



Colton Hills Community School

Many Minds, One Mission.

December 2021



Inside this issue:

- Welcome from Mrs Stephens
- ARTS Mark Award
- Colton Hills International Finalist
- British Art Show
- Year 7 Visit Birmingham University
- German Exchange Programme



Pathway School

Welcome from Andrea Stephens



Dear Parent/Carer,

A huge part of our school mission is to ensure that students are exposed to high quality learning experiences – Every child, Every lesson, Every day. As we progress towards the end of a very productive and exciting autumn term, I would like to share with you some of the achievements and successes of the first term.

The main focus of our School Improvement Plan 2021-2022 is to raise the attainment of all students at Colton Hills so that they can thrive in a top profession.

Our actions towards making sure that this is the case for your child have been:

- In our most recent survey, 99% of parents said, “My child is taught well at school.” – The launch of our High Performance Learning philosophy fully encompasses the most recent educational research findings. Research tells us that more students than we previously thought have the potential to perform at the highest levels. To do this at Colton Hills, we are growing a culture within the school that expects significantly more from all our students
- Our High Performance Learning culture is starting to embed, and our staff training will ensure we remain at the forefront of educational practice.
- Our poverty-proofing focus means that all students, without exception, arrive at school smart and can enjoy a complimentary breakfast at 8.00, ensuring they are ready to learn and in the right mindset for excellence
- In our most recent survey, 95% of parents said they would recommend the school to another prospective parent. More and more parents are choosing Colton Hills because they want a positive learning environment for their children. We are now oversubscribed in almost every year group with a lengthy waiting list.
- 96% of you said, “My child feels happy in school” – We believe this is a result of our exceptional pastoral team arrangement and exciting extra-curricular activities. This term we have also launched our Period 6 programme of activities. In addition, we have introduced several House team challenges to our rolling lunch programme. In Year 7, students have remained in their bubble to ease their transition to secondary school, allowing them to feel happy and settled at Colton Hills.
- Our new-look website with our full curriculum map and GO4Schools Parental App has sharpened our communication with parents and carers.

While there is much to celebrate, we recognise that there are still challenges ahead. We will face these together in the new year and work hard as we continue our journey to being a world-class community school.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all parents, staff and students for your kindness and support in my first year at Colton Hills. As a Headteacher, I could not feel prouder of our students' achievements. I wish you all a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Celebrating Participation



Wild Wisdom Challenge – Ms L McClure

On 13th October we joined the World Wide Fund (WWF) Wild Wisdom Global Challenge. This online platform allowed students to explore interactive content based on the documentary 'A Life On Our Planet', expand their knowledge of the natural world, test what they've learnt and understand how they can all take action to save our planet. There were also a series of free online webinars to watch parts of the recent David Attenborough documentary before the challenge itself.

On 8th November the UK Challenge began as students from different schools competed against each other to score points on the platform and put their school on the leaderboard.

On 18th November we made it into the top 10 in the UK! Following this Atisha Singh in Year 9 and Dilpreet Kaur in Year 10 (photograph above) both made it into the international final!!!!

We are so proud of our students for putting us on the world map! The final took place on 2nd December, with students from around the globe. The girls fought hard, despite technical challenges and both placed within the top 220! Please join us in congratulating all our students for taking part, for showing their concern for society and to our two INTERNATIONAL FINALISTS.



Below is a message from Matt Larsen-Daw from the WWF Organisation

Congratulations on your students making it to the WWGC International Final quiz on December 2nd, 2021! With hundreds of UK schools participating, it was a significant achievement for them to qualify. As part of the final event, we would like to show some pictures and videos of our finalists on screen so that participants get a sense of the global schools and students competing. I have picked out Colton Hills Community School as one we'd love to feature if you were able to work with your participating students to create a short video. A fantastic achievement, well done.



Congratulations!

Your school has qualified for the Live International Final.



**FOR
YOUR
WORLD**



Celebrating Respect

RAF Gliders – Ms S Dyson

On Wednesday 10th November, a group of Colton Hills students visited the RAF museum at Cosford for the RAF Gliders Challenge.

Four weeks earlier, students had begun to learn how aircraft fly and use this information to design and test their own motorless gliders. The students also had to create a presentation about the design process and how they overcame difficulties during the trial period.

