



Colfox is a Good School Ofsted 2023



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OFSTED 2023



**NEWS FROM COLFOX
AUTUMN 2023**

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Pupils are polite and attentive. They value the strong relationships they have with adults. Pupils describe their school as tolerant and respectful. Pupils talk proudly about the range of extra-curricular opportunities available to them. House events are particularly popular, staff ensure all take part and are encouraged to try something new.

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**Dear Parents, Carers, Students and
all Friends of Colfox Academy,**



We have enjoyed another great term, and it is lovely to be able to share some of the brilliant things your children have achieved and enjoyed in this newsletter.

As you will know, we started this term with an Ofsted inspection -I was proud that we were judged to be a good school and that our ambitious new curriculum was particularly praised by the inspectors. You will find a longer report in this newsletter, but I would like to share how proud I was of our school, our students, our teachers and all our staff.

As I write this, we are preparing for our Senior Prize Giving Ceremony, we are very proud of all our students, but a special well done to all those in Years 10, 11, 12 and 13 who will be receiving awards.

It has been a very busy term, Year 11 have worked hard on their GCSEs and experienced a good Mock Exam Week. The next few months are a crucial time for them, Parents and Carers please encourage them to work hard at home, their efforts will be rewarded. Well done also to Year 10 for making a great start to their GCSE courses, it won't be long before they will be taking part in their work experience.

Our lower school have also done well, Year 9 are getting ready to choose their GCSE options next term and Year 8 are starting to lead House and Sporting events, well done also to Year 7 for settling in so well.

It has been great to see our Sixth Form centre so packed, Year 13s worked hard on their Mock Exams and Year 12 have settled in well and have made a great start.

There were lots of highlights this term, including the Music Trip to London, History trips to Parliament and the Imperial War Museum, our Variety Show, visits from Theatre companies, Art Field Trips, a Sixth Form Conference an Engineering Trip, Black History Month, Remembrance Day, as well as lots of House Days, Quizzes and Inter-House contests, as you can see from these pages it has been a very busy term.

The launch of our new Classics Hub has gone well and we have been pleased to see that so many students are interested in learning Latin, as well as Greek and Ancient History. We were delighted to welcome back the Bridport Literary Festival and welcome the public to talks by acclaimed authors in our hall.

Thank you to everyone who has already supported our new Colfox Fund, which has been set up to buy breakfast, uniform and other much-needed things to help our students whose families are struggling with the cost of living. If you can help, please donate to the Colfox Fund, via My Child at School. Thank you.

I know as Parents and Carers you want your children to achieve their best and enjoy more opportunities – you can do this best by supporting your child with attendance, punctuality and effort, including homework. This is important, as it allows them to keep up with their education and feel involved and part of our school. Our Family Liaison Officer Sarah Higgins is here to help students and families so please get in touch if you have any concerns. We of course understand that sometimes medical circumstances mean some absences are unavoidable.

I wish you all a very peaceful Christmas. Yours sincerely,

Adam Shelley , Headteacher

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Ofsted have judged that the Sir John Colfox Academy is a Good School during a recent inspection. Ofsted recognised that Colfox School is ambitious for its pupils and has worked hard to create a new well-planned curriculum to increase achievement and students' enjoyment of learning. The inspectors also found that students have strong relationships with adults, are encouraged to try new things, enjoy extra-curricular opportunities and are enthusiastic about reading.

The Ofsted Report said: "Recent changes to the curriculum reflect the school's ambition for its pupils to achieve more highly. Pupils learn about the wider world and other cultures. Pupils at the school enjoy reading and talk enthusiastically about books they have read." Pupils are 'polite and attentive' and describe their school as 'tolerant and respectful'.

Adam Shelley, Headteacher of the Sir John Colfox Academy, said: "We are proud that Ofsted have judged that we are a good school. I was pleased that Ofsted recognised that we are ambitious for all our students and that our new curriculum is well planned to increase achievement and our students' enjoyment of their subjects. We are proud of all our students, and it was no surprise to us that Ofsted found them 'polite and attentive' and noted that they described our school as 'tolerant and respectful'.

"Here at Colfox, we want our students to enjoy their education and benefit from as many opportunities as possible. I was pleased that Ofsted recognised that 'what pupils learn is more than just preparation for examinations'. They also noted that our school 'prides itself on the range of opportunities for pupils to broaden their experiences beyond the classroom'. Our Careers Programme was praised for preparing students 'well for the future'.

