

14th September 2026

Dear students and parents (2A)

In my autumn newsletter, the first termly update of the new academic year, I hope first of all that you've had an enjoyable and relaxing summer break and wish you all a warm welcome back to Collyer's. Every term I write to all students and parents to provide information about life at Collyer's and highlight key upcoming college activities, as well as looking ahead at our projects for the future and how these will be improving the college estate and the student experience.

Results, enrolment and start of teaching

It was great to welcome back to Collyer's all of our second year students for their first day of teaching today. There's always a real sense of anticipation in the air when the new year starts and I'd like to wish everyone all the best with settling back in and getting on with their sixth form studies again. Last year's cohort did fantastically well in their exams – with a record 62% high grades (A*-B) achieved at A Level, 76% for our BTEC courses and 71% for our T Levels. Results have been great across the board. I'm sure you'll be celebrating similarly fantastic results when you finish your studies in a year's time.

We've grown once more this year with another record enrolment of new students, both because of our reputation and because of increased numbers in this age group locally and across the region. I've shared details later in this newsletter about how we plan to accommodate this growth. As the top state provider of A Levels in West Sussex and one of the leading sixth form colleges in the country, we offer an amazing educational experience that prepares young people really well for adult life – whatever their next steps after college. With this in mind, I encourage all students to make the most of all the incredible opportunities on offer, both within your chosen subjects and more broadly through our Collyer's 360 enrichment offer.

Communications with students and parents

Please remember that regular updates are sent out at specific times of year via email by senior managers and hosted on the [Parents / Carers](#) section of the college website. As a sixth form college our students are independent learners and readying themselves for universities, apprenticeships and the world of work, so many regular communications are sent directly to students only via our weekly bulletin, tutorial emails, tutorial sessions and SharePoint. Finally, students can access information about their studies on [MyProgress](#) and parents can access similar information via [MyStudent](#).

Support for progression

This term the main focus of tutorial time will be on progression after college – be it to university, apprenticeships, further study or the world of work. This summer an incredible 91% of students progressed onto their first-choice university, so you can rest assured that our staff provide expert guidance to all our students. Students will also be using the [Unifrog](#) platform to research options for courses and university, a widely adopted and individually tailored guide to help make informed choices about future study as well as investigating career paths. We also have a wealth of useful progression guidance available for students via SharePoint sites.

