

RCK/SDN

24th October 2024



Dear Parent/Carer,

As we approach the end of the first half term, I want to take a moment to reflect on the start of this academic year and thank you for your continued support. At Cowley, we know that education is a partnership between school and home, and your involvement plays a vital role in helping our students thrive.



I'm delighted to report that it has been a fantastic start to the year. The past seven weeks have flown by, and our new Year 7 students have settled in brilliantly. They've made new friends, embraced Cowley life, and are already showing great confidence and enthusiasm. It's a joy to watch them grow into proud Cowleians.



Across all year groups, students have responded positively to our renewed focus on high expectations, particularly around learning, attendance, and punctuality. Lessons are more focused, students are presenting themselves smartly, and there's a real sense of pride in being prepared and ready to succeed. Thank you for the many kind messages of support, we truly appreciate your encouragement and recognition of the work we're doing.



Attendance remains a key factor in student success. Everyday matters, and every lesson is carefully planned to support progress. We're thrilled to celebrate the 474 students who have achieved 100% attendance since September, an outstanding achievement!



As we head into the half-term break, it's a valuable opportunity for students and staff alike to rest and recharge. I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to our dedicated staff, who consistently go above and beyond for our students. Each week, I give a group of students 'Above and Beyond' cards to present to staff members who have made a difference. It's incredibly moving to hear students explain why a member of staff deserves recognition, and even more so when they ask for extra cards because they have so many people they want to thank.



We recognise that this half term is different for our Y11 students as they return to complete their GCSE rehearsal exams. It is standard and expected that Y11s complete revision at home during their holiday. We recommend that students follow their timetable next week while at home. For instance, if they have English period 1, they will complete an hour of revision during this time. This approach will provide a structure to ensure they are using their time for study and some time to relax and recharge "Revise, Rest, Repeat".



While the break is a time for fun and relaxation, we're also mindful of seasonal challenges, darker evenings, Halloween, and fireworks. Please help us keep our students safe by ensuring they are with trusted friends and making positive choices.



This half term has also brought some wonderful achievements in sport, academic progress, and the arts it is a pleasure writing the weekly newsletter every Friday [Principal's Weekly Newsletter - Cowley International College - St Helens](#). We end the half term on a high with our spectacular production of *The Addams Family*. With over 70 students involved, the show was a shining example of what can be achieved through teamwork, resilience, and dedication. The production truly captured the spirit of Cowley, and I'm incredibly proud of every cast and crew member. Each cast member has gained confidence, skill, friendship and experience. The resilience and commitment they have demonstrated shows that we can achieve anything with a positive attitude. Thank you to the staff and parents who supported the show, it simply wouldn't have been possible without you.

Year 8 Team Update: We're pleased to welcome back Mrs Marnell, who will be taking over as Head of Achievement for 8 as Mrs Cunliffe moves into a whole-school role leading literacy. Mrs Heaton will continue to support Year 8 alongside Mrs Marnell, and there will be a smooth handover period to ensure continuity and support for our students.

Looking Ahead: College reopens for all students on **Monday 3rd November at 8:30am**. We're looking forward to another productive and exciting half term. Key dates to note:

- **Sixth Form Open Evening** – 6th November
- **Year 11 Rehearsal Exams Begin** – 10th November
- **Remembrance Day** – 11th November
- **Flu Vaccinations** – 12th November
- **Year 7 Parents' Evening** – 13th November
- **Year 10 Careers Fair** – 20th November
- **Staff INSET Day (College closed to students)** – 28th November
- **Christmas Concert** – 17th December

Thank you once again for your continued support. I wish you and your family a safe, restful, and enjoyable half-term break.

Warm regards,



Mr Cormack

Principal