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“The report also captures that we value community. We are working hard to create a strong supportive school community where a culture of kindness can thrive and where student voices are heard and valued. I would like to thank Parents and Carers for working with us to support all our young people. The changes we are making across our school are part of an improvement journey, and I’d like to thank all our brilliant teachers and staff for all they do to support every student at our school as we continue this journey together.”

Ofsted also recognised that Colfox School has responded well to increased challenges following the pandemic by expanding and improving pastoral care and support available to students and adopting a more therapeutic behaviour policy, which has had a ‘positive impact’.

Ofsted also recognised that ‘pupils with SEND (special educational needs and disabilities) and those who are disadvantaged receive additional support’ they continued ‘Pupils with SEND are accurately identified and teachers know them well. The school works effectively with these pupils’. The inspectors always identify areas of improvement, these such as ensuring new policies are applied consistently were already being addressed.

Ofsted said that Colfox’s ‘links with the local community are strong’ and were impressed with the school’s sixth formers, who volunteer their time via the school’s ‘Give Back’ scheme to help younger students.

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New Classics Hub means students can now study Latin, Greek and Ancient History

The Classics Hub will give students more opportunities both at GCSE, A Level and lower down the school and is part of our ambitious plans to expand our curriculum. More than 30 Students in Year 9 have already signed up for Latin!

Dr Neil Allies, Head of Languages and Cultures, pictured above, said:
“Students are increasingly interested in Classics, and I am delighted that we are now able to offer new Latin and Greek GCSEs and Ancient History A Level. Younger students will also benefit from the new Classics Hub, as we will be introducing them to Latin, Classical texts and the Ancient World through our Reading Curriculum.

New Classics Hub means students can now study Latin, Greek and Ancient History

“We want to expand our students’ horizons and inspire in them a love for learning and for the classical world, by introducing them to a huge range of fascinating and fun topics including everything from gladiators to mosaics, archaeology, myths and more!”

The school is also planning more trips to ancient sites and has this week, as part of Bridport Literary Festival hosted a talk on Ancient Greece by acclaimed author Adam Nicholson. His illustrated talk, which was attended by students and the public is entitled ‘How to Be – Life Lessons from the Early Greeks’.

Adam Shelley, Headteacher of the Sir John Colfox Academy, said: “The launch of our new Classics Hub is part of our ambitious plans to expand our curriculum and offer our students more opportunities.

“We were proud that improvements to our new curriculum were recently recognised by Ofsted who noted that ‘changes to the curriculum reflect the school’s ambition for its pupils to achieve more highly. Pupils are now benefiting from the improved curriculum’. Our new curriculum and our new Classics Hub will give our students even more opportunities to pursue their academic interests and develop a love for the Ancient World.”

The new hub will also involve and benefit other secondary schools in the Initio Learning Trust, which Colfox is part of.

London Museums Trip



Students enjoyed a trip to London in November to visit the Imperial War Museum and the Old Operating Theatre Museum.

Mr Bartlett who led the trip said: “Year 11 enjoyed a great talk and demonstration at the Operating Theatre which linked with what students have been learning about Medicine in the Victorian period and the development of anaesthetics. We then spent the afternoon at the Imperial War Museum where students found out more about the First and Second World Wars, Conflict in Ireland and the Cold War. Students had a great day and enjoyed seeing a range of historical artefacts.

A visit to Parliament



Students enjoyed a trip to the Houses of Parliament in October.

Mr Bartlett who led the trip said: "All who attended had a fantastic experience. We first went on a tour of the Palace of Westminster, entering through the King's entrance to a grand workspace for the Lords with famous paintings of the Battle of Waterloo and the Battle of Trafalgar. After learning that Henry VIII was the last monarch who lived in the Palace of Westminster and being told that Queen Victoria was not impressed by a statue of herself, we entered the red seated House of Lords."

A visit to Parliament

"Students learnt about the unelected chamber and how the King attends for the yearly State Opening of Parliament. We then travelled to central lobby before moving towards the House of Commons where we saw the MPs very old-fashioned pigeonholes with stickers that identified their party link. Students then learnt about how Members of Parliament voted before entering the Commons and standing amongst the opposition benches. The tour ended in the great Westminster Hall where Queen Elizabeth II laid in State last year.

