

July 2017

WOLVES STAR MEETS COLTON HILLS STUDENTS



**Colton Hills
Community School**

Learn, Grow and Achieve Together

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@ColtonHillsCS



01902 558420 www.coltonhills.co.uk coltonhillsschool@wolverhampton.gov.uk

Introduction from the Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers

Hello and welcome to the Summer 2017 Newsletter

Once again it has been an eventful year, full of activities, events and celebrations. As the summer holidays draw close the publication gives us all the opportunity to appreciate the fantastic students our school is blessed with. Reading the articles and staring proudly at the photos is one of the great pleasures of the job of Headteacher, a sentiment no doubt shared by my teachers and support staff.

I hope you enjoy the newsletter and the summer break and I look forward to seeing you again in September.

Alberto Otero
Headteacher



Parental Engagement Group



The group have met on 3 occasions this academic year and have helped improve communication and helped the school gain a greater understanding on how we can support our pupils in their life long journey of learning.

This shared commitment, which is one of the school values, has about 30 to 35 parents who attend the meetings. Watch out for the date of the meetings in the next academic term.

To make us even stronger please come and join us, we meet informally and see the comments from two parents below, which hopefully will encourage you to join us.

“ Parental engagement meetings are a big positive for me, to meet the people who affect our children’s formative years, is a wondrous experience. Down to earth, positive, enthusiastic responses, the finest sense of engagement. ”

“ Parental engagement is a fantastic initiative and it provides me as a parent with A Voice and an insight as to what new ideas are being proposed, allowing clear communication. ”

STOP PRESS: LATE RELEASE

COLTON HILLS: WINNER OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF BIOLOGY NATIONAL TEACHING AWARD

Leah McClure, our Head of Science, has just won the School Biology Teacher of the Year Award for 2017.

Turn to page 8 for full story.

Wolves star Dave Edwards visits Colton Hills



Dave Edwards the long-serving Wolverhampton Wanderers midfielder, who is also a Welsh international, came to the school to thank pupils for their fundraising efforts, which were sparked by a visit to Gelliwig residential centre in Wales paid for by the charity.

He said: "It was great to visit Colton Hills and to meet the students and staff, and not only plenty of Wolves fans but also

a fan of Shrewsbury, where I started my career."

"It is nice to be involved with a project like Gelliwig, which has links with both Wolverhampton and Wales, and I know it is also a charity that was well supported by Rachael Heyhoe Flint."

Edwards became one of the patrons of the Memorial Fund last year and has also started his own charity – the Little Rascals Foundation.

"I think it is vitally important that young people are able to broaden their horizons and get away on trips and take part in activities, and with its location in Portmadog, the centre offers a great facility for schools and community groups to visit and enjoy."

It was a great day for both pupils and staff and we thank Dave for the time he spent with us and for being a patron of our charity.

Colton Hills loses a great friend and supporter: Baroness Heyhoe Flint

Chairman Keith Berry paid tribute to one of the charity's first patrons Rachael Heyhoe Flint and said: "She would want the good work to continue and support for Gelliwig is evidence that it will."

There have been many written and spoken tributes to Rachael Heyhoe Flint since she died so suddenly in January of this year. As a child she played cricket in the street not far from Colton Hills and that strangely enough could have shaped her life.

She has been a supporter and Patron of the Birch Thompson Memorial Fund since 1981 and the bunk beds at Gelliwig are evidence of this; she helped to provide them through a grant from Wolves Aid of £5,000 and she travelled to Gelliwig to see them for herself.

Rachael worked on the staff of the Municipal Grammar School, which was one of the three formative schools of Colton Hills, and she knew John Thompson who was the first Head of Geography at Colton as a colleague.

When she was 70 years old she chose the Birch Thompson Memorial Fund (BTMF) to be the charity to receive her birthday present of a Lady Taverners Minibus which is used by Colton Hills Community School.

What will our tribute be?

Volunteers including school staff are working very hard to improve Gelliwig and provide a mini Sports Hall at the back of the property together with other improvements and the Sports Hall will be named as a permanent tribute to Rachael Heyhoe Flint.

Will you help BTMF in this task by joining the Target Ten Thousand Challenge and donate less than 2 pence a day by giving £10 annually to the charity so actively supported by the Baroness? Bombard Mr Otero or Mr O'Hara , both Trustees of the BTMF , with your response!!!

