

Sneyd Community School

A Specialist Maths and Computing College

Learning - the key to success

Vernon Way Sneyd Lane Bloxwich Walsall West Midlands WS3 2PA
Tel: 01922 710298 Fax: 01922 473145 postbox@sneyd.walsall.sch.uk

Head: **Dr S Sweeney**
Deputy: Dr K Bleach

Assistant Heads: Mr D Christopher
Mr K Ellery
Mr P Shackleton
Mrs S Thompson
Mr S Cresswell
Mrs A McLeish

Business Manager: Mrs D Deeming

Dear Parent/Guardian,

10 December 2008

Arrangements for the end of this term and the beginning of next term

This term will finish at 12.30pm on **Friday 19th December**. On this day there will be a charity collection for Birmingham Children's Hospital and other worthy causes and pupils will not need to wear their school uniform. There will be entertainment at the whole school assembly at 11.45am and parents are welcome to attend if they wish. Term recommences on **Tuesday 6th January** at 08.40am. The staff have a training day on Monday 5th January.

Bad weather

If the school cannot open because of bad weather, parents and staff will be informed via our text messaging service and local radio stations (Beacon, Radio WM, Heart FM and BRMB). Our text messaging service has caused some problems, especially when the details we have are incorrect. Please remember to inform us of any changes.

School Pantomime

Our school pantomime will be held at 7.00pm on Tuesday 16th and Wednesday 17th December. Come along if you can.

Scrutiny Meeting

We were delighted with the excellent turnout at the last meeting in school on 20th November. The next meeting will be held on Thursday 18th December at the Council House, Walsall at 6.00pm. This is a public meeting and you are welcome to attend. Space is limited so please confirm your attendance if you can make it. Our campaign to keep the school open has gone well so far and I am enormously grateful for the support we have received. However, the deal has not yet been done and so the next meeting is very important.

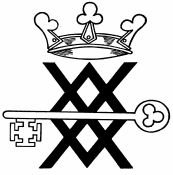
Ofsted Report

The Ofsted Report has just been published and your child has been issued with a letter from the reporting inspector. In short, the message is that educational standards are still below national averages but the school is improving. This is a great result, especially in our circumstances, but there is much more to do. We have put the report on the school website and I shall be writing to you after Christmas to tell you more about the detail of the report and what we have to do to improve.

However, there were some very positive comments and I enclose them here to cheer you up, just to prove that things are getting better.

- Standards are starting to rise.
- The school provides a pleasant and safe environment for students, with many good resources.





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- Students move around the school in a calm and orderly manner and the school has worked hard to improve students' attendance, behaviour and attitudes to learning.
- Behaviour, both around the school and in lessons, is satisfactory overall.
- The school has been particularly successful in working with parents and carers and communication has much improved.
- The majority of parents and carers who returned inspection questionnaires commented favorably about the recent improvements made.
- The quality of teaching is improving and the number of inadequate lessons has reduced.
- The curriculum is now satisfactory and positive changes have ensured that the range of courses and accreditation offered better meet the needs and interests of the students.
- Incidents of bullying are dealt with effectively and students are confident that they can speak to staff about any concerns or problems that they have.
- Students speak positively about the recent changes and most report that they are starting to enjoy school more as a result.

Of course, there are some concerns about the school, especially as some standards are so low and this Ofsted Report is influenced by examination results, particularly those in 2007. However, there are just four areas that we need to improve as follows:

- Ensure teaching is planned to meet the needs of the differing ability levels and learning styles of individual students.
- Provide clear advice and guidance to students on what they need to do to improve and progress to the next level or grade in every subject.
- Enhance, embed and rigorously monitor arrangements for collecting and using attainment and progress data to ensure students achieve their full potential.
- Ensure the rate of improvement is more even across all aspects of the school's work.

I am delighted with this Report because it asks us to improve in all the areas we have already started to make progress. The school will be inspected in another sixteen months, by which time, all this work will have been done. Let's hope we are given the chance to prove ourselves. We know we can do it.

I take this opportunity to wish you and your family a happy and enjoyable Christmas. 2009 will be a great year for us. I hope it will be for you and your family too.

Yours sincerely

Dr S Sweeney

Dr S Sweeney
Headteacher

