



# Colton Hills Community School

Many Minds, One Mission.

July 2021



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# Welcome from Andrea Stephens



Dear Families

## Many Minds, One Mission

Never has our new school mantra seemed so important.

Throughout the pandemic, we have been very much interconnected. The importance of community and partnership - the legacy and the beating heart of Colton Hills Community School - has been alive and provided powerful encouragement to our young people. During the course of the past academic year, we have collaborated without fuss and without nonsense and put the effort in to support each other, with excellent results. As a Colton Hills community, each one of us understands that we enrich our own lives by giving to others, and I have witnessed this as our natural behaviour throughout the past year.

However, it would be entirely wrong not to acknowledge the genuine hardship and loss that so many in our community have suffered during the Covid outbreak. It has taken lives and livelihoods and changed the landscape for so many. Nor should we overlook the many injustices that have been highlighted worldwide this year, including, more recently, the racist abuse that targeted some of our most talented footballers. The black lives movement highlighted many injustices worldwide, including within our education system. The concerns that have been raised about prejudice and privilege are not unique to Colton Hills. We are proud of our diverse community and resolve to do what is necessary to live up to the promise of tackling social injustice and challenging prejudice so that everyone thrives. These issues are high on our agenda in the coming academic year.

It is also crucial for me to highlight our students' determination, respect, and focus, which has been astonishing. With the guidance and support of our staff and parents, they have kept going, even under periods of intense pressure. Unlike any other year, schools have faced the challenge of finding new ways to deliver breadth and depth in the curriculum. In our most recent assessments, I have been delighted to see that the core learning foundations have remained in place at Colton Hills, and the educational diet has been broad, challenging and exciting for students. The weight on public exam cohorts, now awaiting Teacher Assessed Grades, has been acute. Through it all, learning has been lively, clubs and interventions have thrived, and science competitions and challenges have been mastered.

As the holiday approaches, we can be deeply proud of our whole school family and what we have achieved together.

At the end of another school year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the students for their effort, resilience and achievements in 2021.

I would also like to thank staff for their commitment and hard work and parents and carers for your continued support of Colton Hills School and our students.

# In the news - students receive book celebrating 100 Great Black Britons

**In June we were thrilled to be asked to support a national campaign by Yvonne Davis, a retired primary school headteacher from Wolverhampton, to get books into every school in Britain being run by Wolverhampton Council and Trade Union Council.**

Councillor Dr Michael Hardacre, Cabinet Member for Education and Skills and Nick Kelleher, Secretary of the Wolverhampton, Bilston and District Trades Union Council came into school to deliver a copy of "100 Great Black Britons", which they are supplying to every school in the region.



*100 Great Black Britons*, by Patrick Vernon and Dr Angelina Osborne, celebrates the lives, stories, achievements and contributions of key Black British individuals over history.

Pennfields-born author, broadcaster and social commentator Patrick Vernon was once a pupil at Colton Hills and he said: "It is a fantastic honour that the City of Wolverhampton Council has acquired copies of the best-selling 100 Great Black Britons for all schools and libraries in Wolverhampton.

"I am proud of my roots in Wolverhampton, and I hope the book and my achievements will inspire young people that they can make a difference with their lives and be proud of our shared history. I am hoping to go back to Colton Hills, and also my primary school Grove Junior, during Black History Month so I can share my work with pupils."

Among those featured are pioneering nurse and heroine of the Crimean War, Mary Seacole, artist and film director Steve McQueen, rapper Stormzy, Booker prize-winning author Bernardine Evaristo, Formula One driver Lewis Hamilton, comedian Dudley-born Lenny Henry and Wolverhampton-born singer Beverley Knight. At Colton Hills, our 2020 Black History Month campaign highlighted inspiring black British stories, with students having a daily assembly about one of these icons.

Mrs Stephens said "Books like this help highlight some of the most pioneering Black Britons who have achieved and helped shape our history as a result.

