



COWLEY  
ACADEMY

# Head of School UPDATE

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2026



Dear parents/carers and students,

In a special assembly yesterday, our Year 11 students received their PPE results along with their AOL2 data set. This set of PPE results has provided our students with a realistic picture of what they may expect to achieve in the summer. During our practice results sessions, many students were pleased with their progress, while others experienced a helpful reality check about the areas they now need to concentrate on ahead of the summer examination season.

Our Year 11 Parents' Evening will take place online on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2026 from 4.30pm to 7.30pm, and parents are required to book their online appointments in advance. Year 11 is a crucial year, with GCSE exams and coursework to complete, so this Parents' Evening will focus on discussing progress, current grades, and areas where students should prioritise their learning to achieve their best outcomes in the summer.

As we approach these critical months, we remain committed to providing every student with the tools and support they need to excel in their GCSE examinations. To that end, we offer a range of intervention strategies designed to target areas where students may benefit from additional guidance or encouragement. These include lunchtime and after-school revision sessions with specialist teachers, opportunities for students to engage with GCSEPod, subject-specific afternoon registration sessions, and assemblies that focus on how to plan and organise effective revision. We are also pleased to share that once again we will be offering subject-specific sessions during the Easter break. Year 11 parents should look out for further information regarding these opportunities. We kindly ask for your support in encouraging your child to make the most of the intervention and support available to them.

We would also like to take this opportunity to remind all students and families about the importance of good punctuality. Being on time to school each day ensures that students begin their learning promptly, are fully prepared for lessons, and do not miss essential teaching. Punctuality is also an important life skill that supports responsibility and independence - qualities that are especially crucial as students approach their GCSE examinations. We appreciate your continued support in ensuring that your child arrives to school on time every day.

On a similar theme we always promote excellent attendance at Cowley Academy and I am delighted to report that this week we have awarded 204 students with a drink and a cookie for achieving 100% attendance last term.

PSA sessions have begun for Year 10 vocational students who have shown excellent attitude and focus throughout the programme so far. It is vital that attendance remains high to ensure progress continues and students stay on track. Well done to all students so far.

Aspire • Challenge • Achieve

Last week Cowley Academy had the exciting opportunity, along with the other schools in the Trust to take part in the regional event for the F1 STEM races, an international STEM competition endorsed by Formula 1, held at Boston College. Three Year 9 pupils, Isaac Malcolm, Annamae Peel-Hill, and Evelyn Boulala received the instructions and design brief in October and set about designing their model racing car, with team name 'Cowley Overdrive'. There were several key areas to overcome, such as learning how to access and use unfamiliar CAD software to produce a design that would be suitable for racing. The day of the event saw us arrive at Boston College, nervous and excited about what we would encounter. It was an unforgettable experience, with not just our entry-level teams being there, but the developer class and professional class racers! Every team had a display area that served as the 'pit-stop', and one professional team had arrived with a virtual reality racing booth for pupils to try out! The model car races were nail-biting, and the time differences between them were mere tenths of a second. Cowley Overdrive had a respectable fourth place with the entry-level cars, a satisfying result. Hopefully, with experience gained from this, our future entries will see us winning an opportunity to attend the national finals!

I wanted to share an important update about our Trust Board. Our Chair of Trustees, Will Hawkins, retired from the Board in December after many years of dedicated service. We are incredibly grateful to Will for his leadership, commitment, and the positive impact he has had across our Trust. We are pleased to let you know that John Stokes has now been appointed as our new Chair of Trustees. John brings a wealth of experience to the role, and we look forward to working with him as we continue to move the Trust forward. If you have any questions or concerns, please do speak with your Head of School or Mrs Curson in the first instance. Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Have a lovely weekend

Kindest regards,



**Mrs Kath Kilby**

Head of School, Cowley Academy

## For the latest news

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- [www.cowleyacademy.org.uk](http://www.cowleyacademy.org.uk)
- [www.instagram.com/CowleyAcademy](https://www.instagram.com/CowleyAcademy)
- [www.facebook.com/CowleyAcademy](https://www.facebook.com/CowleyAcademy)
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