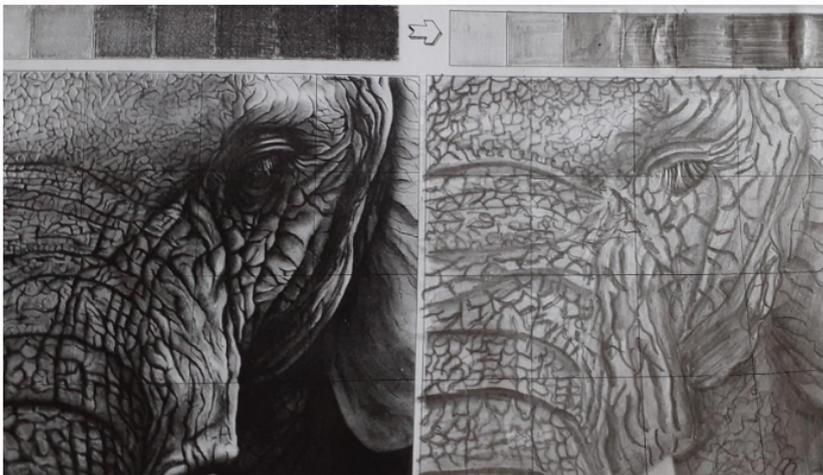




Colton Hills Community School

Confidence. Happiness. Courage. Success

February 2021



Our Artists of the Week

Katie Millard Year 13
Sonata Mieliauskaite Year 12
Nikitia Sohi Year 8

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Welcome from Andrea Stephens

My thoughts on our first half term of 2021

Welcome to our first Newsletter of 2021. As we enter the half term it's record-breakingly cold, but I hope you are all well. Whilst not the start to headship I had hoped for at Colton Hills, I have been warmed by the efforts within our community to ensure our students get the best possible educational experiences, with no excuses.

This half - term has seen teachers deliver somewhere in the region of 10, 000 live lessons online, which is incredible. Whilst student engagement has been a concern we have seen our average weekly attendance increase from 82% to 86% of students online across all lessons. Whilst this is fairly positive I am concerned about Year 10 in particular and I will be exploring ways to increase their participation once we return.

We have also seen a steady increase in the number of students reading for pleasure and accessing our online library. Let's aim to get all of our children participating in reading for our World book day event on 4th March, details to follow after half-term.

You will also read in this issue how I have been mining for excellence across our school and have been inspired by some extremely talented students. The artwork in this issue is some of the best I have seen anywhere and it is incredible to imagine that this has been achieved during lockdown.

It was also pleasing to hear that 82% of our A level students are opting for University or a higher level apprenticeship, we wish them every success in securing these places, they are working very hard.

Over the next year, a number of our year 11 and A level students are to be involved in real scientific research working in partnership with a number of leading Universities. We are really excited that our students have this funded opportunity which will see Colton Hills become a Centre of Excellence for Scientific research over the next 3 years, as we strengthen our partnership with The Institute for Research in Schools.

You will hear my mantra of '**many minds, one mission**' more and more over the coming weeks, which encapsulates very well, I believe, the diverse nature of our school but how we work together as a community. I have really enjoyed sharing our key priorities with you at the parent forums and engaging in respectful discussions.

As a result, we are looking at ways to refine our online delivery and you should see your child's attendance appearing on the weekly report. During one forum a parent asked about the vaccinations normally given at Year 8 in school. These have been postponed due to the pandemic and we will update you as soon as we know more.

I wanted to take this opportunity to say thank you to all of our parents and carers who we know have been facing the challenge of home schooling and working and everything that that entails. As a parent myself, I want you to know that I understand, and as a school we are doing everything that we can to make it as easy for you as possible. Our teachers have worked incredibly hard to provide engaging online content across the curriculum, and for that, they have my thanks.

The free school meals voucher scheme is up and running so that every child has the fuel they need to help them learn, and the IT roll out of laptops to families who needed them gets more children working remotely.

