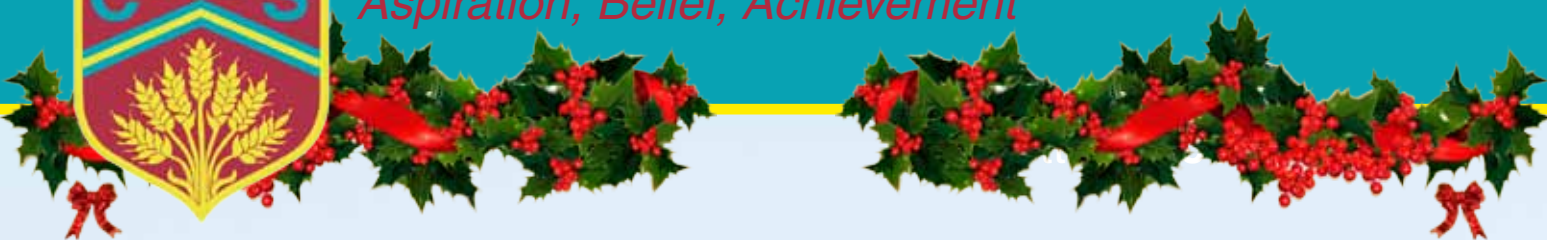




Colton Hills Community School

Aspiration, Belief, Achievement



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Introduction from the Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers

Hello and welcome to this year's Christmas newsletter

It has been a busy, eventful and exciting autumn term and as we approach the end of the year we can all look back with pride on some significant achievements. 2015 has been a year of excellent GCSE and A 'Level results, visits from distinguished guests, such as a Lord King, but also the year that Colton Hills was finally recognised for the fantastic work it does for its students. In May, OFSTED judged every single area of the school as GOOD, and rightly so. Our curriculum is designed very well to help all of our students succeed, our teaching and learning is improving all the time and our students are taught to conduct themselves well and do so whenever they are given the opportunity. They are a real strength of the school.

It is easy for a busy community to forget or not appreciate the incredible work that goes on in our school. Our prospectus therefore, often a main vehicle for attracting new students to Colton Hills, is something that I recommend everyone should read again. In particular, I would draw your attention to pages 7, 8, 9, and 10 which describes the work of our three faculties. Each has a distinct mission to provide our students with the very skills to succeed academically and socially. Collectively they embody our vision – to prepare young people for the REAL WORLD.

I hope that you also find the time to read this newsletter which is my privilege to introduce once again. Over two thousand years ago the Greek philosopher Aristotle said "Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all" We couldn't agree more. My staff and I are continuously surprised at the personal qualities and courage that our students show and at their willingness to demonstrate this through hard work, performance and service to others. Once again, much more that could ever fit into a short newsletter has happened over the last few months but I hope the publication gives you a flavor.

Now onto Christmas and the New Year which, I hope like me, is everyone's favourite time of the year. With three young children myself, I can't help getting drawn into the excitement of Christmas as well as its opportunities to rekindle friendships with family and friends. In addition, I hope the New Year allows us all to reflect on the year just past, to appreciate the good things that can be found in every life and to make meaningful resolutions to help us, and those around us, to make 2016 a successful year.

Thank you all again for your support. I wish you a wonderful festive period.

Alberto Otero
Headteacher



Academic Year 2014/15

100% Attendance Awards

Congratulations to the 60 students who achieved 100% attendance for the whole school year. This is an additional 15 students compared to the last academic year 2013/14.

This is a great achievement and each pupil have been personally acknowledged at the celebration evenings this term where students received a certificate and a £5 voucher.

Parental Engagement Group

We had a very successful first meeting of the Parental Engagement Group in November which further builds upon our positive report from Ofsted in May 2015. The Ofsted team agreed with us that we need to continue to engage and involve Parents and Carers more in the life of the school.

