



5<sup>th</sup> December 2018

Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing to confirm arrangements for the end of term and the start of the new year, as well as to celebrate what has been a wonderful first term of the academic year.

#### End of term arrangements

**Friday, 14<sup>th</sup> December, is Christmas Jumper Day.** We are asking all students to come to school in non-uniform, preferably in a Christmas Jumper but certainly with some form of Christmas accessory! We are asking students to donate £1 via ParentPay preferably (or students can donate £1 on the day), which will all go to Save the Children.

**Autumn term ends for students on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> December at 12.10 pm.** Bus companies have been contacted and we anticipate all buses will arrive at 12.15pm to collect the students. If you wish for your child to remain in school until normal time, please contact us and let us know so that we can arrange supervision.

#### Start of term arrangements

**Spring term starts for students at 8.45 am on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> January.** Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January is the training day for all schools within The Arthur Terry Learning Partnership.

#### Another excellent term

There has been much to celebrate during this term, from Year 7 students finding their feet to Year 13 students entering the final year of their schooling. The school site has developed too, with a new temporary five classroom block in place while we wait for our new permanent block.

The school community continues to go from strength to strength. This year we have over 1200 students on roll, with over 190 in the Sixth Form. It gave me great pride to see the school come together for Remembrance, with hundreds of staff and students observing the silence impeccably. Guests, including relatives of the fallen, were given a clay dove and we welcomed children from the local primary schools to read poetry with our own talented Year 7 writers. We missed our ex headmaster and dear friend of the school Tom Wilson, who has sadly passed away. We are in discussion to create a memorial for this great man at the school.

We welcomed some Ofsted trained visitors from The Arthur Terry Learning Partnership last week to conduct an internal review. They were very impressed with teaching and learning across the school, commenting on examples of the highest levels of teaching practice they had seen. They were also full of praise for our wonderful young people and their behaviour. We were pleased that students reported they felt safe and supported and that incidents of bullying and any form of discrimination are very rare and dealt with effectively. They were also pleased to see the overwhelming support for the school on Parent View, with 95% of parents recommending our school; if you would like to share your views please logon to <https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/login?destination=give-your-views> . I would like to thank you for your on-going support in helping us maintain the highest expectations and standards of behaviour.

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Year 11s have been working hard and have recently completed their second round of trial examinations, with results in English and mathematics almost matching the results from the summer already. This bodes well for the remainder of the year and for this exceptional year group to meet their very challenging targets. I know parents and carers of Year 11 students will continue to work with us to ensure they achieve their very best. We are proud of the efforts our Year 11 students are putting into their study and look forward to celebrating with them at the Year 11 Awards Evening at the Town Hall on Friday evening, hosted by Tony Battle, Mayor of Coleshill.

Sixth Form students will have examinations in the first two weeks in the Spring term and we would remind all students that they should be completing the necessary revision to ensure they perform to their very best in these examinations.

Next week the whole school community is looking forward to enjoying 'The Dreaming' the latest musical from our incredibly talented performing arts team. The production is a musical take on Shakespeare's classic 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' and promises to be spectacular with a large cast of incredibly talented students. Please do come and support the show; tickets are available on ParentPay now, see website for details.

There will be a new edition of our Coleshill Update next week, with some important information for individual year groups as well as a focus on some of the key issues we are addressing in school. As ever, I urge you to visit our Twitter or Facebook pages to see what is happening in the school on a daily basis; there is so much to celebrate.

May I take this opportunity to thank you all for the support you give to the students and the wider school community. Wishing you a restful Christmas and a happy New Year.

Yours faithfully

*Ian Smith-Childs*

**Ian Smith-Childs  
Headteacher**