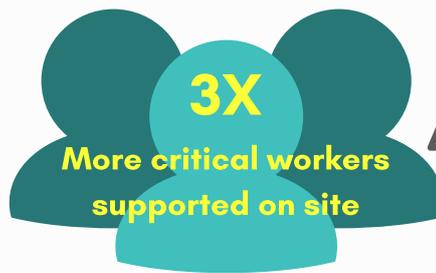
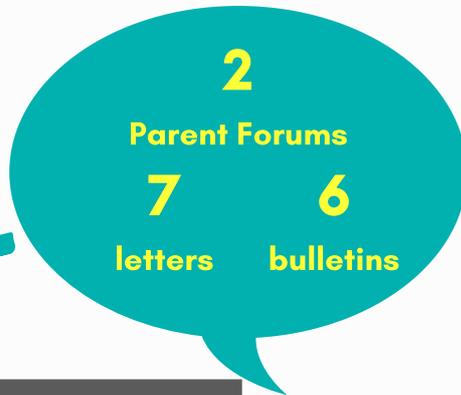
These are challenging times, but I continue to be immensely proud of how our school community has pulled together, and please do not worry, when we are all safe to return to school we will ensure that our students are provided with the support and time they need to get back on track.

Have a safe and restful half-term, I look forward to meeting with you very soon.





This half term in numbers



Attendance data

Year	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5
7	84.4%	84.5%	85.9%	85.7%	89.4%
8	79.4%	83.8%	74.9%	82.9%	85.3%
9	81.9%	83.9%	67.9%	87.0%	88.6%
10	79.9%	82.5%	77.1%	82.6%	81.9%
11	76.7%	84.3%	68.1%	82.3%	86.5%
12	94.2%	93.5%	81.4%	90.8%	92.6%
13	83.6%	83.9%	78.0%	89.9%	87.7%
Key Stage 3 -4	80.0%	83.8%	81.9%	84.1%	86.3%
Key Stage 5	88.6%	89.4%	79.8%	90.4%	90.6%
Total	81.6%	84.6%	81.8%	84.9%	86.8%



Lateral Flow Testing at Colton Hills

Over the last half term, preparations have been underway setting up our Lateral Flow Testing Centre. Lateral Flow Tests (LFT) are playing a crucial role in the fight against COVID-19 by identifying people who are not showing symptoms of the virus but who are carrying it. We know that 1 in 3 people who have COVID-19 do not show any symptoms so this really is crucial to reduce infection rates.

The tests themselves are quick and easy to do, and the results are with you in around half an hour.

Setting up our testing site in school means that we can provide our parents, staff, and students with the reassurance that we are doing everything we can to stop the spread.

As of the time of writing, we have conducted over 300 tests and will continue to build on this as we prepare for students returning to school in March.

Last week the test site was inspected and the Clinical Investigator said that Colton Hills has the best setup that they have so far seen in a school environment.

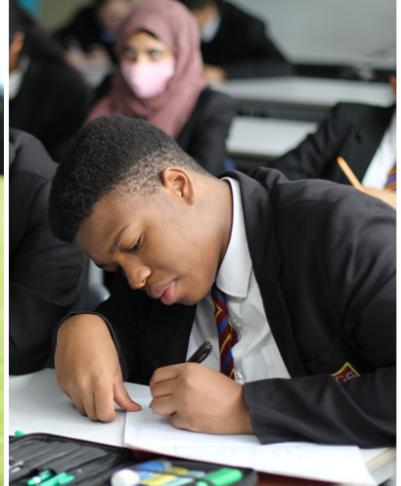


How you can help

In order to conduct the tests we need your consent – please ensure that you **complete this form**.

You only need to provide your consent once and if you would like any more information on the testing programme you can have a look on the **government website**.

Follow us on twitter to keep up to date
@coltonhillscs



Remote Curriculum

We know how difficult it can be to make sure students are engaging with their learning remotely, which is why our teachers have been working tirelessly to ensure that they have a range of interesting and engaging lessons that they can access from home.

This half term we have delivered 10,000 live lessons, and our attendance has been 85%+. There is still room for improvement and we have some top tips to help you help your child.

We have developed a curriculum specifically designed to make the most out of remote learning and you can see it on our website.

You should also now be receiving a weekly email showing how your child is engaging with their lessons. This should help you to see where you can best offer support to make sure that they are getting the most out of home learning possible.

Thank you for everything you are doing to support our school community, hopefully, it won't be too much longer before students are back in class.