Two Parental Engagement meetings are planned in 2016 and the dates are on the back page of the newsletter for your information. Mrs Raillay, a parent governor who chairs the group has attended parent's evenings with other governors to encourage parents to come along and share their experiences and tell us how we can improve communication and provide information for the benefit of your child. We would like to further improve how we communicate with you as it is very important to us. Having parents email addresses has been found to be one the most effective ways of keeping you informed. This way we can keep you informed on a more regular basis about what's going on in the school and share with you our many successes. Details on how we will collect this information will follow soon.

Please come along and tell us how we can help you. We look forward to welcoming you to the next meeting.

Former pupil an Oxford blue is the Guest Speaker at our Awards Evening.

Former Colton Hills pupil Dr Garrett M Morris M.A. and D.Phil (Oxon) takes pride of place as our guest speaker at our Annual Awards evening on 17 December as we recognise the success of last year's students in year 11 and welcome back from university our year 13 students.

Dr Morris left Colton Hills Comprehensive School in 1984 for a place at Jesus College, Oxford. Dr Morris confirmed that, "In Colton Hills I had been encouraged by my teachers and in particular, the then Deputy Headmaster, Mr Berry, to apply to Oxford. My Chemistry teacher, Mr Moulds, also spent extra time coaching me with past papers, including S-Level. I sat the Oxford Entrance Exam and was later invited for interview. I'll never forget the day I came home and I had received an offer. We were living with our Grandparents, after our Mom had tragically passed away some three years before and my Nan pulled out the 'tele message' (the then-new form of telegram) from behind her and I read it. **"Place offered Jesus College, Oxford."**



After completing a doctorate in 1988 in computational chemistry, Dr Morris joined the Scripps Research Institute in California, USA, as a Research Associate. He moved to the US in 1991, to embark on his post doctorate and loved it so much stayed for the next 17 years, becoming a Staff Scientist at Scripps. While there, he worked on developing AutoDock, a software package to predict how small molecules bind to proteins. This was used by many Scientists to make many discoveries, notably the Chiba Cancer Centre in Japan which recently announced it had helped them discover seven compounds they subsequently showed to be active in mice against neuroblastoma, a form of childhood cancer.

Dr Morris has now returned to the UK and in March this year was offered the position of Associate Professor in Systems Approaches to Biomedicine at the University of Oxford and is also Co-Director of the SABS DTC, and a Research Fellow of Green Templeton College, Oxford.

We are pleased and surprised to say that we still have two staff who were in school when Garrett was here, Mrs Lockley Deputy Headteacher and Mrs Ginever who teaches German. Dr Garrett Morris has stated that he is indebted to so many people, including Mr Keith Berry and all his teachers at Colton Hills.

Dr Garrett Morris will also spend the day in school meeting with students and the school council, taking a tour of his old school and attending sixth form Chemistry lessons to share information about scientific work he has been doing and work with the students on their projects. As our guest speaker he will make a presentation to students and share what he was like at Colton Hills as a student, what made him a good learner and how he overcame barriers to become a great scientist.

We are all looking forward to his visit and listening to his advice for our students approaching the end of their school years. We know that through hard work, commitment and aspiration they can all reach their goals.

“When I look back at my time at Colton Hills, I am struck by not only how diligent and thorough my teachers were, but how deeply caring they were. I have nothing but fond memories of my time at Colton Hills.”

Colton Hills Students Visit Germany

From 11th – 16th October fifteen Year 11 GCSE German students and their teachers visited Germany. We flew to Hannover, then made our way to the Schloss Baum youth hostel near our partner school, the IGS Helpsen.

Our partners made us feel very welcome. We attended lessons every morning with our partners, then took part in many different activities in the afternoon. We noticed a lot of differences. The German students do not wear school uniform. School starts at 8.00 am, but ends at lunchtime. Teachers are less strict in Germany. Although we were nervous, we enjoyed the lessons we attended and were pleased at how well we could speak German.

