

MCi/jbr

10<sup>th</sup> November 2010

Dear Parents, Carers and Students

I know you will find enclosed with this letter a copy of the Term 2 report as well as the latest edition of our community newsletter. When we returned from our summer break we not only returned to a fourth successive year of improved examination results and one of the strongest OFSTED reports in the area but also two brand new vocational provisions; our Motor Vehicle centre based on the Ross Way Industrial estate and a new Beauty Therapy suite here within our school buildings. As with our other vocational units they have all been equipped and resourced to industry and commercial standards. Along with our existing Hair Salon, Construction and Carpentry workshop, Catering and Hospitality facilities and Child Care suite, the Motor Vehicle centre and Beauty Therapy suite now means that we are providing a unique opportunity for our young people to gain recognised vocational qualifications.

Since our return from the summer break we have already had two parent consultation evenings; one for our new Year 7 students and one for our Post-16 Dyson students. Families will be aware that we always request that parents and carers provide us with feedback by completing a simple evaluation form. The analysis attached shows a summary of the responses we got from our Year 7 Parents.

**Statutory Collaboration with St Mary's** - Families will by now know that as from September 2010 Pent Valley Technology College and St Mary's Church of England Primary School have formed a legal partnership. This means that increasingly families and students will notice a growing number of projects happening across our two schools. In reality a number of projects began well before September but I am now looking forward to more and more of these. Of course the important point is that this work is designed to improve opportunities and learning across both schools. This has already started to happen with examples of Pent Valley students working with students from St Mary's on various projects including dance, reading and shortly Technology. Some Pent Valley students are also being given the opportunity to have work experience and work placements within St Mary's.

**Our new drive on dress code** - I have already written to all families and students to both thank and congratulate everyone on what we have achieved in terms of improving the appearance of our students. I simply wanted to report that at the end of last term and indeed the start of this Term 3 the vast majority of students have maintained the standard we set. I am also pleased to say that through our Mini Schools we are able to be sensitive to those very rare situations when for unforeseeable reasons families have to send their children in with an item of clothing which is not part of our dress code.

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On a daily basis this is rarely more than about 3 or 4 students in each Mini School so overall about 1% of our whole school population. I hope this standard will now be maintained especially as we go into the colder weather. I will remind families that our students can wear any coat they wish as long as it is completely black and with no logos or other coloured patterns. We are of course very happy for the coats to have visible reflectors so they can be seen in darkness and at night.

**The Pent Valley Portal** - Following two years of sampling different products available on the market and eventually starting to design and develop our own portal I am at last confident to be able to confirm that we have developed a new portal site. We are hoping that this will now provide the service that we want as a school, that students are keen to have and that parents have been waiting for! Our plan is that we will make the portal available to parents and families on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2010. In the first instance the portal will allow parents to access their child's timetable, Independent Learning projects, reports, newsletters and other publications from the school. Following this first roll out that then every term a new feature will be added to the portal. As always we want the portal to improve home school communication and so we will also have a link from the portal to the Parent Blog and we hope that families will use this to provide feedback on the usefulness of the portal, its functionality and any other aspects parents and families want to provide feedback on.

**Year 11 Post -16 Options evening** - On Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2010 Dyson will be holding their options evening. This will give students in Year 11 and their families a chance to see the courses we have on offer for September 2011. Currently we are proud to have the largest Post-16 provision of any of the schools in the area and coupled with this the widest ranges of courses on offer. Each year we get an increasing number of applications from students attending the local academies and grammar schools so it is important that our own Pent Valley students make sure they see what is on offer for them next year and make their applications.

**Important dates:**

Training days	Thursday, 25 <sup>th</sup> November & Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> November 2010
Headteacher Surgery	Saturday, 27 <sup>th</sup> November 2010
Exam dates	Yr 11 - Childcare Tuesday, 7 <sup>th</sup> December 2010
Last day of term 3	Friday, 17 <sup>th</sup> December 2010 (which will also be a non-uniform day in aid of raising money for Charity)
First day of term 4	Tuesday, 4 <sup>th</sup> January 2011

Yours faithfully



MR M CITRO  
Headteacher  
PENT VALLEY TECHNOLOGY COLLEGE

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