



South Downs College



# Parents' Newsletter

November 2010

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## HELPING STUDENTS SUCCEED : INDIVIDUAL LEARNING PLANNING

### 10 QUESTIONS FOR LEARNERS

The College is committed to supporting every student to achieve their full potential in their studies. With this in mind, we have recently established the '10 Questions for Learners' following consultation with students and staff. These questions are designed to help your son/daughter to think about their responsibilities as learners to organise themselves, to consider different ways of learning, to maintain a positive attitude and to constantly seek to improve their own learning performance. The staff teaching on your son/daughter's course will be able to provide further information about how the questions apply to a particular course or programme of study. You may wish to discuss with your son/daughter their understanding of the questions and how they are achieving positive answers in their approach to their learning.



## Individual learning plans

Over the next few weeks, your son/daughter's teacher(s) will be spending some time discussing with them their current performance and agreeing targets to ensure that they fulfil their potential on the course. The outcomes of these discussions are recorded on Individual Learning Plans which are made available at Parents' Evenings or are sent to parents/carers who are unable to attend.

As part of this process, some courses identify 'Current Profile Grades' which are usually based on GCSE grades or performance in the first year of a two-year College course. The CPG represents the current minimum grade that your son/daughter should achieve. The 'Progress Grade' indicates their actual performance on the course at this time. The 'Target Grade' represents each student's current goal, and specific targets agreed with teachers will enable students to achieve their 'Target Grade'.

None of the grades described above represent a predicted grade for your son/daughter. Instead, they are designed to track progress, encourage improvement and establish targets which enable all students to fulfil their potential. Both the Progress Grade and the Target Grade will be adjusted during the course to reflect your son/daughter's performance. It is the College's expectation that Target Grades are set higher as students demonstrate improvement in their learning.

## Receiving College communications in a different format

The College recognises that parents/carers may have visual impairments which mean that they have difficulty reading letters and newsletters such as this. If you would like to receive College correspondence in a large print format, translated into another language or have it e-mailed to read at home with adaptive technology, please ask your son or daughter to inform their Faculty Office or contact Student Services on 023 9279 7969.

## It's not too late...

to apply for

- an Education Maintenance Allowance (for 16-18 year olds only)
- the College Access Scheme
- the College Travel Scheme
- an Adult Learning Grant (if you are over 19)

(there are eligibility criteria for all the above)

If you have not already applied or are uncertain about whether you will be eligible for any of the above, do visit the Student Services desk (based in the main Reception area).



## Additional Support

If students feel they are getting behind with the work, they can receive extra help with their assignments and should speak to their tutor or go to the Study Centre so that a short assessment for support can be arranged.

Access arrangements for exams do not automatically follow on from school so if you know your son or daughter had any special arrangements in their exams, requires extra time or a reader, please check with them that they have made their tutor aware of this.

For any concerns, please call Genni Gilchrist, Head of Additional Support, on 023 9279 4657.

## Travel passes for January 2011

Please remind your son or daughter that if they are on the South Downs Travel Scheme, their travel pass/es will be ready for collection from Student Services between 7 - 17 December (closing at noon Fri 17) and 4 - 14 January 2011. They will need to bring the appropriate payment and their existing photo card with them. Travel passes must be collected by 14 January, if there is a problem with your son or daughter collecting during that time please ring staff in Student Services, 023 9279 7921, 023 9279 4657.

## Student Union

Students can still apply for NUS EXTRA cards, the nationally recognised student discount card. These cost £11 and can be applied for online [www.nus.org.uk](http://www.nus.org.uk) or in the Student Union office. If students would like an international card added so that it can be used abroad this costs an additional £1.99 and to have the card made into formal ID with the PASS logo, this is an additional £6. The cards are valid until September 2011.

The Student Union are now taking orders for South Downs College Hoodies. These come in a range of colours and sizes and come with the South Downs College logo on the front left side. The basic unisex hoody is £10 and the zip version is £15. Order forms and details of colours have been sent to all tutors or students can call into the office to place an order. Payment must be made before the order can be placed.

The office also has a stock of Attack Alarms. These are £2 each and come in black or pink.

If you have any queries on the above, please contact Liz Langley on 023 9279 7966 or [llangley@southdowns.ac.uk](mailto:llangley@southdowns.ac.uk).



## Our duty of care

We had two or three cases last year where parents of 16-17 year olds have gone on holiday, leaving their son or daughter without details of a responsible adult, and the student has become ill whilst at College.

We have a legal duty of care to 16-17 year olds and, if they are unwell, we cannot risk letting them go home alone or take them home to an empty house.

If you are going to be away, please do make sure we always have details of an alternative adult we can contact in case of illness or an emergency. If we don't have this information we may have to contact Social Services.

