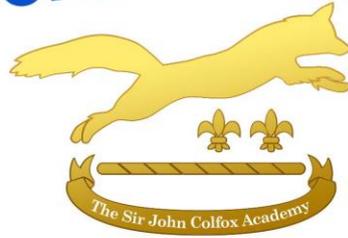


The Sir John Colfox Academy



Inspiring Learning, Achieving Excellence

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

10 September 2021

Dear Parents

What a fantastic start of term we have had. Attendance has been nearly 100% in all year groups and your daughters and sons have been a credit to the Academy and community.

It is so nice to see the students enjoying being back with their peers and getting back in to good learning habits. They can once again enjoy taking part in clubs and all the enrichment activities we are able to offer now that many restrictions have been lifted (extra-curricular activities attached). We are also looking forward to students' participating in house events this year starting with tug of war next week, and being able to offer more trips and visits this year to enrich our students' experiences.

Year 7 have started so well, and it is great to see them being so enthusiastic to learn with our fantastic specialist teachers. I am sure that they will be tired this weekend so I hope they get a good rest ready for more exciting lessons next week!

Year 8 and 9 are working well in all their curriculum subjects and we have been able to increase the number of groups in English, Maths and Science to help those who need additional support catch up.

Year 10 have started their GCSE subjects and it is always fantastic to see them developing their skills deeper in the subjects they have chosen. We have also managed to increase the number of groups in English, Maths and Science to support their GCSE work.

Year 11 are on the last push towards their GCSE's and have come back strong and ready to excel this year.

We have a lot of students returning in Year 12 who are eager to take on the challenges of A-levels, BTEC and Vocational Courses. Year 13 have also returned determined to do well this year to move on to the next phase of their education or employment with the best results they can.

What a fantastic year we will have and we are all excited to be back (or nearly!) back to normal.

Your daughter or son will begin to have homework and this will be set on My Child at School. This is to help you support your child to be organised and keep track of when they need to hand it in. We are still using Teams for many of the tasks or assignments, but this will be signposted in MCAS.

I would like to thank our wonderful Covid testing volunteers who have been in this week testing up to 300 students a day. We could not have opened the school to all so quickly without them. We will continue to give out home testing kits to students so that they can continue to carry out two voluntary

tests per week. In order to keep our school community safe, I would like to remind parents that if your child has Covid symptoms then do not send them into school, follow the advice from the Government and get a PCR test. If this is negative, then they can come back to school otherwise follow the advice from NHS track and trace and advise school. Track and Trace will then trace close contacts and advise them on what action to take. We are currently the only region in the South West that has not had to put in additional measures in school due to high covid rates, but numbers are rising. If this happens we will be advised by the Government of additional measures, these might include the use of masks and reintroduction of year group Zones. I hope that we will avoid this but will let you know if these measures need to be put in place to keep our community safe.

I would like to thank all members of staff for their hard work this week to make everything so smooth, and to parents for their continued support as we all work through this new normal, and finally the students who have been and will continue to be amazing.

I hope you all have a restful weekend.

Yours sincerely

Adam Shelley
Headteacher

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