



## SECRETARY OF STATE VISIT



On Thursday 22nd January, Cowley welcomed Ed Miliband, Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, who visited the school to hear about our commitment to sustainability and reducing energy costs through the installation of Great British Energy solar panels.

The visit was also attended by Councillor Anthony Burns, Councillor David Baines, and Liverpool City Region Mayor, Steve Rotherham.

Cowley is one of a number of schools to be named to have panels installed in efforts to cut bills, reduce carbon emissions and invest in a more sustainable future for their students and the community.

During his visit, Ed met with members of the school's Eco

Club, taking time to listen to the issues that matter most to them. Students spoke passionately about sustainability and shared their recent experiences in attending the local Junior Climate Change Day at the Town Hall.

Ed toured the school, visiting classrooms while lessons were underway.

The Eco Club students were later interviewed by ITV, helping to highlight the importance of young people's involvement in conversations about climate change and the future of energy.

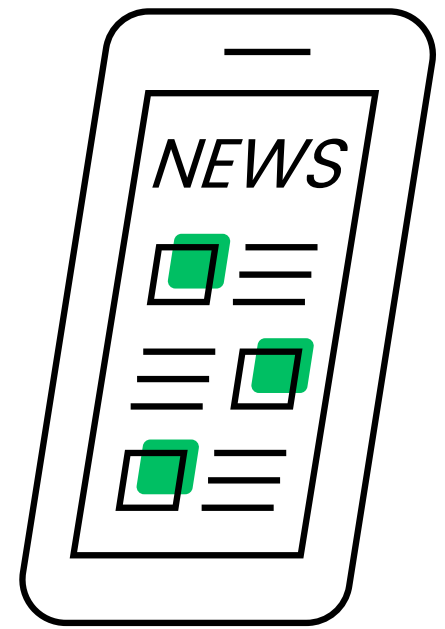
On the visit, Principal, Mr Cormack said: "We were delighted welcome Ed Miliband to Cowley. Renewable energy is an integral part of the school's curriculum, offering students a meaningful way to learn about sustainability while

leading by example.

"Watching our Eco Club students speak so confidently about solar energy and sustainability was a genuinely proud moment. Their thoughtful questions and informed discussions reflected the passion of a generation that truly cares about the future of our planet. Experiences like this don't just bring learning to life; they build confidence and show our students that they have a voice and a real role to play in creating positive change, both in school and beyond the classroom."

The visit was an inspiring experience for students, demonstrating the real impact of student voice and showing how schools can play a leading role in shaping a greener, more sustainable future.

# News in brief



## RECENT NEWS AND EVENTS

### St Helens Secondary Schools All Stars



It was a fantastic evening at the 2nd Annual St Helens Secondary Schools All Stars Awards, held at the Saints Stadium.

Schools from across St Helens came together to celebrate the outstanding achievements of local students, with nominees recognised for their hard work, talent, and contributions to school and community life.

The event was attended by Councillor Burns, the Mayor of St Helens, as well as staff from secondary schools and the primary schools of nominated students, making it a truly special community celebration.

We are incredibly proud that

four of our students were nominated for awards this year and even prouder that one of them won!

Huge thanks to Mr Bennett for hosting a memorable evening.

### European Day of Languages



In September, the MFL corridor was filled with the most incredible aromas as students took part in our European Day of Languages Bake Off!

The time and effort that into each bake was truly remarkable!

Well done to all who took part – and to our winners. Judging by our A-Level French students was no easy task with so many delicious entries!

### Music Award



We are delighted to share that Cowley has been appointed as a Lead School for Sound! Music Hub.

This appointment recognises our school's strong commitment to high-quality music provision and our dedication to supporting the musical development of children and young people across our wider community.

This will mean that we can ensure that every young person has the opportunity to engage with music in meaningful ways.



## Year 8 Student Shines at Town Hall Oracy Celebration



A Y8 student proudly represented our school at a special event held at the Town Hall, celebrating the power and importance of oracy.

The local authority invited schools across the borough to take part in a competition, and we were delighted when one of our students was selected to attend.

Chosen by Mr Robinson, Library and Resource Centre Manager, the student impressed judges with an exceptional piece of writing exploring creativity and how it can be expressed in all aspects of life.

