



January 6<sup>th</sup> 2021

## Parent Carer Update

Dear Parents and Carers

What a challenging start to 2021!

I am writing to update you after the announcement on Monday night that we are in a **national lockdown**. None of us wanted to find ourselves back in this position. As ever, the safety and well-being of everyone in our community comes first. While I wish the lockdown were not necessary, it is only too evident that it is needed to reduce the transmission of coronavirus. I appreciate how hard it can be for your children to stay motivated and engaged with their remote learning. I also know that for many children and families, the emotional strain of lockdown can be very challenging. **We will do everything we can to help and support during this time.**

School is open for **priority provision** and a small number of external exams only. However, all staff are working full-time, whether supporting students in school or providing work and support for students learning remotely. If you have any concerns at all, **please contact your child's Form Tutor in the first instance**. Alternatively, you can email your child's Head of Year. A list of email addresses is provided at the end of this letter. If you have difficulty getting hold of someone, or you need urgent support, please contact our **main reception on 0121 453 1778** and we will ensure the right person gets back to you as soon as possible. If you do not hear back from us, please do not give up, keep trying and please always let me know if a problem persists unanswered.

I want to reach out especially to parents and carers of students in **Year 11 and Year 13**. This is a worrying time with such uncertainty hanging over exam Year groups. We are incredibly proud of our exam year groups and how they have coped so far under such difficult circumstances. We also know that it is more important than ever to **stay focused and to have confidence**. The support and help available is designed to ensure your child gets the grades they deserve and progresses to a positive destination. We will be in touch with further details of how we will be providing additional support to our exam cohorts during this period of remote learning.

### Headlines for your information:

- **Remote learning is in place for all students working from home:** Frequently Asked Questions are provided below to help you with any issues.
- **School is only open for priority provision:** This is for children of critical workers and for children who are vulnerable. More information is provided below about priority provision.
- **Rapid Testing is in the planning stage.** The parent/carers zoom meetings proposed for this week **will not take place** as we are still finding out more about what is involved. Further information will follow next week.
- **Free School Meals:** vouchers are in place for this week and next week while we establish plans to half term.
- **COVID-19 Reporting arrangements:** please continue to let us know if your child tests positive for COVID-19. We will only be reporting and contact tracing cases where students have been attending school.
- **External Exams:** The government has announced that centres will make decisions about whether exams go ahead. We will be in contact with students and parents/carers to update you later today about exams scheduled for next week.

Please contact school via [enquiries@colmers.school](mailto:enquiries@colmers.school) if you have any queries after reading the information provided below.



## REMOTE LEARNING

### **Where is the work for my child to do at home?**

All remote learning is set online using Class Charts, labelled Blended Learning.

### **Who do I contact if I cannot get onto Class Charts?**

Please contact main reception on 0121 453 1778 or email [enquiries@colmers.school](mailto:enquiries@colmers.school)

### **What do I do if my child does not have a laptop to do their work?**

Please contact main reception on 0121 453 1778 or email [enquiries@colmers.school](mailto:enquiries@colmers.school)

### **We do not have internet at home for my child to do their work online – can you help?**

We have some access to support for internet at home. Please contact main reception on 0121 453 1778 or email [enquiries@colmers.school](mailto:enquiries@colmers.school)

### **Who should my child contact if they need help with their remote learning?**

Your child should email their class teacher for help with subject work.

### **Who should I or my child contact if we need general support?**

Your child's Form Tutor is your first point of contact for general support. A full list of Form Tutor emails is provided at the end of this letter.

### **Can I get a work pack instead of having all of the work set online?**

We are not providing work packs for students for remote learning. All work is available online. We are able to loan your child a laptop if they do not have access to a device.

### **Where should my child keep their work?**

Work can either be completed online and saved / sent to teachers or can be completed in an exercise book. We recommend your child keeps all of their work in one place. We will collect in the work at the end of lockdown. If your child needs an exercise book you can collect one from main reception.

### **Will teachers be checking my child's work?**

For subjects that have more than one lesson a week teachers will be setting weekly work that is assessed, so we will be able to check that your child is completing their work and give them feedback on how they are doing. We will be monitoring your child's engagement and trying to encourage them using positive pings and recognition for great work. If your child is struggling and you are finding it difficult to get them to do their work, please contact their Form Tutor and we will think about how best we can support.

### **Will there be live lessons delivered during remote learning?**

We have had most success previously with lessons that are not delivered live. We intend trying out live lessons in some subjects to see if students find these helpful. Teachers of Year 11 and Year 13 will be on line at the start of every lesson.

### **Will there be any activities or events online for my child?**

Your child will be able to connect with their Form Tutor for Period 3 every Wednesday at 1p.m., through Microsoft Teams. They will receive an invitation to this via their school email address.

