

5th April 2011

Dear Parent / Carer

Using tradition and innovation to fulfil potential

Spring is a time of growth and renewal and that also sums up our very successful term here at Felpham.

The students in all year groups have been working hard and productively since Christmas and preparations are well underway for the exams season in the summer term. Despite the cold winter months there has been a real feeling of positive momentum in the college and much to celebrate.

Charity week

Our annual charity week ran from 14th to 18th February and was as popular and successful as ever. Events ranging from Felpham's Got Talent to the sponsored dog walk showed how the initiative of our students was put to great use to benefit others. During the week the students demonstrated their charity spirit in an array of fantastic events to raise a total of £4,834 for Help For Heroes, Chestnut Tree House and the Snowdrop Trust. Many thanks to parents and carers for supporting the college at this time.

Sixth Form

In addition to organising many events during charity week, sixth form students have been making excellent progress in their studies. Felpham's sixth form is an increasingly popular choice for students and we are delighted that record numbers of our current year 11 have signed up to start next September. One small contributory factor in their decision may be the refurbishment of the kitchen area of the common room complete with a Costa Coffee outlet!

Sixth Form students are taking an increasingly prominent and influential role in the college and this will continue as we introduce elections for Head Boy and Head Girl in the near future.

Raising standards

Following last summer's excellent exam results, the college staff have similar high expectations this year. The students are rising to the challenge and are on target to produce another set of outstanding results this year. Particularly pleasing is the independence and commitment shown by many of our students; at a recent after-school year 11 maths revision session over 100 students attended voluntarily. The staff of the college are providing many opportunities for students to consolidate and improve their learning in after-school sessions and large numbers are taking advantage of this.

Technology

Although good schools are about far more than just computers, at Felpham we move with the times and continue to utilise ICT and new technologies to support learning and enrichment. Towards the end of term we have had two exciting initiatives that have made good use of our excellent resources. On the 24th March, 32 year 7 students took part in the national BBC School Report. The library was turned into the FCC news room for the day and the year 7s had to report on the latest groundbreaking news. All of the students worked extremely hard and their finished report is now available for viewing via our website.

The final week of this term sees the start of the Felpham Film Club run by the Media Studies department. This exciting new club will be organised and run by our students. The first film will be for students from year 10 upwards and is State Of Play, starring Russell Crowe and Ben Affleck, as part of a political thriller season.

Centre of Excellence in Personal Finance

We have recently received the news that the college has been successful in its bid to become a centre of excellence in personal finance education. There are currently only 4 schools in the south of England with this designation. As a centre of excellence, Felpham will be able to lead the delivery of personal finance education in the locality. It will also allow our students to equip themselves to understand 'money matters' throughout their lives.

Looking outwards

This term I have met again with the Headteachers of our local partner primary schools to consider how we can best manage the transition of students from year 6 into year 7 and to build even closer links. At Felpham we really value the excellent work of our primary schools and wish to develop further the positive partnerships we have.


I am delighted to report that a new FCC PTA has been launched this term. The general aims of the Parent Teachers Association will be to improve communication, listen and respond to the views of parents and, of course, to organise some social events too! If you are interested in being involved in the new PTA we would be delighted to hear from you. We have a steering group meeting on Tuesday 26th April at 6pm in the library and a PTA launch meeting at 7pm on Wednesday 11th May. Please come along or contact Jules Grindel (Assistant Headteacher) at college for details.

In order to improve communication with parents and carers we also wish to start sending home more letters and information by email. Conscious of the fact that people do change their email addresses, please could I ask that you send the college an email from your preferred account so we have an accurate record of your email address. Please email your child's name, date of birth and your name to: sims@felpham.org.uk Alternatively, please put this information in writing and give to your son/daughter to return to their form tutor.

Finally, thank you for your support and encouragement during my first year as Headteacher at Felpham. It has been an exciting and very fulfilling 12 months!

Wishing you and your families a relaxing and sunny Easter,

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Anstiss". The signature is written in a cursive style with a clear, legible font.

Mark Anstiss
Headteacher