We learnt to play 'Völkerball', a ball game widely played in Germany, and to bake 'Apfelkuchen'. We visited Hannover and were impressed by the magnificent buildings as well as enjoying the shopping. We went to a local rural history museum, which was fascinating, and a local outdoor sandstone museum. We were even treated to a ride on a carriage pulled by horses. One evening we invited our German partners and their parents to a barbecue at our youth hostel, which we all really enjoyed. It was really interesting to compare our city life in Wolverhampton with the country life in Helpsen.

Colton Hills and the IGS Helpsen have been running this very successful exchange for the last nine years. Mrs Lockley and Ms Ginever, together with the English teachers at the IGS Helpsen, are working on the next exchange already, to ensure it keeps running. Thanks to: Alena, Alisha, Eshveer, Angela, Naveena, Liliana, Taranjit, Dalvir, Kadj, Dhylan, Bhavin, Callum, Mohamad, Rajesh, Arun, Mrs Lockley, Ms Ginever, Mr McKerdy.



Careers Event December 2015

We had over 35 companies ranging from business, Information Technology, retail, construction and engineering, health and social care, public and protective services, hospitality and leisure services, further and higher educational establishments and apprenticeships.

The event was organised by Ms Lopez our Connexions Advisor, Mrs Machin, Blue House Leader and our sixth form students. The event was well attended by pupils in years 10 to 13. The practical advice and information they received helped them plan for their future careers and aspirations.



Multi-Cultural evening at Colton Hills: Magical Mix!

You could feel the magic in the air as we celebrated our first multicultural entertainment night in song, dance and music. With such a wide cultural heritage in our school community, the evening was an exciting mix of traditional performances and a creative fusion of different song and dance from across the globe.

With over forty-two languages spoken at Colton Hills we have a wide variety of cultures from around the world. The dancing and singing was wonderful and the students wore their costumes with pride as they proudly showcased their skills to their fellow students and parents, receiving great applause and appreciation for their courage in performing to such a big audience.

The performance was the culmination of weeks of rehearsals and planning for all involved. The event was coordinated by Ms Neelam Kousar, our new business studies teacher, and her year 12 Business Studies students ably supported by the Humanities and Music staff.



KS3 Big Ideas Day

On Friday 23rd October Colton Hills hosted a Big Ideas Day in the theatre for over 60 of our KS3 students. The students selected were above, or on, target at the end of the last academic year in science. Year 7 who had made a good start to life at Colton Hills were also invited.

The students developed their own ideas about how we can save energy, save water, reduce waste or set up a campaign to benefit people's lives. The students were supported by five mentors from industry. Three mentors were from Brammer and two from Tarmac. The event was organised by Solutions for the Planet who worked with our students last year with one year 9 team reaching the final at the Houses of Parliament in July. The students have the opportunity to continue to develop their ideas over the coming months and submit their business plan as to how the initiative they have developed will work.

Mentors reported that students were a credit to the school and organisers were impressed with the ideas the students came up with and developed during the session. We hope that this years team can reach the same heights as last year.



Routes into STEM half term event

During the October half term, Year 10 students from Colton Hills attended a three day Routes into STEM event organised by the Engineering Development Trust. Below is an account of what happened on the three days written by Rebecca Hearl.

The course was from Tuesday 27th October till Thursday 29th October. Seven students from our school attended, these were: Poppy, Dastina, Amar, Rebecca, Tanya, Simronjeet and Gursirat. In total there were 29 students as other schools also attended.

On the first day we went to Telford College. There we got to see how soap was made but also got to programme robots. These workshops enabled us to look at more of the engineering side of the machinery used. We also got to take a bar of soap home. We then had a talk about apprenticeships. The talk was useful as the people within the group learned about the possibility of an apprenticeship in the future.

