



Teenagers On The Go

Congratulations to the Year 9 Food Technology class that I was invited to before half term. The students had been working for a six week period on a project to design and market a new product for teenagers who are on the go and do not have time to stop and cook a healthy meal. It had to be a healthy eating product that matched predetermined healthy eating targets. The students were split into several groups and had to give a presentation to the rest of the class in which they explained what their product was, how it would be marketed, what their costs and profit margins were, and how the product would be packaged.

They also had to take into account the shelf life of the product and how easy it would be to eat. Needless to say, samples had to be made that could be tried at these final presentations (I didn't eat for two days afterwards!) and then the class had to assess each other's products against set criteria.

The six or seven presentations were all excellent and I was impressed by the quality of the ICT used, as well as the way that each group had scripted their presentations so that each member had something to speak about.

I was also impressed by the way that the class related to each other and wanted each other to succeed. There was also a very mature attitude to the few things that did not go as planned as the students either decided to try and put them right or chose to learn from their mistakes and include them in the presentation: 'what I would do differently next time' was a common aspect and showed a good sense of judgement. Similarly, the ability to criticise constructively the work of others and to make sensible suggestions was noteworthy.

I am sure that this would not have been possible without the input of Mrs Phillips-Clarke, so credit to her, but the main applause must go to the students. Well done!

Important Dates

A reminder that Year 8 Parents' Evening is on Tuesday of next week, 15 June. Term ends on Friday 23 July, as previously announced. The new school year will begin on Friday 3 September for Years 7 and 12, and Monday 6 September for all other students. Please make a careful note of this as the starting dates vary for different city schools this year. There will be a reminder at the end of term. Please also remember that school will be starting at 8.40 am from the start of the new school year.

Behaviour

This week I would like to say a little about behaviour. Over the last few weeks the teachers have been looking again at our Behaviour for Learning Policy and considering ways in which it might be more effective. There is not an issue with behaviour, as Ofsted said each time they visited, but we do need to do this periodically.

From the start of this week we are taking more careful note of serious incidents, and especially where students need to be removed from a lesson, and ensuring that this information gets to form tutors promptly. If this happens too often with a student the form tutor will be ringing home to discuss the situation with parents or inviting them into school to do so.

Occasionally students are put 'on report' for a period so behaviour or other aspects of their work can be monitored. We have been doing this electronically for the last year using our Management Information System (SIMS). Now the teachers have decided to revert to paper reports so that the onus is more on the student to get it completed, and these reports will now be brought home for parents to complete and so parents can see what the report says.

We hope that the above tweaks to the system will make it more effective in the cases it applies to. Where there are frequent or very serious problems we will continue to take appropriate action, including exclusion. We do not do this lightly but must respond appropriately when the need arises. In extreme cases this includes permanent exclusion and there have been two of these so far this year. Our exclusion rate remains one of the lowest in the Peterborough secondary schools so this again suggests that our behaviour policies are effective.

Focus on Year 10

In their assembly on Monday, I explained to Year 10 that they are now our focus as Year 11 have started their study leave and final exams. We are continuing with all of the extra intervention that was used last year but starting a little earlier so that it can be even more beneficial. This will include providing mentors for several students and identifying a key target group who need to reach their expected grades in order for the school to meet its target. This year we also intend to invite their parents to a special information evening and to form a focus group of students who can feed back to me on the various strategies.

Sean Hayes

Cashless Catering

As a further improvement to our catering service we are introducing a cashless system later this month. A separate letter is being sent to parents with this newsletter giving more information about the system. The new system is intended to be quicker at the till as there is no need to take money or issue change and children receiving free school meals will no longer have to give their name. Parents are asked to read carefully the information in the attached letter about how to pay into your child's account ahead of the system becoming live.

HEALTH RELATED BEHAVIOUR SURVEY FRIDAY 18 JUNE 2010

Our school, along with several others, has agreed to participate in a very important Health Behaviour Survey amongst Year 8 and 10 students. We have been asked to support the work of the Local Authority and Primary Care Trust and we stand to benefit substantially through our participation in the survey. The survey method that we are using has been developed by the Schools Health Education Unit, Exeter and has been in use now for over 30 years. Over 3000 schools have used the survey, many of them regularly repeating the survey. The questions concern a wide range of health behaviours, for example:

Home and family

Relationships

Emotional health and wellbeing

Tobacco/Alcohol

Leisure and money

Healthy Eating

Exercise

Drugs

Sexual health

Each questionnaire is anonymous and confidential, and no pupil will be identified when the data is returned to the school. The Local Authority and Primary Care Trust will receive only the summary of all schools in which individual schools are not identified.

I hope you will agree with us that this is an exercise in which we wish to co-operate fully. We hold a copy of the questionnaire in the school office and if you would like to examine it, you are welcome to do so by appointment.

As part of the survey it will be helpful if your son/daughter brings the following information:

- a) their **postcode** (only part of this will be used, your house will not be identified).
- b) A **personal code** of four letters or numbers which couldn't be recognised as theirs by other pupils in the class and which would be easy to remember. The teacher will explain later how to choose this code and how it will later be used.

The survey will be carried out in PSHE on Friday 18 June by Year 8 and 10 students. *Mr Reilly*

Sports Council

On Thursday 13 May the newly elected Sports Council held their first meeting, led by Mr Baron. Members of the Council that attended included the silver ambassadors: Sean Titchmarsh and Stefan Salerno as well as year representatives from Years 7, 8, 9 and 10. Items which were discussed included the National School Sports Week (28 June – 2 July) and the Hooping World Record attempt on the 29 June. The Sports Council also talked about the introduction of new extra-curricular sports clubs and activity choices during PE lessons. Students are welcome to raise any issues they may have about sport in school with their year representatives which will then be passed to the Council. *Mr Baron*

Peace Garden Project

Some of our Year 8 students are planning to create a 'peace garden' with the piece of land currently undeveloped within the gates, next to the school field. As this piece of land cannot be used for educational purposes they thought it would be a place of quiet, full of plants and flowers. "We're going to sell cakes and wash cars to raise money for flowers and plants and equipment to do this. Any donations or offers of help from other students, staff or parents would be welcome and very much appreciated". (Katie Smart, Carly Lee, Sabrina Rodrigues, Rhiannon Mundy, Zahra Iqbal – 8WK)

The planning group will be very much hands on and are enthusiastic about the digging, planting and hard work ahead of them. *Mrs Pereira*

Positive Images

Year 9 students lead the way

A small group of Year 9 students have been working on a project called 'Positive Images' run by The Red Cross in their last 2 PSHE lessons. Students have been discussing and taking part in activities around the issues of refugees and asylum, both abroad and in this country, and prejudice. Next week in assemblies these students will be sharing what they have learnt with the rest of the school through a short piece of drama they have been preparing. Next week's theme in school is 'Identity' and 'respect each other's differences'. This also coincides with Refugee Week which runs from 19-27 June, the theme for this year is: 'different pasts shared future' www.Refugeeweek.org.uk.

Mrs Pereira

Feast of St Peter and Paul - 29 June: Holy Day of Obligation

We will be having voluntary mass at school at 9.00 am to celebrate this special feast day. Students have been asked to tell their form tutor as soon as possible if they wish to attend so we can make arrangements for chairs and space in the hall. *Mrs Pereira*