"After a great tour students completed a workshop focused on campaigning. Students learnt about Brexit and Fox Hunting before creating their own campaigns. Students developed some brilliant campaigns about adjusting the school week and public spending. This led to some great debating, there was a standout clash between Zoe Staal and Oliver Channing-Pearce, both made their points well. Thank you to Ms Webb and Mrs Davies for helping with the trip and I would like to thank the Parliament Education Team for an excellent visit and Clive from Bluebird Travel for safe travel on what was a culturally enriching day."

Nathan Bartlett,
Associate Assistant Headteacher



London Music Trip

Students visited the Royal Albert Hall in September.

Music students from Year 10 and 11 visited the Royal Albert Hall in London this week. They had a great trip, despite the weather, and saw the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra with West End singers perform the 'Best of Broadway'.

Mr Hocking, Music Subject Leader, said: "It was a great performance and we all enjoyed the trip - despite the rain which was unfortunately torrential that day!"



Engineering Students Visit Bridmet

Engineering students enjoyed visiting Bridmet, they found out about opportunities in the industry and made some fantastic models! They heard from current apprentices about what it is like to do an apprenticeship and work for Bridmet. They also created some brilliant models produced by Bridmet using laser technology, including jets, jeeps and elephants! Thank you very much to Bridmet for a great visit and making us so welcome!



Art Field Trip - creating art outdoors

"We had a super day creating amazing art outdoors and the weather was fantastic.

“It was an Art Outdoors trip for GCSE Year 10 Art Students. We had our sketchbooks at the ready and cameras poised. All students had a fantastic day on Portland.

“We visited Chesil beach to record the crashing waves and beautiful beach huts before venturing to the Tout Quarry Sculpture Park to scramble on the rocks and discover stone carvings hidden in the surroundings. A final stop at Portland Bill to see the lighthouse and spot seals in the sea! Amazing work was created and we all enjoyed it."

Louise Burgess, Head of Art

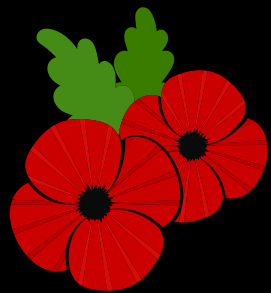
Sixth Form Conference!



Well done to our Sixth Formers who took part in the 'Free and Equal?' Conference on Gender, Power & Masculinity.

They travelled to Ringwood School for the National Schools' Conference which was an in-person conference streamed live across the UK in October.

Well done especially to Sammy Dumbleton, who spoke about harrassment and put forward a manifesto for Change. Also well done to Esme Rees for being part of the backstage team. Both students attended many meetings to help make the event happen.



Colfox Remembers

Colfox remembers - our moving Remembrance Assemblies have been led by Captain Temple, who as well as teaching Geography is an Army Reservist.

Ms Temple, who spoke of her visit to the Cenotaph, is part of the Dorset Army Cadet Force who are linked to the Tank Regiment.

Well done to all students who took part in creating our Poppy Wall of Remembrance, especially Max and Olly in Year 9, who are pictured above.

COLFOX CELEBRATES **BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

**Black Voices
Black History
Black British Writers**



We were proud to celebrate Black History Month in October. Thank you to our the History Department for arranging special assemblies.

Thank you also to our Student Librarians, including Maksym pictured for helping to create a special display in the Library.



Colfox Fund helping students in need



Please give if you can



The Colfox Fund provides free breakfast bars and other much needed items like shoes and uniform.

If you can help others in need, please give to the Colfox Fund's we are now accepting donations via 'My Child At School' rather than Wisepay. Any problems please email: office@colfox.dorset.sch.uk Thank you to everyone who has already donated - it has made a difference.



Live Theatre Celebrated at Colfox

Hundreds of students enjoyed live theatre when a touring company visited the Sir John Colfox Academy. The 'Three Inch Fools' Touring Theatre company gave a brilliant performance of Macbeth in our Main hall.

Emma Holder, Head of Performing Arts at the Sir John Colfox Academy, said: “It was great to see students enjoying Macbeth. It was an enriching experience, students gained a lot from seeing Shakespeare brought to life in front of them. We all enjoyed it and applaud the company for giving us such a wonderful performance - it was great to be able to enjoy live theatre in our school.”