The final team consisted of seven Year 8 girls and five Year 7 boys. On the day of the challenge, they were given nothing but an A3 piece of foam card to craft their motorless glider. This took place in one of the hangers in the museum, right underneath a Chinook helicopter!



During this construction time, judges from the RAF came around and discussed the designs, teamwork, execution and presentations of each of the schools. The team had a chance to share how they designed and tested their gliders and were asked different and difficult questions by the judges. Some questions had a focus on the impact of STEM, what it means to pupils and why it is important whilst others were more focused on teamwork. Despite some challenging questions, our students tried their hardest and really pulled together as a team, supporting each other when someone wasn't sure of an answer.

Having created their gliders, each team gathered around a 20m tape measure and had their aircraft fired from a purpose-built catapult. Each glider had two chances to make the longest flight. In the end a group of air cadets managed to create a glider which flew over the 20m tape measure! Our team put in a strong effort, creating a glider that was able to not only fly 13m, but also managed a loop-the-loop!!

The day was a fantastic success and a wonderful experience for our students, who had a chance to see impressive aircraft in person as well as work as a team under time constraints and see how effort really does pay off. Well done to our RAF glider team!

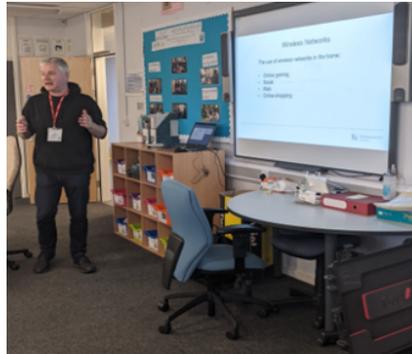


BTEC National Diploma and Extended Certificate in IT – Ms J Johal

It's been quite a busy few months for students on the above courses.

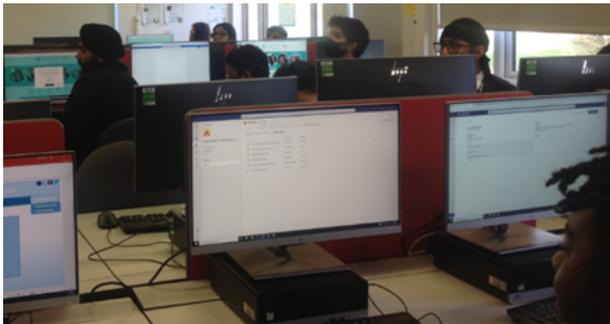
Cyber Security Seminar

Year 12 students on the BTEC National Diploma in IT had an insightful seminar on Cyber Security presented by Ron Austin an Associate Professor from Birmingham University. The students were informed of the many career paths in cyber security, the issues concerning cybercrime and ethical hacking.



Web Development

This was taught by professionals from the School of Coding. The Year 13 students on the BTEC National Extended Certificate are learning skills in web development, using specialist industry standard software and WordPress taught by professionals from the School of Coding. The students have spent several weeks designing a website for a local charity which is now in the implementation stage. There will be one chosen website that will be published on the web by the charity. We are hoping to reveal the winner in the New Year who will receive a £20 Amazon Voucher.



Work Experience

During the summer break students on the BTEC National Diploma participated in a week long work experience at the School Of Coding. Students worked alongside professionals to troubleshoot hardware and software faults. These included software updates, hardware installation and configuring robots. Students were also given the opportunity to work with Virtual Reality.

"An insightful experience, we really enjoyed our time at the School of Coding" – Rohit Sandhu;

"I enjoyed working with IT professionals and using my initiative to troubleshoot IT faults" – Taranjit Singh





Celebrating Diversity

IRIS Article - Ms L McClure

Last year we began work with The Institute for Research in Schools (IRIS), led in school by Mrs Oleschuk. IRIS provides opportunities for secondary students, from all backgrounds, to participate in authentic research in school and make valuable, recognised contributions to the scientific community. The students' use real world data and collaborate with a variety of working scientists to gain experience in arenas they would never usually encounter.

