



October 2026

Dear Parents/Carers

Re: A Great Start to the Academic Year

As we approach the end of our first half term, I wanted to take the opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support and to reflect on what has been an extremely positive start to the academic year.

This year has also marked my first half term as the sole Principal of Minsthorpe Community College. Having previously worked alongside a Joint Principal, the transition has been a smooth one, and I have thoroughly enjoyed every minute of leading this exceptional College community. I feel immensely proud of our students, staff and wider community, and I am excited about the opportunities that lie ahead as we continue to build on our many strengths.

Students in Years 7, 8 and 9 will complete their first Knowledge Assessments of the academic year on Thursday 22nd October. These assessments provide an important opportunity for students to demonstrate what they have learned so far and help teachers identify any areas where further support may be needed.

From the moment students returned in September, there has been a real sense of purpose across the College. Classrooms have been productive, students have approached their learning positively, and it has been wonderful to see our new Year 7 students settle so quickly into life at Minsthorpe.

Half Term Arrangements

Minsthorpe Community College will close for the half term break at 2:30pm on Friday 23rd October and will reopen to students on Monday 2nd November.

As always, students will follow their normal timetable up until the end of the College day on Friday.

Every student. Every lesson. Every day.

Attendance continues to be one of our key priorities because we know that students who attend regularly achieve better outcomes, develop stronger relationships and gain the greatest benefit from all that College life has to offer.

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Principal Mark Gilmore



I am delighted to share that our attendance has improved again compared with the same point last year, meaning that attendance has now increased year-on-year for three consecutive years. This is a fantastic achievement and reflects the collective commitment of students, parents and staff.

Particularly pleasing is the fact that 723 students remain on track to achieve 100% attendance this academic year. This is an outstanding accomplishment and one that deserves recognition and celebration.

Thank you for the vital role that you play in supporting your child's attendance. Your partnership with us continues to make a significant difference and helps ensure that students are able to achieve their very best.

Mobile Phones

A reminder that Minsthorpe Community College remains a 'No Phones Zone' during the College day.

I would like to thank both our students and parents for the positive way in which this has been embraced. Students have been highly respectful of the expectations and have responded with impressive maturity. The consistent support we have received from families has been instrumental in making the policy such a success.

Thank you for continuing to support us with this important aspect of College life.

As we reach the end of a busy and successful half term, I would like to thank you once again for your continued support. The partnership between home and College is one of the greatest strengths of our community, and together we can continue to ensure that every student thrives.

I hope you and your family have a restful and enjoyable half term break.

Yours sincerely

Mr M Gilmore
Principal

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