



October 8th 2020

Dear Parents & Carers,

I am very excited to confirm that we are at last able to move into our New West Building at Half Term. Many of you will know that the planned replacement of West Block started over 10 years ago so it is a very memorable milestone for us to know that our students will at last benefit from the massively improved facilities.

In the first instance, the New West will house Year 11 and Year 7 while our Hub model is operating. Once we are back to normal, the building will be home to the Maths Faculty as well as Music, Dance, Drama, Art, Graphics and Modern Foreign Languages. You can have a sneaky preview of the newbuild on our website:

<http://www.colmers.bham.sch.uk/open-event/>

The unfortunate element of moving into our new build is that there will be disruption to the normal operation of the school the day before and the day after Half Term – Friday October 23rd and Monday November 2nd. This is to allow the essential works needed to connect the buildings on the site, in particular the ICT works which have to be squeezed across ten working days as a minimum. For safety reasons, we will be closed to **all year groups on Friday October 23rd** and to **Years 7 & 11 on Monday November 2nd**. Remote learning tasks will be set for all lessons on both days for all students.

Losing more time in school is something we would love to avoid at this point. I hope you will understand that we have kept the loss of learning time to the minimum possible. I appreciate that some parents and carers may find it very difficult to arrange childcare arrangements and/or may be key workers who rely on school being open on those days. We will be able to accommodate students in school whose parents and carers are not able to find a suitable alternative. If you do need your child to be in school on either of those days please **complete the form using this link:** <https://bit.ly/3d9Cfk9> so that we can prepare an appropriate number of teaching spaces and arrange staffing to enable this support.

We know that many members of our community will have very fond memories of the Old West Block. We would love to organise a community event before this building is demolished: sadly this is not possible during the current crisis. We look forward to a proper community celebration in our new building for students, staff and families past and present once we are the other side of the pandemic.

Yours sincerely

Headteacher