Each week, we will also have assemblies for your child to watch and we will deliver a range of activities to help us stay connected as a community. Please bear with us as we were not expecting remote learning to be in place for so long – a calendar of events will follow next week.



## PRIORITY PROVISION

### School is open to vulnerable students and children of Critical Workers.

A letter has been sent to individual parents/carers if your child is expected or invited to attend Priority Provision.

If you are very concerned about the well-being of your child learning from home, please contact Main Reception on 0121 453 1778 or email your child's Head of Year and we will come back to you to discuss the possibility of a place in our Priority Provision.

Year 7: [abennett@colmers.school](mailto:abennett@colmers.school)

Year 8: [sbutt@colmers.school](mailto:sbutt@colmers.school)

Year 9: [awilliams@colmers.school](mailto:awilliams@colmers.school)

Year 10: [pbradley@colmers.school](mailto:pbradley@colmers.school)

Year 11: [lwilcox@colmers.school](mailto:lwilcox@colmers.school)

Year 12/13: [mthompson@colmers.school](mailto:mthompson@colmers.school)

## SAFEGUARDING ARRANGEMENTS

Our safeguarding team are available for any safeguarding concerns. In the event you need advice from our school safeguarding team, please contact them via Main Reception on 0121 453 1778.

## COVID-19 REPORTING ARRANGEMENTS

**Please do not send your child into school or visit the site for any reason if they, or you, are displaying any of the key symptoms of coronavirus, which are:**

- **A fever**
- **A persistent cough**
- **Loss of taste and/or smell**

If your child tests positive for COVID-19 coronavirus it is essential that you contact us at school to let us know. Please ring Main Reception on 0121 453 1778 to inform us or, alternatively, email [enquiries@colmers.school](mailto:enquiries@colmers.school) to report a positive case. If your child has attended school from January 5<sup>th</sup> we will resume contact tracing. If your child has not attended school, we will make a note for our records and will ask you to follow advice from NHS Test and Trace who should be in contact to carry out contact tracing.

## Staffing Update

An opportunity has arisen for Mr Morris to work for the Birmingham Education Partnership this term and he has taken the decision that this is the right time for him to move on from Colmers. Mr Morris officially leaves us at the end of this term and there will be an opportunity for everyone to recognise his tremendous contribution and departure at that time. In the interim, I would like to take this opportunity to thank him on behalf of the whole school community and Governors and to wish him well in his new role.

