

COLMERS SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM COLLEGE



Opening Minds & Opening Doors

“Our Colmers Way provides a careful balance of high expectations and high support, so that our young people develop the character habits for success in school and beyond.”





WELCOME TO COLMERS SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

I am delighted that you are considering Colmers School and Sixth Form College.

Our school is a vibrant, oversubscribed mixed comprehensive that takes pride in serving our local community. At Colmers, we are committed to providing an outstanding education for all our students, supported by our ethos of high expectations paired with high support, encapsulated in our Colmers Way.

We strive for our students to achieve excellent GCSE results and to continue their educational journey in our sixth form, following the successful paths of previous students who have progressed to universities, higher-level apprenticeships, and various employment opportunities.

Choosing the right school for your child is crucial. You want to ensure they are supported, encouraged, and given every chance to reach their full potential. At Colmers, our goal is for every student to look back on their time here with fond memories and a sense of accomplishment.

I hope this prospectus provides a useful introduction to our school. For more detailed information, please visit our website at www.colmers.school. Should you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact us.

Peter White
Headteacher



COLMERS VISION & VALUES

At Colmers, our school vision is Opening Minds & Opening Doors.

We are ambitious for every one of our students to benefit from a Colmers education that opens doors beyond school. Great teaching is our core business – we want to excite and inspire our learners, equipping them with the powerful knowledge and understanding they need to succeed in and beyond their examinations. The exceptional extra-curricular and enrichment opportunities that we offer, support our students' personal development, which is central to their success and well-being.



ACHIEVING
excellence
BELONGING
together
CHALLENGING
mind-sets

Achieving Excellence, Belonging Together and Challenging Mindsets are our school values and underpin everything that we do at Colmers.

We value the talents, potential and unique qualities of every Colmers student and are ambitious to make sure that every single student aims for excellence. At Colmers, this is about always trying our best, learning from mistakes and being determined to keep improving: we recognise that everyone has different starting points but we do not set a limit on what any individual can achieve. We are determined that each child achieves their best possible examination outcomes alongside a positive sense of identity, knowing how important both of these are to opening doors beyond school.

It is very important to us that every student, every member of staff and every parent and carer feels part of the Colmers family. Our relationships with parents and carers are essential to ensuring the success, safety and well-being of our young people, especially as they navigate our fast-changing world.

We are a community that values our individual differences while we work together towards shared goals. At Colmers, we think it is essential to promote diversity, equity and inclusion. This means that we celebrate our differences and do our very best to remove barriers for individuals and groups who may face additional challenges, disadvantages or discrimination.



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"We want our students to become life-long learners who gain excellent qualifications that lead to exciting opportunities."

OUR COLMERS CURRICULUM

Know More, Do More, Be More

Our ambitious, high quality curriculum is designed to inspire our students to Know More, Do More, Be More.

We want our students to become life-long learners who gain excellent qualifications that lead to exciting opportunities. The importance of reading is evident across our curriculum. Our Library & Study Centre supports our students to extend their learning beyond the classroom.

- We will ensure that students **achieve excellence** by experiencing a rich curriculum that is broad and balanced for all.
- Students will acquire **powerful knowledge** and connect their learning over time so that their learning sticks: the better we understand what we learn, the more likely we are to remember it
- **Literacy and numeracy** lie at the heart of our teaching to improve the life chances of all our students
- Students will have their **minds opened by engaging with the best that has been said and done** in a range of subject disciplines.
- They will have the opportunity to achieve qualifications that **open doors** to careers and future happiness.
- As a community of life-long learners, **we aim to inspire a love of reading in all aspects of our curriculum.** Reading, is one of the most significant ways we can impact future success and we aim to provide all our pupils with every possible chance by exposing them to **high quality, appropriately challenging and engaging texts in their lessons every day.**

Home Learning

Colmers home learning is not an optional extra, but an essential part of a great education and creating effective learners.

The expectation is that **all students complete home learning** whether it is either retrieval and consolidation, extended learning or milestone assessment preparation booklets.

