



MANOR COMMUNITY COLLEGE

a DCSF designated Specialist Performing Arts College

Principal Mr B Slade BA (Hons) Ed, NPQH

www.manorcc.org.uk

Dear Parent/Carer,

RE: SEPTEMBER UPDATE

Firstly, I hope you all had an enjoyable summer break whether you went on holiday or spent some quality time at home.

It was a busy summer term and it has been an extremely hectic summer holiday with work going on all around the college to improve the educational experience for all of our students. Due to the fact that there is so much to tell you, you will need to excuse the length of this letter!

1. EXAMINATION RESULTS – BEST IN OVER QUARTER OF A CENTURY

I would like to congratulate all of our outgoing Year 11 students on their tremendous success. Manor exceeded all of its targets from the Local Authority and the government and 50% achieved 5 GCSEs at grades A* - C. This was up from 32% last year and represents more than 50% improvement.

We were also delighted that 42% of students gained a GCSE in Maths and English at grades A* - C as part of their five higher grades. We exceeded the government targets by 12% which is outstanding.

It was also very pleasing to see so many students achieve A* and A grades and so many going to further their studies at CRC, Long Road, Hills Road and CCSS.

Credit must go to the students themselves and to their teachers and parents/carers for guiding them and supporting them so effectively.

Our new Year 10 students also deserve praise for achieving a very pleasing set of SATs results this year. The foundations have been laid here for another good set of GCSE results in 2010.

However, success brings even greater challenges. We have to improve our performance yet further and work towards 60% five higher grades this year. This is a phenomenal challenge for all concerned.

2. IMPROVEMENTS TO THE COLLEGE – BIGGEST CHANGES IN 20 YEARS

We have spent over £100,000 on a range of new resources for the students at the college in the last 3 months. I won't go into huge detail here but I would like to bullet point the main improvements:

- IT2 Brand new ICT computer suite with 32 state of the art Dell computers with dedicated benching and interactive whiteboard for use by all students both in lessons, at lunchtimes and after college.
- Two brand new laptop trolleys – each containing 32 state of the art Dell laptops have been purchased for use in Maths and English.
- New carpets have been laid to the main corridor, student reception, outside the SHRC, all three stairwells and to the Maths corridor which has made a significant aesthetic improvement.
- Over 60% of the college has been repainted and refinished.



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- We have improved our perimeter fencing to further enhance security.
- We have installed new cookers and equipment in the Food Technology room.
- Some toilets have been painted or upgraded.
- The John Durrant Hall has been completely refitted with a full lighting and sound rig and we are due to have a multimedia projector and screen installed.
- The new Learn to Learn Centre will open in September and this will be quipped with 10 new computers for students finding aspects of college life difficult – more news to follow.

Hopefully, the Jeanette Jeffery Hall will have a new sound system for Drama and the dance studio will be completed before Christmas. This is all very exciting and makes the college a much more pleasant place to learn in and to work in.

3. UNIFORM

Please accept our sincere apologies for the problems some of you have faced in obtaining the new uniform. We realise a significant minority of parents have not been satisfied with the service they have received from Orchard Clothing and, as a result we called a crisis meeting today.

We were very direct with them about the standard of service they have provided and conveyed all of your views and frustrations. Ray Eyre, Managing Director of Orchard, was “extremely sorry that some parents/carers had not been satisfied” and stated that much of the problem was due to Orchard “taking on the Manor contract later than they should have which resulted in them not being able to fulfil all of the orders”. He also cited the fact that one of their suppliers, (Sportswear International) had let them down on a number of occasions”. He did fully admit to the problems and apologised for “the breakdown in communication in some cases.”

He released this statement today:

“...As you are aware Manor Community College together with Orchard Clothing recently launched a new up to date uniform and PE Kit to start the new term. Generally the transition from old to new has gone well however we are aware of a significant minority of orders that were delivered late or are overdue. This is generally the result of garments that are out of stock or awaiting delivery from the suppliers. We realise this has caused unnecessary stress and inconvenience.

For those parents/carers who are still waiting for new uniform, due to the supply issues, the College are happy for students to wear their old uniforms until orders are fulfilled. Steps have been taken by Orchard Clothing and Manor Community College to ensure that future supplies of uniform are delivered within the time scales specified.

