



Newsletter for Families 19th January 2024

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

I am writing my message this week on attendance and punctuality. As you will be aware, school attendance locally and nationally is not at the levels of pre-pandemic with many interested parties expressing concern over the long-term implications of the patterns we are currently seeing.

Today, an unremarkable Friday in the second week back after a two-week holiday, 10% of our students are absent. 13% of Year 11 students, those in the middle of the most important examination year of their lives, are absent. Our whole school absence by year group is -

	% Absent today	Equates to days per month	Equates to days per year	Equates to total days in time at Coleridge	Or in other words over 5 years students miss...
Year 7	9	1.5	18	90	Nearly half of an academic year
Year 8	7	1.1	13	65	Nearly a third of an academic year
Year 9	9	1.5	18	90	Nearly half of an academic year
Year 10	13	2.1	25	125	Nearly two thirds of an academic year
Year 11	13	2.1	25	125	Nearly two thirds of an academic year

We have become used to these statistics and sadly, these patterns of absence are now considered “normal” in schools. Indeed, our attendance has vastly improved from last year and is now very close to national averages.



Totals and averages mean extraordinarily little other than to illustrate the problem we face in school. What matters most is your own child's attendance.

Missing two weeks of school will mean that your child has missed 50 hours of learning new things which they may never be taught again but will face questions on in an exam in the future. Having broken attendance (a day off every week or fortnight, on random days) means students will miss 5 hours of new learning each time but will struggle to understand the work they do in following lessons because lessons are taught in sequences which rely on prior knowledge.

I have spoken before about the significant correlation between absence and exam results. Put simply, students who regularly miss school, reduce their lifetime potential because they achieve worse exam results than their peers, and develop poor habits to take into the workplace where elevated levels of absence, poor punctuality, or an indifferent attitude to responsibility can result in dismissal.

You may think that I am over-dramatising, but my experience tells me this is a real concern, and the Government agrees because they have highlighted the issue this week (you can find the link to the gov.uk site here - [How to improve your child's school attendance and where to get support](#) - The Education Hub ([blog.gov.uk](#))). I would draw your attention to the section on the site about anxiety and that often student mental health is improved by attending school.

Furthermore, I am only raising this issue because I and the school care about the students who attend Coleridge, and we all want the absolute best for them. Because we care, we want them in lessons, so that they can get the absolute best education and qualifications that set them up for a great adult life.

Please can I ask if your child is absent from school regularly (students should have full attendance most weeks) you seek to address this and ask us for support if you require assistance. For parents of Year 11 students with poor attendance, this is an urgent situation which needs to be rectified immediately.

Y11 Prom Committee

Our year 11 students have started fundraising for their Prom at the end of this year. They have many plans for the coming months, including Valentine's Day and Easter treats. On Thursday 25th January at Y11 Parents Evening, we will have some of our year 11s selling refreshments, cakes, and biscuits to go towards their Prom funds. If you are coming to Parents Evening, please do bring some cash with you to support our students in their fundraising efforts.



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Open Day for Teacher Training:



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Teacher Training Open Day Cambridge

Explore United Teaching's initial teacher training programme at Coleridge Community College in Cambridge.

📅 Date: Thursday 01 February 2024

🕒 Time: 9:30 am

📍 Coleridge Community College, Cambridge



Please share with friends and family, we are keen to meet anyone who would potentially be interested in a career in teaching and would like to find out more about training with us.

Click on this link to visit the page and to sign up for the session: [Teacher training events | United Teaching](#)

Science Technician Vacancy

We are looking for a full time Science Technician, primarily to support the Science staff, with some curricular responsibilities throughout the school. The role holder will be responsible for ensuring the smooth running of the department both in terms of experimental/practical resources and day-to-day running as well as contribute to wider school life.

Our ideal candidate who has some experience of the role or has studied Science at A level; we are happy to consider candidates who think they could fulfil the responsibilities of the role and are happy to support professional development.

If you would like more information about this position, please visit our website.



Create Department

This Music entry has been written by the Music Ambassador Newsletter Team

Music clubs in school started up again this week and we had lots of students getting involved. Click here for the list of Music Clubs: [Music Clubs 23-24.pdf](#)

This included the amazing **Carnival Crew 2** which is entirely run by students in the school. In Carnival Crew 2 our students can play a range of samba instruments including Caixa's, Reginique's and Surdos. We have many students attending, some who have been a member of the club since its beginning and some who have only been attending for a few weeks. Carnival Crew 2 is one of our most accessible clubs as it does not require any pre-existing ability to play an instrument, just enthusiasm and a bit of commitment!

