

Headteacher' s Blog – 12th March 2021 Successful Return to School

Testing going well

I hope that you and your family are well and adjusting to the new “back to school” routine for the second time this academic year. Let us hope that this is the last time students have to return from a national lockdown.

As I write, Year 10 students are filing into the Testing Centre (Hall) for their second Covid test. So far we have 916 students who have had their first test, 119 have had their second test and 162 Sixth Formers have had their third test. So far all tests have been returned as negative. In addition we had 99 staff return a negative result from the first round of testing, using the home testing kits. So we have had no positive cases so far, which is a really good start.

I want to thank all of the staff who have been involved in the organisation and delivery of the testing process. To have tested over 900 students and managed to get all students back into school within three days is a phenomenal achievement. I also want to thank the students, who have been fantastic and managed the whole situation so well.

I will be writing next week to those families, where the child has had three in school tests, with instructions for home testing. This is a very straight forward process, which I am doing myself twice a week. We will provide full instructions and a short training video for the students.



Year 7s waiting for their tests

Getting back to 'normal'

Yesterday I spent most of my day in classrooms, watching students getting back to face to face learning with their teachers. The level of focus from the students and the engagement with their teachers was impressive. It was a real pleasure to see the engines of learning in school firing back up. The students have come back to school with a really positive mind set and it is clear they are enjoying being back. The sounds of laughter and chatter in the playground are back and the footballs are out again! All of a sudden school is school and I am looking forward to teaching Year 10 for real in a few minutes, rather than teaching a screen full of emoji faced circles!

So, as we get back to some sense of normality, I need to ask for your support in reminding students of our standards for uniform, which we know may take a little time to get back to, but we will not be compromising on our high standards over the coming weeks and months.

Here is a link to the full uniform list: <https://www.thecoleshillschool.org/parents/school-uniform>

In particular please can I remind you of the following, ahead of a full uniform sweep on Monday 15th March.

- On days when students have PE they must come in official Coleshill branded PE kit, as specified in the uniform list.
- Hoodies are not allowed at all. Not for PE and not as a substitute for a coat. They will be confiscated from Tuesday 16th March.
- Piercings are not allowed beyond one stud earring in each ear. Students will be asked to removed them from Tuesday 16th March.
- Coats are needed in school, as windows and doors are open at the moment, but gilets/sleeveless coats are not allowed. Coats are to be worn in addition to, not instead of, a blazer. Gilets will be confiscated from Tuesday 16th March.
- False nails and/or coloured nails are not allowed. Students will need a plan to remove false nails.
- Hair colours that are not natural (eg blue, green, bright red, pink or combinations of unnatural colours such as black and pink) are not allowed. Students will need a plan to return their hair to a natural colour.
- Shoes should be black polishable leather.
- Mobile devices, air pods and headphones are only allowed at social time and will be confiscated if seen when students are moving around the school or in lessons, unless the teacher has given permission for them to be used as a learning device for an educational activity.

Year 11 and 13 update letter

Today we will be writing to Year 11 and 13 about the process for awarding Teacher Assessed Grades, so I would urge families of these students to look out for their letter and let us know if there are any queries. We will also be going through this with the students.

Rewarding hard work over lock down

Even while working at home our students have been gaining SPIRIT points for their efforts. Well done and congratulations to the top performers below. The remaining few weeks of this half term provide another opportunity for more students to be rewarded.



Thomas, Ella and Henry Year 9



Louis and Mya, Year 10

Thank you for all of your support for the students and the school during lock down. We can now look forward to the rest of the academic year and achieving great things together.

I wish you a restful weekend.

Ian Smith-Childs

Headteacher