Key Stage 3

In Key Stage 3 your child will study the full range of National Curriculum Subjects. This comprises the core subjects of English, Mathematics, & Science, alongside Art, Design Technology, Food Technology, History, Geography, Modern Foreign Languages, PE, Computing, Religious Studies, Drama & Music. At the end of Year 9 students choose the option subjects that they will study for the remainder of their Key Stage 4 education.

Key Stage 4

All students study a core curriculum of English, Maths, Science, Religious Studies, PE and PSHE. We then offer a strong mix of academic and vocational options to enable all students to maintain a broad and balanced curriculum that will open doors at the end of Year 11. This includes Art, Business Studies, Computer Science, Dance, Design Technology, Digital i-Media, Drama, Engineering, Food Technology, Film Studies, French, Geography, Graphics, Health and Social Care, History, Music, Physical Education/ Sports Studies.

Key Stage 5 – Dare to Dream

Our Sixth Form curriculum offer is tailored to students who wish to pursue a pathway to university or higher level apprenticeships through A Levels and BTEC Level 3 Sport. We pride ourselves on teaching subjects at A level that support pathways into humanities, science, sports/ health and arts degrees or apprenticeships. We also offer an exciting Basketball Academy pathway, in partnership with Bromsgrove Bears. We are immensely proud of the destinations achieved by our sixth form leavers, bucking the trend and ensuring that more students from our local area benefit from a university education.

You will be able to find full details of our curriculum model on the Curriculum Section of our school website. This will tell you what subjects are taught in each year group and how much curriculum time is given to each of the subjects. You will also find a curriculum overview for each subject, which maps out the key content taught over the course of each year.

OUR COLMERS PASTORAL SYSTEM

Be Ready, Be Respectful, Be Safe

We have an incredible Colmers Pastoral Team that offers wide-ranging support for your child from their first visit to their last day with us. Every child is part of a tutor group and their Form Tutor is an important part of their school life. Students start each day with their Form Tutor, their first point of contact and someone who will support them through any ups and downs through their time at Colmers. Each year group also has a Head of Year and a Pastoral Support Worker, who support your child's academic, social and emotional well-being. Our intervention and inclusion teams offer support and intervention for students with additional needs and those who are vulnerable.

We appreciate the challenges that many young people face with their mental health and well-being: our pastoral programme is designed to help students navigate these complex issues and we have a range of support available, including our own school counselling team, to support students who are struggling.

Personal Development

Our approach to Personal Development at Colmers centres around the Colmers Character, our 9 Habits of Success: these are the essential elements that every student needs to achieve academic and personal success in and beyond school.

Colmers Character		
Achieving Excellence	Belonging Together	Challenging Mind-Sets
We will be:		
Reflective Hard Working Resilient	Collaborative Compassionate Inclusive	Curious Courageous Ambitious

Our PSHE curriculum (Personal, Social, Health Education) and our Religious Studies curriculum play a key role in our students' education. Through PSHE, we promote students' character development, building habits for success and promoting students' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. We also help our students understand their rights and responsibilities and support them to become positive contributors to our community.

Sex and Relationships Education

All schools are required to deliver appropriate sex and relationships education. At Colmers we recognise that families come in different shapes and sizes. Our sex and relationships education recognises the diversity of our school and wider community. It is taught mainly through PSHE and science and is designed to help students consider their moral values and develop respect for self and others as the basis for healthy relationships.

Student Participation and Leadership

At Colmers, we want every student to participate in opportunities outside of the classroom that support their personal development. Our programme of extra-curricular activities is reviewed every year as staff consider different clubs and activities that we know will enrich our students lives.

We offer a very substantial offer of PE clubs before and after school, as well as the opportunity to be active during the lunch break. In addition, we have a whole range of clubs from STEM, Maths, French, Politics & Current Affairs, Art and Robotics. Homework club runs every day to support students needing assistance with Home learning. Our Duke of Edinburgh Award programme offers students in years 10 – 13 amazing opportunities to develop a host of vital life skills.

We offer a calendar of trips and visits throughout the year so that students are exposed to cultural and educational experiences outside of their usual environment.

