



EL/td/080219

8th February 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to start by thanking you for your support this half term. We have seen some great improvements in attendance, work in lessons and standards of uniform. I appreciate the hard work that goes on behind the scenes at home to ensure your child is attending on time, wearing our uniform with pride. I was delighted to meet with two groups of parents and carers earlier this term to discuss our curriculum plans; it was great to hear their ideas and feedback. I will be setting up regular slots to talk with parents and carers as we move forwards here at Colmers and will send out dates early next half term for the next meetings.

Uniform

I would like to reinforce the school rules with regard to hooded tops and trainers. Students are not permitted to wear hoodies under their blazers, our school jumper provides an added layer for cold days and students must remove additional layers before starting their school day. Our rules for footwear have not changed: we do not accept any form of trainer or canvas shoe, whether plain black or not. We expect all children to be wearing smart, plain black school shoes. This means that manufacturers such as Nike, PUMA, Adidas, Converse and Vans are not suitable for school. In the event you need support with purchasing appropriate school shoes, please contact your child's Head of Year.

Recognition

We have received very positive feedback from parents and carers on the launch of our new ABC Recognition awards which teachers issue during lessons. It is great to see so many of our young people receiving recognition for Achieving Excellence, Belonging Together and Challenging Mindsets.

Improving Behaviour Week

We are very ambitious for all of our young people here at Colmers and I would like to ask for your support with a special Improving Behaviour week next week. We know that the vast majority of our students are working well in lessons and have excellent relationships with their teachers. Talking with students, it is clear that too often, a small minority disturb the learning of others by behaving badly in lessons. There are also incidents when that small minority of students do not respond appropriately to staff instructions.

Next week, we will be running a special Improving Behaviour Week in which students who are uncooperative and/or rude in a lesson will be withdrawn to work in East Gym for the remainder of that lesson, supervised by myself or one of my two Deputy Heads, Mr Morris and Mrs Wilks. We will take that opportunity to find out more about what went wrong in the lesson and to ensure students are helped to find better ways of managing their behaviour and choices. Where there is an ongoing problem in that lesson, we will also offer support to help with a "fresh start" approach so that students can get back on track with their learning.

If a student is withdrawn more than once on one day, you will receive a phone call and your child will sit a same day 60-minute detention. If a student is withdrawn three times on one day, this will lead to a one day Fixed Term Exclusion for persistent poor behaviour and you will be asked to come into school to meet with a senior member of staff and address any underlying concerns.

Our intention through this focused week is to raise the bar here at Colmers and to ensure we are setting the highest possible standards for our young people. We know how much this will help them not only achieve the best possible exam grades for the next part of their journey but also ensure they have the work habits and mind-set to succeed within and beyond school.



Winter Season Reports

Please accept my apologies for an incorrect date in my last letter. Reports will be available to parents via the SimsApp in the week after half term, with paper copies issued week commencing March 4th.

Dates for your Diary

Friday February 15 th	Break up for half term
Monday February 25 th	School re-opens to students
Thursday 28 th February	Year 8 Options Evening
Monday 11 th March	Year 9 Booster Vaccinations
Thursday 21 st March	Year 8 Parents Evening
Thursday 11 th April	Year 9 Parents Evening
Friday 12 th April	School closes for Easter
Monday 29 th April	School reopens

Yours sincerely

Ms E Leaman
Headteacher