



# CORLEY ACADEMY

Inclusion Aspiration Perseverance Independence

## NEWSLETTER

October 2025

## Headteacher Welcome

We returned to school in September full of excitement for the year ahead. We welcomed new members of staff: Mr White as Maths Teacher; Ms Johnston as Examination Officer and welcomed our new year 7 cohort. Students have settled back into school life really well. You will read in this edition of the newsletter just a few of the many exciting opportunities students have been involved in this half term.

## Duke of Edinburgh Update

Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Expedition students have been busy completing their Qualifying Expedition this half term between Monday 29<sup>th</sup> – Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2025. Students decided to identify the condition of sign posts and also observe the variety of wildlife and other animals seen during the two days of walking around Brinklow and Corley.

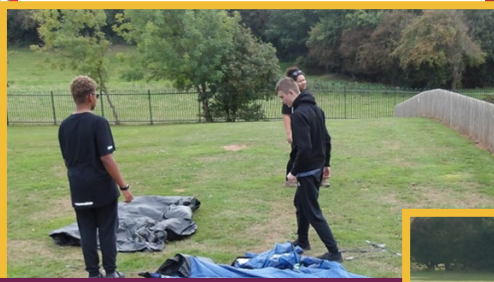


Many students opted to camp overnight where they spent time working as a team to prepare and cook their dinner, wash up, put their tents up and enjoy some s'mores round the camp fire.

All students demonstrated resilience at carrying on walking even though they were tired, as well as when we came across a mother swan with her very grown up cygnets who initially did not want us to travel along our planned route!

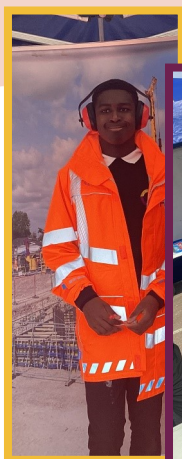
Well done to all Bronze DofE students for completing this key section of their Award. A special congratulations is also given to a Post 16 student who was unable to complete the expedition last academic year due to injury, but he has now completed it this time around. This success means that the student has now fully completed his Bronze DofE Award, and he can now continue working towards his Silver DofE Award in Post 16.

Well done all for an excellent expedition, and we look forward to the Silver Practice and Qualifying Expeditions which are coming up just before the end of Autumn 1.



# EKFB Construction Gala

The Year 10 Lifeskills and West 3 mentor group took part in a visit to the EKFB building projects site in Bicester on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2025. EKFB held a stem event (EKFB Construction Gala) designed to engage students in discussions around employment in the construction industry in a fun and hands-on manner. The students jumped in with all of their enthusiasm; taking advantage of all of the stimulating exhibits and demonstrations that were on show. They learned about different career paths, equipment and logistics that helped the EKFB group complete their HS2 management job. The students particularly enjoyed the VR experiences and the RC excavators, bin lorries and dump trucks. Well done to all students who were a credit to Corley Academy.



## Exploring Future Pathways

Our Year 11 students have been busy exploring their options for further education. We recently welcomed **Hereward College**, who delivered an engaging assembly all about college life, daily routines, and the wide range of subjects on offer. To find out more or attend one of their upcoming open events, visit their website: [Hereward College Events](https://www.herewardcollege.co.uk/events).

Continuing the theme, Year 11 also enjoyed a visit to **Coventry College**, where they toured the campus and explored the excellent subject-specific facilities and resources. The visit sparked great enthusiasm, with students asking plenty of thoughtful questions about courses and opportunities.

If you'd like to find out more, you can register for Coventry College's open events here: [Coventry College Open Events](https://www.coventrycollege.co.uk/events).



## Beautiful Bakes

Preparation for Adulthood cookery group have made a fantastic start to this term. They have been showcasing their skills in cake making using different methods. Using the 'all in one', creaming, rubbing in and melting method, they have produced wonderful array of cupcakes, jam buns, rock cakes, Dutch apple cake and mini carrot cakes. What a brilliant bunch of bakers!

