



August 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome from the Principal

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

As I hope you have seen on social media, we enjoyed celebrating our Year 11 and Post 16 exam successes. I am 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.

Wednesday 2nd September 2026 – Year 7 students and Post 16 ONLY

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

Year 7 only – 8:30am start. The gate will be open from 8:15am

Post 16 – 1:00pm start in Main Hall

Year 8 to 11 – Not in College

Thursday 3rd September 2026 – All Students

Year 7 to 11 – 8:30am start. The gates will be open from 8:15am

Post 16 – 10:40am start

All Students will be able to queue up at their normal gate from 8:15am. Staff will be on hand on the Bus Park to guide students in the right direction.

All students in Y7 – Y13 will follow their normal College timetable from Friday 4th September 2026.

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 8 – Left of the new PE block

Year 9 – English block gate

Year 10 – Left of Carnegie

Year 11 – Left of the Hub

Attendance Matters

Attendance is our top priority at Minsthorpe Community College. As Principal, I 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. I am delighted that overall

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attendance improved again 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!**

Also enclosed is a list of key dates for 2026/27. 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](#)

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](#)

Mobile Phones

As you will be aware, the Government has published statutory guidance which schools across the country must follow in terms of schools being a 'mobile phone free environment'. To support this, we have reviewed and strengthened our Mobile Phone Policy for students in Years 7 – 11.

Students must not use mobile phones at any time during the college day. This includes:

- When entering the site and waiting in their morning queues
- During lessons and lesson changeovers
- During breaks
- During detentions, commitment sessions and enrichment
- Until they leave the building at the end of the day

Phones must be switched off, kept in bags (not in pockets), and not used as watches, timers, calculators or research and revision tools in lessons.

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Final Word

I appreciate that this letter includes lots of information. If you have any questions, please contact the College via the Arbor App, email enquires@minsthorpe.cc or phone. I 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.

I look forward to welcoming students back in September and to another successful year for 'Team Minsthorpe'.

Yours sincerely

Mr M Gilmore
Principal

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Term Dates and Key Events – 2026/27

Autumn Term 2026		
1st	September	INSET DAY (Tuesday)
2nd		Start of Term for New Year 7 Students Only
3rd		Years 7 – 13 students return to College (Thursday)
1st	October	Year 7 Welcome Parents Evening/Mentor Conversation
8th		Open Evening for students moving from Year 6 into Year 7
15th		Year 11 Exam Information Evening and Post16 Open Evening
23rd		College closes for half term - (Friday)
26th October 2026 - 30th October 2026 - Autumn Half Term		
2nd	November	Students return after half term (Monday)
3rd	December	Christmas Concert
10th		Post 16 Parents Evening & Reports Issued
18th		College closes for Christmas holidays (Friday)
21st December 2026 - 1st January 2027 - Christmas Holidays		
Spring Term 2027		
1st	January	Bank Holiday (College Closed Friday)
4th		Students return after the Christmas holidays (Monday)
21st		Year 11 Parents Evening (Mock results issued)
21st		Parents Evening for Alternative Curriculum Students
4th	February	Year 9 Parents Evening
11th		Presentation Evening (for Year 11 Leavers Summer 2026)
12th		College closes for half term (Friday)
15th February 2027 - 19th February 2027 - February Half Term		
22nd	February	Students return after half term (Monday)
4th	March	Year 9 Work Shadowing (ends on 5th March)
4th		Year 10 Parents Evening
11th		Year 9 Options Evening
22nd		Start of College Production (ends 24th March)
24th		Year 7 - 10 Reports issued
25th		Y11 Information Evening
25th		College closes for Easter (Thursday)
26th		Bank Holiday (College Closed Friday)
29th March 2027 - 9th April 2027 - Easter Holidays		
Summer Term 2027		
12th	April	Students return after Easter holidays (Monday)
21st		Year 11 Reports Issued
22nd		Year 8 Parents Evening
3rd	May	May Bank Holiday (College Closed)
5th		Careers Fair
10th		Formal exam season begins (ends 25th June 2026)
28th		College closes for half term (Friday)
31st May 2027 - 4th June 2027 - Spring Bank Half Term		
7th	June	Students return after half term (Monday)
17th		Year 7 Parents Evening
21st		Start of Year 6 Induction Days (ends 23th June 2027)
23rd		Year 6 Parents Information Evening
25th		INSET DAY (Friday)
25th		Formal exam season ends
1st	July	Year 11 Prom
7th		KS3 Graduation (P3)
8th		Summer Concert
9th		Sports Day
14th		Reports issued
16th		College closes for Summer (Friday)
8th	September	Students return to College after the Summer (Wednesday)

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