

# This Week

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6 September 2013

## From the Principal:

The new academic year 2013-14 has started positively with excellent examination results. Year 11 students achieved the best results ever at the College: 81% of year 11 students achieved 5 or more A\*- C GCSE passes in all subjects.

We were delighted that so many students will now progress to the course of their choice at a local Further Education or Sixth Form College. Well done all!

The results at Key Stage 4 continue to improve. In 2013 the percentage of students achieving five or more GCSE A\*-C grades including English and Maths increased to a College high of 68%. This figure has increased every year for six years. English and Mathematics achieved excellent results with 84% and 69% respectively.

In assemblies this week, we have welcomed students in all year groups to the new academic year. They have been reminded of our expectations of them, particularly in relation to college dress, attitude and behaviour, organisation and homework. These are areas where support from parents is extremely valuable. Please ask your daughter for this newsletter each week (or alternatively read it on our website) when you see her planner as it contains important information to keep you well informed.

We look forward to working with you over the coming year.

Alison Merrills

## Thought for the Week

'New eyes each year, find old books here, and new books, too, old eyes renew.....'

Philip Larkin

## COLLEGE CALENDAR

Term dates for 2012-2013 are available on the College website [www.sjncc.leicester.sch.uk](http://www.sjncc.leicester.sch.uk)

10 September	College Photographs
19 September	Open Evening 5.30 -7.30 pm
26 September	Year 11 Transition Evening 5.30 pm – 7.30 pm
7 October	Year 7 Transition Evening 5.30 pm – 7.30 pm

## FEEDBACK FROM THE PARENT/CARER QUESTIONNAIRE 2013

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Thank you to all parents/carers who completed our questionnaire last term to give us feedback about how well the College is doing. Overall, responses have been very positive:

- 96% of parents agree their daughter is happy at college
- 98% of parents agree their daughter feels safe at college
- 98% of parents agree their daughter makes good progress at college
- 97% of parents agree their daughter is well looked after at college
- 97% of parents agree their daughter is taught well at college
- 92% of parents agree their daughter receives appropriate homework for her age
- 93% of parents agree the college makes sure its students are well behaved
- 95% of parents agree the college deals effectively with bullying
- 97% of parents agree the college is well led and managed
- 95% of parents agree the college responds well to any concerns they raise
- 96% of parents agree that they receive valuable information from the college about their daughter's progress
- 100% of parents would recommend this college to another parent.

We noted that, although the majority of parents agreed that the College deals effectively with bullying, some parents felt that they did not know enough about policy and procedure. We intend to address this by holding an information session for parents this term.

Thank you again for taking the time to give us your views. Your feedback is invaluable in helping us to evaluate and improve our practice.

Alison Merrills

## Sir Jonathan North Community College

Specialisms in Visual Arts, Science with Maths and Applied Learning

Principal: Alison Merrills



## Open Evening

Thursday 19 September 2013 5.30 pm - 7.30 pm

Presentations by the Principal  
at 5.45pm and 6.15pm

"Outstanding curriculum"  
"Outstanding development as young adults"

OFSTED

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Following re-assessment in June, it is with great pleasure that we inform parents that Sir Jonathan North Community College continues to meet the requirements of the Investors in People Standard and has received a certificate celebrating 10 years of continuous recognition as an Investor in People, an award shared by only 5% of companies in the UK.

**Comment from the assessor:**

*'The Principal and Senior Leadership Team understand what is required to move the College forward .... to be an outstanding College'.*

*'There are very positive working relationships within and across all areas of the College'.*

*'Continuous improvement is at the heart of the College. Staff believe everyone is encouraged .... to discuss ideas that will support improvement .... especially in relation to pupil support.'*

*'The Principal is seen as a role model for effective leadership and management and for ensuring the College is an outstanding College to learn in and to work in'.*

The Standard has evolved over the last 10 years to ensure that it remains relevant to all sectors, and continues to challenge organisations to develop their processes and practices.

**Alison Merrills**

**WELCOME TO OUR NEW YEAR 7**

It is that time of year again when the Summer holidays come to an end and the new Year 7 intake get butterflies in their tummies in anticipation of their first day! Here at Sir Jonathan North, we pride ourselves in trying to ensure that our students enjoy starting their new school as much as possible and we do our best to make the transition as smooth and enjoyable as we can.

This started way back when the students were in Year 4 – where we had a week of taster sessions for Year 4 and Year 5 students, who came and enjoyed their first experience of lessons here. Many students attend our summer schools, and take the opportunity to visit the College with their parents and carers at Open Evening.

