



Shelley College

A SPECIALIST CENTRE FOR SCIENCE

"Excellence and Enjoyment"

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Specialist Schools
and Academies Trust
EXCELLENCE AND DIVERSITY

24th February 2010

Dear Parent/Carer

Last half-term proved to be very eventful, with snow, OFSTED Inspectors and burst pipes contributing to a sense of expecting the unexpected. It certainly made for an interesting start for me but I have to say the support I received from staff and students was superb. There is a very strong sense of community around the college and a real determination to continue to improve even further.

I will be writing to you again shortly, to provide you with a copy of the OFSTED report. Unfortunately, I am not allowed to disclose the outcomes until the process has been verified but I can say they are very positive indeed.

There are a number of matters I am seeking your support for this half-term. First of all, I want to appeal to those parents who drive their children to school, to ask you to make every effort to drop your son or daughter off before 8.30 a.m. every morning. There are a considerable number of students arriving long after the start of registration and this causes some disruption every morning. I am sure you will all support me in recognising that good punctuality is one of the most important qualities expected by an employer and it is important we foster these good habits in school. We will be reinforcing these expectations with extra checks in the coming weeks.

The next matter concerns study leave. It has been recognised for a number of years that students perform better in examinations if they remain in school for as long as possible beforehand. For this reason, study leave for students in Years 11 to 13 will now start on Monday 7th June 2010, i.e. after the half-term break, rather than the earlier dates previously published. This will give students more valuable time to revise with their teachers. We will also try to run revision sessions in school during the examination season.

Whilst on the topic of examinations, I thought it would be useful to remind you of key dates, which can be found at the foot of this letter. It is particularly worth noting that GCSE modules now take place in Year 10 as well. Such modules are every bit as important as the Year 11 examinations and students must treat them seriously. You may find it useful to support your son or daughter's revision programme by encouraging them to access the Sam Learning or Bitesize resources which can be found by following the external links section on our website. There is also a wealth of material on moodle, which can be accessed via the college's internal website.

Many of you will no doubt have heard stories about how I intend to change the school uniform. However, I can assure you there is no truth in this rumour and we have no plans to introduce straw hats, blue blazers or pink ties. It has been fascinating to listen to the various stories that have circulated though. I am perfectly happy with the school uniform but believe students must wear it properly at all times.

You may recall that I am keen to hear parents' views about the college, particularly as we embark on writing our new development plan. I have therefore provisionally arranged a parents' forum meeting for Thursday 18th March 2010, starting at 5.30 p.m. The meeting will be informal and give you the opportunity to voice your opinions about the college or ask questions of the school's senior leadership team. Please contact the school by the usual telephone number or e-mail address if you would like to come.

Thank you, once again, for your continuing support. I look forward to meeting some of you on 18th March.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. J. McNally
Head Teacher

Key Dates – Spring/Summer Terms 2010

Tuesday, 9 th March	Year 9 Options Evening
Saturday, 13 th March	Reach for the Stars – Space Related Activities (suitable for Years 7/8/9)
Tuesday, 23 rd March	Year 9 Parents Evening
Wednesday, 31 st March	Year 10 Parents Evening
Thursday, 1 st April	School closes for Easter Holidays
Monday, 19 th April	School re-opens
Friday, 23 rd April	INSET Day
Monday, 3 rd May	Bank Holiday
Tuesday, 18 th May p.m.	GCSE Religious Studies Examination for Year 10 students
Friday, 21 st May a.m.	GCSE Science Examination for Year 9 students
Tuesday, 25 th May p.m.	GCSE English Literature Examination for Year 11 students
Wednesday, 26 th May a.m.	GCSE Physics Examination for Year 10 students
Friday, 28 th May a.m.	GCSE Science Examination for Year 10 students
Friday, 28 th May	School closes for Spring Bank Holiday
Monday, 7 th June	School re-opens