

Pent Valley
TECHNOLOGY COLLEGE

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achievement for all

MCi/jbr

February 2012

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 3. 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.

Families may also be interested in knowing that we are currently reviewing our reporting arrangements. Part of this review will include ensuring that we collect views from parents and families as well as students. Along with this newsletter and report some families will also find a simple short questionnaire which we hope will be completed and returned to the school. A stamped addressed envelope has been enclosed to help families and in addition all questionnaires will be entered into a draw the winner of which will receive uniform vouchers to the value of £25.00.

Health & Wellbeing: With the Olympics and Paralympics fast approaching, the Government and Press are focusing on the health of the nation, with overweight and obesity high on the agenda. Families will also be aware that during our last Full OFSTED inspection in 2010, this area of work was rated as **Outstanding**. As part of our continuing commitment to this area of work, we are working with the NHS and other external partners on a healthy weight strategy. If parents or students would like some support with weight loss, diet or exercise then please speak to a member of the PV Health Team.

Mr Ball (IUS Leader, Health and Fitness) - Located in Dyson, or PE.

Mrs Messenger (School Nurse) - Located in the Medical Room.

Mr Wise (PVLC Manager) - Located in the PVLC.

OFSTED Monitoring Inspection: During the last few weeks of last term just before the Christmas break, the school received a visit from OFSTED. This was not a full inspection but simply a review of the areas (only two) which in 2010 were judged as being Satisfactory; families will recall that all the other aspects of the school's work were judged as Good or Outstanding. The short summary letter which followed this latest inspection is enclosed with this posting. Overall families will see that the inspectors were again very impressed and positive about many aspects of Pent Valley's work and standards. As a school we were particularly pleased that even though our last inspection where most aspects were judged to be Good, was only about 18 months ago, the inspectors could already see improvements since then.

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In particular the following were positive judgements which stood out:

- *Students' attainment has risen since the previous inspection and progress and learning have improved.*
- *Better monitoring and tracking systems helped to secure the 2011 improvement in GCSE results and a further rise is confidently predicted for 2012.*
- *Student outcomes have been further enhanced through curriculum innovation. The growing vocational dimension to the curriculum, especially in Years 10 and 11, is successfully leading to improved outcomes, with students gaining more qualifications. This is boosting confidence and improving the opportunities students have beyond the age of 16.*
- *A majority of lessons observed featured either good or outstanding learning, though there was a wide variation and a minority of lessons were no better than satisfactory. These outcomes reflect the school's own monitoring.*
- *Students of all abilities work with interest and enthusiasm when independence is encouraged well.*
- *Behaviour is generally good in lessons.*
- *Specialist technology status continues to confer benefits and the school has been creative in developing technology in its widest sense.*
- *The curriculum and the way students' progress is tracked and monitored have all improved.*

The aspect we are now focusing on as a school is ensuring that at the next inspection it is judged that **ALL** lessons are Good or Outstanding. Although families will see that the worst the inspectors saw were lessons which they judged to be Satisfactory, we are determined to improve this still further. As always this kind of improvement comes from the professionalism, hard work and dedication of our staff. Importantly also the support which our families give us and the loyalty and determination of our students who each year achieve higher and higher standards.

Energy Drinks: Over the past 12 months we have noticed a growing trend of students drinking 'Energy drinks' on the way into school. Although there is no ban on selling such drinks to children there are health warnings on the cans and trading standards have issued a ban on traders promoting or marketing such drinks to children under the age of 16. We as a school have noticed how in some cases students who have had such drinks can then show heightened levels of energy which are often not helpful in learning or concentration. We of course do not sell such drinks at school and are asking that families speak with their children about the possible health risks associated with such drinks with their often very high levels of caffeine and other chemicals which can be harmful. We aim to speak with students in assemblies about this and will continue to monitor this situation.

Smoking fines: Families will be aware that each Mini School has its own Mini School Council and that each of these meets at least once a term, so 6 times a year. These Mini School Councils are composed of students from each of the year groups in their Mini School. Each Mini School Council is supported by a member of staff from that Mini School who helps to set the agenda and keep a record of decisions and actions. Each term two representatives from each of the Mini School Councils then attends the Whole School Parliament. At this meeting issues and ideas from each Mini School Council are then discussed so each Mini School is aware of the work in other Mini Schools. On occasions matters are discussed that can lead to a change across the whole school.

An example of this was at last term's Whole School Parliament when the issue of smoking was discussed. The students present were very positive about how the school has tackled and reduced the amount of smoking which now takes place on site. They were determined though to think about how to reduce this still further and so discussed the idea of issuing fines. There was a view that there could be a sliding scale of fines where for a first offence a student could be fined £5 and on a second offence it would be £10 and so on. This has not yet been fully accepted by the Governors of the school but we would welcome any views which families may have about this. This will continue to be discussed at school.


Parental Surveys: Please find attached results of the parental questionnaires from our recent Year 11 Parent Evening.

Important Dates:

9th February 2012
10th February 2012
20th February 2012
23rd February 2012
1st March 2012

Dyson Parents Evening
Last day of term 4
First day of term 5
Year 9 Parents Evening
Year 9 Options Evening

Yours sincerely



MR M CITRO
Headteacher
PENT VALLEY TECHNOLOGY COLLEGE

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**PENT VALLEY
PARENTAL SURVEY 11
JANUARY 2012**

	Please Tick	Strongly Agree %	Agree %	Disagree %	Strongly Disagree %	Don't Know %
1	The Parent/Teacher Consultation Evening was well planned and organised	36%	55%	9%		
2	The Parent/Teacher Consultation Evening was very useful in helping me know how my child is progressing in their subjects	46%	54%			
3	My child likes school	27%	54%	18%		
4	My child is making good progress	36%	55%	9%		
5	I am kept well informed about how my child is getting on	18%	64%	9%		9%
6	Staff expect my child to work hard and do their best	27%	73%			
7	The school is led and managed well	18%	82%			
8	The school seeks the views of parents and takes account of their suggestions and concerns	18%	64%			18%
9	Staff encourage my child to be mature and independent	27%	64%			9%
10	There is a good range of activities that my child finds interesting and enjoyable.	18%	82%			
11	My child understands their rights and responsibilities and those of others	27%	64%			9%
12	My child knows who to ask for help when they need it	27%	73%			
13	Staff treat my child fairly	27%	73%			
14	I feel comfortable about approaching the School with questions or a problem or complaint	27%	64%		9%	

		Please Tick				
		Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't Know
15	Pupils behave well	9%	82%			9%
16	Pupils from different background get on well with each other	18%			9%	
17	Students are encouraged to adopt a Healthy lifestyle	27%	73%			
18	Pupils understand what it is to be part of a community such as mini schools	27%	64%			9%
19	The school and pupils interact with the outside community	18%	54%	9%		18%
	Pupils are offered information advice and guidance	This question was not on the sheets given to parents/carers				
20	The school is well equipped and resourced	27%	73%			

Other comments:

- **Did not know which teachers were which**
- **When I phone school I answered abruptly and in a rude manner**