Fiver at the Junction is a wonderful way to see new and upcoming bands, for parents and students. As well as being able to discover new styles of music, it is a great way to support local bands such as three of our own: **Vintage Rec**, **Cookies and Cream**, and **Cleen**.



These three incredible bands have moved from playing at our Yr9 Bands performance, to Winterfest, to a professional gig at the Junction. All the members of these bands have been or are students at Coleridge who have a passion and creative drive for music. Please try and show your support for them! More information in the Save the Date section.

Winterfest was an excellent end to the year. We spoke to Flora, one of the Lead Music Ambassadors about her experience.

"It was hectic but fun and educational. I was one of the people getting students ready for their performances and it was amazing to see how well everyone performed both nights. All the students were very well behaved and excited to perform, and all the ambassadors helping were doing their jobs perfectly. I would recommend getting involved if you can next year as it is a lot of fun."

We have lots of events like Winterfest throughout the year so get involved and pick up old instruments or try something new. We hope everyone enjoyed Winterfest 2023 and is excited for the next one!



Save the Date - Upcoming Create Events

FIVER

STAYCATIONS
BLUE CINEMA
THE BUDAPEST TAPES
KASPAR LARSEN
COOKIES AND CREAM
CAMBRIDGE JUNCTION

Friday 16 February
6:45pm (doors)
£7.50

junction.co.uk

Friday 16th February - the fantastic Cookies and Cream will be performing. And we would love for them to have a huge and supportive audience. If you would like to go along and support the boys, tickets can be bought via the Junction website. **To get a £2.50 discount on your ticket** use code **CREAM**. Website + ticket link:

<https://www.junction.co.uk/events/the-fiver-february/>

Sunday 3rd March – Carnival Crew will be playing at the Cambridge ½ Marathon in a bid to drum up some additional energy and support for the runners. The Crew will be based on Trumpington Road, opposite the Botanic Gardens.

Friday 19th April (tbc) – the fantastic Vintage Rec will be performing again at the Junction! Cleen will also have their Junction Fiver debut at this event. Keep an eye on the Newsletter for more details.

Keep an eye on our Twitter account (CamsCreate) where we will post regular updates of what our students are getting up to, across the Performing Arts at Coleridge and in the Cambridge Cluster.

Safeguarding & Welfare

FREE

WORKSHOP FOR PARENTS
UNDERSTANDING
SLIP

If you are concerned that your child or teenager might be engaging in risky behaviours online or face to face, then this free workshop could provide the support you are looking for.

Risky behaviours include sending or viewing inappropriate and/or explicit images and content, and inappropriate behaviours with or towards other people.

The session aims to support parents by:

- Explaining about Diverse and our services.
- Explaining the objectives of the SLIP Programme.
- Helping parents to understand that these types of behaviours are unfortunately not uncommon and are often because young people have little or no understanding of consent and the law and the possible consequences of their behaviours.
- Giving parents tips and information on how they could support their child/young person to understand the consequences of their behaviours.
- Exploring and discussing a case study.
- Explaining when referring to SLIP would be appropriate and how parents can refer.
- Offering free 1-1 follow up support if needed.

To book your free place please email us at annulise@ddiverse.org.uk



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Part of United Learning

Adult Learn and Train have weekend courses coming up on Saturday 10th and Sunday 11th February.

Venue: Coleridge Community College	
Candle Making	Saturday 10am - 2pm £60 (FULL)
Scripted in History: An Advance into Chinese Characters	Sunday 10am - 2pm £32
Dressmaking: How to Draft a Bodice	Saturday 10am - 4pm £57
Oil Painting	Sat & Sun 10am - 3.30pm £92
Silver Jewellery: Bezel & Tube Stone Setting	Sat & Sun 10am - 3.30pm £113
Willow Weaving: Garden Obelisk	Sunday 10am - 4pm £89

Find full course information on our website: www.adultlearning.education

To book call the Adult Learn and Train office on 01223 712340

As a parent (of a child in a United Learning School) remember to claim your 10% discount

Dates for your Diary:	
Monday 15th January - Thursday 25th January	Year 7 – 10 Assessments
Thursday 25th January	Year 11 Parents Evening 4pm - 7pm
Thursday 25th January	Year 7 & Year 9 HPV Vaccinations
Friday 26th January	INSET Day
Thursday 8th February	Year 9 Options Evening

Coleridge Community College

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Enquiries email: col-enquiries@coleridgecc.org.uk

Student absence reporting: 01223 712300

Email: attendance@coleridgecc.org.uk

Website: www.coleridgecc.org.uk

An archive of our weekly bulletins can be found on our website.