

# Colne Valley High School Newsletter



*Friday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2025*

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to let you know about an important change in school. Following consultation with specialists over the past few months, I will undergo surgery for a knee replacement, I will be out of school for a short time, and working from home whilst I recover. I am pleased to announce that Chris Alker, who many of you will already know from his role as deputy principal, has been appointed as acting principal with immediate effect. We will work together in the coming weeks to ensure we make a strong start to the academic year and have continuity, before I go for the procedure in early October. Please see below a message from Mr Alker.

I feel very privileged to be given the opportunity to serve our school community in this new capacity. I will be working closely with Mr Dixon and the Trust as we lead Colne Valley on a rapid improvement journey. Our focus will remain on providing high-quality teaching and learning, raising aspirations for every student, and ensuring that our school is a place where all young people can thrive both academically and personally.

I look forward to continuing to meet many of you at upcoming school events and to working together as we take Colne Valley High School forward.

We are hosting our next parent engagement session on Thursday 18th September from 6pm, there will be a short update about the start to the year from Mr Alker and Mr Dixon, followed by an opportunity to ask questions and share feedback with senior leaders.

I am sorry to have to share with you that during the summer we heard of the passing of Natasha Hutchinson who was a teaching assistant at Colne Valley. Natasha's passing is a tremendous loss to her family and the school. Representatives from school, including senior leaders attended Natasha's funeral during the summer to pay our respects and we will look for opportunities to raise money for charity in her memory. Our thoughts are with her family at this time.

Yours sincerely,

Steve Dixon  
Executive Principal

Chris Alker  
Acting Principal

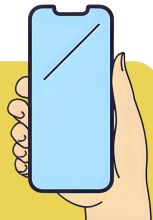


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# Mobile Phones



Our mobile phone ban in school has been enforced and is already showing huge benefits. It has been a pleasure to see students engaging in conversation uninhibited by their devices. Our hand in process has worked well, we are managing to return all phones at the end of the day within 5 minutes, meaning there have been no delays with buses. Our favourite quote came from a year 11 student who said 'I haven't actually missed my phone, it's been really nice to have a break'.

# Buses



We are aware of a couple of instances of students being denied access to the ST11 bus after school due to it being full. We have followed this up with Stotts, however the ST11 is a public bus and they have informed us that they have only denied access for students when the bus has been at capacity. They suggested that the service may be busier than previous years due to student choosing to access this bus rather than the K21. If students are travelling to the centre of Slaithwaite or beyond they should take the K21 not the ST11.



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## OPEN EVENING

Do you want to find out more about Colne Valley High School?

Join us at our next open evening to hear from our senior leadership team, meet our fantastic students and staff and explore the different subject areas.

 Date: Thursday 9th October 2025

 Time: 5:30pm – 7:30pm

 Location: Colne Valley High School, Gillroyd Lane, Linthwaite, Huddersfield, HD7 5SP

For more  
information,  
please visit  
our website:



**GREAT  
HEIGHTS**  
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## Attendance

An impressive 1,130 students have maintained perfect attendance since the beginning of the term, demonstrating outstanding commitment and consistency to the school.



If you would like to join us on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> September, please scan the QR code and register your interest.

### Parent Forum Interest Sign Up



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