"It is incredibly empowering to see that one of the authors was a student at Colton Hills, which is a great way to illustrate to our children that, through hard work and resilience, they too can do anything and shape this world for the better. We are really proud to be part of this initiative and look forward to using the book for many years to come."

The students were happy to receive the book, and we are so proud of Patrick Vernon for co-authoring such an important work.

**Follow us on twitter to keep up to date**  
**[@coltonhillscs](https://twitter.com/coltonhillscs)**

# Extra-curricular activities are back!

**It's been wonderful to see extra-curricular activities starting back up again this half term and that so many students have been taking part in the opportunities on offer.**

Activities available to students include various sports including football and basketball, STEM club, choir and film studies. There really is something for everyone.

Over the next couple of pages you can see some of the highlights:

## Gardening Club

### Miss Willetts

Our Year 7 students have been doing some amazing work in the school garden where they have been clearing weeds, planting flowers and even painting benches and planters.

In just a few sessions they have already made a huge difference and we can't wait to see how the garden continues to improve and grow for many years to come.

Keep up the good work, Year 7!

### Before



### After



# Combined Cadet Force Field Day

## From Mr Ireland Wing Commander

Our Combined Cadet unit (CCF) attended a Field Day at Nescliffe Training Area in June and 20 cadets made the short trip to experience what a full army camp is like. It was a demanding day full of challenge and the cadets thoroughly enjoyed the event.

There was a round robin of 8 activities in a full day held by our local Cadet Training Team:

Using the new Cadet Radio Systems to send BATCO (Battle Code) coded messages over the radio to inform command of their location without the enemy knowing where they are.

Anti-ambush drills with paintball guns, working as a team to withdraw to a safe location under enemy fire.

Stalking, using camouflage and terrain to approach a target without being spotted.

Laser shot gun range, just like real clay pigeon shooting but without the danger of real shells.

Shooting the Cadet Scorpion Air Rifle with some impressive cards from those who had not even fired before. This bodes well moving into the post-covid world when we can get back on the Cadet GP Rifles and I can see me needing to order plenty of marksman badges next year.

Mountain biking with a short familiarisation ride around the training area then the obstacle course to see who was the fastest.

The 'gun run' was the most physically demanding event requiring cadets to haul a heavy field gun around a course, change wheels, dismantle the gun to get it through a small gap, all on the clock.

The final event was the 'Avenger Challenge' where cadets had to solve a number of demanding mental challenges to get as many 'energy stones' as possible to complete the task.

After a year of not being able to get out for CCF, this day gave us a tantalising taste of what is available next year. We have recruited over 100 new Year 9s and Year 10s next year which will mean an exciting future lies ahead for our new CCF unit at school.



## From Miss Lopez CEIAG Aspirations Leader

During this academic year Miss Lopez (CEIAG Aspirations Leader) has organised for students, from all year groups, to participate in a variety of career related encounters.

These experiences have helped to raise students aspirations and understand the skills and personal qualities required when achieving their personal career goals. Some of the experiences included;

- Construction, Engineering, Beauty and Healthcare 'Have A Go' experiences
- Medic and NHS Insight Taster Day
- Interactive Q&A Workshop on Careers within the Legal & ICT Field, led by companies such as DELL and the CPS
- 'Jobs, Technology and the Future Experience' Workshops
- 'Dragons Den' experience with the Global Company PWC
- Paid Work Placements with the international company EY
- Sport and Protective Service 'Taster Day at MPCT
- 'Meet the Builder' from the company Willmott Dixon
- Guess the Solicitor with the legal practice Allen and Overy
- 1-to-1 Mock interviews with a range of local employers





## Team W.A.S.P secure 3rd place in Solutions for the Planet!

On 23rd June Team W.A.S.P represented Colton Hills at the national finals of the Solutions for the Planet Big Ideas competition. Despite having to face the challenge of two team members having to join remotely - meaning last minute changes to their pitch - they did an amazing presentation and secured 3rd place in the competition.

