

It has been another busy week at Cowley, and you will read some wonderful news stories in this newsletter. In particular, we are incredibly proud of our Y8 students who achieved a fantastic win at a Chemical Engineering Workshop — a brilliant accomplishment and a testament to their curiosity, teamwork and ambition. We are also delighted with our Y9 and Y10 students who took part in the UKMT Maths Challenge. They received their impressive results this week. Their preparation and hard work has paid off! There's more on this on page 3.

This week has also been Children's Mental Health Week, and it has been inspiring to see the many thoughtful activities taking place in classrooms. Supporting our students' wellbeing remains a key priority, and it has been encouraging to see them engaging so positively in discussions and activities focused on resilience, self-awareness and looking after one another.

It has also been a very busy week nationally for recruitment, as Y11 students across the country consider their next steps. At Cowley, we hosted Sixth Form application events last Saturday and again on Monday evening. Both were extremely well attended, and it was wonderful to meet so many young people from schools across St Helens and beyond. I was so proud of the commitment and maturity shown by the students I spoke with as they thoughtfully selected the courses that will help them realise their aspirations.

Cowley Sixth Form is very special. It is small enough for staff to know every single student so that no one is ever 'lost', yet large enough to offer a strong and varied range of courses. It is also unique in being completely separate from the 11–16 site, meaning students truly feel they have taken that significant step into young adult life. Our Sixth Form continues to grow and develop, and the future is very exciting indeed. The next Sixth Form admissions event takes place on Tuesday, 24th February.

Half term

Next week is half term, and I would like to wish all our families a restful and enjoyable break. However, for Y11 and Y13 students, this half term will understandably feel a little different. Across the country, students at this stage will be prioritising revision as they prepare for the summer examinations. I kindly ask parents to support their children in structuring their time next week to ensure there is a healthy balance between focused revision and rest. The BBC Bitesize guide, "Five ways to help your kids kick-start revision," offers some helpful advice for families.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support

Principal's Award celebration breakfast



Congratulations to the students who were put forward for the Principal's Award earlier today. This is honestly a highlight in my week. Well done to all.

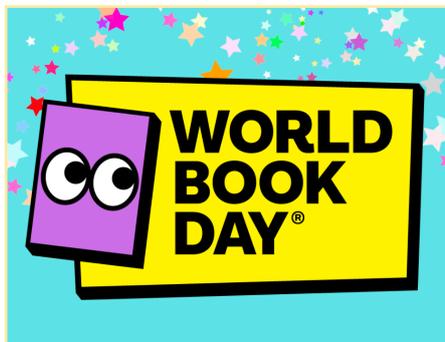
Y8 students shine at Workshop



On Tuesday, six of our Y8 students attended a Chemical Engineering Workshop at Hope Academy, delivered by All About Futures.

Teams earned points for their challenge work, teamwork, and professionalism — and we are delighted to share that Cowley won overall! Our students were a real credit to the school. *More on next page*

World Book Day



We invite students to dress up as their favourite character from a book for World Book Day that takes place on Thursday 5th March. A form needs to be completed if students wish to take part - here is the link:

WHAT'S ON THE FIRST WEEK BACK AT SCHOOL

Monday, 23rd February
Return to school

Tuesday, 24th February
Sixth Form Admission Evening

Thursday, 26th February
Secondary Boccia Event

Fundraising for the Y11 Prom



Today, Year 11 students and staff have cycled 350 miles (which is around the same distance from Tower of London to Eiffel Tower) in order to raise money for the Y11 Prom. Mr Collins and Mrs Green want to make this year's Prom an amazing night and all monies raised will go towards making memories.

As well as cycling, Mr Collins and Mrs Green will be taking part in a skydive - again to raise funds. Take a look here.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

In the spotlight



Cowley Year 8 Triumph at Chemical Engineering Workshop

On Tuesday, six of our Y8 students attended a Chemical Engineering Workshop at Hope Academy, delivered by the external company All About Futures — and what a fantastic day it was!

Students took part in a series of engaging, team-based problem-solving challenges. They delivered a mini presentation exploring the journey from tomatoes to tomato sauce, tackled the “Safe Separation Station” challenge — carefully separating materials from a tub of sand using equipment within a set budget — and completed a Sustainable Solutions project. For this final task, they designed an innovative method to reduce air pollution, presenting their ideas with growing confidence and professionalism.

