



Newsletter for Families 17th November 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 has been full, again, of exciting cultural and curriculum opportunities. Our Year 10 BTEC PE students visited Grafham Water and completed an Outdoor and Adventurous course. Our Year 7 and 8s met Michael Rosen who spoke to them about being kind, generous and considerate to others, alongside writing some amazing poetry. Ms Lewis and the Steel Pans delighted commuters at the train station with some marvelous tunes!

As the weather gets worse and the daylight draws ever smaller, I am conscious that this is the period in which attendance traditionally starts to falter. You (parents and students) have done a great job in maintaining a strong start to the year in terms of attendance and punctuality – nearly 2% up on last year. I would urge you to continue with this – obviously there are clear links between attendance and how happy a child is in school and how well a child does at school.

Thank you for your continued support with this matter.



Conflict in The Middle East

Everyone will realise that the current situation in Israel and Gaza is something that attracts very strong views and that there are a number of equally relevant, important but also very different standpoints that people have on the subject. This has spilt over into communities across the country with significant increases in both anti-Semitism and Islamophobia.

Our values as a school must be to show respect for every member of our school community and to be a 'safe space' for everyone.

We know that we have students who feel equally strongly but with very different perspectives on the situation. It is not our place as a school to take sides or to promote one interpretation of events over another.

Whilst discussion, learning and debate are core to our values, we do not believe that the wearing of insignia, flags or other displays of support for either side in this conflict are in line with our values or that they helpfully contribute to appropriate and balanced discussion and learning.

I appreciate that some will argue that this is inconsistent with support we have shown in the past for the people of Ukraine or the wearing of bracelets and insignia for other issues. However, we believe that the specifics of this situation in The Middle East are different, more nuanced and more divisive across our entire community than other issues.

I know that not everyone will agree with this stance; but it is, I believe, the best means of ensuring the College remains respectful and welcoming to everyone across our community. I would ask parents for their support in this approach.



Year 11 Mocks

Year 11 have conducted themselves incredibly well this week throughout the exam process. It has been great to see so many faces arriving early to prepare and go through any final questions with their teachers and peers. We are looking forward to carrying this positive momentum into next week for what we are sure is going to be another week of success.

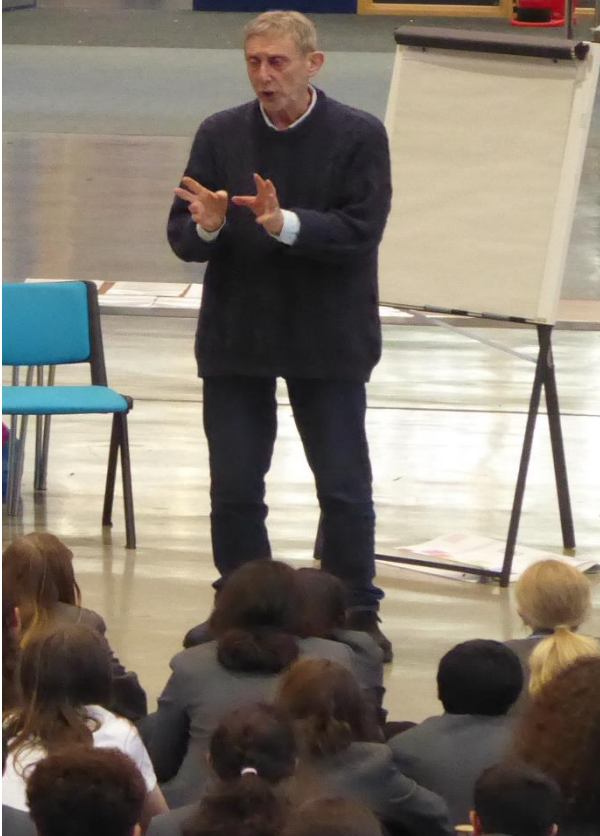
Y10 Sports Studies OAA trip to Grafham Water

On Wednesday this week, 23 of the Y10 Sports Studies students went on a trip to Grafham Water to undertake Mountain Biking and High Ropes activities as part of their examination course. The students were fantastic and got to learn about the safety and technical elements of both activities as well as demonstrating their individual and teamwork skills. The weather was kind to us as the photos prove. The students will be reflecting on and evaluating their day for their next assignment.





Michael Rosen & Historyworks Workshop Year 7 & 8



On Monday afternoon the whole of Year 7 and 8 packed into the Radegund Hall full of excitement and anticipation to be working with the legendary poet Michael Rosen and Helen from Historyworks. Students listened intently as Michael told stories from his own life as well as from his family, particularly their experience during the Holocaust. Michael read numerous poems he had written and explain the different techniques he had used. Students then taking what they had learned wrote their own poems around the themes of love, hope, kindness, and family. Some students bravely read their poems to the entire hall and Michael commented on how 'rich' the students work was.

