



Colton Hills Community School

Many Minds, One Mission

Headteacher - Ms J Hunter

Colton Hills
Community School
Jeremy Road
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JHU/THO

11th December 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

The end of 2023 is nearly here, and students have achieved so much this term. It really is a sight to see hundreds of students sat in the sports hall and theatre sitting mock exams. We hope that results are taken as a reminder that with another 13 weeks of study the mock exams can be improved upon with more knowledge and study skills.

I have only been Headteacher at Colton Hills for 66 school days and looking back so much has been achieved. The leadership team are already looking at our plans for 2024/25 to ensure that the high quality of provision we have continues to serve future generations of students as the school becomes an increasingly popular and reliable school choice for families.

Staffing update

I would like to take this opportunity to update parents and carers on some staffing changes. Mrs Daniels will now be focussing purely on her Curriculum Leader (CL) role for Music, Drama and Dance, therefore please do contact Miss Webb for Head of Year 11 queries. Miss Lester leaves us at the end of this term and Mr Reade takes up post as Acting CL for History for the remainder of this academic year. Miss Mills is substantive CL for Maths and Mr Swallow has been appointed to support as CL for KS3 Maths.

We say goodbye to Mr Williams after one calendar year and wish him well in his new school. Mr Winward joins us on 19th February as our new Pastoral Deputy Headteacher and he will be popping into school to get to know more about us before he takes up post.

Staff training and our school improvement journey

Every school has a development plan to help it improve and one of our key focusses was on driving up school attainment. This year we have held training for staff on adaptive teaching enabling them to address misconceptions promptly and help learners make rapid progress. This is not a one-off training session and is a topic we will review over time. We have asked the local authority to come in to review this work in January and look forward to sharing their feedback in the spring term.

External quality assurance update

Ofsted visited on 14th/15th November and have 30 working days to publish the report. It is possible that could mean a January publication and we will share it as quickly as we can. It was a pleasure to work with His Majesty's Inspection team to showcase the wonderful things that happen at Colton Hills Community School.



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Government expectations of schools

I attended a Department for Education briefing this term about school uniforms. The government have reminded schools that we need to consider the cost of uniform and I would love to have your input at the Headteacher surgery **this Thursday evening**. If you can make it, please do come along.

Autumn Term – Thursday 14th December 2023 - 4.00 pm – 5.00 pm
HEADTEACHER SURGERY SUBJECT: UNIFORM LEGISLATION

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. We wish to hear the reality of how families find the actual initial outlay for uniform and the upkeep on an annual basis.

Spring Term – Thursday 22nd February 2024 - 4.30 pm – 5.30 pm
HEADTEACHER SURGERY SUBJECT: THE HILLS SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND ADAPTED PROVISION PROPOSALS

At our school we have nearly 13% of our student body with special educational needs and have some students who find mainstream school very challenging. We have been working with governors over the past year 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. We will be talking about The Hills provision with our new Deputy Headteacher Mr Winward attending also.

Summer Term - Thursday 18th April 2024 - 5.00 pm – 6.00 pm
HEADTEACHER SURGERY SUBJECT: BEHAVIOUR AND REWARDS

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. Mr Winward will also be attending this session.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a peaceful holiday and we look forward to welcoming everyone back on **Tuesday 9th January 2024**.

Yours sincerely

Ms J Hunter
Headteacher