More than 150 students in Year 10 and 11 saw the performance. They are studying the play as part of their English Literature GCSE.



Music Trip!

A total of 45 students headed to London for the annual music experience GCSE and Enrichment trip, to see Frozen and ironically it was snowing!

We were all stunned by how amazing the show was and we even met one of the cast members on the tube later that evening. We also went around a Christmas market and visited Covent garden at night to see the Christmas lights. We enjoyed a trip to London Zoo the next day too before heading home.

Mr Hocking, Music Subject Leader



Rugby Triumph!

Colfox make it two in a row!

An amazing performance by the Yr10 boys saw them retain the trophy they won in Yr9 at the recent West Dorset area tournament.

After moving through the group stages undefeated, they faced Thomas Hardye's School in the final - a team that had previously won the tournament 20 times out of the last 23 years! A tightly contested game, played in an exemplary manner ended with our Yr10 winning by two tries to one. Another epic season for this great group of boys.

Mr Littlechild, Head of PE

VARIETY SHOW FUN!!



Well done to all students who performed in the Variety Show this term. Students across our school competed in heats and the winning performers took part in a grand final enjoyed by Year 7.

Congratulations to Felix in Year 7 who was the overall winner for his awesome yo-yo skills! Well done also to the brilliant runners-up including Sita in Year 8 who performed a beautiful song, the Toro Year 9 Band featuring Seth, Theo, Arthur and Max and also Eliza in Year 8 who performed a great monologue. Everybody enjoyed the show, as you can see! Thank you to Mrs Holder for organising.



We Campaign Poetry

Thank you to Poet Jonny Fluffypunk and the Bank of Dreams and Nightmares for running brilliant campaign poetry workshops this term!

Congratulations to all our Year 9 Poets, who produced excellent creative work, including Theo who is pictured above with Jonny. Theo's poem 'A Recipe for Disaster' explored the Covid response with great flair.

It is hoped that some of the poems will be published in an anthology marking World Poetry Day in March.

The brilliant Bank of Dreams and Nightmares are a registered charity that offer creative writing opportunities to disadvantaged children in West Dorset, they have previously worked with our students to produce a book, comedy sketches and advertising campaign films. We can't wait to see what they produce next!

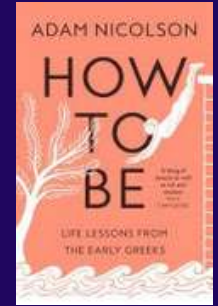
Bridport Literary Festival Comes to Colfox!



We were delighted to welcome authors Peter Snow, Ann Macmillan and Adam Nicolson and the public as we hosted events for Bridport Literary Festival. Our students were given the opportunity to hear Ann and Peter's lecture on 'Real Lives of English Monarchs' and Adam's talk on 'How to Be - Life Lessons from the Early Greeks.' Thank you to Joanna Jacobson from the festival and also Matt, Y13 for helping, both pictured above with Peter and Ann.

Chandler in Year 11, said: "I really enjoyed the lecture, Peter and Ann were very clear, I enjoyed seeing the different themes and learning about them, it was very captivating."

Bridport Literary Festival



Evie, also in Year 11, said: "I found it intriguing how the monarchs were given a detailed back story, and how they earned their status."

The talk on Ancient Greece was well-received by our students studying Latin, Greek and Ancient History. These subjects have been introduced as a new Classics Hub has been launched at Colfox.

Adam Teasdale, Head of Sixth Form, said: "At Colfox, we have recently changed our Modern Foreign Languages department to 'Culture and Languages'. We recognise the importance of ancient civilisations, languages and cultures and have recently formed a 'Classics Hub'. As the lead school in the trust, we are helping to reintroduce Ancient History at A Level, Greek at GCSE and Latin at both GCSE and A Level to all our partner schools, including Beaminster. Our aim is to revitalise the life lessons that the early Greeks gave us, and a book like 'How to Be' is the perfect guide to help us on this quest for knowledge."

Learning about Guide Dogs



Thank you to Geoff Beck and Pringle, who joined a Year 7 Assembly.

Mr Beck taught us about Guide Dogs and the important work they do. Pringle was very popular with students and it was fascinating to learn more about Guide Dogs, their work and the thorough training they receive before qualifying. Thank you to Mr Beck and Pringle!

