



### Mr White's Weekly Words

Following the rich and colourful Induction Week, Week 2 has been very much about 'getting down to business'. Year 10s have taken part in baseline testing, completing examination papers to help us, and then, to identify areas of strength and gaps in their knowledge. Until we have completed our assessments, students are currently placed in 3 mixed ability sets and have followed a curriculum which has included all core subjects, including Business Studies, as well as Project-Based Learning sessions and work around business readiness. Additionally, all students have chosen their academic options and have begun the study programmes in one of the following: History; Geography, French Business, and Work Skills.

### High Standards and Expectations are Being Embedded

Following on from the 'first impressions' sessions all students participated in last week, I have been keen to reinforce messages about appropriate attire and personal presentation. I would appreciate your support in reinforcing these messages at the start of each day BEFORE your child leaves for school.

Our business suit is just that, a suit. The trousers or skirt is supplied by the same company as the business jacket. No 'alternate' trousers should be worn. The students, particularly the girls have confirmed that the trousers are 'really good' and not out-dated as many traditional uniforms are. Shoes should be black, sturdy and polished. No other options for boys or girls are acceptable. Those students who are unsure just need to see me and I will help clarify what is/is not ok. Jewellery is limited to a wristwatch and two sleepers or plain, small stud earrings. No other piercings are permitted. You may be pleased to know that there is no measuring of skirt length but an 'acceptable length' is around the knees.

I must say the whole school look so smart and I hear compliments on an almost daily basis from the community who see our students in and around the area. The value of sharing these expectations again is so that there are no mixed messages or confusion as the year progresses. Nothing has changed since the school opened in September 2014.

## Highlights of the Week

### Academic Studies

Students have got down to business in their academic studies this week with intensive GCSE lessons for Year 11 and introductions to courses and modules for Year 10.

In English, students created character descriptions from a selection of items to contribute towards their narrative writing.



### Vocational Studies

Following induction to the Isle of Wight College last week, today saw the start of the delivery of a range of vocational courses. Students have chosen between a skills-

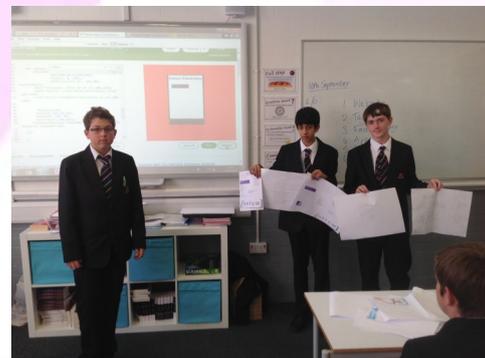
based Engineering programme; Health and Social Care; Travel and Tourism; and an IT Digital Applications course.

Students threw themselves into their first sessions and contributed well to their option subjects. Health and Social Care explored communication and how to care for the blind; Digital Applications took the first key steps towards creating a digital website; the Engineers learnt about health and safety in the workplace and Travel and Tourism experienced a virtual tour of the world. These are all one year courses so Year 10 students will have the opportunity to choose another subject next summer.

### Project-Based Learning

Project-Based Learning this week involved Year 10s learning how to market and promote a company. They explored taglines to make the company memorable, the importance of branding to ensure their company is recognised and further developed their logos. Groups took on roles such as, creative manager, research and marketing leader, spokesperson and secretary. They created a superb display of leaflets, advertisements and websites. The most successful students programmed their own web-

sites online and carried out some very professional presentations.



### Work Readiness

This week saw the beginning of our work readiness programme aimed at preparing students for their forthcoming work placements.

We welcomed two speakers to the school to discuss how and what future training might look like for those interested in these routes. Kelly Simmonds, Workforce Delivery Manager at City College, shared information about the national apprenticeship scheme and how to apply. Emma Walder, a Creative Design Engineer for Pavegen, an innovative

green energy high-tech company, shared her story as a 21 year old following her path into an internship for a global engineering and manufacturing organisation. Both were well received and opened minds to more options beyond school years.

## Work Placements

Year 11s will be looking to start their work placements from Thursday 24th September. This will continue until Thursday 17th December. After Christmas students will be back in school and focused on preparations for the summer examinations. For Year 10s, students will begin their work placements from Wednesday 4th November. This will continue throughout the year on Wednesdays each week, until Wednesday 25th May 2016.

For those Yr11s who are continuing with last year's placement, we will conduct simple checks to ensure all is well. For those without a placement, we would ask once again for you to assist with your own networking of friends, family, neighbours, etc to assist the search. For Yr10 families, any contacts that you may have, please forward our way. Mrs Debbie Dixon will support, advise and check employers. She has an ever-growing list of potential businesses but we know that some of the best experiences have come from those provided by contacts that families have helped arrange.

## Into the Future

The Post-16 curriculum offer will be shared over the next few weeks with the opportunity for all Year 11 families to be able to discuss the personal offer that they are considering with their child. Our unique small school means we have been able to listen to and amend our offer to suit the vast majority of students. A levels and vocational courses will be included in the offer along with extended work placements. We will also include many other business readiness and enrichment programmes that we know have made our students stand out from the crowd. More information to follow over the forthcoming weeks.

## The International Southampton Boatshow

All students have been given the opportunity to attend the Boat Show next Thursday 17th September. This is an immensely valuable experience, regardless of the interest in 'boating'. Students will get the opportuni-

ty to find out about the hundreds of associated industries that attend the show. They will interview and gather information about different sectors who are exhibiting, and test their own skills and courage by approaching adults with a view to holding business discussions. The impressions they create will be recorded, so 'best foot forward' may be mentioned before we enter the show!

## Enrichment

Our week finished with our comprehensive 'Enrichment' programme. Five different options saw students involved in activities spanning the island. UKSA, Cowes - water-based activities (except for this week with Orienteering in Parkhurst Forest); Adventure Activities UK, Freshwater - water and land-based adventure activities; IOW College, Newport - Health & fitness using their state-of-the-art gym facilities; Eco Club, Studio School, East Cowes - practical activities including developing a community garden and creating ways to make the school and community a more eco-friendly



environment; and finally, the News, Blog and Web Design Club, Studio School, East Cowes - for budding web designers, journalists, reporters and digital media moguls, who will be taking a lead in sharing information about our organisation.



## Dates For Your Diary

**17th September:** Trip to Southampton Boat Show

**24th September:** Year 11 work placements commence

**15th October:** Year 10 Parents' Evening

**23rd October—2nd November:** Half Term

**4th November:** Year 10 work placements commence

**9th— 12th November:** Year 11 Mock Exams

## Year 10 Enrolment for 2016 Starts Now!

**Open Evening Tours and Talks will take place at 6 pm on Thursday evenings on:**

**17th September,**

**1st October,**

**15th October.**

**To book a slot call the office on: 01983 284299**

## Lunches

**Lunch is available to buy daily at morning break.**

**There are a wide range of choices on offer such as:**

**Sandwiches, baguettes, pasta pots, sausage rolls, fruit, cookies, cakes and drinks.**

**This lunch service is only available at morning break and students are responsible for ensuring they purchase enough food to last them through the day.**