



May Half Term Update

May 20<sup>th</sup> 2019

Dear Parents / Carers

### Examination Season

This very short and intense half term has seen an incredible focus from our examination year groups as the GCSE and A'Level exam season has started. Massive thanks go to parents and carers who have continued to support and encourage your children at this crucial time. Following the tremendous success of our Easter School revision sessions, school will again open to students on Wednesday and Thursday of Half Term, supported by our wonderful staff team who are again giving up their time to offer additional revision sessions.

In my regular lesson walkthroughs this past 3 weeks I have been looking closely at work in students' books and am delighted to see improvements in students' vocabulary and extended writing – two key focus areas we have been working on across the school. As we enter the fourth and final season of this academic year, we will be ensuring individual students identify those areas they need to improve from their Season 3 assessments and using this final stretch of the academic year to achieve maximum progress.

### Welcome to our new Chair of Governors

On Monday May 13<sup>th</sup>, Dan Phelps was elected as our new Chair of Governors after Andy McHale reached the end of his term of office here. Mark Eaves-Seeley has been elected vice-chair. We are excited that both colleagues will bring great expertise and drive to our plans for the future here at Colmers. We are also delighted that Andy will remain on the Governing Body to continue supporting us moving forwards.

### Site Safety – early morning access arrangements

As part of our regular reviews of safety arrangements around our school site, we have decided to increase supervision of access to the school buildings from 7.30a.m. in the morning when the school gates were previously opened. With immediate effect, we have taken the decision to keep the Fordrough gates closed until 8am. daily, with the rear gate now staying closed until 8.20 a.m. so that we can supervise access onto the site. Any student or visitor needing to access the site before that time will be able to enter through the main reception. This is staffed from 7.45 a.m. although we can allow earlier access if needed.

These measures will reduce the risk of unsupervised access to the school buildings and help us to ensure everyone in our school community remains safe. If you have any concerns or need to discuss specific arrangements for your child, please do not hesitate to contact your child's Head of Year or contact me directly through [enquiries@colmers.school](mailto:enquiries@colmers.school).

## **Student Safety and Well-Being**

In my previous letter to you I let you know that we will be introducing planned searches as part of our efforts to continue to raise awareness among our students of how to keep safe. By carrying out the search initiative, we expect to further raise awareness and to encourage students to let us know if they are concerned for their own or anyone else's safety in or outside of school.

As a starting point, we will choose one form group at random and give them a personal safety talk followed by the search process. Students will be notified in advance that the initiative is starting and we will roll out through form groups in all years over the coming weeks, giving students the opportunity to think carefully about their choices and ensuring everyone in our school community feels safe.

It will be helpful if you discuss this initiative in advance with your child. If you or your child are worried in any way about any element of safety in school, you can contact us directly to inform us or make use of our excellent Sharp system which can be accessed via the school's website.

I have also recently updated our school medical policies, in particular to review our arrangements for students and staff with allergies. We have a number of staff and students with severe nut allergies. I am therefore asking for your help by ensuring your child does not bring snacks into school that consist of or contain nuts. While we cannot guarantee eliminating these products entirely from the school site, every effort made by parents and students helps our community by reducing the risks and the anxieties of those individuals who are managing these allergies.

## **New-Build Project and End of Term Dates**

We recently held two separate consultation events to inform parents and local residents about the new build project that is due to start at the end of July. In light of the work needed in school to prepare for this, Governors have taken the decision to support the school closing one day earlier than previously published so that we can carry out all of the classroom moves needed for September. Please therefore note that school will now close to students on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> July, not Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July as previously published.

## **Parent Consultation**

In February I held two parent consultation meetings to discuss our curriculum offer for next year and it was fantastic to get input into our plans from those parents who attended. As I approach the end of my first year here at Colmers, we are reflecting on the year so far and planning ahead to ensure your children get the best possible education experience in their precious time here with us. You are warmly invited to the next Headteacher consultation slot to discuss some of the plans we are putting in place for next year, in particular

- Our 2019/20 School Curriculum
- The shape of our school day
- Assessment and Homework
- Communication with parents and carers

The consultation meetings will take place on Thursday June 13<sup>th</sup> at 11.30 a.m. and 5.30p.m. Please confirm your attendance by emailing [enquiries@colmers.school](mailto:enquiries@colmers.school).



### Fond Farewell

We will be extremely sorry to see Mrs L Wilson, our Pupil Welfare Manager, leave us at the end of this week after 12 years of tremendous service to the school and wider community here at Colmers. I know that Mrs Wilson has worked very closely with many families over the years and am sure you will want to join me in wishing her the very best for the future.

As ever, please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any concerns.

Ms E Leaman  
Headteacher

### **Dates for your Diaries:**

Year 13 Graduation	Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> May 2019
School closes for Half Term	Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> May 2019
School reopens	Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June 2019
Year 7 Parents Evening	Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> June 2019
Yr 11 Graduation Ceremony	Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> June 2019
Yr 11 Prom	Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> June 2019
Yr 6 Induction Evening	Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> July 2019
Yr 6 Induction Week	Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> July – Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> July 2019
<b>School closes for Summer</b>	<b>Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2019 – please note change of date</b>