It then becomes very real in Year 6. We love to get to know the students as much as possible before they arrive here and also like them to get to know us! We visit each primary school in June and not only speak with the students about what to expect and answer any worries or concerns but also do a full handover with their teachers too. They then visit us for Transfer Day – which is an excellent day, full of fun activities – where the girls meet their tutor group and tutor for the first time. It is a day when they are all extremely nervous but go home full of information and enthusiasm about their new school. Parents and carers also have the opportunity to meet their daughter's tutor that evening.

Then the big day arrives – and they have their first official day as a Year 7 student – which is their Induction Day. The students spend time with their tutor, receiving lots of information, but also engaging in many fun activities to familiarise themselves with the school. Their next big event will be the Year 7 Team Building trip – which takes place at the beginning of October at the Leicester Outdoor Pursuits Centre. It will be an action packed day of fun, which the girls thoroughly enjoy.

We hope that your daughter has enjoyed her first few days at Sir Jonathan North and has settled in well. We really look forward to working with and supporting her through the next 5 years.

**Mrs Ram, Acting Assistant Principal**

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON ATTENDANCE**

We know that the parents and carers understand that good attendance is essential in order for their daughter to achieve their best.

Following the advice of the Education Welfare Service and in line with other schools and colleges in Leicester, we will not routinely authorise absence for any reason other than a student's illness.

We understand that, sometimes, parents' working commitments or other circumstances make it difficult for them to take their holidays in the school holidays. However, it is important to note that, owing to a change in legislation, Headteachers and Principals no longer have the discretion to allow parents to take children out of school for family holidays or visits.

We will still have a Leave of Absence form which you can request if you believe that your circumstances for requesting that a child be granted leave are exceptional. This would not include work commitments or the fact that holidays are cheaper during term time. As before, authorising any absences will be at the discretion of the Principal.

Where parents or carers do take their children out of school without the college's consent in advance, then a Fixed Penalty Notice (fine) will usually be issued by the Local Authority.

These changes are being made because of the well-established link between poor attendance and poor achievement, which we are sure that parents and carers will understand.

**HPV VACCINE**

The Immunisation Team will soon be at Sir Jonathan North to deliver the first dose of the HPV vaccine to Year 8 girls.

A letter has been sent requesting your consent. Please return your fully completed consent forms to school by 16 September. If any students in Years 9, 10 and 11 have reconsidered and would now like the vaccine, please go to the College office for a consent form.

Further information can be obtained from:

[www.nhs.uk/conditions/HPV-vaccination](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/HPV-vaccination) or from the school nurse team on 0116 2953128

**COLLEGE PHOTOGRAPHS**

Student Photographs will be taken on Tuesday 10 September. As in previous years, we will be using a local firm of photographers, 'Professional School Portraits of Leicester.' Parents will have an opportunity to order photographs later this term when they receive proof copies.

## LITERACY HANDBOOK FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS

We have been running a Literacy Tips column in This Week for the last two years, which many of you have said you found useful. Then someone had the bright idea of putting all these tips and others in a book for parents and students and thus was born the SJNCC Literacy Handbook for Parents and Students, one for Key Stage 3 and one for Key Stage 4.

These have already been given to the parents of Year 7 students who attended the Year 6 Transition Evening last term and will be given out to those of you with daughters in Years 10 and 11 at the Year 10 Parents' Work Experience Evening and the Year 11 Transition Parents' Evening respectively. Those of you with daughters in Years 8 and 9 will receive these from your daughters in the next two weeks when they are given out in their English lessons. If you are or were unable to attend these Parents' Evenings for Years 7, 10 and 11, your copy will be given to your daughter by her English teacher.

The booklet contains the information on spelling, grammar, punctuation and vocabulary that it is desirable that your daughter should know over the two key stages, as well as reading lists and links to reading web sites. We do hope you will find it useful.

However, I shall not disappear from the pages of This Week altogether and Literacy Tips will be included from time to time.

**Mrs Cowling, Lead Teacher Literacy**

### STUDENT COUNCIL ACHIEVEMENTS 2013-2014

Our year as your Student Council Executive is over but we have enjoyed it so much! Not only have we become more confident, organised and responsible people but we feel proud to say that we have helped to make our school even better than before.

Not only have we continued to support the amazing charity fundraising that our school does but we have also introduced a new charity- The Laura Crane Youth Cancer Trust. We hope that Sir Jonathan North will continue to support this charity in the future.

From the start of the Year, we were determined to ensure the Year 11s had a Prom and we have been very successful in supporting them and the Prom Committee this year.

We have also played a major part in making sure the students contribute to BSF. Chairs were tested and voted for and your ideas for the flexible space and features of the Prayer Room were discussed with Mrs Merrills.

Earlier this year we also organised and led activities linked to student council for groups of children from our feeder primary schools. The schools were very pleased with the day and it is likely to continue in future years.

