



COWLEY
ACADEMY

Head of School UPDATE

Friday 15th May 2026



Dear parents/carers and students,

As the examination season gets fully underway, I would like to thank all of our students for their respect and courtesy around the examination halls this week. This is such an important part of our Year 11 students' educational journey, and it is heartwarming to see our school community supporting them during this potentially anxious time. A reminder to our Year 11 students to continue working hard, stay focused, and make full use of all the resources provided.

This week, we are delighted to celebrate the exceptional performance of our Year 7 and 8 students in the recent UK Mathematics Trust (UKMT) Junior Mathematical Challenge. The competition is a nationally recognised event designed to inspire a love for problem-solving. It requires students to apply mathematical reasoning to complex, non-routine problems under formal conditions - relying on nothing but a pencil, blank paper, and their own analytical skills. The Mathematics Department are incredibly proud to announce that **Elijah Malcolm** has become the first student in Cowley Academy's history to receive a Gold Certificate. This achievement places Elijah among the highest-performing young mathematicians in the country. Following this success, Elijah has been invited to participate in the Junior Kangaroo on Tuesday 9th June 2026. This prestigious follow-on round is an invitation-only event reserved for the top tier of participants who demonstrate elite mathematical logic. We would also like to extend our congratulations to **Lucas Marsh** who received a Silver Certificate and **Aleks Yaneva** and **Adam Granby** who received Bronze Certificates for their impressive results. These certificates are a testament to our students' resilience and enthusiasm. Across both year groups, participants showed remarkable confidence in tackling 25 rigorous questions, representing the academy with distinction. Well done to all involved for these fantastic achievements!



Aspire • Challenge • Achieve

Staying on the topic of Maths - Making Maths Manageable is a new termly feature in this update designed to help families bring maths into everyday life in simple, practical ways. The aim is not to 'teach' maths at home, but to encourage positive conversations, build confidence, and show how maths is used beyond the classroom. Each term we will include a short activity, a real-life connection, and discussion prompts that can be completed in just a few minutes. One of the biggest barriers to confidence in maths is hearing phrases such as "Maths is hard." Instead, try saying, "This might take a bit of thinking, but we can work it out together." Positive language helps young people see challenge as part of learning rather than something to avoid.

This month, try a quick maths conversation during a car journey or walk by asking: ***"If we leave at 4.15pm and the journey takes 35 minutes, what time will we arrive?"*** Encourage your child to explain their thinking with questions like ***"How did you work that out?"*** to develop reasoning over just getting the 'right' answer. This type of maths is also used every day in careers such as transport, logistics and sports.

On Wednesday, our PE department took a strong team of 51 students to the PRSA athletics arena to compete in the prestigious Track & Field Cup. The event featured fierce competition from 11 schools, ranging across independent, grammar, and secondary modern institutions. This was a true collective effort, as the competition focused on overall team scores rather than individual prizes. Every single student stepped up to the challenge, with each athlete required to compete in two events to secure maximum points for the academy team. While teamwork was the focus of the day, there were several exceptional individual displays on the track and field:

- Cecilia Mendy: Dominated the junior girls' long jump event, clinching 1st place with an incredible distance of 3.66m.
- Track Success: Cecilia also showed her elite endurance, finishing an impressive 2nd place in the gruelling 800m race with a swift time of 2m 52s. Connor Whyte also performed excellently in the 1,500m finishing 3rd in a field of nine runners.

Congratulations to all 51 athletes who represented Cowley Academy with immense determination, excellent sportsmanship, and outstanding community pride.



I am delighted to share that a group of our amazing students successfully completed their The Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Award training expedition on Saturday 9th May and Sunday 10th May 2026. They practised their camping and navigation skills at Sacrewell Farm, near Peterborough. This is a fantastic award that requires dedication and determination to complete. I am very pleased that the weather remained sunny for both our students and staff!

The Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children Partnership will be running a Safeguarding Children Week from Monday 29th June to Friday 3rd July 2026 where there will be a series of free one-hour webinars on a variety of topics, which are either targeted towards either parents/carers/families or professionals.

For more information about each of the following webinars and how to book your free place, please visit <https://sway.cloud.microsoft/HSAIF6u0rNITsMiX>

Mon 29 th June	9.30am to 10.30am	Difficult Conversations - Everyone has a Closet
	1.30pm to 2.30pm	Do you speak dog? Safe interactions between children, adults, and dogs
	6.30pm to 7.30pm	Navigating Teen Relationships
Tue 30 th June	9.30am to 10.30am	Trauma Informed Practice
	1.30pm to 2.30pm	How to Support Children Experiencing Low Mood
	6.30pm to 7.30pm	Talking to Children about Drugs and Alcohol (Parents Session)
Wed 1 st July	9.30am to 10.30am	Re-engaging Disengaged Children and their Families
	1.30pm to 2.30pm	From the Margins to the Room. Engaging Fathers in Child Safeguarding Practice
	6.30pm to 7.30pm	AI - The Good, The Bad, The Ugly
Thu 2 nd July	9.30am to 10.30am	Responding to Self-Harm
	1.30pm to 2.30pm	Supporting children when a family member is in prison
Fri 3 rd July	9.30am to 10.30am	Child Neglect and Home Conditions
	1.30pm to 2.30pm	Talking to Children about Drugs and Alcohol (Professional Session)

Finally, thank you to all Year 10 parents and carers who attended the Year 10 Parents' Evening last night. The event was well attended and, we hope, informative following the recent sharing of PPE results and AOL data earlier this week.

Have a lovely weekend.

Kindest regards,

K. M. Kilby

Mrs Kath Kilby

Head of School, Cowley Academy

For the latest news

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