



WHAT'S ON NEXT WEEK

All week

National Careers Week

Tuesday, 4th March

Schools' Climate Assembly at the Shakespeare North Playhouse

Wednesday, 5th March

Cowley Sixth Form Y11 Admissions Interviews (4:00-6:30pm)

Welcome Back

It has been a great start to the new half term. We are now more than halfway through the school year. My thanks go to parents and carers for ensuring students arrived back looking smart in the correct uniform and with all the required equipment.

New York, New York



Well, what an amazing adventure was enjoyed by the students who went to New York a couple of weeks ago!

It was a busy few days, packed with some amazing activities and memories made which will last a lifetime. The students represented the college superbly well and I am extremely proud of them all.

I can confirm that Miss Dyer and Mr Watkins will be arranging a similar trip in 2026. I wonder if I will get another invite?!

Y11 Parents' Evening

The Y11 Parents' Evening took place last night. It was great to see all the parents and carers who attended, seeing how keen they are for that final push to support their child with revision and Period 6 sessions to achieve the academic success this year. Thank you for coming.

Sporting success

On Wednesday evening, our Y11/12 girls rugby team took to the pitch in a friendly against Rainford.

For a team that has never played together before, their effort and skill was nothing short of outstanding!

To have 14 girls at this age group commit to a friendly game against a resilient Rainford side shows their pride in representing the college and I'm extremely proud of them.

In a game of two halves, the game finished as an evenly contested draw, 30-30. Well done to all involved.

Forest Schools



Y7 have been lucky enough to have been offered some Forest Schools activity time from Mr Wade on a Wednesday lunchtime.

A small group of 6 students were originally selected to take part and have been onto the woodland site on a number of occasions to take part in games and learning experiences. This group has now grown to 10 students and the students are making great progress in their teamwork and co-operation skills. The latest task was to measure the distance between the canopy posts with limited measuring equipment – getting the students to think logically and outside of the box to be able to come up with the required measurements.

The students are enjoying the time outside with their peers and we have seen a significant improvement in engagement, behaviour, attitude and well-being in the students involved. We are hoping that the initiative can be extended to further Year 7 students throughout the academic year. A huge thank you to Mr Wade for facilitating this wonderful experience for the students.

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit [nationalcollege.com](https://www.thenationalcollege.com).

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MARVEL RIVALS

Marvel Rivals launched in December 2024 and amassed a player count of nearly 150,000 in mere weeks. This player versus player (PvP) shooter packs in a host of recognisable comic-book characters, pitting two teams of six against each other. Despite the game's cartoonish nature, there are several potential risks for parents and educators to be aware of.

AGE RESTRICTION
PEGI 12
ESRB advice nobody under the age of 13 should play

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

- IN-GAME CHAT**
Voice chat allows players to speak to teammates and opponents within the game, but in a competitive environment, some conversations can become unpleasant. Text chat is equally prominent among those playing on PC and will be shown on the side of the screen. Moderation on chat is relatively lax, so it's important to recognise that potentially inappropriate messages could arrive at any time.
- IN-GAME PURCHASES**
While Marvel Rivals is free, there is an in-game store, selling character skins from recognisable movies and comic-book titles. Each season also includes a \$10 Battle Pass (much like those seen in Fortnite and Call of Duty), offering a series of exclusive cosmetic items. These passes don't expire – but they can't be purchased once the next season starts, creating a fear of missing out.
- CONTACT WITH STRANGERS**
With such a huge player base, it's impossible to predict where your child will be teaming up with or playing against. They're virtually certain to run into strangers through voice and text chat, for starters. Most of these people will just be ordinary gamers enjoying the action, but there is the risk of some users behaving inappropriately with younger players – either intentionally, or because they don't realise that they're speaking to a child.
- VIOLENT CONTENT**
There's no gore in Marvel Rivals, and the violence depicted is comparatively cartoonish – but the playable characters emulate very different types of superheroes and supervillains, and figures like the Black Widow and the Punisher, who use more realistic firearms, drive the game's violence as a shooter. This may make some parents and carers uncomfortable as some players will be firing these weapons at each other.
- INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT**
The game includes some innuendos and mature themes in the dialogue, which could expose youngsters to content unsuitable for their age. Derived from a wealth of comic book lore, the gaming experience. As we mentioned previously, the content of the in-game chat could also be age inappropriate, ranging from swearing to mature themes to potentially harmful content.
- FAMILIAR CHARACTERS**
The inclusion of iconic characters might make Marvel Rivals appear more approachable than other games in the genre, with recognisable heroes and villains like Spider-Man and Venom. This could lead to more interest from younger players, increasing the likelihood of children playing the game without properly understanding the risks.

