



The Neale-Wade Community College

A Mathematics & Computing Specialist College

Wimblington Road March Cambs PE15 9PX

Principal: Tim Hitch



Cambridgeshire
County Council

25 September 2009

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; 70% of our students gained 5 or more A*-C grades at GCSE which is a record for the College and a consolidation of 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

Once again, our Parent Involvement Evenings will take place throughout the year at appropriate times for each Year Group. The first session will be a Family Learning Workshop for Year 11, focussing on preparation for Mock Exams and study skills. This will be held on **Wednesday 21 October 2009 at 7pm.**

Staff Training Day

May I remind you that there will be a Staff Training Day on **Thursday 1 October 2009**, 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.

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

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



Healthy Young People's Clinic

I am pleased to inform you that the Health Clinic that we hosted last year will again be available to all our students in 2009/10. This will be run by professionals from a range of organizations with knowledge and expertise in drug use, drinking, smoking, sexual health and general health. This clinic will take place on Thursday lunchtimes 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. Parents should be aware that non-attendance is taken very seriously and students will then be given a Senior Management Detention. These take place after school on a Thursday. If a student is expected to attend and does not, 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 **Monday 22 February 2010** and **Friday 30 April 2010**. 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 2nd November to Friday 13th November 2009

Year 8 – Monday 7th June to Friday 18th June 2010

Year 9 – Monday 18th January to Friday 29th January 2010

Year 10 – Monday 22nd March to Thursday 1st April 2010

Year 11 – Monday 12th October to Friday 23rd October 2009

Year 12/13 – By mutual agreement over the course of the year

Uniform

Thank you for your support in the implementation of the new style College uniform. I would like to take this opportunity to remind parents and students that body piercings are not permitted in College, with the exception of a single piercing in each ear. I am sure that all parents will support this part of the College Code of Conduct.

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