

# Sky College News

Issue Number 14

26<sup>th</sup> January 2011

## **SKY COLLEGE OUT OF SPECIAL MEASURES – WITH ‘MANY GOOD FEATURES’**

I am delighted to report to you that we are out of Special Measures. This means we are officially no longer a failing school which is brilliant news.

3 Inspectors visited the school last week and that was their conclusion. They were highly impressed with the progress the school has made in just a year.

We couldn't have asked for more or better. Everyone in school played their part staff, students and governors and the school felt really positive, an effective place of learning. I am delighted that the 3 inspectors agreed with us that Sky was no longer a school in Special Measures instead we have passed **with many good features:**

- The HMI reported that teaching was all at least satisfactory, over half was good and some lessons were outstanding;
- They felt it was now a 'proper school' and a place of learning;
- The inspectors praised the boys attitudes to learning;
- They were very impressed with the school environment the freshly painted and refurbished rooms but also the learning displays, particularly showing students levels;
- Planning was good and included the use of computers and Teaching Assistants working effectively;
- The boarding facilities were described *as very good* and will be outstanding when the new buildings are complete;
- HMI praised our curriculum offer, and staff team structures;
- They were also highly impressed with the Pastoral team, in all aspects and in particular the weekly panel meeting planning support for the boys;
- Standards were all improved; attendance, GCSEs literacy and numeracy levels and general assessment procedures;
- Finally the inspectors were highly impressed with the outstanding provision that has been made for students off site at the outward bound centres, visits and YMCAs etc

Naturally we need to still work to improve standards in the school so that we can in time be regarded as outstanding. But for now this is great news.

**We should all be very proud of last week. I have already received congratulations from the LA and Governors. Lets spend a little time now basking in the reflected glory of our joint success.**

I want to thank all the students and staff in the school who have worked so hard over the year that Lilac Sky has worked in the school. Together we have made this happen.

Well done everyone.

**Trevor Averde-Beeson – Executive Headteacher**

## Exam Season Begins!

On Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> January our year 11 pupils sat their first GCSE exam, which was Science. They all did very well and the exam ran very smoothly. Not the easiest of subjects to start with, so well done lads and good luck!

Thanks also for the help and teamwork of Sacha Joyce and Steve Ware (with Jo Hill and Pete Giles on standby).

**Christine Baldwin - Examinations Officer**

## 100 % Attendance Award

The award for 100% attendance last week has been won by Dominic. Your £20 prize will be ready for you next week.

Remember, everyone who has 100% attendance is entered into the weekly draw to win £20!

Please remember to telephone the school office on 01823 275569 if you are unable to attend school for any reason.

## School Uniform

School Uniform can be ordered through the Pastoral and Family Support Team, based in Student Reception. Please contact them to place any orders for additional or new uniform items by telephoning 01823 275569 or 07889 064559.

### Uniform Pricelist

#### Quantock and Mendip

Sky College Blazer	£32.50
Lilac Shirt	£15.99
Black Trousers	£17.99

#### Blackdown

Sky College Sweatshirt	£16.95
Sky College Polo Shirt	£10.50/£11.50
Black Tracksuit bottoms	£13.50/£13.00



## Person-centred Reviews

Our SENCo, Carla Barber, has done extensive training on changing the Annual Review process to make it more relevant, accessible and holistic to parents, carers and the young person concerned. Young people will be encouraged to take ownership of the process, choosing who they would like to attend the review, music they would like to play and even snacks they would like to eat!

We hope both pupils and parents/carers will embrace the change and make significant changes.

## School Transport

Please ensure that you are ready and waiting for your taxi about 10 minutes before the scheduled pick up time.

This means that you will be ready for your taxi when it arrives as drivers will only wait for a limited period of time if you are running late.



Please submit your articles for *Sky College News* to David Houghton by 12.30pm on Thursday.