

25<sup>th</sup> August 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope you and your family are well and have had a lovely summer. It is not long until students return, and we are looking forward to welcoming them back to college and building on the successes from last year. In this letter, there is some valuable information to ensure all students have a good start to the new college year.

### Examination results

Congratulations to the Year 10, Year 11, Year 12 and Year 13 students on their exam results. The hard work and dedication has paid off and we are proud of their academic achievements. We thank parents and staff for their support and commitment to the students to ensure students were ready for their exams. The photo gallery is here [Congratulations Class of 2023! - Cowley International College - St Helens](#)

### Summer School

The majority of our new Year 7 students attended the Summer School last week. It was a wonderful week, and it has supported the students with their transition to high school. It was fantastic to see them making new friends and immersing themselves into Cowley life.

### First day back

The first day back for students is **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September at 8:30am**. There is no wasted time moving to the new college year, there will be Team Time and assemblies during period 1 and period 2 and students will start curriculum lessons period 3.

### Being prepared for September

We continue to have high standards and expectations for uniform and equipment. So there are no shocks on the first day, please check our uniform policy and the summary page: [Uniform, Footwear and Essential Equipment - Cowley International College - St Helens](#). If your child has enjoyed the opportunity of the summer holidays to have hair colours, piercings, nail varnish, false nails and eye lashes etc., then please ensure that these are all sorted, and your child is 'Cowley ready' for their first day. Your child will also need a suitable school bag with all the required equipment for every college day [Uniform, Footwear and Essential Equipment - Cowley International College - St Helens](#)

### Daily Attendance

The students who achieved well in their exams all had one thing in common – **good attendance**. It is so important that your child is in college each and **every day**. Every lesson missed means they are missing vital learning. Having those good habits and strong routines of coming into college each day are vital. Please look at our attendance information on our website and contact the year team if there is anything we can do to support you with ensuring your child has good attendance. [Attendance - Cowley International College - St Helens](#)



### Reading, reading and reading

There is a direct link between reading levels and success at school. The students who read often are more likely to do well in their exams. We want your children to be successful and we want them to love reading. Reading will continue to be a priority this year and it is essential that every day, they have some time reading at home.



### Mobile phones at Cowley

We are aware that many students have a mobile phone, and they may have spent a significant amount of time using their phone over the summer holidays. Returning to school will require students to be disciplined about when and where to use mobile phones. Cowley's expectations and rules will remain the same as previous years. Phones cannot be a distraction to their learning and **phones should not be seen or heard inside the building**. Phones should be turned off and in school bags while students are inside the building. Students may check and use their phone at break and lunch while on the playground. If a phone is heard or seen while inside the building, then the phone will be confiscated, and the student will be choosing a 30 minute after college detention. Please do remind your child about this basic and reasonable expectation.



### EarPods/headphones

It is becoming more common for people to have EarPods or headphones and the same expectations we hold for mobile phone is expected for EarPods/headphones (**not to be seen or heard inside the building**). However, so that all traffic can be heard, we advise students to avoid using these while travelling to and from college.



### Class Charts

Parents continue to inform us that they benefit from the Class Charts app, as it has given them daily information to help them understand how their child is performing. We will continue to use Class Charts for letters, homework, attendance, rewards and behaviour. Please ensure you have your logon details and the app, so you can see 'live' information about how your child is performing each day.



### Extracurricular clubs and activities

It was truly incredible what the students were offered last year. This included everything from the college musicals, sports, clubs, residential and international trips to New York, Germany and Kenya. We are looking forward to offering the amazing Cowley extracurricular timetable this year. I encourage all students to get involved in as many extracurricular activities as possible and immerse themselves into Cowley life. More information will be shared to students in September about these activities. [Enrichment Timetable - Cowley International College - St Helens](#)



### Keeping in contact

Communication with parents and carers is so important. Please ensure we have up-to-date mobile numbers and email addresses. Please contact the main office when there are changes.



### Open evenings

Each year, we open our doors to the community so they can meet the staff and students and have a look around the wonderful facilities we have. If you would like to attend these evenings, then the dates are below.

- 11-16 site - 14<sup>th</sup> September 4-7pm
- Post 16 site – 28<sup>th</sup> September & 16<sup>th</sup> November 4:30 -7pm

### Parents' evenings

The partnership between college and parents is paramount for the success and wellbeing of students. The data shows that students achieve two grades better at GCSE and take part in more extracurricular activities when parents come to parents' evenings. Please add these dates to your diaries:

Year group	Parents' evening 1 (4-7pm)	Parents' evening 2 (4-7pm)
Y7	9 November 2023	27 June 2024
Y8	7 March 2024	13 June 2024
Y9	18 January 2024	27 June 2024
Y10	22 February 2024	13 June 2024
Y11	5 October 2023	29 February 2024

I am confident that this year is going to be a great year and it is wonderful seeing the enthusiasm, optimism and excitement from the new Year 7's at Summer School. If your child works hard, reads every day and demonstrates the Cowleian Characteristics, I guarantee they will be successful this year.

As always, if there is anything we can do to support you or your family, then please do contact the college.

Best wishes,



Mr Cormack  
Principal

