

Headteacher's Blog- 23rd April

Happy St Georges' Day and also happy birthday to William Shakespeare, who is believed to have been born in 1564 and died in 1616 on the same date. This seems like something the great bard would have scripted! I hope you have managed to enjoy some of the better weather and some of the new freedoms. We have had a really positive return to school this week, with students also enjoying the sunshine at social times and looking focused in lessons.

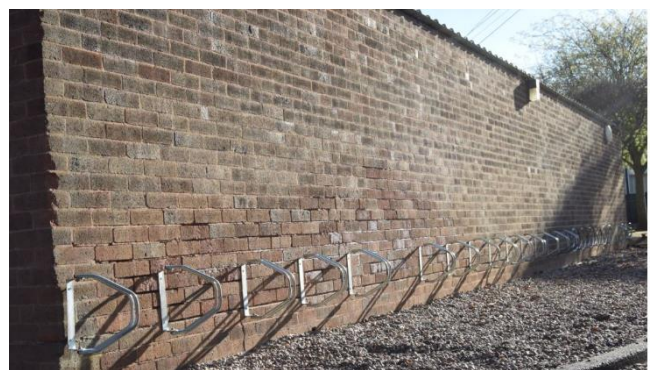
Travel to school

I start most days on the school gate welcoming the students into school. Over recent weeks we have noticed a dramatic increase in the number of students who are being dropped off at school. The reasons for this are understandable, with the pandemic meaning fewer students are using public transport in the morning. However, I would remind families that there are school bus services from both Warwickshire and Solihull that can be used in the morning to get to school. There is further information about bus services on our website:-

<https://www.thecoleshillschool.org/parents/transport> Almost all students get buses, walk or cycle home after school so it would be good to see more students using these means of transport in the morning. For those students living in Solihull and the wider Birmingham area it is important to use the bus to come to school as no students should be crossing the A446, whether on foot or on a bike.

For students who are coming to school from Coleshill and the immediate surrounding Warwickshire area, can I please encourage more students to walk and cycle to school. We do have an increasing number of students cycling to school now, which is pleasing to see. We have had a new bike rack installed this year and it would be great to see this full of bikes. Transport Secretary Grant Shapps recently announced a £18 million investment in cycle training for children families, so we will be seeing how we can use this to further promote cycling to school in the coming weeks and months.

Our bike racks before the arrival of students this morning.



For those families who still need to drop students off in the morning can I please remind you that students should be in school by 8.40am, ready to start at 8.45am. Due to the sheer number of cars dropping off we are getting lots of students who are not dropped off until after 8.45am, which means they are late to their first lesson. Please can families therefore plan for drop off a little earlier.

House Competition – Heroes Stamp Design

During the recent lock down and last half term we have had some great House competitions. Here is the next one, from Miss Tongue.

Make your mark on History! For more than 50 years Royal Mail's Special Stamp programme has commemorated British history and achievement. Stamps have also been issued to honour the achievements of many British people. Since the coronavirus pandemic began, millions of key workers have kept the country going when most of us were told to stay home for our own safety. As the majority of these people are not famous Royal Mail wants to honour them with a set of 8 stamps, and young designers are invited to design a stamp in their honour. Who has inspired you during this lockdown to help you or people close to you during the difficult time? Help to celebrate them by making them a national treasure and sharing their name and face through your very own stamp design. Not only could your stamp design be created and then published, but you also have the opportunity to win some amazing prizes. Closing date for all entries is the 21st May, and the official entry form can be found here [Heroes Stamp Design Competition Official Entry Form \(thecoleshillschool.org\)](https://www.thecoleshillschool.org/hero-stamp-design-competition) Get your colours out and start spreading some appreciation for your own hero.



Year 13 and 11 update

As we prepare for the final rounds of in school assessments and awarding of Teacher Assessed Grades (TAGs) the following communication will be going to families:

Year 13

TAG process information and "Current Grades" were emailed to families yesterday are being given to students today.

Assessment Series 2 begins next week for approximately one week, depending on courses studied.

Assessment Series 3 begins on Monday 17th May for approximately two weeks, depending on courses studied.

Year 11

TAG process information and “Current Grades” will be emailed to families and will be posted home to families on Thursday 29th April.

Assessment Series 2 begins on Monday 17th May for approximately two weeks, depending on courses studied.

Year 11 and Year 13 will finish school on Friday May 28th. There will be the option of Sixth Form preparation classes, on a voluntary basis for Year 11, in early June. Details to follow.

Training Day on Friday 30th April

A reminder that Friday 30th April is a training day and students will not be in school. This means students will return to school on Tuesday 4th May, following the May Day Bank Holiday.

Thanks for your continued support.

Ian Smith-Childs

Headteacher