We think it is essential that students have opportunities to take the lead and to influence our improvement journey. School leaders work closely with our School Council, who give voice to the key issues that students would like to see us address or improve. Our team of prefects are a powerful presence in the school, supporting the leadership team, our faculties and our form tutors. These opportunities are invaluable experiences that not only develop our students' character, but also give them the edge when competing for sixth form, college, university or jobs.



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"Our Colmers Way sets out in detail for students the high standards we expect. We know how important it is to recognise and celebrate students' achievements."



BEHAVIOUR FOR LEARNING AT COLMERS

Our vision for behaviour for learning is captured in our school mantra, **"Be Ready, Be Respectful, Be Safe"**. We expect students to be ready to learn, to be respectful and to behave safely at all times.

We support our students to take responsibility when they make poor choices, accept the consequences, and learn from their mistakes.

Our approach to positive behaviour for learning is built on the following foundations:

- Good **relationships and communication** between all members of our school community
- Positive **recognition** of positive behaviour and achievements through our 'first attention to the positive focus'
- Consistent **routines** in and beyond the classroom, rigorously implemented by all staff and followed by all students
- Clear **consequences** that are understood and implemented with the support of parents and carers
- Effective **interventions** for students who are struggling, supporting them to learn from mistakes. We are an inclusive school and we will always go the extra mile to help students who are struggling to manage themselves and their behaviour.

Our Colmers Way sets out in detail for students the high standards we expect. We know how important it is to recognise and celebrate students' achievements. We also know that young people need clear, consistent boundaries and consequences to help them develop habits for success. We pride ourselves on an approach that brings out the best in our young people through rewarding good progress and achievement in lessons, participation in extra-curricular activities and contributing to our wider school community.

We make sure that our expectations are clearly communicated to all of our students so that they are supported to make positive choices. When students do not meet the high standards we set in school, they may be issued with a same day detention at the end of the school day. Further consequences may apply if there are further incidents of poor behaviour.

From the outset of their time at Colmers, we expect to establish the strongest possible relationships with parents and carers through our Home School Agreement. This ensures that our students get consistent messages from home and school, enabling them to live up to high expectations.



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Attendance

Good attendance at school is essential for academic success. Our expectation is that students achieve 100% attendance unless too ill to come to school and our rewards system recognises excellent attendance.

We ask that all parents and carers support us to ensure students maintain excellent attendance and punctuality. We ask that all parents and carers contact us on the first day of absence. We know that sometimes children and families experience additional challenges: our Attendance Manager and Family Support Workers are on hand to support at times you may be struggling to ensure your child's full attendance.

In line with national and local guidance, we do not authorise leave in term time except where the circumstances are exceptional. If your child does take leave without permission, this will be recorded as unauthorised and can lead to the issuing of a penalty notice or legal action.

Uniform and Equipment

At Colmers, we expect the highest standards of uniform as intrinsic to a culture of success. Full details of our uniform can be found on our website. We expect all students to be well equipped for their lessons and offer an equipment pack to all students to purchase from Student Services.

Mobile Phones

We have a strict policy in school that mobile phones must be kept out of sight, off and away in school bags, at all times unless a teacher requires the use of mobile phones as a learning device in the classroom. We expect teachers to only make use of mobile phones when this makes a significant and positive difference to the learning that is taking place.

Mobile phones will be confiscated if seen and the school takes no responsibility for such items if they get damaged, lost or stolen.



“We are extremely fortunate to offer our students superb facilities at Colmers. In recent years we have benefited from over £8m of capital investment.”

Inclusion at Colmers - SEND and EAL

At Colmers, we are committed to inclusion. All of our staff understand that every student needs the curriculum to be accessible and appropriate. We expect every student to get their full curriculum entitlement and we make sure that support and scaffolding enable all of our students with special educational needs or English as an Additional Language to make good progress. Our team of Teaching Assistants and Higher Level Teaching Assistants offer specialist support and guidance, working closely with families to support individual students.

