

Friday 7th May 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

I write to you at the end of what has been a fantastic four day week where the college has been bustling with students and staff working hard; visitors from the Greenshaw Learning Trust shared service, and other prospective parents and staff.

I want to mention the first of these visitors, the Chair of the Board of Trustees, Ann Spackman, and the GLT CEO, Will Smith. We were able to give Anne the full tour of the school, dropping into many lessons and speaking with both students and staff. Anne wrote to me following the trip with a short observation which I share below:

'It was such a pleasure to visit Scott College and, in particular, to see the children so happily engaged in their work. The level of calm concentration across all age groups was impressive. I'm so grateful to Naomi and her colleagues across all parts of the college for welcoming us so warmly when they have so many pressures on their time.

I am extremely proud of our students and staff that Anne has noticed the work we have been completing together to ensure a calm and purposeful atmosphere.

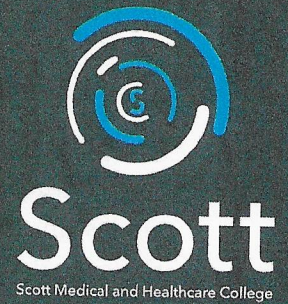
The focus for the coming weeks is split into two. Firstly we are ensuring that all lessons are pitched high and that work is scaffolded to allow students who need additional support to access higher level work. Secondly we are working on increasing the amount of independent deliberate practice in lessons to increase the confidence of our students and to ensure the learning is deeply embedded in the long-term memory.

We have also had a number of prospective candidates visit for job opportunities over the past two weeks and all have been exceptionally impressed with the work ethic of our students.

We have been conducting tours for prospective parents and once again the students have been a credit to the college. We are expecting to be oversubscribed in both admissions years once more. This is a constant reminder to me how lucky we all are to have the chance to work together in a fantastic school where demand for student places and teaching jobs far exceeds supply.

We had a brilliant Year 12 'meet the team' event for the new cohort this week. We have received some lovely feedback from parents and prospective students and it is good to know there is real excitement about joining.

Last week I wrote to you to share that the Y11/13 assessment window two was about to begin and it is now in full swing. This is the second significant piece of assessment that will support the teacher assessed grades this year for the two examination year



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groups. Could I ask parents to support us in ensuring very high levels of attendance so that teachers have an accurate portfolio of work when awarding assessment grades which will be the students final grades. It is a tough time for those students in these year groups but I am pleased that most of our Y11 have secured a Year 12 place with us at Scott College and Year 13 have secured work offers, apprenticeships and places at university. Because of the high number of science and medical based degrees, we have been putting a lot of emphasis on lab sessions and practical work which will be needed in their first year at University.

The single biggest factor which determines the success of students in our school is the time that they have in front of their teacher. Normal attendance across the country is 95% over the course of a year which averages at 1 day per school month. We need to make sure that our children are not disadvantaged by attendance that falls below this, recognising that there will at times be extenuating circumstances. If you would like to know your child's attendance so that you can track it against the national average to see if their outcomes are likely to be affected by lower than average attendance you can see this on go4schools as well as monthly attendance letters sent home by email. Anything below 94% is likely to have a noticeable affect and anything below 92% is likely to be significantly affecting future outcomes. Thanks for your support with this very important area.

Finally we have received some great news shared with us by one of our parents. Isabelle Sutton is competing in the Hunters Trials on her horse Ellie. This is a demanding cross-country event and I am sure you will join me in wishing Isabelle well.

Yours Faithfully

Naomi Leech  
Headteacher