Advice for Parents & Educators

- FOLLOW ESRB RATINGS**
The ESRB rating for Marvel Rivals says the game shouldn't be played by anyone under 13. Most children of that age will be able to appreciate the moral compass of the roster of characters (people can play as heroes, the Goddess of Death, for example), while also ensuring that the violence, however cartoonish, won't overwhelm them.
- FAMILIARISE YOURSELF**
The game's inclusion of fan-favourite characters like Iron Man and the Hulk, plus its increasing popularity, means that younger Marvel fans will likely be eager to see what the fuss is about. Since it's free, consider playing Marvel Rivals yourself to gauge how you feel about a child playing it. Alternatively, you could let them play against the game's AI in Practice Mode, until they're old enough to compete online.
- MONITOR OR TURN OFF CHAT**
Voice and text chat can both be adjusted within the in-game settings. If you're particularly concerned about exposing children and young people to them, however, you can disable both forms of chat in the game's settings. If a child wants to play alongside friends, remind them that they can use their console's party chat feature or host a call on a third-party service like Discord.
- DISCONNECT PAYMENT OPTIONS**
Parents should ensure that no payment options – such as debit cards – are linked to the game, to prevent unauthorised purchases and charges. Children can be tempted by enticing in-game offers without fully understanding the costs. Removing payment methods avoids impulsive in-game spending and instils a sense of financial awareness, teaching young people to be careful with their money.

Meet Our Expert
Lloyd Coombes is Games Editor at the Daily Star and has been working in the gaming and tech industry for five years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new titles, he's also a parent and therefore understands the importance of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, he has been published on sites including iGn, Techradar and plenty more.

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The National College

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Y11 SUPPORT

Saturday Morning Study Squad

NEW

Saturday

MORNING SQUAD


Y11 OPEN REVISION SESSION
EVERY SATURDAY IN THE LIBRARY
FROM 10AM - 12 NOON

BOOKING REQUIRED
Booking sheet is in the Year Team Office

Tomorrow will be our first Saturday Study Squad session. We are opening up the 11-16 library as a quiet learning space for Y11s on Saturday mornings during this half term. This comes off the back of the success of the Breakfast Boost sessions where Y11s have been coming in each morning from 7:45am to carry out some additional revision.

Breakfast, Lunch time and after college revision sessions
Y11 students can attend breakfast, lunch and after college subject-specific revision sessions to reinforce their understanding, improve their exam performance, and receive targeted support in areas they find challenging, helping them build confidence and succeed in their upcoming assessments.

Attending these breakfast, lunch and after college revision sessions will help Y11 students to stay focused, manage their time effectively, and make the most of additional resources, while also benefiting from personalised guidance that can help them master difficult topics and boost their overall grades.




REVISION SESSIONS


YEAR 11 BREAKFAST boost

YEAR 11, KICKSTART YOUR DAY WITH A
BREAKFAST BOOST!

GET A FREE BREAKFAST AND THE CHANCE TO
STUDY FROM 8:00-8:30AM IN THE LIBRARY
FOR ALL SUBJECTS



COWLEY
INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE



Y11 Lunch & Period 6 timetable

MONDAY Maths - After School Art - Lunch Music - Lunch/After School Hospitality & Catering, 11E - Lunch	THURSDAY Religious Education - Lunch Music - Lunch Biology - Lunch (11J4) Computing - Lunch History - Lunch Hospitality & Catering, 11E - Lunch
TUESDAY Geography - After School Art - After School Music - Lunch/After School English - After School (11J) Dance - After School History - After School	FRIDAY Maths - Lunch Physics - After School Music - Lunch Business - After School
WEDNESDAY Music - Lunch Chemistry - After School French - After School English - After School (11K)	

I'm incredibly proud of all the Y11 students and the attitude they have shown towards their academic aspirations.

The additional sessions put on by staff continue to be really well attended and the students in previous years have always mentioned how they have benefited from this additional support.

Cowley Sixth Form College Admissions Interviews



On Tuesday evening, it was fantastic to see so many Y11s from Cowley, and a host of other schools, attend their Admissions Interview with the sixth form. It's brilliant to see their academic aspiration and finalise the courses they wish to study with us come September. To any Y11s who haven't yet attended an Admissions Interview, don't worry, there are three more dates available. Please check your emails, and page 3 of this newsletter, for more details.

That's all from a very busy first week back.

I wish you all a lovely weekend.

Mr Cormack

COWLEY

SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

BOOK YOUR ADMISSION INTERVIEW

**SECURE YOUR PLACE
FOR SEPTEMBER 2025**

SCAN ME



If you're planning to join Cowley Sixth Form this September, now's the time to book your interview.

Even if you haven't applied yet, scan the QR code to book an appointment to come for a chat about next steps and learn more about your options.

The next round of Admission Interviews:
5th March
13th March
17th March

SECURE YOUR PLACE FOR SEPTEMBER 2025!