Our second day was spent at Wolverhampton University. Here we got to do various workshops, learnt how to make cement and how concrete was made. We also had lectures on different topics, one of them being on how tall buildings can actually be built. Later on in the day we had a tour of the university and a talk about what university life is like. This was beneficial to us as it could change our perspective on going to university. I didn't want to go to university before, however I am now considering it after this trip.

The final day we went to BAE systems. Here we got to do lots of different activities which were:

- **A military tank ride**
- **3D simulator**
- **Team work on building a tower made out of cocktail sticks and midget gems**
- **Looked at the material used in a 3D printer**
- **Made and launched paper rockets**

At BAE systems we saw the different roles that exist within their company but also how many people worked there on apprenticeship programs.

The course enabled us to achieve industrial cadet, level 1 bronze. We received a certificate, badge and t-shirt to certify this. We now have the opportunity to do our level 2 (silver) and level 3 (gold). Alongside our achievements, we also got a lot of enjoyment out of doing the course and made new friends that we now keep in touch with via social media. The course was definitely worthwhile.

What next...

Upcoming projects include the Land Rover 4x4 Challenge and the Lego League Robot. More to follow later in the year about these projects.



KPMG Works With Colton Hills Sixth Form Students

KPMG is one of the big four auditing firms in the world. They are a global organisation that employs 12,000 people in the UK.

On the 21st November, Colton Hills year 13 students were invited to KPMG in Birmingham so they could gain some insight into how their current unit of study is applied in the world of work. Students were asked to deliver presentations about a case study and were required to apply their current knowledge of e-commerce. They were asked to do a SWOT analysis of an online business and to suggest how KPMG might be able to help their chosen businesses.

Students' presented to KPMG staff and their partners and they displayed maturity, professionalism and confidence in their delivery and offered viable solutions which the company may wish to take on board.

The staff at KPMG were impressed at our students' potential and depth of subject knowledge as well as their general attitude and behaviour.

Due to our students' outstanding performance on the day, KPMG have suggested that they would be able to deliver more of these workshops to Colton hills students in the future.



"We thoroughly enjoyed the event and were very impressed with the contribution and effort put in by all your students. They were a credit to the school and the teachers – they even gave us some ideas for more solutions!" Nehal Jilka, Risk Consultant, KPMG.

Library News

October saw the launch of this term's book club and with over fifteen new members there has been plenty of enthusiasm for books at Colton Hills. Widely attended by all year groups and many teaching staff, the club is in its seventh year and continues to grow in strength and numbers.

The group read *The Iron Woman* by Ted Hughes (an unlikely romance between robots or an environmental call to arms, they couldn't decide) and are set to read *Cosmic* by Frank Cottrell Boyce for December's meeting.

Parents should have received a copy of the Christmas issue of the student newspaper, *Colton Uncovered*. Student reporters have compiled a number of features which include the recent visit by new children's author, Emma Shevah, fundraising for Children in Need and original artwork and stories.

English teacher, Miss Williamson, has been encouraging students to sign up for a series of creative writing workshops in the library this month. They will be writing original poetry and prose based around the theme, 'Echoes'. Three pieces will be selected and entered into First Story's national writing competition in Spring 2016. There's a chance to win a place on a residential writing course and be published in the *Sunday Times* and as well as an anthology.



POEM, Autumn at Colton Hills

Two Year 7 pupils in Ms McKee's enrichment class Khadijah and Alifa presented their art project to the Deputy Head Mrs Lockley and read out their poem about "**Autumn at Colton Hills**". Mrs Lockley was very impressed and it reminded her of the recent trip to Germany and the lodge that the group of Colton Hills students stayed at, in the forest in Helpsen near Hanover.

Autumn at Colton Hills
Autumn leaves red gold and brown,
Falling swirling drifting down,
Prickly conkers crackling and popping,
Branches snap acorns dropping,
Pricking pumpkins,
Juicy apples,
Gathering blackberry's and strawberry's too,
Shorter days frosty and wet,
Winters around the corner but not quite yet,
Why can't anyone love spring?
The days when the gardens are full of pretty things.

