

Monday 21st September 2020

Dear parents / carers

Last week saw at long last the start of teaching and an opportunity to welcome our new 1A and Transition students onsite for the first time since the disruption to their studies in the spring. We are all really pleased at how smoothly the first week went and thank you to our new students for adhering to the safety arrangements we have put in place. This week of course will be distance learning through Collyer's Online and a chance to settle into this mode of delivery. Our current plan is still that the 50/50 blended approach will continue until half term so that we can ensure year groups are separate and our whole college community is safe.

New Parents Information Event

Usually each year in late September / early October we invite new parents into the college for an evening of presentations from SMT members and meetings with our personal tutors and Heads of House. This is an opportunity to learn more about life as a Collyerian and ask questions about study at college and the support available.

Due to the current situation with coronavirus like most schools and colleges we have decided to move this event online. A series of video presentations will be available **from Monday 5th October** and further detail on how to access these will be emailed out by our Vice Principal (Pastoral) Andrea John by the end of next week. Of course, your student's personal tutor is always available to reply to an email or call home should you need to discuss a matter regarding their education.

Communications with students and parents

The last six months have been very challenging for all of us and to maintain clear communications with our students and parents we have had to send frequent emails and social media updates. Hopefully as the term settles in we will be able to focus more on the regular updates we send at each time of year – these will be hosted as usual on the [Parents / Carers](#) section of the website. If we need to update students and parents about coronavirus-related matters such as reopening of the college or examinations, these will continue to be hosted in the new [Latest Updates](#) section of the website.

As a sixth form college our students are independent learners and readying themselves for universities, apprenticeships and the world of work, so many regular communications are sent directly to students only via our weekly bulletin, tutorial emails, tutorial sessions and SharePoint. Finally, students can access information about their studies on MyProgress and parents can access similar information via MyStudent (see below).

Car park, no smoking policy, safety on site and absence

Our main car park on Hurst Road operates a barrier control system but does remain open until 09:30 each morning to enable drop off. At other times of day the car park is for visitors only and an exit ticket will be required from Reception, so it is better to pick up away from the college. Students wishing to park on site will need to apply for a permit at a cost of £162 per year. There are only a limited number of spaces available. Details of the criteria applied are outlined in the 'A Guide to Travel & Financial Assistance 2020-2021' leaflet which is available on the college website. Permits are not issued to students who reside within a 10 mile distance from the college. To apply for a parking permit, students need to email Karen Smith (kes@collyers.ac.uk) to ascertain if they meet the criteria. Each application will be considered on its own merits.

Collyer's is a no smoking campus. In our Code of Conduct under the behaviour and health & safety sections it clearly states that students should not smoke in the college (including e-cigarettes) or elsewhere on the campus, or at its entrances (to assist traffic safety). This also applies to the local roads and residential areas as we work to promote good relations with our neighbours. In the interests of safeguarding students, they will also be expected to display their ID card and lanyard at college. Finally, a reminder that face coverings need to be worn in corridors and communal areas as soon as students arrive on college campus.

For information and to keep up to date with major activities and upcoming events, please go to the main college site, www.collyers.ac.uk and then select the Parents/Carers tab on the homepage. In this section a variety of useful guides to college life can be found, including on notifying us of a student absence and how to access the MyStudent parent portal. There are also other useful sections on this page such as 'Progression' and 'Support for Learning'. Finally, term dates for the next two years are available via the [Academic](#) section of the website.

Kind regards

Dan Lodge
Principal