



August 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome from the Principals

We hope this letter finds you and your families well. We are writing to you with arrangements for the start of term and with important reminders for the year ahead.

As we hope you have seen on social media, we enjoyed celebrating our Year 11 and Post 16 exam successes. We are incredibly proud of the wonderful achievements of these young people! These results reflect the College values of Motivation, Commitment and Care shown by the students and those who have worked with and supported them in and out of College.

Arrangements for Wednesday 3rd September 2025 – First Day of the New Term for all students

The following arrangements are in place to allow the new Year 7 cohort to be the only students onsite in the morning and to allow all students to have the information they need for a successful start to the new academic year.

Year 7 – Wednesday 3rd September 2025

Year 7 students must queue up and enter through the gate to the right of the Main Reception/The Hub. Staff will be on hand on the Bus Park to guide students in the right direction. Year 7 students will spend the full day with their P&A mentor.

Time:	Session:	Year Group:	Venue:
8:15 – 8:30	Arrival of Y7 students through their designated entrance gate & into the Main Hall	Year 7	Entrance Gate/Main Hall
8:30 - 11:30	Main Hall assembly to P&A time	Year 7	P&A Bases
11:30 – 12:00	Snack Break	Year 7	KS3 Dining Area
12:00 – 14:25	P&A time	Year 7	P&A Bases

Year 8-11 – Wednesday 3rd September 2025

Year 8 – 11 students must queue up and enter via their designated gates. They must **not** congregate on Minsthorpe Lane. If you wish your child to start at the normal start time of 8.30am on Wednesday 3rd September, please contact the College and arrangements can be made.

Time:	Session:	Year Group:	Venue:
12.20 - 12.50	Optional Snack Break If students wish to come onto site at 12.20pm to eat lunch, they may.	Y8-11	KS3 Dining Area
12.40 - 12.50	Arrival of Y8, Y9, Y10 & Y11 students.	Y8-11	Designated Gate
12.50 - 14.30	P&A time & assemblies.	Y8-11	P&A Bases

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Post 16 – Wednesday 3rd September 2025

Time:	Session:	Year Group:	Venue:
11.45 - 12.15	Timetable & lanyard collection	Post 16	P16 Block
12.15 - 12.45	P16 briefing	Post 16	Main Hall

All students in Y7 – Y13 will follow their normal College timetable from Thursday 4th September 2025.

Here is a reminder of the **start of day routine**. Please ensure your child is punctual.

08:15 Students may start queuing at their gates.

08:25 Movement bell/start of the day

08:30 Gate closes (students late after this time)

Designated Entrance Gates

Year 7 – Right of the Hub

Year 10 – Left of Carnegie

Year 8 – Left of the new PE block

Year 11 – Left of the Hub

Year 9 – English block gate

Attendance Matters

Attendance is our top priority at Minsthorpe Community College. As Principals, we give a clear message regarding attendance: **‘Every student. Every lesson. Every day.’** By attending every lesson, every day, your child demonstrates our College’s values of Motivation, Commitment and Care and they are able to make the most of every opportunity offered to them at the College. We are delighted that overall attendance improved by 1.5% last academic year, but it needs to improve further. **September is the perfect time for everyone to have a fresh start in terms of good attendance!**

Please find enclosed an information leaflet from Mrs Chamberlain, Head of Attendance. Mrs Chamberlain and her dedicated Attendance Team are there to support you and your child, if they are struggling to attend regularly. Please do not hesitate to get in touch!

Too many families take holidays during term-time, meaning children miss valuable days of their education. The enclosed flyer has been produced by the Minsthorpe Primary Partnership, which includes Minsthorpe Community College and all of the local primary schools and explains the statutory fines.

Also enclosed is a list of key dates for 2025/26. Thank you for your support in ensuring that your child makes the most of every day – **‘Every student. Every lesson. Every day.’**

BE FAIR Everywhere

Minsthorpe students behave well as we share clear expectations with you and with them about **how** they need to behave and **why**. Please take 10 minutes to watch the BE FAIR video message from their Head of Year posted on the College website. [Minsthorpe Community College - BE FAIR Everywhere](#)

We draw your attention to the information regarding use of toilets during lessons. Students are allowed to leave the lesson in an emergency only and the teacher may ask them to wait.