This year, we were exceedingly fortunate to be able to work with the Deputy Director of IRIS, Marcus Bernard, to launch two programmes to the whole of Year 8 and Year 10 during our enrichment periods. Year 10 had an inspirational introduction to the cosmic mining programme, where students analysed data to find stars forming and fading in our galaxy and beyond, helping scientists uncover the history of our Universe.

Year 8 saw the launch of a way to support our planet via the carbon researcher project. Here, young scientists calculate and consider their schools' carbon footprint and devise a plan to reduce it. All Year 10 and Year 8 students were invited to take part in these projects and 30 lucky students will get to work on each project alongside IRIS.

We also had the opportunity to take part in the cutting-edge DNA Origami project, where a select handful of students are currently working on creating 3D objects from DNA using industrial laboratory equipment! Watch this space for more exciting adventures into real Science!



Colton Hills Christmas Cards 2021

Congratulation to Faith Osazuwa 8AT2 for her winning design (see photo, left hand card) and the other winning cards by Courtney Edwards 9WT1, Fadhila Ismail 11C1 and Amanjot Kumar 9K2





High Performance Learning – Mr S Blower

We continue to focus on driving high expectations in everything that we do, particularly through our ongoing work as a High Performance Learning pathway school. Colton Hills is working towards accreditation of the High Performance School Award at the end of two years, so we are working hard to let our students know how to perform at the highest levels possible. Our two focus areas for this half-term have been **Self-Regulation** (being able to self-correct and take responsibility for your own learning) and being **Concerned for Society**. We have been highlighting these ideas in assemblies, lessons and in other opportunities throughout school life. You can support students in their Self-Regulation by asking them how they are organising themselves, their independent study and their revision for ongoing assessments.



We have spoken about a number of different ACPs (Advanced Cognitive Processes) and VAAs (Values, Attitudes and Attributes) in a variety of ways this term. One of these ways has been about afternoon Maximum Learning Meetings, led by Mr Gittins, our Assistant Headteacher for Teaching and Learning. These sessions have seen students gather together as a whole year group in the dining room, where we have been practicing for how to get the most out of lessons and rehearsing the study routines which lead to high performance. We are determined to use the latest research and evidence to improve the quality of teaching at Colton Hills, leading us on a journey to being truly world class.

Next term will see further work with our associate from HPL, Dr Cathy Feeney. Dr Feeney works with our Senior Leadership Team and Middle Leaders to ensure that students have the absolute best opportunities at our school.



On Monday 13th December we received the exciting news that Colton Hills Community School has received an Arts Mark Silver Award. This award is not only for our commitment to Art, Dance, Drama and Music but also for our dedication to the pedagogical principles that are used across all curriculum areas in school.

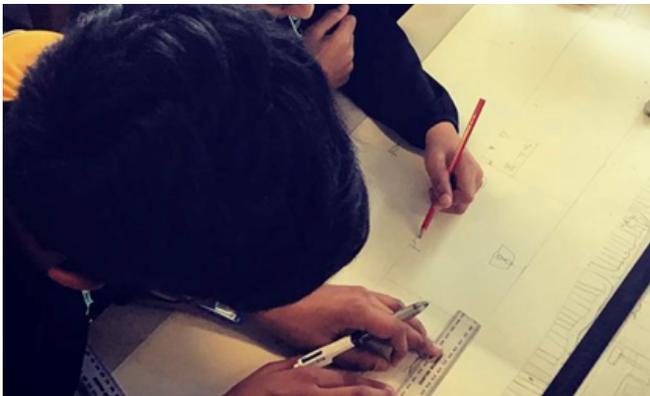
The Arts Mark award was a two-year process which despite the obstacles COVID created we overcame them and found new creative ways to ensure the Arts survived. It is an achievement for Colton Hills and for the City of Wolverhampton as we are the first Secondary School in Wolverhampton to achieve an Arts Mark status. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the entire school for their dedication to Arts pedagogy and give a special thank you to Mrs Smith and Miss Willets for their amazing work in the Art department, Miss Jones and Mrs Tobin for their dedication to the Performing Arts department and finally to Mrs Lockley; former Deputy Head Teacher who drove this application in its conception two years ago and Mrs Walker for her continued support to ensure the Arts thrive.



