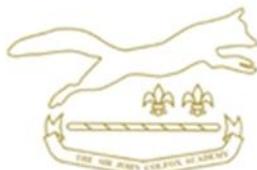


# The Sir John Colfox Academy



Inspiring Learning, Achieving Excellence

Headteacher: Mr David Herbert BSc PGCE NPQH

September 2018

Dear Parents

Welcome back to the new school year! A very special welcome to all of our new Year 7 students who have arrived with us looking very smart indeed. It was lovely to see such excited looking faces on Wednesday morning. I hope they valued the extra day with the school to themselves; we will review this with the students and parents in helping us decide the calendar for the start of next year.

The first house assemblies of the term have begun by reviewing some of the successes of last year. Once again, Mr David was able to capture many of our 'best bits' in the form of a video. You are able to watch this for yourselves and it is available on the school website in the 'Fox News and Videos' section. We are in the process of finalising the 2017/18 Review of the Year in Pictures and this will be available very soon. It is difficult to know what to leave out!

## Examination Results!

**Post 16:** You may have seen the press release in the Bridport news but once again, we were delighted with our student's results. 50% of the grades achieved were at A\*-B or Distinction\*/Distinction level. We have become used to very impressive outcomes at A Level in our sixth form, but the real feature this year was the results from the students in our Yeovil College partnership. This really is working for young people from the Bridport area and is allowing them access to a much wider range of Post 16 courses. The numbers on this programme (forty in September 2018) are growing fast! The students deserved every success that came their way, since their dedication and work rate was first class. The range of universities and employment opportunities our students are now heading off to is particularly impressive and we wish them all the very best for the future.

## GCSE

The outgoing Year 11 should be very proud of themselves, we are certainly proud of them! Again, I know many of you will have read about their achievements in the Bridport News and I hope you enjoyed observing their smiling faces. It has been great to welcome the majority of them back into the sixth form already, time flies! It will be some time before all of the results can be compared fully with national results, however we know already that as 71% grades were at the new 'high pass' level, we are well above the national average once again! I would like to pay tribute to the teaching staff for guiding them so well during what has been a challenging first year of a new system with new examinations and very little advice from exam boards.

## Extra-Curricular Clubs

Attached to this letter are the extra-curricular clubs for this term. More will be added as the term progress and students should check the weekly bulletin and clubs notice board. We would encourage all students to be taking part in at least one activity and it so important in ensuring they have a broad and balanced education. All work and no play is not a good thing! As the upcoming weeks unfold, we will soon be getting stuck into our internal house competitions. Fleur de Lys dominated 2017-18 - who will come out on top this year? Tug of War starts this week!



The Sir John Colfox Academy Trust part of the Minerva Learning Trust (Dorset) which is a charitable company Limited by guarantee and registered in England and Wales with Company Number 8561222.

The Registered office is at: The Sir John Colfox Academy, The Ridgeway, Bridport, Dorset DT6 3DT  
Tel: 01308 422291 Fax: 01308 420036 Email: office@colfox.dorset.sch.uk

We also currently offer music lessons in:

Piano

Strings: Violin/Viola/Cello

Guitars: Acoustic, electric, bass and ukulele.

Drums

Singing

Woodwind and Brass

Ukulele

For more information about individual music lessons (including costs) please contact our Head of Music, Brian Hocking.

### **Homework Club**

The library will be open on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays until 5.00pm. This provides an opportunity for students to complete homework (and get some help!) in a quiet environment with ICT facilities available. Students do not need to book into this and are free to turn up on any night that suits them; Mrs Dixon and team will be delighted to see them and we usually have older students on hand to help when needed. This year we have also provided Year 11 with a dedicated study space (including computer access) in A108. This is available to them before school, at lunch and after school.

### **Uniform**

I am pleased to see just how smart the students look on their return to school. I would like to thank parents and students to the positive response on this. In particular, the new skirts have made a significant difference, it is quite a transformation. Again, I would like to thank parents for your support with this. We are only dealing with a small number of students who had some issues sourcing a new skirt in time. We took the liberty of ordering 20 of the most popular sizes ourselves and so we have been able to help some students in the first days. Please do contact our office if this could help you. Please remember that if trousers are being worn, they must be of full length and not skinny, slim leg or tight fitting. The full list of uniform guidelines is on the website and printed in the student's planners.

There are some cases where students have ordered one of the new specified skirts, but they have just not ordered the right size. In many letters last year, it did specify that the gap between the bottom of the skirt and the top of the knee could be no greater than 5cm. Where this is not the case then members of our pastoral team are getting in touch with parents to confirm that a replacement is required. I was disappointed to hear from our supplier, Kitz UK, that they experienced some difficult behaviour (temper tantrums) from a small number of our students who visited the Sherborne store to buy uniform. Please remember that they only supply the uniform, they do not choose our uniform policy. If you have any individual queries, please do contact the relevant Head of School.

### **Parents Calendar**

This is attached to this letter. It is largely unchanged from the copy that was sent in July. Obviously extra events, trips and visits will be added during the year but we hope this list might help you in planning your child's year and identify where possible costs might be incurred.

### **Parent Mail and MCAS**

If you do not currently receive letters via Parent Mail and would like to, please provide your email address by emailing [office@colfox.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:office@colfox.dorset.sch.uk). Please remember My Child At School (MCAS) enables you to stay in touch with your child's activity in school. You can view what homework has been set, student timetables, and school reports, along with many other features. All new parents will shortly be sent their access code. If any existing parents have lost these and would like to use this then please contact Terri Davies [t.davies@colfox.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:t.davies@colfox.dorset.sch.uk)

### **Who to contact**

Please find attached a useful list of who to contact in school with any queries or questions you may have.



## Social Media

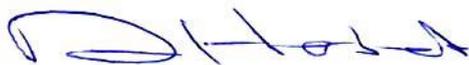
The school has a 'Twitter' account. We do try our best to keep it updated with points of interest and some real time pictures from school events. If you are not already following us please do! For reasons unknown to us our school Facebook account was deactivated by Facebook last year. They would not tell us why and we are unable to open a new one. A number of secondary schools have been affected by this. We will not be trying again and will continue to update the website and the twitter account as best as we can.

## Buses

It seems a long time ago since the disastrous start to 2017 on the school buses. I hope the service at the start to this year has been more reliable. I am still lobbying First Wessex and DCC over what I believe to be overly long journeys on two routes in particular. The C2 bus does not have enough spaces and First Wessex are currently supplying an extra bus to cover Shipton Gorge separately. I am pleased that a service is now available from the Beaminster area, to satisfy this increasing demand. If you have any issues with buses (or general points to make) than please do share with Mr Hofmann (Deputy Head) [hoffmannm@colfox.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:hoffmannm@colfox.dorset.sch.uk)

Finally, I hope that this is a very happy and successful year for all our students and I thank you in advance for the support that you will be giving to them and the school.

Yours sincerely



David Herbert  
Headteacher

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