Their idea is a film that can be applied to any window which act as solar panels, making renewable energy easier for anyone to obtain.

Well done to the team of Tai Bowen, Mabruk Mohammed and Ranvir Dhamret for their amazing achievement.



## Success for our scientists in The Biology Challenge

The Biology Challenge is a national competition open to 13- to 15-year-old students, who compete in two invigilated online papers. Last year 47,336 students from 576 schools took part.

We have entered students every year for the past seven years and have often had students attain Commended or Highly Commended certificates. This year we have two Commended, two highly Commended and, for the first time, four students have won a certificate from the Royal Society of Biology for attaining Silver and Bronze scores, which is a fantastic achievement.

Well done to

- Aleena Pervaiz - Silver
- Fadhila Ismail - Silver
- Lucas Drummond - Bronze
- Ranvir Singh - Bronze



## Year 10 students support Goldthorn Primary Sports Day!

On Monday 28th June, Mr Jones took 13 year 10 BTEC sport students to local feeder primary school Goldthorn Park primary school for the day to run their sports day, overseeing, setting up and running activities for their Year 3 and 5 groups.

The students worked together to ensure that the younger students had good demonstrations and communicated effectively to allow the activities to be fun and competitive!

Our students developed confidence and gained invaluable experience of running sporting activities whilst appearing as great role-models to younger students.

As a school we could not be prouder of their efforts and most importantly they all had a fantastic time. Several Goldthorn staff members, mentioned how professional they were and for some of our students they had a great return to their former primary school!

We are exceptionally proud of our BTEC Sport students. Well done!







# Celebrating Diversity



June was Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History month, and students from year 7 - 10 have created their own ceramic house taking inspiration from their house in the UK and their home country for a competition being run by [Friends, Families and Travellers](#).

Each house is individual to them as they wanted it to represent their culture. The houses were created individually but the students were proud of them being photographed together to represent community.

Results will be announced on 21st July, and we will let you know how our students get on, we think their work is amazing. Well done to all involved.



# Colton Hills in the Community

## Helping our local community

This year has been a challenging year for all and it was decided as part of our charity work to help the homeless and vulnerable people of Wolverhampton by donating toiletries to a local charity 'P3'. The students and staff donated generously and we were able to send 20 boxes of toiletries.

A special mention goes to Alex Buraciuc in Year 10, who said he wanted to help others when he provided a huge bag full of items.

Find out more about the vital work P3 do here - [www.p3charity.org](http://www.p3charity.org)



## COVID-19 Vaccination information

As part of our commitment to our community, we at Colton Hills have been working with [Wolverhampton Community Champions](#) who have put together a range of resources to give you information about the COVID-19 vaccination.

Go to [www.coltonhills.co.uk/vaccination-information](http://www.coltonhills.co.uk/vaccination-information) to find out more.

# Focus On : Welcoming our new year 7 students

## From Mrs Jackson

### Associate Assistant Headteacher

Over the last half term, I have thoroughly enjoyed visiting many of our local primary schools to meet the year 6s that will be joining us in September.

Can you believe we are welcoming students from 32 different primary schools? Following on from my visits students will be invited to visit Colton Hills and then to take part in our exciting Summer School programme from the 9th-13th August - see below for some of the exciting things that we have planned.

During my visits I have been asked many thoughtful questions by the Year 6 students and I hope I have been able to allay any worries they have about joining secondary school. Many students have expressed how excited they are to join us, and I cannot wait to welcome them to our Colton Hills community.



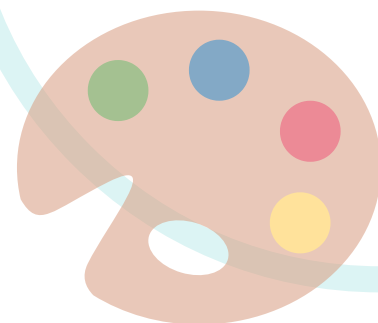
## Coming up at Summer School

We have so many fun activities planned for Summer School - here are just a few of the things that you can look forward to.

