



Praise Policy

“A positive day’s teaching is much less stressful than a negative day’s teaching.”

Effective praise should be: genuine, purposeful, sincere, and specific. Research has shown that by using a minimum of 4:1 praise ratio (i.e. 4 positive statements to 1 negative statement) a positive classroom ethos can be established. K Rowland.

At Sir John Hunt Community Sports College we recognise the importance of positive praise as our primary strategy for promoting student motivation and high standards of student behaviour.

This can take many forms, from the informal verbal dialogue between staff and students, through to the awarding of prizes and awards at whole college events.

The objectives of the rewards system are to:

- be clear and simple for students to understand;
- promote desired behaviour by acknowledging the types of behaviours and attitudes that are required;
- increase the motivation of students;
- allow classroom management to start with positive praise;
- enable positive communication with parents/carers;
- allow curriculum areas to be aware of and recognise their ‘best’ students;
- be easy to operate to allow staff to frequently praise and reward students;

1.1 Staff - student verbal interactions

We strive to create a learning environment in which the interactions between staff and students are positive. Staff are encouraged to use positive language that highlights to students where they have done well and re-enforces our expectations. Staff will regularly praise students both within and outside of the classroom.

1.2 Staff - student written dialogue

Through the regular monitoring and assessment of students' work, staff have the opportunity to reward students as part of their feedback. Students will be commended for aspects of their work and skills development, should the work merit such praise.

1.3 Staff – Parent/Carer dialogue

Staff may choose to contact parents and carers by telephone, letter or postcard to highlight when a student has been working particularly well or a noticeable improvement has been observed. This allows the student to see that home and college are intrinsically linked, a significant motivating factor.

1.4 Vivo rewards platform

1.4.1. - Overview

Our primary method of student reward is the Vivo Miles system. This is an online platform that centres on students having their own account where they can track the rewards they receive, view the reasons for their rewards and exchange their points for items from an online shop or college rewards. We see the advantage of Vivo as being that it allows for a consistent rewards policy where usage is not limited by year group.

1.4.2 - Staff budgets

Staff are assigned a weekly Vivo budget, formulated by the analysis of the number of classes taught across all Key Stages within a standard college week. Curriculum areas have the facility to buy additional Vivos from their departmental budget which they can then assign as they see fit, in order to address departmental priorities. Staff usage is monitored and all users are encouraged to assign their weekly budget in order to maintain the profile of Vivo around the college.

1.4.3 - Reward categories

The categories under which staff may award Vivos are reviewed by the Senior Leadership Team, Middle Leaders and Student Voice. At present, the categories aim to cover a broad aspect of college life, with a strong emphasis on rewarding the explicit display of BLP development and Respect. The current categories under which staff may reward Vivos are:

- Outstanding use or sustained improvement in the use of BLP Learning Muscles under the categories of Tools, Trying, Together and Thinking;
- Extra-curricular participation such as attendance at sports clubs or Learning Café;
- Contribution to wider college life such as volunteering and leadership.

Students will automatically be rewarded for daily attendance and 100% punctuality on a given day.

The value of rewards may increase for periods of time to reflect college priorities or events. For example, there may be a double points week for 100% attendance in the last week of a term.

Vivos are awarded automatically within 24 hours when Praise is recorded in SIMS. SIMS will be used to issue Vivos so that parents can see the praise their child has been awarded through the Learning Gateway.

Students will be able to view their Vivo account using an App.

1.4.4. Redeeming points

Financial responsibility and economic well-being are encouraged with students through their Vivo account. They have the option of exchanging their points for a range of items in the online shop, such as stationery, sports and audio equipment, as well as a number of in-college items. Additionally, students are given the opportunity to donate their Vivos to charities, in line with other college fundraising initiatives. All prizes are delivered to the college and given to the students on production of their Vivo card.

1.4.5. Use of Vivo data

The Vivo data is analysed weekly and termly and the results are used to motivate students through the display of league tables of individuals, tutor groups and year groups. Certificates are awarded by Pastoral Leaders to students for reaching Vivo milestones.

1.5 Celebration Events

Throughout the year there are a number of events which aim to share in the celebration of a student's achievements with their parents/carers. To celebrate the academic excellence displayed by students throughout Key Stages 3, 4 and 5, we hold Key Stage Celebration Evenings. These events are an opportunity for curriculum areas to nominate their subject prizes for the previous year. The Sports Personality of the Year event aims to reward those students who have shown an aptitude above the expected level in their favoured sport, whilst also recognising the high levels of sporting behaviour and teamwork shown by others.