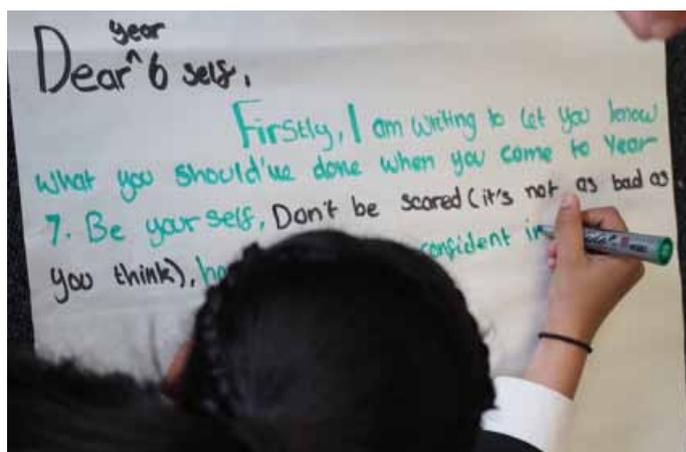


HeadStart HEROs at Colton Hills

On 16th June, Hansa, Danielle and Sam from HeadStart delivered the HEROs programme to some students from Year 7.

The aim was to develop their skills in listening, empathy, peer support and team work so they can help with the transition for the new Year 7 group starting in September 2017.

The HeadStart team had great fun getting to know the students and can't wait to work with them again!



School Partnership Gets Royal Approval



Combined Cadet Force unit at Colton Hills

On 14 June 6 students from Colton Hills were invited to make the short trip over to The Royal School for the visit of His Royal Highness Prince Edward The Earl of Wessex KG GCVO.

Our students took part in a host of activities witnessed by HRH Prince Edward. They took part in a leadership exercise with pupils from the Royal School, participated in a fieldcraft exercise learning about how soldiers live in the field and a weapons' safety lesson on the Cadet L98 rifle.

The Prince's visit was to open The Royal Free School and to celebrate a forthcoming partnership between our two schools for the creation of a Combined Cadet Force unit at Colton Hills. Commencing in 2018 we shall be sending selected students across to

The Royal after school one afternoon a week for cadet training. This partnership will open the doors to a whole host of wonderful opportunities for our students: leadership, teamwork, shooting, flying, overseas trips to name but a few. The two Headteachers can be seen in the background keenly discussing the partnership between the two schools for the mutual benefit of all.

In the second photograph His Royal Highness meets the Colton Hills Chair & Vice Chair of Governors, Duane Williams (a former pupil) and Andy Jervis and Alberto Otero, the Headteacher.

Joseph Asley was one of our Year 9 students taking part in a Leadership exercise under the careful supervision of HRH Prince Edward. Joseph is already an active member of

the Army Cadet Force outside school and is aiming to be one of Colton Hill's first cadets next year. The exercise required the cadets to pick up object from the centre of a 'minefield' using only ropes. Teamwork and communication was being severely tested here as no matter how hard you try, it is impossible to hold both ends of the rope yourself and complete the exercise!



School Board met MD from Miquill



In May, the School Board invited Simon Quill from Miquill Catering to our meeting to discuss the new catering contract for the school.

The School Board fed back other students ideas and

opinions about the food. Simon took on board these ideas and is looking to implement some of the ideas presented to him in the future.

The School Board found this to be a very worthwhile experience.

Hats off to Chatsworth

On Thursday 6th of April a group of 16 Yr9/10 Textiles students set off to visit Chatsworth House in Derbyshire, the home of the current Duke and Duchess of Devonshire.

Their team welcomed us and we had an excellent guide called Stewart who gave us a



terrific tour of the house.

We were there to see the “House Style” an exhibition featuring outfits worn by the Duchess of Devonshire “Georgiana, Adele Astaire, Kick Kennedy and Stella Tennant.

The house itself is amazing and unfortunately we did not have time to see it all. The fashion was displayed in different areas of the house, the wedding dresses were in the chapel, evening wear in the library and dining room.



It was a fantastic display and amazing to see outfits that had been created by famous designers like Alexander McQueen and Dolce & Gabanna.

The Duke and Duchess champion new designers and it was terrific to see work by new designers like Christopher Kane. A fabulous day out that we all really enjoyed.

Islamic Art

Year 8 students have been designing their own Islamic Art by using geometric shapes and arabesque motifs to produce repeat patterns.

Students have been working collaboratively to create mixed media collages using rotational symmetry. They are now working towards creating their designs in clay. Here are some photographs of the students

showing of their excellent work. Fantastic effort from all the group, keep up the good work!





German Exchange Visit

In May we were delighted to once again welcome students and teachers from our partner school in Germany.

Our exchange programme has now been running for 10 years. German students enjoyed spending time with their partners in lessons at school, where they were able to compare school life in England with school life in Germany. They also enjoyed a range of activities and excursions. Together we visited the Gurdwara in Villiers Street,

where we were made very welcome. We went bowling and the PE Department arranged an afternoon of sporting activities – Germany against England.

Together we visited Ironbridge and Cosford Cold War Museum, which was fascinating for students from both countries. German students were thrilled to try two British culinary traditions – Fish and Chips and Curry. A day out to Liverpool, visiting cultural landmarks as well as museums proved very

interesting and enjoyable.

