



AST/THO

10 September 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Thank you so much for ensuring such a smooth start to the new academic year. I could not feel more proud of our students and staff this week and the tremendous efforts they have made.

### **New Uniform**

I would like to thank all parents and carers for your support with the introduction of our new uniform. Students have arrived to school looking exceptionally smart and professional. I am aware that a number of parents are still experiencing difficulty securing some of the uniform, I understand this to be mainly items of the PE kit and larger sized blazers. Our school suppliers are facing challenges within their supply chain, which I understand is affecting a large number of schools along with Colton Hills. Can I reassure parents that sanctions will not be issued to students who have not yet secured the correct uniform and we will write to you again once the new stock is available.

### **High Performance Learning**

Our INSET days focused on our journey to world class and staff received a presentation from Dr Cathy Feeney, who will work with us throughout our three-year journey. During her presentation Dr Feeney highlighted the latest research in cognitive sciences which reveals that most children are capable of reaching higher levels of performance that were previously only associated with the 'gifted and talented.' Brains are malleable, IQ is not fixed and parent intervention is strongly associated with students achieving academic success. Therefore, over the coming term we will be sharing our progress and ideas of ways in which parents can support us in our journey.

### **Sports Day**

This week year 8 enjoyed their postponed sports day experience on Wednesday afternoon, during their enrichment slot. All students engaged fully by participating well and supporting others when they competed. Each year group will have their own sports day experience (weather permitting) on the following days, during the enrichment slot:

Year 7: Wednesday 15 September

Year 10: Wednesday 22 September

Year 9: Wednesday 29 September

Year 11: Wednesday 6 October





Students are expected to wear PE kit on their designated day.

## The New Look School Day

**Period 0** begins at **8.00am** every morning and students can now arrive at school and enjoy breakfast in the canteen or visit our library.

Our daily library opening times are as follows:

- Monday 8.00 am - 4.00 pm
- Tuesday 8.00 am - 3.30 pm
- Wednesday 8.00 am - 3.30 pm
- Thursday 8.00 am - 3.30 pm
- Friday 8.00 am - 3.00 pm

All students are expected to be in school at **8.20 am** this allows them time to get to their classrooms. Our taught academic programme begins at **8.30 am**. A number of students are arriving late and are losing valuable learning time as a consequence.

During morning break students can also enjoy a range of snacks which include cheese on toast, sausage or bacon baps, waffles and wraps. Please visit our website for up to date menus. Copies of our lunch time menus are attached.

## Lateral Flow Testing:

We have carried out well over 1000 tests already this week. Three positive cases were identified and are now isolating. As there are less than five students were within separate year groups we continue with our normal operating procedures. All students have been supplied with test kits to continue their twice weekly testing throughout September. We kindly ask parents to support us in ensuring that students are testing twice weekly and that any student displaying symptoms remains at home until they receive a negative PCR test.

## Electric Scooters – Banned from the school site:

A number of students have started to use electric scooters as a means of transport to school. At the moment, electric scooters can only be used on private land and it is effectively illegal to use them on public roads, pavements, cycle lanes and pedestrian only areas. Therefore, please can I ask parents not to allow students to come to school on electric scooters. As well as the legal issues, I am also concerned about the safety of our students, staff and families. Should there be any changes to the UK law I will review our position as a school.





## Open Evening

On Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September we have our annual open evening event for prospective year 7 parents, but I would invite existing parents to come along too and take a look at our school and hear about our plans for moving our good school to world class. The evening will begin at 5.00 and you are more than welcome to join us. If you would like to attend please email [thollingsworth@coltonhills.co.uk](mailto:thollingsworth@coltonhills.co.uk) to express your interest.

I look forward to meeting with you all in the very near future.

Yours sincerely

Mrs A Stephens

Headteacher

