

September 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am delighted to be writing to you at the start of term as the new Headteacher of Colmers School & Sixth Form College. I have had some truly wonderful jobs in my time, but I can honestly say that this feels like the very best job in the world.

Firstly, I would like to thank you all for your support in making sure your young people were exceptionally well prepared for the start of term. We have had a fantastic first week: attendance and punctuality have been excellent, our students look immaculate in their uniform and there has been great work going on in lessons across the school. I will be making sure that we have all of the right ingredients in place, in and outside of lessons, for every child to make good progress towards their goals.

ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE A'Level and GCSE Results 2018

A'Level Results at Colmers continue to go from strength to strength. Over two-thirds (69%) of all grades were grade A*-C, with a massive jump from 38% last year to 48% of the very highest level grades (A*-B). We are so proud of these young people as they head off to further studies at university or to fantastic training and further education opportunities.



Under the new GCSEs, there are some different challenges for our students and for many, the tremendous hard work paid off. 50% of our students gained a grade 4 or above in English and Maths, with a further 28% gaining a grade 5 or above in both subjects. Sport, Music and Computer Science achieved stand-out results this year.



The additional demands of new GCSEs are evident to our students and staff. The year ahead is one where we will have an unrelenting focus on helping every individual know what they need to do to improve. Hard work in every lesson will be the key ingredient to success but it will not be enough on its own; our students need to look carefully at those areas they have not fully understood and put in the extra time, in and outside of lessons, to fill any gaps. Homework and independent study play a key part in students' progress and great habits need to start from year 7 onwards if we are to ensure our young people achieve excellence.

BELONGING TOGETHER

Our Colmers family is growing every year as we admit more students into Year 7. It is very important to us here that we all enjoy a sense of belonging and that relationships between staff, students and families remain a strength of the school. Belonging together means working well together and co-operating fully with our rules so that we have a strong school identity. I know how important it is to you that we have clear and fair systems in place for dealing swiftly with poor behaviour so that your children make the best possible progress in school.

We have simplified our detention system to focus on students being **READY** to learn, **RESPECTFUL** and **SAFE**. D15s, (15 minute detentions), will be issued where students do not arrive on time to lessons, don't have the right equipment or uniform, or are making poor choices such as having their phone out or eating in a lesson so that they are not ready to learn. D30s (30-minute detentions) will be issued when students do not co-operate with instructions or repeatedly make poor choices, showing a lack of respect for each other, our staff or our rules. Students who make choices that affect the safety and well-being of others will face minimum

consequences of a D60s, (60-minute detention), or a more serious sanction depending on the severity of the behaviour.

From the start of this term, parents will receive notification of detentions by text message rather than by letter as we know how often letters go astray on the way home. It is therefore really important that we have the correct mobile number for you so please contact School Reception on 0121 453 1778 if you need to update your contact details with us.

The standard of uniform at the start of this term has been exceptional. Those very few students who have arrived with more than one small pair of stud earrings have been co-operative in removing jewellery that is not allowed. Please remind all of your young people not to go ahead with any piercings that don't fit with school rules because they will not be allowed to wear that jewellery in school.

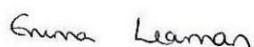
CHALLENGING MIND-SETS

Last year we had 97 students who achieved 100% attendance for the year, with a further 342 students 98% and above. However, it remains a big challenge to us that so many students do not make the acceptable level of attendance that is expected in all schools, which is 95%. We are setting ourselves some very challenging goals this year to improve attendance and increase the number of our students who gain strong grades in both English and Maths. While 90% in either of those subject exams would guarantee a fantastic grade, 90% attendance falls well short of what is needed to do well at school! We need your help making sure that your child does not take odd days off, making sure that they are given that extra push to get out of bed when they may not feel great but could manage if they really tried.

Dates for your Diary.....

Thursday 20 th September	Open Evening
Thursday 27 th September	Welcome to Sixth Form Evening
Thursday 4 th October	Meet the Tutors Evening (all year groups)
Thursday 25 th October	Year 11 Parents' Evening
Friday 26 th October	INSET Day
Monday 29 th October – Friday 4 th November	Half Term
Thursday 15 th November	Sixth Form Open Evening
Friday 7 th December	INSET Day
Friday 21 st December	Last day of Autumn Term
Monday 7 th January	First day of Spring Term

Yours sincerely



Ms E Leaman
Headteacher