



Colton Hills Community School

Many Minds, One Mission.

October 2021



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High
Performance
Learning

Pathway School

Welcome from Andrea Stephens



As we approach half term, I would like to thank parents and carers in these trying times. Students have begun the school year with steely determination, and teachers have been very impressed by how diligently students have approached their studies during these first six weeks.

I would also like to thank and praise staff for their drive and commitment this half term. Students have been exposed to many exciting opportunities both during lesson time and as part of the extra curriculum programme, where staff generously give their time.

Year 7s have quickly settled into school life at Colton Hills, with a number proving to be exceptional ambassadors on the open evening. Year 11 and 13 students received their first pre-public examination grades this week. While there have been some pleasing outcomes, it is clear that several students will need to develop their revision and study habits before the next set of examinations in late November.

I would also like to single out for praise a number of our Year 13 students who have worked hard to submit Advanced entry UCAS applications. Three for medicine – Ashprit Mehra, Cameron Sandhu and Harjyot Singh – and one for Cambridge – Sonata Mieliauskaite – to study Archeology and Anthropology.

High-Performance Learning

As you know, we have adopted the High-Performance Learning philosophy, a research-led approach that recognises that all students, irrespective of their starting point, can achieve the very highest academic standards. This means equipping our students with the values, attitudes and attributes that will serve them well in university, the workplace. Over the half-term, students will all have holiday work to complete. The work will ensure that our students develop the behaviours and attributes for learning such as automaticity, speed and accuracy and fluency. You should also get a sense that students are revising their classwork much more at home. This is to help them prepare for daily retrieval tasks so that they can remember more long term.

Our Parents Consultation Meetings and Forums

Parental engagement is crucial for us as a school. We are trialling a mixture of face to face and online Parents' Consultation Meetings and forums. In an ongoing drive to build engagement, we would appreciate your feedback on how we might further improve.

I hope you enjoy reading the articles within this half term issue, and I'd like to wish everyone a relaxing half-term break.

Please Note Key Examination Dates:

Week Commencing 15th November: Key Stage 3 and years 10 and 12

Week Commencing 6th December Years 11 and 13

Colton Hills in the Community

Facilities for hire

Did you know that many of the fantastic facilities at Colton Hills are available for anyone to hire?

We really value our local community and are proud to host various activities in our community spaces. The following facilities are available and you can find out more on our website –

www.coltonhills.co.uk/our-community

Swimming Pool

Sports Hall

Astro Turf

Football Pitches

Dance Studio

Theatre

We even have Gelliwig, a residential centre in Wales which is currently undergoing a major refurbishment project.

If you would like more information or to book one of these facilities please contact Miss Banks on cbanks@coltonhills.co.uk or call (01902) 558461.

ESOL Lessons

We are incredibly proud to partner with Wolverhampton College to offer Adult English to Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) in school.

The course helps people to develop their English reading, writing and speaking skill, enabling them to become more confident in work and everyday life settings.

Sessions take place each Friday 09.00-11.00am, are open to anyone and can be booked via 01902 558420.

Walk for Peace

Congratulations to our wonderful staff members Mr O'Hara, Mr Kumar and Mr Jackson who took part in the 5K Walk for Peace in memory of Geeta Devi Kalsi who sadly died from COVID earlier this year.

Geeta was a beloved sister to Mr Kumar and a supporter of the Birch Thompson Memorial Fund which provides funding for Gelliwig, our Residential Centre in Wales.

She will be dearly missed but we are sure she would be proud of the fundraising done in her name, as all sponsorship money raised went to the Birch Thompson Fund.





Celebrating Participation

Interhouse Competition Update



Turing House - 220 Points



Kahlo House - 215 Points



Tull House - 207 Points



Curie House - 170 Points

Special thanks to everyone who took part in Sports Day, and also helped at our Open Events!





Respecting Our Natural World

From Miss Webb

Soon, we will be starting our journey at Colton Hills to become an international Green Flag Award Eco-School, which is a programme designed to raise environmental awareness among young people and is run by the environmental charity Keep Britain Tidy.

It is the largest educational programme in the world, present in 67 countries and 52,000 schools. Our school will now be part of this global community working to create environmental change for the benefit of future generations.

The Eco-Schools programme empowers students, raises environmental awareness, improves the school environment, and can also lead to financial savings for schools. Being an active member of the programme will be something our students will remember for the rest of their lives and enables them to contribute towards solving global issues surrounding energy, transport, waste, biodiversity, healthy living, and citizenship.

We are very fortunate to have large, beautiful school grounds at Colton Hills. In order to improve these and protect our vegetation and wildlife, we are committed to reducing our plastic usage and plastic waste. As part of this exciting, important journey, and to represent our environmental awareness as individuals and a community, we are pleased to be providing every student with their own Colton Hills reusable plastic bottle.





