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5th October 2010

Dear Parents, Carers and Students

I wanted to write to share how delighted and proud we are of the efforts that everyone has made in relation to ensuring that all of our students are in perfect uniform.

I think what really proved this point to us was the fact that on Monday 27th September which we said would be the deadline by which every student had to be in perfect uniform, only 20 out of our total student population of 1400, had to be sent home to collect correct items and then return again. To place this number in context this equates to only 1% of students out of uniform.

I know that families will be very aware that for other schools to achieve this they have had to resort to high numbers of students being excluded and what is really sad is that they have had to continue to use such drastic action year after year to maintain their dress code. I think the students, staff, Governors and families of Pent Valley Technology College should all therefore be very proud of what we have achieved. Of course now that we have set this high standard our expectation is that we will keep it.

We will all already be aware that in our area Pent Valley has now set the standards with the best examination results, the best attendance, the best punctuality and following OFSTED's inspections of local schools last year, now the best according to OFSTED too. Very proudly for us OFSTED also evidenced how the behaviour of our students was the best too and how we are unique in achieving a level of zero permanent exclusions.

I am very aware that a great deal of what we achieve we do because our Mini Schools have improved the links between home and school enormously. In terms of this I wanted to take the opportunity of reminding all families that in addition to the Parent Consultation Evenings for each year group we will also be having Options and Choices evenings for Years 8, 9, 10, 11 and Post 16. Dates of these will be confirmed with families nearer the time although you will see below the dates for Year 7 and Post-16 Parent Consultation Evenings.

Parent Consultation Evenings

Year 7, Tuesday, 19th October 2010

Post 16, Wednesday, 3rd November 2010

Uniquely to Pent Valley we also have the following forms of communications which happen regularly throughout the year:

A Full School Report each term: This is posted home to each family within the first two weeks of each term and shows the targets for each subject along with the previous term's assessments made by each subject.

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Head Teacher's letter each term for each year group: This is posted home along with the report and has news and messages which are specific to the year group the student is in.

Pent Valley Together with the Community Flier: This is published each term too and summarises some of the work that goes on in school but also has details of our work in the community and gives community groups including voluntary organisations, church groups and charities a chance to reach our students and families. Private businesses have also started to advertise in this flier which has raised funds which have proven useful in us being able to extend the circulation of the flier. Should any parent or carer be involved in any group or organisation which would like to publish materials or articles in the flier then all they need to do is contact our LRC Manager and Press Officer Linda Coleman at the school on extension 2228 or email linda.coleman@pent-valley.kent.sch.uk.

Parent Blog: This is available through our website and gives all of our parents a chance to set up discussions with other parents about issues which are of interest to them. All comments are checked before they are published and when they require a response from the school then this is also published. The link can be found by going onto the school website 'www.pent-valley.kent.sch.uk' and clicking on the 'parent blog' icon in the box on the top left hand side of the home page.

Head Teacher Surgeries: these are held on Saturday mornings and give parents and carers an opportunity to meet with me directly about matters they wish to discuss. In order to book a surgery, families need to simply contact Ian Norman at the school or email: ian.norman@pent-valley.kent.sch.uk. Dates for the forthcoming surgeries are

27th November 2010 at 10.00 am

22nd January 2011 at 10.00 am

26th March 2011 at 10.00 am

21st May 2011 at 10.00 am

25th June 2011 at 10.00 am

Regular Consultations with Parents: These happen at various times throughout the year and are usually consultations with parents over proposed changes at school. Last year we held consultations over changes to the gate opening times, the organisation of Foreign Language teaching and a new Personal Responsibility Charter. All of these consultations are carried out through simple questionnaires available through our website and if parents want through postal questionnaires. Once we have collected responses we inform parents and students and then decide on whether it is right to make the proposed change.

The first consultation for this year is in relation to school meals. Our school has been selected to become a flagship school by the Food For Life Partnership and we would very much welcome parents' views about school meals. Please go to our website to access the Food For Life questionnaire that can be completed in a few minutes on line. Should families prefer a paper questionnaire then all they need to do is get in touch with the school and ask for a paper version.

Finally I will again thank all of our students and families for supporting our work and ensuring that we continue to set the standards in all aspects of our work in our area.

Regards



MARIO CITRO
Headteacher
PENT VALLEY TECHNOLOGY COLLEGE