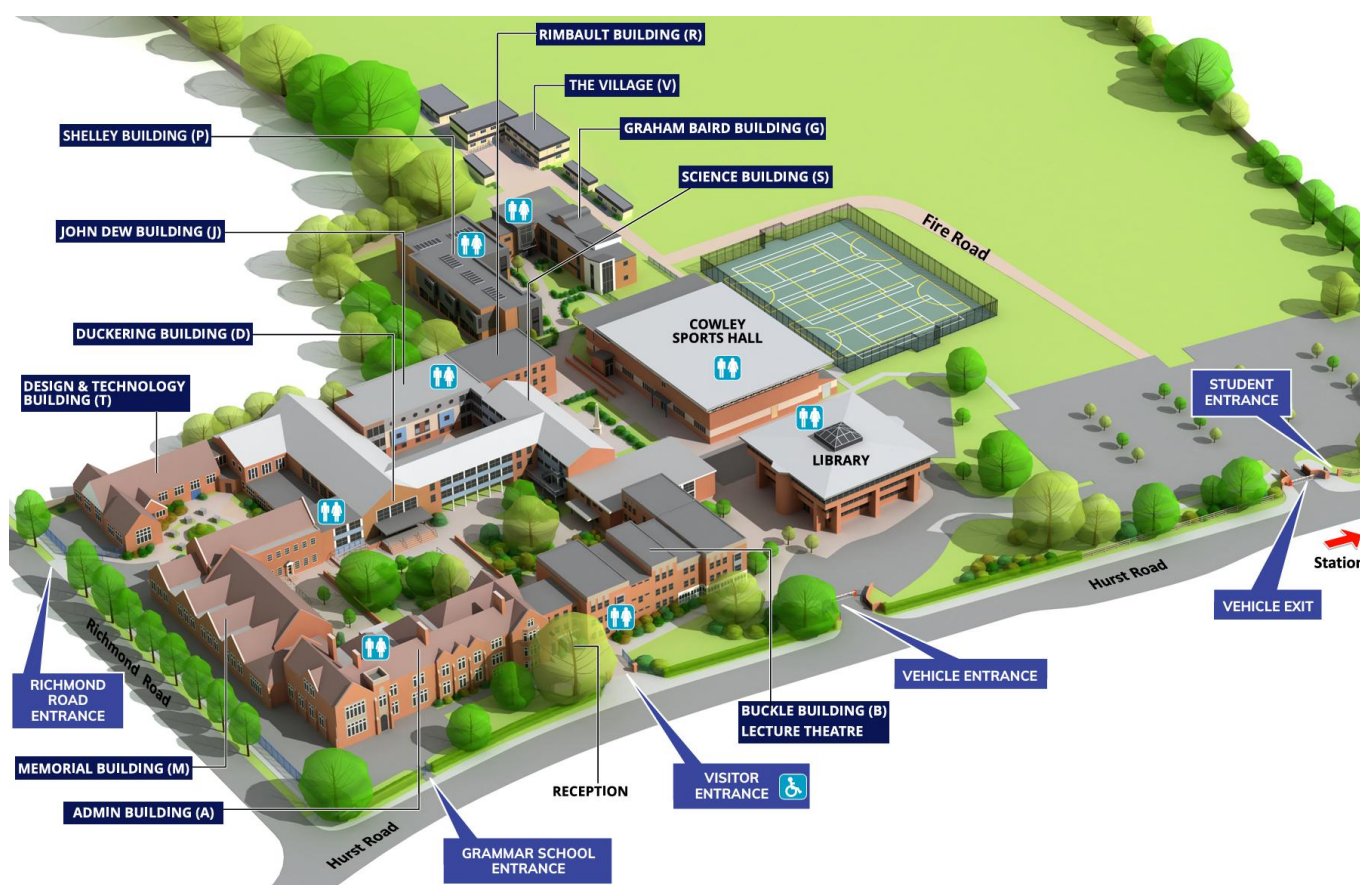
Car park, no smoking and vaping policy and safety on site

I appreciate our second year students are familiar with our arrangements and expectations by now, but as they are important they benefit from repeating at the beginning of the year. All of our community are responsible for considering safety onsite and ensuring that we all enjoy a fantastic college experience.

1. Most students will enter and leave the campus via the **Student Entrance** nearest the train station. Students will need to 'buzz through' using their ID at the core times of 9am – 4pm.
2. If a student has forgotten their lanyard and ID card and arrives between 9am – 4pm then they will need to enter via the **Visitor Entrance** by pressing the intercom for Reception. All students who forget their lanyards must go to the Library to get a temporary wristband for the day.
3. For those students arriving to college from the West we open the **Grammar School Entrance** up until 9am and then from 4pm onwards. It is not open during the core times of 9am - 4pm and it is not possible to 'buzz through' using ID between those times – the gate is locked shut.
4. Cyclists should always use the **Richmond Road Entrance** but will need to register their bike before use and should not use this entrance unless they have a bike with them. This entrance is ID access only at all times.
5. Finally all pedestrian parents and visitors should use the main **Visitor Entrance** in front of Reception, pressing on the intercom to request the gate is opened. The Visitor Entrance should not be used by students unless coming in with parents or a visitor for an appointment.

A summary of arrangements and a map are below:

Student Entrance	Main pedestrian entrance for students. ID access only from 9 – 4.
Visitor Entrance	Intercom connection to Reception. Fully accessible.
Grammar School Entrance	Secondary pedestrian entrance for students. No access from 9 – 4.
Richmond Road Entrance	Bicycle entrance only. ID access only. Students must be registered.



The main car park has clear signage and a one-way system. It is not possible for families or friends to drop off students by car inside the campus and we would be grateful if drop offs could be done well away from the main entrances for safety reasons and to avoid congestion. Only visitors who are going to Reception may enter and use the car park and Reception staff will give instructions for leaving via the exit gate which is kept closed at all times during the college day. There is no parking onsite for students.

