

# BRISTNALL HALL TECHNOLOGY COLLEGE

## Head's/Governor's Newsletter



also on our web site  
[www.bhtc.sandwell.sch.uk](http://www.bhtc.sandwell.sch.uk)  
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**Issue No. 47 December 2004**

Dear Parents

At the end of what has been a very busy term,(we finish at 12.15PM on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December) I would like to take the opportunity of updating you with developments taking place and 'the latest' information.

### 1. Staffing News

We say goodbye to Mr. Andy Hudson at the end of term after 21 years committed service. We wish him well in his new appointment. Mr. Hudson's replacement will be Mr. Craig Sedgwick.

### 2. Parents and Friends Association

This is a small team of dedicated helpers who devote time and energy to representing parents' views, fund raising and raising our profile in the Community.

The band of willing helpers is dwindling due to the pace of 21<sup>st</sup> Century living.

It would be a great shame if it were to lapse and become inactive.

We haven't been able to hold our Christmas Fayre this year although Carol Singing and Bag Packing in Bearwood is still scheduled for the mornings of 14<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> of December.

Please contact Reception with your name and telephone number if you are willing to find time to assist with events and help spread the load.

Thank you

### 3. School Closure

It's that time of year again! The weather could turn on us, so it is time, once again to remind you of our procedure for School Closure in the event of bad weather. It is always our intention to give as much notice as possible, however, if snow falls during the night, the local radio stations, BRMB, Radio WM and Beacon Radio will be informed of any closures. In addition to closure for bad weather, there may be occasions when, due to an emergency, children need to be sent home early. Please try to make arrangements for your son/daughter to have somewhere safe to go in such circumstances.

#### 4. Inclusion Room

We have recently added this room to our disciplinary procedures for pupils who consistently disrupt teaching and learning.

Disruptive pupils will be withdrawn from normal lessons and set to work in the Inclusion Room with a senior member of staff for an unspecified period.

This is a serious move and pupils will be expected to work throughout the day – including break times and lunchtimes.

Sandwiches can be brought from home or a school lunch provided at a cost of £1.34

You will be informed if your son or daughter is withdrawn from lessons and placed in the Inclusion Room.

This is an effort to preserve the teaching and learning environment within classes and I hope it meets with your approval and support.

We are determined to match high aspirations with the highest possible standards.

#### 5. Parents' Evenings

Each year group has an evening dedicated to discussing the attainment and progress of your son/daughter. It is a significant night in developing the vital partnership between parents and staff which is designed to update and inform. Please do your best to attend. We regard it as crucial if students are to reach their potential.

#### 6. Lunchtimes

I am receiving some complaints from neighbours around the school mainly involving paper litter and food litter dropped by our students.

Please help us by stressing to your son/daughter the importance of being tidy and using bins for all rubbish.

This also applies to our own yards. Dropped food is an attraction to animals, particularly geese/pigeons, who in turn are leaving their own large deposits! This is not healthy when you consider the ball games that go on and, unless checked, could spread disease.

It is vital that we all work together to protect our environment... it is us at risk!  
Thank you!

Please note that the grounds belonging to the "Two Brewers" are out of bounds to all pupils.

## 7. Ofsted

As expected, we received a good Ofsted report, which, at the time of writing, is still confidential.

I can only share with you the following very positive headlines:

- This is a good school and students achieve well
- Headteacher and Team are successfully using the benefits of Technology status to boost student learning
- Teaching is good and good value for money
- Improved since last inspection
- Leadership and Management are good
- ICT is a notable strength throughout the college.

## 8. Weapons/Drug Distribution

I am not aware that we have a problem with either of these present day issues on site. Suffice it to say that should we discover any student in possession of weapons or involved in drug distribution/dealing, we will permanently exclude those involved. This will include a first offence. On these issues there will be zero tolerance.

I hope you support us in our stance.

## 9. Attendance/Punctuality

Each Student should be striving for 100% attendance and punctuality. As a College we have invested heavily in Parents Call/Truancy Call to provide an up to the minute information highway between college and parents in order to keep students safe and on course to reach the highest standards they can. There is a strong connection between good attendance and good attainment. Please do your best to encourage the best possible attendance and avoid holidays/days off in school time. It really is that important.

We have improved our attendance by 2.5% over the last twelve months with your help.... please keep up your good work. I have enclosed your son/daughter's attendance for this first term – we are aiming for 94% or better.

## 10. Work Experience

Our Work Experience Programme for Year 10 Students is organised by Miss Tranter. This is a very valuable aspect of our Work Related Curriculum. Placements aren't always easy to find! If you could help by offering or finding a placement for the period 4<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> July 2005, please contact Miss Tranter, Head of Year 10.

## 11. Appendix 1 (Separate file-Qu'airNL47)

I have kept this separate because it contains very important return slips for us to action.

Please give this some priority because the information contained will help us to follow your wishes and keep you better informed.

A swift return might win you a valuable 'memory stick' for use with your computer.

Thanks in anticipation

As a College we are making real progress on a number of fronts and I sincerely thank you for your support and input to the improvement process.

I wish you all a restful and enjoyable holiday period, so that together, we face the challenges of 2005 with re-newed vigour.

Happy Christmas!

Yours faithfully

S. W. Venross  
**Headteacher**

### **Dates for your Diary**

#### **2005**

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| 4 <sup>th</sup> January                                   | - | Training Day (School Closed)   |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> January                                   | - | School Starts for pupils   |
| 24 <sup>th</sup> January                                  | - | Annual Governors Meeting with Parents – 7.00pm                                 |
| 27 <sup>th</sup> January                                  | - | Year 11 Reports Home/College Evening for Year 9, 10 and 11 Pupils and Parents. |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> February                                  | - | Year 11 Parents' Evening   |
| 7 <sup>th</sup> February                                  | - | Year 9 Exams start   |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> February                                 | - | School Closed for Half-term  |
| 21 <sup>st</sup> February                                 | - | School Re-opens  |
| 23 <sup>rd</sup> February                                 | - | Year 10 Parents' Evening   |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> March                 | - | Dance Extravaganza   |
| 14 <sup>th</sup> March                                    | - | Year 8 and 10 Exam Period  |
| 24 <sup>th</sup> March                                    | - | School Closes for Easter/Year 9 Reports Home                                   |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> and 12 <sup>th</sup> April Training Days | - | Pupils not required in school  |
| 13 <sup>th</sup> April                                    | - | School re-opens for Summer Term  |