## Staying safe & secure at college

The college is serious in its commitment to ensuring the safety of students whilst at College. Information giving advice and support, enabling students to feel safe and secure, is provided to all full-time students in their Student Handbook and Diary and in talks given by their tutor during the year.

If students feel they are being harassed or that the behaviour of others is making them feel uncomfortable they should be encouraged to speak to their tutor, a member of Student Services staff or a member of staff they feel comfortable talking to.

Please ask your son/daughter to report all issues, incidents or concerns relating to gender, disability, race, religion or belief.

Please contact South Downs College if you have any concerns.

## Open Evening Tuesday 8 March 2011

The next Open Evening for full-time students is Tuesday 8 March 2011, 18.00-20.00. If you have a son or daughter thinking of coming to South Downs in September 2011 why not bring them along to look at the facilities and talk to the staff. Or you may want to take a full-time course yourself!

**We will also be holding a Staff Development Day on 8 March 2011 so College will be CLOSED for the day.**

## Equality & Diversity

South Downs College is committed to equality and diversity. South Downs College is a thriving college community of over 5,500 students with all sorts of backgrounds, interests and ambitions and we aim to give each student the opportunity to fulfil their potential.



## AS-A2 Transitions Programme 2011

**For two weeks from Monday 20th June up to and including Friday 1st July 2011, all AS students are required to attend the compulsory AS to A2 Transitions programme.**

Some subjects use this programme to begin teaching the A2 course while others will introduce students to the main themes and ideas they will experience in the A2 year.

It is important that students attend this programme- if they feel they will not be able to attend for any reason they must speak to their tutor. Absence may compromise their position on the A2, and their chances of starting a new AS subject.

As well as the teaching element there will be two tutorial meetings. At these tutorials students will be given the opportunity to speak to their tutor in more depth about their progression into the A2 year.

Progression onto the second year is dependent on students achieving at least grade E in the AS along with satisfactory academic progress, behaviour attitude and attendance.

Holidays should not be taken until after the end of the AS academic year on Friday 1st July and students need to be available to return to College for course registration from Friday 26th August 2011.

South Downs College is committed to helping students succeed in their second year and we hope they will be able to take full advantage of the Transitions programme to ensure they have all the information, knowledge and guidance necessary to give them the best chance of success.



# College Cafés

The college has five cafés offering a welcoming and relaxed atmosphere and an extensive range of food and refreshments from 8.30 to 20.30 Monday to Thursday and 8.30 to 16.00 on Fridays. The café menus are varied and very reasonably priced.

A wide variety of food and drinks are offered to help customers maintain a healthy balance, the green Smarter Choice logo helps customers to identify the healthier options. All main meals are freshly prepared and cooked using a minimal amount of fat, sugar and salt. Please speak to a member of staff if you have a specific dietary requirement or would like information on the ingredients we use.



The Balcony Café is open between 9.00 and 16.00. This area has an external balcony and a patio area for customers to enjoy eating outside. This area has a salad bar that enables you to create your own salad from the freshly made selection. The menu also includes a range of pasta, pizza, toasted panini and jacket potatoes.

The Café North is open between 9.00 and 16.00 offering a wide range of hot food, sandwiches, salads, snacks and drinks. This area has a plasma screen and the vending machines offer cold bottled drinks and snacks.

The Coffee House has chill out music, a pool table and X boxes. The Coffee House shop is open between 9.00 and 15.45 serving fresh coffee, cold drinks, sandwiches, snacks and ice creams.

The Courtyard Café is open between 8.30 and 20.30 Monday to Thursday and 8.30 till 16.00 on Fridays. This area offers a large variety of hot meals, snacks, sandwiches and salads. Evening meals are served until 18.30 and a selection of sandwiches, salads, hot and cold drinks, cakes and pastries are available until 20.30 Monday to Thursday.

The Studio Café is open between 10.00 and 16.30 Monday to Thursday and 10.00 to 16.00 on Friday offering freshly filled deli subs and salads to eat in or take away.

Free water is available in all cafes and most areas also have water bottle refill points. Please could all customers make sure that they clear their tables when they have finished and place rubbish and items for recycling in the correct bins provided.

For further information please look at the College Cafés website on the College Intranet or contact [phumby@southdowns.ac.uk](mailto:phumby@southdowns.ac.uk).



