

Secondary National Challenge Parental Information

The secondary national challenge schools in Plymouth have developed comprehensive plans to raise attainment in English, maths and other subjects at key stage 4, ages 14 to 16. These plans have been jointly agreed between the schools, the Local Authority and the government to have an impact by 2011 and have attracted an additional grant of £671,000 for the financial year 2008 -9. The Local Authority has 60 additional days for the schools to be supported by experienced school improvement partners (known as National Challenge Advisers) who are focused on raising attainment. As part of our drive to help parents understand the changes this work is bringing about we have included some key information about each of our schools.

Estover Community College

Estover Community College is the local authority building schools of the future one school pathfinder project. The college is undergoing a complete rebuild and will be part of a 0-19 campus development. It will be a part of a federation that includes a primary feeder, children's centre, nursery school, and special school provision. Although the school achieved floor targets this year it is receiving additional English and maths support and is working to improve science and teaching and learning.

John Kitto Community College

The Governors of John Kitto Community College with support of the Local Authority are actively progressing a transformational change of status to an Academy. This will provide an opportunity to work with the local communities, local Primary and Secondary Schools and other children's services to provide first class facilities that will enable us to meet the future needs of our local families. We are proposing to reduce the size of the college to 6 forms of entry in line with population forecasts. Under the National Challenge there will be increased help to the college including:

- Local Authority support consultants in the core subjects;
- 'Study Plus' support groups for some students in English and mathematics in years 10 and 11;
- Additional teaching and support staff to provide intervention work with students;
- Further staff development focussing on assessing pupil performance and developing assessment for learning;
- Support from our new National Challenge Adviser.

Lipson Community College

Lipson Community College, recently judged as outstanding by Ofsted, has received approval to become a Co-operative Trust, (with the Co-operative Society being the main sponsor) as part of a community-facing, cross-phase network of schools and other inter-secondary school collaborations. The local authority is proposing a reduction to 7 forms of entry due to demographic pressures across the city. Ongoing focused support will be given from secondary national strategy consultants in the core subjects. GCSE courses will begin in Year

9 and special reading and writing programmes are being developed for students who are low on entry. Rigorous analysis will be used to identify students likely to achieve A* - C in one but not both maths and English. A whole school literacy programme is also in place.

Sir John Hunt Community Sports College

Sir John Hunt Community Sports College is part of a 0-19 campus with 2 other schools (one special and the main primary feeder), a Pupil Referral Unit and a children's centre. The schools are known as the Wood View Learning Community and are managed by a single governing body. The school, recently judged to be good by Ofsted, will receive intensive support from secondary national strategy consultants in the core subjects with a continued focus on literacy across the curriculum with specific support for literacy in maths. Assessment for learning will be incorporated into schemes of work in English. Continued and specific use will be made of the school's excellent pupil tracking system. Input from a specialist assessment for learning consultant will be available, and also advice from members of the secondary team.

Tamarside Community College

The Governors of Tamarside Community College with the support of the Local Authority are actively progressing a transformational change of status to become an Academy as part of a community-facing, cross-phase network of schools and other inter-secondary school collaborations. We are proposing to reduce the size of the college to 6 forms of entry due to demographic pressures across the city. The college is working with secondary national strategy consultants in all the core subjects with assessment for learning incorporated into all the plans. GCSE courses will begin in Year 9. There will be an identified focus on middle-ability boys in English. Literacy across the curriculum will continue to be high profile and intensively supported. The school has already engaged with our specialist assessment for learning consultant to develop the use of formative assessment within the planning for 08-09. This will be further developed working closely with consultants in the core subjects.