Remote Learning Top Tips

- **Make sure students are up and dressed ready for the start of their school day, preferably sitting in a quiet place with their laptop, pens, and paper**
- **Ensure that your child has access to a quiet space or can utilise a set of headphones whilst they are working virtually**
- **Check in on your child as regularly as you can**
- **Look to see if they are answering questions and if they are involved**
- **If you can listen to the lesson for a few minutes and ask your child about it.**

Read our [Remote Learning Guide for parents here](#)

Word Millionaires!

Congratulations to Amber McKenzie (8WT1) and **Esha Ghag** (9C2) who have each read over **one million words** since lockdown started.

We are so proud of you both.

ANXIOUS, WORRIED OR STRESSED?

Text **CONNECT**
to **85258** for
24/7 support.



shout
85258
here for you 24/7



News from around school

Children's Mental Health Week

3-9th February was Children's Mental Health Week and we were proud to support the initiative.

The wellbeing of our students is of utmost importance to the whole school, and we are committed to ensuring that they are supported as much as possible.

The current lockdown has been incredibly challenging, and young people are proving once again how resilient they are in adapting to the situation.

However, if they do need some additional support there are lots of resources on the [safeguarding page of our website](#).

Free School Meals

Colton Hills is part of the government Free School Meal voucher scheme, and eligible families should have received vouchers that will cover until 12th February.

Over half term Wolverhampton City are providing vouchers/food parcels.

After half term, we will return to providing vouchers.

Real world research opportunities

At Colton Hills, we pride ourselves in offering a wide range of opportunities to our students to ensure that they are able to go on to do great things.

We are currently working with the Institute of Research In Schools (IRIS) which will give our students the chance to contribute to real-world research.

The projects

For the Cosmic Mining project, students analyse data to uncover stars forming and fading in our galaxy and beyond, helping scientists uncover the history of our Universe.

With the Earth Observation project, students use satellite data to investigate glaciological features, floods, and fires and contribute to scientists' efforts to understand our changing landscape.

We will let you know how our students get on in upcoming newsletters.





In Focus: School Communication Channels

Communicating with parents and carers is vitally important to us as a school. We see the relationship between educators and caregivers as crucial to the success of our young people.

We are always looking at ways to improve our communications and have put together this short survey to see how you would prefer for us to keep you up to date. It will only take a few minutes to complete and will really help us ensure that you have the information that you need in the format that works best for you going forwards.

We also wanted to highlight some of the ways that we currently let you know what's happening at school

Parent Portal

The Parent Portal on our website is the best place to check all of the latest news and information. We add all the most important things in this one place to make sure it is easy to find what you need.

[Go to Parent Portal](#)

Weekly Bulletin

Each week we send out a bulletin to highlight important information, celebrate success, and share what is happening in key subjects.

We send these out on a Friday, and if you would like to see previous editions you can [see them here](#).

Social Media

Our school twitter account [@coltonhillscs](#) is used to highlight the exceptional work of our students, community events, news from school, and share support resources.

You can also follow our Art Department [@Chcsartdept](#) and the PE Department [@ColtonHills_PE](#)

Email and text

We use email to send out school letters and other essential information.

We also use text to communicate with you when there is something important for you to see.

Please make sure your [contact details](#) are up to date so you get these messages.

Parent Forums

Our parent forums are a great opportunity to meet with our staff and other parents to discuss all sorts of things. Our recent forums have been on teaching and learning and wellbeing. [Let us know what you would like to see in the future here](#).

