

# COLMERS SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

ACHIEVING excellence  
BELONGING together  
CHALLENGING mind-sets

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

## Target Setting Day – this coming Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2017

Our very first Target Setting Day is just a few days away now. The purpose of the day will be a little different for each Year group, but all meetings are held with your son or daughter’s form tutor. Don’t forget that there will be another parents and carers’ evening at another point in the academic year to meet your son or daughter’s individual teachers as well. The dates for those meetings are in the [Annual Handbook for Families](#), available on our website.

Lower School (Years 7 and 8) meetings will focus on how well your children have settled this year and explore their attitudes to learning and homework, their attendance and the progress they are making in lessons. In Middle School (Years 9, 10 and 11) and Upper School (Years 12 and 13), the emphasis is very different and includes a much greater focus on the grades that each student must achieve by the end of their courses in Year 11 (GCSEs) and Year 13 (A-levels).

The biggest change, and the most exciting development, has taken place in Middle School. We have recently begun using data generated by a group known as the Fischer Family Trust. Thousands of schools are now working with this charitable group to set targets for each GCSE student. Each target is highly personalised for every child – everyone’s target is different unless you share the same gender, birth month and exactly the same Year 6 SATs results! In other words, the targets you will be discussing are based on very realistic predictions or forecasts of how your children are likely to perform in their GCSEs.

Put simply, Fisher Family Trust targets enable us to show you some ‘chances graphs’. These chances graphs illustrate how likely your son or daughter is to achieve one grade or another in each subject. Obviously, every boy, born in March, with average SATs results does not get exactly the same grades in their GCSEs. Most get very similar grades (e.g. Grade 5 or 6), but some get much higher grades (e.g. Grade 8 or 9) and some get much lower grades (e.g. Grade 1 or 2).

Our Target Setting Day will enable Year 9, 10 and 11 students and their families to agree on a GCSE target for each of their subjects and in doing so ask important questions like, “How can I ensure I am one of those who gets higher grades than average?” or, “How can I avoid being one of those who gets lower grades than average?”.

Hopefully, you can see how quickly our Target Setting Day conversations will then turn to those things that each family or student controls and will always make a massive difference:

- ✓ Family Support
- ✓ Attitudes to learning
- ✓ Homework and revision patterns at home
- ✓ Behaviour and attendance

The Target Setting Day kicks off at 10am and the last appointment needs to be over by 7pm. An on-line booking system is in operation and the vast majority of families are now booked up – but, if you are one of the exceptions, please book online as soon as possible. If you cannot attend then your son or daughter must attend and we will then finalise the targets with you afterwards.

We also hope that all families will attend at least one of our workshops that are running throughout the day. A full list of those workshops appears at the end of this newsletter. Each one can be booked on-line or when you arrive on Thursday.

No doubt we shall experience a few hiccups along the way as we introduce this major new event at the school. It will be taking place next year, probably in September, and we shall let you know of that date much earlier next year. Throughout the day we will be offering lunch and dinner at *very* low prices to help families focus on the target setting and not have to worry as much about cooking dinner or lunch!

Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2017

Welcome to Colmers' Target Setting Day

**TODAY'S WORKSHOPS**

On the hour, Every hour, from 10am till 6pm.

Please see the list of targets and workshops below. The list is divided into three sections: (1) Lower School, (2) Middle School and (3) Upper School. The list is divided into three sections: (1) Lower School, (2) Middle School and (3) Upper School. The list is divided into three sections: (1) Lower School, (2) Middle School and (3) Upper School.

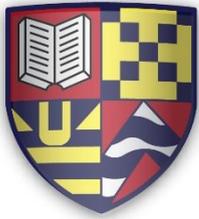
**COLMERS SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM COLLEGE**

HEADTEACHER  
Mr Barry Doherty

www.colmers.bham.sch.uk  
T: 0121 453 1778 F: 0121 457 7642  
E: enquiries@colmers.bham.sch.uk



Colmers School @ColmersSchool  
Bristol Road South, Rednal, Birmingham, B45 9NY



### Updated Website

Visitors to our website will have noticed some changes to the feel and layout of the site. We hope this improves visitors' 'user experience' and that we have included everything that families want to know or get their hands on. There is one part of our site that is very new and is called '[The Head's Page](#)'. This is something that I wanted to develop for some time and provides me with an opportunity to refer to my own [background](#) and [beliefs](#), but, much more importantly, sets out where we are as a school.