British Art Show Artist Workshops – Ms H Willetts

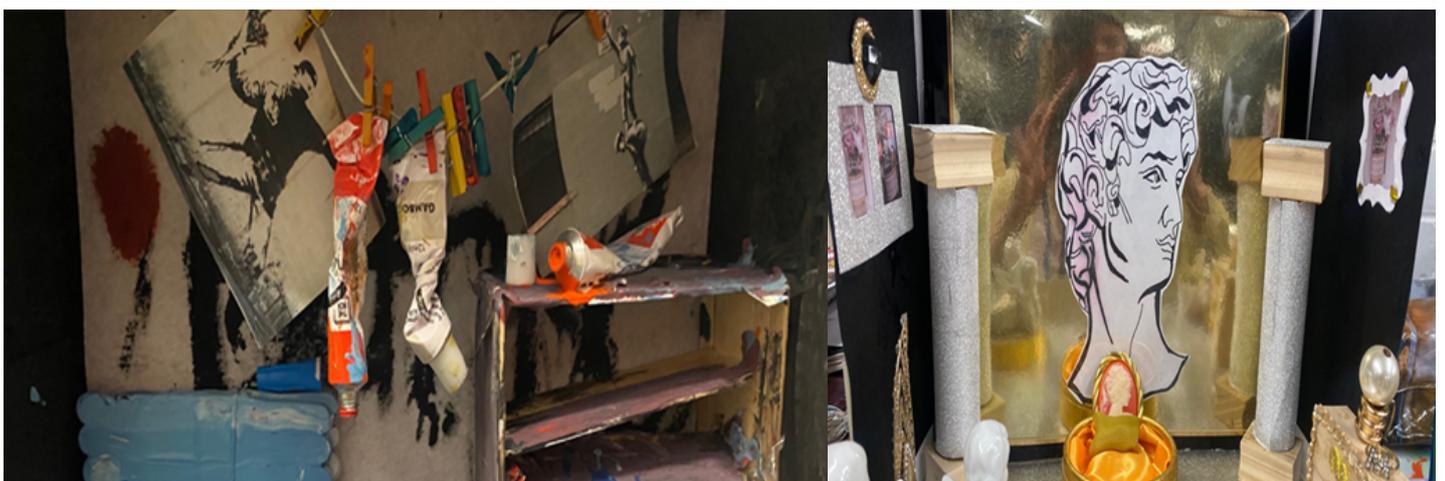
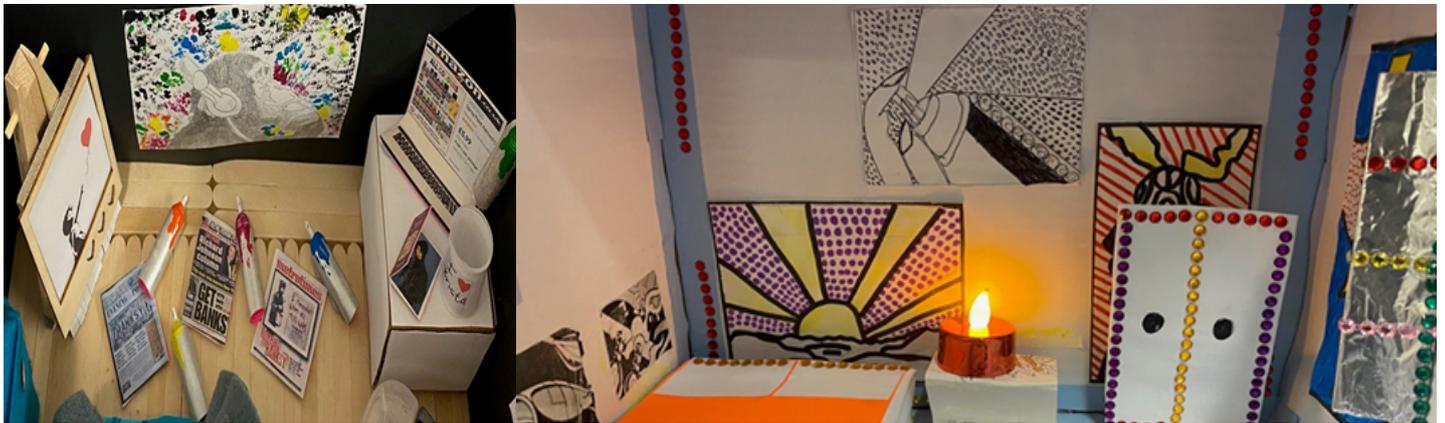
Students in Year 8 have been exploring contemporary artwork with visiting artist Joanna Fursman. In the workshops so far, students have been creating work, highlighting the issues facing the ocean as well as experimenting with plaster of paris and PVA glue.

