



NEW OUTDOOR CLASSROOM OPENS IN COWLEY WOODS



St Helens Councillors David Baines and Anthony Burns were present as Cowley International College officially opened a new outdoor classroom in Cowley Woods, a woodland area within the school's grounds.

Part of Cowley Woods has been developed into an outdoor learning space with the help of The Mersey Forest, who assisted with the installation of a clear open space within the woods, pathways, including wheelchair-friendly access, as well as a seated area.

The new classroom will be used by the school on a daily basis for outdoor learning across a number of different academic subjects, as well as being a space to help improve students' mental health and wellbeing.

Principal, Mr Cormack said: "We are delighted to officially open

this outdoor classroom, which will provide students with a wonderful learning space and allow them to experience the great outdoors.

"Research shows that being outside and taking in the fresh air is positive for wellbeing, which is another really important factor in providing this offering for our students.

"The College is extremely grateful for the support from Dave Armson from The Mersey Forest for enabling this to happen at Cowley."

Students have already been busy using the new facilities, with researchers from Manchester Metropolitan University working on a 'Voice of the Future' project that involves collaborating with children and young people to re-imagine treescapes.

Asked about the new outdoor

learning space, one student said: "Being outdoors makes me happy. It is nice to be outside with the wildlife and in the fresh air."

Another student added: "I really like this outdoor area as it is really calming and relaxing and a space where you can be creative."

The school's Eco-Committee will also be utilising the space as part of their weekly activities, and the group have already been building bug hotels to encourage pollination and provide a safe haven for insects.

Miss Meredith, Sustainability Leader at Cowley, explained: "The Eco-Committee is an important part of the school community and is continuing to grow with more and more students joining us, so it's great for us to have this fantastic new facility to encourage the students to take care of the environment around us.

"The students have big plans for how best to use the outdoor classroom and we're really excited to start using and developing it further."

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COWLEY

SIXTH FORM COLLEGE



MEET OUR HEAD BOY AND HEAD GIRL

2023 - 2024

"The staff at Cowley Sixth Form College are incredibly kind and helpful, and you are treated like a young adult."

"There are many opportunities for enrichment outside of the classroom, and this is a really great way to meet new people with the same interests as you."

Jack Swift
Head Boy

"I chose Cowley Sixth Form College as I found all the teachers really enthusiastic about their subjects at the open evenings."

"The staff go above and beyond to make sure everyone is supported and that all students enjoy the subjects they study."

"Outside of lessons, there are so many activities for students to get involved with from sports to chess. There is something for everyone here at Cowley Sixth Form College."

Holly Bullen
Head Girl

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Thursday, 13th June

Y8 & Y10 Team Tutor Parents' Evening
(4-7pm)

Wednesday, 19th - Friday, 21st June
Quinta

Thursday, 27th June

Y7 & Y9 Team Tutor Parents' Evening
(4-7pm)

Wednesday, 3rd July

Y11 Prom

Friday, 5th July

Sports Day

Wednesday, 10th July

Summer Concert (6-8pm)

Friday, 12th July

Y13 Leavers' Celebration

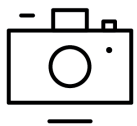
Friday, 19th July

Final day of the academic year



Principal's Award

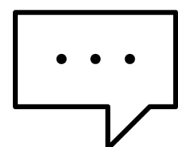
Each week, two students from each year group are nominated by their Head of Achievement to receive the Principal's Award. This award recognises and rewards students who have gone above and beyond to really set themselves apart. Here is a selection of photos from some of our most recent winners.



