

SCK/LF

8th July 2005

Dear Parents/Guardians

As the end of the college year approaches, it is a good time to make you aware of a number of important issues:

END OF TERM

This term finishes at 12.25 on Tuesday 26th July. Provisional timetables for next year will be issued on Monday 25th July.

START OF TERM

Term starts on different days for different year groups:

- Year 7 - Tuesday 6th September
- Year 8 - Thursday 8th September
- Year 9 - Thursday 8th September
- Year 10 - Tuesday 6th September
- Year 11 - Friday 9th September
- Year 12 - Wednesday 7th September
- Year 13 - Friday 9th September

Also please remember that the college day is slightly different from September 2005 - college starts at 8.35am (5 minutes earlier than now) and the day finishes at 3pm, as now.

EXTENSION STUDIES PROGRAMME

All students will be involved in Extension Studies activities on Thursday and Friday afternoons next year. The aim of the Extension Studies programme is to provide students with a wider range of opportunities which will stimulate, challenge and help the development of a wide range of skills. The programme is a very exciting addition to our curriculum and is the first venture of its kind in the country.

Students have made their choices and we have been busy putting the 68 different activities into place. This has been a mammoth task as it will not only be our own staff involved in leading these activities; a number of coaches from outside the college will also be employed. It now appears we have been a little too ambitious in giving students a free choice for most of their activities. The demand for particular activities such as archery and fencing were enormous and far in excess of our predictions. As a result due to a lack of sufficient spaces for archery and enough coaches for fencing, we have had to restrict these activities in some year groups:- there is no archery available to Year 8 students and no fencing

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available to Year 7 students, although these activities will be available in curriculum plus activities after college and they will be made available to students in future years. Overall we have been able to ensure that all students in Years 7, 8 and 9 will follow 5 compulsory 6 week modules (2 X Maths, 2 X English, 1 X Personal Growth) and generally will be given at least 6 out of their 7 open choices; many have been given all 7 choices. In Years 10 and 11 most students have been given all their choices although some have had to have one of their choices amended.

Some students will be involved in the wider curriculum activities on a Friday afternoon and these activities will involve some payment. A letter will be sent out to the parents of these students shortly.

PERSONAL EXTENDED STUDY

From September, all students in Years 7 and 8 will do a Personal Extended Study (PXS) over several weeks in each term. This is designed to help develop students' independent learning skills, tie together work that students are doing across a range of subjects and allow students to develop areas that interest them creatively. Students will be expected to use the weekly WILL sessions in college as well as time at home to produce their personal extended study. Details of the PXS will be sent home with students in September.

UNIFORM

The college uniform has had a number of minor student-influenced changes over recent years and is now very smart and comfortable. However, there are certain issues that keep arising and so we would be grateful if you could support the college in following the uniform code. Particular issues:

- Students are not allowed to wear trainers of any sort
- Jewellery and piercings are not allowed (1 ring and 1 stud or sleeper in each ear are all that is allowed)
- Non college hoodies and sweatshirts are not allowed
- Only plain black belts are allowed on trousers
- T-shirts should not be worn under the college polo shirt

The full college uniform is to be found in the student planner and on the college website.

Finally, there will be a mufti day on Tuesday 26th July. This is in aid of our link with URAMBO, TANZANIA. Students will be charged £1 if they attend college out of college uniform, and the theme is white.

We will write to you in the new college year with further information and dates, but in the meantime have a good summer holiday.

Yours sincerely

S C Kenning
Headteacher