

MCi/jbr

9<sup>th</sup> November 2011

Dear Parents Carers and Students

You will find enclosed with this letter the school report for your child for last Term which of course here at Pent Valley was Term 2. As always our hope is that each family makes the time to sit down with their child to discuss and check the progress they are making by comparing the latest grades or levels compared to the targets they have been set. It is of course important to remember that the target is set so that it is achieved by the end of the school year. Should any family want to discuss any concerns or issues about any aspect of the report then please get in touch with the relevant Mini School staff who will be only too pleased to either discuss matters over the telephone or email or arrange a meeting.

**Excellent return from summer holidays** - Once again (and for the fifth year running!) we returned in September to an **improved set of examination results at GCSE and also at Post 16**. In fact across the board students taking public examinations in summer 2011 achieved better results than have ever been achieved by Pent Valley since it has been in existence! Importantly for us as a school our rate of improvement has continued to exceed the rate nationally and locally.

This September our return was made even more positive by the fact that both Sharman and Franklin Mini Schools had been completely refurbished. This included new furniture and also new Computer and ICT facilities. Plans are ready in place for Benz and Edison Mini Schools too.

**Department of Education visit** - In the last newsletter we mentioned the fact that we were awaiting a visit from the Department of Education. This had been arranged because inspectors and Government civil servants had noted some of our excellent examination results especially with some groups of students. We were delighted that following their visit in July we received what can only be described as an **outstanding report**. The inspection focused mainly on students whose first language is not English (called EAL -English as an Additional Language) but many of their conclusions applied to our work with all students. Some examples include:

- *Assessment, monitoring and tracking procedures are excellent. EAL students, like all students, benefit from the school's good practice in this area. In addition to the identification of the support needs of individual students, the school is careful to analyse outcomes for 'vulnerable' groups also.*

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- *A great deal of good practice at Pent Valley that could be shared with other schools*
- *The school's community cohesion practice and especially its proactive approach to integration.*
- *The management structures (at both senior and middle level) in place for ensuring that all staff take responsibility for supporting the language and learning development of EAL students.*
- *The excellent assessment, monitoring and tracking procedures that pay attention not only to the needs of the individual student but also to vulnerable groups as a whole.*

**Attendance** - Families will by now be familiar with the fact that with each report each term we also issue the individual attendance records for each child. The aim in doing this is again to ensure that families are aware of any absences which their child may have had which perhaps they were unaware of. This of course should be a rare event because of our daily calling which our Student Data Managers in each Mini School carry out. It is an opportunity though for us to stress that as a school we regard any **attendance below 93% as a cause for concern**. We have traditionally as a school, had excellent attendance and we ask for families' help in maintaining this standard. With this newsletter you will also find a leaflet we have designed titled '*Does attendance matter?*' which explains in further details why we set our expectation of attendance at no lower than 93%.

**Attendance on Portal** - As part of our continuing development of facilities and information available through the portal we will from the start of December 2011 be making **Year 7 Attendance accessible through the portal**. This means that as soon as a register is taken by a teacher or other member of staff, parents will be able to see this in real time through their home computer or indeed any other hand held technology they use to access the portal with. The intention is that over the course of this academic year more and more year groups will have their attendance visible through the portal. In each newsletter we will announce the new year group attendances which have been made accessible.

**Punctuality and Uniform** - It is well over a year now since we introduced our '*late gate*' on Surrenden Road. This has been a real success and has improved punctuality to school enormously. It does now mean that students who are late for school have their names recorded and if they develop a pattern of lateness then families are contacted. To avoid this please can we remind all that first lesson starts at 8.50 am. This means that students should not be arriving to school any later than 8.40 am to give them a chance to get to first lesson on time.

Since September we have also been using the late gate to ensure that all students come to school in correct uniform. Any items of incorrect uniform have either been removed at the gates or where this is not practical then the student has been sent home. This has been particularly successful especially with ensuring that all outer coats or garments are black. **With the colder weather approaching we ask that families make sure that their children do indeed have warm coats to wear that are black**. The school does have black coats available through our uniform supplier. These can be bought directly through the supplier or by coming into school and placing an order. **We do want to stress though that we will continue our practice of removing non uniform items from students at the school gates.**

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**Contraceptive Implant Clinic at Pent Valley** - Families will know of the work which Pent Valley and the East Kent NHS have been jointly involved in regarding reducing teenage pregnancy rates across Shepway and improving advice about safe sex and contraception. This work is now set to develop further over the coming months when as a school we will have appropriately trained NHS staff who will administer contraceptive implants to girls of the appropriate age. This decision was taken by the Governors of the school in July. In taking this decision the Governors considered at length advice from both education and also the NHS. An important aspect of this for Governors was that an information evening should be arranged for families to attend. The purpose of the evening would be to provide families with factual educational and health evidence to support why the school had decided to take this action, as well as answering any questions families may have. At this meeting representatives from the East Kent NHS will be present as well as Governors and staff from Pent Valley. The evening has been arranged for Monday, 28<sup>th</sup> November 2011 at 5.30 pm in the Bistro, please use the Tile Kiln Lane entrance to the school for this evening. Further information from NHS can be accessed via the website [www.fpa.org.uk](http://www.fpa.org.uk) type contraceptive implant in search bar and then click on point 1 for the guide.

**Parental Questionnaires** - Please find attached results of the parental questionnaires from our recent Dyson Post-16 & Year 7 Parent Evening.

**Important dates:**

14<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> November 2011  
17<sup>th</sup> November 2011 - 5.00 pm - 7.00 pm  
21<sup>st</sup> November 2011

24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> November 2011  
28<sup>th</sup> November - 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2011  
28<sup>th</sup> November 2011 5.30 pm (Bistro)  
14<sup>th</sup> December 2011  
16<sup>th</sup> December 2011  
4<sup>th</sup> January 2012  
16<sup>th</sup> January 2012  
9<sup>th</sup> February 2012

GCSE Examinations continue  
Post 16 Options Evening  
Year 10 Immunisations  
(Dip/Polio/Tetanus)  
Staff Training Days  
Mock Examinations  
Implant Clinic Information Evening  
Christmas Fair  
Last day of Term 3  
First day of Term 4  
Year 11 Parents Evening  
Dyson Parents Evening

Yours sincerely



MR M CITRO  
Headteacher  
PENT VALLEY TECHNOLOGY COLLEGE

Encs