ART

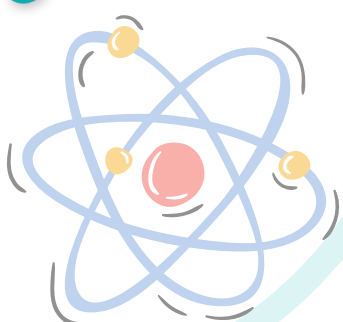


MUSIC



SPORT

SCIENCE



THE ANIMAL MAN

ROCK CLIMBING



# Focus On : Looking forward to September

## The PRIDE of Colton Hills



Participation



Respect



Integrity



Diversity



Excellence

**We are already looking forward to welcoming all of our students back in September, and when they do return, they will experience a few changes!**

Along with the new school uniform which all Year 7-10 students will be wearing, we are improving the dining room area and our main reception.

We are also refreshing the signage around school and making improvements to our digital platforms with a new design for the website and our social media platforms, including launching a new Facebook page.

Building on from the improvements that we made this term, we will continue to enhance learning and teaching experiences as we make our way towards becoming a World Class School.

We are proud to announce that we will be working the organisation High Performance Learning over the next three years, a partnership to enable us to take the next steps in this journey, and you will be hearing more about this in September.

There are exciting times ahead, and we are looking forward to taking the next steps of our journey together as a school community.

Colton Hills Community School

Many Minds, One Mission



Welcome to  
our school

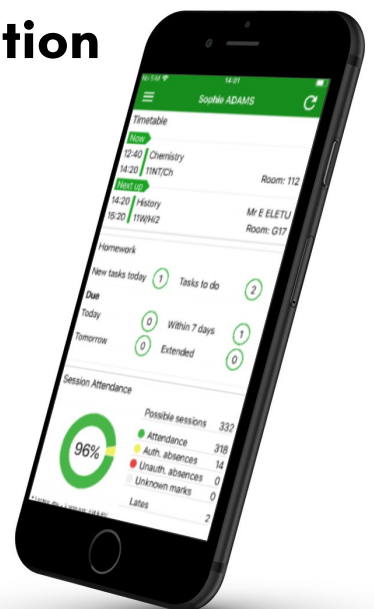
# Focus On : Looking forward to September

In September we will also be launching the Go4Schools app which will allow you to:

- View your child's timetable.
- View your child's homework (including details of the homework set, attached documents and links to websites).
- View your child's attendance.



**We'll share more information  
in September.**



# Hello and Goodbye

## Hello

**We're excited to be welcoming the following new members of staff in September, who join us at this exciting time in our school journey.**

- Maths Teacher - Mr Tim Swallow
- Learning Mentor - Miss Satvinder Kaur

We can't wait for the students to meet you!

## Goodbye

**Sadly we will be saying goodbye to the following staff at the end of term.**

- Emma Shepherd
- Kevin Kinchington
- Adrian Gallagher
- Navpreet Bains

**Each of them has made a wonderful contribution to our school for which we would like to express our thanks.**

Everyone at Colton Hills wishes each of you all the very best for your future journey - keep in touch!!

# Interhouse Competition Update

Final standings are



**161 points Curie House**



**141 points Turing House**



**118 points Tull House**



**92 points Kahlo House**

**Congratulations to Curie House, and well done to everyone for their work this year.**

# Dates for your diary

## Results Days 2021

**A-Levels** - Tuesday 10th August

**GCSE's** - Thursday 12th August

## Summer School (year 6 and 10)

Monday 9th August - Friday 13th August

## Autumn Term 2021

### Term Time

**Year 7 start**- Friday 3rd September 2021

**All years return**- Monday 6th September 2021

**Half term ends** - Friday 22nd October

### Half Term

Monday 25th October - Friday 29th October

### Term Time

Monday 1st November - Friday 17th December



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

### Keep up to date

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

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