



March 2016

Dear Parents and Carers

As I have nearly been at South Holderness Technology College for a term since my appointment in January 2016, I thought it was time that I introduced myself to you and let you know what we have been doing in the college this term.

For those I haven't met at either parents' evenings or other social gatherings I would just like to give you a brief history of my own journey to SHTC. I started my career at Sir John Nelthorpe in Brigg as a History teacher, moving on to Whitgift School in Grimsby as Head of Department, through internal promotion became Assistant Head teacher. In 2008 I made a sideways move and was appointed as an Assistant Head teacher at Healing School in Grimsby, promoted to Vice Principal in 2014. Healing was a Good school at the time I joined, but was then judged to be Outstanding in 2009. As an Outstanding Academy it then converted into a Multi-Academy Trust, together with developing The Humber Teacher School, which is the training and school to school support aspect of its organisation. Working at Healing School for over 7 years provided me with the vision and experience necessary in order to take on the headship of SHTC.

I would now like to bring this vision to SHTC to ensure that we become a forward-thinking college with the aim to provide an outstanding educational opportunity for all of the students who attend SHTC. We need to prepare the young people in our care for a rapidly changing world of work, and help to instil in them the values of hard work, perseverance and integrity, in order that we can build a community ethos. I know that SHTC has always prided itself on its sporting achievements which is evident from the array of trophies around the college. I would like for us to apply this competitive instinct to drive our academic standards upwards and make our college every parents' first choice for their child's education in our local community. I can only do this with your support and therefore I would like to ask that as parents you support our drive as we implement policies in order to support this ethos.

#### Litter Campaign

Firstly many of you will be aware of the litter campaign I have instigated in the college. This was borne out of necessity to clean up the college. Where dropping litter and eating in all areas of the college had become endemic. This resulted in the college by the afternoon looking like a litter tip in some corridors rather than a place of learning. Not only is this a health and safety issue but also reflects a lack of pride in our college environment. I have therefore enforced mandatory detentions for all students seen eating outside of designated areas and dropping litter; all students were made aware of this through whole college assemblies backed up by their tutors and year coordinators. I have ensured that we do have sufficient areas for students to eat, and these areas are monitored and that once a student has finished eating, they then give up their place to anyone waiting. This is a work in progress and we will be identifying additional eating places after the Easter term. This action has been necessary to kick start this campaign and break down an ingrained bad habit of eating throughout the college and then dropping litter. I know some parents have felt this was a little harsh as it was going straight to an after school detention, however, since this initiative has been launched there has been a massive difference in the amount of litter around the college and therefore should be seen as a successful move forward towards creating that positive ethos in college.

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### New School Uniform

I would also like to launch our eagerly awaited New School Uniform information. Following extensive consultation with the students, the vast majority support the introduction of a more formal school uniform. As I mentioned earlier we are in a competitive market place, and we need to prepare our students for the world of work post-SHTC. As more colleges and academies adopt a more formal approach to uniform including blazer, ties and shirts for students at their schools and colleges, our current uniform makes students from SHTC look less smart. I therefore would like to launch a new uniform with effect from September 2016. It is my intention to keep this cost effective for parents and therefore I propose that we keep our current black trousers or black skirt for girls, this will be worn with white shirt/blouse and tie and black blazer. A staff and student committee are currently designing the school tie, the current SHTC logo will then be produced and sold at the college to be sewn onto the school blazer. Trousers and blazers can then be sourced from national outlets likes Tesco, Asda and Marks and Spencer at a reasonable cost, rather than a bespoke uniform that would be at least £20 more expensive. I am also proposing that the blazer for Year 11 is optional due to it being their last year in college. Please can you let us know your thoughts on these proposals via our website, where a uniform link will be made available.

### Parent Governor Vacancies

Finally we currently have 3 parent governor vacancies. If you would like to be part of the journey in supporting SHTC to develop and grow in this ever changing educational environment and would like to offer your expertise to our current Governing Body, I would be delighted for parents to express an interest in applying for this role. Should we have more applications than roles available, we will then hold a parent governor ballot. Details of the role and what it entails together with an opportunity to leave your name and address and contact details will be made available on the website.

Many thanks to you all for your support at Parents' Evenings this year and for the many events that have already been held in this busy college calendar. I look forward to getting to know many more of you and working together as a community to increase the profile and educational outcomes for all of our students at South Holderness Technology College.

Yours sincerely

**Mrs E Croft**  
**Headteacher**



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