Careers Education Success



We are delighted that the quality of our Careers Education has been recognised.

The high quality of our Careers Education was recognised recently, when we won the Dorset Careers Hub 2022/23 Mainstream Secondary Schools and Colleges Category.

The Dorset Careers Hub congratulated Colfox's Careers Service for attaining all eight of the Gatsby Benchmarks for Careers Education. The Gatsby Benchmarks are a framework created by the Government's careers strategy that defines what good careers education is. Research has proven that meeting the benchmarks has a significantly positive impact on student's career readiness and GCSE results.

Could you offer Work Experience?

We are appealing to businesses, charities, public sector organisations and other workplaces to provide high quality work experience for our students.

We are keen to offer a wide range of interesting work placements to encourage students to aim high and explore different career paths.

Michael Thompson, Head of Careers at the Sir John Colfox Academy, said: “We have a wonderfully supportive community in Bridport and we already have a range of great work experience placements, but we are always looking for more opportunities to offer our students.

“It is a fantastic opportunity for businesses and workplaces to give something back to our community and to inspire the next generation to join them in their field. Our work experience programme is very successful, and our students have previously succeeded in achieving offers of paid work or apprenticeships. This has been fantastic for them and for the workplaces they have joined.”

We are looking for week-long work experience placements for Year 10 students, who are aged 14-15, at the end of March 2024. Any business or workplace interested in finding out more should contact Michael Thompson, Head of Careers at the Sir John Colfox Academy, via email: Thompsonm@colfox.dorset.sch.uk or office@colfox.dorset.sch.uk
Thank you!





Year 10 cook delicious Mussels!

Well done to all our Year 10 GCSE Food and Nutrition students who cooked Mussels in a Thai style. Many ate them for the first time - they were delicious! Thank you to Lyme Bay Mussel Farm 'Offshore Shell' for donating the mussels!

NEW IN YOUR LIBRARY



Our Library is Student led - we only buy books that students request. Our Library budget has been boosted by generous Parents and Carers supporting our 'Buy a Book for our Library' Appeal hosted by the wonderful Bridport Book Shop - thanks to you we have been able to get all books requested. Thanks also to the Book Shop for generously donating books.

We have had about 300 voluntary book reviews by students this term alone! Most popular Library books include 'One Piece' (Manga), 'Lottie Brookes', 'Ultimate Football Heroes' series and FNAF Graphic novels. Well done to everyone who has submitted a review, they are on display in the Library.

Please Buy a Book for Our School Library!



Our Students have a wish list at Bridport Book Shop!

Student Librarian Kitty said: "Some young people don't have a lot of books at home, so making sure our library has the very latest interesting and enticing books is more important than ever. We do have a budget for new books, but we are always keen to get as many more as possible. Thank you to everyone who has bought us a lovely book!"

THANK
YOU!



THE  BOOKSHOP EST. 1978

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Use Sora at home (its easy)
like a Kindle - but free!
Here is the 'how to' guide:

SORA

- Google 'SORA'
- Click 'Find my School'
- Click 'No I'll search for my School'
- In 'Let's find your school' type 'Colfox' and click it when it pops up
- Scroll down list to 'T' and click 'The Sir John Colfox'

- Click 'sign-in using the Sir John Colfox Academy'
- Log in using your full email address 23surnameinitial@colfox.dorset.sch.uk and your usual password

EXPLORE!

Sport / Manga / Graphics/ Thrillers /
Horror/ Football / Horses / Anything!

**Aveline Jones Series
available in the Library!**

REVIEW

By

THE  BOOKSHOP EST. 1978



I do love a good ghost story and this fast paced tale of a girl staying in an unfamiliar, storm beaten, coastal town on All Hallow's Eve, is deliciously creepy.

Aveline needs to stay with her aunt for a few days in the Cornish town of Malmouth which has a pretty ghostly past, what with a smuggler's cove and all. But the Halloween tradition of making a childlike scarecrow to adorn each garden is less familiar and very unnerving.

After buying a book of ghost stories from Lieberman's Second-Hand Books, a curious trove of many dusty tomes, she stumbles upon another girl's fascination with ghosts. A girl from the past whose mysterious disappearance is still unexplained. Primrose Penberthy once owned this book and what's more she kept a diary.

Using Primrose's diary, can Aveline piece the puzzle together to determine what happened to her? More importantly, can she find out in time to save her own life?

