

# Newsletter

January 2016 Issue 8

## Keeping you informed



*A very warm welcome back following the recent Christmas break and Happy New Year to you all!*

### *Year 11 Mocks and Final GCSE Examinations*

We were delighted to welcome Positively Mad in to College this week to run a workshop for our Year 11 students this week. The event was designed to help our students prepare for what will be an incredibly important time in the lead up to their GCSE examinations. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all parents of Year 11 students who attended the evening session and trust that you found this event helpful in providing you with ideas for supporting your son/daughter in the lead up

to their exams. Their mock exams will start week commencing Monday 29<sup>th</sup> February and I would urge you to encourage them to prepare fully for these mocks so that we can gain a very clear understanding of their strengths and areas for development as we enter the final few months before their final exams.

Mr Brett held an Assembly this week for our Year 11 students and talked about the importance of the next few months and whilst we do not want to unnecessarily raise the students' stress levels, I do think it is important that they give consideration to how they are going to revise and prepare for the exams so as not to leave their revision until the last minute.

### *College Production of West Side Story*

Our next College production of West Side Story is rapidly approaching. I am sure this will prove to be an incredibly popular event and I am anticipating that tickets will sell very quickly. If you would like to see this production, I would recommend that you look out for information about how you can buy your tickets when they become available.

### *Years 9 and 11 Curriculum Evening*

On 14<sup>th</sup> January we will be holding our Year 9 and Year 11 Curriculum Evening. Year 9 students will be making their choices about which subjects they want to study in Key Stage 4 and this evening will provide information about what each course involves.

This event is also important for our Year 11 students as it will give them an opportunity to find out as much as possible about courses available for them to study in Years 12 and 13. We have seen students leave us at the end of Year 11 to study at further educational establishment such as Exeter College and, in recent years, a large number have come back to us saying that they wish they had remained at Okehampton College to undertake their Post-16 studies; they were saying that they were attracted to attend such further educational establishments for the wrong reasons such as friendship groups and the 'bright lights of Exeter' and looking back this was the wrong decision.

I feel it is important that our students recognise that the results gained within College last year at A2 were incredibly good and far surpassed that of any other local Post-16 provider. This, coupled with the fact that all our students gained their first choice university is something that should feature strongly when students think about which organisation they would like to continue their studies next academic year. Obviously I would like all our students to remain at Okehampton College but we recognise that where we cannot provide the relevant course or, indeed, feel that the provision elsewhere may be better for the student, we will recommend that those students carefully consider an alternative organisation. However, where we are able to offer courses that our students want to study I do think that the recent academic performance of our Sixth Form has been very high – 63% of all A Levels undertaken last year resulted in an A\*, A or B grade; this being considerably higher than any of our neighbouring post-16 providers.

I trust that you son/daughter has settled back into life at the College following the Christmas break and I look forward to hearing their successes as we progress throughout the rest of the academic year.

**Daryll Chapman**  
Executive Principal



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