



JHU/THO

26th October 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

8 weeks of the new academic year have been full of many successes at Colton Hills Community School, both in and out of the classroom. Our bulletin and social media channels really do share a wide variety of experiences our students share on a daily basis. I have enjoyed talking to students at lunch time on the field and am always delighted to hear about things they have been learning. Celebrating success is a key part in building confidence at school in preparation for the world of work.

I would like to thank parents and carers for investing their time engaging with staff through Excellence Evenings, the parent forum and correspondence with both tutors and class teachers to support our students to succeed. Having met several parents this term I am keen to offer a few dates this academic year to hear your opinions. Headteacher surgeries are an opportunity to come into school and discuss a topic to help us hear your lived experience of our school systems and processes.

If you would like to attend any of the surgeries, please contact the schools Main Reception Tel: 01902 558420 in advance so that we can cater for all parents and carers who are interested in these events.

Autumn Term – Thursday 14th December 4.00pm – 5.00pm.

Headteacher surgery subject: Uniform

We love our uniform and think that students are smart whenever they are in school or representing us both locally and nationally at different events, however we recognise that as a country we are in a cost-of-living crisis and are keen to hear our views on the affordability of our uniform. ***This does not mean that we are currently considering changes.*** We wish to hear the reality of how families find the actual initial outlay for uniform and the upkeep on an annual basis. The government has asked schools to consider the expense of school uniforms and now is a really good time for us to reflect on this topic.

Spring Term – Thursday 22nd February 4.30pm – 5.30pm.

Headteacher surgery subject: SEND

At our school we have nearly 13% of our student body with special educational needs and are keen to share some of our exciting plans for 2024/25. Do come along to hear about our plans in person and to help us further enhance our current provision.



Summer Term – Thursday 18th April 5.00 pm – 6.00 pm.

Headteacher surgery subject: Behaviour

People in society often talk about behaviour of teenagers as being unacceptable. At Colton Hills Community School, we pride ourselves in being both respectful of ourselves as well as having the integrity to do the right thing. We have a robust behaviour policy; however, we would love to have your feedback on our current policy as we look towards 2024/25 policy writing.

I would like to thank most parents and carers who contact school in a polite and respectful manner modelling the way adults can communicate calmly even when we may be annoyed. Unfortunately, there have been occasions since September that I and other staff at our school have been shouted at, threatened, and verbally abused. I would like to ask all parents and carers to consider how we behave in front of children as there are appropriate ways, times, and places for us communicate on any matter. We have a national shortage of teachers, teaching assistants and people wanting to work in schools therefore I am sure that all parents and carers will be keen to ensure that Colton Hills Community School retains high quality staff to look after our students. Working together as a team helps us to forge a caring school environment where everyone can flourish and excel. For the vast majority of parents and carers, who are horrified by this information regarding how school staff are spoken to I would like to say that these occasions are rare but have a negative impact on colleagues.

Some parents and carers have requested that courtesy needs to be shown when driving children to school. The driveway into school is narrow and gets congested easily, therefore we would like to request that students are only dropped off at the driveway if there is a specific mobility or safeguarding reason to do so. This applies to both drop off and pick up times.

Finally, as the weather gets colder, we would like to remind parents and carers that hoodies are not school uniform. Warm waterproof coats are the best item for children to have throughout the cold winter months. I would like to wish you all a restful half term holiday and look forward to seeing students in class before 8:30 am on Monday 6th November.

Yours sincerely

Ms J Hunter
Headteacher