Next year students will have the opportunity to visit the British Art Show 9 exhibition at Wolverhampton Art Gallery and Wolverhampton University School of Art. Their work will also be displayed and open for members of the public to view.





Just an example of the fantastic art homework done by our Year 8 pupils.





The Big Teach – Mr D Gittins

Maximum Learning Meetings & Maximum Learning Guide for Parents & Carers

This term we have had our first Maximum Learning Meetings where our students are trained to develop the skills and attitudes that are necessary for high performance learning. A whole year group came together during a form period in the dining room and practiced learning techniques until they become routine. These ideas can then be applied easily into lessons to give them even more of an impact. So far this year we have demonstrated how students can get the most from self-quizzing and their Knowledge and Assessment Organiser to support the retention of information.

These meetings are the perfect partner for our **Maximum Learning Guide for Parents & Carers**. Parents and carers' want their children to try their hardest and be happy and successful in school. However, as a parent or carer, sometimes it can be hard to know the best way to support children to get the most from their studies.

The book is a basic guide for parents and carers so that you know the best advice you can give your children. It has been split into four common questions that high performing learners would ask. The questions below are also the key sessions that we will be exploring with our Maximum Learning Meetings with the students.

- Question 1: How can I improve my reading age?
- Question 2: What's the best way to prepare for an assessment?
- Question 3: How can I improve the quality of my writing?
- Question 4: How can I organise my independent study better?

The Maximum Learning Guide for Parents and Carers has been sent home with students, but a digital copy can be found on our website.



How to support your child to be happy and successful at Colton Hills Community School

Many Minds, One Mission





6th Form Edgbaston Trip – Ms E Lopez

The Autumn Birmingham Fair in Edgbaston was the perfect way to introduce our students in Year 12 to the world of Higher Education and help them understand the choices available at Universities and Apprenticeship Providers. This exciting and informative event provided students with the opportunity to speak to a multitude of exhibiting universities and apprenticeship providers. These included the Russell Group, red brick, modern institutions, as well as many of the UK's biggest apprenticeship providers and local colleges. At the event students were able to gather information and start planning the next steps for their post-18 transition.



Year 7 Trip to Birmingham University – Ms E Lopez

Students in Year 7 went to the University of Birmingham on Wednesday 24th November. During the trip students visited one of the Universities on-site museums and found out more about university life from current students and a variety of university professionals. Students shared that they found the experience really fun, whereas some Year 7 students informed Miss Lopez (CEIAG Aspiration Leader) that they had never thought about going to university before but after having had this experience, would start to plan what they need to do now and in the next 5 years to help them achieve this aspiration.



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM



Focus on: School Sport

BTEC Sports Leaders-Primary School Sports – Mr L Jones

On Thursday 2nd December Colton Hills hosted several primary schools in a sports hall athletics competition.

Lanesfield, Parkfields and St Lukes , with two teams each, took part in 6 different activities set up by our BTEC Sport Leaders' who ranged from Year 10 through to Year 13.

Our leaders organised equipment, recorded scores, demonstrated and communicated effectively to the younger pupils and staff alike.

Our Post 16 leaders led warmup exercises with each primary school and supervised activities run by our lower year BTEC sport groups effectively.

All our students who took part were an absolute credit to the school, with several primary school staff saying how well they had done!

All primary school pupils received a certificate from our school highlighting our value of participation. Thanks also to Ms C Tolliday for being overall score keeper.



KS3 Girls Basketball Tournament



We went to a tournament at Kings School on Tuesday 30th November. This tournament was to find the best team in Wolverhampton to go to the Black Country Games and represent Wolverhampton schools.

