



COWLEY
ACADEMY

Head of School UPDATE

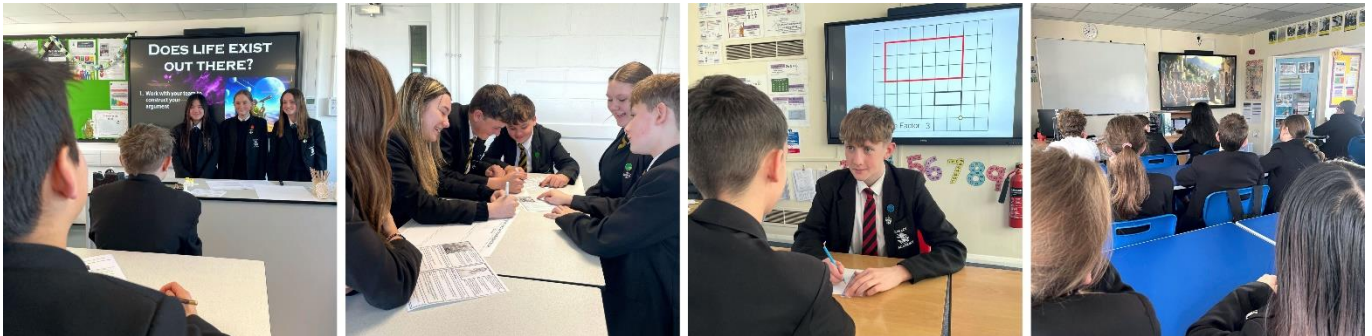
Friday 20th March 2026



Dear parents/carers and students,

We have had another great week this week at Cowley Academy and it's been good to see a much-needed improvement in the weather.

On Wednesday, we held SALAD Day (Speaking and Listening Activity Day). All lessons for Years 7, 8 and 9 involved little to no writing, encouraging students to focus on speaking and listening. While classrooms are usually calm and quiet, the volume was certainly raised as students took part in debates, presentations, group discussions, team-based tasks, and more. Staff across all subjects planned engaging lessons to promote communication skills throughout the day.



Also, on Wednesday, we welcomed Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind who delivered an interactive workshop to some of our Year 9 students on how wind energy is used to generate electricity. Students were tasked with making a small wind turbine whilst reflecting on the cost of the materials. The electrical output was then tested to see which design could generate electricity at the lowest cost. This was a fantastic opportunity for our students and we were really grateful for Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind to take the time to work with our students and help them explore the many STEM careers available locally.



Aspire • Challenge • Achieve

Today is Comic Relief / Red Nose Day, and we celebrated by holding our annual non-uniform day to support this incredible charity. I am delighted to share that we have raised an impressive total of over £4,000 across the Trust. This fantastic achievement would not have been possible without the generosity and enthusiasm of our students, staff, and wider community. It was wonderful to see so many students showing their support by wearing something red. The students' smiles and creativity truly captured the spirit of Comic Relief / Red Nose Day.



One of the fantastic literacy initiatives we have to encourage students to engage with reading is our Accelerated Reader programme. This is where our Year 7 and 8 students have time during their afternoon registration to read their chosen books, which can then be carried on as home learning. They can then use the Accelerated Reader portal to check their targets, progress towards their targets and take quizzes. Congratulations to the following students who are top achievers in their House for Term 3.

Banks House (Orange)

- Meeting Points Target: Sana Ahmed
- 100% on a Reading Quiz: Ted Bates
- Completed Reading Bookmark: Kayleigh Huddleston

Bass House (Yellow)

- Meeting Points Target: Mason Morley
- 100% on a Reading Quiz: Charlie Horn
- Completed Reading Bookmark: Duarte Dos Santos

Cowley House (Blue)

- 100% on a Reading Quiz: Molly Smith
- Completed Reading Bookmark: Macey Plummer

Flinders House (Green)

- Meeting Points Target: Kyle Mackman
- 100% on a Reading Quiz: Owen Collingwood
- Completed Reading Bookmark: Fifi Massingham

Swift House (Red)

- Meeting Points Target: Sam Done
- 100% on a Reading Quiz: Priya Newark
- Completed Reading Bookmark: Kevin Rimkus

Today, all students in Years 7 took part in the inter-house sports competition. This event gave every student the opportunity to participate and represent their house. Thank you to Mrs Dunn, the PE department and the Heads of House for organising and supporting this successful event.

On Tuesday this week, Year 9 students had a special assembly which explained the process for choosing their GCSE and BTEC option subjects in preparation for Year 10. I would like to encourage students to make sure they look at the Options page on our website (www.cowleyacademy.org.uk/year-9-options) over the next few days so that they are able to make an informed decision on which subjects they would like to continue with next year.

We continue to encourage our Year 11 students to revise as much as possible to make the most of the time remaining in school. A reminder that the more loyalty cards completed, the more prizes students can earn by attending intervention sessions. We have had a good uptake so far for the Easter revision sessions which is encouraging, attending these extra Easter sessions is really very well while.

Finally, I would also like to remind parents/carers of Year 11 students that there is still time to sign up to attend the Exam Success Evening taking place next Thursday 26th March 2026 at 6.30pm.

I hope you all have a fantastic weekend.

Kindest regards,



Mrs Kath Kilby

Head of School, Cowley Academy

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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