

MAn/KBa

December 2010

Dear Parent / Carer

The autumn term is always very busy and sets the tone for the school year. We got off to a super start with a very positive mood following our outstanding exam results in the summer and this optimism has continued throughout the term.

Our new year 7s have settled in well and we have seen excellent work from our older students too. Despite coping with some fairly dramatic weather the college has been calm and is making good progress on a number of fronts.

### **Examination success**

This summer we were delighted by the success of our students in their examinations: A level results improved for the 5<sup>th</sup> year in succession and students in year 11 achieved record breaking results with 72% gaining 5+ A\* - Cs GCSEs (up from 53% last year) and 58% gaining 5+ A\* - C GCSEs including English & maths (up from 43% last year).

Preparations are firmly underway to support our current examination classes and we are confident they will also perform well in their examinations next summer.

### **Excellence in all areas**

There have been a number of successful events during the term. We have supported three charities through the annual 'Raise Ya Hands' concert (in aid of nursery school provision in Kenya), a non-uniform Pink Day (Breast Cancer Research UK) and the BIG donation (British Heart Foundation). Many thanks to parents and students for making these events so successful.

This term also featured our highly entertaining musical, Bugsy. Students and staff worked hard on the production and a good time was certainly had by all.

In early October, our year 7s enjoyed an outdoor-adventure residential trip at Blackland Farm. This was a great opportunity to develop confidence and team-work skills with new friends in their forms. We hope to do this again in future years and to include a similar activity as part of our 6<sup>th</sup> form induction programme.

A strength at Felpham is the number of school trips we offer and this term there have been a total of 26 across all year groups. These range from a science residential to the Eden Project for sixth form students to the whole of year 9 participating in a work skills fair.

Our success in sport has continued with a number of notable achievements:

- Five boys selected for Sussex schools County Football teams and one scholarship with Portsmouth FC academy
- Year 9 football team currently in last 32 of the English schools cup competition (1300 teams entered), and are current West Sussex League and cup champions
- Year 10 football team are currently in the quarter finals of the Sussex County cup
- KS4 badminton boys' team won the West Sussex Badminton competition
- Year 7 Dance participation project
- Year 7 Indoor athletics team came runners-up in the West Sussex Championship
- Year 7 & 8 Cross Country team came runners-up in the West Sussex Championship

- Rugby continues to develop with a strong year 7 boys squad and year 8 girls team

### **Staffing**

We had a number of new staff join the college in September and they have all very quickly become part of the Felpham team. At senior level, we now have two Deputy Headteachers with Mrs Harrington joining Mrs Ashman.

### **Priorities**

At the end of the summer term I wrote to you detailing some of the priorities for the future development of the college and I am delighted with the progress we have made so far. We will continue to focus on ensuring we provide the highest quality teaching and learning across the college.

I would like to thank parents for supporting our new school uniform policy which came into effect in September. The students do look increasingly smart and this leads to a work-like atmosphere in lessons. Please can I take this opportunity to remind parents that girls need to wear shirts that can be buttoned up to the neck, and not blouses with open collars which are not appropriate for ties. On a different note, please also ensure that for safety reasons students do not bring aerosols into school.

### **End and start of term arrangements**

Please find below details of our end and start of term arrangements:

- Friday 17<sup>nd</sup> December (last day)  
Students will be dismissed at 12.30pm
- Tuesday 4th January (first day) - normal college day for all students

As I hope this letter shows, we have had much to celebrate this term and we continue to be excited by the future.

Wishing you all a peaceful and relaxing Christmas.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Anstiss". The signature is written in a cursive style and is centered within a light grey rectangular box.

**Mr M Anstiss**  
**Headteacher**