

## **e-bulletin December 9<sup>th</sup> 2011**

### **Why is good attendance important?**

All students who have good attendance are giving themselves every opportunity to achieve well. A student has more chance of achieving their target grades the more they attend school. Those students who have attendance below 90% will tend to achieve not as well as those students who have attendance above 90%. Therefore it is important that all students attend school as much as they can and if there is a recurring issue affecting school attendance then students must discuss this with their Learning Guide. If as a parent you have concerns about your son's/daughter's attendance then please do not hesitate in contacting your son's/daughter's Learning Guide to discuss the issues. Remember good attendance = better grades.

### **Lateness to school**

Students and parents are reminded that school starts at 8:45. Any student who regularly arrives late between 8:45 and 9:05 without an authorised reason, such as traffic issues or the bus being late, will receive red cards for lateness from their Learning Guide. Any student who arrives after 9:05 without an acceptable reason will receive an 'unauthorised' late mark. An accumulation of 'unauthorised' late marks will lead to the issue of a Fixed Penalty Notice which could lead to a £50 fine for each adult responsible for that student. If any student is having issues with arriving at school for 8:45 regularly they must discuss this with their Learning Guide.

### **Sixth Form Parent Consultation Evening - Wednesday January 11th**

Please see the attached letter about this important event.

### **Parent Governor Vacancy**

Please see the attached letter seeking nominations for the role of Parent Governor.

### **Christmas Lunch - Thursday 15th December**

This will be on Thursday. Normal lunchtime timings. £2.80 for students.

### **DofE Award Programme - Gold & Silver**

A number of students have come to me to ask whether we will run Silver and Gold Award programmes this year. The answer is that we would be delighted to do that. However, DofE is a lot about initiative (to get organised and make things happen) and determination (to last the whole course of four/five different elements). This is why it is so prized by colleges and employers on CV's – it demonstrates real self-reliance and maturity. Therefore, if any students do want to do their Silver or Gold this year they need to understand what will be involved (from me or [www.dofe.org](http://www.dofe.org)) and

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then come and find me as a small group who can persuade us of their commitment. Mr Stowe – DofE Centre Leader.

### **Strengthening Families Programme**

Please find attached a flyer with information regarding a Strengthening Families parenting group programme that is being run at Downside Community centre. The programme aims to build stronger ties between parents and their teenagers.