Celebrating Integrity

Meet Chantel Hall-Reid

Chantel Hall-Reid is a former Colton Hills student and attended the school from 1994-1999. In a bid to pursue her own dream of becoming a teacher she went onto college and then finally onto university where she gained a BA (Hons) Primary Education with Qualified Teacher Status.

However, after 10 years working within the education sector, she suddenly found herself wanting to fulfil a deeper passion and decided to use personal development to carve out a life where she felt more aligned with her values.

Chantel is now an author, Teen Mentor, Speaker, Director and Co-Founder of Sister2Sister C.I.C. With all these projects under her belt, it's clear to see that, when it comes to supporting others, this is where Chantel truly feels at ease.

As a Great British Entrepreneur Award 2020 finalist for the Entrepreneurial Spirit Award, Chantel demonstrated that she can lead the way for business – and is all about getting things done and leading the charge! This award commends those who have the ability to act, a hunger for opportunity, a growth mindset and willingness to be challenged and a strong work ethic.

Chantel is also a finalist of the MBCC Awards 2021 for the Most Influential Businessperson of the Year Award 2021. This award demonstrates her commitment to business and giving back to her community but also for the way in which she helps and inspires others around her. She is able to demonstrate her authority in her field of teenage support and has the gravitas to be noticed and respected by others.

One of Chantel's core beliefs is integrity and having strong moral principles. Chantel believes that integrity is the practice of being honest and showing a consistent and uncompromising adherence to strong moral and ethical principles and values. In order for Chantel to pursue her dream and walk away from her teaching career she revisited her values and made a conscious effort to determine whether the work she was doing aligned with her values. They didn't.



Celebrating Integrity



On a quest to overhaul her life she discovered her passion and purpose; and that was to support teenager girls.

Integrity makes you secure and confident in who you are as a person.

When you don't have integrity, there's nothing to help your self-esteem since you're not honest about your morals and values. Confidence comes from being secure in who you are and reflecting on that to others.



Chantel's top tips:

- Discover what your values are
- Rank/prioritise your top 3
- List the activities you do during the week and then decide if these align with your values
- Do your actions match your values?
-

Examples:

- If you value your 'health' consider your lifestyle, food choices and fitness/exercise.
- If you value 'honesty', think about how truthful you are, do you compare yourself to others, do you exaggerate or make up false stories
- If you value 'respect' are you polite, kind, and thankful.

"A highly developed values system is like a compass. It serves as a guide to point you in the right direction when you are lost."

— Idowu Koyenikan

Mrs Stephens said "all of us at Colton Hills are so proud of Chantel and her achievements.

Chantel will be working closely with our young people going forwards, and we can't wait to see them benefit from her enthusiasm and experience"

Find out more about her work at www.chantelhallreid.com





Celebrating Diversity

Celebrating Black History Month at Colton Hills

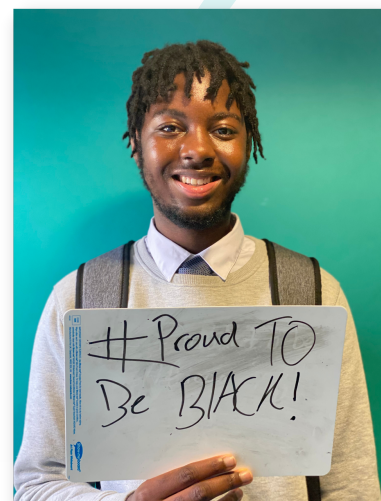
During the month of October the whole school celebrated Black History Month with a series of events shining a light on the contribution Black people make to society.

Proud To Be

The themes of this year's Black History Month is Proud To Be. Pride is a central theme to everything we do at Colton Hills, and our values are based around the concept.

We asked our young people what they were proud to be and had some amazing responses – you can see some of the pictures on this page.

We were also pleased to welcome the Deputy Mayor of Wolverhampton Sandra Samuels, and local councillor Celia Hibbert into school, who led an inspirational assembly about the importance of Black History Month, and encouraged our students to think about the things that make them proud, through sharing their own stories of overcoming difficulty and prejudice.