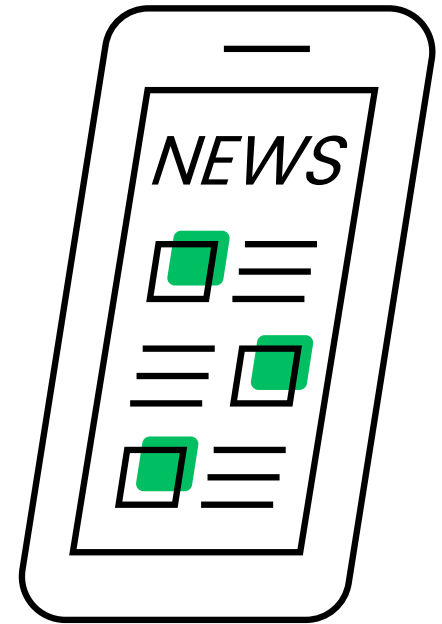
ENRICHMENT

We are incredibly proud of the huge number of extracurricular activities that are available to students here at Cowley.

[View Timetable](#)



News in brief



RECENT NEWS AND EVENTS

Alumni Welcome Event

After launching the registration process for the new Cowleian Alumni Society (CAS) at the end of 2023, we were delighted to invite registered members to our Welcome Event in Cowley Hall on Thursday, 2nd May.

Alumni had the chance to catch up with fellow former students, meet current staff and governors and receive some key information about how they can play their part in helping Cowley moving forward.

There was a fantastic turnout, it was great to see so many familiar faces back at Cowley, and we're looking forward to more events in the near future.

Earth Day 2024



On 22nd April, Cowley marked Earth Day to demonstrate support for environmental protection.

This year's Earth Day theme was Planet vs Plastics. As a school, Cowley last year removed the sale of single use plastic drinks bottles in the canteen to play our part and help with this message.

The Cowley Eco Committee delivered assemblies about Earth Day and the message of Planet vs Plastics, preparing all the content they wanted to present themselves and then delivered the assemblies confidently and eloquently. Well done!

Five Star Canteen

Congratulations to Sharon and our fantastic catering team for maintaining their five star food hygiene rating!

Stuttgart visitors



On 17th April, Cowley welcomed 55 German students from Ferdinand Porsche Gymnasium High School in Stuttgart.

They took part in lessons and activities with some of our

students before a trip to the Town Hall to meet the Mayor.

It was fantastic to see the students mix and converse, both in English and German!

The Tempest Workshops



Y8 students have been taking part in workshops around the William Shakespeare play *The Tempest*.

Students were involved with some thought-provoking activities and learning about the meaning and background to the story as well as recreating some scenes from the play.

Spare uniform

Do you have any spare bits of uniform? We distribute uniform items to any family who need it, free of charge. If you have any items that you no longer need and are in good condition, please consider donating them. You can drop them off at reception.

SPORTS NEWS



@CowleySport

U14 North West Champions!



Congratulations to our U14 girls hockey team who won the North West State Schools Hockey Tournament.

The girls won the title after beating Bramhall, Lytham St Annes, Sale and Wellington, and drawing against Bishop Heber, giving them the best record of all the teams competing.

They played some superb hockey throughout the competition and were worthy winners!

U15 Merseyside Champions!



Congratulations to our U15 girls hockey team who won the Merseyside Schools Hockey Tournament.

They played some exceptional hockey throughout the competition, winning every game without conceding a single goal.

The girls beat Liverpool College, as well as both St Edwards College 'A' and 'B' teams.

Girls Football Finalists



Our Y9/Y10 girls football team played in the St Helens Town Cup Final at Ruskin Drive against Rainhill High.

It was a closely-fought contest with Rainhill scoring two late goals to give them a 2-0 victory. The girls represented the College fantastically well, played their part in a great final and thoroughly earned their silver medals.

Y8 progress in National Cup

Congratulations to our Y8 rugby team who progressed through to the National Schools Cup quarter finals after beating Ysgol Gyfun Rhydywaun 38-8 in South Wales.



Despite the long 4-hour journey, the team showed no signs of fatigue as they produced a sensational performance, both in attack and defence, to beat a very strong team in a convincing manner.

Girls Rugby Finalists



Our Y7/8 girls rugby team made it through to the St Helens Town Cup Final after they defeated St Cuthberts in the semi-final. It was a really competitive and close game, with the girls finally winning 16-6.

Careers in the Canteen

The Careers department continued to offer Sixth Form students additional careers education support this half term with drop-in sessions with employers and universities in the busy canteen.