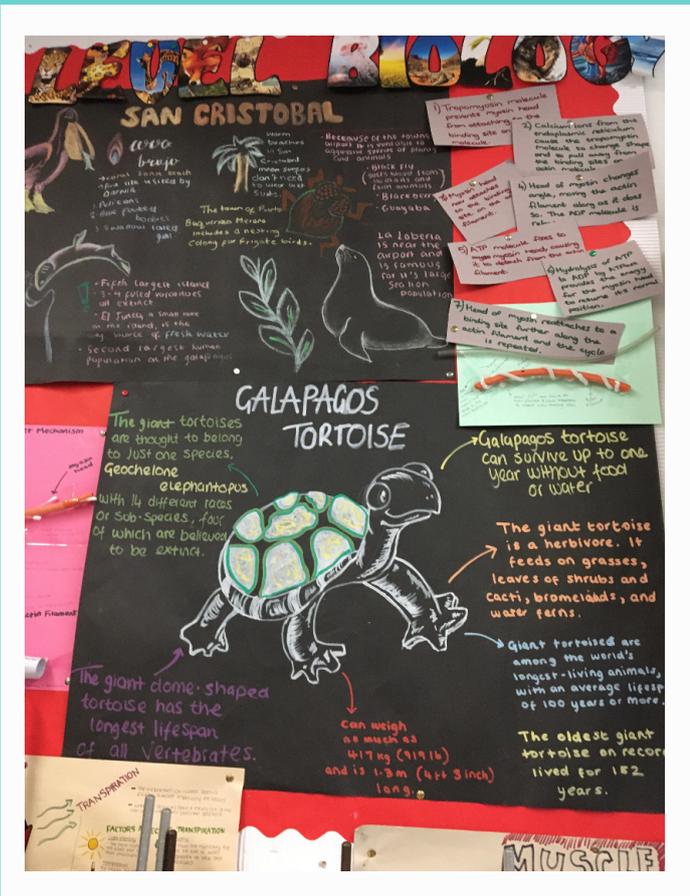
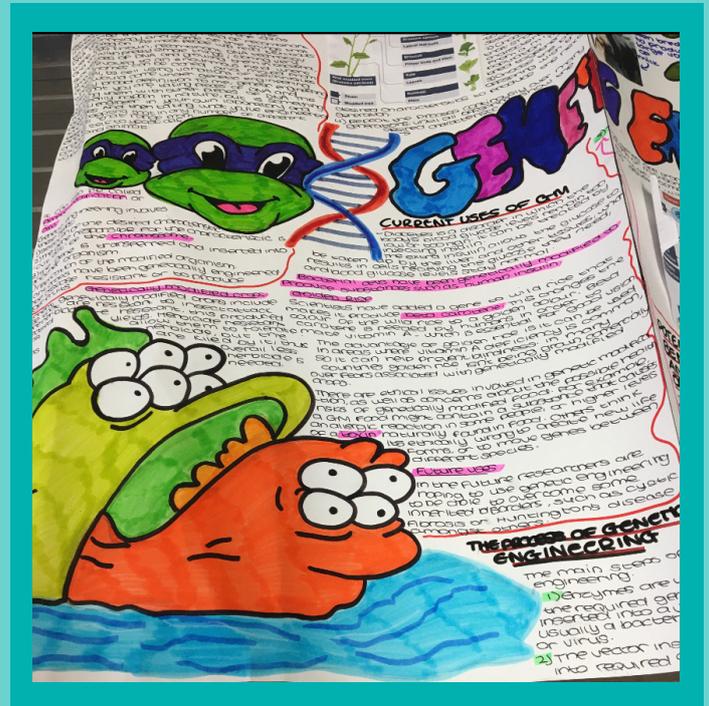
Our next parent forum is for Year 11 parents and will take place on the 25th February - [register here](#).

Please make sure your contact details are up to date so you don't miss out on important information

Student Showcase

We wanted to highlight some of the incredible work that our students have been producing.

Here is just a small selection.



Dates for your diary

Half term holiday 15th-19th February

Year 11 Parent Forum

22nd February 5:30pm ([register here](#))

Keep up to date

Call 01902 558420

Email coltonhillsschool@wolverhampton.gov.uk

Website www.coltonhills.co.uk

Twitter [@coltonhillscs](https://twitter.com/coltonhillscs)



Interhouse Competition

Interhouse Competition Update

Lockdown has not dampened the competitive spirit of our House Teams and there are still lots of opportunities for students to gain house points with good attendance, great behaviour and taking part in competitions.

Current standings are...



**Turing & Curie
House
68 Points**



**Tull House
49 Points**



**Kahlo House
37 Points**

Samosa Saturday

We are proud to support the efforts of Manny Singh, parent of a former student, in his fundraising efforts for Dementia UK.

This month, staff have donated over £100 for his "Samosa Saturday" initiative.