



COWLEY  
ACADEMY

# Head of School UPDATE

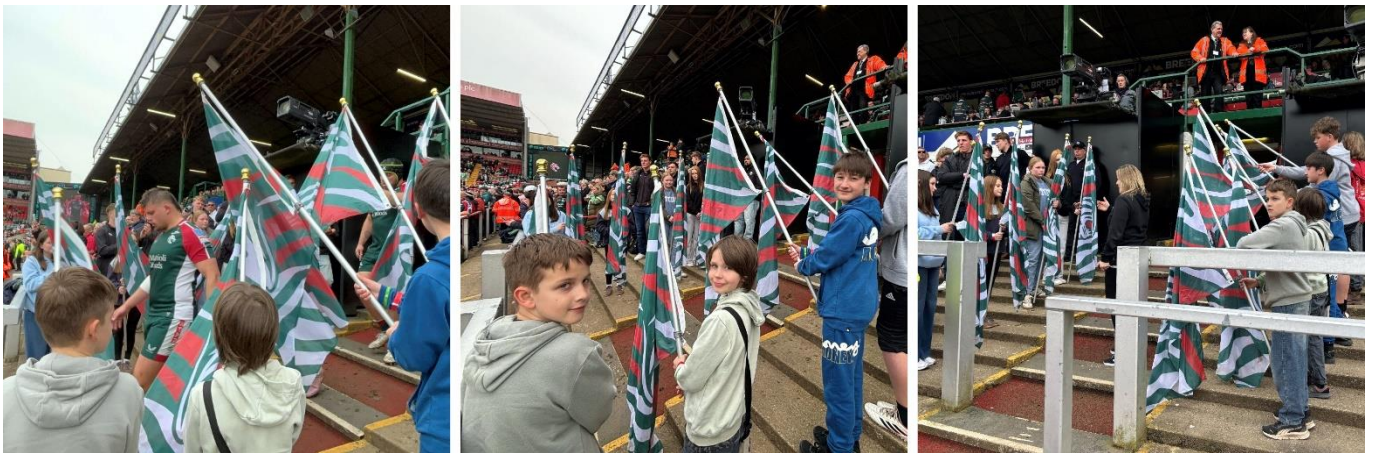
Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2026



Dear parents/carers and students,

With only one more week before we finish for the Easter break we still continue to be as busy as ever.

On Sunday, the PE department took a trip with our rugby enthusiasts to Welford Road to watch an exhilarating Gallagher Premiership clash. Leicester Tigers secured a crucial 33-19 bonus-point victory over the Bristol Bears, ending with a Leicester try in the final few seconds of the game. Beyond the excitement of the score line, the trip provided our students with a chance to analyse professional-level set pieces, line-speed, and tactical kicking. Watching England stars like Freddie Steward and Ollie Chessum in action offered invaluable inspiration for our students. The highlight of the day for many was the pre-match ceremony as our students were chosen to act as official flag bearers. Forming a guard of honour as the teams emerged from the tunnel just inches away from international stars like Freddie Steward and Ellis Genge, was an unforgettable experience. Our students stood tall, waving the Tigers' colours with pride as the roar of the 23,000-strong crowd filled the stadium. This unique opportunity gave our young players a 'pitch-side' view of the intensity and physical stature of professional rugby, providing a memory that will surely stay with them for years to come. A huge thank you to the PE department for organising such a memorable experience for our budding rugby stars!



This has been an important week for our Year 9 students as they have been focusing on their Key Stage 4 option choices. Over this past week, students have been using their time to watch a variety of subject videos to ascertain more detail of what the various courses consist of. Please can I remind parents/carers and students that the Options Form which you have been sent electronically must be completed by Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026.

Aspire • Challenge • Achieve

On Wednesday lunchtime, I was pleased to attend the Live Lounge in our Music studio. Performances included a solo drum performance from Poppy Dunning in Year 8 with 'Kill Em with Kindness by Selena Gomez', followed by a duet with Aleks Yaneva and Molly Smith in Year 8 performing 'Stitches by Shaun Mendez'. The third act was a band performance of 'Can't Catch Me Now by Olivia Rodrigo' by Jessica Tomsett, Lexie Smith and Sienna Stone who are all in Year 10. The event concluded with Rose Wells, Gerda Katinskaite, Lydia Hart, Grace Baxter, Grace Pitts and Cecilia Mendy in Year 8 performing the classic 'Don't Stop Believin' by Journey'. All of the performers rehearsed and organised these performances themselves and for some of these students this was their first time performing in front of an audience. The next Live Lounge is scheduled for the second week back after half term on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2026, spaces are filling up already!

As part of our PSHE programme, on Wednesday we welcomed Catherine Kirk from The RSHE Service to present a series of workshops which focused on contraception and consent. This session was delivered in line with the Department of Education guidance regarding Health Education as well as Relationships and Sex Education.

On Thursday, we held our Young Carers' breakfast - a chance for our students who are Young Carers to spend time together in a supportive community setting. They enjoyed breakfast, met new friends, and took a moment for themselves. Our Young Carers are supported by Miss Kindred (Safeguarding Support Officer). Our next breakfast session will be held on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2026 and all Young Carers are warmly welcome to attend.

Also, on Thursday, we had our Exam Success Evening for Year 11 parents/carers. This was a fantastic opportunity to ensure students and supporting parents are equipped with everything required to fully invest in revision leading up to the examination period.

This term's House Competition had an escape room challenge which had everyone thinking on their feet as teams raced against the clock to crack a series of clever clues. The mission? To uncover the identity of the imposter bunny and determine which egg had been stolen - or, for some, to figure out which balloon the sneaky bunny used to make its escape! Each House showed fantastic teamwork, problem-solving, and determination throughout the challenge. After some intense detective work and a few twists along the way, the results are in...



- Bass House took first place with an impressive performance, solving the mystery with speed and precision.
- Cowley House followed closely behind in second place, demonstrating great collaboration and logical thinking.
- Banks House secured third place, showing resilience and creativity in tackling the clues.

Well done to everyone who took part - your enthusiasm and effort made the challenge a huge success. We're already looking forward to the next escape room adventure!

Our Year 10 students have entered their PPE examinations this week. For one week, the students will sit the first of their three practice examination seasons. As you know, practice makes perfect and we hold this philosophy for our students when it comes to examinations. When entering an examination hall, we want our students to feel comfortable, relaxed and reassured so they can concentrate on giving their best answers.

As our Year 11 get ever closer to their final exams, we continue to support our students and families. I am really pleased to see such high numbers of students sign up to our Easter revision sessions. In fact, some of our sessions are full! Our Year 11 are determined to succeed in their examination series, and are showing such determination and hard work to achieve their best. Keep this up Year 11. We continue to encourage our Year 11 to use the GCSEPod to help with their revision and proven to have a positive impact.

Can I also take this opportunity to remind parents that Prom tickets for our Year 11 students are now available on ParentMail for all those Year 11 students invited to Prom. It has been fantastic to see so many outfits and plans being made for the Prom, but please do remember to purchase your ticket!

Have a lovely weekend.

Kindest regards,



**Mrs Kath Kilby**

Head of School, Cowley Academy

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