## College Nurses



- 1 We will treat any injuries that occur on site. If treatment is necessary at hospital a member of staff will stay with your son or daughter (if under 18) unless by prior agreement. It is essential we have telephone numbers and/or students have telephone numbers on which parents/carers can be contacted.
- 2 If your son or daughter is very unwell please keep them at home. Students work closely together and viruses are easily passed between them. In some circumstances such as mumps we will insist that the student does not come in to College.
- 3 If students feel very unwell whilst at College we will send them home. We are responsible for informing the faculty and, if under 18, parents or carers. Again it is essential that students have telephone numbers on which we can contact you. (Mobile or work numbers are fine.)
- 4 We are able to administer Paracetamol, Ibuprofen and Piriton if required by students. We are also able to store any medications necessary such as Inhalers. However, if students suffer from frequent headaches or period pains it is sensible that they carry their own medication with them.
- 5 We offer health advice on a range of issues including contraception & sexual health, weight advice, stress and drugs & alcohol abuse.

If you have any questions you would like to ask us please do not hesitate to contact us on 023 9279 7979 ext 550 or [mmoore@southdowns.ac.uk](mailto:mmoore@southdowns.ac.uk) or [rharbour@southdowns.ac.uk](mailto:rharbour@southdowns.ac.uk)

## Higher Education

The higher education application process is now underway. The College deadline for applications to UCAS – the Admissions Service for Universities and Colleges – is 27 November 2010 but we are encouraging students to complete their application forms as soon as possible as popular courses may be filling up.

UCAS applications are on-line and information cards are supplied to the students via Advice & Guidance or their tutors.

The UCAS website - [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com) - is a good source of course and general information for higher education applicants.

The Advice & Guidance team can offer a range of help to students and parents during the higher application process. Staff are fully trained and up to date with higher education application procedures and issues. Students can access the drop-in service from 9.30 to 16.30 Mon – Thurs, 9.30 – 16.00 Fri. We are also happy to offer information and advice to parents and carers about the application process. Telephone 023 9279 7929 or via email – [a&g@southdowns.ac.uk](mailto:a&g@southdowns.ac.uk)

## Student Counselling Service

College provides a free and confidential service for both full and part-time students. As well as face-to-face counselling, e-counselling is also available. Please e-mail [ECounselling@southdowns.ac.uk](mailto:ECounselling@southdowns.ac.uk) or follow the link on the intranet for further details.

Students may arrange an appointment to see a counsellor by phoning Student Services on 023 9279 7969 or by visiting Student Services Desk on the main site.

## Volunteering Advice

The College has a service for students to help them find volunteer opportunities. This is run by the Advice & Guidance team.

As applications for university have risen and there are seemingly more and more applicants for each job we are encouraging students to think of other ways to enhance personal statements and employability.

A survey, by a leading national charity in volunteering, carried out amongst 200 of the UK's leading businesses and found that 73% of employers would employ a candidate with volunteering experience over one without and 94% of employers believe that volunteering can add to skills.

If students are interested in this, ask them to contact Sue Wallace from the Advice & Guidance team for more information.

## The College Restaurant and Café at South Downs College

Dine in style with the Chefs and Restaurant stars of the Future!

The College Restaurant and Café Bar continues to receive outstanding praise from customers, students and staff for the contemporary, comfortable and professional surroundings. Our modern menus and levels of service have provided a high level of satisfaction and repeat custom with employers including Heston Blumenthal, Marcus Wareing and Mark Hix complimenting South Downs College for the provision of an outstanding realistic and relevant training facility.

The Restaurant and Café bar was awarded Restaurant Magazine's 'College Restaurant

of the Year 2009' having won the title in the London and South region for three of the previous four years. The Restaurant also achieved a coveted 5 stars across the board from leading local food critic Carol Godsmark in the Portsmouth Evening News. In 2010 the college gained the accolade as one of only 13 National Catering Colleges to be endorsed as a centre of excellence by the UK Skills Academy for Hospitality.



The College Restaurant menu offers guests a range of varied, innovative and reasonably priced dining opportunities at lunch and dinner using fresh and locally sourced ingredients. Changing every two weeks main courses include 'Lightly Spiced, Crown Roasted Breast of Guinea Fowl, Leg stuffed with Orange and Sage, Petit Ratatouille and Cocotte Potatoes and Roasted Best End of Lamb served on Wilted Spinach with Sweetbreads, Slow Roasted

Shallots, Lyonnaise Potatoes and Madeira Sauce'. The modern british themed style of the college restaurant caters for all diners tastes with themed evenings and guest chef presentations from some of the UK's most famous local and national celebrity chefs, a regular feature. Parties and group bookings of up to 60 can be catered for. Our fully licensed bar provides a wide range of cocktails, wines and liqueurs.

Although bookings are preferred for more formal dining at lunch and dinner in the College Restaurant, the Café Bar lunch service offers a highly successful quick service venue for guests dining in or take-away during the day. The catering food 'Shop' has also been a highly popular feature of the area, providing a wide range of take-away snacks, pastries, bakery products and beverages including items from the daily salad bar.