During the group stages we won 5 out of 6 games, which due to points and baskets, enabled us to get to the final which was against St Peter's. St Peter's have a tremendous team with some extremely talented young basketball players. During the first half we led 6-2 with help from Mateya.

Going into the second half we were still 6-2 up and St Peter's really did turn up the gears and pulled it back to 6-4. In the final 5 second count, St. Peter's had the ball and scored a basket in the last second which made it 6-6. We then went to sudden death, next basket wins. The girls were nervous but they kept their cool. Mateya grabbed the ball from the half way and dribbled it to the basket and performed a great lay-up to win the match and the tournament for our amazing Colton Hills KS3 Girls Basketball team. What a sweat victory it was. **The girls will be receiving an invite to the Black Country Games to represent Wolverhampton! A massive congratulations to our champions, Mateya, Stephanie, Sanjana, Flavia and Roberta.**

Focus on: Combined Cadet Force

CCF TRAINING WEEKEND – Mr D Ireland Wing Commander RAFAC

The Combined Cadet Force (CCF) Cadets undertook a Recruit's Training Weekend at Swynnerton Training Camp at the start of half-term. A total of 64 Cadets from The Royal and Colton Hills enjoyed a packed programme of fieldcraft training, including a night out sleeping in shelters built by the cadets themselves. Cadets learned Personal Camouflage and Concealment, Harbour Drills, Why Things are Seen and Shelter Construction on the first day. After a meal in the field during the evening the cadets learned about night noises, night navigation and how to conduct a Close Target Reconnaissance of the other school's bivvy area.



The night was cold but mercifully dry as the Cadets snuggled into their Cadet Sleeping System in the woods. The alarm was set for 0630 and everyone was up, packed away and had breakfast before 0800 ready, for another full training package which included Judging Distances, Moving with & Without Section Battle Attacks and Rifle & Field Signals. All were delivered by the Cadet Force Adult Volunteers from both Schools.



The Cadets were outside for a total of 36 hours, which included sleeping and eating all meals. Considering most cadets who went had only been in the CCF for 6 weeks they all did remarkably well, adapting to such an alien environment. It was a full-on weekend but one I am sure the cadets will remember fondly, as I am sure all fully appreciate their beds at home and the sofa that little bit more now!!



Focus on: Partnerships

GERMAN EXCHANGE – Ms L Heeley

Last week, two of our most intrepid staff members, namely our Head of German Ms Heeley and Business Director Mr O’Hara, visited our German partner school in the region of Lower Saxony, which turned out to be a very fruitful trip.

We can now confirm that there will be a German Exchange program taking place between CHCS and IGS Helpsen in Hanover. A win for our German department and just one of the many reasons to choose German at GCSE Level. The exchange programme will be in June and September 2022, please get ready Year 9 to book your place.



CINDERELLA PANTOMIME REVIEW – Ms L Pound

On Wednesday 8th December 27 students from KS3 visited the Grand Theatre in Wolverhampton. They watched Cinderella the Pantomime featuring AJ and Curtis Pritchard and CBeebies Evie who played Cinderella.

The performance was a “hit” and the students enthusiastically took part in the pantomime style by shouting out ‘he’s behind you’, booing the wicked step mother and joining in a Christmas sing-song.

For many of our students this was the first time visiting the theatre or first time visiting an English theatre which was an exciting prospect.

The students found the vivacious characters, interactive set, colourful costumes and panto wit thoroughly enjoyable. Many are already asking when the next trip will be!!



Focus On : Our continuing COVID response

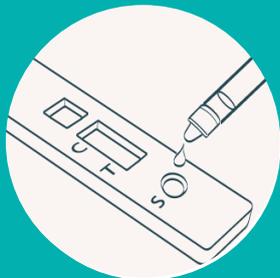
We are almost 2 years into the COVID-19 pandemic and unfortunately we are still living with effects of the virus.

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.

Dates for your diary

Spring Term 2022

Half Term

Wednesday 5th January - Friday 18th February

Term Time

Monday 28th February - Friday 8th April

Friday 18th March (Inset Day in lieu of Queen's Birthday)

Half Term

Monday 21st February - Friday 25th February



Follow us on Twitter to find out all of the amazing things that are happening at school
[@coltonhillscs](https://twitter.com/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

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