



Island Learning Centre

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we move towards the Christmas break, I can look back on what has been a busy, largely inspiring and occasionally frustrating term. Busy in terms of the amount of work needed to be completed, particularly by our Y11 students, for students to reach their targets at the end of the school year, whilst the last phase of refurbishment of the Centre was taking place. I would like to pass on my thanks to staff and students for their patience during this time – it has been noisy at times but you have just



got on with things. Inspiring in terms of the instances of thoughtfulness, good manners and kind actions I have observed by a number of students and the visitors who have shared their experiences and talents. These have vastly outnumbered the frustrating moments, when a few students who could achieve so much more, let themselves down by not making a good effort and not producing work of a high enough standard or show little respect by damaging other people's work and school resources.

I am delighted to have ended the term with a celebration of all the students who have made personal and academic progress since September, demonstrated by the number of students receiving certificates and vouchers at our final assembly and from the feedback from parents on how well those joining us since the start of the term have settled in. Very well done.

I look forward to welcoming our students back on Monday **6<sup>th</sup> January 2020**.

I wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and best wishes for a great New Year.

*Jackie*

**Dates for your diary**



**Development Days**  
(school closed to students)

**Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> December**  
**Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2020**  
**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2020**

**Dates for your diary**

<b>Start of next term.....</b>	<b>Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020</b>
<b>Year 11 Mock Exams...</b>	<b>Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> - Friday 24<sup>th</sup> January</b>
<b>Year 11 Parents/Careers .....</b>	<b>Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February 3.15 – 5.30pm Evening</b>
<b>Spring half term holiday..</b>	<b>Monday 17<sup>th</sup> Feb– Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February</b>
<b>Start of Spring term ...</b>	<b>Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February</b>
<b>Last day of Spring term..</b>	<b>Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April</b>
<b>Easter holidays...</b>	<b>Monday 6<sup>th</sup> April – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April</b>
<b>Start of Summer term</b>	<b>Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April (Development Day)</b>
<b>VE Day holiday</b>	<b>Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May</b>
<b>Summer half term holiday</b>	<b>Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May – Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May</b>
<b>End of Summer term</b>	<b>Friday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2020</b>

## PARENTS/CARERS

We are delighted to welcome **Jo Winson** to the Centre in the New Year. Jo is taking on the role of **Family Liaison Officer** and will be available to support parents and carers with everything from attendance to home school collaborative working to best support students to succeed at school.

Jo will be setting up some regular drop-in sessions where ideas can be shared and advice sought over a cup of tea with other parents and carers. As an organisation that is committed to improving what it does, parents/carers are encouraged to attend the sessions to share any feedback and ideas, so please look out for the dates.

### **Management Committee Vacancy**

The Centre, like all schools has a body that oversees its work. In mainstream schools you will know this as the governing body. As we are a pupil referral unit, ours is called a management committee. It meets 6 times a year for a couple of hours. We currently have a vacancy and would welcome a parent/carer representative. If you would like more information please ring Ellie Blake, the clerk to the management committee on 300333.



We have welcomed a number of new students this term and part of them being able to settle well and quickly is being aware of our expectations. I always think it is worth reminding all students of these.

Our expectations can be summarised into the three rules below.

**Be Ready, Be Respectful, Be Safe.**

Working on these consistently will ensure students make progress both in their work and their relationships with others.

Being ready, for example means being in the right uniform, in the right place at the right time, following instructions and so ready to learn.

Being respectful means being polite and having good manners, not swearing and understanding the importance of not encroaching on other people's personal space and belongings as well as looking after the environment.

Being safe means keeping yourself and other people out of danger, both in person and on-line.



I would like to remind parents/carers of our uniform expectations.

Our uniform is **white** polo top or shirt; **black** trousers or skirt; black sweatshirt or jumper and black shoes or trainers. All clothing should be plain and without logos.

We are very happy to provide students with one black sweatshirt if necessary. If students forget uniform we can lend them trousers and sweatshirts but these **MUST** be returned at the end of the day or a charge of £6 will be made to replace it.

Hoodies, I know are sometimes worn instead of outdoor coats, but they are **NOT** uniform and students will be expected to leave these in their lockers with their other belongings

# Attendance and Absence

*'Attend Today, Achieve Tomorrow'.*

Regular attendance and excellent punctuality are key skills, not just for school success, but to secure and keep employment in adulthood. One report has shown that children attending for 90% of the time are more than twice as likely as a child attending for 60% of the time of achieving five GCSE at grade 4 or above.

I am pleased therefore to see an improvement of nearly 5% in overall attendance across the Centre compared with the same time last year. This would have been even higher if there had not been some children arriving very late. I am aware that whilst the major changes are being made to the roundabout system in Newport, some bus journeys will be taking longer than usual and some allowance will be made.

Students need to be **in the building by 9am.**

Children arriving more than fifteen minutes late however do need to consider getting on an earlier bus or get in touch with our new family liaison officer, Jo Winson, on 300333 to discuss any issues.



**Breakfast items are available from 8.45 – 9.00 am only.**

We want to make sure students have eaten and are ready to learn but they must arrive early in order to access this.



We understand that there will be occasions, e.g. illness medical appointments when students will be absent from school.

The procedure to report a student absence is to call the Centre on 300333 and leave a message with the receptionist. If the call is before 8.30 am there is an answerphone to leave your message.

We will be starting late detentions on a Friday in the New Year for any students who are late for no significant reason.

Students who are **persistently late**, particularly if they are just hanging about outside the building, will be given an unauthorised late mark (U) which will count as an absence.

Parents/carers are reminded that when a child has 10 instances of absence the Education and Inclusion Team (formerly Education Welfare) will then be involved who may issue a penalty notice.

## Supporting the Curriculum

As well as our staff who use resources around the Island to enrich our students' learning experiences (e.g. forest school and other offsite activities). I would like to thank the organisations and agencies that continue to work alongside our staff to make the curriculum as interesting and engaging for students as possible.

**Matt**, our musician in residence, has worked with students who have produced some very creative songs, composing the lyrics as well as the melody using digital media.

**Dan** and his team from **The Fire Service**, who worked with some of our KS3 students to improve their understanding of the importance of teamwork and a healthy lifestyle whilst exploring Shanklin Fire Station and trying on the Firemen's Kit.

To the theatre group **Alter Ego** who did an excellent session on how boys as well as girls need to be vigilant to avoid them being sexually exploited or groomed to get involved in drug and alcohol abuse activity and abuse.

**The St. Giles Trust**, who work with ex-offenders involved with drugs who have turned their lives around, enabling our students to hear from the very inspiring Luke, who, with honesty and warmth, talked to them about when he got himself in trouble and is now committed to helping young people from having to go through what he did before he took the chance and help to change.