Date: 9th July 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

End of Term Letter and Important Information for Next Academic Year

As another academic year draws to a close, it's a good time to reflect on all that we have achieved together and, most importantly, to thank you for the support you have shown throughout the year.

This year has been one of making great progress, challenge, and celebrations. I have been really impressed by the resilience, kindness, and determination shown by our students. Whether in the classroom, on the sports field, on the stage, through community projects or simply in the way they support one another each day, they have demonstrated the values that make Countesthorpe Academy such a special place.

I am equally proud of the dedication of our staff. Every day they go above and beyond to inspire, encourage and care for our students, often in ways that go unseen. Their commitment to helping every young person achieve their potential is what makes our school thrive.

At the end of each year, there is inevitably a mixture of excitement and sadness as we say goodbye to colleagues who are moving on to new opportunities or beginning a well-deserved retirement. Special mentions must go to Mr Thurston and Mr Pelton who are retiring this year. Between them they have almost seven decades of service, and I know many of you may have been taught by them too! They will be greatly missed, and we are enormously grateful for everything they have contributed to our school community. They have helped shape the lives of countless young people and have left a lasting legacy at Countesthorpe Academy. On behalf of us all, I thank them sincerely and wish all our staff who are moving on every happiness and success in the future. Equally, I thank Mr Barford, Miss Caleb, and Mr Ford for their outstanding work, commitment and efforts; they too have had a huge impact on the lives of our students.

As we look ahead to September, we do so with optimism. We are proud of the progress we have made, but we are never satisfied with standing still. We know that excellence is built through the consistent habits and routines that enable every student to learn, flourish and succeed.

Our priorities for the new academic year will therefore focus on three key areas.

Firstly, developing student agency in all our students. We want our students to be resilient, hardworking and aspirational in the choices they make. Our CREW programme is central to this and permeates into our whole curriculum. We will continue to build on this as we move into next year.

Secondly, we will continue to strengthen our daily routines so that every lesson begins calmly, every classroom is purposeful, and every student knows exactly what is expected of them. Clear routines create confidence, consistency and the best possible environment for learning.

Thirdly, we will place an even greater emphasis on punctuality and attendance. Every minute of learning matters. Arriving on time demonstrates respect for others, builds positive habits and ensures that students make the very most of every opportunity available to them.

These priorities focus on continuing to create a culture where everyone feels safe, respected, and ready to succeed. By working together, we can ensure that every student develops not only the knowledge and skills they need for the future, but also the character, confidence and resilience to make a positive difference in the world.

Important information for 2026-2027

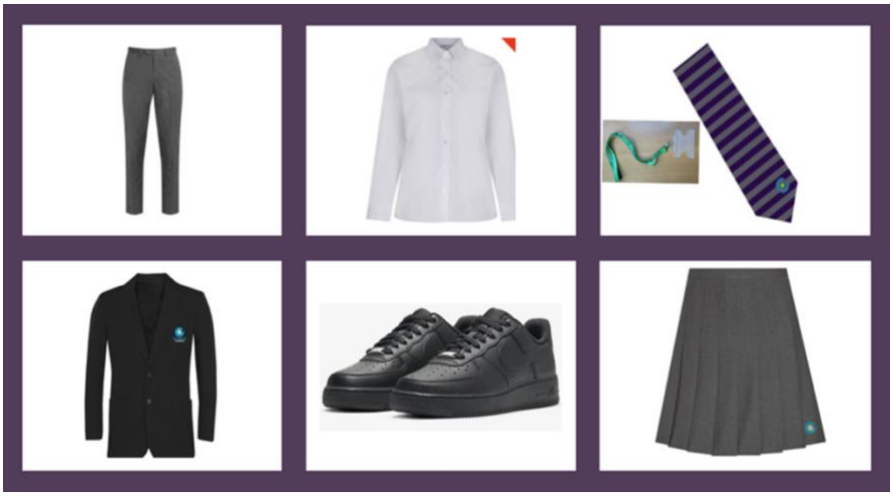
Start of term arrangements

- **Tuesday 25th August** - Years 7, 11 &13 return
- **Wednesday 26th August** - All students back except Y12
- **Tuesday 1st September** - All students, including Y12

Timings of the school day from August 2026

Years 8, 9, 11, 12 & 13	Years 7 & 10
Period 1 – 08:45-09:30	Period 1 – 08:45-09:30
Period 2 – 09:30-10:30	Period 2 – 09:30-10:30
Break – 10:30-10:50	Period 3 – 10:30-11:25
Period 3 – 10:50-11:45	Break – 11:25-11:45
Period 4 – 11:45-12:40	Period 4 – 11:45-12:40
Period 5 – 12:40-13:35	Period 5 – 12:40-13:35
Lunch – 13:35-14:15	Lunch – 13:35-14:15
Period 6 – 14:15-15:15	Period 6 – 14:15-15:15

Uniform



As a short reminder, here is a photo of our school uniform. It is available to purchase from School Wear Solutions. For full details please visit our website – https://links.clcc.college/uniform

PE Kit

From the start of the new academic year students will be permitted to wear PE kit **on days when they have PE**. They **MUST** wear PE kit as outlined in our policy and you will receive a detailed letter from Mrs Rose outlining expectations.

Mobile Phone Policy

The government's mobile phone guidance became statutory on 29th June 2026 for all schools as part of the Children's Schools and Wellbeing Act 2026. It will be implemented from 25th August 2026.

The guidance states that the school must be a mobile phone free environment throughout the school day, including during lessons, the time between lessons, break times and lunchtime. We thoroughly support this stance as we see the erosion of concentration, the increase in anxiety and mental health that smartphones and social media have caused over the last 10 years.

Our current mobile phone policy generally works well and we will continue with our policy that **phones must be off and in bags from the time students enter the school gate until the end of the school day**.

We have however revised our consequences for any students who breach our mobile phone policy and in line with the LIFE MAT Mobile Phone policy, from the start of the new academic year consequences for breach of our mobile phone policy will be as follows.

First Breach

Where a student is found using, accessing or displaying a mobile phone or prohibited smart device during the school day:

- the device will be confiscated and stored securely
- the student may collect the device at the end of the school day
- a behaviour consequence will be applied in line with the school's Behaviour Policy
- expectations will be revisited with the learner

Second Breach

Where a learner breaches the policy for a second time:

- the device will be confiscated
- parents/carers will be informed
- the student will be required to hand their device into school at the start of each day for a period of ten school days
- the device will be returned at the end of each school day
- behaviour consequences will be applied in line with the school's Behaviour Policy

Repeated or Persistent Breaches

Repeated breaches of this policy indicate that additional intervention is required.

Where concerns continue:

- a meeting will be held with the student, parent/carer and an appropriate school leader
- barriers to compliance will be explored
- additional support and expectations will be agreed
- a personalised behaviour and support plan may be implemented
- an extended hand-in arrangement may be introduced
- further sanctions may be applied in line with the school's Behaviour Policy

The purpose of this stage is to ensure that both accountability and support are in place to enable the learner to successfully meet expectations.

Refusal to hand over

Refusal to hand over a mobile phone when requested by a member of staff will be treated as a failure to follow a reasonable instruction and will result in escalation through the school's Behaviour Policy.

I hope you and your family enjoy a well-earned summer break. Whether you are travelling, spending time with loved ones or simply taking the opportunity to rest, I hope the holiday provides time to recharge and create happy memories.

We look forward to welcoming our students back in August, ready to embrace another year of learning, opportunity and success together.

Thank you once again for your continued support and have a wonderful summer.

Best wishes,

Mrs Aitcheson

Headteacher