

August 2007

Head's Message

Dear Parents,

Thank you once again for your support. You responded quickly to the Parents Questionnaire which has now been posted off for analysis. The 'findings' from this questionnaire are invaluable to us in our planning for the future and we will share the outcomes of this report in our next bulletin. Our students and staff have also completed a similar questionnaire.

Our exam results continue to improve as we try to ensure that students achieve the best possible grades of which they are capable. This year we are pleased to report 73% (as I write, although we expect this to increase to around 76%) of students attaining 5 A*-C grades at GCSE. This is well above the National average and is a significant achievement in terms of value added. Student attainment including Maths and English is also now well above the National average. Maths GCSE results in particular were much improved with 11 students gaining A*grades. We are delighted to report that all of our students gained some accreditation which again is a superb achievement for the College. Our record for excellent results for students of all abilities is now well established and places us as a leading Durham school.

We ask you for your continued support in ensuring that your child is punctual to school and that his/her attendance remains high I have enclosed some information on attendance and punctuality in this mailing. We ask for support with school uniform. We maintain that high standards of uniform and how the student wears it, high standards in behaviour and punctuality are closely linked to high achievement which is the aim for all of our children.

I have also enclosed for you information on uniform, conduct and catering which I ask you to read carefully. Please also remind your child that whilst travelling to and from school, they are ambassadors for Sedgefield Community College: poor behaviour embarrasses themselves and the school and their parents!

Once again I would like to thank each parent for supporting Sedgefield Community College as we continue to support each child in our care. This support is never taken lightly and is indeed one of the great strengths of our college. On behalf of our governors and staff, I wish you a successful and purposeful new school year.

Yours sincerely,

Lynne Ackland
Head teacher



Information about attendance, uniform and student conduct.

Attendance

Good attendance is vital for progress in learning and keeping track of attendance is a major task in such a large school. We do have an attendance officer – David Bewick and an Educational Welfare Officer but we would be grateful if you could:

- Provide notes to tutors for any absences with the reason clearly stated.
- Reinforce the importance of good timekeeping to your child – to lessons and at tutorial times. Lateness is treated as truancy in the eyes of the law and will be followed up by our attendance officer and EWO. Persistent lateness can result in a fixed penalty fine for parents.

Uniform

There have been many discussions about uniform but the policy has not changed for the past 8 years! We are grateful for parental support in purchasing uniform according to the policy. Students of all year groups are expected to wear the **correct school uniform**. This includes Black footwear which means **all black** no stripes, markings, labels etc will be permitted. The uniform is inexpensive and easy to purchase – financial help may be available if there is a problem. The uniform is as follows:

- Black College Sweatshirt with College Logo
- White Polo Shirt
- Black trousers/skirt
- Plain Black footwear

Student appearance is expected to be 'fit for purpose'. Make up, jewellery (except one pair of studs and 1 watch), fashion belts and extreme hair styles are not acceptable.

Student Conduct

The College has a clear system of sanctions and rewards. This is outlined on the website www.sedgefieldcommunitycollege.co.uk. The College is a large institution and depends on cooperation and mutual respect to this end we shall implement our policy fairly and attempt to be as consistent as we can. This year we have employed two Student Support Officers – Guidance who will work within the Student Services team – if necessary you may be contacted by them. Tracey and Sandra are not teachers and therefore are not restricted to break or lunch free time. Jane Hocke is senior admin officer for Student Services should you wish to contact the key stage coordinators or the Student Support Officers -Guidance.

Simple rules such as switching off mobiles, i pods etc during lessons, being prepared for lessons, saying please and thank you are important – we require your support on these matters.

Responsibilities: Uniform Implementation – tutors supported by Key Stage Coordinators, Student Services – Overall Debbie Murphy (Assistant head teacher) day to day – Key Stage coordinators. Attendance, truancy punctuality – tutors supported by Student Services and attendance officer (David Bewick) Behaviour and discipline – Teachers, Key Stage coordinators, Student Services Officers (Guidance) Overall responsibility Lynne Ackland