



JBE/SHI

1st October 2026

Dear Parents/Carers of Year 12 & 13 Students

I hope you and your families are well. I wanted to take this opportunity to welcome all of our Y12 students to the Sixth Form and to congratulate them on making such a positive start to their post-16 journey.

It has been fantastic to see our new students settling into Sixth Form life, embracing new subjects and opportunities, and beginning to develop the independence and maturity that are such important parts of post-16 education.

For our Y13 students, this is an increasingly important stage of the year as they prepare for their forthcoming mock examinations and continue to work through the UCAS application process. We are very conscious of the demands that this period brings and will continue to support students in making the most of every opportunity available to them.

Mobile Phones – A Reminder of Our Expectations

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind all Y12 and Y13 students, and their parents/carers, of our expectations regarding mobile phones in school.

The Department for Education's current statutory guidance on mobile phones in schools states that schools should be mobile phone free environments by default and that mobile phone use should be prohibited throughout the school day, including during lessons, between lessons, breaktimes and lunchtimes.

In line with this guidance, and our own school policy, **mobile phones must not be visible or in use in areas of the school where younger pupils are present.** This includes:

- classrooms
- corridors and communal areas
- the canteen
- around younger pupils at any point during the school day and
- any other area where our school policy requires phones to be out of sight

In addition, our Sixth Form expectations are clear that **mobile phones should not be out or in use in study rooms.** Study periods are an important part of the Sixth Form experience and should be used purposefully for independent study, revision, wider reading, coursework and preparation for examinations or university applications.

We appreciate that Y12 and Y13 students are young adults and that developing independence and responsibility is an important part of Sixth Form life. However, with that independence comes the responsibility to model the standards and behaviours we expect across the school. This is particularly important when our Sixth Form students are around younger pupils.



If a student's mobile phone is seen or being used in a situation where this is not permitted, **the school's established mobile phone policy will be followed, including confiscation where appropriate.** We ask parents and carers to support us by reinforcing these expectations at home so that our approach remains consistent and clear for all students.

Our aim is not to prevent students from having access to their phones when appropriate, but to ensure that the school remains a focused, purposeful and respectful environment for learning. We want our Sixth Form students to use their time effectively and to develop the self-management skills that will serve them well beyond Colton Hills.

Finally, I would like to give you an early reminder that our **Post-16 Progress Evening will take place on Thursday 26th November.** This will be a valuable opportunity to meet with subject teachers, discuss your child's progress and reflect on the next steps in their post-16 journey.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and partnership and we very much look forward to welcoming you to the evening and seeing you there.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. Bentley
Director of Sixth Form
Associate Assistant Headteacher





Colton Hills Community School Sixth Form

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