



MANOR COMMUNITY COLLEGE

a DCSF designated Specialist Performing Arts College

Principal Mr B Slade BA (Hons) Ed, NPQH

www.manorcc.org.uk

27th February 2008

All Parents/Carers

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Working Together to Improve the College

Firstly, I would like to congratulate all of the students who recently took part in the "Manor at the Mumford" variety/talent show at the Mumford Theatre on 4th February. This was a real celebration of the talent we have at the college from Year 7 through to Year 11. The show also gave those students interested in working behind the scenes an opportunity to demonstrate their skills and to make a positive contribution.

Manor Gains Top Accolade for Progress

Today, I received the fantastic news that Manor has been ranked 14th out of the 100 most improved schools in England for progress at Key Stage 3. This is a wonderful achievement and really puts us "on the map". Congratulations to the students (now Year 10) and their teachers, especially in English, Maths and Science. This will be in the TES and Cambridge Evening News! Thanks to you as parents for the part you have played in this success.

Parent Governors

I am delighted to say that we have a number of parents now interested in becoming parent governors. I welcome any further enquiries (via Lucy Crebo on: lcrebo@manorcc.org.uk or 01223 508742 Ext 214) about this vital role.

Improving the Look of the College

We are beginning to spend money on improving the learning environment which, I believe, is not up to the standard our students deserve. A number of parents, who are also trades people, are helping us with a number of jobs and I would really like to expand this.

If you have a skill or a trade and want to be paid to help improve the college, please contact myself or John Moloney (the Bursar) on 01223 508742 Ext 215 or jmoloney@manorcc.org.uk We are particularly interested in hearing from painters and decorators and builders.

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Uniform – Taking Pride in Manor

I really need the help and support of parents/carers and students alike to help improve the image of the college and to drive up standards.

Every visitor to the school comments positively on the students but negatively on the 'state' of the uniform. I realise many students do wear the correct uniform but as a college we need to tighten up on this important issue which unfairly contributes to our poor image in Cambridge City. Don't worry, there are no plans for blazers and ties but we do need to have 100% consistency in relation to the following issues:

1. **Black trousers not jeans or tracksuit bottoms.** These are about £4 in Tesco.
2. **College sweatshirts only.** These are available from the college Monday to Thursday.
3. **White polo shirts only** - either from the college with Manor Community College logo on them or plain – from Tesco for about £2.
4. **Black shoes (preferably) or totally black trainers** whenever you are replacing shoes/trainers. This will be a requirement from September 2008.

We will be taking uniform infringements seriously and governors will be involved with recidivists. I hope we can work together to crack this issue. If there are any hardship issues, please let me know in writing.

I am not particularly concerned about haircuts etc. as long as they are not inappropriate or offensive for college.

Jewellery is also not a particular area of concern for me but it would be preferable if students **didn't** wear chains or necklaces outside their sweatshirts/polo shirts or large earrings. This doesn't look professional and can lead to injuries.

Mobile Phones and iPods/MP3 Players

I don't want to ban mobiles or iPods from school but they are **not to be used in lessons**. If students do use them in lessons the teacher will confiscate the phone/iPod and return it at the end of the school day. We are well within our rights to do so.

Students **are** allowed to use their phones before school, at break time, at lunch time and after school. In an emergency students can be contacted via the school switchboard on (01223) 508742.

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Planners and Books

The Planner is supposed to be the method of communication between teachers, form tutor, students and you as parents/carers. Until we have the website and virtual learning environment working effectively this will remain as the main method for sharing information.

Please check these each day, or at least each week, and let us know if there are any issues.

Attitudes to Learning

During our recent OFSTED style review, there were many positive things said about the college. However, students attitudes to learning was an area for improvement. You can help by checking their books, covering exercise books which students may have written over and asking them how well they are doing in their subjects. If you (or they) are unsure, please contact the relevant subject teacher via office@manorcc.org.uk or via the planner.

I reiterate most students do work hard, do present themselves appropriately and do have positive attitudes to learning. We are hoping to get the best results in the school's history this year.

Restructure to Improve Effectiveness

I am currently recruiting for a new Deputy Principal who, with a restructured leadership team and teaching staff, will assist me to drive the school forward to ensure "every child achieves their potential" and that we "develop the talent of the future".

In anticipation of your continued support.

Kind regards

Ben Slade
Principal



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