



24<sup>th</sup> February 2015

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope all of our students and their families had a restful half-term break and enjoyed some of the lovely sunshine. I do hope you have managed to read 'Settle College Matters' our half-termly newsletter. Newsletters can be found on our website [www.settlecollege.org](http://www.settlecollege.org).

This letter includes some updates and key information for this half-term.

### Parents' Evening Survey Results

Thank you to all parents and carers who attended the Year 8 and the Year 9 Parents' Evenings. Getting your views is very important to us and we do act on the feedback given. The results are as follows:

Year 8 responses

Year 9 responses

	Year 8 responses	Year 9 responses
1. My child feels safe and happy at Settle College.	Yes – 100%	Yes – 100%
2. The Parents' Evening I attended tonight was informative and helpful.	Yes – 98%; 2% not sure	Yes – 97%; No comment - 3%
3. My child is making good progress at Settle College.	Yes – 100%	Yes – 100%
4. The school communicates clear and helpful information about my child.	Yes – 100%	Yes – 98%; No comment - 2%
5. It is easy to communicate with my child's teachers.	Yes – 100%	Yes – 99%; No comment - 1%
6. Settle College has provided clear guidance and support in preparation for the Options process.	Yes – 100%	Yes – 99%; No - 1%
7. The school has responded well to any concerns I have raised.	Yes – 80%; n/a – 18%; No – 2%	Yes – 83%; n/a – 17%;
8. I have found receiving pieces of work with silver stickers helpful.	Yes – 95%; Not sure – 3%; No -2%	Yes – 96%; Not sure – 1%; No -3%
9. Settle College makes sure its students are well behaved.	Yes – 100%	Yes – 95%; Not sure – 4%; No – 1%
10. Settle College is well led and managed.	Yes – 100%	Yes – 99%; Not sure – 1%
11. Settle College deals effectively with issues linked to bullying, including e-safety.	Yes – 98%; Not sure – 2%	Yes – 96%; Not sure – 3%; No – 1%
12. Would you recommend Settle College to another parent?	Yes – 100%	Yes – 100%

We use text messaging to remind parents of key events, reports going home etc. Please inform us of any change of details so that we can keep our records fully up to date. (email [admin@settlecollege.n-yorks.sch.uk](mailto:admin@settlecollege.n-yorks.sch.uk)).

### Parent Teacher Association

We would like to thank the PTA for raising funds for our 3D printer. It has been purchased and is now in use. Both students and staff are very excited about having a 3D printer in school and it will be used extensively in Technology lessons.

The PTA exists to support and enhance school activities; volunteer parents help at school events by serving refreshments or by helping to organise fund-raising events. All parents/carers and teachers are invited to attend.

If you are not able to attend the meetings but would be prepared to offer help at a school event, please contact Mr M Kaye (Assistant Principal) by email on [m.kaye@settlecollege.n-yorks.sch.uk](mailto:m.kaye@settlecollege.n-yorks.sch.uk).

### **Attendance**

Please, wherever possible, try to arrange medical appointments out of school hours. Routine medical appointments can be arranged outside of school hours although we do appreciate that specialist hospital appointments are not as flexible.

Studies into the impact of non-attendance on achievement at GCSE have shown the following:

- Of students who miss more than 50% of school only 3% manage to achieve 5 A\*- C including English and Maths.
- Of students who miss more than 10-20% of school only 33% manage to achieve 5 A\*-C including English and Maths.
- Of students who attend 95% of the time 73% manage to achieve 5 A\*-C including English and Maths.

### **Uniform**

Uniform is on the whole very good. If there is an issue with your son/daughter's uniform please provide a note to their Form Tutor indicating when the issue will be resolved. If uniform issues are persistent we will send students home. The pastoral staff will contact you first before sending a student home.

### **Mock Examinations**

Mock examinations are now underway. This is the second set of mock examinations for many subjects and mocks always give a very good indication of how a student will perform in the final examination. The final examinations are now only 11 weeks away.

We wish all students every success in their mocks, and in their final examinations. Please do let us know if there is anything we can do to support your son/daughter. There will be lots of revision sessions going on over the coming weeks and months and a timetable will be on our website within the next week.

The dates and times of all summer examinations are on our website in the 'Exams' section of the 'About the School' heading.

### **Free School Meals**

At a time when schools are facing reduced budgets we have one area where funding is increasing, this is Pupil Premium Funding.

To obtain this funding, we need your help. If your family is entitled to additional support, you can apply for a Free School Meal for your son or daughter, which could save you £400 per year. For every child who receives a Free School Meal the school receives £935 per child. We use this money to invest in improvements in teaching and learning, in support programmes and in curriculum initiatives. Information on our website shows how we are using the funding this academic year. It is estimated by the Government that 20% of those entitled to Free School Meals fail to do so. The funding received can radically change the quality of education offered to students if all parents entitled to claim for Free School Meals make their claims.

You can download the details and application form through our website or by following the link below:

<http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/article/25811/Free-school-meals>

Please note that by using our cashless catering system, no one knows how a meal is paid for.

### **Guest Speakers**

We are so thankful to all the visiting speakers who give up their time to come and talk to our students about their careers and experiences in the world of work. Since September students have had the benefit of talks from:

- G I Hopleys Ltd.
- National Citizenship Service.
- Sarah Hussain from Craven College.
- Corporal Dom Fisher from Army Recruitment.
- Emma Carr, former Settle College student.
- Consultant Dom Hewitt from Airedale General Hospital.
- Richard Howson CEO Carillion, former Settle College student.
- Lancaster and Morecambe College.
- Rolls-Royce Ltd.
- Castleford Tigers.
- Representatives from the emergency services.

