil planner and fill in a leave of absence form before committing to a holiday, and certainly at least three working days before the planned absence.

#### Theatre Update

On Friday 22 October 2007 I was pleased to hold the pre-contract meeting with TEC Construction who have won the contract. The first phase lasts 20 weeks, leaving phase two for April - June 2008 when the seats, sound and light systems will go in.

So, in 32 weeks we open our Theatre!

Headmaster