

9th September 2024

Dear students and parents (2A)

In this autumn newsletter, my first termly update of the new academic year, I trust first of all that you've had an enjoyable and restful summer break and wish you all a warm welcome back to Collyer's. As you know, each term I write to all students and parents to provide information about life at Collyer's and key upcoming college activities, as well as looking further ahead at our projects for the future and how these will be changing 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 incredibly well in their exams – with 59% high grades (A*-B) achieved at A Level and very strong results across vocational (69% high grades), technical and GCSE courses. I'm sure you'll be celebrating similarly fantastic results when you finish your studies in a year's time.

We've grown yet again 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. As the no.1 choice for 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, over 90% 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 via the SharePoint site.

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

I appreciate our second year students are quite familiar with our arrangements and expectations by now, but as they're 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. 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 10am – 3pm. If a student has forgotten their lanyard and ID card and arrives between 10am – 3pm 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.

For those students arriving to college from the West and the town centre we open the **Grammar School Entrance** up until 10am and then from 3pm onwards. It is not open during the core times of 10am - 3pm and it is not possible to 'buzz through' using ID between those times – the gate is locked shut. 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. Finally all 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 10 – 3.
Visitor Entrance	Intercom connection to Reception. Fully accessible.
Grammar School Entrance	Secondary pedestrian entrance for students. No access from 10 – 3.
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. Students wishing to park on site will need to apply for a permit at a cost of £195 per year. There are only a limited number of spaces available. Details of the eligibility criteria are outlined in Travel Assistance Guide in the [Student Finance](#) section of the college website.

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

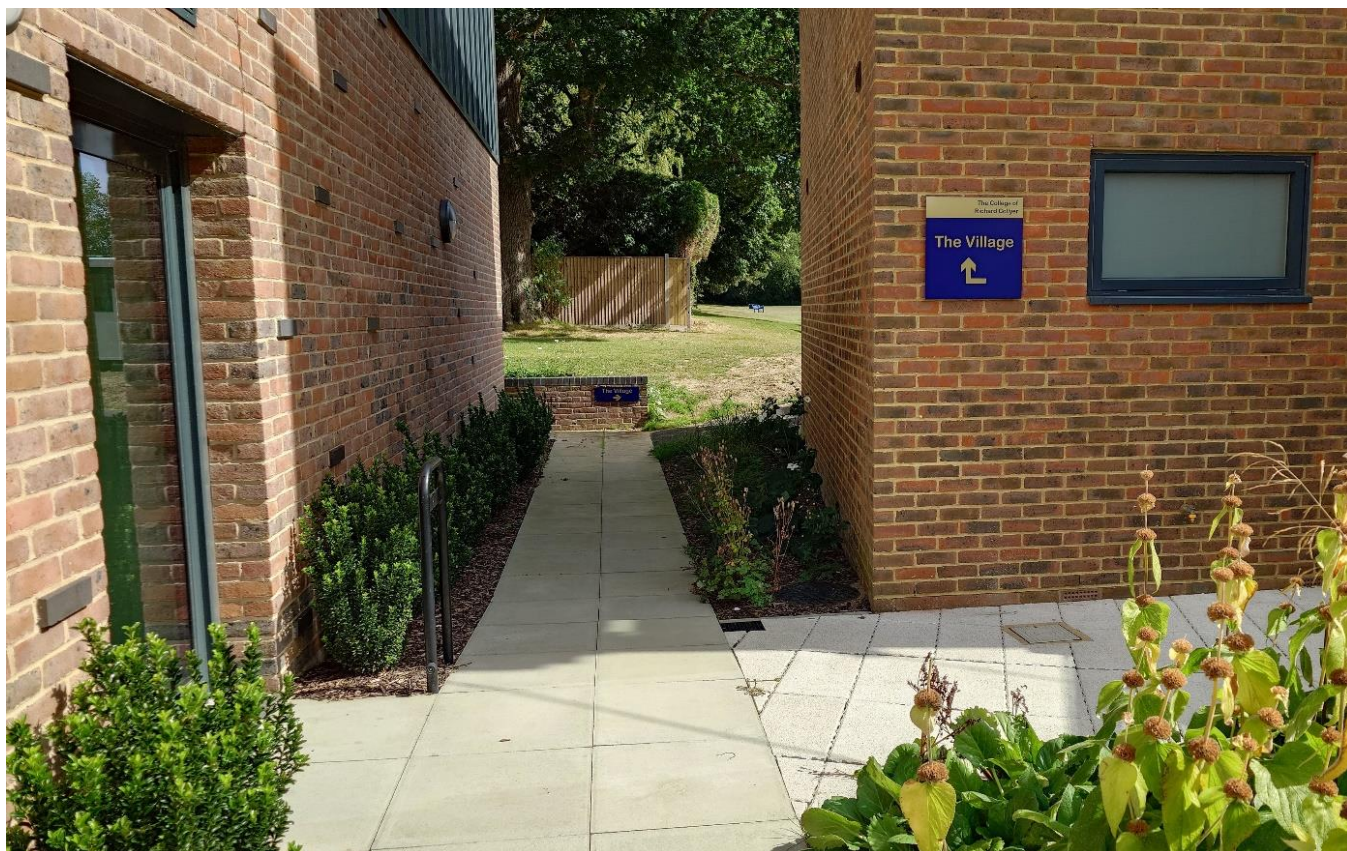
Over the summer we've been very busy further improving our facilities and expanding our teaching accommodation to get ready for our new student intake. Collyer's continues to grow each year and we are as committed to ensuring our social, catering and outside areas are fit for purpose as we are in building new, modern classrooms. We've also added significant space to our Student Support areas, making sure all our learners have the right environment to achieve their full potential.

Below you can see photos of the new Café Annexe, located next door to the original Café at the heart of the campus, and our new second canopy situated between the Library and the Sports Centre. Both are going to be very popular. We have also completely refurbished the Common Room, rediscovering the same beautiful heritage flooring dating back to the 1920s that can be found in the Memorial Library, and providing a modern space for socialising and studying that has a university-style feel:





In previous communications I updated all our community about a small area of RAAC (crumbly concrete) that was discovered to affect three classrooms. Whilst this issue is being rectified we have temporarily installed two double Portakabins in an area we've named The Village just past the Shelley and Graham Baird buildings. These modern spaces are fully heated, air-conditioned and double-glazed with each classroom significantly larger than our existing ones. Geography, Music and some tutor sets will be based in this great new space.



We're also delighted to open our new Immersive Suite later this week with state of the art screen technology for teaching and learning. This pan-Sussex project was paid for by the Skills Development Fund, a central government initiative that has seen this cutting-edge new facility installed in all of the sixth form and FE colleges across West Sussex, East Sussex and Brighton.

And finally our plans for expansion of the estate and our next building are about to get underway. I look forward to sharing more detail soon including the appointment of our architect and design team. Exciting times for Collyer's as we look to make our campus ready for the future and to accommodate growth in learners in coming years.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "D. Lodge". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'D' and a long, sweeping underline.

Dan Lodge
Principal