CORNELIUS VERMUYDEN SCHOOL

Specialising in Arts, Mathematics and Computing

December 2015

Dear Parent/Carer

I have just concluded a series of meetings with the Subject and Pastoral Leadership Teams where we have discussed students' progress, attendance and behaviour in detail, following the most recent assessment point. It is very encouraging to see how many students are making strong progress and have a very positive attitude to learning.

The last day of term is Friday 18th December 2015 and will be a Christmas jumper day in support of the 'Text Santa' national charity appeal for Macmillan Cancer Support, Make A Wish Foundation and Save the Children. Students are invited to wear their Christmas jumpers and contribute £1 for the privilege. Those students wearing a Christmas jumper have permission to not wear their tie or their blazer on this occasion. All other aspects of the compulsory uniform will be expected to be worn. Students are not obliged to take part in this event. If students do not participate, they will be expected to be dressed in full school uniform as normal. All students should be aware that normal rules regarding jewellery and makeup still apply.

Monday 4 January 2016 is a non pupil day, so students are expected to be back in school on Tuesday 5 January 2016.

Year 11 parents' evening in December was very positive and encouraging overall. I've seen some wonderful lessons in the last two weeks where students have been motivated, hard-working and hugely enthusiastic about their learning. There are, however, a few areas that we're going to tighten up on in response to initial feedback from parents and staff, starting next term.

- Homework
- Attendance
- Uniform
- Reporting to Parents

Homework

From January 2016, the school will be introducing a new homework monitoring system called 'Show My Homework'. This system will enable parents and carers to access their son's/daughter's homework; check the completion date; monitor the grade and find out how it is affecting their attainment levels.

Cornelius Vermuyden School | Dinant Avenue | Canvey Island | Essex | SS8 9QS
Tel: (01268) 685011 | Fax: (01268) 510290 | Email: admin@corver.rmplc.co.uk | www.corneliusvermuyden.com
Headteacher: Mrs C P Skewes B.Ed. (Hons), M.A., NPQH

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The key area for parents and carers is the accessibility of the system, with parents and carers being able to access it via mobile 'phones, tablets and computers at any time during the day. Additionally, parents/carers can set up notifications to advise them of the completion of homework.

Further details of the system and how to login and set up the notifications will be sent out in January.

100% Attendance

This term has seen a significant increase in the number of pupils achieving 100% attendance and we would like to say well done to them! The challenge now is for more pupils to achieve 100% attendance next term, which will put us on target to achieve above 96% attendance for the whole school.

Uniform

As the term draws to a close, I am conscious that many parents and carers will be purchasing new pieces of school uniform. I take this opportunity to remind you that trainers (Nike, Converse, Adidas, etc) are not acceptable as everyday school shoes. Only black leather shoes can be worn at school.

School trousers must be straight legged, not tight fitting, and have no buttons or zips visible at the front.

Our school uniform supplier, Penn UK (e-mail sales@pennuk.com), based in Benfleet, will be able to advise you on the correct trousers and other items of uniform. Alternatively, you can download our uniform policy from our website for further guidance.

Assessment and Reporting

Congratulations to Year 11 on the completion of their Mock examinations. These examinations provided a real taster of the intense examination season ahead next Summer. Year 11 have now received their formal school report. Parents of Years 7-10 are due to receive their interim termly progress report week commencing 18 January 2016.

I would like to remind parents that they can access the Go 4 Schools online parental module, which allows parents and carers to follow their child's academic progress online, and to see it in context alongside 'live' attendance and achievement information. Should parents/carers have any queries regarding how they can access this, they should contact sbeedie@corver.rmplc.co.uk who will be more than happy to ensure that your account is set up.

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Jack Petchey Foundation

The Jack Petchey award scheme has now been running at Cornelius for a number of years. The purpose of the scheme is to give the school another avenue in which to celebrate the achievements of its pupils.

The school has seen over 30 pupils achieve a Jack Petchey award and each one has been invited to the prestigious district award ceremony to receive their award. Winners are nominated by their peers and teachers and pupils have received awards for a variety of reasons, including helping in the local community, overcoming specific challenges, helping others overcome challenges, attainment or supporting the local community.

We would like to congratulate the four winners this half term: Jessica Pharro - Year 11, James McKenzie - Year10, Kerys Gowland and Nicola Hull Year 9.

We say a fond farewell to the following members of staff and wish them well for the future:-

Mrs K Hibben who is going to the Cecil Jones Academy
Miss L Mayhew who is going to Brentwood County High School
Miss D Bolding who is going to the Billericay School
Miss C Shaw who is going to the Woodlands Academy

We welcome Mr T Keenan as Assistant Headteacher, who is currently at St Thomas Moore High School.

I wish to thank you for your ongoing support, as always, and hope that you have a peaceful Christmas.

Yours sincerely

Mrs C P Skewes
Headteacher

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