Throughout the day, teams earned points not only for their performance in challenges but also for their teamwork, listening skills, and the thoughtful questions they asked the visiting Chemical Engineers.

We are incredibly proud to share that Cowley won overall! Our students were a true credit to the school, demonstrating enthusiasm, maturity, and excellent teamwork from start to finish.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

In the spotlight



Photograph: Y9 students

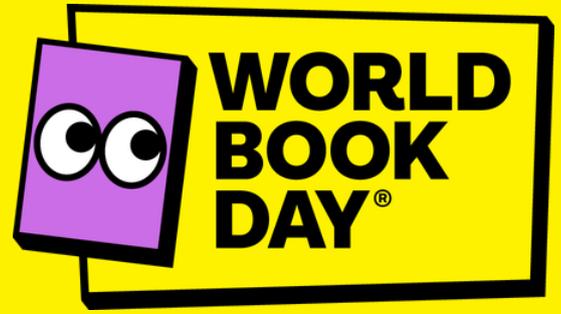
Cowley students excel in the UKMT Maths Challenge

Twenty four 'number crunchers' from Y9 and Y10 at Cowley International College have won medals in a UK maths challenge.

Upper school students recently participated in the UK Maths Trust Mathematical Challenge and the results were brilliant, with students taking home silver and bronze certificates.

Earlier this year, students from Cowley joined schools from up and down the country to compete in a nationwide maths challenge. The challenge is organised by the UK Mathematics Trust and requires students to use mathematical reasoning and techniques to think-outside-the-box and solve sophisticated mathematical problems.

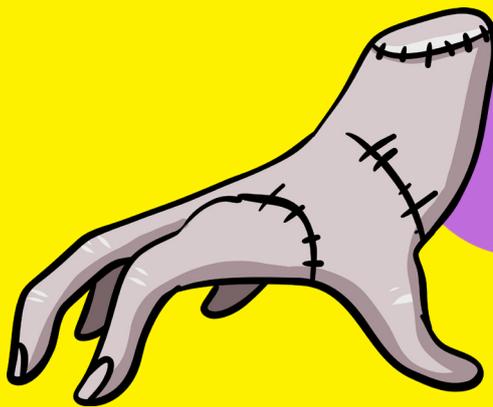
Huge thank you to Ms Tasker and all the team at Cowley who helped these students to prepare.



Thursday 5th March

We invite all students to dress up as their favourite character from a book for World Book Day.

If a student wants to take part, a short form needs to be completed. Please use the link below to complete.



[CLICK HERE](#)

Enrichment Spotlight



COWLEY
INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE

Crochet/knitting group

Students, come be part of the Knitting & Crochet Club, proudly run by Mrs. Jones – where yarn meets imagination! Whether you're a total beginner or a stitching superstar, everyone is welcome. We'll learn fun new techniques, create awesome projects, share ideas, and have plenty of laughs along the way.

- * Make new friends
- * Learn a new skill
- * Create handmade gifts & keepsakes
- * Relax, unwind, and get crafty!

No experience? No problem! Mrs. Jones will guide you step-by-step in a fun, supportive environment. So grab your creativity and join us – we can't wait to see what you'll make!

Wednesday in the Bistro, 2:45 - 3:45pm



EDUCATION, HEALTH AND CARE PLAN (EHCP) ONLINE WORKSHOP

SOS!SEN

Delivered by Eleanor Wright,
SOS!SEN Legal Officer

This online workshop is for parent carers
of children/ young people with SEND

The workshop will cover

- What advice & information should be obtained during the assessment
- Timescales
- EHCP format & section-by-section content
- Discussion of a draft Plan with pointers on what to look out for
- Q&A session

Places are limited so booking is essential. Book your
place here

<https://forms.gle/ycGvjXG9rDY8TuR97>

ONLINE

Thursday
12th February or 26th February
10-12pm
6-8pm

CONTACT US ►

Email
listen4changebookings@gmail.com

Website:
listen4change.uk





Dear all,

I am writing to provide an update on **Operation Gears**, a targeted campaign to tackle serious organised crime, robbery and ASB linked to the illegal use of two-wheeled vehicles, including electric motorcycles, scooters and non-compliant e-bikes, which launched in July 2025.

