



3rd February 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

Update from the Principals

It is hard to believe that January is already behind us. This is a short, but busy half term. We enjoyed meeting parents/carers of Year 11 students on 22nd January and are looking forward to Year 10 Parents' Evening on Thursday 5th February and Presentation Evening for the Class of 2025 on Thursday 12th February. We value your support at these important events.

Attendance Matters

You have heard our mantra of '**Every Student. Every Lesson. Every day.**' and we are delighted with the positive attendance figures this term. Students are loving 'Motivational Monday' and 'Fabulous Friday' and many have gathered multiple raffle tickets already. Prizes will be given out in assemblies during the last week of the half term.

The Spring Term is a shorter term than the long Autumn Term (just 11 weeks in total). We would like to remind you of the holiday dates:

- Monday 16th February 2026 – Friday 20th February 2026 – College closed for the half term break
- Monday 30th March 2026 – Friday 10th April 2026 – College closed for the Easter break

Mobile Phones in Schools

You will have heard the government's announcement about the ban of mobile phones in schools. We are reviewing the 'strengthened' DfE guidance that all schools should be phone-free environments throughout the entire school day, including lessons, time between lessons, breaktimes, and lunchtime. We will include clear expectations in our updated Behaviour Policy from September 2026, which we will share with you and our students when it is approved by the Governing Body.

Our students cooperate well with our current policy and we only need to confiscate phones on rare occasions. The new guidance will require Minsthorpe Community College to be more rigorous in our approach, but please be assured that we will explain our expectations fully to you and your child before they are introduced. We thank you in anticipation of your support.

Yours sincerely,

Mr M. Gilmore
Principal

Mrs R. Merritt
Principal

Motivation • Commitment • Care

Minsthorpe Lane, South Elmsall, West Yorkshire, WF9 2UJ **T.** 01977 657600 **E.** enquiries@minsthorpe.cc **minsthorpe.cc**

Principals Mark Gilmore & Rachael Merritt