

August 2025

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 to build on the successes from last year. Important information is included in this letter to ensure all students have a good start to the new college year. There is a great deal of information here and I encourage you to refer to the previous communication I sent out in the summer.



Examination results

Congratulations to the students on their results. Cowley saw an impressive increase in the number of students achieving the top grades. 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 they were ready for their exams. You can view photos from GCSE results day here: <https://www.cowley-st-helens.sch.uk/gcse-results-day-2025>, and photos from A-Level and BTEC results day here: [Cowley Sixth Form Celebrates A-Level & BTEC Results - Cowley International College - St Helens](#)



First day back

The first day back for students is **Wednesday 3 September at 8:30am**. There is no wasted time moving to the new college year, the day will start with Team Time and assemblies during period 1 and 2 and students will start lessons period 3.



Being prepared for September

We continue to have high standards and expectations for uniform and equipment. Please check our uniform policy and the summary page [Uniform, Footwear and Essential Equipment - Cowley International College - St Helens](#) so there are no shocks on the first day. If your child has enjoyed the opportunity of the summer with hair colour, piercings, nail varnish, false nails and eye lashes etc., then please ensure 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](#).



Please also ensure that you have seen the changes to our uniform policy, as girls will now either wear a skirt with tights or trousers cowley.st-helens.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2025/08/Uniform-June-2025.pdf

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](#)



Key Changes for September

There are some significant changes that started to be planned and some implemented last term. Every change has been carefully planned for the students. To summarise a few:

- The school day times change. Students will need to be in College for 8:30am and period 5 finishes at 2.45pm.
- Students will start the day with period 1 lessons. Assemblies and team time will be later in the day.
- There are split breaks and lunches.
- We have a new behaviour policy: [Cowley-BFL-Policy-Summer-2025.pdf](#)
- Detentions will be longer.
- Red cards will be issued to students who disturb lessons.
- Parents have access to all student information via the MCAS App
- There is a new Pastoral Structure including a Student Wellbeing Team and College Manager Team

Start of term 'jet lag'

We see start of term 'jet lag' every new term. This is not due to any long plane journeys, but due to students having late bedtimes and late starts during the holiday. It will be a shock if they have been used to staying in bed until mid-morning. We do not want students being exhausted and tired while in school as this will mean they will struggle to concentrate and possibly be a bit grumpy. I recommend that students start to return to normal bedtimes a few days before the 3 September, so they are refreshed and ready to learn.

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. Returning to school will require students to be disciplined about when and where to use mobile phones. Students must have their phones powered down and in their bags throughout the school day. You can find more information (FAQs and the policy) here: [Letter to parents/carers re: mobile phone policy - Cowley International College - St Helens](#)

My Child at School (MCAS)

We moved to MCAS last summer, this platform enables parents to have powerful information about their child's education. Please ensure you have your logon details and the MCAS App, so you can see 'live' information about how your child is performing each day.

Enrichment and extracurricular clubs/activities

Again, last year was truly incredible with the enrichment offered to students. This included everything from the college musicals, sports, clubs, residentials and international trips. 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.

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. These are for Year 5 and Year 6 pupils and their families. However, if you would like to attend these evenings, then the dates are below.

- 11-16 site – 11 September
- Sixth Form site – 9 October

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 (3:15-5:45pm) |
|-------------------|---|
| Y7 | 13 November 2025 |
| Y8 | 19 March 2026 |
| Y9 | 22 January 2026 |
| Y10 | 26 March 2026 |
| Y11 | 11 December 2025 |

I am confident that this year is going to be another great year. If your child has regular attendance, works hard and demonstrates the Professional Standards and Cowleian Characteristics, I guarantee they will be successful.

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

Yours sincerely



Mr Cormack
Principal