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Principal: Stuart Williams

20 July 2010
JT/SPW

Dear Student/Parent/Guardian

Looking forward to Year 11

This letter will provide you with some useful information to help you make a success of your final year at Catmose College. During the coming months we will be moving into the new building but we will ensure that your learning is given priority and that the transition takes place as smoothly as possible. Details will be outlined in 'Connect' and on the College website.

As you are aware we believe that students learn effectively when the college day is underpinned by clear expectations or 'Routines for Learning', copy attached. Maintaining the learning culture of the college is important to us and is the reason we hold regular uniform and equipment checks. At the moment we are particularly concerned about short skirts, footwear and inappropriate belts. We appreciate how much parents help us to maintain high standards and know that by taking care of the small details more significant issues do not develop. Please use the summer to make sure that you have the correct uniform before the start of term.

Recent changes to assessment procedures have brought about changes that will affect all students and the way work is assessed. Coursework has been replaced by the use of 'controlled assessments'. As the name suggests, these take place under 'exam' conditions and will run throughout the year. It is important to note that these assessments will run throughout the year and that they start during the early weeks of year 11. These assessments can count for up to 60% of the GCSE mark.

You will soon be receiving the timetable and staff will talk with students about subject specific strategies to enable them to approach the 'controlled assessment' weeks with confidence. The first assessments will begin in September and run through the year. Week commencing 10 October is particularly heavy in terms of assessments. It is crucial that everyone is in college, both during the week of the assessment and during the preparation time. It will not be possible to authorise holiday leave during these key times. We appreciate your co-operation with this.

Research shows that students who are good attendees achieve significantly higher grades than those with high rates of absence. We appreciate that families co-operate with us over holiday planning and know that final grades are higher as a result. Thank you for your support in this area.



During the early days of the new term I will be writing to you again with the Assessment timetable along with information about how students can best prepare to learn for tests and exams. The motto 'a little and often' is apt when students are revising. It is the same with letters!

Much of our achievement as a college is grounded in the strong and supportive links between home and school. We value the support and encouragement provided and know that this partnership underpins the success that our students enjoy. Please contact subject staff should you wish to talk about learning matters. For more general concerns, please contact the form tutor.

Best wishes for a relaxing summer holiday.

Yours sincerely

Stuart Williams