



The Neale-Wade Community College

A Mathematics & Computing Specialist College

Wimblington Road March Cambs PE15 9PX

Principal: Tim Hitch

19 September 2008



Maths & Computing



Cambridgeshire
County Council

Dear Parents/Carers and Students

Welcome to a new college year at Neale-Wade. We hope that you all had a good summer and we look forward to a hard-working, interesting and exciting year ahead. We are delighted with our recent GCSE and 'A' Level results; 69% of our students gained 5 or more A*-C grades at GCSE which is a record for the College and a significant improvement on last year's results. We look forward to continued success for students presently at Neale-Wade in the years to come.

I would like to update you with some information that I hope you will find useful.

Parent Involvement Evenings

We have decided this year that our Parent Involvement Evenings will take place throughout the year at appropriate times for each Year Group. The first one will be for Year 11 on Tuesday 7th October 2008 at 7.00pm.

Staff Training Day

May I remind you that there will be a Staff Training Day on **Thursday 25th September 2008**, when the College will be closed to students. That is also the date of our Open Evening for primary school students and their families, and many of our students are invited to come along to the evening to help show what they are doing in lessons.

Cognitive Assessment Tests

This term students in Years 7 and 9 will be sitting a CAT test. The tests feature the following sections:

- **verbal reasoning** - with words and word structures and using words in context;
- **quantitative reasoning** - with numbers and symbols, which indicates potential for achievement in science and mathematics;
- **non-verbal reasoning** - with geometric or spatial elements, without verbal influences.

There is nothing to worry about or to revise and the data produced simply provides teachers with knowledge of underlying ability and therefore potential. It can then be used alongside National Curriculum test scores and GCSE target grades in the future. This helps us to get a more accurate picture of a student's overall ability and facilitates the setting and banding process.

Telephone: 01354 653430 Fax: 01354 659429

Website: www.neale-wade.cambs.sch.uk

Email: office@neale-wade.cambs.sch.uk



Healthy Young People's Clinic

I am pleased to tell you that the Governors have recently approved the proposal that we host a Health Clinic available to all our students. This will be run by professionals from a range of organisations with knowledge and expertise in drug use, drinking, smoking, sexual health and general health. This clinic will take place on a Thursday lunchtime and any consultations between students and the professionals will be confidential to them. However, if any child protection issues arise, the normal college procedures will be followed.

Detentions

As part of our disciplinary process we find it necessary, on occasions, to give a small number of students an after school detention. These are set in line with Government guidance and students are expected to attend unless there are very exceptional circumstances which have been agreed by the College. Unfortunately, a few of our students have been choosing not to attend, so I would like all parents to understand that we take this very seriously and are initiating a Senior Management Detention which will take place after school on a Thursday, and if a student is expected to attend and does not, then he/she will be given a fixed term exclusion.

Academic Mentoring

The Academic Mentoring days when the College will be closed to students will be **Friday 24th October 2008** and **Monday 23rd February 2009**. You will receive communication from your child's Form Tutor to arrange an appointment at a mutually convenient time during the dates shown below.

- Year 7 – Monday 3rd November to Friday 14th November 2008
- Year 8 – Monday 15th June to Friday 26th June 2009
- Year 9 – Monday 2nd February to Friday 13th February 2009
- Year 10 – Monday 23rd March to Friday 3rd April 2009
- Year 11 – Monday 13th October to Friday 24th October 2008
- Year 12/13 – By mutual agreement over the course of the year

After School Clubs

Students have a wide range of after school clubs available. Details are in classrooms and available to families on the College Website.

Yours sincerely



Mr T J Hitch
Principal