



# CORLEY ACADEMY

Inclusion Aspiration Perseverance Independence

## NEWSLETTER

March 2024

## Headteacher Welcome

We have reached the end of another curriculum rich term. Students have participated in many activities and competitions which you will read about in this edition of the newsletter. A big shout out to Year 11 and Post 16 who have been sitting practice exams for their upcoming exams in the summer. We hope you continue with the same focus and motivation going into the Summer Term. Wishing you all an enjoyable Easter break.

## World Book Day

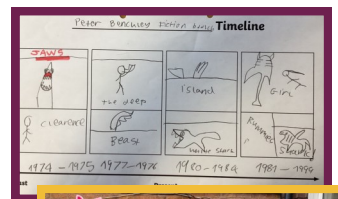
On Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March, staff and students fully embraced their love of learning by dressing up as their favourite book characters, creating props from their favourite books and completing book inspired work across the curriculum!

In English, students considered the power of book covers and blurbs as they created their own based on their own special interest. We had book covers ranging from My Little Pony to Ted Lasso. In Art, students took some time out to read and explore the artwork of Where The Wild Things Are, stopping to discuss and analyse key details.

The Mathematics department decided to dress as characters from the story of 'The Three Little Pigs'. Lessons were prepared around this theme, with classes carrying out a range of fun educational tasks. Students in Year 7 who are looking at Measurements this half term, calculated the area of the different rooms in the 'Brick House' that was built by the pigs and had the opportunity to design a scaled drawing of what the garden may look like. Students in Key Stage 3, who are covering Position and Direction this half term, got the opportunity to draw and use maps of how to get to the houses of the Three Little Pigs, using compass point directions.

Class 11 enjoyed exploring an author of their choice during World Book Day activities. Taking on an Asdan Life Skills challenge, they developed their research, numeracy and literacy skills by creating a timeline of books written by their selected writer. We discussed how information can be presented on a timeline with varying degrees of detail but that its purpose was to see a journey, narrative or series of events in a clear and accessible way. It was fantastic to see the passion Class 11 have for reading and they clearly demonstrated that they could apply a range of skills across the curriculum.

All in all, it was a fantastic day with both staff and students sharing their love of reading and all things books with one another. World Book Day vouchers were distributed and students seemed keen to get to the shops and claim their free books.



# Strong Voices

On Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March, Ms Wilson and Ms Matheson took four Year Seven students to a Strong Voices meeting at Sherbourne Fields School. Students were given a presentation by 'Coventry Youth Activists' explaining how influential its' members and our city have been in the improvement of laws regarding young disabled people and their safety while online. Our students also took part in the development of a new app to be launched by the council. This app will be used to improve access for disabled people and their families, to access available services around the city. The feedback students gave was invaluable and much appreciated. Students respectfully represented Corley Academy, the staff were very proud.

# THANK YOU

## Thank you!

We would like to say a massive **THANK YOU** to a parent of a year 9 student, who very kindly donated over 30 books to school. These books have already been put to good use in classrooms and were a great addition to World Book Day.

## Drama Student Teaches

One of our Year 10 students delivered a fantastic vocal skills workshop to his peers as part of his Bronze Arts Award. An avid writer, he has adapted the novel 'Stormbreaker' by Anthony Horowitz into a screenplay. This was then practised and performed by the students following the expert guidance on how to adapt their vocal skills by their peer. Ms Hickling was extremely impressed by the student delivering the workshop and those taking part; it was professionally delivered with all students participating and engaging in demonstrating these skills. Well done and thank you to all of those involved!

## Science Matters

Students across the school have been engaging in exciting practical science activities this half term. They have been developing analytical skills, understanding the process of scientific investigations and developing their understanding of scientific concepts.

Key Stage 4 GCSE Biology students have been carrying a required practical, investigating the effect of light intensity on the rate of photosynthesis in pondweed. Students observe photosynthesis in action by counting the bubbles of oxygen produced by the pondweed in different light intensities.



## Spring into Baking

The cooking enrichment group have been busy baking again this half term creating a host of seasonal spring delights. They have been focussing on producing heart shaped shortbread for Valentine's Day, wonderful Welsh cakes for St David's Day and Red Nose red velvet cupcakes for Comic Relief. To finish this half term they have been making some Easter treats.

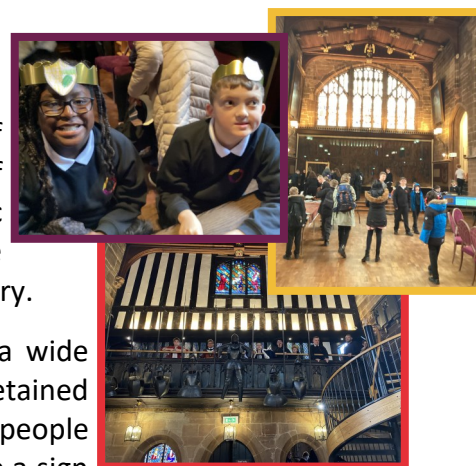
Well done to all of those students who are completing Maths homework on a regular basis either on MyMaths or on paper, making great progress and gaining lots of compass rewards. Please encourage your child to complete homework on a regular basis as it can make a big difference to their performance in exams in year 11. If you need help logging onto MyMaths, please see the guidance on our [website](#).

