



# The County Courier

The weekly information sheet from County Upper School

[www.countyupper.suffolk.sch.uk](http://www.countyupper.suffolk.sch.uk)

No.1

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*Dear Parents, Students and Governors,*

*On behalf of all the staff, a very warm welcome to the 2009/10 academic year and particularly to those joining our school for the first time. We are sure you will settle quickly and happily. In order to help establish good communication between home and school, we shall continue to issue two regular publications:*

- *“The County Courier”, of which this is the first of the academic year. This is designed to provide information for the school community and is sent out on **the last working day of each week**. By being weekly, we hope that families will get into the habit of expecting the sheet and will seek it out from bags and pockets if necessary! The sheets will alternate between blue and gold to help you to ensure that you do not miss one.*
- *A monthly celebration of our school and of groups and individuals within it. This publication, entitled “The Accolade” will include photographs and will, we hope, provide a permanent record of a broad range of success in and out of the classroom. “The Accolade” will be sent home, via our students, on the **last working day of each school month**.*

*Both “The County Courier” and “The Accolade” also appear on the school’s website on the day of issue. “The Accolade” appears in colour on the website and so for those who would like a particular edition in colour, it can be printed from there.*

*We hope that these publications will enable good communication between home and school. Do feel free to contact us at any time if you need information, advice or support.*

*Mrs V Neale*

## ***New members of staff***

We are pleased to be fully staffed and to welcome the following new teachers to our very stable team:

**Miss C Barran:** history

**Mr R Gough:** sixth form business studies

**Miss B Hamlett:** science

In addition, we welcome **Mrs S Bloom** and **Mr M Brown** to enable us to expand still further our thriving sport and music programmes respectively.

We also welcome **Mrs J Smith** who joins our administrative team.

## ***Student Absence***

**Mr J McWilliam** continues as our Student Support Co-ordinator. Parents should contact him on all matters relating to attendance and punctuality. He has a direct line, **01284 763638** and he can be contacted from **7.30 am onwards**. Parents should ring on the first day of absence. He is also available to discuss any welfare issues which might impact on students’ learning.

### *Examination Success*

2009 saw another set of excellent results in the school's history. Full details of this success will follow in the September edition of "The Accolade" together with the destinations of those going on to Higher Education. We congratulate all the staff, students and parents on our 2009 results which demonstrate, beyond doubt once again, the effective partnership here at County Upper.

### *Beginning of Year Information Evenings*

These are important evenings to set up the year. Each starts at **7.30 pm** and lasts about an hour. The details are:

**Year 9: Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> September**

**Year 10: Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> September**

These evenings will provide an introduction to the features of this particular year and explain the curriculum, assessment procedures, key dates and how parents can best support us in helping their children to do their very best. A booklet is issued to parents to supplement the evening and to which reference can be made throughout the year. Mrs Neale and Mr Willis, together with the Head and Assistant Head of your children's year group, will be present.

### *Lunchtime arrangements*

All main school students have two options at lunchtime: to stay on site or to go **home** for lunch. The overwhelming majority of students stay on site and can choose on a daily basis either to eat a packed lunch or a meal purchased in school. Parents are asked to indicate in their children's student planners whether they wish their child to eat in school or at home.

**Additionally, those parents who wish their child to go home and therefore to take responsibility for them, need to write directly to Mrs Neale, enclosing a passport sized photo of their children, enabling us to issue a**

**lunchtime pass.** At present, senior staff are on the gates checking the students' planners.

From **Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September**, those staff will check the passes and students will not be allowed home without them. This measure is to help us ensure your children's safety and, as such, I am sure you will support us by supplying the photograph if you wish your child to go home to lunch. Please write your child's name and tutor group on the back of the photograph. **Students who live too far from school to get home will automatically be refused a pass.**

### *Other information*

- Parents should have already received **contact cards** to be returned to school at the earliest opportunity;
- This year our **calendar of events** will be available on our website from Monday and will be updated regularly. It includes all events which were confirmed by the end of last term. Any additional opportunities will be notified via future editions of "The County Courier" as well as on the website. Parents who would like a hard copy of the calendar should contact Mrs C Bennett, Head's PA.

### *Uniform*

Thank you to all parents/guardians for the smart appearance of our students this week. Just a reminder that girls' tights need to be **plain** navy, black or grey and cannot be worn with socks. Skirts should be an acceptable length and those deemed too short will not be allowed.

### *Clubs' List*

Many clubs are already underway and the sports fair was held today. However, all students are still welcome to join any clubs and activities and a full programme will be included with next week's edition of "The County Courier".