Her work stood out for its originality, insight and confidence.

At the ceremony, she was the only student whose writing was read aloud, an honour made even more special as it was shared by award-winning author and screenwriter Frank Cottrell-Boyce himself.

The student also had the opportunity to speak with Frank personally and was gifted a signed copy of one of his books.

## Holocaust Memorial Day



Held annually on 27th January, Holocaust Memorial Day falls on the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp where more than a million people died during the Second World War.

The Holocaust is central to Holocaust Memorial Day when we remember the six million Jewish men, women and children who were murdered.

On Memorial Day, Sam Neumann (Northern Holocaust Education Group) attended Cowley to share the story passed down from his mother, Bobby, who as a Jewish teenager in Nazi Germany allied Hungary, was deported to Auschwitz concentration camp in 1944 – a terror she endured and survived. Sam presented to our Y9 students.

To mark Holocaust Memorial Day on 27th January, we also reflected on the recent MFL trip taken by a group of Year 11 pupils to Munich and Salzburg.

As part of this visit, pupils took part in an educational guided tour of Dachau concentration camp, located just north of Munich.

The visit was deeply sombre, yet incredibly informative, helping pupils to understand how and why the Holocaust began and how it expanded throughout the 1930s and 1940s.

Dachau, established in 1933, was the first concentration camp created in Nazi Germany, several years before the outbreak of the Second World War in 1939.

During the tour, pupils heard powerful testimonies about prisoners of all backgrounds, nationalities and ages.

The Year 11 pupils conducted themselves with maturity, respect and attentiveness throughout the visit and were a real credit to the school.

A sign displayed in one of the Auschwitz exhibitions reads, "Those who do not remember the past are condemned to repeat it" (George Santayana).

As time passes and the number of living witnesses continues to diminish, this message feels more poignant than ever.

On Holocaust Memorial Day, we encouraged our school community to pause and remember the six and a half million innocent people who lost their lives in the Holocaust across Europe, including a small number from the UK armed forces and the Channel Islands.

### Presentation Evening

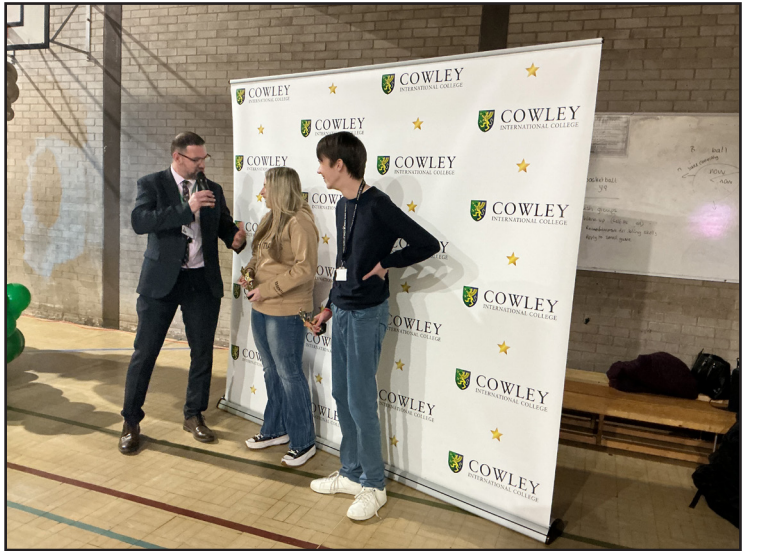
Our Annual Presentation Evening took place at the beginning of January, celebrating the achievements of students from Y7 - Y13 across the 2024–2025 academic year, as well as current Y7 students who have made a fantastic start to their journey at Cowley.

The evening was a wonderful celebration, highlighted by an inspirational address from guest speaker Dr. Rose Kogie-Henshall.

