



**WHAT'S GOING ON NEXT WEEK**

**Tuesday, 27th February**

Y7 & Y8 Edge Hill University Trip

**Thursday, 29th February**

Year 11 Parents' Evening

**Welcome back!**

Welcome back for the fourth half term of this academic year! We have now completed 50% of the year, time really is flying by.

This half term is very much the push to the GCSE, A level and BTEC exams. As I informed our students - work hard in lessons, revise every night and attend the extra classes - and you will achieve success this summer.

**Y10 Parents' Evening**

Y10 Parents' Evening last night was a busy night. Thank you for all the positive messages and your continued support.

**Y9 options interviews**

This week we have interviewed Y9 students and parents while they consider their options for Y10 and Y11. It was great to see the aspiration from the students.

**Student Leaders**

We have high aspirations for our students and believe that developing them as leaders will play a key role in allowing them to make positive changes in the college and local community.

Student Leaders form an integral part of the Student Voice process and have the opportunity to meet regularly with Governors, Pastoral and Leadership Teams to effect real change in the college.

Our new Student Leadership team, that includes students from across all year groups, has been announced this week after the application and interview process. The Student Leaders each have different areas of responsibility, covering key factors such as attendance, behaviour, literacy, curriculum, enrichment, finance, wellbeing and diversity.

There was a celebration late this afternoon to formally acknowledge our new Student Leaders. We will post photos in next week's newsletter.

**Evita wins a hat trick of awards**



I am delighted to report that Cowley picked up three awards at the National Operatic and Dramatic Association Awards for the whole college musical production, Evita.

Nominated in seven categories at the awards ceremony, which took place last weekend at the DW Stadium in Wigan, Cowley achieved the prizes for Best Leading Male Character in a Youth Musical (Sam Smith), Best Leading Female Character in a Youth Musical (Isla Graham) and Best Director of a Youth Musical & Best Artistic Director of a Youth Musical (Mr Watkins).

**Holocaust assembly**



On Tuesday, Y9s and Sixth Form students had a special assembly delivered by Mr Hunt and Holocaust survivor, Harry Kessler, as part of a visit organised by the Holocaust Educational Trust (HET).

Harry spoke about his experiences fleeing persecution in both Austria and Czechoslovakia during Nazi occupation, and told his inspiring story of adapting to life in England as a refugee. Harry's overall message to the pupils was that they should be tolerant and accept those around them, despite any differences.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Harry for the moving and powerful talk that he gave.

**Mobile phones in Schools**

There is a significant amount of press about phones being banned in schools. Currently our policy states that phones should not be seen or heard in the building.

We will be reviewing our policy with the new government guidance that has been published this week. Clearly phones are part of society, but we are aware of the distraction to learning, the antisocial media and the impact on sleep and mental wellbeing.

We will keep parents/carers and students informed of any change to college policy.

**Poland trip**

Please see next page for photos from the half term college trip to Poland.

Wishing you all a safe weekend.  
Mr Cormack

## Trip to Poland - photo gallery

On Saturday, 10th February, 55 students from Year 10 to Year 13 and staff travelled to Krakow, Poland and spent four days immersing themselves in the history and culture of the city.

The group had a busy itinerary. During the short stay, the group visited Krakow Old Town, the Wieliczka Salt Mine, Schindler's Factory, The Gestapo & Polish Resistance Museum and Kazimierz Jewish district and Heroes Square. The square, which is situated in the Podgórze district, commemorates the Jewish victims of the war both through its name and also with an artistic chair installation that can be found there, representing the formation of the Krakow ghetto.

The group made an emotional visit to Auschwitz-Birkenau Concentration Camp where the students took part in a guided tour, before showing their respects by laying a tribute from Cowley. All pupils were very respectful and moved by the experience.

The students also had time to relax with some shopping, and experiencing a traditional Polish folklore night, where they got involved with the singing and dancing. The trip was an enriching, educational experience for the students.