In a sub-section called '[How good are we at Colmers?](#)', I have set out our strengths and weaknesses as a school. This approach is quite unusual because I wish to illustrate those areas that are working really effectively and make us all proud, but also those parts of our school and school-life that should be better. The section not only identifies strengths and areas for improvement, but also some of the main ways that we will be seeking to secure those improvements over the next three years. I hope that you will explore this and get in touch with any questions and ideas. The box above summarises the topics that I explore and discuss in some depth.

There are a number of new features on our website and some are in development, including an interactive section of our website that will be ready in the New Year, that enables us all to connect to the excitement around the construction of a brand new building at the school. We shall be using this part of our website to show images of the history of our school and site, but also help the students understand what, exactly, is happening each week during the planning and construction phase of this multi-million pound investment at Colmers. Images from "Colmers One", our drone, will provide spectacular views of the construction process.

### New Build Update

It has been a very busy few months as we work with others to agree on something called the 'Schedule of Accommodation'. This is a fancy term that summarises all of the spaces and rooms that will go into the new building. Last week we hosted a 'Bidders' Day' event at the school – a chance for the various large construction companies to visit our school and to weigh up their own applications to complete the construction of our new building and demolish the West Block. By the New Year we will know which company will be carrying out the work and by February half term we shall have a pretty good idea of what the building will look like and where the various classrooms and other spaces will be located. This enables a planning application to be submitted in time for the work to commence in the summer. Although the new building will be our new Lower School, all Year groups will be using the new building for specialist lessons in Art, ICT, Dance, Drama, Music, assemblies and public performances.

***We hope that Thursday's Target Setting Day goes smoothly and successfully reminds your children of what they can be if they choose to be the best version of themselves. With just three full weeks of term left before Christmas and with pre-public examinations in Years 11 and Sixth Form soon to commence, it is a really important time for every student to make sure they lay the foundations for success right now and not wait until those final exams are around the corner.***

Yours sincerely,

Barry Doherty,

Headteacher

### How good is our...

- Attendance and Punctuality?
- Behaviour?
- Attainment?
- Progress?
- Personal Development
- Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural Development (SMSC)?
- Safeguarding?
- Our School Site?

HEADTEACHER  
Mr Barry Doherty

[www.colmers.bham.sch.uk](http://www.colmers.bham.sch.uk)

T: 0121 453 1778 F: 0121 457 7642

E: [enquiries@colmers.bham.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@colmers.bham.sch.uk)

Colmers School @ColmersSchool

Bristol Road South, Rednal, Birmingham, B45 9NY



*Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2017*

*Welcome to Colmers' Target Setting Day*

## **TODAY'S WORKSHOPS**

**On the hour, every hour, from 10am till 6pm**

How your child's targets are generated.

(Mr Morris, Deputy Headteacher **in SF3**).

Why some children do better than others.

(Mr Doherty, Headteacher **in the East Conference Room**).

Preparing your child for their GCSE exams.

(Mr Boardman, Assistant Headteacher and Mr Bennett, Head of Year 11).

E-Safety – how to keep your child safe in the digital age.

(Mr Brookes, Assistant Headteacher and DSL **in N3**).

Well-being: how to help your child cope with the pressures of GCSEs.

(Mrs Finch, Assistant Headteacher and Mrs Meredith, Lead Practitioner **in W9 / The Dance Studio**).

Parenting – the teenage years!

(Mrs Wilson, Pupil Welfare Manager and Deputy DSL **in W8 / The Black Hole**).

GCSE English – a guide to the course for parents and carers and how to help them get through it.

(Mr Warner, Head of Middle School English **in E1**).

English in Lower School: How to help with your child's reading and writing.

(Mrs Wilks, Deputy Headteacher **in W7 / The Lower School Pod**).

Maths in Middle School: How to prepare your child for their GCSE examinations.

(Mr Fox, Assistant Headteacher and Mr Man, Teacher of Mathematics **in E16**).

SEN: Supporting your children with special educational needs.

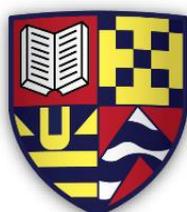
(Mrs Bennett, SENDCo and Assistant Head in **E3 / The Green Room**).

Careers Post-16 – What are the options out there and how can they be achieved?

(Mrs Roberts, Careers Manager **in E4 / the New Library**).

All Years: The value and importance of Colmers' Sixth Form for your child.

(Mr Charlett, Head of Upper School and Mrs Thompson, Deputy Head of Upper School **in SF2**).



**COLMERS SCHOOL**  
& SIXTH FORM COLLEGE