



Mrs Wilcox's Seasonal Newsletter



Newsletter Jan 2018

Welcome to this edition of the Colmers Newsletter and may I take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy New Year. I hope Christmas was restful and allowed you all to recharge your batteries ready for the challenges and opportunities ahead in 2018.

This newsletter will outline some of the highlights of the end of last term and also some of the new initiatives that we hope will have a positive impact on the teaching, learning and behaviour at Colmers

Rewards

The last week of term saw our first House Assembly of the year. Previous winners, Eagle and Wolf Houses were once again keen to secure the House Cup for their efforts and endeavours over the course of the last 13 weeks. Each area of assessment were keenly contested with each House gaining victories in the various "events" outlined in the Personal Scorecard, (see below), but in the end, the house cup went to Dolphin House by the smallest of margins and gained them their first win in the Colmers House Cup. Congratulations go to all Dolphins who must now double their efforts over the course of this season as I am sure that Wolf and Eagle Houses will be want to claim back the trophy at the end of this season.

A reminder to all parents that each student gains points for their house in the ten "Personal Scorecard" events which culminate in each student gaining points for their house. The table below summarises the events.

Your Personal Scorecard Explained...

		You get a GOLD medal if ...	You get a SILVER medal if ...	You get a BRONZE medal if ...	You don't get a medal if ...
Event 1	Attendance	Your attendance is 97.0% or higher	Your attendance is between 95.0% and 96.9%	Your attendance is between 94.0% and 94.9%	You miss too much time off school
Event 2	Punctuality	You have never been late to school	You have been late once to school	You have been late twice to school	You keep being late for school
Event 3	Attitudes to Learning	You got five or more Level 1 A2Ls	You got five or more Level 1 or 2 ATLs	You got two or more Level 1 or 2 ATLs	Your attitude to learning isn't good enough
Event 4	Attitudes to Homework	You got five or more Level 1 A2Hs	You got five or more Level 1 or 2 ATHs	You got two or more Level 1 or 2 ATHs	Your attitude to homework isn't good enough
Event 5	Extra- Curricular Life	You <i>consistently</i> attend a school club	You <i>regularly</i> attend a club	You <i>occasionally</i> attend a club	You don't get involved in school clubs
Event 6	Uniform	Your uniform is <i>always</i> perfect	Your uniform is <i>usually</i> perfect	Your uniform is <i>often</i> perfect	You don't wear your uniform correctly
Event 7	Equipment	You are <i>always</i> well-equipped	You are <i>usually</i> well-equipped	You are <i>often</i> well-equipped	You don't equip yourself correctly for school
Event 8	Community Contribution	You have been involved in four or more events or activities	You have been involved in two or three events or activities	You have been involved in one event or activity	You are not involved in any local events or activities
Event 9	Reading	KS3: You have read 8 or more books KS4: You <i>frequently</i> read	KS3: You have read between 4 and 7 books KS4: You <i>regularly</i> read	KS3: You have read between 1 and 3 books KS4: You <i>occasionally</i> read	You don't read enough
Event 10	House Points	You earned 51 or more House Points	You earned between 26 and 50 House Points	You earned between 1 and 25 House Points	You didn't earn any House Points





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In addition to the house awards assembly there were also some special awards on offer. These were awarded by the Headteacher to students who have displayed extraordinary levels of resilience, positive attitudes and endeavour over the last four months and were rewarded with a Kindle Fire in recognition of everything that they have achieved this year. The recipients of these awards were as follows:

Year 7: **Lauren Biddle**

"Not a day has gone by since September that Lauren hasn't been thoughtful, generous and kind. Her smile is infectious and she has made *The Bridge* the best place to work in. Lauren is everything we want in a Colmers student."

Year 8: **Molly Ann Dean**

"Molly is so resilient. Even though she might occasionally lack some self-confidence she isn't afraid to contribute to class discussion. She listens well to feedback and acts upon it accordingly. She always tries her best and isn't afraid to challenge herself. She always says hello to me around school and greets me with a smile."

Year 9: **Andrew Harper**

"Andrew is an all-round good egg. In form he puts himself forward for any roles with responsibility. He's always got a smile on his face. He's polite and helpful. He was Form Rep last year and didn't miss a meeting. Andrew takes part and has represented the school on numerous occasions and grabs every opportunity he can. Andrew really shone on the Snowdonia trip and demonstrated a natural ability, this was spotted by all teachers and instructors."