To help those who might struggle to complete the tasks at home we have set up a Maths homework club - one on a Monday at 1pm for KS3 including year 7 and one on a Tuesday at 12.30pm for KS4. These clubs have access to computers so tasks can be completed online and comes complete with a Maths teacher in case more help is needed. Please encourage your child you come along to a club.

## Year 7 in the Middle Ages

On Wednesday 13th March, the whole Year 7 cohort and 11 members of staff visited the 700-year-old St Mary's Guildhall, right in the centre of Coventry. This was an educational visit to support the 'Middle Ages' topic in our Humanities curriculum and was a fantastic opportunity for the students to broaden their learning and experience medieval life in Coventry.

Jessica, our guide, was very welcoming and provided the group with a wide range of exciting activities. The students visited the kitchen which still retained many original medieval features such as the ovens, and learned that the people of this time did not like to eat root vegetables as they thought they were a sign of the devil!



Next on the itinerary, the students visited the Great Hall which held banquets and would be attended by important people such as Kings and Queens -even the late Queen, Elizabeth II, visited here! Students had the opportunity to examine the giant tapestry and identify special symbols displayed within this. Students, also, attempted weaving using the original techniques which were used to create the tapestry and dressed up in historically accurate clothes that would have been worn by, for example, a noble or a peasant. The Hall was decorated with amazing articles and the students particularly enjoyed the suits of armour that adorned the Hall and the intricate details on the roof.

One student said *"I really liked making the crowns because they were gold and silver and I like cutting and colouring. I liked investigating the foods in the kitchen. I liked searching for the Kings and Queens in the tapestry. I enjoyed eating my lunch in the Great Hall."* Another student said *"The trip was really good. It was like we had four lessons of Humanities to discover more about history and the Middle Ages! I liked the tapestry and how detailed it was."*

All staff were really impressed with Year 7, who represented Corley Academy brilliantly on the trip. Well done and thank you everyone!

## Coventry and Warwickshire Pan-disability League Kicks Off!

A new pan-disability football league has started in Coventry and Warwickshire. Some of our year 7 students are already part of a team. If you would like your child to join a team please contact one of the following: Attleborough Juniors, Coundon Court, Coventrians, Coventry Saracens, Rugby Borough Juniors, and Unity Sports Club to find out more information.



# Lunchtime Music Concerts

Students from Class 10 and our Option A Music group attended Warwick Arts Centre this half term, experiencing the sounds of strings with performances by international stars, violinist Harriet Mackenzie and cellist, Kosta Popovic. They played a variety of pieces, including music by JS Bach and world premiere of a piece by Harriet Mackenzie. Our students were able to chat with the musicians after the concert and ask them questions. They also had an opportunity to play the 'experimental' instruments outside of the concert hall. All of our students enjoyed the experience (even if the music was not to everyone's taste) and were excellent ambassadors for the school. Members of the audience, Warwick Arts Centre and the musicians themselves all said how well our students listened to the music. Well done everyone!



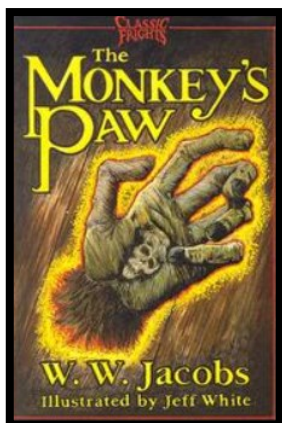
We hope to attend more concerts throughout the summer term and look forward to hearing a wide range of music.

## Whole School Focus Day 2– The country we live in

On Friday 13th March, students had the opportunity to take part in a variety of workshops throughout the day including: debating, creating OpArt, writing and reading poetry, orienteering, golf and making delicious scones for afternoon tea, all around the theme of 'The country we live in'.

Students were challenged to think about what makes us proud to be British and what it means to be British as well as thinking about the British values of tolerance, democracy, the rule of law and individual liberty.

We are proud of the way students' adapted to the changes of the day and were pleased to hear such enthusiastic recounts of their favourite workshops.



## Recommended Reads

Each newsletter we will feature a recommended read or a book review. In this edition of the newsletter, our recommendation comes from Class 11:

"Class 11 recommend a short pre-1914 story called 'The Monkey's Paw'. It tells the story of one fateful night where Mr and Mrs White and their son, Herbert, are visited by a soldier with a strange, magical object. This story has great language features, builds tension and leaves the reader in complete shock; no spoilers but we would like to say "be careful what you wish for".

*Wishing all our students and families a restful Easter holiday. We welcome students back to school on Tuesday 9th April 2024.*