Celebrating Diversity



National Hate Crime Awareness Week
9th - 16th October 2021

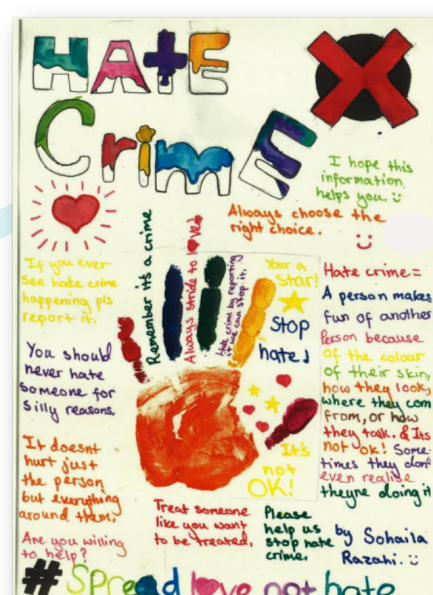
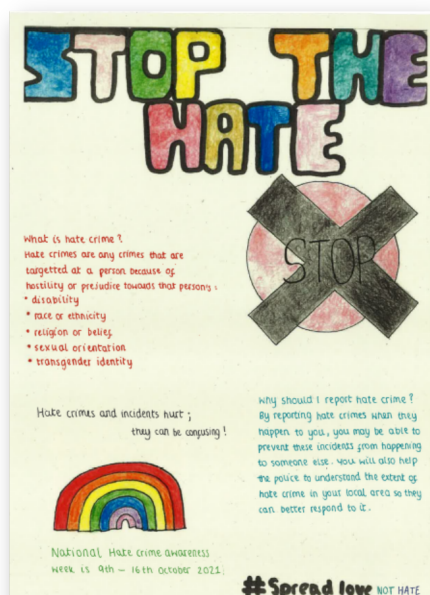
#NationalHCAW
#SpreadLoveNotHate
#WeStandTogether
#NoPlaceForHate



National Hate Crime Awareness Week

National Hate Crime Awareness Week took place between 9th-16th October. This important event is run by Stop Hate UK who are one of the leading national organisations working to challenge all forms of Hate Crime and discrimination, based on any aspect of an individual's identity.

Stop Hate UK provides independent, confidential and accessible reporting and support for victims, witnesses and third parties.



As part of the event our students have taken part in a competition to submit posters in order to raise awareness of what hate crime is and how young people feel it best to warn others of the consequence and/or their perceptions of it.

The images that you see on this page are just some of the incredible entries that have been submitted.

Well done to everyone who has sent in entries.



Celebrating Excellence

Well done to our dancers!

In July, following a dance workshop with the Dance Xchange, Olga Suta (Y8), Rim Tribak (Y8) and Loredana Todireanu (Y10) auditioned for a place in their advanced training programme for Contemporary Dance. They completed another audition in August and.... They were successful!!!

All 3 have received bursary funding and a place on the Generate programme for Contemporary dance. This is a yearly programme where they are part of an advanced dance training programme working with professional artists, seeing professional shows and performing work that the group have created.

We are so proud of the girls and this is a massive accomplishment for them.

An impressive display from our cadets

We were recently pleased to welcome Stuart Anderson MP into school to see our amazing Combined Cadet Force (CCF) training parade.

With almost 100 students now taking part in Cadets at Colton Hills, we were thrilled to have a serving Member of Parliament see our students in action.

Mr Anderson saw a range of activities from drill practice to bush skills, and our young people were fantastic ambassadors for the school and the CCF.





Congratulations to our PE Team

Our amazing PE team have been awarded an award celebrating the incredible work that they undertook with our students during lockdown.

Our team worked tirelessly to make sure students kept active and on top of their studies and the Wulf Strength in the Pack award from the PASS team on behalf of Connect Ed is well deserved. Well done to everyone involved.



Queens Award for Volunteering Ceremony



We were incredibly proud when members of Colton Hills staff and Trustees of the Birch Thompson Memorial Fund collected their Queens Award for Volunteering recently.

The charity manages Gelliwig, our Residential Centre in Wales, and was founded in memory of two former Colton Hills teachers, Graham Birch and John Thomas, who sadly died in 1980.

Celebrating Sixth Form Excellence

Well done to our aspirational Sixth Form students who have successfully submitted their advanced entry UCAS applications. Three students have applied for medicine - Ashprit Mehra, Cameron Sandhu and Harjyot Singh and they all managed to secure valuable NHS experiences; Harjyot even managed to complete an international experience in a hospital in Italy this summer!

Sonata Mieliauskaite has applied to Oxford to study Archeology and Anthropology and has a placement lined up at the Ashmolean museum in Oxford this year.

They deserve a tremendous amount of praise for securing such fantastic voluntary work in the middle of the pandemic. Well done to all of you for your hard work.

Focus On : High Performance Learning

Colton Hills is a High Performance Learning (HPL) Pathway School. This means that we are on our three year journey to achieving world-class school accreditation.



**High
Performance
Learning**

Pathway School

Based on the seminal book High Performance Learning: How to Become a World-Class School by Professor Deborah Eyre, the High Performance Learning philosophy is a clear guide to how to achieve Excellence. Colton Hills is fully committed to embracing the HPL philosophy and making it central to everything that we do.

