



COWLEY

INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE

Returning to Cowley in September 2020 - FAQs

Is Cowley going to open in September for all students?

Yes – All students will return to college Monday 7th September. With Y7 and Y12 starting on Friday 4th September. Your child will be kept in a year group bubble. More information about the practicalities of this will follow.

Is uniform required for Y7-11?

Yes – Full uniform is required including a bag.

Is the College COVID secure?

Yes – the College has completed a risk assessment and following all guidance set out by the DfE and LA.

My child is shielding, or self-isolating, must they return to college?

The plan is for all students to return in September. The DfE guidance states *“we now know much more about coronavirus (COVID-19) and so in future there will be far fewer children and young people advised to shield whenever community rates are high. Therefore, the majority of pupils will be able to return to school”*

My child/I am worried about returning, what can we do to help?

Please talk to your child to deal with any misconceptions and concerns. Up to 150 students have been coming into college each day during the summer term. The students have welcomed this time and enjoyed the opportunity. The year teams will also be able to help, please contact the school if you need support.

Will buses will be running?

Yes – Buses will be running. However, it is advised that public transport is avoided if possible (this is not a reason for not attending college). Face coverings must be worn.

How can the college manage students' contact before and after college?

We expect students to follow all the required social distancing guidelines on their journeys to and from college each day. We also expect parents to support this social responsibility. Students should not be visiting other's houses or shops on the way to school or on the way home.

What equipment will my child need to bring each day?

Students will need to bring all the standard required equipment, including a bag, pens, pencils, ruler, calculator, planner (provided on first day), PE kit.

Will students be in their usual teaching groups?

The timetable and plan are being developed following the announcement on 2nd July. Some adjustments in classes will be required to enable the curriculum to be taught.

What will happen with exams in summer 2021?

The consultation about 2021 exam season is taking place. It is likely that all exams will run, and this will be slightly later in the summer. All students completing exams this summer will be supported to ensure they achieve the grades they are capable of. Saying this, it will require students, parents and staff to prioritise the studies.

Will my child study all their subjects?

The college will continue to provide a broad and balanced curriculum. The curriculum plan is currently being evaluated for Y11 students. There may be a small minority of students who have a slight change in curriculum to help them succeed in key subjects like English and maths. These students and parents will be consulted before any changes are made.

How will breaks and lunches work in September?

Year groups will have separate breaks and lunches. This will be tricky to manage; however, we know the students will support us with these arrangements.

How will the college support students to be well behaved and follow the new routines?

Cowley has very high standards in behaviour and these will remain in September. The fundamental rule at Cowley is to 'follow staff instructions'. The college and Governing body will not tolerate any poor behaviour and actions that put students, staff and families at risk during these times while we try to control the virus.

What happens if there is a local lockdown?

The college must follow guidance if there are any positive COVID cases in the student population or in St Helens. The college is in contact with Public Health England and will swiftly follow any actions when required.

What if my child is absent?

We expect students to be in every day. The target is 97% attendance. We have a great deal of learning to do and therefore full attendance is required. The standard attendance and absence procedures commence from 4th September. If your child displays COVID-19 symptoms, then we start the test and trace procedures and isolate certain students following Public Health England guidance.

Can staff and students wear face masks/barriers?

There has been a significant amount of media coverage about face coverings in schools. **At this point in time** (but this could change), if students and staff wish to wear face coverings inside the building, corridors etc, they are more than welcome to. Students will not wear face coverings in lessons. All masks must be standard with no designs.