



8th September 2009

Dear Parent / Carer,

I want to take this early opportunity to introduce myself to all of you. First though, I want to give full recognition to my predecessor, David Kemp. David worked phenomenally hard for this college. He led this college to the strong position where we are now set to become truly outstanding. It was his leadership that has given us our superb new building and facilities.

Since starting teaching, I have always worked in highly effective comprehensive schools, mostly in London – Sutton, Tower Hamlets, Lewisham and now Kingston. In other words, my career has been devoted to raising achievement in schools for all students of all talents and abilities. At Chessington, we are proud that we are a comprehensive school – this is the best type of school and best equipped to meet the needs of all students of all abilities. In short, the comprehensive system is the best system.

I am very pleased to share the excellent news that **Chessington Community College has achieved its best ever GCSE results**. This follows on from also achieving superb 'A' level results where the pass rate was 99% - above the national average. 37% of Chessington Community College students achieved 5 good GCSE (grade C or above) results including Maths and English and 50% of the students achieved 5 good GCSE results overall. In addition to this general success, there have been notable individual successes. More students than ever before have achieved top A and A* grades. One student achieved straight As and A*s in all her GCSEs. These outstanding results – at GCSE and 'A' level – are the outcome of the dedication and hard work of the staff and students at Chessington Community College – and are also the outcome of the sustained and committed support from you the parents! Our outstanding results once again demonstrate that our students receive a top class education in a proudly comprehensive school.

Our primary aim is learning. I believe that you send your children to us because you want your children to achieve and to be successful. Our children are entitled to the very highest quality education. If our children are to be successful later in life then we at Chessington Community College must do everything to ensure that they can obtain the qualifications and grades of which they are capable. To achieve this, **we – parents, carers and all staff at the college – must work in strong partnership**. You need our assurance that we will give the children the very best teaching and education possible – and we need your support in maintaining the full commitment of our children to hard work and excellent behaviour.

Learning and achievement are our priorities but these priorities must be underpinned with strong values. First, we must always strive to be a college in which everyone has the guarantee of developing in a caring, safe and supportive environment. Second, we must always be committed to equal opportunities for all - adults and students - regardless of gender, ethnicity, disability or sexuality. The diversity of our college is our strength.

I would like to take this opportunity to clarify our expectations on school uniform and our rules on mobile phones. On both of these issues, **please give us your support and assistance**.

Uniform

Students must wear school uniform at college and nothing else – no other types of shoes, shirts, trousers or skirts – please see your child's student planner for details. Tutors and Heads of Year will check and make sure that students are wearing proper uniform. You will all be aware, of course, that we have a new school uniform. Year 7 students will naturally always wear the new uniform. Years 8 to 11 can wear the old uniform or they can wear the new uniform.

The new uniform is:

- black plain leather shoes
- black tailored trousers or a black pleated skirt
- for girls, the striped blouse with no tie, for boys the white shirt with the College tie
- burgundy jumper (this is optional)
- burgundy blazer

The old uniform is:

- black plain leather shoes
- black tailored trousers or a black pleated skirt
- for girls and boys, a white shirt with the College tie
- red jumper

Year 8 to 11 girls can wear a plain white shirt with a tie or the new blouse without a tie but if they do this then they must also wear the new jumper or blazer.

Please help reinforce the expectation that top buttons should be done up with the tie pulled tight and straight. Shirts should be tucked in with the buttons done up. **Please encourage your child always to look smart and to wear the uniform with pride**

Mobile phones and MP3 players

As a father, I understand why parents / carers and children want to be able to contact each other. I understand, for example, that if your child gets delayed going home then you want them to be able to contact you. On the other hand, mobile phones are very disruptive. If children are using their phones – texting, phoning, surfing, playing games - then they are not concentrating properly on learning. Sometimes phones might get lost or stolen. If a phone gets lost or stolen then we will not be able to do anything to help get it back. All adults in this building are too busy to spend time sorting out missing phones. **Mobile phones – and MP3 players or iPods - must never be seen and must never be heard during the school day at Chessington.** The only exception to this rule is in PE, where the phone should be kept in your child's locker, or as a last resort can be handed to the teacher for safe keeping. If there is a necessity for your child to contact you during the day then please contact your child's tutor and we can make special arrangements. If a phone is brought to school then it must be switched off and never taken out of the school bag – it must not be seen and it must not be heard. If staff hear or see a phone then it will be confiscated. Until the October half term, if we see or hear a phone, then we will keep it until the end of the day. After half term, we may keep the phone for longer – even for the whole of the rest of term. Once again, if phones are brought to school then they must never be heard, never be seen and never be used at school. And if it is lost then we will not be able to help. **Please support us with enforcing our rules on mobile phones and MP3 players.**

Again, I would like to congratulate all the students who achieved such excellent results last year. We are really proud of them all. They are proof that our college will give every child a top class education and proof of our expectation that every child will achieve their very best.

I look forward very much to meeting many of you very soon. Once again, I would like to emphasise the importance of partnership – **successful children need school and home to work together and support each other.** Please do not hesitate to contact the school – your child's Tutor, Head of Year, subject teachers, senior staff or myself – if you have any questions or concerns.

Yours sincerely

Rob Niedermaier-Reed
Principal