Best wishes,

Emma Leaman  
Headteacher



<b>Year 7</b>	<b>Head of Year: Mr A Bennett</b>	<a href="mailto:abennett@colmers.school">abennett@colmers.school</a>
7EW	Miss E Ward	<a href="mailto:eward@colmers.school">eward@colmers.school</a>
7EG	Miss E Gauthier	<a href="mailto:egauthier@colmers.school">egauthier@colmers.school</a>
7TO	Mr T O'Grady	<a href="mailto:togrady@colmers.school">togrady@colmers.school</a>
7ZG	Miss Z Gregory	<a href="mailto:zgregory@colmers.school">zgregory@colmers.school</a>
7NIJ	Mrs Ianson-Jones	<a href="mailto:nianson-jones@colmers.school">nianson-jones@colmers.school</a>
7CS	Miss C Spreadbury	<a href="mailto:cspreadbury@colmers.school">cspreadbury@colmers.school</a>
7AL	Miss A Lewis	<a href="mailto:alewis@colmers.school">alewis@colmers.school</a>
7ES	Miss E Summers	<a href="mailto:esummers@colmers.school">esummers@colmers.school</a>
7LO	Miss L O'Grady	<a href="mailto:logrady@colmers.school">logrady@colmers.school</a>
<b>Year 8</b>	<b>Head of Year: Mr S Butt</b>	<a href="mailto:sbutt@colmers.school">sbutt@colmers.school</a>
8WJ	Mr W Jingini	<a href="mailto:wjingini@colmers.school">wjingini@colmers.school</a>
8MC	Mrs M Colmer	<a href="mailto:mcolmer@colmers.school">mcolmer@colmers.school</a>
8PR	Mrs P Rajput	<a href="mailto:prajput@colmers.school">prajput@colmers.school</a>
8BW	Mr B Weston	<a href="mailto:bweston@colmers.school">bweston@colmers.school</a>
8LP	Miss L Powell	<a href="mailto:lpowell@colmers.school">lpowell@colmers.school</a>
8CC	Mr C Clarke	<a href="mailto:cclarke@colmers.school">cclarke@colmers.school</a>
8LR	Miss L rushton	<a href="mailto:lrushton@colmers.school">lrushton@colmers.school</a>
8KS	Miss K Smallwood	<a href="mailto:ksmallwood@colmers.school">ksmallwood@colmers.school</a>
8MJ	Mrs M Jackson	<a href="mailto:mjackson@colmers.school">mjackson@colmers.school</a>
<b>Year 9</b>	<b>Head of Year: Mr A Williams</b>	<a href="mailto:awilliams@colmers.school">awilliams@colmers.school</a>
9DH	Miss D Harvey	<a href="mailto:dharvey@colmers.school">dharvey@colmers.school</a>
9CP	Miss C Price	<a href="mailto:cprice@colmers.school">cprice@colmers.school</a>
9JW	Mr Watkin	<a href="mailto:jwatkin@colmers.school">jwatkin@colmers.school</a>
9GG	Mrs G Genner	<a href="mailto:ggenner@colmers.school">ggenner@colmers.school</a>
9LO	Miss L Orton	<a href="mailto:lorton@colmers.school">lorton@colmers.school</a>
9LT	Mr L Tombs	<a href="mailto:ltombs@colmers.school">ltombs@colmers.school</a>
9VL	Mrs V Lee	<a href="mailto:vlee@colmers.school">vlee@colmers.school</a>
9DD	Mrs D Dawes	<a href="mailto:ddawes@colmers.school">ddawes@colmers.school</a>
9AB	Mr A Bagnall	<a href="mailto:abagnall@colmers.school">abagnall@colmers.school</a>
<b>Year 10</b>	<b>Head of Year: Mr P Bradley</b>	<a href="mailto:pbradley@colmers.school">pbradley@colmers.school</a>
10KN	Miss K Nevin	<a href="mailto:knevin@colmers.school">knevin@colmers.school</a>
10JW	Miss J Wells	<a href="mailto:jwells@colmers.school">jwells@colmers.school</a>
10MB	Mr M Bagnall	<a href="mailto:mbagnall@colmers.school">mbagnall@colmers.school</a>
10AM	Mr A McHale	<a href="mailto:amchale2@colmers.school">amchale2@colmers.school</a>
10EB	Mrs E Brereton	<a href="mailto:ebrereton@colmers.school">ebrereton@colmers.school</a>
10DS	Mrs D Summerfield	<a href="mailto:dsummerfield@colmers.school">dsummerfield@colmers.school</a>
10ER	Miss E Ryles	<a href="mailto:eryles@colmers.school">eryles@colmers.school</a>
10RQ	Miss R Qazi	<a href="mailto:rqazi@colmers.school">rqazi@colmers.school</a>
<b>Year 11</b>	<b>Head of Year: Mrs L Wilcox</b>	<a href="mailto:lwilcox@colmers.school">lwilcox@colmers.school</a>
11GB	Mrs G Brown	<a href="mailto:gbrown@colmers.school">gbrown@colmers.school</a>
11KT	Miss K Tucker	<a href="mailto:ktucker@colmers.school">ktucker@colmers.school</a>
11CL	Mr G Clarke/Mrs C Lewis	<a href="mailto:gclarke@colmers.school">gclarke@colmers.school</a>
11SE	Mrs S Evans	<a href="mailto:sevans@colmers.school">sevans@colmers.school</a>
11TB	Miss T Brown	<a href="mailto:tbrown@colmers.school">tbrown@colmers.school</a>
11RW	Mr R Williams	<a href="mailto:rwilliams@colmers.school">rwilliams@colmers.school</a>
11IP	Mr I Pratt	<a href="mailto:ipratt@colmers.school">ipratt@colmers.school</a>
11NB	Mr N Burrows	<a href="mailto:nburrows@colmers.school">nburrows@colmers.school</a>
11SD	Mrs S Dawson-Smith	<a href="mailto:sdawson@colmers.school">sdawson@colmers.school</a>



**COLMERS SCHOOL**  
& SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

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Headteacher: Emma Leaman

Sixth Form	Head of Year : Mrs M Thompson	<a href="mailto:mthompson@colmers.school">mthompson@colmers.school</a>
12SF	Miss S Flynn	<a href="mailto:sflynn@colmers.school">sflynn@colmers.school</a>
12IQ	Mr I Queen	<a href="mailto:iqueen@colmers.school">iqueen@colmers.school</a>
12RC	Miss R Clarke	<a href="mailto:rclarke@colmers.school">rclarke@colmers.school</a>
13DG	Mr T Love	<a href="mailto:tlove@colmers.school">tlove@colmers.school</a>
13TL	Mrs M Fletcher	<a href="mailto:mfletcher@colmers.school">mfletcher@colmers.school</a>