During this half term, students have been able to speak to Manchester Metropolitan University and Edge Hill University, enabling students to learn more about some of the progression opportunities available to them after college.

Medicine Taster Day



A group of aspiring Medicine students from Cowley Sixth Form College took part in a Medicine Subject Taster Day at Edge Hill University.

The students attended some exciting workshops and demonstrations within the state-of-the-art facilities, had a tour of the campus and were able to pick the brains of staff and students about the course they're hoping to move on to study after completing their sixth form studies.

Y13 Final Assembly

Y13 students had their final year group assembly before the examination season kicked off.

It was an opportunity to get all the information needed ahead of the exams, reflect on the past two years of studying at Cowley Sixth Form College and get one final group photo.



Cowley Saints end on a high



Cowley Saints, the senior rugby team, concluded their league season with a 54-6 victory over Wigan and Leigh College.

The season has been a mixed campaign, with a number of players drafted in from the Y10 and Y11 ranks of the high school teams, but the team ended on a high with a convincing win and finished the season with four wins and four defeats from their eight matches played.

The season finale saw the last Cowley outings for a number of Y13 students, some of whom have represented Cowley rugby teams for seven years.

University of Cambridge talk



Y12 Scholars' Programme students were invited to a workshop about Personal Statements with Natalie from Magdalene College at the University of Cambridge.

It was a really useful and thought-provoking presentation which sparked some really good conversations from the students and helped prepare them for writing their applications to universities in the next few months.

Y13 Pantomime



During this half term, the Y13 BTEC Professional Musical Theatre students visited two local primary schools to perform a pantomime of 'Toy Story' that they have written and directed themselves as part of their final assessment for the course.

Y13 student praised for helping man who had fallen in the street



Y13 student, Paris, has been praised for her part in helping a man who had fallen in Keswick Road last week.

Paris, who is studying A-Levels in Biology, Chemistry and Geography, saw the man on the pavement requiring help and

provided assistance without any hesitation.

When asked about the incident, she said: "I was walking to college when I noticed a gentleman on the pavement. It was raining at the time, and I thought that he may have slipped.

"I approached him to ask if everything was okay, and helped him to his feet. At this point, and with his permission, I used his phone to call for assistance and stayed with him until help arrived."

This is another fantastic example of a Cowley student going above and beyond to help those in need. Well done, Paris.

Y12 A-Level Geography field trip



The Y12 A-Level Geography students enjoyed a wet, windy and muddy day at the Southport Salt Marsh to provide the class with some ideas about what to complete as part of their coursework.

They demonstrated their dedication to their subject by getting stuck into their field work despite the poor weather conditions, as well as by wearing 'I love Geography' t-shirts!

