

Ref: DD/PW
Date: 14th January 2010

Dear Parent(s) / Carer(s),

It is an exciting time for Sedgefield Community College with the new school building now well underway and the exam results achieved by our students at the end of the last academic year our best ever. Recently, we were visited by Ofsted and the inspection provided us with confirmation of what we know now needs to be done to ensure future success.

At our school, extreme incidents of bad behaviour are rare and this is confirmed by statistical data such as those relating to school exclusions. However, we are committed to raising standards and as such we now wish to focus upon reducing the degree of low level disruptive behaviour that can inhibit learning.

With this in mind, a new system for managing behaviour in the classroom will be launched across the school starting from January 25th 2010. This system (known as BFL- Behaviour for Learning) will reward students who consistently meet and indeed exceed our expectations and we are excited at the impact this will have on raising aspiration.

Students who choose to behave in a way that disrupts learning and who choose not to modify this behaviour, will face clear sanctions. Compulsory school detentions will be issued when necessary and these will take place on the next available school lunchtime. These detentions will help focus students upon modifying and improving their behaviour. Should a student fail to attend a detention, and therefore refuse to accept the authority of the school, a fixed-term exclusion will then result.

Whilst the majority of our detentions will take place at lunchtime, there may be occasions when it is necessary to place students on a detention after school between 3.15 and 4.15. When this is the case, 24 hours notice of the detention will be given and it is then the responsibility of the parent / carer to ensure that arrangements are made to ensure students are safe in their journey home. Once again, a detention of any kind is compulsory and failure to attend indicates a refusal to accept the school discipline policy. If a student fails to adhere to this policy that is intended to support all students to achieve success then ultimately a fixed-term exclusion will result.

The behaviour of the majority of our students is very good, and we believe that **all** of our students have the potential to develop a similar disposition. Raising standards in terms of appropriate behaviour and intervening when students fall below expectations along with recognising and praising positive behaviour will support everyone in making the progress that they are capable of.

I am confident that parents will welcome the changes outlined however, should there be queries or matters that require clarification then Mr Baird, Deputy Headteacher should be contacted.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Dave Davies
Headteacher