



February 25th 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

Half Term Update

I hope you and yours have enjoyed a positive half term.

Building work

During half term we have carried out some improvements to the external spaces on the site to enable students to enjoy playing football and basketball at breaks and dinner times.

This work is being carried out in advance of the Colmers Big Build; this has been on the horizon for so long now, many of you may be wondering if it is actually going to happen! The good news is that we have finished our first set of design meetings with the team from the Department of Education and the building contractor, Interserv. Everything is on track to start the build in July 2019 which is incredibly exciting. We are waiting on the dates for planning consultation and expect to be inviting you by the end of March to come and hear about the project. That will also be a great chance for me to share with you what we are proposing for our curriculum next year so please keep an eye out for the invite.

Improving Behaviour

I was delighted to hear from so many students their positive experience of our Improving Behaviour Focus Week. With over 3,000 ABC positive recognitions issued, I hope the majority of you received "Positive Pings" on your phones and devices letting you know that your child has been recognised for Achieving Excellence, Belonging Together or Challenging Mindsets.

As well as our increased focus on great behaviour for learning, this next half term we will also be working with our students on how they conduct themselves on the way to and from school, so that we build on our very positive reputation locally. I was sad at the end of term to receive complaints from two local stores of shoplifting by students in Colmers' uniform; we will be working with those stores and the local police to raise the profile with our students of this antisocial behaviour and I would appreciate your support talking to your child about your expectations of how they conduct themselves on their journey time to and from school.

Your Help

For the coming half term, I would appreciate your help with 3 specific areas we want to improve.

- i) Safety on site: No Footballs or Basketballs.
We have seen increases in the number of accidents or incidents where footballs and basketballs are being used unsafely or inappropriately. From this half term, we will provide footballs and basketballs for any students wishing to play ball games at break or dinner time in designated areas. I am therefore asking



that no students bring in any kind of ball so we can keep everyone safe and reduce the number of incidents occurring, without preventing our student from having a great time during break and dinner.

ii) **Uniform: No Trainers or Trainer Shoes.**

In my last letter to you I highlighted the issues of trainer shoes: these are branded black shoes made by companies such as Nike, Puma, Converse, Adidas. Although many sports shops sell these as shoes, they have never been accepted within our uniform policy at Colmers. I would appreciate your help ensuring your child has the appropriate school shoes for the start of this half term.

iii) **Equipment: pens, pencil, ruler.**

The start of many lessons can be interrupted by students who arrive without correct equipment. Please could you emphasise to your child the importance of coming to school fully equipped to learn. If your child does forget equipment or has any issue bringing a full set of equipment into school, they can request what they need from their form tutor first thing in the morning to avoid detention.

Upcoming Events

Options Fayre: Thursday February 28th 5-7pm

We are looking forward to seeing all of our year students with parents and carers on Thursday this week for our Options Fayre. This is an exciting time for students as they map out their pathways to success at GCSE and beyond.

Year 11 PPEs : from Monday March 4th

Year 11 are approaching their final set of exams to prepare them for their GCSEs. We know this is a stressful time and most of our students are anxious now that the pressure is really on. We are encouraged by the focus of the students in the year group and want to give them that final push, with reassurance, that it is never too late to improve grades and every step counts! If you are worried about your child as exams approach, do please encourage them to talk to their Form Tutor and do not hesitate to contact us for help and support.

As ever, if you have any concerns about your child, do not hesitate to contact me directly and I will ensure the best person to respond gets back to you as a priority.

Emma Leaman

Headteacher



Dates for your Diaries:

School reopens	Monday 25 th February 2019
Year 8 Options Evening	Thursday 28 th February 2019
Year 9 Booster Vaccinations	Monday 11 th March 2019
Year 8 Parents Evening	Thursday 21 st March 2019
Year 9 Parents Evening	Thursday 11 th April 2019
School closes for Easter	Friday 12 th April 2019
School reopens	Monday 29 th April 2019