Year 10: **Georgia Hadley**

"She is a very hard-working student. I really enjoyed teaching her last year; although I don't teach her this year, I know she continues to work well in my subject. She is always polite and she tries her best in all that she does. She still says, "Hello!" and asks how I am when we pass each other. It's the little things that make the difference."

Year 11: **Noor Agha**

"He is a very hardworking pupil who has come a very, very long way. He is always focussed and doesn't allow anyone to distract him in my lessons. He is brilliant, a role model to others. English is his second language, but that hasn't affected his drive in my subject. He is always the first to complete high standard work and lets me know when I need to support him."

Sixth Form: **Tyler Westwood**

"He is a person who engages with life; he contributes to every lesson, sixth form life and his questioning nature encourages thought and discussion."

and

"I had to ask someone who this lad is because I have never taught him but every time I see him around school he is ALWAYS smiling, bouncing along and clearly just someone who is happy to be alive and making the most of his opportunities. I hope I appear like him to other people!"

and

"He is one of the most inquisitive and courageous thinkers I have known. He doesn't worry about winning every argument, he just wants an argument to test out ideas and thoughts. He's definitely a young Marxist but that does not stop him thinking the unthought-of and allowing his ideas to go to places that others might not think of going. Like his mind, he's going places."

A huge congratulations to these 6 students and hope they enjoy their prize!





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Colmers Detentions

As I am sure you are aware through conversations with your child, Colmers has launched a new detention system in January, which aims to build on the positive attitude to learning of our pupils to ensure that all students are able to make good or better progress in each lesson they have during the week.

The system is designed to focus on and deal with the low level disruption that impacts on the learning of our pupils and prevents teachers delivering the standard of lessons the pupils are entitled to.

From now on pupils displaying behaviours intended on stopping learning from taking place or making poor choices in and around the school site will be issued with one of three levels of detentions. These will be either a D15, D30 or D60 depending on the type of behaviour or choice pupils make. Once issued that student will be placed into detention the next day for either 15, 30 or 60 minutes. Letters will be sent home with the student to inform parents/carers.

I am positive that for the vast majority of our students this new system will not impact on their lives at Colmers, but hope that for some of our students it will refocus their attention on what is important during the school day which is of course their learning.

The table below summarises the types of behaviours that result in each level of sanction.

The D-15s	The D-30s	The D-60s
These are for minor misbehaviours. They last for 15 minutes and it is hoped that students use them as a warning to avoid more serious misbehaviours.	These are for behaviours that affect your life chances and the life chances of other students as well. They last for 30 minutes and ought to be rare and lead to swift improvements.	These are for the more serious misbehaviours, or when students don't respond to the lesser or earlier sanctions. More serious behaviours will result in exclusions.

Attendance

One of the areas that this new system will address is of course Attendance and Punctuality. At present the whole school attendance figure is 94.3% which is below our target of 97%. This is something we are working incredibly hard to improve, but can I take this opportunity to remind all parents of the absolute importance of being in school every day and on time.

Every day off represents five hours of missed learning and we know that this impacts massively on the progress that children make over the course of the year. The link between attendance and achievement is clear and can I please encourage you to ensure that your child is in school every day in order to maximise their potential. Current year attendance and students still with 100% attendance

Year 7 – 95.4%	Year 7 - 130
Year 8 – 94.4%	Year 8 - 117
Year 9 – 94.7%	Year 9 - 135
Year 10 – 93.8%	Year - 113
Year 11 – 93.6%	Year - 106
Year 12 – 95.8%	Year 12 - 33
Year 13 – 90.8%	Year 13 - 14





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Expectations

As well as outstanding attendance and punctuality to school and in lessons, can I reiterate to all parents/carers the expectations of all our students in terms of equipment and standards. It is every child's responsibility to make sure that they have correct uniform, equipment and are ready for learning in each lesson. This includes correct PE kit and ingredients where appropriate.

It is often these small lapses that lead to bigger problems during the school day and of course our new detention system will help support the student in being better organised and being ready to learn more effectively. Please continue to use our school portal, Colmers Twitter and Facebook pages for school updates and what is happening in the school curriculum. You will also get an insight into what is available in Lower School, Middle School and Upper School with regards to our extracurricular offer and experiences.

Finally, thank you for all the positive feedback and comments that have been made by you as parents and carers on our new 'Colmers Detention' system, your feedback is invaluable on making sure we get it right.

If you have any queries then please do not hesitate to contact me at school. My contact details are as follows

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Mrs Wilcox (Head of Behaviour and Inclusion)

