

KEN STIMPSON COMMUNITY SCHOOL



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DMcP/CAW

18 December 2008

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to confirm details of arrangements for some forthcoming events, to update you on a number of issues at the end of this autumn term and to commend to you the enclosed 'Stimpson Shout' magazine. The information contained in this newsletter, along with a colour copy of the "Stimpson Shout", is also available on the school website www.kscs.org.uk

Staff Changes.

Mr Cole leaves at the end of his term at the school and will be replaced by Ms Bowles in his role of Teacher of ICT. We will also be joined in January by Mrs Nuzzo, Teacher of Modern Foreign Languages. I would also like to acknowledge the work of Mrs Taylor, Teaching Assistant, who leaves at the end of this term.

Calendar Changes – Year 10 examinations Tuesday 5 – Friday 8 May 2009.

You will be aware from recent articles in the national media and the newsletter published on 7 November that the decision has been taken nationally to withdraw the need for Year 9 students to sit National Curriculum SAT tests. Consequently we have removed the SATs tests scheduled originally for Tuesday 5 - Friday 8 May 2009 from the school calendar along with a number of practice tests for Years 7, 8 and 9 students.

Subsequently we have taken the decision to move the Year 10 examinations originally scheduled for Monday 30 March – Friday 3 April, to this slot from Tuesday 5 – Friday 8 May since this is considered to be a better time.

An updated Calendar for the remainder of the year can be accessed from the school website.

Punctuality.

We remind parents/carers but more especially students that they need to be on campus by 8.40 a.m. each morning and in their tutor room by 8.45 a.m. for formal registration.

The local Tesco supermarket is operating a "two student only entry policy" between 8.10 a.m. and 8.40 a.m. on each school day. Students need to be advised that standing in a queue at Tesco is not an acceptable reason for arriving late to school.

Hairspray.

Over 40 students went to the West End production of Hairspray. The visit organised by our Performing Arts faculty proved very successful and popular.

Mayoral visit.

The school welcomed, the Mayor of Peterborough, Councillor Pat Nash, and Gillian Beasley, Chief Executive of Peterborough City Council, on a tour of the school in early November. They visited a number of classes and met with a group of students over lunch. A highlight of the tour was a welcome dance presented by Post 16 Dance students.

Space Centre.

Over 100 Year 7 students visited the National Space Centre in Leicester in mid October. The day organised by our Science faculty provided valuable insight into the Science curriculum.

Children in Need.

Congratulations to all involved in this major funding raising event. We have donated £1,600 to this cause, monies being raised from a mufti day and a large scale fair in the Sports Hall.

A special thanks to the Charity Committee led by Miss Young.

Dance and Drama Extravaganza.

A showcase performance evening was held by our Performing Arts faculty on Monday 24 November 2008. Over 160 students participated in the extravaganza. An evening of pure talent! Well done to all involved.

KSSA – Monday 12 January.

A meeting of the KSSA will be held on Monday 12 January at 7.00 p.m. in the Conference Room. This will be an initial planning meeting for our Spring Fair.

Parents' Forum – Monday 19 January.

You are warmly invited to the Parents' Forum meeting on Monday 19 January at 7.00 p.m. in the Conference Room. Our agreed focus at this meeting will be 'Drugs Education'.

It would be helpful if you would send a brief note, telephone message (01733 383658) or email (forum@kscs.org.uk) to Mrs Ware, Principal's PA, at school, or to let us know you plan to come along to this meeting and, if so, if there are particular questions that you would like to raise.

Advance Notice – Spring Fair Saturday 14 March.

Our annual 'Spring Fair' will take place on Saturday 14 March 2009. Please look out for details in the Spring term.

Werrington Schools' Community Christmas Concert.

The school again hosted the now traditional seasonal event in our Assembly Hall. The concert featured items from local primary schools alongside our school band. An appreciative audience were entertained and given an excellent start to the Christmas season.

Work Experience.

