

18th January 2010

Dear Parents

Postponement of closure day – 29th January

Might I start this letter to you by wishing you a very happy New Year. On January 29th we had planned to have a closure day. However, the recent poor weather conditions caused the loss of three days and we would now like to postpone this closure day until later in the academic year.

Uniform issues:

The recent cold weather has led to a number of students wearing incorrect uniform. Whilst this may have been understandable in the short term we would now like to return to normal. I would like to remind you and the students about a few particular issues:

T-shirts that are worn underneath shirts must not be visible.

Black shoes must be worn at all times

An academy jumper can be worn underneath the blazer, other jumpers and cardigans must not be worn.

All outdoor coats must be removed when in the academy buildings.

All other uniform guidance can be found on our website. A copy of the uniform policy is also available from the office.

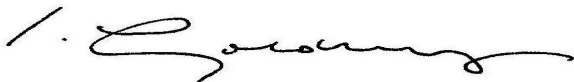
Recent article in the Daily Echo:

You may have recently read article in the local press talking about standards in Southampton schools. As you are aware the Daily Echo has a particular view of life in Southampton and rarely seems able to find the good in things. Secondary education is improving and my colleagues in other schools are constantly working hard to drive up standards, as are we. It must also be said that we have been open for just four terms, many of the school improvements seen in Southampton have been gained over many years.

In our first year we have successfully merged two schools together, we have out performed the predecessor schools and have only recently received a very positive report from Ofsted. One of the most encouraging comments from the inspection team was that "the over-riding picture... is one of improvement". We know we still have a great deal to do and we will not rest until we have raised standards to a much higher level.

This week we have had good news from our Year 11 students who took their English Language examination early (in November). The results were really pleasing, 34% of students achieved a C or better which is just behind what we achieved last summer with five months still remaining to boost standards further still. We are working very hard to establish a 'can do' culture, where students consider hard work to be the norm. This is something that we cannot do by ourselves; it is a partnership in which parents play a crucial role. I very much look forward to working with you over the coming months and years in promoting substantial progress in achievement by all students.

Best wishes



Mr I Golding
Principal