



## SIXTH FORM FOCUS

In September 2016 there were 76 students in our Sixth Form, with fewer than 30 in Year 13. We were having to ask ourselves whether we could maintain provision for our students beyond 16. In talking with governors and staff we were all united in our determination to not only keep our Sixth Form going, but make it a thriving centre of excellence in Post 16 provision for the local community.

Forward wind three years and there has been a remarkable transformation. **We now have almost 200 in our Sixth Form, with improved examination results and excellent destinations for all of our students.** We offer a wide range of courses and even have a successful Football Academy. The future is very bright, with a projection of 250 students well within our reach as the school grows.

Much of the success of the growth of the Sixth Form can be attributed to our fabulous Head of Sixth Form Mr Glyn Owen, who joined us in 2014 and has been with us all the way on our improvement journey. Mr Owen joined us from Myton School in Warwick, who have a large outstanding Sixth Form. His expertise, enthusiasm and positive approach have won the hearts and minds of staff, students and families alike. Mr Owen is ably supported by a wide team of tutors as well as a Progress Leader, Mrs Najib while Mrs Benyahia is on maternity, and Mr Howard who is the senior leader for Sixth Form.

Last year we improved our Sixth Form provision even further by recruiting Mrs Bishop who is a highly effective and experienced pastoral leader, to both support pastorally in Sixth Form and to lead on careers, advice and guidance. Under Mrs Bishop's inspirational leadership we have gained the National Standard in Careers Education, which recognises the outstanding work we do in this area. We have had very positive destinations for our Sixth Formers, of which the whole team are very proud.

The students have made an excellent start to the year. Year 12 are enjoying the new sense of independence and starting to understand the responsibility that comes with that. They are beginning to use F2, our silent study room, to good effect and are developing the learning habits that are needed for an effective learner at Post 16. You will read more about this in Mr Owen's welcome letter next week. Year 13 have come back with renewed energy and focus and are showing the level of application needed to succeed as well as developing their skills of research and revision.

We have a strong personal development and enrichment programme in our Sixth Form, with students benefiting from bespoke tutoring and expert guidance and support. As part of the wider enrichment programme students will have access to a variety of activities, including external speakers; we have had some really inspirational visitors before including Justin King (Ex Sainsbury's CEO) and Mark Rigby (president of Wasps Rugby). We are all passionate about leadership at The Coleshill School and feel this is a key skill that our students need to develop to succeed in the wider world beyond school. We have a leadership programme which all students can participate in and also a Student Leadership Team, who have a key say in what happens in school and with whom I will be liaising regularly. Our Sixth Formers should be real role models for our younger students; I was thrilled to hear of the fantastic leadership demonstrated by Year 12 just yesterday when over 300 primary school children took part in a cross country event at school, all run by our students.

They often say the best years of your life are your school days. It is an increasingly long way back for me to look now, but I do remember having a fantastic two years in my Sixth Form and to this day feel they shaped me, in some way, into the person and leader I am now. I hope that our students will have an equally successful year and make the most of all the opportunities on offer to them.

You can read more about our Sixth Form and keep up to date on the Sixth Form Twitter page <https://twitter.com/home>

Ian Smith-Childs, Headteacher