Y13 Music students organise Fusion Festival



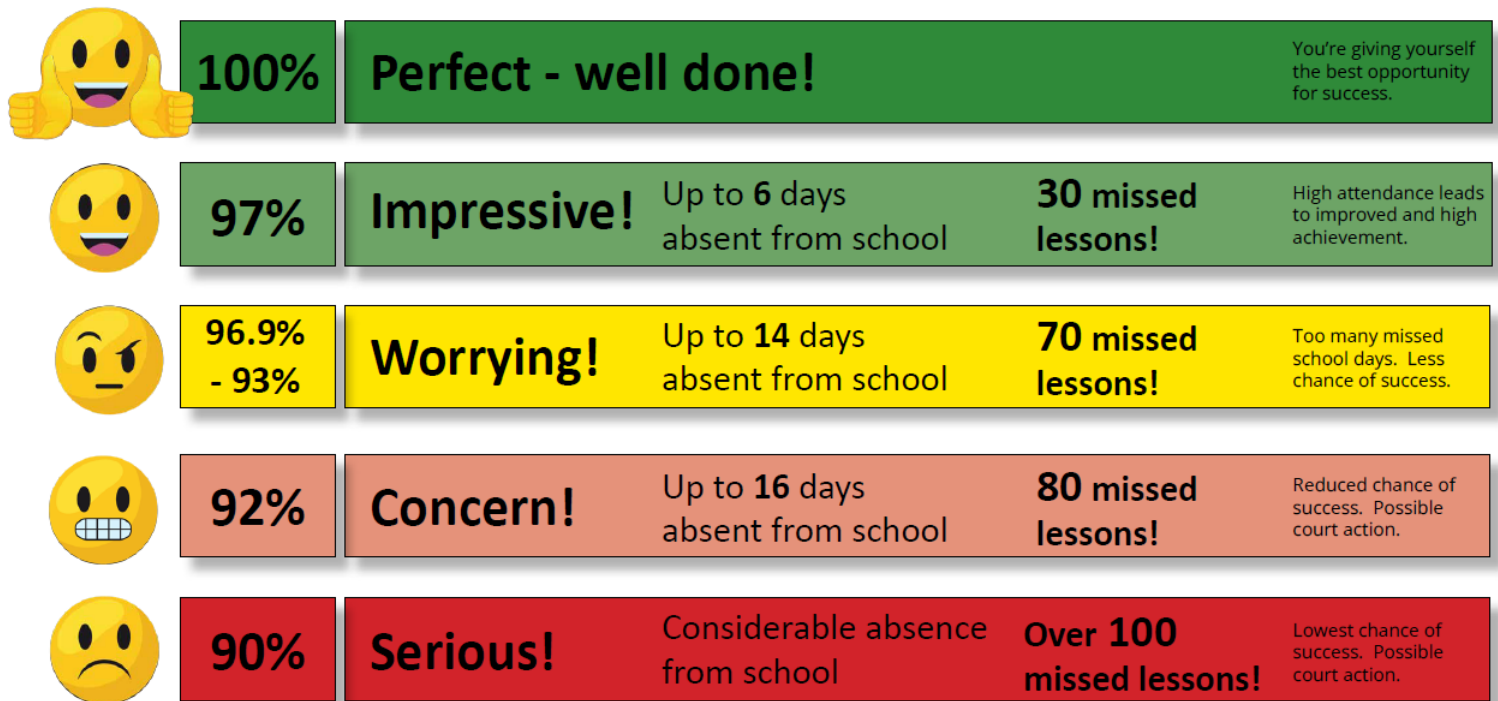
Cowley has nurtured some of St. Helens' most prestigious young musicians over the years, and the next wave of students have aspired to go further beyond their predecessors with their very own homegrown musical event, 'Fusion Festival'.

The Y13 BTEC Music Performance students organised the event, which took place on Friday 10th May at Windle Labour Club, fusing the vast genres of music into one night.

Head of Performing Arts at Cowley, Mr Watkins, said: "I think the reason why Fusion Festival is such a brilliant event is because it allows the young performers and musicians from around St. Helens to get together and showcase what they are capable of."

He continued: "It's a celebration of their talent and the amazing things that this group of students can pull off. I'm extremely proud of their efforts."

What is **your** attendance?



WHY IS GOOD ATTENDANCE IMPORTANT?

We place great emphasis on excellent attendance. To be successful at school and to take advantage of all the amazing opportunities and enrichment that the school can offer, your child should aim for 100% attendance.

In order to support your child in achieving 100% attendance, we request that whenever possible, medical appointments are made outside of the school day, as losing time during the school day will impact upon their overall attendance figure and also hinder their progress.

Attendance to school is vital in achieving true potential. 1/2 a missed day per week equates to one grade lower at GCSE across all subjects –this is a proven fact.



It can be tricky deciding whether or not to keep your child off school, when they're unwell.

[Take a look at the advice from the NHS here.](#)

If your child is refusing to attend school, this is known as 'school refusal' or 'school phobia' and is often caused by fear and anxious feelings.

Take a read of our 2-page document about school refusal and some advice for parents/carers, plus the support that we, and external agencies, can offer.

[Open Document](#)



**“THIS MORNING,
SHE WAS WORRIED
ABOUT SCHOOL...
BUT LOOK AT HER
NOW!”**

**MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**



HM Government

Search the Education Hub to find out more

