



## Newsletter for Families 15<sup>th</sup> September 2023

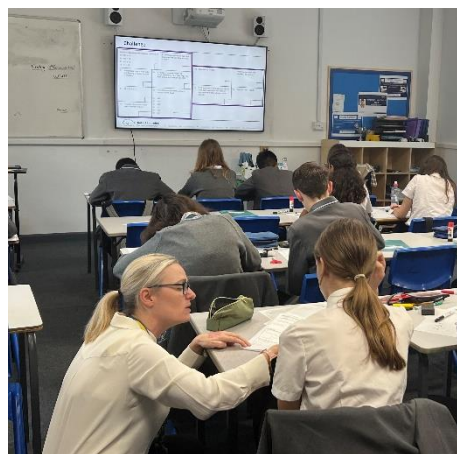
*Our vision is to create an excellent school that gives every child no matter their background or beliefs, the opportunity to live happy and fulfilling lives, go to university or pursue the career of their choice.*



### Principal's Message

This week, we had another week of good attendance across the school alongside much improved punctuality. Whilst I want to celebrate this, we do still have some students whose attendance is too low (by this I mean under 95%) or who are frequently late for school (we would like all students on site by 8.20am). Thank you for your ongoing support with this.

Additionally, I see happy and, in general, hard-working classrooms as I walk the school. Students are really engaging in the mantra of "try your best and work hard." As adults we all know that nothing good in this world comes easily and that we have all had to work hard to achieve the things we want. I hope that by asking students to work hard at school we are preparing them for adult life and giving them the keys to open doors of opportunity after they leave school. Again, I would like to thank you for your support in this matter.





I wanted to talk to you about how I would like to establish open communication links with you, our parents, and carers. Firstly, as you are already aware I will write a newsletter every week which will include key messages from the school. Furthermore, I will be setting up termly “Town Hall” events, some of these will be virtual and others will be held at school so you can speak with staff in-person. These will address the areas that we are working on as a school, and we will provide you with an opportunity to submit questions beforehand so that we can answer these at that time. Finally, I be introducing half termly “Tea and Tours” for each year group. The format for these will be a tour of the school with a member of the Senior Leadership Team allowing you to see the school in action. This will be followed by an opportunity to ask questions, collectively or privately, over a cup of tea or coffee. I hope these different channels of communication demonstrate our desire to be a school that openly and honestly communicates with you, and one that wants to hear any concerns you may have so we are able to swiftly address them.

I spoke to Year 11 today about the opportunity to apply to become a Head Student, Deputy Head Student or Senior Prefect. I have shared this assembly with Year 11 parents as well so you can support their applications and better understand the role of these students across the school. This half term I will be speaking to Years 9 and 10 about becoming a Prefect – I would like to make parents aware that the criteria for this will be based on good attendance, punctuality, conduct and uniform. To develop leadership opportunities across the school, and for students to be able to have their voices heard, we will be asking students in each form across the school to become Form Representatives. These students will contribute to Year Group and School Council meetings and give all students an opportunity to work with staff leading the school.

## Catering update

As you will know, there have been some significant teething problems since the beginning of the term as our new catering contractor has started. This is very unfortunate and has occurred despite significant planning by the company over the summer. I can assure you that the matter is being taken extremely seriously at a local and national level by United Learning and the contractor, whose Managing Director has written to me today to assure me that the issues we are facing are temporary and *“are being resolved as a matter of priority”*.

She has likewise assured me that they are *“committed to providing meals that are both delicious and healthy, freshly prepared on-site and comply with national school food standards”*.

Colleagues across United Learning are in daily, detailed contact with the company, and we are, of course, liaising closely with them within the school to raise everything to the standards we all expect.

The contractor has thanked us for our patience and is confident that *“everything will be resolved quickly and permanently in the coming days”*. We will be continuing to monitor this and respond to anything in our catering that is not what we would expect or hope for.

Thank you to students, parents, and staff for your tolerance and I can assure you that we will be pushing extremely hard on this until every matter is resolved.



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## Macbeth at the Globe theatre

Year 11 travelled by train to London on Tuesday to experience a live performance of Macbeth at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre. The performance was in modern dress with some gender-swapping of characters -the 3 witches were men in Hazmat suits - and it was a great performance of the play. We watched as groundlings (standing audience as in Shakespeare's time) and were frequently shocked when actors appeared beside us or behind us. Great performances from the actors helped us to understand some of the language that we have studied in class in new ways.

The teachers were all impressed by the excellent conduct of the students. Not only were they polite and positive on the trains and the walks but they all paid careful attention to the play and were a brilliant audience for the actors. At least three members of the public spoke to Coleridge teachers and commended them on the conduct of the students. We were all very proud of them. Thanks so much to all the staff for giving up their time to give the students such a great experience.





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