Our Facilities

We are extremely fortunate to offer our students superb facilities at Colmers. In recent years we have benefited from over £8m of capital investment: this led to the opening of our fantastic new West Block in October 2021. We have followed that investment with carefully planned upgrades to the rest of the school so that students experience top quality learning environments in all lessons - our specialist science, Design Technology and PE facilities have all benefited from significant upgrades so that the delivery of the curriculum is never compromised.

We know how important access to technology is across the curriculum: our starting point is to make sure that all staff are

well-equipped with resources to support the planning and delivery of the curriculum. All classrooms are equipped with the latest interactive screens. With over 300 student laptops and 3 dedicated ICT rooms, students always have access to devices that they need to support their learning. We have invested heavily in text books as well as online resources to support your child's learning in the classroom and at home.

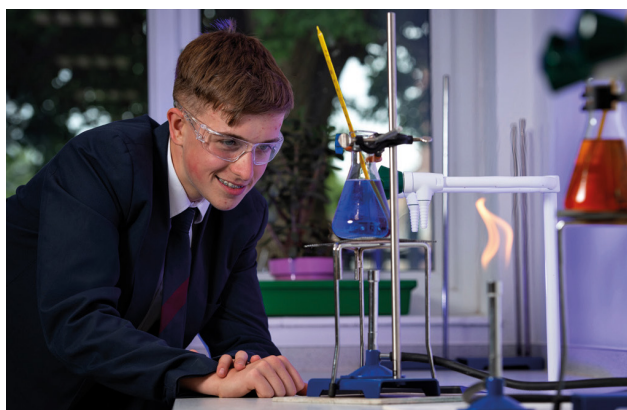
Over the course of the pandemic, with school investment and support from the DFE, we have been able to ensure that every single child in need of a device at home is able to loan a laptop from school. We are determined to continue this essential commitment to ensure no child is left behind.

Our School Canteen

We are fortunate to have a fantastic catering provider in school who offers free breakfast to students who arrive between 8 – 8.30 (toast in Summer months, Porridge in Winter). At break and lunch, students can purchase a range of hot and cold snacks, with a highly nutritious and delicious hot meal of the day available every day.

Students may bring their own packed lunch. Students are required to stay on site during break and lunchtime.

We operate a cashless catering system for those paying for their meals and for those in receipt of a free school meal.



Partnerships at Colmers

As a school, we know that the life chances of our students can be significantly enhanced through partnership working. Our partnership with parents and carers is paramount to supporting our students to be successful in school. Beyond these hugely important relationships, we are proud to be constantly developing exciting partnerships that add new dimensions to our students lives in school.

This includes:

- Our Basketball Academy with Bromsgrove Bears
- Our Football Academy with Bromsgrove Sporting FC
- The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, which is offered to students in years 10-13
- UNICEF – we are a UNICEF Rights Respecting School
- Our work on anti-racism and equalities with brap, the Birmingham based equalities charity
- Our engineering partnership with The Royal Engineering Academy and South and City College
- Our partnership with Keble College Oxford and the Access Project
- Our Aim Higher partnership with University of Birmingham
- Our membership of The Oaks Collegiate, our local network of schools
- Our collaboration with the Teacher Development Trust, who support our approach to continuous professional development
- Our partnerships with the King Edward Consortium and a number of other Initial Teacher Training providers
- Our work with Think SEND, a collaboration between local schools to support provision for children with special educational needs

