

Chip off the old block: Romeo Beckham has picked up a few tips at home



Following suit is a very smart ploy for Romeo Beckham

By Sam Creighton

MOST of his classmates probably spent their evening playing with friends or doing their homework.

But now that he's joined the family business, 12-year-old Romeo Beckham had some much more urgent matters to attend to.

With a grin - and an outfit - that could have come straight from his footballer father, the youngster launched Burberry's festive campaign... in which he also happens to star.

Despite his father David, 39, and pop-star-turned-designer mother Victoria, 40, also showing their faces at last night's launch in London, the spotlight stayed firmly on Romeo, suggesting the future of Brand Beckham is in safe hands. The youngster

confidently posed for pictures, and was dressed in a smart suit and bow tie, with a Burberry scarf draped around his neck.

He is appearing in a video as part of a Christmas campaign for the brand, for which he began modelling when he was aged just ten.

The firm has always declined to say what he is paid. After Romeo's 2012 debut, Burberry's Christopher Bailey said the boy had been 'a joy to work with and really stole the show'.

Older brother Brooklyn, 15, made his modelling debut on the front of Man About Town magazine this year. He has also posed for the New York Times's T magazine.



Fashionable: David Beckham

Mumps outbreak more of a threat than ebola, warns medical expert

By Eamon Donoghue

MUMPS now poses a far greater threat than ebola, a medical expert has warned, following outbreaks of the virus at universities across the country.

The number of cases of mumps recorded so far this year is 400, over double that of 2013, with the Irish Daily Mail revealing that at least five universities are currently dealing with outbreaks.

Dr Michael Byrne, head of UCC's Student Health Department said: 'Whilst the ebola scare can't be ignored, other more home-grown infections are the real threat to you.'

The rise in mumps 'is very worrying and a real concern', he told the Mail

'It can lead to meningitis'

yesterday. 'Mumps is not a trivial illness. It's very significant and there has been an increase.'

The HSE has been unable to confirm the number of institutions affected by mumps, but in recent weeks the Cork Institute of Technology, UCD, UCC, Dún Laoghaire Institute of Art, Design and Technology and DCU have confirmed they have seen cases among students.

Dr Byrne confirmed that there is a worrying outbreak of the virus within his own UCC, and he is also 'aware of other cases from other colleges.'

'Here in UCC we definitely have an outbreak of the two or more cases which is considered an outbreak, and we've certainly had more than two,' he said. 'So we are closely monitoring this but the figure is still in the single digits. Mumps is not trivial, in its

BEST PREVENTION IS MMR VACCINE

MUMPS is a highly contagious viral infection that usually affects children. The most common symptom is a swelling of the parotid glands. Swelling and pain of the testicles is common in men and youths.

Parotid glands are located on either side of the face. The swelling gives a person a distinctive 'hamster face' appearance.

Sufferers usually develop immunity against further infections.

The mumps virus is spread in the same way as common cold or flu.

Mumps can be spread by direct or indirect contact. For example if infected droplets are transferred to an object, such as a door handle, and someone else touches it they can be infected if they then

touch their mouth or nose.

The most effective way to prevent catching mumps is to have the MMR vaccine, which is thought to be 95 per cent effective.

People who are infected are most contagious for a day or two before the onset of symptoms, and for five days afterwards.

Sufferers should stay away from school, college or work during this time. There are no anti-viral medications and treatment is focused on relieving symptoms until your immune system fights it off.

Those infected should get bed rest and take over-the-counter painkillers, drink plenty of fluids, apply a cold compress to swollen glands and eat only soft foods.

mildest case you would still, as a student, lose five days of study or exams.

'Yet for up to one in four cases young men can suffer orchitis which is the really painful swelling of the testicles and that can lead to sterility. It can lead to meningitis in up to one in six or seven cases so it's not trivial.'

The Health Protection Surveillance Centre said there have been 400 cases of mumps recorded so far this year - 216 more than this time last year.

Dr Byrne added that the likely cause for the outbreak is the criticism the Measles-Mumps-Rubella vaccine received in Ireland back in 1998 following research published which, since disproved, linked it to autism. As a result a large number of this year's cases have been seen in the 15 to 24 age group.

Last night a spokeswoman for CIT

told the Mail that 'there have been a number of cases reported here, and the general advice from the student health centre is to get your two vaccines if you think you may not of had them already for any reason'.

The virus has also been prominent in Dublin where a UCD notice was sent out recently informing students of an outbreak of mumps on campus.

And a spokesman for Dublin City University told the Mail that 'if any infectious disease is reported we have a protocol to follow with the HSE. So it has been reported but we haven't had to take any action yet'.

The Student Health centre of IADT Dún Laoghaire said it is providing information on mumps including symptoms and further contact information to all its students and staff.

reporter@dailyemail.ie