



CHRISTMAS SWITCH ON



On Monday, 25th November, one of the favourite events in the Cowley calendar took place as we switched on the Christmas lights.

The whole of Year 7 gathered around the college atrium for the occasion, alongside some guests from our feeder primary schools.

There was another exceptional performance from Cowley Senior Choir who provided some festive music as the college got into the Christmas spirit.

This year's special guest was St Helens North MP, David Baines, who helped Mr Watkins and all the students countdown from ten to one before pushing the button to turn on the lights.

Thank you to the Premises Team who worked over the weekend to decorate the giant Christmas tree and set up the Christmas lights ready for the Monday morning switch on.

The huge inflatable Santa Claus and Snowman bring a fun element to the atrium, while the nativity scene reminds us of the true meaning of Christmas.

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COWLEY

SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

MEET OUR HEAD BOY AND HEAD GIRL

2024 - 2025



"At Cowley Sixth Form, everyone strives for you to be your best and will go above and beyond to give you every opportunity to do so.

"The opportunities to better yourself, both inside and outside the classroom, are endless and every single staff member wants to make sure that you succeed at everything you do.

"It has remained the fantastic learning environment that drew me towards it in the first place."

Daniel
Head Boy

"I chose Cowley Sixth Form because of the small class sizes, as I feel that the subject teachers can take time to make sure all students are reaching their full potential.

"I also think there is a great support system of staff, so I am comfortable to voice any concerns.

"The opportunities they provide here are great ways for students to grow as individuals, teaching us skills to utilise in our future."

Abigail
Head Girl



Y7 Parent/carer feedback

taken from the Y7 Parents' Evening survey



My child's biggest achievement at the school has been...

- 100% attendance, no days off.
- Academic excellence, good moral standard and confidence building.
- Becoming more confident in such a small amount of time.
- Coming into school with out any upset and leaving with a smile.
- Head teacher award & continued good reports from lessons.
- Just being his amazing self. Fantastic report from every teacher.



One thing the school could do to support me/my child better is...

- Everything is good so nothing needs to be improved.
- Continue with the high standard and engage in programs that can build pupils confidence.
- Everything is very well planned out and communicated well too.
- I'm pleased with the school.
- My child has all the support he's needs to do better at Cowley.
- My child is fully supported at he moment there is nothing that I would suggest.
- Nothing, our experience has been great so far.
- School have supported my child in many ways and I don't think anything could be better.

Thank you



Christmas Concert

Wednesday 18th December

Tickets
£5

Cowley Hall
Doors open 5:30pm
Event start at 6pm

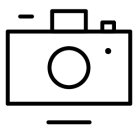
LIVE MUSIC & DANCE
LICENSED BAR

Let's gather together for an unforgettable night of holiday music and joy!

Featuring performances from the Drama Club, Dance Clubs, Bands, several choirs and a range of soloists and other small ensembles.

Principal's Award

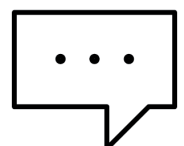
Each week, two students from each year group are nominated by their Head of Achievement to receive the Principal's Award. This award recognises and rewards students who have gone above and beyond to really set themselves apart. Here is a selection of photos from some of our most recent winners.



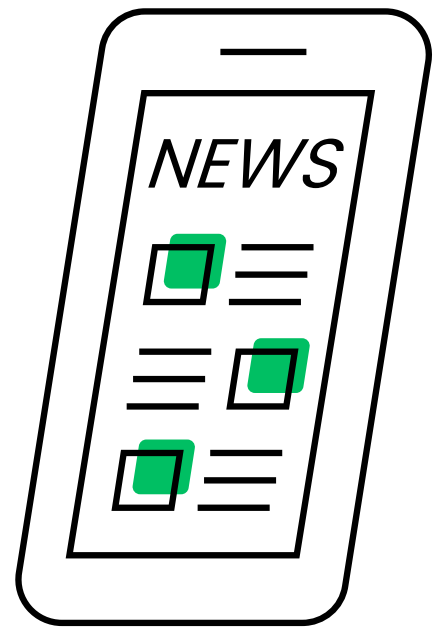
ENRICHMENT

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

Anti-Bullying Week



During this half term, we had Anti-Bullying Week where a number of activities and education around Anti-Bullying took place.

On the Tuesday, students and staff wore odd socks to promote diversity within the school community.

We had lots of entries in the Y7 'Design Odd Socks' competition as part of the initiative for Anti-Bullying Week. All of the entries are now displayed outside the Team Office.

Student Leaders Meeting



During the first week of this half term, members of our Student Leadership Team attended a meeting at the Town Hall.

At the meeting, they joined in discussions about a number of issues affecting young people in St Helens.

They represented Cowley fantastically with their input to the meeting and their behaviour throughout.

Rugby success

The Y9 rugby union team played in their first round of the North West Counties competition away against Irlam and Cadishead Academy and recorded a resounding 126-0 victory to progress into the next round. It was an outstanding performance from the team.

Remembrance Day



Cowley fell silent on Monday 11th November for Remembrance Day and the atmosphere was incredibly moving. Many of our student cadets wore their uniforms as we performed remembrance services across both the 11-16 and sixth form sites.

Book Buzz



All Y7 students received their chosen free BookBuzz book to read and take home. This initiative allows students to further improve their reading.

Anti-Bullying Conference



We hosted our anti-bullying conference at the beginning of December to listen to the views of parents, students and governors and to discuss how we educate students and ensure that they are happy and safe at Cowley. Thank you to everyone who attended.