The restaurant is open in term time for lunch from Tuesday to Friday 12.00 to 12.45 (last orders). Tuesday-Friday three course lunch £11.95 or two courses £9.95.

Monday brunch menu available 12.00 to 13.15, freshly prepared dishes which are quick to serve at very reasonable prices. Dinner is served Tuesday to Thursday Evening 18.00 to 18.45 (last orders) Tuesday & Wednesday serving a Fine Dining Menu, three course dinner plus a complimentary 'Amuse' £19.95. Thursday Evening Brasserie serving a three course taster menu £15.50.

Please visit the restaurant section on the college website, where you can make a reservation using Opentable.; view our menus, latest news stories and photos. [www.restaurant.southdowns.ac.uk](http://www.restaurant.southdowns.ac.uk)

To make a reservation or for further enquiries contact the Restaurant Manager Kerry Mansfield, on 023 9279 7952

## South Downs Hawks Academy secure a 4-0 win at Histon



**Monday 4 October 2010**

**After the disappointment of the loss at Dartford in their first league game of the season, a sizzling first half from the South Downs College Hawks at Histon today was enough to secure their first win of the season.**

Following a long journey up to Cambridgeshire littered with stop-start traffic jams on a bus that struggled to get much above 45 mph, the SD Hawks rolled into Histon with barely 20 mins to warm up. But that was enough as they flew off the blocks and scored within 5 minutes as Alex Lowley latched on to a poor clearance from James Crook in the Histon goal to fire into an open net. The SD Hawks went 2 up on 9 minutes when Alex Ledger, wide right, brought a great pass from Josh Levy down to roll the ball calmly beyond the onrushing Crook. The rest of the half saw the SD Hawks dominate play but rarely trouble the opposition until 5 minutes from half time when after great build-up play, wide right,

a sublime pass from Ledger was met by Harry Gilbert who drove the ball low into the corner of the Histon net. Then, on the stroke of half time the SD Hawks threw the ball into the path of Ledger on the left who out-muscled his full back marker to drive a low cross into the path of Sammy Knight who calmly placed the ball home from 6 yards.

**Half Time: Histon 0 : 4 South Downs Hawks**

The second half was far less eventful with both sides working hard but rarely troubling each other. We knew Histon would have to go all out to get back into the game but would leave massive gaps at the back. So the message was sit deep but not too deep and hit them quick on the counter attack. However, it was hard for the lads to raise their game and all they did was soak up Histon pressure and fail to counter with any quality. It is fair to say that Histon had most possession and the best of the chances in a largely uneventful 45 minutes. The SD Hawks did have a few good chances to further their winning margin later on, but failed to convert these to run out comfortable winners 4-0

**Full Time: Histon 0 : 4 South Downs Hawks**

Hawks Squad: King, Al-Shantir (Errington 73), Flanighan, Mackney (Capt), Froggatt, Gadd, Ledger, Gilbert, Levy, Knight (Jackson –Coffie 63), Lowley (Edwards 40).

Subs not used: Norton, Judge, Robbins, Redwood.

SD Hawks Scorers: Lowley (5), Ledger (9), Gilbert (41), Knight (45)

**SD Hawks Man of the Match: Ryan Gadd**

**Ambiance**  
*Hair and Beauty Salon*

**South Downs College has superb Hairdressing and Beauty facilities, with three open-plan hairdressing salons and five beauty salons conforming to the highest professional industry standards and offering an extensive range of treatment and specialist therapies in a commercial working environment.**

For further details, including a price list, visit  
<http://www.southdowns.ac.uk/facilities/salons.aspx>  
or To book an appointment telephone 023 9279 7955

### Forthcoming key dates:

Friday 26th November 2010  
Friday 3rd December 2010  
Friday 14th January 2011  
Friday 28th January 2011  
Tuesday 8th March 2011  
Tuesday 8th March 2011

Parents' Evening for 1 year courses  
Parents' Evening for AS courses  
Parents' Evening for year 2 of 2 year courses  
Parents' Evening for year 1 of 2 year courses  
Staff Development Day (College closed for Students)  
Open Evening (18.00 – 20.00)

The South Downs College is committed to increasing participation in, and broadening access to, lifelong education for the benefit of individual students and the community. The pursuit of excellence and parity of esteem between all types of provision are fundamental values. The College will provide a high-quality service that aims to fulfil the personal aspirations of all its learners.



*South Downs College*

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**Principal:** Michael Oakes MA (Cantab.)

*“an outstanding college” Ofsted Inspection*

The South Downs College has charitable status for the provision of Education and Training



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