

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We are writing to inform you of two developments that have taken place recently. Firstly we are delighted to confirm that the recent Ofsted inspection graded the college as 'outstanding'. This is a significant achievement particularly in the current climate of the new framework for inspection and is a testament to all the hard work of the staff, students, governors and parents over the last few years. We are particularly pleased that the inspectors were so impressed by the excellent behaviour of the students and their exemplary contribution to college life.

The full report is available on the college website.

The second development is in relation to the planning for post-16 provision in Rutland. In the course of the last year there have been a number of articles in the local press regarding the formation of a Rutland Learning Partnership, involving all three 11-16 Colleges plus Tresham Institute and Rutland County Council. This partnership was formed in order to address the quality and breadth of education on offer to Rutland students post-16. Work was progressing well prior to the summer school holidays and all members of the partnership were working together very effectively and within the agreed timeframe.

During August Rutland County Council, without our knowledge, took decisions which led to the proposals as described in last week's press articles and set out in a published post-16 prospectus for 2010/11.

It is extremely disappointing that Catmose College and Uppingham Community College were not included in the proposals developed in August and which are now being pursued by the County Council. The decision taken by RCC to work in partnership with Casterton Business and Enterprise College and Tresham Institute gives rise to a considerable degree of concern. Firstly, we do not understand the choice of CBEC as the single 11-18 College given its location on the periphery of Rutland and close proximity to Stamford, which is already well served from a post-16 standpoint. Secondly, the role of Tresham Institute as the only other educational full partner is, at best, tenuous given that their main focus is in Northamptonshire and not on the longer term future of Rutland College.

Both Uppingham Community College and Catmose College, with the support of our respective Governing Bodies, have been positive and transparent in presenting our views to the County Council on this matter. We passionately believe that a high quality and attractive post-16 education provision must be available to all Rutland students. In our view, the current proposals do not meet these requirements. However, we remain hopeful that more acceptable proposals can still be developed and that these will result in the committed support of all key stakeholders.

We hope that you will support us in this and would welcome any comments via the following email address:

principal@ucc.rutland.sch.uk - subject header post 16

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Jan Turner
Principal

Mr Rob Sawyer
Chair of Governors