Thank you, Mr Sheeran

There was an official farewell for Mr Sheeran which took place during this half term to thank him for all the incredible work he has done at Cowley and to wish him a happy retirement.

The evening was attended by so many people, staff and students, past and present, who just wanted to show their gratitude to Mr Sheeran for his time at Cowley.

He started at Cowley back in January 2003 and therefore has supported thousands of students and their families, as well as hundreds of staff.

Thank you, Mr Sheeran, from the whole Cowley community.

MP David Baines visit Mandarin students



David Baines, St Helens North MP, paid a visit to Cowley to meet with some of our students

who visited China in July as part of the Mandarin Excellence Programme.

The students shared some of the stories from their incredible experience in China, showing some amazing photos from their visit and explaining how much they enjoyed the opportunity to visit the country, to practice their language skills and the benefits it has provided them.

Sea Cadet of the Year!



Congratulations to one of our students, Sophie, for winning the prestigious Sea Cadet of the Year award for 2024.

It is a fantastic achievement, so huge well done, Sophie!

Y9 rugby

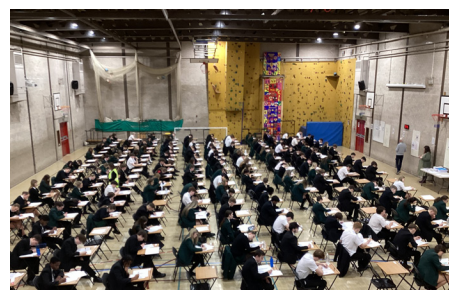


Congratulations to our Y9 rugby team who enjoyed an impressive 26-4 victory away in Saddleworth in their North West Counties group match.

The team played some excellent rugby and scored some superb tries on their way to victory.

It has given them an excellent opportunity to progress further in the competition, up against some of the top rugby schools in the region. Well done!

Y11 Rehearsal Exams



It's been a busy period with Y11 rehearsal exams taking place.

The students have handled the period very well and we're confident this will stand them in good stead for the summer exam season.

Some students have said that "the exams were hard" and yes, they have been, but it is excellent preparation for what is to come from their exams for real in the summer.

Y7 Drop In Sessions

During December, the Y7 team have been holding some drop in sessions for parents to come in for additional support with items such as Class Charts, Microsoft Teams, or any other online learning platforms we use at Cowley that parents might not be so familiar with.

The sessions proved to be really popular and we've received lots of feedback that they have been really useful for parents, particularly those who are experiencing high school with their children for the first time.

Stuttgart visit



At the beginning of November, the Cowley Sixth Form choir performed at a special event at Stuttgart Town Hall to mark the retirement of Stuttgart council leader, Andrea Klett-Eininger.

The choir were invited as part of the town twinning of Stuttgart with St Helens to showcase our town's musical talent.

The choir sang three songs as well as joining up with some students from our Stuttgart twinned school, Porsche-Gymnasiums, to perform a version of 'Only You' by Yazoo.

The students represented the college and the town of St Helens magnificently and we're incredibly proud of them.

Politics students visit Parliament



Y12 and Y13 Politics students travelled down to London for a day trip and visit of Parliament to assist and support their studies.

It was a fascinating insight into the day-to-day goings on in Parliament.

During their visit, they managed to spend some time with our local MP, David Baines, who gave up some time to answer some questions about his role in Parliament and how the role he carries out to represent the town.

Free driving lessons



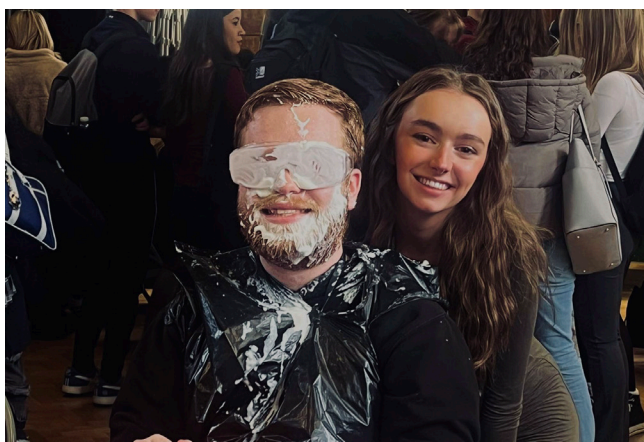
This half term saw the first of our free taster driving lessons for Cowley Sixth Form students.

The first set of students received some theory training, information and advice in a briefing about road safety before they stepped out into a car and did some practical training on the college grounds, putting some of the road safety aspects into practice and learning how to be safe while driving.

It was an amazing opportunity for the students to embark on their first journey behind the wheel and will help them develop a skill they will have for life.

Our thanks to the Up Driving School for helping us to develop this offering for our students, and they will continue to offer sessions over the coming months.

Children in Need



Every year, sixth form students organise a fundraising event in aid of Children in Need.

Each tutor group came up with their own fundraising activity, from darts to face painting, from karaoke to cream pie throwing, and they managed to raise more than £500 for the charity! Well done!

What is **your** attendance?



100%

Perfect - well done!

You're giving yourself the best opportunity for success.



97%

Impressive!

Up to **6** days absent from school

30 missed lessons!

High attendance leads to improved and high achievement.



96.9% - 93%

Worrying!

Up to **14** days absent from school

70 missed lessons!

Too many missed school days. Less chance of success.



92%

Concern!

Up to **16** days absent from school

80 missed lessons!

Reduced chance of success. Possible court action.



90%

Serious!

Considerable absence from school

Over 100 missed lessons!

Lowest chance of success. Possible court action.

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](#)