As a High Performance Learning school, we empower our students to aim high and believe that the very best academic outcomes are attainable for all our students.

We also develop learners using evidence-based research to ensure our students fully are prepared for study, work and life.

Therefore we maximise learning by:

- **Setting high expectations in every classroom**
- **Ensuring all teaching staff are highly skilled and qualified**
- **Setting challenging work but Scaffolding learning so that it is accessible to all learners**
- **Developing students understanding of how we learn and the behaviours for learning so that they can work harder, remember more and successfully complete independent tasks**
- **Ensuring the learning environment is calm and well ordered so that it is conducive to learning**

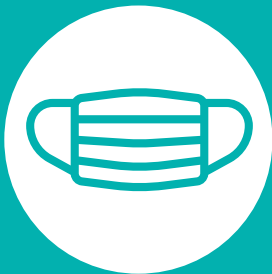
You can find out more about High Performance Learning at:

www.highperformancelearning.co.uk/

Focus On : Our continuing COVID response

We are almost 18 months into the COVID-19 pandemic and unfortunately we are still living with effects of the virus.

Whilst life has returned to normal in some respects, we wanted to assure you that we are still taking the following precautions in school to help keep our students, staff and the community safe.



Facemasks

We are encouraging students and staff to continue to wear face coverings in all communal areas



Lateral Flow Tests

Students and staff should be conducting Lateral Flow Tests and reporting the results every Sunday and Wednesday



Enhanced cleaning

We are continuing with an advanced cleaning regime in school with antibacterial wipes and hand sanitiser readily available.

Focus On : 16 Before 16

16 Before 16 is our reading competition for all students in Key Stage 3 and 4. Our English department has compiled a list of 16 key books that we feel students should read by the time they leave Colton Hills.

The books have been carefully selected to reflect the diversity of our cohort and to educate, enthrall and inspire young people on their journey to adulthood. Students should complete a short review when they have completed a book on the list and show it to their teacher.

There are prizes for the best reviews at the end of each year. The books are listed on the back page of the Accelerated Reader reading record where they will be able to record the date that they completed the book.



We were also thrilled to have been selected to receive 100 Penguin books by authors of colour for our students to enjoy, as well as the 30 copies of Sathnam Sanghera's 'Empireland' and accompanying resource pack.

Book Title	Author
1. Long Way Down	Jason Reynolds
2. No One is Too Small to Make a Difference	Greta Thunberg
3. Home Fire	Kamila Shamsie
4. Maus	Art Spiegelman
5. The Boy at the Back of the Class	Onjali Q. Rauf
6. Rebecca	Daphne du Maurier
7. A Thousand Splendid Suns	Khaled Hosseini
8. The Black Flamingo	Dean Atta
9. Reasons to Stay Alive	Matt Haig
10. The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time	Mark Haddon
11. Crongton Knights	Alex Wheatle
12. Jane Eyre - A Retelling	Tanya Landman
13. Persepolis	Marjane Satrapi
14. A Monster Calls	Patrick Ness
15. England: Poems from a School	Kate Clanchy
16. The Perks of Being a Wallflower	Stephen Chbosky

From the Records

Recently we had a surprising call from a former Colton Hills student, who had something very special to share with us from their time at the school.

Janet Lawrence (nee Hill) was a student at Colton Hills from 1974, and when her father, Tony Hill, passed away recently at the age of 85 she found something that he had kept since her school days.

The vinyl record – Birth of a Baby, is a production of a performance that was originally written for the Colton Hills Sixth Form revue, and was played on Beacon Radio and also televised by the BBC for Christmas 1977.

Students, staff and the local community came together to create this unique production.

Mrs Lawrence, who still lives in Wolverhampton, played in the orchestra of the recording and she has kindly donated the record, and accompanying information to the school.

We would all like to express our thanks to her for sharing this wonderful piece of history, and we look forward to sharing this story with our community.



Did you or someone you know take part in the production or performance of Birth of a Baby?

If so, or if you are an ex-student or member of staff of Colton Hills we would love to hear and share your stories. Please reach out to us at marketing@coltonhills.co.uk.

Dates for your diary

Autumn Term 2021

Half Term

Monday 25th October – Friday 29th October



Term Time

Monday 1st November – Friday 17th December



Staff Inset Day

Friday 26th November

Christmas Holiday

Monday 20th December – Monday 3rd January 2022



Spring Term

Tuesday 4th January – Friday 18th February



**Happy Diwali to everyone celebrating
4th November 2021**



**Follow us on Twitter to find out all of the
amazing things that are happening at school
@coltonhillscs**

Please note all pictures used in this newsletter were taken in accordance with government guidelines at the time they were taken

Keep up to date

Call 01902 558420

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