Collyer's is a no smoking or vaping campus. In our Code of Conduct it clearly states that students should not smoke or vape anywhere around the college campus or at its entrances. This also applies to the local roads and residential areas as we work to promote good relations with our neighbours. In the interests of safeguarding, students, staff and all visitors will also be expected to wear an ID card and lanyard at college at all times.

College estate

There's a lot to update on regarding the estate, both about what we've improved since last year and exciting plans for the future – so please read to the end!

The first big bit of news is that finally we are RAAC free as a college. For two years we have been working to remove RAAC affecting the art and music areas. This complex project has been supported by the DfE and involved removing an entire floor, gutting the rooms, rebuilding a new floor and completely reinstating two very large classrooms. As you can see from the pictures below we are now the proud owners of wonderful new spaces for Art and Design that have been developed with the input of our specialist teachers and meet all the requirements for our range of subjects offered. I know students and staff using these spaces will appreciate having wonderful spaces in which to work and create:





Over the summer we further expanded our Village area of the college which comprises modern, spacious and air-conditioned Portacabins, taking us from 8 to 10 classrooms that house 500 students in total. The extra 2 classrooms along with regaining the RAAC affected area, as well as the conversion of the lecture theatre into a wonderful, dual aspect learning space, has given us enough space to house the growth in students coming in September.

And I've saved the biggest news for last. Over the last couple of years I've been periodically updating our community about development of plans for our next major building – the Tech Centre. This new classroom block is of course desperately needed to permanently house the growth the college has enjoyed over the last few years and once built the 500 extra students onsite in temporary Portacabins will be able to move across.

More than that though the Tech Centre is about symbolically taking the college forwards into the next 500 years – beyond our Quincentenary in 2032. A state of the art modern building it will provide specialist science accommodation – Maths and Physics in Phase 1 and then in due course DT and Engineering in Phase 2. The designs will enhance our campus making it feel even more like a small university.

It will also open up the beginning of our second quad, providing more social and outdoor space, and provide a new entrance area to the campus, with safer and more attractive access for pedestrians and cars. Finally the Tech Centre will finish off the front line of our estate along Hurst Road, providing a building that we are confident our college community and the broader local community will be proud of just like they are of the original Grammar School Building.

We are delighted to share that the funding for the building is now secured with a combination of financial support from the DfE following a successful bid into the Post-16 Capacity Fund and our own carefully developed cash reserves. Our [formal planning application](#) is with Horsham District Council and we hope to receive a positive outcome in the form of planning consent in due course. If you would like to make a comment on our application, you can do so via the HDC planning portal. Our application reference is DC/26/1089.

The images below give a clear sense of the scale and design of the building and amongst the detailed planning application papers the multi-part design and access statement gives the best summary of how the building was developed (the first introduction section is [here](#) – note it is a large file and takes a while to load) and why we think it will work so well in supporting the future of Collyer's:





The Tech Centre is a major construction project comprising a large new building over 2,000m² in Phase 1, a new car park and a widened vehicular entrance. Once these works commence there will of course be some changes to how we operate the campus. We will ensure these are clearly communicated and updated and that inconvenience is kept to a minimum on site and for our local community.

Progress with the Horsham Learning Alliance

Last September I shared with our community that Collyer's had academised and formed a new multi-academy trust called [Horsham Learning Alliance](#) with our founding partner The Forest School. Our first year has necessarily been focused on building strong staffing structures and systems, but as we head into our second year we will be starting a wide range of exciting collaborative projects between our two institutions covering teaching and learning, quality improvement, staff development, enrichment and progression, behaviour and attendance and SEND and wellbeing. Alongside the creation of a new charity we are confident that our new Trust will be a real benefit to our students, staff and the wider community and I look forward to providing updates in due course.

Finally I wish all students a great autumn term and hope that you settle back into your college life and your studies well and enjoy your time at Collyer's.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "D. Lodge". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dan Lodge
Executive Principal