

Our Ref: DD/PW
Date: December 2011



Sedgefield
Community
College

Dear Parent / Carer,

College rebuild nears completion

As we approach the end of term I would like to provide an update with regards the progress of phase two of the rebuild programme which has taken place since we moved into the new building in January.

Following a delay in the demolition of the old school building, the focus of the phase two works has centered upon access to the college from Hawthorn Road. As a result, it is anticipated that soon after the school reopens to students after the Christmas break on Monday 9th January, the Hawthorn Road access will be open for use as will the new college car park and over flow car park.

At this stage we do not intend to allow students to access the college via this entrance as we are yet to establish safety risks posed to students by vehicles using this entrance. Rather, parents are asked to remind all students that they are only permitted to use the existing Butterwick Road entrance. This will be reviewed in due course and students informed of any change.

Parents are asked to note that from 9th January the Hawthorn Road entrance will be the only point of entrance for parents and visitors whilst the school is in operation. In addition, it is the intention to further ensure the safety of students by locking the Butterwick Road gates once students have arrived and only open them for students and buses to leave at the end of the day.

The final stage of the build process will begin in January as the temporary car park at Butterwick Road is landscaped over and temporary fencing removed. Finally, the footprint of the old school building will be seeded ahead of the area being returned to school and community use as a sports field.

Website

In a recent newsletter I informed parents that our new college website had become active. Since then teaching staff have spent a lot of time adding subject specific information that will better inform parents and provide information that will help parents supports their child's learning.

These subject 'clouds' can be accessed through the 'students' tab on the website. This area of the website will continue to grow over time and parents are encouraged to notify us via the 'contact us' tab should they wish to suggest further information that might be helpful. From January pupils will be able to access their homework tasks in this way (please see the attached letter on homework).

A C H I E V E @ S e d g e f i e l d

Aspiration - Community - High expectations - Independence - Excitement - Valued - Enjoyment

January Examinations

In January there are some very important examinations taking place. Examination timetables are available on the school website via both the 'students' and the 'parents' tab. Revision materials and past papers for Maths, Geography, English Literature, History and Science can be found under the subject 'clouds' on the 'students' tab of the website. Students who are sitting a MFL or Business Studies GCSE examination should collect exam resources specific to their individual needs from the relevant teacher.

Enrichment

Enrichment has been successfully re-launched this year and proven to be very popular with students. Every faculty within the school has offered a minimum of one activity with P.E. leading the way, offering seven activities for students to sign up to including: Fitness, Basketball, Badminton, Golf, Trampolining, Netball and Squash.

Other activities provided for students include: Spanish, Film Club, Fishing, Art, Science Club, Nurturing Animals, Journalism, DJ Club, School of Rock and Come Dine with Me. Whilst Y11 have also been offered the chance to join revision sessions in Maths and improve their coursework in Science, ICT and Technology.

On average 250 students have been joining in with the activities on offer and taking advantage of the later running Enrichment buses to get home. The last enrichment session of this term will take place on Wednesday 14th December and is still open to any student wishing to take part, regardless of whether they have attended so far. We will then re-launch the Enrichment programme when we return in January with another wide variety of activities including new activities delivered through our partners such as Queen Elizabeth College who have offered to run a number of college taster courses particularly targeted towards our year 10 and year 11 KS4 students.

To see what's on offer and to view pictures from this terms enrichment activities simply click on the link to the 'Enrichment cloud' which is located in the parents section of the school website.

Extreme weather conditions

Hopefully this winter will not prove to be as harsh as those that we have experienced in recent years. However, in the event that we do experience conditions that prevent us from opening the school, parents are reminded that local radio stations (check their websites) will be notified and, in addition, information will be posted on the college website.

It should be noted that a decision to close the school is not taken lightly and is only taken when there is a significant risk to the safety of students.

Whilst on the issue of wintery conditions, parents often ask whether students are permitted to wear Wellington boots to school when snow is lying. We do permit this but insist that students bring school shoes in a bag which they can change into once in the building – Wellingtons can be stored in student lockers during the day.

Uniform

Parents are reminded of our strict policy on footwear; the college uniform states that **“only plain black school shoes with no visible markings or brandings are permissible”**. I have enclosed pictures of footwear which clearly does not meet the description of acceptable shoes. If parents are in any doubt they should contact their child's Year Manager. Over the past year it has been pleasing to receive the numerous positive comments from parents, the local community and students themselves who have been

overwhelmingly supportive of the change. I would like to offer my sincere thanks to parents / carers for supporting us as we continue to strive to raise the standards of everything we do at Sedgefield.

Last day of term

School closes for the Christmas break on Monday 19th December. Parents should note that buses will be collecting students at 1.45pm, this will allow a staff meeting to take place.

Students are permitted to come to school in non-uniform on the last day of term. Should students wish to make an optional payment of up to 20p, proceeds will go to the two charities that the Student Council are collecting for this academic year which are Teenage Cancer Trust and Guide Dogs for the Blind.

School re-opens to students on Wednesday 4th January 2012.


And finally.....

As we are coming to the end of the year I would like to take this opportunity to thank parents for their continuing support throughout a challenging but highly successful year.

It is testimony to the strength of our home / school partnership that in 2011 we have been able to move into a new building with minimal disruption to learning, whilst in the same year record the college's best ever examination performance. I have no doubt that the pace of improvement will continue in 2012 and we will see even greater achievements from your sons/ daughters.

My best wishes for a very merry Christmas and a happy and healthy 2012.

Yours sincerely



Dave Davies
Headteacher

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