By Khadijah and Alifa

Colton Hills students did a wonderful job for Wolverhampton's Festival of Remembrance "We Will Remember Them"

MORE than 300 people attended Wolverhampton's annual Festival of Remembrance at the Wulfrun Hall on Remembrance Sunday. Year 12 business studies students helped to organise the event, whilst a number of younger students performed on stage.

Our students helped with the catering, stage management, front of house activities and looked after the performers before taking to the stage to read letters sent home from the trenches by troops during the First World War and performed an improvised conversation between two young women. They also related their experiences from a visit to the Normandy trenches and war graves together with giving details of their research into how Wolverhampton and Bilston celebrated VE and VJ Day.

Jeremy Brown, creative director of the festival, said: "They did a brilliant job. It was important for us to make this an inter-generational event and get the younger people involved in Remembrance."

Mrs Ijaz, in charge of the Year 12 pupils, commented: "It was a wonderful opportunity for them to link their work in the classroom to the real world outside. It was an eye opener for them to talk to the veterans and their respect grew immensely."

Rajdeep Basram, aged 16 added: "Hearing first hand of what they went through has helped me to understand more about the sacrifices that were made. Also being involved in the organisation gave me an insight into how to market and manage an

event." Suraj Bhath, also 16 added: "It is important for my generation to know as much as possible about what happened from those who were there."

The event held particular significance for 93-year-old Joe Davies pictured below, since it allowed him to wear his Legion d'Honneur just days after it arrived from the French government following a 71-year wait.

The award was in acknowledgement of the part he played during the D-Day landings and subsequent liberation of France in 1944.

Widower Mr Davies, a great grandfather from Compton, said: "It is marvellous to finally have the medal. It took a long time to arrive but came in a lovely presentation box with a letter from the President and was well worth the wait."



Councillor Linda Leach, chair of the Festival of Remembrance committee, said: "We were really keen to get the younger generation involved this year and the Colton Hills students really rose to the challenge."

Wolverhampton's Mayor Councillor Ian Brookfield concluded: "I was really pleased with the turn out. It was a fitting tribute. We specifically wanted to involve the younger generation to ensure that the spirit of remembrance never dies."

We also received letters and emails congratulating our students on sharing their experiences and their professionalism. One member of the public emailed the school that afternoon and said:

"Congratulations! What a fabulously entertaining afternoon thanks to your pupils at Wulfrun Hall this afternoon! Such a credit to your school and to their communities - special thanks to the young lady who told us of her trip to the battlefields, and to the two young ladies who performed their script around VE Day (with such contemporary humour also)

All pupils present today were impeccably dressed with manners to match truly refreshing! Please thank them all."



Above are Rajdeep Basram 16, Teacher: A Ijaz, Jeremy Brown (event producer for the council), Suraj Bhath 16, from Colton Hills Community School

Hibernia trophy in Dublin for Colton Hills Star

The school congratulate Owen Edosomwan on his fantastic achievement representing Wolves U15's in a football tournament in Dublin.

The team flew out to take part in the Hibernia trophy and Wolves beat Nottingham Forest and only narrowly lost to the Republic of Ireland U15 national squad.

Owen is also playing for the year above his age. He has been representing the U14's all year making the feat all the more impressive! Let's hope he continues his fantastic development!



Manchester United Trip

On the 23rd September 2015, 11 pupils from Colton Hills Community School were taken on a school trip to the "Theatre of Dreams" more commonly known as Old Trafford, home of Manchester United Football Club to watch the Red Devils in a Capital One Cup encounter with Ipswich Town.

The trip was organised by Mr Stanley as a reward for the pupils' superb attitude, progress and participation across the Physical Education curriculum during the 2014-2015 academic school year.

