



Mrs Wilks' Seasonal Newsletter



Friday 22nd September 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am delighted to be sharing my first Newsletter of the year with you. We have had a tremendous start to the new school year and I have been so impressed with all our Lower School pupils, in their appearance, their engagement and their effort. It has been such a privilege to see them behave so beautifully both in lessons and around the school in general. Our new Year 7s are some of the most well-mannered and polite children I have worked with, and their chorus of 'Good Morning' every morning makes my day a better one.

Open Evening

Last night we opened our doors to future Year 7s and their families and what a night it was! The Bridge is looking even better than we could have hoped for and we were thrilled to be able to display examples of some of the wonderful work produced over the last two weeks. The Canopic jars, set as My World homework, are incredible and have been presented with such pride.

It was lovely to see so many families and to be able to talk to them about what we have created in The Bridge. Parents and pupils alike were comforted, at what can be quite a stressful time, by our transition programme and felt excited about the prospect of joining our school community.

I must congratulate Jack Colley, Head Boy, and Molly Jones, Head Girl, on their wonderful speeches. They both talked passionately about how Colmers has helped them to become the best versions of themselves – truly inspiring. Molly told us all to "reach for the stars in your own sky, not someone else's" which will remain with me as one of the many highlights of the evening.

Some of our new Year 7s have shared their thoughts about The Bridge and you will soon be able to watch this on our Facebook and Twitter pages. I feel very proud of them and am astounded by their confidence and their genuine excitement at starting Year 7. Thank you to Mrs Snell for producing yet another superb video for us.



First impressions

As well as our 210 new Year 7s, we also welcomed new staff to Colmers at the beginning of this month. I asked them to share their thoughts and feelings about Colmers.

Mr Pratt (Raising Standards Leader in Maths) said:

"What has struck me in my first two weeks at Colmers is the supportive and welcoming nature of the staff. It is obvious that colleagues have a real compassion for both other teachers and for pupils and take a pride in making Colmers a positive environment for the young people who come here."

Mr Ramsey (Head of Year 10 and PE teacher) commented:

"Colmers School is a fast paced environment where the students are put first. Having come from an all boys' school, girls help make break and lunch calmer. All I need to do now is stop getting lost!"

And Miss Price (Head of Lower School English) told me:

"The staff are very supportive and share the same ideas and values about the direction of the school. The pupils in The Bridge are engaged, focused and excited about their learning. It is wonderful to be a part of this experience."



Reminders

We are delighted with the appearance of our pupils, their uniform looks incredibly smart. Please remind your children that when they wear the Colmers uniform, in school and in the local community, they represent us and their families. When they leave school at 2pm on a Wednesday, we encourage pupils to go straight home quickly and safely.

The Year 7 pupils have responded incredibly well to the policy of handing in their phones at the beginning of the day and collecting them at the end of the day. We do get a few starting to beep and buzz in the office from 3.25pm onwards. Please be aware that it does take a few minutes to reunite phones with their owners so please do not try to contact your children before the end of the school day.

Weekend Talking Point

Here at Colmers, we are always trying to raise the profile of oracy – giving our children something to say and teaching them to say it well. You could support this at home by following our ABC rules; try to **add** to, **build** on or **challenge** what someone else has said

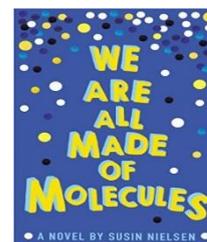
I know that finding time together as a family is difficult, especially during the week. In my newsletters I shall be posing a question, something for you to all get talking about together at home. So here's this weekend's question...

If you could have a conversation with anyone in history, who would it be and what would you ask them?

Encourage your children to come and ask me who I'd want to talk to and to share their own ideas and yours with me and their teachers.

Book Club

We all know how important reading is; a good reader makes an excellent writer. Reading is also an excellent way of escaping our own hectic lives as we immerse ourselves in worlds beyond our imagination. I have been looking out for books that both parents and their children would enjoy, something to share and talk about. My son and I have recently shared this one, *We Are All Made of Molecules* by Susin Neilson and we both recommend it. I have a few copies in school, let me know if you'd like to borrow one. Watch this space for more recommendations!



Keep in touch!

Please remember that we are here for you, as parents, as well as our pupils. Mr Doherty, Mr Morris or I are out on the gate every morning from 8.15am. If there's ever a question or a worry, we will do our best to help out.

Have a wonderful weekend,

Mrs E. Wilks

Deputy Headteacher and Head of Lower School.



Achieving Excellence by **B**elonging Together and **C**hallenging Mind-sets