As with all major cities, Liverpool is experiencing a boom in electric bikes and electrically assisted pedal cycles (EAPCs). Whilst this is seen by many as an alternative to public transport and the increased cost of vehicles, this has undoubtedly presented a problem whereby electric bikes / EAPCs are reported as a dominant form of transport, many do not understand the legalities in relation to these bikes and alongside the education, there will be those who inherently utilise these for criminality and target vulnerable users.

Merseyside Police are committed to tackling the increased threat and risk posed by EAPCs and electric bikes but in doing so, education is needed for those using them.

A large portion of riders are young people, sometimes illegally dependent on their age and the absence of a substantial driver's licence. More importantly, they are leaving themselves vulnerable to being targeted for the bikes which are seen as a high-value item.

We have seen a re-occurring trend of Merseyside cohort of males aged between 11-17 years being the vulnerable target group and we are committed to safeguarding where possible.

There have been many reports of various crime that are crosscut with electric bikes being involved and we do not want any of our Merseyside young people to become a victim of any crime.



MERSEYSIDE
POLICE
Putting our Community First



OPERATION
GEARS



We have continued to enhance knowledge and education to provide a better understanding of laws and regulations that govern the use of these EAPCs and electric bikes despite numerous social media and news reports.

This letter intends to seek your continued support to educate yourselves and your children.

With this education; we have focused on, the roads become safer for both adults and especially children, but also pedestrians, as we recognise some who ride electric bikes, do so on pavements, endangering the safety of others and secondly; to reduce the number of victims associated with EAPCs / electric bikes including road traffic accidents, theft, and robbery, which have an added impact on both our NHS and Mersey Fire and rescue service.

The safety also extends not just when riding the bike but storage of bikes as some batteries can become unstable which has sadly caused house fires, some fatal.

Whilst the continual education has seen some real positive changes within the schools' settings, there is still recent evidence of parents not understanding the impact and actively purchasing these two-wheeled vehicles for children.

When investigations arise, there may be no alternative but to make parents accountable for children, and we will seek, to prosecute for offences relating to the use, cause and permit of these vehicles, where appropriate.

Identifying an illegal

ELECTRICALLY ASSISTED PEDAL CYCLES (EAPCs)



You can ride an electric bike if you're 14 or over, as long as it meets certain requirements. These electric bikes are known as 'electrically assisted pedal cycles' (EAPCs). It must show either:

- The power output
- The manufacturer of the motor
- The battery's voltage
- The maximum speed of the bike

It's electric motor:

- Must have a maximum power output of 250 watts

If a bike meets the EAPC requirements, it's classed as a normal pedal bike. This means you can ride it:

- On cycle paths and anywhere else pedal bikes are allowed.

Any electric bike that does not meet the EAPC rules is classed as a motorcycle or moped and needs to be registered and taxed.

You'll need a driving licence to ride one and you must wear a crash helmet.

Identifying an illegal

OFF-ROAD ELECTRIC MOTORCYCLE



**SOLD FOR OFF-ROAD USE ONLY
(PRIVATE LAND ONLY IF THE RIDER HAS PERMISSION)**

This is an electric motorcycle.

Some of the most well-known manufacturers of off-road electric motorcycles would include SUR-RON, Talaria, Bultaco, Stealth etc.

Identifying an illegal POWERED SCOOTERS



External company BOLT (you may spot them as the green scooters around Merseyside) are the only road-legal versions of the powered scooter

- All powered scooters are classified as Personal Light Electric Vehicles (PLEVs)
- The only place privately owned scooters can be used is on private land (with the landowners' permission)
- If used on the road or in a public place, they are treated as motor vehicles

We continue to tackle the issue from a policing perspective but work closely alongside partner agencies as we recognise that we need assistance beyond the police to tackle this upward trend.

I am sure you agree, to ensure the safety of your children, is paramount and with that, I hope that with this bit of education, parents and guardians can make better choices and enable the safety of themselves and others.

If you have any information about the use, storage or selling of two-wheeled vehicles you believe to be illegal, please let us know.



Kind Regards
Sergeant Carly Slinger
Prevention Hub
Merseyside Police



MERSEYSIDE
POLICE
Putting our Community First



OPERATION
GEARS