



COWLEY
ACADEMY

Head of School UPDATE

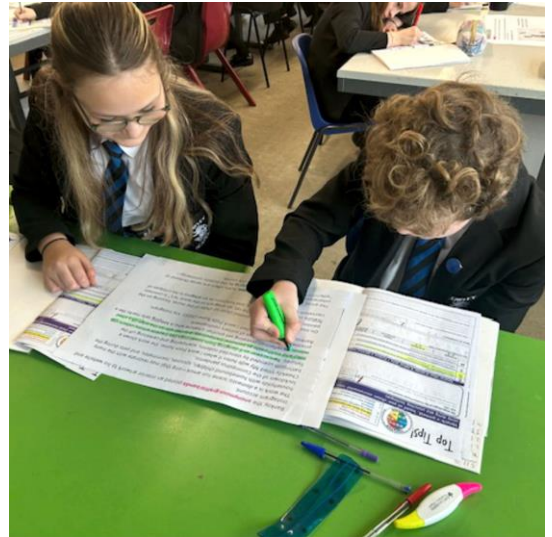
Friday 6th February 2026



Dear parents/carers and students,

With only one week left of Term 3, I cannot believe where the time has gone since the Christmas period! Term 4 starts on Monday 23rd February 2026 and this is traditionally named as Spring Term 2. Let's hope the weather starts to look more Spring-like!

On Wednesday, we ran our popular DEAR Time sessions for Years 7 to 10, which stands for 'Drop Everything And Read'. This is where the whole class take turns to read a text and they then discuss what they have read to highlight key vocabulary and share their thoughts on the issues raised in the material. All classes focus on a different subject area so if they normally have an art, history or maths lesson, their reading text will be relevant to art, history, or maths. At Cowley Academy, we value reading as an enriching activity, which can make a profound difference to our students' lives. As well as this, we appreciate that regular reading is linked to a developing vocabulary and improved skills in writing and that both of these skills are vital to success in all curriculum areas and life beyond school.



It is a pleasure to be able to reward our Year 7 and 8 students for their hard work and achievements in reading across each term. Term 2 saw gift vouchers given out across each house assembly for those selected at random for meeting (or exceeding in many cases) their Accelerated Reader target in the term. Those students that completed a bookmark (five books read and quizzed on Accelerated Reader) were entered into a random draw across their house, as were all those students that achieved 100% on an Accelerated Reader quiz, with each student selected winning a goody bag. Six Year 9 students were also rewarded for completing their Accelerated Reader targets or improving their STAR results. This is a wonderful reminder that 'We are a reading school'.

Aspire • Challenge • Achieve

We continue to encourage Year 11 to use GCSEPod and the many revision resources we have provided. To encourage our Year 11 students further, we have launched the Loyalty Card which students will get signed every time they attend a revision class. There is plenty of prizes to be won!

Last week, the Year 7 Basketball team took part in the South Lincolnshire 4v4 Plate Tournament. The event was their third in a series of tournaments giving Year 7 students their first opportunity to play competitive Basketball matches against other schools. Students displayed determination, teamwork and resilience against the best players in the area. Team 1 finished 4th in the round robin stage of the tournament and Team 2 finished 5th, resulting in Team 1 progressing to the semi-final against University Academy Holbeach, eventually losing by one basket. Well done to all students involved and they now need to take that experience forward into the Year 8 District Basketball League next year.




Continuing with sport, five Year 7 students took a trip to University Academy Long Sutton to take part in the School Games Kin-Ball Festival. It was a fantastic event where students from all four schools in the Trust took teams to learn how to play Kin-Ball followed by some matches in the afternoon. The students were incredible in the way they communicated and worked as a team from the beginning of the day to the end. The progressions were amazing to see and all students enjoyed the opportunity to take part and learn a new sport.



Next week, on Tuesday 10th February 2026, we will be holding our first Young Carer Breakfast. Students who are Young Carers are invited to attend a free breakfast event in our school canteen. We are very mindful that our Young Carers may be involved in various roles around the home and community and sometimes this can be a little overwhelming. If your child is a Young Carer and you feel the school is not aware, please email their Year Lead so we can look to further support. All Young Carers are to arrive at the school canteen on Tuesday morning where we will be offering a free drink and pastry.

Also next week, as part of our PSHE provision, we are supporting the national Children's Mental Health Week which is organised by the Charity Place2Be. We will be highlighting key messages from the campaign, reminding students of the mental health and wellbeing support available from school, and we are currently running a 'My Safe Space' House Competition.




If you are interested in teaching, or know someone else who may be interested, next week on Wednesday 11th February 2026, from 5.00pm to 6.30pm we are running 'Get Into Teaching' drop-in events at both Cowley Academy and Giles Academy. At these informal events, you will discover how you can gain a recognised teaching qualification with our one-year school centred Initial Teacher Training. You will learn about the different training pathways, entry requirements and details about student finances. We can cover school placements, the course content, support available plus timescales. We can also provide help so you can successfully apply. To attend, please visit: www.slat.org.uk/vacancies



Get Into Teaching DROP-IN EVENTS

Wednesday 11th February 2026 • 5pm to 6.30pm
AT COWLEY ACADEMY & GILES ACADEMY

Discover how you can 'Get Into Teaching' and gain a recognised teaching qualification with our one-year school centred Initial Teacher Training.



In addition to this, if you are interested in working for any schools in the Trust, there are always teaching and non-teaching vacancies advertising on our Trust website: www.slat.org.uk/vacancies

Finally, an advanced reminder that we have World Book Day after half term on Thursday 5th March 2026 and this year we are inviting all students in Year 7, 8 and 9 to come dressed as a character from the book. If you would like any further details - please see the letter sent to all parents via ParentMail this week outlining further information and the 'Best Costume' competition!

Have a lovely weekend.

Kindest regards,



Mrs Kath Kilby

Head of School, Cowley Academy

For the latest news

You can visit our website or follow Cowley Academy on our official social media platforms as follows:

- www.cowleyacademy.org.uk
- www.instagram.com/CowleyAcademy
- www.facebook.com/CowleyAcademy
- www.x.com/CowleySLAT