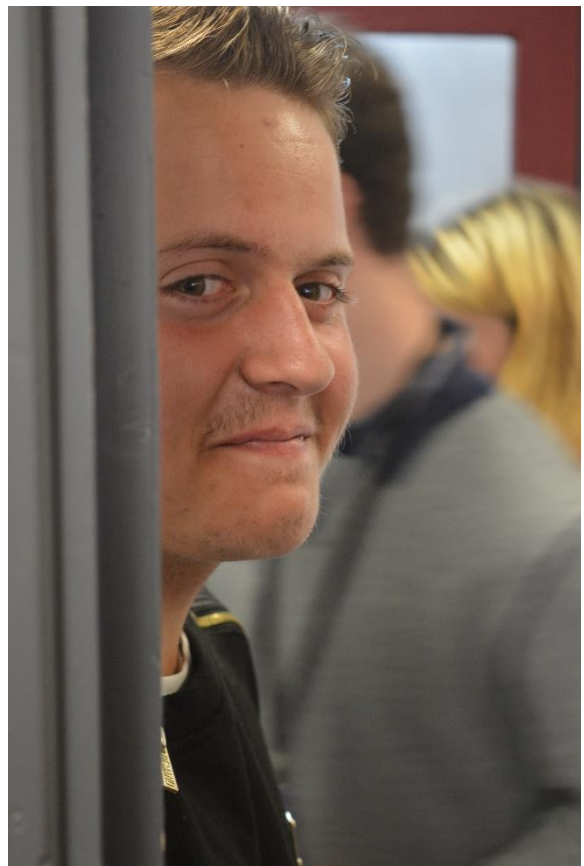




THRIFTWOOD COLLEGE

Improvement Plan Summary 2016-17



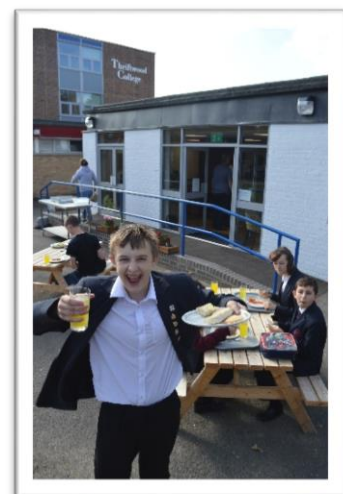
Information for Parents & Carers

The complete School & College Improvement Plan can be found on our website www.thriftwoodschool.com

Review of Last Year 2015-16

Our College Leadership Team is working hard to communicate more effectively with parents. This includes:

1. Being available via e-mail
 2. Changing the format of Parents Evenings and consulting with parents/carers
 3. Finding ways to share learning outcomes through procedures such as the Education Health and Care Plan Transfer process
- We have organised a **Personal Development** Curriculum for our more complex learners in Key Stage 5. Parents report that the focus on community activity is challenging, but helps to push learners forward.
 - The College Café – **The ‘T’ Room**, has new staff and is providing a range of well balanced, hot and cold meals. We need to see how to develop the café income, in order to provide effective **Work Experience** opportunities to our learners.
 - Effective English and Maths groups have been firmly established and now form a core part of the College day. Staff are well trained and are targeting students’ needs more rigorously.
 - The Enrichment Programme has shown how students’ personal development is enhanced significantly by being out in the community.
 - Assessment procedures are becoming more Person Centred and are giving us a clearer picture of overall progress in our learners.
 - The Pastoral Team is working effectively to support the emotional needs of students and the addition of psychotherapy and music therapy have led to effective ways to manage issues such as pervasive anxiety.



Areas of Development 2016/17

Vocational Learning

We are keen to develop students work related learning in real contexts.

These may include:

1. Experience of the service industries
2. Working in the new café
3. Experience of horticulture/outdoor pursuits
4. Participation in Business & Enterprise activities
5. Developing relationships with businesses, locally and nationally
6. Participation in leisure activities both at college and at home
7. Working with charities



Curriculum Developments

These include:

- Using technology for communication. This means teaching our students about e-mails, storage facilities in the 'cloud' and safe, social media.
- Using assessment systems in a 'Person Centred' way. We will be measuring progress in personal development using PLTS – Personal Learning and Thinking Skills and will be developing a range of methods to show progress in learning.
- Investment in vocational learning, including an outdoor room/cabin, Business & Enterprise equipment such as a kiln and other specialised 'production' equipment.
- Working with parents and students in a more personalised way.

We want to develop more avenues by which staff and parents can work together to achieve the best outcomes for learners. We also wish to ensure that students' views and wishes are taken into account in a meaningful way.

NAS Autism Accreditation

We are beginning a 2/3 year plan, working with the **National Autistic Society** to become an accredited provider for Autism in the Education Community. We have a long way to go, but the journey starts here. We will need our parents to contribute fully to this process.

Challenges Ahead

- Changing our Leadership structure to respond to the departure of Mrs. Sally Davies in January 2017.
- Navigation of the administrative obstacle course that is the transfer from **Statements to Education Health and Care Plans**. This continues to be an enormous commitment of college staff time and energy in a confused Local Authority driven process.
- Changes in funding for College courses Post 18 and the withdrawal of funding for transport.
- Challenges on mainstream settings to provide appropriate causes for our learners.

We are keen to prepare our students well for life beyond Thriftwood. The Improvement Plan has been devised to increase the College's capacity to both challenge and present opportunities to our young people. This will, we hope, in the future enable them to participate in the work environment and live purposeful, independent lives.

Important Dates For Your Diary

Presentation Evening – Wednesday, 5th October 6.30pm – 8.00pm

Inset Day – 7th November (Parents Consultation Meeting) 10.00am

Open Mic Night – 25th November 7.00 – 9.00pm

Contact Points

Please call for all enquiries: 01245 262 779.

Mrs Smart – Head of College, will be available via the admin email on gemmabaker@thriftwoodschool.com or the college telephone number.

Administration Team

- **Liz Proudfoot** – Receptionist
- **Lisa Fossey** – Office Administrator
- **Gemma Baker** – Office Manager

Curriculum Team

- **Jon Hutchings** – Head of Key Stage 5 / **David Hutton** – Head of Key Stage 4
- **Janine Cavey** – Home School Liaison Manager