For those orders made online that are a mix of both College uniform and PE Kit, if any PE garments are out of stock, a decision has been made to post out the uniform ASAP and to follow up with the full PE Kit when it becomes available. No additional postage charges will be incurred by parents/carers – the college will pay. College PE staff are also aware of the situation and allowances will be made until all of the orders are fulfilled.” We apologise unreservedly for any issues and are working hard to ensure there are no future problems with supply, sizes etc...”



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I hope this makes sense? However, in short, we can confirm the following:

- Mrs Jackson will hold a more extensive stock of uniform in all sizes at the college from now on. It will therefore be available to try on and purchase directly from the college.
- Internet purchases will only be made by those parents/carers who are happy to do this.
- All sportswear will be embroidered as promised – including the socks.
- Orchard will keep a stock of Manor uniform rather than making each order 'up from scratch'.

On a more positive note, you may be interested in the following facts:

- The students looked excellent today – a real improvement on the old uniform!
- Just under **90%** of all Year 7, 8 and 9 students were in the new uniform.
- The majority of Year 10 students were in the new uniform – or a mixture of old and new.
- We realise that year 11 students only have two terms to go, therefore the majority are continuing to wear the existing uniform. However, a number had purchased the new uniform bringing the whole college total to around **70%**. Thanks to all parents/carers for your patience and support.

4. NEW BEHAVIOUR TRACKING SYSTEM / L to L C

I will be writing in more detail with details of our revised behaviour tracking system and our new Learning to Learn Centre. However, in short, I can confirm that students causing disruption in lessons will be dealt with in 3 stages as follows:

- Firstly they will be **warned** about their behaviour.
- If it continues they will be warned again and given clear **choices**.
- If they continue they will be **removed** from the classroom and taken to a central location which will be permanently staffed with appropriately qualified professionals. Mrs Hedges will be in contact with the parents/carers of every student who is removed from a classroom and detentions will take place on the same evening.
- Repeated misbehaviour in a single day or across a number of days may result in longer periods of time in internal exclusion (by arrangement).

The aim of both the Learn to Learn Centre and the new behaviour tracking system is to promote learning and achievement, to improve behaviour and to reduce the number of fixed term exclusions at the college.

Finally, if students are blatantly flouting uniform regulations – e.g. white trainers, jeans, caps, non uniform sweatshirts, tracksuit bottoms etc without a note from you as parents/carers they too will be taken out of circulation for the day in question and you will be contacted.

5. NEW STAFF & CHANGES

Finally, I am delighted to tell you about a number of new colleagues who have joined our staff team here at Manor Community College this September. They are as follows.



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- Mrs. J. Davies** Deputy Principal in charge of teaching and learning, assessment and target setting and curriculum. She will also teach English. Mrs. Davies has enjoyed a very successful career at Hinchbrook School in Huntingdon and will work with me to further improve the college.
- Mr. L. Parry** Director of Drama and Theatre (and teacher of English). As well as teaching Drama Mr. Parry will be working on our first college production for many years – “Oliver”, in February 2009.
- Ms. A. Robins** Director of ICT and e-learning. Ms. Robbins has worked at Manor before – with the computer club for girls - and returns part time to lead ICT across the college. She will continue to work part time with Cambridgeshire Local Authority which is another great link for us to have.
- Mrs. D. Jeffery** Teacher of Food Technology (and Health and Social Care). Mrs. Jeffries has worked in education all over the world about making food an exciting subject at Manor.
- Mr. R. Baker** Teacher of Science. Mr Baker is a Chemistry specialist who has also worked in industry. He will replace Mrs. Forster.

Changes

- Mrs. E. Butter** is now Director of Year 7 and Primary Liaison.
- Mrs. J. Collings** will now be Head of Year 8 and 9 (as well as Assistant Principal: Standards and Effectiveness – Key Stage 3).
- Mr. P. Edwards** remains as Head of Year 10 and 11 (as well as Assistant Principal: Standards and Effectiveness – Key Stage 4).
- Mr N. Bedford** will look after careers (now called Information, Advice and Guidance) as well as the Humanities Faculty.

On the support team we are going to be joined by:

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|---------------|---|
| Lucy Kurk | Teaching Assistant |
| Lydia Pell | Behaviour Support TA (Learning to Learn Centre) |
| Sarah Garlick | Science Technician. |

Finally, in the main office we are delighted to welcome the following key staff:

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|-------------------|------------------------|
| Mrs Teresa Benson | Senior Admin Assistant |
| Mrs Carol Oakes | Receptionist. |



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I am sure we all wish them every success in their time at Manor Community College.

Kind regards,

Ben Slade
Principal