



Colton Hills Community School

Confidence. Happiness. Courage. Success.

Headteacher
Mrs A Stephens

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Community School**
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Dear Parent/Carer,

I do hope this email finds you well. Can I begin by saying how incredibly proud I am of all our students at Colton Hills and their successful return to school life. Students genuinely appear happy to have returned to face to face teaching and have been working hard during this first full week. I also know many are relieved to be back with their friendship groups, which is equally important.

INSET Days

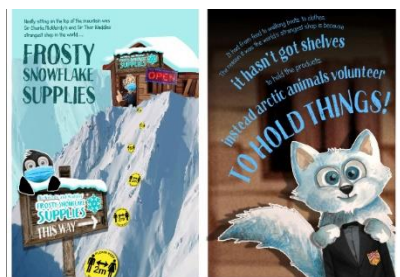
We have made the decision to **cancel our remaining INSET days** for this academic year. This means that all students will return to school as normal on **Wednesday 19th April**, following the Easter holiday. Staff have requested that we limit any further disruption to learning and have agreed to disaggregate the remaining two and incorporate their training into evening twilight sessions. This also means that there will be no interruptions to Year 11 and 13 assessments before marks are submitted in June.

Therefore, our summer term will now end on **Monday 19th July at 12.00**.

Good News

We have lots of great news to share this week. Our overall attendance is 93% this week, which is well above the national average of 89% for secondary schools in the current climate.

This week we have also received the results from the Year 13 Business Studies examination, which students sat in January. They have had phenomenal success, particularly given the conditions surrounding the examination. Overall **32%** of students were awarded **Distinctions** (this is equivalent to an A grade), **54%** were awarded **Merits** (this is equivalent to a B grade) and **14%** were awarded a **Pass** (this is equivalent to a C). We are all incredibly proud of the hard work and commitment our Year 13s have shown in securing these grades. I am sure you would also join me in thanking our dedicated team of Business Studies teachers who have supported them throughout.



Congratulations to Olga Suta on her winning World Book Day competition entry, which was to create a book design. We will share the winning book, book fully illustrated next week, but here is a brief taste of her excellent work.

The importance of a school uniform

Another hot topic this week for staff, parents and students is our school uniform, and I wrote to you with a proposal earlier this week. I would like to thank you all for your responses so far; I have really enjoyed reading your feedback and also speaking with parents about our ideas to further improve our school.



I wanted to reassure you that at this stage no decisions have been made, and none will be made until the consultation is complete and we have listened to your views. I will also aim to speak with every parent who request this on the consultation form.

I thought it might be helpful to clarify some of the most common questions conversations that we are having with parents and students at this stage.

1. Can girls wear trousers?

Yes! Girls can wear either a skirt or trousers.

2. Do we have to buy this now?

No. The plan is to launch the uniform in 7 months' time, at the start of the new academic year.

3. Do we have to buy this in September?

No. We could opt for a phased introduction so that students feel the benefits of their current uniform for a little longer.

4. Will the school support me in purchasing the new uniform?

Yes. In a number of cases, we might be able to fund up to 75% of the cost of a full uniform. This will depend on your personal circumstances, which can be discussed nearer the time.

5. Can we get help paying for the new uniform?

Our suppliers will offer a range of different payment plans – some as low as a £1 a day.

6. We love the colour black, why does it have to be grey?

The word uniform means consistent: the same. The reason why I believe that is important to make the change is that there are far too many inconsistencies within the current uniform. I believe that the current colour drives many of these inconsistencies. Vital learning time has been taken up with staff having to discuss incorrect uniform with students, so this would make things simple.

Thank you once again for your feedback. It's not too late to have your say [HERE](#). Also please join us for an open discussion on Thursday 25th March from 5.30 – 6.30 when we have our Zoom parent forum. [Register here](#).

Future Forums Dates

To keep up to date with upcoming forums and events in school you can have a look at the calendar page on our website www.coltonhills.co.uk/calendar.

A reminder we finish school at **3.00pm** on **Thursday 1st April** and students return on **Monday 19th April** at **8.20** for a prompt start at **8.30**.

I would like to thank you all for your continued support throughout this term. Colton Hills definitely has that family feel. Have a wonderful weekend and I look forward to meeting many of you at next weeks' parent forum.