



On the Horizon: Bulletin 1

There a number of important changes coming up in college for this September – this is a short summary to keep parents up to date. More details will be on the college website, in newsletters and in letter in the weeks ahead.

Uniform

The new Lodge Park uniform will be in place straight after the Summer holidays. What won't change are the black shoes, black trousers and white shirt. What does change is the top (cardigan, sleeved or sleeveless) and the tie (there won't be one except where earned). We expect to have the new uniform available very soon and will publish details straight away. There is no significant rise in cost for what we think is much better quality garment. Special arrangements for the current Year 10 who will only have one year's wear out of the new uniform will also be announced soon. **Further details will be in each newsletter between now and September.**

Cashless Catering

From the beginning of July all catering at Lodge Park will be 'cashless' so that students can pay using their thumbprint from an account their parents can credit. **Details will be in a letter later in May.**

Houses

Starting for a two-week trial in Term 6, and then fully in September we will change from working in Years to Houses. Students in Years 7 to 10 will know which of the four Houses they will be in on 28th May. The Houses will be Dickson, Rumbelow, Berridge and Parker. From September parents will still have the Personal Tutor as a main point of contact but will also have the team leading each house including a full time non-teaching manager responsible for making contact with families work well. We will also improve the way parent consultation evenings work allowing more opportunities to talk to teachers when needed. Families with more than one child at Lodge Park will always work with the same House team. **As well as information on our website there will be a letter home at the end of Term 5.**

Reports

There will be more frequent reports from September – in fact seven each year. On top of this parents will be able to access the report for their child, including attendance, rewards and any behaviour information at any time over the internet. To do this you do need to attend a very short briefing session to find out how the

system works and get your password. **Information about these sessions will be in each newsletter.**

Changes in the College Day

We are proposing to make some small changes in the timing of the college day next year (the amount of time in lessons remains the same at 25 hours per week). The changes will make lunchtime run more smoothly and allow for every student to have a proper meeting with their Personal Tutor every week to review their progress. Parents have a right to be consulted on this change and **you will get a letter in the next few days** informing you of the proposals, why we feel it is necessary and telling you how you can respond to make sure that governors are well aware of your views when the final decision is made.

Co-operative College

Lodge Park became a Trust School in partnership with Land Securities and Dell Computer in 2008. This meant simply that the college moved from the local authority to a charitable trust. We have now agreed to make that charity into a Co-operative Trust, meaning that ownership passes into the hands of our stakeholders – staff, parents and the community. This will give the people who care about Lodge Park a greater say in how the college develops and makes us part of a national network of schools that share the Co-operative values. The changes this will bring to the college will be very gradual **but there will be articles in upcoming newsletters and invitations for you as stakeholders** to get involved this Autumn.

Options

Parents with children in Year 8 will be finding out about options courses in the coming weeks. We are changing the way that our curriculum works to make it much more flexible. At first this will only affect the new Y7 and Y9 next year. **As each year group is affected we will write to those families** to make them aware of the choices available. Year 9 students will also of course be looking at options as they go into Year 10.

Keeping in Touch

Finally, if you use Twitter the college now has an 'official' Twitter feed to follow small items of college news as they happen - @lodgeparktc – you can see it at <http://twitter.com/lodgeparktc>

As you can see it has been a busy year of planning and preparation for some major improvements in our college. We will make every effort to keep you fully informed in the weeks ahead. The college website will be kept up to date so that even if for some reason a letter gets lost or fails to reach you, you will be able to know what is happening and tell us what you think.

Yours faithfully

Guy Shearer
Principal