



July 7th 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Update on End of Term and September Arrangements

I hope this letter finds you and yours safe and well.

I am writing to update you on our end of term arrangements and plans for September 2020. Last Thursday, we received guidance from the Government that indicates we expect all students to return to school in September. We have missed our students terribly and are really looking forward to having everyone back together. That said, we have some very important plans to draw up in this next 2 weeks to ensure that the return to school is as safe as possible for all of our students, families and staff while the COVID-19 Pandemic is not over.

End of Term Arrangements

Phone Calls Home

As the end of term approaches, we are in the process of making our last round of well-being phone calls home. These have been such an important part of us keeping in touch with you while the vast majority of students have been studying from home. Do please keep us posted if your contact details change so that we can maintain these strong connections once we return to school in September.

Academic Work – Time to Catch Up!

Since the start of Lockdown, staff have worked tirelessly to support our students, whether in our school Priority Provision, through our Virtual School, or more recently as years 10 and 12 have returned to on-site Study Support. I know this period has been incredibly challenging for many children and families. We know that many students have struggled to keep up with all of the work without the structure of the school day and the face-to-face support from teachers and their peers in lessons. Many of us who work at Colmers have faced similar challenges with our own children and we know just how hard it can be to keep on top of the work that has been set.

As the Summer break approaches, it may become harder for students to stay focused on their learning. I hope you will join me in encouraging your child to make the most of the time between now and September to catch up with any work missed. All of the work set on-line can still be accessed via our school portal and those of you who have received work packs can continue to work through the subject content. The more work completed before September, the easier it will be for your child to get ahead on returning to school. Please be assured that when we return in September, we will be working hard to support students who may have fallen behind over these past few months. But every little bit of work completed at home in the meantime will make a difference to their individual progress and success.

Safety and Well-Being over the Summer Break

While school will be closed over the Summer Break, we are pulling together a resource guide for families that will provide information on local support and activities for young people over the Summer Break. This will be sent to you next week.

Year 11 and Year 13 Fond Farewells

We are looking forward to seeing our year 11 and year 13 students both at their graduation / leavers assemblies and next week when we have an on-site, socially distanced farewell. It has been sad not to be able to celebrate properly with these two wonderful cohorts of young people and their families but as promised, we will have a very special celebration once we are able to do so.

Staff Fond Farewells

We are very sad to be saying goodbye to 3 members of staff this year:

Mrs Wilks, Deputy Headteacher leaves us to take up a post as Vice-Principal at Nishkam School.

Mr Man moves on to continue teaching maths at North Bromsgrove High School and **Mr Manchanda** also leaves us to continue teaching in the Vale of Evesham School.

I would like to publicly thank all three members of staff for their valuable contribution during their time with us here at Colmers and to wish them every success in their new posts.

Staff Joining Us

We are delighted to welcome 7 new members of staff joining us in September:

Mrs Yarker joins us as Deputy Headteacher.

Ms Elsabagh and **Mrs Jackson** join the Maths team.

Miss Gregory joins us to teach Business Studies and Maths

Ms Hyatt joins the ICT and Computing team.

Mr O'Grady and **Ms Spreadbury** join our Science team.

Ms Pidoux joins the English and MFL team.

September Arrangements

Since receiving new Government Guidance for September opening last Thursday, we have been working extremely hard to review our plans and make sure we can manage the full school return safely. The guidance is clear that we will need to operate very differently, probably for at least the next 2 terms, putting in place a range of measures to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission.

I will be writing in more detail next week to update you on our plans for September including revised start of term arrangements. I can confirm that when we return:

- All students are **required to attend** school
- We expect all students to be in **full school uniform**

Please note students may only wear one small pair of stud or hoop earrings, we do not accept facial or body piercings and we do not accept brightly dyed hair or brightly coloured hair braids. Trainers, branded shoes and canvas shoes are not allowed and we trousers should not be skin-tight. Full details of our uniform requirements can be found on our website. Your assistance making sure your child is fully school-ready will be greatly appreciated!

We have 2 uniform suppliers, Clive Marks and Marks & Spencer. Clive Marks is currently offering a discount to new students in Year 7 and Marks & Spencer is offering a discount on all school uniform. If you have any queries or need support with uniform, please contact school reception on 0121 453 1778.

As lockdown eases, it is important that we all remember the social distancing guidance still in place to keep ourselves, our loved ones and our community safe. While it is tempting to hope that the threat of COVID-19 has now passed, the risks remain very significant and as a school community, we continue to make every effort to minimise the risk of virus transmission.

As ever, if you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us.

Best wishes,



E Leaman
Headteacher