



JHU/THO

13<sup>th</sup> February 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Last week Mr Pope and I ran the Headteacher's Surgery/ Parent Forum on "Inclusive education for our diverse community. Provision for students of all abilities." Part of the purpose of the evening was to share our continued school improvement journey in supporting students who seek to apply to top universities with our Challenge Champion running our first Brilliant Club Scholars' Programme cohort and staff seeking opportunities to support academic enrichment in our new schemes of learning for 2025.

We also shared an update on The Hills (High Impact Lifelong Support in school support unit). Many schools in England now have additional parts of school to support students who find a regular 25 hours of academic learning in a mainstream classroom a challenge, for a large variety of reasons, and we are delighted to say that The Hills will launch before the summer holidays. Additional information will be shared when we have fully staffed all roles, but we can share that Mrs Payne will be managing this provision.

We have already revamped an area of school as an additional in school support unit with The Bridge being used by our THRIVE practitioners, Lego therapy sessions in addition to draw/ talk interventions. This in school support area enables us to make best use of The ZEN and have specific areas of school for appropriate SEND support.

One of the areas our November 2023 Ofsted asked us to work on as a school was SEND identification, sharing information and teachers adapting their teaching to support learners of all abilities. We are delighted to report that we had a local authority review this term and they were able to see significant changes in the way we share information about students with all staff to enable a more adaptive curriculum and teaching to be in place. We recognise that we are ever improving as an organisation but having external eyes reviewing this part of school has been useful to signpost our next steps.

You may have heard from Year 7 – Year 10 that we have relaunched DEAR (drop everything and read) during tutor time. Students in Year 7 and Year 8 have a book they are reading, and Year 9/10 have a different book. During their time at Colton Hills, we will be authoring a Colton Hills Canon to ensure that they are reading books beyond their library lessons with some great topics to discuss with their tutors. Our library is gearing up for World Book Day events in March and we will publish activities in our bulletin.

The next Headteacher's surgery/ Parent Forum will be on **3<sup>rd</sup> April at 5pm** on the topic "A respectful school: Our school behaviour for learning provision." We continually review our school behaviour policy and would love to have a discussion with you about key aspects of the current policy you like or suggestions you would like to make. We regularly reset behaviour expectations throughout the year and find that after holidays students find it harder to remember key behaviours required in a school setting. Please could we ask that you have a conversation with your child about our expectation that mobile phones shouldn't be seen or heard during the school day and that staff



# Colton Hills Community School

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will confiscate them if they breach these expectations. We are reviewing this policy as you may have seen on the news that many schools are considering phone free schools with phones either locked away during the school day or placed in locked pouches during the school day. If you have an opinion on this, please do come along on 3<sup>rd</sup> April.

As we reach the end of week 21 of 39 this academic year is truly flying by. Year 11 and Year 13 have less than 10 weeks until their final examinations begin, and the final set of mocks are almost straight after half term. 5 Mallards have returned to the pond and signs of spring are here with brighter mornings and evenings beginning to arrive.

Wishing you all a restful half term.

Yours sincerely,

Ms J Hunter  
Headteacher