Andy Mouncey has also been working with our CoPE (Certificate of Personal Effectiveness) students in Year 10 and 11. The CoPE students are going to host a mini triathlon for the current Year 6 students who will be our new Year 7 students in September. The transition from Primary School to Secondary School is a big step and our students are going to use the transition stages of a triathlon to give the younger pupils practice and experience of "transition". The event will be held at the end of May.

### ***Duke of Edinburgh***

All participants have their individual DofE accounts and can log their activities online. This is a useful way for students, parents and leaders to track progress and to see which skills need to be worked on. Training for the expedition starts on Monday, 30<sup>th</sup> March 2015 when Sean Whittle, who will be the Expedition advisor, begins his after school sessions with the students. Mrs Hill will meet with students to explain how to use the online accounts.

### ***Reconstitution of the Governing Body - an update from our Chair of Governors, Mrs R Rees***

On Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> March 2015, Settle College will have a new governing board. The Department for Education has required all maintained schools to reconstitute their governing bodies by September 2015, and our plans to do so are already in place.

The thinking behind the requirement to reconstitute was that governing bodies should consist of a tightly focused group of people who have specific skills to bring to governance. All those wishing to be considered for the new governing board completed a skills audit and came in to Settle College for individual discussions with Ms Costello and I about what would be expected from the members of the new governing board. A sub-committee of the existing governing body carefully considered the outcomes of the audits and discussions, and recommended specific individuals for places on the new governing board. The sub-committee also recommended revisions to the Instrument of Government, which sets out our basic structure. The full governing body accepted all the sub-committee's recommendations when we met on Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> February 2015.

We are reducing the number of governors from eighteen to eleven. As required by the Department for Education, five of the governors come from existing governor categories and will serve out their current terms of office, after which they will come up for re-election or re-appointment. The remaining six governors are co-opted because of the specific skills they will bring to the governing board. There is no difference in status between the category governors and the co-opted ones.

The new governing board, operative from Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> March 2015, comprises:

Principal:	Ms M Costello
LA representative:	Mrs R Rees
Parent governors:	Mrs S Marshall
	Mrs V Sawyer
Staff governor:	Mrs J Pursglove
Co-opted governors:	Mr M Buswell
	Mrs A Corns
	Mr I Parker
	Mr S Peach
	Ms M Porter
	Vacancy

We have deliberately left a vacancy in order to give us flexibility if we find there is a skill area and/or a competency we need once we get under way.

We will be meeting every month and, by having a tightly focused governing board, hope to be able to serve Settle College well.

The 'Governors' section of our website (in the 'About the School' section) will be updated by the end of March 2015, providing details of our reconstituted Governing Body, including the areas of the school to which governors are linked.

### **Years 9/10/11 Options**

Nearly every options form was in by the deadline (Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> February 2015). Many thanks to parents/carers for supporting students through this important process. Parents/carers will receive a letter from Miss Doyle (Assistant Principal) on or before Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> March 2015 indicating option choices. If there are any issues, Learning Managers will contact parents/carers and students to discuss this before option letters are issued.

### **Sixth Form Applications**

Sixth Form offer letters will be issued to students on Friday, 24<sup>th</sup> April 2015. We will have two days of study skills and team building activities for new students on Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup> July 2015 for all Year 11 students wishing to join the Sixth Form; more information will be given out with the Sixth Form offer letters. Summer results are released on Thursday, 20<sup>th</sup> August 2015 for GCSE examinations; students can collect their results from 10.00am and enrol onto their chosen courses on the same day. Students will be given target grades for their options together with activities to complete before returning to the Sixth Form on Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> September 2015.

### **Dates for your diary for this half term:**

Mock exams	Monday, 23 <sup>rd</sup> February to Tuesday, 3 <sup>rd</sup> March
Y7 Parents' Evening	Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> February, 4.30-6.30pm in the Upper School Hall
Parents as Learners Workshops, English	Thursday, 26 <sup>th</sup> February, 5.30pm in the Library
Rotary Youth Technology Tournament	Tuesday, 3 <sup>rd</sup> March, 8.30am – 3.00pm at Gargrave Village Hall
PTA meeting	Wednesday, 4 <sup>th</sup> March 6.30pm in the Conference Room
World Book Day	Thursday, 5 <sup>th</sup> March (Y7&8 dress up as book characters)
Parents as Learners Workshops (KS4 Maths)	Thursday, 5 <sup>th</sup> March, 5.30pm in the Library
Y10 Parents' Evening	Wednesday, 11 <sup>th</sup> March in the Upper School Hall
Governor Open Day	Thursday, 12 <sup>th</sup> March
Y12/13 Parents' Evening	Thursday, 19 <sup>th</sup> March, 4.30-6.30pm
A2 Geography trip to London	Friday, 20 <sup>th</sup> and Saturday, 21 <sup>st</sup> March
Progress Review 4 issued to Y7-13	Thursday, 26 <sup>th</sup> March
Parent Partnership Group meeting	Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> March, 6.30pm in the Library
School closes for Easter holiday	Thursday, 26 <sup>th</sup> March, 3.20pm
STAFF INSET DAY	Friday, 27 <sup>th</sup> March
School opens for the summer term	Monday, 13 <sup>th</sup> April, 8.40am

It is a short half-term of only five weeks, but there is still lots going on especially in the lead up to the summer examinations. Please keep up to date with events and news via our website.

With all best wishes



Ms. M Costello

**Principal**