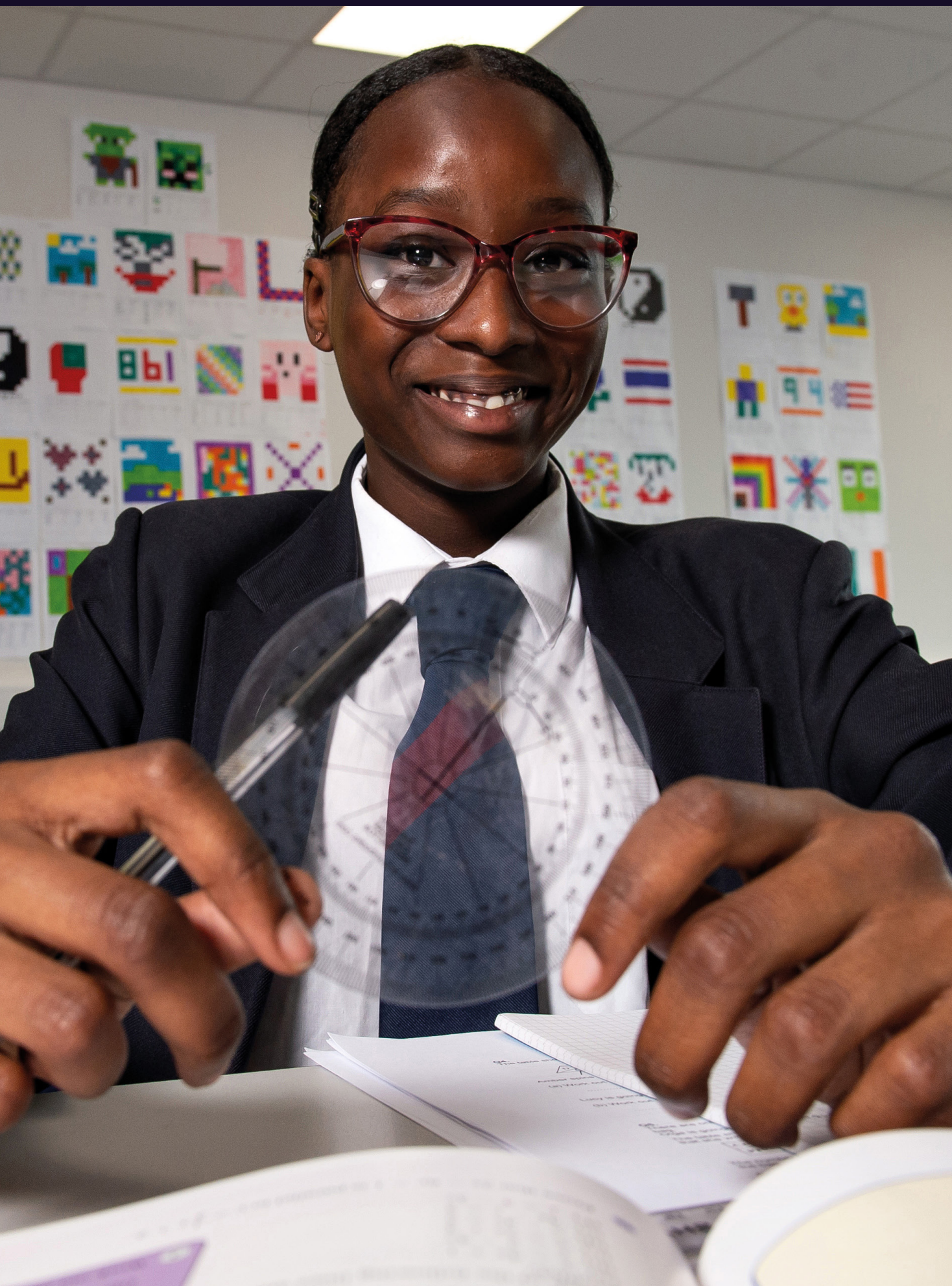
Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

At Colmers, we are committed to celebrating diversity, promoting equity and ensuring an inclusive culture. We see this as a journey in which we fulfil our Public Sector Equality Duty within and beyond our classrooms. In practice this means:

- We regularly review our curriculum to ensure under-represented groups are made more visible.
- We create safe spaces for students, staff, parents and carers to explore sensitive and challenging issues such as racism, sexism, homophobia and transphobia.
- We consider how we can eradicate gaps in outcomes for disadvantaged groups.
- We are explicit that we are an anti-racist school.
- We celebrate difference and identity through key events such as Black History Month, LGBTQ+ History Month, Local History Month.
- We encourage our students to take the lead through participating in projects and activities designed to promote diversity, equity and inclusion.
- Our DEI Staff Working Group meets half-termly to shape our programme of DEI work.

We invite our students, staff, parents, carers and Governors to be active in tackling all forms of prejudice and discrimination through adopting our Colmers DEI Pledge and wearing one of our Colmers DEI Badges to show your support.







COLMERS SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

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