Please check out the photos on the following pages. Our Annual



# Presentation Evening





# Presentation Evening Award Winners

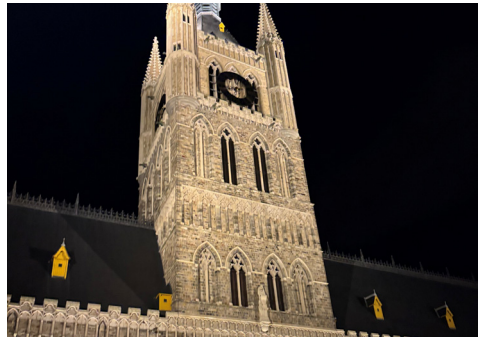




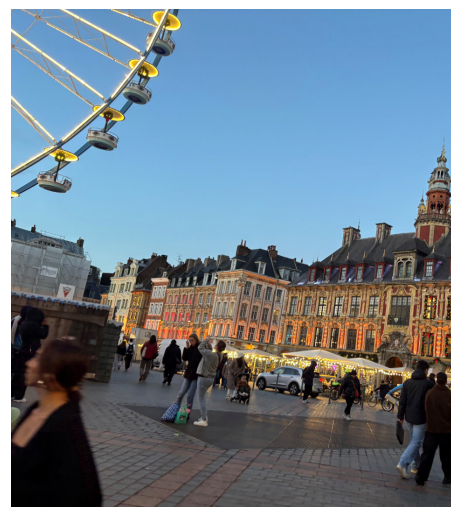
# Presentation Evening Award Winners







Photos from the Year 9 trip to France







# Join the Eco Club!

Care about the planet? Want to make a real difference? This is for YOU.  
The Eco Club is a space for everyone who wants to help the environment  
while having fun and meeting new people.

What we do:

Create outdoor projects like a vegetable garden, attend climate events,  
take action on recycling.

**Join the Eco Club and be part of the change.**  
**Because small actions + students like you = a better future**

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Thursday, 2:45 - 3:30pm in M21  
Miss Meredith





## Cowley Sixth Form's annual fundraiser for BBC Children in Need!

**By Rhiannon R**

Every year, Cowley Sixth Form comes together to raise money for one of the most inspiring, influential and significant fundraising events, BBC Children in Need.

BBC Children in Need is a UK charity that funds vital support for disadvantaged children and young people struggling with issues like mental health, poverty and social inequality.

As a charitable and supporting environment, each year, our college community comes together to raise money and bring our own contribution to this valued cause.

This year, the college gathered in the main hall and set up some entertaining and creative stalls to raise money.

Lewis (Y12) participated in one of these stalls by allowing students to throw 'cream pies at him'. Lewis said: "My stall proved beneficial in many ways during the fundraising event. Not only did it bring laughter and lift the spirits of individuals who may have been having a bad day, but it also helped to raise valuable funds for Children in Need by turning something silly and fun into an opportunity to support a meaningful cause."

Warren (Y13), also helped out on a stall for the fundraiser, which included face paint and raffles. He said: "Our stall was very popular among the students. Our raffle contributed in helping us raise around £50! I'm glad our stall gained such an amount as I know its going to a very good cause."

I'm sure that we can all agree that it was a very productive and exciting day, considering we managed to raise just over £300. I'm sure you can all agree in saying that we are already looking forward to next year's fundraiser. I'm sure it will be just as good as this year's.

LATEST NEWS





## Higher Education Opportunities in Sport: Guest Talk Inspires Year 12 Students

Cowley Sixth Form College recently welcomed a visitor from the Wigan Athletic Community Trust to deliver an engaging and informative talk to our Year 12 BTEC Sport students, focusing on the exciting Higher Education pathways available within the sports industry.

The session introduced students to two fantastic progression routes: the Foundation Degree in Community Football Coaching and Development and the Foundation Degree in Sports Coaching and Development, both delivered in partnership with the University of South Wales.

Students gained valuable insight into the structure of the courses, entry requirements, assessment methods, and the wide range of career opportunities they can lead to, from coaching and community development roles to sports performance, education and leadership careers.

The talk also highlighted the strong emphasis on practical experience, employability and real-world application, giving students a clear picture of how these programmes support their long-term ambitions. Our students were highly engaged throughout, asking thoughtful questions and showing real enthusiasm for the pathways on offer.

We would like to thank the Wigan Athletic Community Trust for providing such a valuable opportunity and for inspiring our students to consider their next steps within the sports sector.

# LATEST NEWS

