



August 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

Congratulations on securing a place at the most historic and prestigious sixth form in the borough. I am thrilled to extend a warm welcome as the new Head of Sixth Form for the 2024-2025 academic year. It is a great honour to take on this role, especially given my background as a former student, Head Boy, and teacher here for the past 18 years. I'd like to thank Mrs Faulkner for her support and wish her all the best in her new role.

I'm sure you will join me in congratulating our newly elected Head Girl and Boy, Abigail and Daniel. I look forward to working with them over the next academic year.

I hope you and your family are well and have enjoyed a wonderful summer. As we approach the new term, we are excited to welcome students back to build on the successes of the previous year. This letter includes important information to ensure a smooth start to the new college year for Year 12 students.

### Examination results

Congratulations to Y12 and Y13 students on their results. The hard work and dedication have paid off and we are proud of their academic achievements. We thank parents and staff for their support and commitment to ensure students were ready for their exams. The photo gallery is here [Latest News - Cowley International College - St Helens](#).

### First day back

The first day back for students is **Wednesday, 4th September, starting at 8:30 a.m.** We'll jump straight into the new year with no time wasted. There will be a brief welcome assembly led by the pastoral team, followed by tutor group inductions during Period 1 and 2. Students will then begin their curriculum lessons in Period 3.

### Being prepared for September

To be prepared for the start of term in the Sixth Form, it's essential to get organised early. Please ensure students have all the necessary supplies, such as notebooks, stationery, and any textbooks required for your courses. Lastly, encourage students to approach the new term with a positive mindset and clear goals, ready to make the most of this important stage in their education.

### Daily Attendance

Students who perform well in their exams all had one thing in common - good attendance. It is crucial that students are in college every day; every missed lesson means missing vital learning. Developing good habits and strong routines of attending college daily is essential. Please contact the year team if there is anything we can do to support you in ensuring your daughter/son has good attendance.

I sincerely hope that our students can aim for 100% attendance this academic year, and your support in achieving this is greatly appreciated.

### Part time work

Part-time work can provide income to support students' studies and help them gain more independence. For these reasons, we encourage your child to seek a part-time job, as it offers valuable experience.



However, it should not interfere with college work, i.e. it should not take place during college hours, and we recommend no more than 8 hours per week.

Please note the following research: Sixth formers whose part-time jobs take up more than 8 hours a week are risking the grades they need for university and apprenticeships. Research shows that teenagers working up to 7 or 8 hours a week may marginally improve their predicted Level 3 performance. However, results suffer when hours exceed this. Those working 15+ hours are scoring, on average, 36 UCAS points below their potential (equivalent to dropping from BBB to CCD).

Please consider how this can impact their future progression plans.

### Independent learning

As a Year 12 student, your daughter/son is given much greater responsibility and freedom. During a typical working day, provided they are not in any timetabled lessons or required to complete specific work, they are free to leave the site. However, as your daughter/son transitions into the start of their Level 3 studies, it's crucial to emphasise the importance of using their independent time productively. This period is a pivotal stage in their academic journey, where effective time management and self-discipline can make a significant difference. Encouraging them to prioritise their studies, set clear goals, and maintain a structured routine will not only enhance their learning but also prepare them for future challenges. Your support in fostering these habits will be invaluable as they work towards achieving their academic aspirations.

### College Charter

On the first day of term, all students will receive, read, and sign the Cowley Sixth Form Charter. This charter outlines the key expectations and standards we uphold at Cowley Sixth Form, including academic commitment, respect, and personal responsibility. By signing the charter, students agree to adhere to these principles throughout their two years with us. It serves as a foundational guide to help them navigate their studies and personal development, ensuring they make the most of their time at Cowley Sixth Form and contribute positively to our community.

### 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 daughter/son 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 each day.

### Extracurricular clubs and activities

Last year was truly incredible with what the students were offered. This included everything from the college musicals, sports, clubs, residential and international trips to France, Germany and China. We are looking forward to embellishing the extracurricular offering for Post 16 students. I encourage all students to get involved in as many extracurricular activities as possible and immerse themselves into Cowley Sixth Form life as there are countless benefits to this, including showcasing student development within progression applications for higher education and future employment.

There will be a Post 16 Enrichment Fair taking place **13<sup>th</sup> September at lunch time in Cowley Hall**. 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 sixth form office when there are changes.

### Sixth Form Open Evenings

Each year, we open our doors to the community so they can meet our staff and students and explore the wonderful facilities we offer. These events are primarily for Year 10 and Year 11 pupils and their families. However, if you would like to attend these evenings or share the information with family and friends, the dates are listed below.

- Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2024
- Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2025

### Parents' Evenings

The partnership between the college and parents is crucial for the success and well-being of our students. Data shows that students achieve two grades higher at A-level and participate more in extracurricular activities when parents attend Parents' Evenings. Please make sure to add these important dates to your diaries:

- Year 12 Parent Partnership meeting – 5<sup>th</sup> September 2024 (5 – 7pm)
- Year 12 Parents' Evening – 28<sup>th</sup> November 2024 (5 – 7pm)

### Sixth Form Bursary

As a college, we are in receipt of funding that can be distributed to 16 – 19 students who meet certain eligibility criteria based on household income.

During the past academic year many applied and were successful in securing this funding. The updated policy for the new academic year is accessible via this link [Bursary-Policy-2024-25.pdf \(cowley.st-helens.sch.uk\)](https://www.cowley.st-helens.sch.uk/Bursary-Policy-2024-25.pdf).

Please use the following links to submit your first application to apply for funding for the 2024 – 25 academic year. [16-19 Bursary Fund Scheme Application Form - Cowley Sixth Form - St Helens](#)

Finally, I am confident that this year will be a successful one. If your daughter/son puts in consistent effort each day and demonstrates the qualities of a mature Post-16 student, I am certain they will achieve great success.

As always, if there is anything we can do to support you or your family, please don't hesitate to contact the college. Remember, Cowley is the chosen Sixth Form for their future - let's work together to make that future a reality.

*'Your Sixth Form – Your Future'*

Yours sincerely



Mr D Watkins  
Head of Sixth Form