

Cowley Closure Questions

Learning must continue and around the world parents and students are working hard at home so students do not fall behind. We understand that a textbook or a video clip cannot replace an expert teacher. However, there are practical things that parents and students can and should be doing. Here are some questions and answers.

Which students should be attending school?

Those students identified as 'vulnerable' and those students whose parents are 'key workers' should be attending Cowley each and every day from 8:30 – 3:05. Parents will have been informed. However, if you feel we have missed your child off the list please contact the college for guidance.

What if my job changes and I become a 'key worker'?

Please contact the college for guidance.

What is the definition of vulnerable student?

Students who are 'Looked after', have an EHCP, Social worker, under CP or Early help.

The parents of these students have been contacted however; if you feel your child fits with these criteria and you have not received communication please contact the college.

What should a typical day look like for students?

A strong daily routine is important. Use your child's college timetable as structure for activities and subject work. Avoid slipping with basic routines like bed times and ensure your child is up at normal time, or the lie-ins will grow and the day will be lost.

Where is the best place for my child to study?

Bedrooms are not ideal places for students to study. There are too many distractions and all children will need an adult to guide and supervise them, so they are motivated and supported in their work. If there is an area in the living room or kitchen which can be turned in a temporary study area then this can be very beneficial.

Where do I find the set work?

The Cowley website shows subjects and year group. There are tasks, activities listed and details of the work that is required.

What if our home does not have internet access?

Not all work provided will be online or require internet access. However, please contact the college for some guidance.

How long should my child be studying for each day?

We suggest that all children complete at least 5 hours each day. This mirrors their timetable (5 lessons). Y11s and Y13s should be completing more time in preparation for their exams which will be starting shortly.

Will I receive updates from the college?

Yes, Mr Sheeran and Mr Cormack will post regular updates by email and on the college website about developments and guidance.

What if our family cannot afford basic resources like pens and paper?

Please contact the college for some guidance.

I want to help my child with their learning, but I am not an expert on the subjects they are taking. What can I do?

The most important way for parents to help their child is to ask questions to their child. Enabling their child talk through their learning and explain this to you is very powerful. You do not need to be the expert, your child should be able to explain topics and work to you.

My child is struggling with the set work and I have tried to help, but we are both confused. What should I do?

All work set for the children has been checked by the Head of Department and therefore this will be right for their age and ability. However, work does have to be challenging. Please contact the college by email or phone and a member of staff will contact you with some guidance.

My child is saying they have finished all the work set. What should they do?

It is unlikely they will have finished the work, as the Head of Department for each subject has checked the quality and the quantity of the work set. Please check your child's work to see what it looks like. If you know they have completed this to an acceptable level of effort, then it is reading for lower school students and general revision for upper school and 6th form students. Reading is the most important activity that children can do to support their learning in all subjects. Please spend time listening to them read aloud.

My child is SEND and is struggling with the work. What can I do?

If your child has an EHCP they should be attending college each day.

It is unlikely as the Head of Department for each subject has checked the quality and the quantity of the work set. Please contact the college and a member of staff will contact you with some guidance.

My child has free school meals and I am struggling to feed them. Can Cowley help?

Please contact the college and a member of staff will contact you with some guidance.

My child has forgotten a password for GCSE pod, Educake etc. How do a reset these passwords?

Please contact the college and a member of staff will contact you with some guidance

Will the work that my child is completing be marked and assessed by the teacher?

For online activities, the website provides feedback/marking for activities. For all other work, we expect the students to bring the completed work into college when we re-open for their class teacher to check and provide feedback.

What will happen with the summer exams?

The college is awaiting further details from the DfE and how Y11 and Y13 students will be assessed for the exams they are studying for.

I am concerned my child is spending too much time playing on their computer and phone. What can I do?

All children will spend a significant amount of time on their device without guidance and support from adults. It is good to have planned time each day for using their device. There will be some work set that requires using IT however, if this is done in a communal room it will help parents to monitor the 'work' that is being completed.

What can I do if my child is showing signs of stress and anxiety?

Please contact the college and a member of staff will contact you with some guidance.

How long will it take for the college to respond to my enquiry?

In many cases the response will be the same day. However, we will operate a 1 working day response time

What is the best way to communicate with the college?

Phoning or emailing the college is the most efficient way to communicate with Cowley staff. See the website for subject or year team emails.