We are delighted Michael Rosen's visit also featured in a Cambridge Independent article:

[Michael Rosen talks survival and hope at Coleridge Community College poetry masterclass](https://www.cambridgeindependent.co.uk/michael-rosen-talks-survival-and-hope-at-coleridge-community-college-poetry-masterclass/)
([cambridgeindependent.co.uk](https://www.cambridgeindependent.co.uk))



Steel Pans and Choir at the Train Station

On Thursday night, over 50 Coleridge students represented our school in the Cambridge Christmas Lights Switch-On at the Train Station.

We had some '**pantastic**' performances from our KS3 Steel Pandits with renditions of *Rudolph*, *We Three Kings* and *Last Christmas*. This was followed by a dance-based classic – *Desire* by Years and Years - and some other festive fancies from our KS4 Pandemonium players. We are especially proud of those Y11 students who made time to commit to this event whilst still managing to prioritise mock revision and exam prep – amazing work! Our lovely KS4 group were significantly depleted in number but soldiered on, covering all parts and ensuring that their team were represented. Thanks to those who stepped in to 'dep' for us.



Thursday night also saw our first outing of our 2023/24 choir. Over 40 of us (wow!) sang Christmas carols and other Christmas songs next to the famous station tree in the build-up to the light switch on. The choir has only been together for a few weeks - some incredible voices and superb teamwork (ensemble) means that this is a group to get really excited about. We can't wait to showcase more of our vocal output in Winterfest23!

We'd particularly like to thank all parents and friends who came along to support our slot at the Train Station – and our wonderful volunteers who made the trip possible. We are obviously a little disappointed that a last-minute programme change to incorporate the live DJ meant that weren't able to perform for the whole 90 minutes as planned but we're so grateful for your patience and support, and for how wonderful our students were in 'going with the flow'. Programme changes are often inevitable in external community events of this kind but it takes mature and resilient students to cope with these changes – so we are very proud of them! We look forward to being able to perform our full set for you in the very near future.

Last night was a brilliant team effort from all involved – from the crazy steel pan pack-up/set up, to van loading and performing in the rain! Despite the weather, Coleridge students were still able to bring joy to the community. Well done, Team Music!



Dates for your Calendar

19th November 2023

On Sunday 19th November, our Carnival Crew 1 drummers will be playing in the build-up to the other Cambridge Christmas Light Switch On in the Market Square. They will be drumming from 1.20pm - 1.35pm and would appreciate seeing your smiley and supportive faces in the audience. The event is free and all are welcome to come along and support. DisFunktional (ex-Funk Band) will be performing straight after us – from 1.40pm - 1.55pm.

2nd December 2023 Mill Road Winter Fair



Coleridge Community College

The best in everyone™

Part of United Learning

On Saturday 2nd December, our Coleridge Carnival Crew 1 Drummers and Cluster horns and dancers will lead the main parade at 12.15pm. The parade travels the length of Mill Road (starting at the Coleridge end) and is a fantastic sight. Please do come along and share in the experience.

13th December 2023 Steel Pans at the Station (afternoon, specific time TBC)

Here, you will be able to hear our full set of music, this time with our brand new Y7 panners involved, too!

14th and 15th December 2023 – Clusterwide WinterFest23

Our formal cluster Winter Concert from 7.00 pm. Tickets will go on sale soon.

Train to teach in Secondary School at Coleridge

Applications are now open for training to teach with our Ofsted Outstanding Training Programme and interviews are already taking place for training beginning in September 2024. New national bursaries have been made available for a range of subjects to support trainees while they train and there are salaried trainee positions available in English, Maths and Science.

If you are interested or if you know someone who will be interested, please get in touch with Germaine Varney (germaine.varney@coleridgecc.org.uk) and arrange to pop in for a chat.

Please find attached our latest information leaflet which will show you where you can find out everything that you need to know about training to teach with us.

[Welcome to United Teaching](#)

★ HAVE YOU ANSWERED OUR PARENT SURVEY? ★

It only takes 10 minutes to share your views on school, communication, and your child's future. The survey is being run by an independent company, and you can opt in to win a £25 Amazon voucher.

<https://edurio.com/poll/a6GYW2>

Coleridge Community College

Radegund Road, Cambridge, CB1 3RJ

Tel: 01223 712300

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

Student absence reporting: 01223 712300

Email: col-attendance@coleridgecc.org.uk

Website: www.coleridgecc.org.uk



Coleridge Community College

The best in everyone™

Part of United Learning

Be a changemaker

Train to teach on our Ofsted 'Outstanding' teacher training programme

- ✓ Expert-led training
- ✓ Salaried options
- ✓ Teach from day one
- ✓ National schools

SCAN ME



United Teaching
The best in everyone™



United Teaching
The best in everyone™

Learner. Teacher. Leader

Build a successful career in education



Local schools. National excellence

Our trainees are placed in over 100 schools across the country.



Less planning. Better wellbeing

United Curriculum guides new teachers in lesson planning with readymade adaptable resources.



Rated Outstanding

Our programme, informed by cutting-edge research, prepares you for 21st-century teaching.



Tailored funding options

Salaried and self-funded routes, with bursaries and scholarships available in certain subjects.



[united_teaching](#)



unitedteaching.org.uk

SCAN ME