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Sanctions

Your child's safety is our first concern. For this reason, from September we will be taking a harsher line when sanctioning students who are in possession of a vape or are seen vaping. Whilst this is a rare event at the College, it is illegal to vape under the age of 18. If a student is in possession of a vape or is seen vaping, they will serve a five-day MID Room isolation sanction. The confiscated vape will be passed to West Yorkshire Police, who may choose to test the contents of the vape. If there are concerns about a student's use of vapes, they will be 'wanded'. This is in the interests of their own and others' safety.

Similarly, we will not tolerate violence or fighting on or near the College site, as this places the safety of students and staff at risk. If a student is involved in violence of any kind, this will result in a suspension followed by an offsite direction to another school or alternative provision.

Uniform Expectations

We are proud of how smart our students look in their uniform and thank you for your support with this. We return to normal uniform in September. **All students in Years 7 – 11 must wear a blazer.** Please refer to the College Uniform section on the College website for a reminder of our uniform expectations. [Minsthorpe Community College - College Uniform](#)

College Meals

From September, you will no longer need to order your child's College meal in advance. Instead, they will be able to make their choice on the day. We enclose a copy of the menu of nutritious food available with prices. The three-weekly menu of warm meals will be posted on the College website. We will send out a link in September.

Final Word

We appreciate that this letter includes lots of information. If you have any questions, please contact the College via School Gateway, email enquires@minsthorpe.cc or phone. We would like to take this opportunity to remind you that it is better to contact the College in this way. It is never a good idea to turn up at the Main Reception without an appointment, as the Year Office staff and others have teaching and other commitments and may not be available to speak to you. We will always endeavour to respond to your communication within 24-hours, but we are a large, busy College and we thank you for your patience and understanding.

We look forward to welcoming all students on Wednesday 3rd September. We look forward to another successful year for 'Team Minsthorpe'.

Yours sincerely

Mr M Gilmore
Principal

Mrs R Merritt
Principal

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Term Dates and Key Events – 2025/26

Autumn Term 2025		
1st & 2nd	September	INSET DAYS (Monday & Tuesday)
3rd		Years 7 – 13 students return to College (staggered starts - Wednesday)
4th		Years 7 – 13 students in College following normal timetable - (Thursday)
2nd	October	Year 7 Welcome Parents Evening/Mentor Conversation
9th		Open Evening for students moving from Year 6 into Year 7
16th		Year 11 Exam Information Evening and Post16 Open Evening
24th		College closes for half term - (Friday)
27th October 2025 - 31st October 2025 - Autumn Half Term		
3rd	November	Students return after half term (Monday)
4th	December	Reports issued
4th		Christmas Concert
11th		P16 Parents Evening
18th		College closes for Christmas holidays (Thursday)
19th December 2025 - 2nd January 2026 - Christmas Holidays		
Spring Term 2026		
5th	January	Students return after the Christmas holidays (Monday)
22nd		Year 11 Parents Evening (Mock results issued)
22nd		Parents Evening for Alternative Curriculum Students
5th	February	Year 10 Parents Evening
12th		Presentation Evening (for Year 11 Leavers Summer 2025)
13th		College closes for half term (Friday)
16th February 2026 - 20th February 2026 - February Half Term		
23rd	February	Students return after half term (Monday)
6th	March	Year 9 Work Shadowing Day
12th		Year 9 Parents Evening
19th		Year 11 Exam Information Evening
26th		Reports issued
27th		College closes for Easter (Friday)
30th March 2026 - 10th April 2026 - Easter Holidays		
Summer Term 2026		
13th	April	Students return after Easter holidays (Monday)
23rd		Year 9 Options Evening
4th	May	May Bank Holiday (College Closed)
6th		Careers Fair
7th		Formal exam season begins (ends 26th June 2026)
14th		Year 8 Parents Evening
22nd		College closes for half term break (Friday)
25th May 2026 - 29th May 2026 - Spring Bank Half Term		
1st	June	Students return after half term (Monday)
11th		Year 7 Parents Evening
19th		INSET DAY (Friday)
22nd		Start of Year 6 Induction Days (ends 24th June 2026)
24th		Year 6 Parents Information Evening
26th		Formal exam season ends
2nd	July	Y11 Prom
8th		KS3 Graduation (P1)
9th		Summer Concert
10th		Sports Day
16th		Reports issued
17th		College closes for Summer (Friday)
2nd	September	Students return to College after the Summer (Wednesday)

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