



## Welcome

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you and your families are safe, well and looking forward to spending some more quality time together over the academy Christmas holiday.



I have been delighted with the attitude of our learners this term to make Cockshut Hill an even better school. All learners have continued to adapt well to our increased accountability on learner expectations in lessons and our learners all know to wear perfect uniform at all times! It has also been wonderful to see the increase in extracurricular activities, with learners taking part in academic and enrichment opportunities during both the school day and after school. These are the things that the children will remember forever! Our Enrichment timetable can always be found on our website [here](#).



I would also like to celebrate the continued improvement in homework at CHS. We share with our learners on a regular basis the importance of homework and I'm delighted to share with you that through the platform we use for many of our homework tasks, Seneca, we are still, top of our region and in the **top ten schools nationally** on a weekly basis, for work completed! This will have a massive impact on your child's success and ability to fulfil their academic potential.

We do so much now in the school and in our local community, I would advise you all to join all of our Social Media platforms where you will be able to keep up to date with the school on a daily basis.

 @CockshutHill  @CockshutHillSch

## Attendance Matters

Excellent attendance at school has a major positive impact on the life chances of our learners. As a school, we expect all children to be in school at least 97% of the time. We are lucky at CHS that a high percentage of our children are in school above this figure and many in fact have a **100% attendance record**.

As you will remember from our excellent recent OFSTED report Attendance is one of our only two main areas to improve. OFSTED said...

*Despite leaders' efforts, absence remains high for some pupils, especially for those who are disadvantaged. As a result, these pupils have a fractured experience of education that adversely affects their academic achievement and their opportunity to take part in the enriched curriculum. Leaders should continue to work with parents to improve pupils' attendance and engagement in school.*

High attendance is a key factor in children achieving their academic potential as well as the long-term skills and character development which they will require to have at post-16 and into their future employment. Although, 90% in an examination is a very good result, sadly 90% in attendance means your child has missed 20 days of attendance in one year and across their 5-year journey, that equates to 100 days of learning, which is nearly **a whole school year!** It saddens us when we must act with the local authority for poor attendance, even more so when parents and carers are heavily fined up to £1000. We have had a number of families fined in such a way this academic year alone!

Do send your child in each day. The more frequently they are in school, for a full day, the more they develop as a young adult and the greater chance they have to achieve their academic potential.

Please avoid booking holidays in term time as they will not be authorised and the local authority is alerted and usually take further action themselves. Our Term Dates for 2023/24 are on our website to support you in this. They can be found [here](#).



# Punctuality Really Matters

I would also like to remind you that all children should be on site by 8.30am every morning. Gates open from 8am. Key Stage 3 children should enter via Gate 2 on Cockshut Hill, and Key Stage 4 students should access via Gate 5 on Billingsley Road. With your children being on site at this time, it enables us to welcome them and check on their perfect uniform while still enabling them to reach their tutor session by 8.40am. We also provide free bagels, drinks and fresh fruit in our restaurant or the Inclusion department. In addition to this, your child is also able to purchase food in our restaurant.

This term we have also worked with your children to emphasise the importance of getting to every lesson on time. To be organised and ambitious so knowing where their next lesson is and to arrive on time so they do not affect and disrupt the learning of others.



# Your child's Teachers

**We have the sad task of saying goodbye to some colleagues who go on to new experiences:**

- Mr. Cadd is leaving to teach life skills to vulnerable young adults in Harborne
- Ms. Dixon is leaving to become a Lead Practitioner of Geography in the Washwood Heath MAT
- Ms. Roberts and Ms. Stevens are leaving to pursue other roles outside teaching
- Ms. Tubbs is leaving us to work as a Food Technician in a school in Solihull

They will all be missed by both our learners and colleagues, but we do of course thank them for their service to the academy and wish them well for their future career.

**We will be joined in January by:**

- Ms. Johal who will be our Head of Art and Photography,
- Ms. Croydon who will be our Head of Geography.

I am sure you will join me in welcoming them to CHS and our Summit Learning Trust.

Please also read our End of Term Engagement Newsletter which has an array of fabulous opportunities and experiences our children have had access to this term.

# Your Child's Safety

Due to the location of our school being in a residential area, parking spaces around our school site are at a premium. Unfortunately, we have continued to receive complaints from our neighbours concerning drivers who have parked across driveways or double parked.

We do ask that you park with care and consideration for pedestrians and our neighbours when parking around the school vicinity and please observe all driving and parking regulations for the area. Thank you for your support with this.



# Dates for your Diary

subject to change – updates will always be on the school website

Friday 22nd December	Term ends at 3pm
Monday 24th December 2023 – Friday 5th January 2024	Christmas Holiday
Monday 8th January 2024	INSET Day – no learners in our Academy
Tuesday 9th January	Academy opens for all our learners at 8am.
Tuesday 30th January	Virtual Year 8 Progress Evening
Monday 12th February – Friday 16th February	Half – Term Holiday
Monday 11th March	Year 11 mock examinations begin
Friday 22nd March	CHS Community lftar (details to follow)
Friday 22nd March	Term ends at 3pm
Monday 8th April	Start of the Summer Term

I wish you all a safe and peaceful Christmas holiday, a very Happy New Year and I look forward to seeing you all next term.

Yours sincerely

Jason Bridges  
Principal



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