



August 28th 2019

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you have all enjoyed a lovely Summer and are looking forward to the start of term. Please note, **Wednesday September 4th** is the first day back for students.

A'Level and GCSE Results

Over the past 2 weeks, we have been delighted to celebrate A'Level and GCSE results with our students. With a **97% pass rate** (A*-E), including **50% high grades** (A*-B, Distinction, Distinction*) , our Year 13 students even exceeded last year's great results. We are delighted that 10 of our students are taking up places at The University of Birmingham to study a range of courses including Mathematics, Biochemistry, Classical Literature and Civilisations, Ancient History, Political Science & International Relations, Law, English, Sport, Physical Education & Coaching Science and Biological Sciences. Our partnership with the University has gone from strength to strength over the past few years and it is absolutely brilliant to see so many of our students achieving the very high grades that are needed to get into such a prestigious university on our doorstep. Other destinations for students include the University of Newcastle to study Sport & Exercise Science, Cardiff University to study Sports Science, University of Wolverhampton to study Midwifery, Birmingham City University to study Fashion, University of Worcester to study Geography and Aston University to study Mechanical Engineering.

The vast majority of our Year 11 students achieved the GCSE grades they need to progress to their **destination of first choice**, with 50% of students achieving passes in their English and Maths exams. We are especially delighted that so many of the year group will be staying with us into the Sixth Form. Students, parents, carers and staff will be rightly very proud of these achievements and it is great to know that their hard work has paid such dividends. **Massive thanks and congratulations** to each and every student and to their parents, carers and teachers who have supported them every step of the way. There are some lovely photos on our Facebook page for those you who would like to see the moments of joy we experienced on results days!

Start of Term

Although staff are back to school on Monday, we have two INSET days so students are expected in on **Wednesday 4th September** for an 8.42 a.m. start. There will be line-up for each year group where students will be informed of their Form Tutor groups, followed by assemblies and start of term activities to remind students of the standards and expectations for a positive start to the term.

We are moving to a single dinner break this term. We expect it will take a short time for students to get used to the new serving points and arrangements but I am confident that this change will help avoid disruption to lessons and learning time.



Newbuild Update

We were delighted that planning permission was granted for our newbuild project in August, although this was a month later than originally expected! We are busy preparing the site for the construction works to start in October. This means we have a month now when our car park will remain in use. I will be sending details out in the next couple of weeks regarding parking and drop-off arrangements during the construction project so please watch this space!

Uniform

I attach a copy of our uniform requirements with the extra guidance about school shoes issued at the end of last term. Please could you make every effort to ensure your child has a pair of **unbranded black leather or leather type shoes** for the first day of term. Trainers, trainer shoes, canvas shoes and branded shoes are not acceptable within our uniform policy. **Jewellery** is restricted to one small pair of studs / sleepers and one small ring. Only **natural colours of hair dye / braids** are acceptable within our policy. There will be rigorous uniform checks at the start of term and I would like to count on your support for helping us maintain the very high uniform standards we are so proud of as a school community.

Sixth Form students are expected to wear smart casual dress. Jeans, hoodies and trainers are not permitted.

If you require any **financial assistance** with uniform for the start of term, please contact **main reception** so we can provide support in time for your child to be ready by Wednesday.

Equipment

All students will receive a new **school planner** on their first day back at school and they must carry this with them at all times in school. We ask that all students carry the following **equipment** with them in a suitable **school bag** :

- 2 blue or black pens, a green pen, pencil, ruler, eraser, reading book

Form tutors will be ensuring all students have the correct equipment daily and are able to offer support with missing equipment at the start of term if you have any difficulty sourcing what is needed.

Looking Ahead

We are introducing some changes to our Behaviour for Learning, Homework and Assessment cycle this year. I will write to you about those as term gets underway. Governors have also adopted new policies for Complaints and for Adult Behaviour, along with a new Parent Code of Conduct which can be found on our website. The first Parent Forum of the year takes place on **Thursday 19th September, 5pm – 6.30pm** and will be a chance to discuss these changes with you. I look forward to hearing your views on how we are moving forwards here at Colmers and to building the very strong partnerships with you that are so fundamental to the success of our students.

Key dates are overleaf for your information. As ever, please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any concerns and I will make sure the right person gets back to you as a priority.

Best wishes,

Emma Leaman
Headteacher



Key Dates

September 2nd & 3rd : Staff INSET days
September 4th : Students' First Day
September 19th: Parent/Carer Forum 5 – 6.30 pm
September 26th : Open Evening
October 10th: Meet the Tutors Evening 5 – 7.30 pm
October 28th – November 1st : Half Term
November 21st : Presentation Evening
November 22nd : Staff INSET day
December 6th : Early Close
December 20th : School closes for Christmas Break
January 6th : Staff INSET day
January 7th : School opens for students

Uniform & Equipment – *We Belong Together*

In the event of a query / dispute, the Headteacher's decision on a student's uniform and appearance is final.

Footwear

- Plain black leather type school shoes. Shoes must be appropriate for school life and demands.
- Any laces must be black.
- No branding.
- No trainers, pumps or canvas footwear.
- No sling backs, boots or shoes with significant heels.
- Loud, bright socks are not acceptable.

Outdoor wear

- A plain outdoor coat.
- No denim, denim look alike or leather jackets to be worn.
- No sweatshirts, tracksuit tops, or "hoodies".
- No caps at all. Hats to be removed inside the buildings. All outdoor wear to be removed in classrooms.

Trousers and skirts

- Official school-skirt or tailored trousers.
- No denim, or denim look alike to be worn.
- Skirts should be school style only (blue tartan) and be no more than 5cm above or below the knee.
- No lycra/stretch material.
- No decoration (belts/buckles/zips/buttons/sparkle etc.).
- No track suit bottoms or other fashion trousers.

Hair and jewellery

- No unreasonable or extreme haircuts – please check before attending barbers/hairdressers.
- No shaved patterns or lines in the hair or eyebrows.
- Only plain dark coloured hair bands/clips/slides – no other hair accessories (e.g. bows, flowers etc.).
- Hair colouring must be natural hair colour only (i.e. not purple/pink/peroxide/red etc.).
- Jewellery is restricted to one small ring, a watch and one pair of plain small sleeper/stud earrings and no other piercings (no nose, tongue, eyebrow studs etc.). See fuller guide for further information.

Make-up

- Any make-up must be subtle – no dark eyeliner, false/large/dark eyelashes, no bright eye shadow and only light foundation. No nail varnish or false nails.
- No visible tattoos or body art.

Equipment

- A suitable school bag that will carry and protect school books.
- Planner.
- At least two pens, a green pen, two pencils, eraser and a ruler.
- A reading book.

Did we miss anything?

Let us know if next year's handbook should include additional items of information.

Colmers School and Sixth College: Guidance on School Shoes

Over recent years the difference between trainers and shoes has become blurred. Inevitably, this has made it increasingly difficult for parents and carers to make sure that their children are in the correct uniform. To support parents, carers and their children, we have produced this document so that the correct footwear can be selected that is both smart and in keeping with our policies and values. What must never be forgotten is that during a school day footwear will be buffeted and bruised. Therefore, it must be robust and up to those challenges.

In addition to this, we are aware that parents and carers are often put under pressure to buy footwear that is high-fashion and branded. We have always felt that this kind of pressure and peer-pressure should be kept away from school. Therefore, there will be no branding of footwear at Colmers School and Sixth Form College.



Trainers and branded.



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Branded.



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If ever you are unsure of what shoes are acceptable, please contact your child's Head of Year. It is always easier to check before you purchase the item.