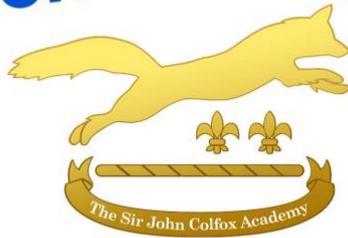


# The Sir John Colfox Academy



***Inspiring Learning, Achieving Excellence***

Headteacher: Mr Adam Shelley MEd, BSc Hons, PGCE, NPQH

23 July 2021

Dear Parents

Well we made it to the end of another difficult and disrupted year due to Covid

We have worked hard to keep everyone safe and it has paid off, we have had very few cases in school so have not had much disruption to education as in some other areas. This has been down to everyone working together, both in and out of school, so I would like to say thank you to all staff, parents and students who have made this year successful.

What a final few weeks we have had as our students have been involved in many activities and events including a very warm Sports Day, Junior and House Prize Giving as well as hosting our new Year 7 and Year 5 students on transition days.

We were delighted that the Summer Ball for the Sixth Form and Year 11 Prom could go ahead. These were both held at Symondsburry this year which was a lovely venue that we will use again. They were both lovely events where the students were a credit to Colfox on both nights. Colfox students were complemented on their politeness and behaviour by the venue's staff. It was so nice to see all the students (and staff) enjoying themselves and having a good end to this phase of their education. There were also some interesting modes of transport to get there!

It is at this time that we say goodbye to some teachers who are moving onwards and upwards in their careers, I am sure that they will do great things and we look forward to hearing about this in due course so goodbye to:

**Andy David** – Andy has worked at Colfox for 19 years and has had a huge impact in most aspects of school life and the community. He has led Cross Country and running teams to great success in national events. His dedication to those students is amazing and his passion, drive and commitment to see them succeed is outstanding. He has led the Edge in the school with the same drive and commitment and it is wonderful to see so many students taking part in this through his leadership. He will be missed by students, staff and parents as he moves into his new role in a different school. We know he will be amazing.

**Charlotte Barraclough** – Charlotte has been with us for 4 years. She has been a fantastic second in the English department and has developed the Reading and Literacy curriculum. She is an outstanding teacher and we wish her luck in her new leadership role.

**James Phillips** – James has worked at Colfox for 3 years now and has moved the Maths department forward. He has introduced many new initiatives including the mastery curriculum

which is developing students deeper understanding in Maths. He is student focused and wants every child to thrive. We wish him luck in his new role.

**Matthew Bell** – Although Matt has only been with us a year, he has made a big impact in the Geography department. He is a fantastic teacher and we wish him luck in his new school.

**Arnikah Brown** – Arnikah has worked in the PE department this year and we wish her well in the next stage of her career. We will miss her enthusiasm.

**James Witchell** – James started at Colfox as a maternity cover in History just before the first lockdown. He has now successfully passed his NQT year with us and we wish him luck for the future. James will be missed in Colfox by staff and students, but I have a feeling that we might see him return at some point.

We also have several staff who are retiring or moving onto do something different and we wish them good luck as they start this new adventure so we say goodbye to:

**Gill Barr** – Gill has worked at Colfox for 20 years and will be retiring. Gill is an outstanding teacher and her commitment and passion for English is transmitted to all the students she teaches. She will be missed by teachers and students. She has had many roles in Colfox all of which she has been fantastic in. Gill will be missed at Colfox but we would like to wish her a happy and healthy retirement.

**Sharon Gibson** – Sharon has worked at Colfox for 20 years and is now leaving education but has lots of other exciting things planned. She has been a fantastic D&T teacher and her students speak highly of her in particular her GCSE classes, who she has given so much support and guidance to. Sharon always wants her students to succeed and they do.

**Amanda Abbott** – Mandy has been working with many students in the SEN department over the last 10 years. She has helped them develop their mathematical understanding and her students make real progress with her guidance. She will be missed and we wish her a happy retirement.

I would like to thank all of them, as I am sure you would to, for all their hard work and dedication during their time at Colfox as well as wishing them good luck for in the future.

We are welcoming to the school new teachers and support staff next year all of whom are going to be fantastic assets to the school they are:

- Mia Halifax – PE
- Ed Walker – MFL
- Liz Launder – Literacy and reading Co-ordinator
- Toby Willis – Maths
- Katie Phillips – English
- Lewis Cockram – English
- Richard Fuller – Geography
- Anita Jackson – D & T
- Wojciech Zalewski – Maths
- Kathy O’Borne – SEN teacher
- Katie Wilkinson – HLTA
- Amy Kensington – HLTA
- Cameron Love – TA

I would also like to thank all school staff who, despite the turbulence this year, have given your daughters and sons a fantastic education. They have delivered in extremely difficult circumstances and deserve a rest over the summer so they can come back refreshed and ready for whatever is thrown at them next year. It is also fantastic how well the students have settled and are working

again and we really hope that next year we will have less (if no) disruption to education. This will help to establish those good learning habits and get them involved in more extracurricular clubs, trips and visits. Participation in these is a key to students' school experience and development. As a school community we have come through a lot this year together and I am confident that whatever is thrown at us next year, by working together we will come out stronger. Attached to this letter is our Parents Calendar 2020-2021 and proposed Trips and Visits. I hope you find this helpful.

A final note regarding uniform, please take the time to review our uniform policy <https://www.colfox.org/information/our-uniform/> and an accompanying presentation on our website. <https://www.colfox.org/school-uniform-presentation/> There are some changes to note including to skirts and jewellery. We will be checking uniform very carefully at the start of term and want to ensure that parents have the opportunity to purchase suitable clothing.

Thank you for all your support, all the staff at the school appreciate it and we are all looking forward to welcoming students back in September.

I hope that you all have a good break and that the students are looking forward to getting back to what will hopefully be a more normal year.

Yours sincerely



Adam Shelley  
Headteacher

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