



June 20 2019

Dear Parents and Carers

It was a big moment for us last week seeing our year 11 and 13 students finish their public examinations. Students have worked incredibly hard and we are looking forward to them being rewarded for their commitment when the results land in August.

As we approach the end of term, I have some key information updates for you. As ever, I strongly recommend you visit our Twitter feed and/or our Facebook page to get a true insight into the range of our students' fantastic achievements. Highlights include a superb Year 8 French Trip to Boulogne; stunning GCSE and A'Level Art displays; outstanding work across many lessons and an amazing range of enrichment activities.



I am particularly delighted to tell you that Colmers is now officially a UNICEF Rights Respecting School: we were notified earlier this month that we have achieved the Bronze award, recognising the work we do to place the rights of the child, both locally and across the globe, at the heart of our Colmers education. We are excited about the next steps working towards the Silver and Gold level awards which we know will really add value to the learning journeys of our students.

### Uniform

When Mr Morris wrote to you several weeks ago asking for your support with uniform, he advised that we were not going to insist on new school shoes being purchased in this last part of the school year and as such, would be accepting all black footwear for this period. If your child has black leather or leather-type school shoes, they should be continuing to wear these for school during this time.

From September, we will be resuming with our uniform policy on school shoes unchanged, which means that we will be expecting all students to be wearing leather or leather-type black shoes. We must insist that shoes are not branded and are not trainers or trainer-shoes. Mr Morris is preparing some detailed clarification so you have plenty of time over the Summer to ensure your child has the correct footwear.

The only change to our school uniform policy for September is that we will be allowing plain coats of any colour: previously the published uniform policy required a dark coat but we are happy to move to any colour given the potential increased road safety for students wearing lighter and brighter colours.

Thank you for your recent support ensuring hairstyles, jewellery, and nails are all in line with school policy – we have seen a marked improvement and are delighted that our uniform standards remain so high.

### Colmers New-Build

We are very excited that our new-build project will be starting during the Summer holidays. This does mean that our car park will no longer be available for dropping off or picking up students from September. You will be receiving details from Mr Tranter of alternative places you can drop your child: it will be essential that Belton Grove remains free of drop-off/pick-up traffic and I would be most grateful for your support with this during the build project.



### Early Works on West Gym

In order to be ready for our big build project, we are having to complete some early work to our West Gym, including changing rooms. We have thought carefully about how best to manage the lack of changing room space and so for the next two weeks, may be asking some groups of students to do PE lessons in their PE footwear, school shorts and school trousers / skirts. I realise this is far from ideal and will only be used when absolutely essential so please do ensure your child still brings their PE kit into school. This is a very short term measure and if you do have any concerns, please contact Mr Wilcox, Head of PE.

### Busy Times

Life never stands still at Colmers and we have many exciting activities in the lead up to half term.

**Year 10 exams** take place **June 24<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup>**. I have been delighted to see so many students attending extra Period 6 sessions to really focus their revision, their enthusiasm is absolutely brilliant.

**July 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>** is our **Year 6 Induction Week**, in which we welcome our new intake for their first experience of life in school. Our Colmers Barbecue for new students and families is becoming an annual tradition to look forward to. **Please note school will close to yrs 7 – 12 at 1pm on Friday July 5<sup>th</sup>.**

**July 8<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>** sees an incredibly exciting week of trips and visits, thanks to the enormous hard work of Mrs Wilcox to pull together an amazing programme of opportunities. The week will culminate in our Colmers Sports Day and we are all hoping this awful wet weather will be well and truly in the past by then!

### End of Term

As a result of the new-build, we have a number of classroom moves to manage at the end of term. In my last letter, I wrote to advise you that we will be closing for students on **Thursday July 18<sup>th</sup> at 1pm**. Students will have an extended break in the morning in which they can purchase food from the canteen.

### September Start

Our September term will start with two INSET days and we look forward to seeing students return on **Wednesday September 4<sup>th</sup> 2019**.

I will be writing to you again before the end of term to update you on staffing changes for September and make sure any final important messages reach you before the Summer break. In the mean time, as ever, please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any concerns or queries.

Best wishes,

Emma Leaman  
Headteacher