



February 5th 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Recent Events and Successes

It was lovely to see so many Year 11 students at our Sixth Form Open Evening 2 weeks ago and then to have the chance to speak to so many parents and carers at last week's Year 8 Parent/Carer evening.

You may have been keeping up with some amazing recent successes on our Facebook page and Twitter feed. These have included:

- Fantastic success from our dancers at the recent Birmingham School Games Dance Competition: our Key Stage 4 team now go on to represent in the next round at the Hippodrome in March
- Indoor Athletics wins for our team in the School Games, again going on to represent us in the next round
- Another brilliant win for our Year 7 Football team, through to the Birmingham Cup Quarter-Finals
- Our Under 16 Basketball Team are through to the knock-out stage of the West Midlands league after winning their final fixture to come top of their pool
- Both of our robotics teams have achieved the amazing feat of getting through to the VEX Robotics National Finals

It is wonderful to see so many individuals making the most of their tremendous talents and contributing to our Colmers Team successes. I am sure you will join me in a special thank you to staff who give so generously of their time to ensure our students get so many fantastic opportunities.

Futures Curriculum

Last year, we made some important changes to our Bridge Curriculum to ensure that students were all given the opportunity to study a wide range of subjects in years 7 & 8. This year, we are carrying that work forwards into our Year 9 Futures curriculum. You are warmly invited to join me for a special Parent/Carer Forum on Thursday February 13th. This will be an opportunity for me to share with you the changes we are going to be making for year 8 as they move into Year 9. The Forum is open to all families, however it will be especially relevant to parents and carers of students in Years 7 & 8.

Our Year 9 Futures Evening will follow on March 19th 2019, providing students, parents and carers with the chance to find out more about the subjects they will be able to study in Year 9 and beyond.

Detentions Communication

I hope you received a copy of our Parent/Carer Behaviour for Learning Booklet at the start of this term, setting out the procedures for rewarding and recognising great student achievement and also letting you know all about our sanctions. I have been pleased to receive feedback from students and parents / carers who are finding that changes we have made to simplify the detentions system have made a positive difference.

I have recently had a number of concerns raised by parents and carers regarding text messages for School Detentions. We are also finding a small but significant number of students are missing detentions which creates a great deal of additional work for staff chasing individuals and following up with re-issued detentions. Students will always be notified when issued a detention by a member of staff: they should also be reminded by Form Tutors



during registration but even when this does not happen, students are expected to remember their detentions and to serve the sanction.

Parents and Carers should be alerted via text message and on the SIMS App if your child receives a School Detention (Monday – Thursday 30 minutes) or Headteacher’s Detention (Fridays only, 45 minutes). For this system to work, it is absolutely vital that we have your up to date contact details so please do ring Main Reception on 0121 453 1778 if your phone number or address have changed. Please note that if your child is late to school, they will receive a same day 15-minute detention without notification to parents and carers.

You can help us to maintain high standards in school by ensuring your child co-operates fully with school rules. Please do not under any circumstances tell your child that they cannot or must not sit a detention because you disagree with the school policy: if you wish to discuss a concern or make a complaint, it is important you contact us to let us know. It matters greatly to us as a school community that you do not encourage your child to go against the school rules.

Jewellery, Nails and Hair

Standards of student appearance at Colmers remain a strength within our school community. I would appreciate your continued help with the following standards:

- No acrylic nails - our policy is clear that students should not be wearing acrylic nails, please remind your child that these will need to be removed for school.
- Piercings – we do not allow nose piercings in school, again these will need to be removed for school and we respectfully ask that you do not give permission for your child to have a nose piercing because they will be required to remove any new piercings during the school day.
- Hair: shaved patterns and bright colours – we do not allow any kind of shaved patterns in hair. Bright hair dye and extensions are also not permitted within our uniform policy.

All breaches of uniform policy need to be rapidly rectified: in the event a student continues to breach the policy, they will face community detention at break and dinner time daily. Your full support with our high standards of uniform is appreciated.

As ever, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any concerns and I will get back to you as soon as possible.

Best wishes,

Emma Leaman
Headteacher

Dates for your Diary

Thursday 13 th February	Special Parent Forum: Future curriculum proposals
Thursday 6 th February	Year 12&13 Parents/Carers Evening
Mon 17 th Feb — Friday 21 st Feb	Half-Term Holiday
Thursday March 19 th	Year 8 Futures Evening