Since the German students returned to Germany they have been in regular contact with their Colton Hills partners and we are now planning our return visit to Germany in September.

Thanks are due once again to Miss Williams and Mr McKerdy for all the time and commitment they always put into the exchange to make it such a success.

Year 9 pupils taking part in a creative writing day reinforcing our school strategy of Learn, Grow and Achieve Together

Year 9 had the chance to take part in National Writing Day in Drama.

They had to respond to a given picture stimulus, exploring different character situations and backgrounds. They then

turned this into a script, first of all starting with freeze frames and developing them into a performance.



National Award Winner Leah McClure School Biology Teacher of the Year 2017

The Royal Society of Biology is pleased to announce that Leah McClure, Head of Science at Colton Hills has won the 2017 School Biology Teacher of the Year Award.

The award seeks to identify and recognise the very best and most inspiring biology teachers in 11-18 education in the UK.

Dr Mark Downs CSci FRSB, Chief Executive of the Royal Society of Biology said:

“Great teachers bring out the best in their students and brighten the future for us all. We are delighted to highlight outstanding teachers and to celebrate their success. Leah was selected from a talented cohort of teachers, she had to go through a rigorous selection

process, which included personal student statements, lesson plan observations, and the final stage of the competition included submission of a short case study, which highlighted how Leah had enhanced her students’ learning.”

A BIG congratulations to a very modest person who’s journey has gone from being a former science technician at the school, marine biologist to graduate teacher, Head of Science and now to this National Award.



Towers Residential Trip

In February this year Colton Hill pupils enjoyed a great adventure at the Towers residential centre and worked together as a team. It was all summed up by the quote:

“I was proud of myself because I overcome my fears and completed the night walk”



Netball Results

Please congratulate the year 7 netball team for their fantastic spirit and effort in the Linden tournament in Birmingham. They played several teams who were in year 8 or 9, some of which towered our girls yet they still managed to get rebounds and passes round them.

The team finished 3rd overall and Asyiar Anwar received the player of the tournament chosen by Colette Thomson the England Netball Coach. A massive achievement!

This year netball started by

storm with a large number of girls regularly training every week, eager to learn new skills and the game to improve their performance. Even though, it was started late in the season the girls played extremely well against other teams in tournaments and matches considering their opposition who had several months if not years of training ahead of them.

A special mention also goes to Aysiar Anwar for being spotted by the Assistant England netball coach and winning player of the tournament for her determination and effort in

every game, and for not being phased by girls twice her size.

Well done ladies, Miss Heeley and I are looking forward to next season already.

Roll on September!



Black Country Indoor Athletics Finals

In March, our Year 9 Girls Indoor Athletics team travelled to Tipton Sports Academy to represent Wolverhampton in the Black Country Games. Overall, the girls produced some excellent performances which result in them finishing 5th out of 12 schools which was an amazing achievement.

Well done to Carly, Faith, Victoria, Ana-Danielle, Oluomo, Alexia and Elise.



Great Season For Football Team



Can you please praise the following Year 10 students in the photograph. What a season they have had.

They finished off in style with a 5-0 victory over Aldersley. Owen 2, Elijah 1, Lamar 1 and Gideon 1 the goalscorers.

These have been easily our best team over the past 20 or so years getting to 3 semi finals and 1 quarter final.

The squad also includes Innusah & Nick from year 9 who have also been fantastic.

Staff Stage World Book Day



Team Colton Hills Achieve



Please see the attached photograph of our year 8 Athletics team who recently competed at Aldersley stadium.

sprint events and the relay!

Please praise all the students on the picture for their commitment!

Special mention to Leshea Forrest who did fantastic in her

Judo supremo's

4 Colton Hills pupils attended the British Judo Centre of Excellence for the first time and the team delivered an excellent team result and individual results.

The team was:

- Ishika Gill
- Shanikqua Stewart
- Kamyra Fraser
- Anshpreet Athwal

Shanikqua won GOLD and Kamyra won BRONZE.



Year 7 Gelliwig Residential Trips- another great success



Calendar Dates

Arrangements for the start of Autumn Term

Wednesday 6 September 2017	08.30am New Year 7 Start 10.30am Year 8 – 11 Start
Thursday 7 September 2017	8.30am Sixth Form Start

Dates for your Diary 2017

Autumn Term:

Wednesday 6 September 2017 to Wednesday 20 December 2017

Half Term:

Monday 23 October 2017 to Friday 27 October 2017

KS3 Celebration Evening

Tuesday 3 October 2017

Post 16 Celebration Evening

Wednesday 13 December 2017

Parental Engagement Meeting

Thursday 16 November 2017

Year 6 Parents Evenings

Wednesday 27 September 2017 **Open Evening**

Thursday 28 September 2017 **Open Morning**

Friday 29 September 2017 **Open Morning**