However, we could not have achieved these things without such brilliant Repts and great support from Mrs McNeill, Mandy, Dr Thompson and other teachers so we are all very grateful.



**Student Council Executive 2012-2013, Ruby Kelman, Mariyah Waraich, Bethan McGinley and Mia Loyal**



The Password and login details for MyMaths will be changed next Monday (9 September). Your daughter will be given these in her Maths lesson next week. She will also be given her own personal password which she will need to complete her MyMaths homework on line.

**Mr Williams, Curriculum Team Leader for Mathematics**

### YOUNG ENTERPRISE CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

We are pleased to announce that Sir Jonathan North Community College has been recognised as a Centre of Excellence for Young Enterprise.

Centre of Excellence nominations are made to recognise educational establishments that have engaged with Young Enterprise over a number of consecutive years. They must also have run multiple programmes and be ambassadors who provide significant in-kind support for other schools.

Secondary schools and colleges that have worked with Young Enterprise for three or more consecutive years and run multiple programmes are nominated following consultation between the Area Manager and Local Area Management board.

Normally, only one award will be made in the county each year, so these awards set standards for other organisations to aspire to.

**Mr Pope, Lead Teacher, Young Enterprise**

### YEAR 10 SCIENCE CREST AWARD

At the end of Year 10, 33 students carried out 20 hours of work to complete a Bronze Science Crest Award. The project was called Squeaky Clean. Students had to investigate five stain removers to see which one they thought was best. This involved planning the investigation, carrying out the practical work and evaluating results. They then had to identify the best stain remover, taking into account cost, health and safety issues and their own results. The work was then assessed externally. The assessor was very pleased with the projects and gave written feedback on all the work. This included comments like:

"This is an excellent project report – well planned and executed perfectly."

"Excellent evaluation of data and use of costing information."

Well done to the following students, who have been awarded the Bronze Science Crest Award:

Shireen Begum, Tasnim Bulbul, Shanaaz Chivi, Tabassum Damania, Salma Dini, Aaliyah Ebrahim, Kiera Faulkner, Sophie French, Natasha Hope, Sanaa Ilyas, Courtney Johnson, Iffath Kase, Sinem Kaya, Derya Kaygusuz, Zahira Kazime, Alia Khan, Faaizah Latif, Marianne Lay, Morgan Lewin, Ruchi Modi, Aamena Mulla, Siddiqua Mulla, Rumbidzaishe Murindagomo, Karla O'rourke, Kammilah Patel, Khadija Patel, Dakota Robertson, Zahadah Safi, Sefika Sheta, Mary-Anne Slatcher, Sammy Stokes, Beth Taylor, Halima Variava.

**Ms Mynott, Science Team**

## ADULT LEARNING

We are taking enrolments for the Autumn term at Sir Jonathan North Community College.

If you are interested in learning something new, returning to an old interest or starting a new hobby, please have a look at this term's courses below.

**Interested? Enrol Now! We have an enrolment morning on the 10<sup>th</sup> September at Sir Jonathan North Community Centre from 8.30am to 12.00pm**

The new prospectus is now available from Sir Jonathan North Community College reception. For a copy and further details please contact 0116 3737244 or visit [www.lasals.co.uk](http://www.lasals.co.uk).

Course name:	Day:	Start Date:	Time:
Photoshop for Beginners	Tues	24/9/13 - 3/12/13	7:00-9:00pm
Yoga	Wed	25/9/13-18/12/13	6:30-8:00pm
Drawing & Painting	Tues	24/9/13-3/12/13	7:00-9:00pm
Sewing for Pleasure	Tues	24/9/13-3/12/13	6:30-8:30pm
Adult Ballet	Tues	24/9/13-8/4/14	6:30-8:00pm
Guitar for Beginners	Tues	24/9/13-3/12/13	6:30-7:30pm
Guitar for Improvers	Tues	24/9/13-3/12/13	7:45-8:45pm
Flower Arranging	Tues	29/10/13-3/12/13	6:30-8:30pm
Spanish for Beginners	Tues	24/9/13-10/12/13	6:30-8:00pm

Sue Smalley, Adult Learning

### SPORTS DAY 2013

On July 9 the whole school ventured down to Saffron Lane Athletics Stadium for an Olympian inspired sports day. The day was a huge success with many school records being broken. It was a fantastic day, enjoyed by staff and students, with a special visit from Olympian, Kate Dennison. There was some exceptional talent on show, as well as some imaginative banners. All students embraced the idea of team work and encouragement with huge enthusiasm.

We look forward to another amazing sports day this year.



Miss Hunt, PE Team

### YEAR 11 GCSE RESULTS DAY PHOTO GALLERY

