



Collegiate High School

A RAISING ASPIRATIONS TRUST

SPECIALISTS IN SPORT & MATHEMATICS

Blackpool Old Road, Blackpool FY3 7LS
Tel: (01253) 300460 Fax: (01253) 395700
Email: admin@collegiate.blackpool.sch.uk
www.collegiateweb.co.uk

26th April 2013

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

School Uniform

The Collegiate High School summer polo shirt can now be worn by students.

It is important that our high uniform standards are maintained; therefore, I would be grateful if you could ensure that your child wears his or her school blazer with the polo shirt if the weather is inclement.

Hoodies, or other jackets/jumpers, are not allowed to be worn with the summer shirt. As stated in the uniform policy **footwear should be plain, black shoes** suitable for school. Trainers are **not allowed** to be worn in School, apart from on the pitches at lunchtime.

If you are experiencing a temporary difficulty and not able to provide shoes, please send in a note of explanation with your child.

Collegiate from September 2013 – an Update

We have held a wide ranging consultation into the proposals for a merged academy, which has involved speaking to students and parents from both schools and I would personally like to thank everybody who has put a point of view forward; they have been very helpful.

You will now know that the Council has decided to build the proposed merged school on the Collegiate site. Due to financial reasons, it just would not have been viable to reject a new building from the Department for Education and improve the buildings at Bispham. There is just not the funding available to do that.

I would like to remind our community that no decision on whether to go ahead with the merger has been made yet. A decision on whether to merge must first be made by each school's governing body and we will let you know as soon as this happens.

I am now able to confirm that **all** Collegiate students, including our new Year 7 students from September, will be taught here at Collegiate. All students who currently attend Bispham High School will be taught on the Bispham site. However, as we plan ahead, we are exploring ways in which both schools can work more closely together, including the sharing of resources and expertise.

It is likely that this arrangement will be for the full academic year before any construction work on the new build begins. Any pupil site moves will be carefully planned and worked through with the pupils themselves, staff and parents.

The Local Authority is committed to working with both schools during this time to achieve the maximum levels of stability for the pupils and staff. The timeline for delivery of the new school is still January 2014 in terms of having in place a new staffing structure, with one Headteacher and one leadership team; and, a new school building around April, 2015. As building plans develop, we will be able to update you on how long a split site situation will continue.

This is a great opportunity to move forwards and design a new school around a 21st century curriculum, and the leadership teams of both schools will be working hard this term to deliver a curriculum vision which will underpin the design of a new building.

If you like to explore some general sample designs, please copy the web address below in to your browser. Do remember that we will be a 900 place secondary school and not a 1200 place one as is

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described. Also, whilst a 'superblock' design is the preferred one, the designs that you will see may not be the same as the new school!

<http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/adminandfinance/schoolscapital/buildingsanddesign/baseline/a00213849/baseline-design-for-a-1200-place-secondary-school-superblock>

I do hope that this helps to clarify the situation and we look forward to continuing to be part of your child's education and care from September 2013.

Year 11 Attendance and leaving Arrangements.

Firstly, I must apologise for any anxiety and confusion which I have caused when speaking with Year 11 students this week. The facts are that:

The official 'leaving date' for Year 11 students is the last Friday in June; this year this would be the 28th June, 2013. However, the Government has told all schools that the reporting of student attendance will now include the last half term, which is new for this academic year. Previously, the period for reporting student attendance to the Government ended in the 5th half term, i.e. this current half term.

We are currently investigating Year 11 leaving arrangements, along with other high schools and the Local Authority, which are both legal and fair, and which do not disadvantage our Year 11 students as they prepare for life after high school.

I would like to reassure you that our sole intention is to do the very best for our Year 11 students and yourselves. As I have said to the students, as soon as I have the definitive answer, we will make our decision and inform you all. A number of parents have already discovered that different high schools do different things – I want to make sure that we do the very best for our young people.

Thank you for your understanding.

Curriculum and Options

We continue to work with colleagues at Bispham to redesign our curriculum offer for all students.

We are planning to honour the curriculum offer for current Year 10.

For Year 9, we are holding a Progress and Option evening on May 7th 2013. Please can all parents and carers of current Year 9 students make sure that you attend this meeting. Without you, we may have to offer your child subjects which they may not really want to study!

Yours sincerely

Mr D Harrison B.Ed Hons N.P.Q.H.
Headteacher

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