



13<sup>th</sup> June 2019

Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing to outline some positive changes we are making next year to ensure that your child is supported pastorally in the best way possible and prepared academically to be the most effective 'Coleshill Learner' they can be. Year 7-10 students have attended an assembly today about these changes.

### Developing a Knowledge-Engaged Curriculum

The ambition of The Coleshill School is to provide high quality education that transforms the life chances of our students through a 'knowledge-engaged' curriculum. Our teachers and leaders have been working with colleagues across the Arthur Terry Learning Partnership to explore what children are learning from Year 3 through to Year 8 and to design a Key Stage 3 curriculum that ensures your child has the very best teaching and resources. We will ensure that students develop a love of their subjects and the right mix of the knowledge and skills they need as they move through their school journey and on to life in the world beyond school.

To support this you will see some changes in approach beginning from next year, particularly in Year 7 and Year 9 where we will be introducing 'Knowledge Organisers'. This will be in all subjects in Year 9 and will be gradually introduced in Year 7, starting with science, history and languages. Knowledge organisers will be used to support students in learning the key content for key topics, as well as linking to home learning and classroom activities. Students in Year 9 will keep their knowledge organisers together in a folder, whilst other year groups will have them in books as they are developed.

### An example of a Knowledge Organiser

**Y7 Knowledge Organiser: What happened during the Black Death?**

**What was the Black Death?**  
The **bubonic plague** was caused by a bacteria carried in fleas. Fleas carried by rats would be passed on to humans. Infected patients would spread the bacteria causing the **pneumonic plague** when they coughed. Symptoms of the plague include a fever, vomiting and swelling on the body called **swabs**.

**Where did the Black Death come from?**  
Originated from **China** and spread into Europe through ships. These ships were carrying rats that had the disease. Once the rats left the ships, there was no stopping the spread of the Black Death.

**What were the causes of the Black Death?**  
At the time, people blamed:  
- **God** (sent as punishment)  
- **Miasma** (impure air that caused illness)  
- **Poison** of the stars and planets  
- **Minority groups** (including Jewish people)  
- **Four humours** (medical doctors believed that the body was made up of four **humours** (liquids). An imbalance in one of the four humours caused illness)  
However, the real cause of the Black Death was a germ carried by rats.

**How did people try to cure and prevent the Black Death?**  
People tried to **prevent** it by:  
- People tried to prevent the Black Death by **burning fires** to stop the bad smells.  
- King Edward asked the **mayor of London** to clean the streets.  
- **Flagellants**: people whip themselves to punish themselves in hope that God did not send them the disease.  
They tried to **save** the Black Death by:  
- **Natural remedies**  
- **Prayers**  
BUT people do not understand what is happening and why it is happening. The lack of cures shows that they do not understand it!

**Why was the Black Death significant?**  
- **Significance**: this is an event that has long lasting impact.  
- Around 40-50% of Britain died  
- Impact on religious beliefs: priests running away and deserting their jobs- people lose faith.

**The Black Death led to the Peasants Revolt in 1381.**

**Why are peasants angry in 1381?**  
- **Strikes of labourers**: government put a limit on how much peasants can earn (wages), Black death: less people to work.  
- **Poll tax**: increased by the government. People couldn't afford to pay.

**What happened during the revolt?**  
The peasants refused to pay their taxes, so they marched to London. They burnt down government buildings murdered people. They murdered the archbishop. **Wat Tyler** (leader of the peasants) was killed and the revolt came to an end. The poll tax was abolished and they went back to their old way of life.

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## Linear Tutoring

In order to best support your child through their school journey we have made the decision to introduce linear tutoring from next year. This will mean your child will be in a tutor group with students from their year group only. Whilst there are many benefits of vertical tutoring, we feel the demands that are being placed on your child now both pastorally and academically require more age specific guidance and that linear tutoring will be the most effective way of supporting them.

The introduction of linear tutoring will allow:

- tutors to be the key link between school and home; where possible they will move through school with your child;
- bespoke pastoral guidance for your child such as: settling in with Year 7, options with Year 8, use of knowledge organisers and starting GCSE in Year 9;
- PSHE topics to be delivered in a more age-related way, allowing greater depth of discussion;
- students to eventually use their knowledge organisers in all year groups, which will build on the excellent practice that exists in current Year 11 tutor groups.

Sixth Form students will remain in mixed Year 12 and 13 tutor groups as this has been highly effective for students in recent years in supporting them pastorally and academically.

## The leadership of year groups for 2019/20 is shown below

Year	Year Leader	Progress Leader	Senior Link
7	Mr Chetwynd	Mrs Cooksey	Mrs Cornell
8	Mrs Barnes	Miss Sparkes	Mrs Robinson
9	Mrs O'Neill	Miss Bush	Mrs Tremble
10	Mr Bishop	Mr Lunn	Mr Gray
11	Mr Temple-Purcell	Miss King	Mr Jordan
Sixth Form	Mr Owen	Mrs Bishop (Pastoral Support, Careers and Guidance)	Mr Howard

## Student cards to support our high standards

It is important for us to maintain our high standards of behaviour, uniform and punctuality in order to allow students to focus on learning and to prepare them for life after school. In order to support students in maintaining these standards we will be introducing 'Student Cards'. This is a small card which will fit in the top of the blazer pocket and allow staff to record either sanctions or rewards for students based on their uniform, equipment, punctuality and conduct. Any student who is not able to present their card when asked will be sanctioned. Student cards will also give you a means of keeping track of your child's rewards and will make you aware of any emerging issues.

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## Home Learning and Revision

We believe that developing students as independent learners who have the key skills of revision and retrieval practice is an important part of being a Coleshill Learner. We recognise that communication of home learning and ensuring that the tasks being set are meaningful and understood by both students and parents/carers is vital in this process. We have listened to parents' views about our current system and want to make some improvements next year. We are therefore reviewing how and what we set for home learning as well as how this is communicated with home. To improve communication we will be moving away from the traditional paper planner next year and are currently researching home learning applications which you can have on your mobile devices. We are looking at two possibilities which are widely used in schools and will aim to introduce the application by October half term. We will be writing to you by the end of this term to explain what we will be doing in the short term.

For the older year groups, our revision programmes will continue to evolve. Year 11 and 13 in particular have benefited from an extensive revision programme including in school, after school, holidays and Saturdays which have all helped to prepare them to meet the challenges of final examinations.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours faithfully

*Ian Smith-Childs*

**Ian Smith-Childs  
Headteacher**