

DKG/vtn
27th February 2009

Dear Parent/Carer

You will recall that Portslade Community College was inspected by Ofsted on the 21st and 22nd January and we have now received the report. The inspectors have judged that the College needs to improve significantly the achievement and standards of students in Years 7 to 11. It also says there is a need to improve the quality of teaching and learning and the use of assessment information. Inspectors will re-visit the College in July or September to check that we are making appropriate progress.

This judgement was anticipated following a disappointing set of examination results last year and much has already been done to ensure better outcomes this year. Under the College's new executive leadership arrangements we were able to show inspectors an [improvement plan](#) that is dealing with the right issues. They agreed that this suggests that the College should improve quickly and indeed they saw that things are already getting better.

It's important to be clear that the majority of students enjoy their time at Portslade Community College and they get lots of good opportunities. The College cares for the social and emotional development of young people and looks after them well but for some students there has been insufficient push for appropriately high standards. I acknowledge that for many of you this will be disturbing news and your thoughts will undoubtedly turn to your children's futures. The reassurance I can give is that the College is in no doubt about what needs to be done to improve and is doing everything it can to make this happen. The College has received additional funding from the Government to employ extra staff. We also have strong support from an expert adviser and from Brighton & Hove City Council consultants who work with teachers to improve what happens in the classroom.

Finally, it is with the above outcomes firmly in mind that I am pleased to announce that a significant step in moving the College forward has been achieved through the appointment of Stuart McLaughlin as the new Principal from September 2009. Mr McLaughlin has outstanding credentials and will be joining us from Falmer High School where he has demonstrated excellent leadership.

You will find enclosed a letter to your child from the inspectors that I would appreciate you passing on. If you wish you can also access the full inspection report on our website at www.pcc-web.com. You can request a printed copy, free of charge, from the College. Any enquiries about this letter should be made through parent governors in the first instance via the College.

Thank you for your time and understanding.

Regards

David King
David King
Chair of Governors