Well done and congratulations to all Year 11 students who completed work experience as part of their Key Stage 4 programme. The school has received numerous congratulatory letters commending the commitment and work of students. We thank all local employers who supported our Year 11 students on this experience.

Fox Covert Road.

There are clear notices regarding the use of Fox Covert Road. It is designed for the use of residents and disabled visitors to the Library only. Consequently I encourage parents not to use the Fox Covert Road entrance to drop off or collect students from school. I would ask all drivers of all cars and minibuses to use the perfectly adequate car parking facilities at the Werrington Centre entrance.

Good Food Show 2008.

A group of 30 GCSE students visited the 'Good Food' Exhibition at the NEC in Birmingham in late November. Students watched presentations and sampled a broad range of products.

Business Planning Award.

In late November a team of six students from KSCS claimed first prize in the Ashcroft International Business School Annual Business Planning competition. Each of the winning students received a brand new Toshiba laptop and a cup for the school. The six victorious students were **Sarah Chambers, Megan Lipscombe, Jason English, Andrew Skeels, Milli Toliomeo and Helena Diver.**

Presentation Evening.

Our annual Presentation Evening was held on Monday 15 December. Mr Chris Briggs, the Learning and Development Coach at John Lewis Partnership - a primary partner in our Business and Enterprise developments - was guest of honour and distributed certificates and prizes alongside giving an address. Special prizes for achievement in a variety of areas were awarded. The evening concluded with refreshments being served in the Post 16 Common Room.

www.samlearning.com

We are pleased to be able to inform you that the school has continued its subscription to SAM Learning, an online learning service that can be used at home and at school. SAM Learning usually costs home users £49.99, but all Ken Stimpson Community School students now have full use of this service totally free of charge. Recent research has shown that students who have used e-learning for as little as ten hours achieved 4.5% more A*-C GCSEs than expected.

Future Dates.

Friday	19	December	End of Term (students dismissed at 2.15 p.m.)
Monday	5	January	Training Day
Tuesday	6	January	School Opens
Thursday	8	January	AS & A2 Exams begin (until Thursday 29 January)
Thursday	8	January	Twilight Training (3.30 p.m. – 5.30 p.m.)
Friday	9	January	Year 11 Post 16 Taster Day
Monday	12	January	KSSA Business Meeting
Monday	12	January	Science Module Exam (Biology)
Thursday	15	January	Science Module Exam (Chemistry)
Thursday	19	January	Science Module Exam (Physics)
Monday	19	January	Parents' Forum
Tuesday	20	January	Governors' Curriculum Committee
Wednesday	21	January	Year 10 GCSE Business Visit – Cadbury World
Thursday	22	January	GCSE Drama visit
Tuesday	27	January	Governors' Finance & Premises Committee
Thursday	29	January	Gifted & Talented Parents' Evening
Monday	2	February	KSSA Curriculum Evening
Tuesday	3	February	Governors' Strategy Committee
Tuesday	3	February	GCSE Dance Visit
Tuesday	3	February	Year 12 John Lewis Visit
Wednesday	4	February	Post 16 Collapsed Timetable Day
Thursday	5	February	A2 & AS Theatre Visit
Tuesday	10	February	Full Governors'
Wednesday	11	February	Year 11 Subject Evening
Thursday	12	February	Year 9 Theatre Visit
Friday	13	February	Break up Half Term

Term Dates

Spring Term 2009

School Opens	Tuesday 6 January
Half-term	Monday 16 – Friday 20 February
School Closes	Friday 3 April

Summer Term 2009

School Opens	Tuesday 21 April
May Bank Holiday	Monday 4 May
Half-term	Monday 25 – Friday 29 May
School Closes	Friday 17 July

Training Days 2008

The remaining designated Professional Training days for staff are:

- Monday 5 January 2009
- Friday 17 April 2009
- Monday 20 April 2009

End of Term

School will close at approximately 2.15 p.m. on Friday 19 December following a final assembly for students and staff.

May I take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and, on behalf of the students, staff and Governors of Ken Stimpson Community School, to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Yours faithfully



David McPartlin
Principal