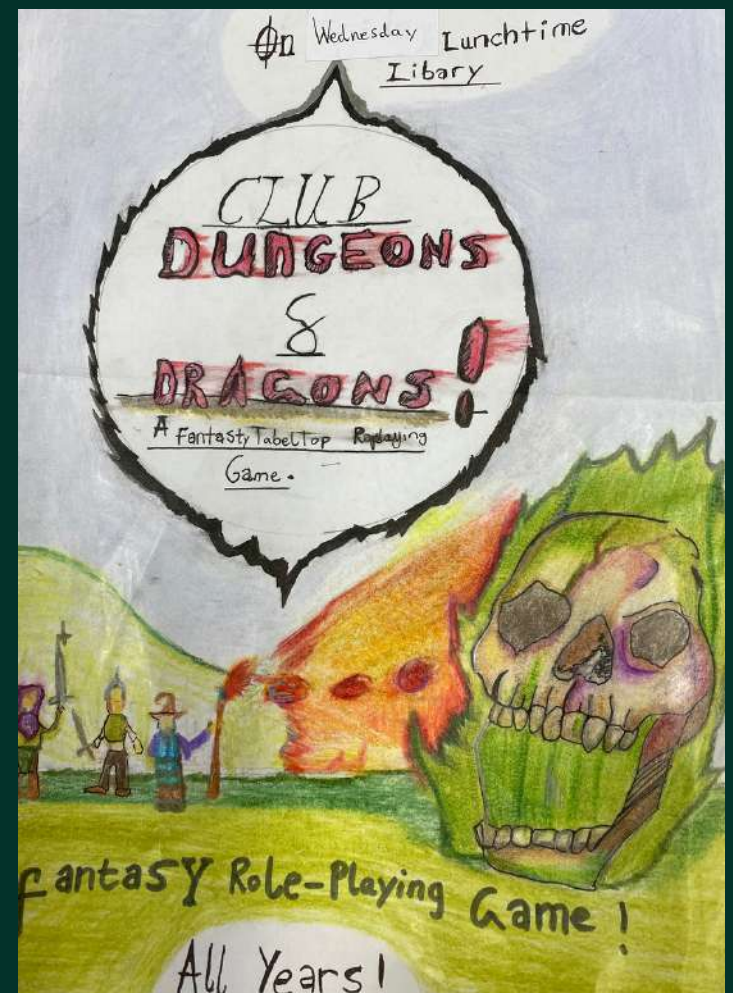
Phil Hickes has created an electric atmosphere full of tension and suspense with a subtle nod to Daphne Du Maurier. I simply couldn't put it down and it has become one of my firm favourites.

Review by Nicky Mathewson

Join a Club! Try Something New!

Join a Club, come along at lunch or after school & try something new! Joining is free and there is lots on offer including Badminton, Art, Chess, Bench Ball, Hockey, Football, Netball, Table Tennis, Textiles, Rugby, Cross Country. Details of all Clubs are available on our website and on the Clubs Display in the Street.

This term students wanted to start a new 'Dungeons & Dragon's Club' so we did - thank you to Ewan in Y7 and Matthew in Y12 for leading D&D! And thank you to all staff who provide clubs for our students.



Help with Homework available

We provide two Homework Clubs to support students with their studies. Students can attend Homework Club in the Library, which is open from Mon to Thur until 5pm. We also offer a Homework Club in SEN, which is open until 4.30pm from Mon to Thur.

Help with uniform

If you need help with uniform

Please contact us, thanks to our new Colfox Fund we may be able to provide families in need with uniform help, we also have some free second hand uniform available which has been donated to us. Please email us if you need assistance: office@colfox.dorset.sch.uk

Please donate unwanted school uniform – Thank you!

Please donate school uniform, ties, PE kit (without names on the back) and sports equipment that you no longer need. Please donate uniform that is in good condition, we are grateful if you could wash it first. Please drop it off to reception. Thank you, your generosity will help others.

Please make sure your child has the correct uniform

Advice on uniform is available on our website: colfox.org/school-uniform-presentation/

Helpers needed!

We are looking for volunteers to help sort through uniform donations, and launder any that need attention. If you can help please contact: office@colfox.dorset.sch.uk

Thank you for reading!



**We wish you all a very Happy
Christmas!**