From the moment they left school at 3.30pm, the students were a credit to themselves and the school, despite returning to school after 1.00am! For many of them, the night proved to be their first ever taste of a professional football match and gave them an appreciation of the high skill levels and professionalism of some of the country's top athletes. The match finished with a 3-0 score line in Manchester United's favour, which left the supporting contingent of Colton Hills pupils delighted on the return trip home. For others, the memories of the occasion, stadium and atmosphere will live long in the memory.

In attendance were year 8 pupils Jaskaran and Mohammed, year 9 pupils Krishna, Garish and Jay and year 11 pupils Moses, Jeevan, Travis, Ajeet and Reece. Well done boys, keep up the good work!

A big thank you must also go to Mr Jackson who was our minibus driver to and from the match and without whom the trip would not have gone ahead.



Children in Need

Again pupils and staff rose to the challenge and put events on to raise awareness and money for the annual Children in Need appeal.

Pupils took on the mighty Mr Otero at arm wrestling and showed grit and determination to become champions. Like every year everyone was a champion and a winner because we all had fun at the many events. These included cakes sales, pennies appeal, Pudsey raffle and beat the goalie competition.

It allowed us to reflect on how lucky we all are and to share a thought for those we are trying to support and help.



Operation Christmas Child Shoe Box Appeal 2015

Once again, pupils, staff and parents have excelled in their response to a charity appeal for a very worthy cause, Operation Shoebox.

The idea is so simple. Just fill a shoebox with basic necessities ~ tooth brush and paste, soap and a flannel. Many of the students added coloured felts and a notebook, a packet of sweets and most importantly something to love.

Last year our 58 boxes went to Bosnia where the winters are harsh, so we packed a hat, gloves and scarf to help our young person cope with the elements.

This year Mick Woodhouse, the local area coordinator collected 124 boxes from Colton Hills for the 2015 appeal. 'He was staggered by the generosity of our students and staff'. This year Colton Hills and other Wolverhampton shoe boxes are on their way to Belarus and left on Wednesday 9 December to arrive in time for Christmas Day.

To help cover transport costs, the shoe box charity asks for a suggested donation of £3 per box. This year I challenged the 6th form students to find inventive ways to raise this money. We had Tekken 6 PS3 challenge, a bake sale, a cake raffle, nail art for sixth form and staff, an arm wrestling contest and tasty samosas. They rose to the Lord Sugar challenge and together they raised over £327.50. What a fantastic achievement! Special thanks to the Head boy and girl and Deputy Head boy and girl who led on this project with Mrs Calvert.

Samaritan's Purse is a Christian organisation that puts love into action. How fitting for the Christmas season. Although most of our students are from different faith backgrounds they too felt that they could identify with this important message of sending 'love in a box'. The boxes are sent around the world to victims of war, poverty, natural disasters, disease and famine and are given out to children based upon need, regardless of their religious belief or background. This is a powerful and important message at this special time of year.



“ On Christmas Day perhaps you may find time to pause, reflect and think about the boy or girl who will open your shoe box and experience your love. ”

Calendar Dates

Spring Term:

Tuesday 5 January 2016 to Thursday 24 March 2016

Staff Training Day: Monday 4 January 2016

Half Term: Monday 15 February to Friday 19 February 2016

Summer Term:

Monday 11 April 2016 to Friday 22 July 2016

May Day: Monday 2 May 2016

Half Term: Monday 30 May to Friday 3 June 2016

Parents Evenings

Year 11	Parents Evening & Subject selection for 6th Form	Wednesday 13 January 2016
Year 9	Parents Evening and final option selection	Thursday 21 January 2016
Year 11	Exams Information evening	Thursday 24th March 2016
Year 7	Parents Evening	Tuesday 19 April 2016
Year 11	English and Maths Parents Evening	Thursday 21 April 2016
Year 10	Parents Evening	Tuesday 26 April 2016
Year 8	Parents Evening	Wednesday 15 June 2016

Parental Engagement Working Group

Thursday 14 January 2016

Thursday 21 April 2016