# Lunchtime Music Concert

On Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> October, ten of our students attended a lunchtime concert at Warwick Arts Centre that featured the talents of Martha McLorinan (vocalist) and Lynn Arnold (piano). They performed a range of mainly classical music, which included some pieces by Benjamin Britten which he composed when he was still a teenager! All our students were excellent ambassadors for our school, listening carefully and politely, and learning to applaud at the appropriate places (you have to wait until the end of a group of songs!) Our students enjoyed talking with the musicians after the concert too.



Our students thoroughly enjoyed the performance and had this to say about it: "It was a beautiful concert and I really enjoyed it! The piano was my favourite part and the signing was very beautiful", 'The concert was magnificent!' and 'It was amazing. I really enjoyed it. I loved every part of it. I loved the opera singer and pianist; they were really talented.'

We hope to attend more concerts at Warwick Arts Centre later in the year.

## Fantastic Fundraising!

We kicked off our fundraising for 2025-26 with Wear it Yellow non-uniform day on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> October to highlight World Mental Health Day. We raised **£136.40** for YoungMinds.



## STEM on Track: Go, Go, Go!

A brand-new year of the **STEM on Track** programme is off to a fantastic start, with a new team of enthusiastic builders, engineers, and future drivers ready to take on the challenge! This year's group has already impressed us with their teamwork and dedication as they begin building their go-karts.

Students have shown great engagement with the online lessons, diving into the STEM principles behind the project and eagerly collecting points for their teams along the way.

We are thrilled to have **Stellantis** continuing their sponsorship of the programme, sharing their industry expertise and supporting the technical elements of the build. A big thank you to **Becks, Justin, Mark, and Joel** from Stellantis, who visited to talk about their careers in the motor industry — truly inspiring our future engineers!

## Primary School connects with our Reading Leaders

On Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> September, Keresley Grange Primary Academy Year 1 students visited us at Corley Academy as part of our ongoing connection with them and our 'Reading and Leaders'. Joining us in the library and for some 'al fresco' reading, the students from both schools engaged brilliantly with a range of fiction and non-fiction books, many linking directly to the younger children's special interests. We also took some time to enjoy a walk and talk in our beautiful surroundings, giving Corley Academy students the chance to put our value of inclusion into practice by being excellent role models and mentors throughout.

We look forward to a festive storytelling visit next half term at Keresley Grange Primary Academy and can't wait for more book-based adventures.

# Table Cricket Tournament

We visited Sherbourne Fields school to take part in a friendly Table Cricket tournament, organised by Warwickshire Cricket Board. Table cricket is an adapted version of cricket that is played on a table tennis table with teams of six taking it in turn to bowl or bat. This game has been specially designed to give young people with a disability the chance to play and compete in a secure yet competitive setting. For most of our students who took part this was their first experience of Table Cricket and it was one they thoroughly enjoyed!



Corley students not only competed against Sherbourne Fields but they also socialised with Sherbourne students and shared conversation and jokes throughout the visit. We will hopefully be bringing Table Cricket to our Corley PE curriculum in the future!

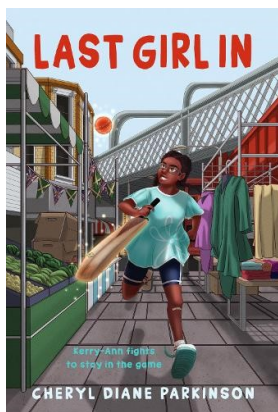
## Post 16 Update

It has been great getting to know the new Post 16 class this year and we have had a very busy half term so far. As part of their transition to year 12 and 13, students have taken part in outdoor learning sessions at Coombe Abbey and the Memorial Park. At Coombe Abbey, we went on a long walk before a raft building challenge and a picnic lunch. At the Memorial Park, we played group games, went for a walk and enjoyed the sensory gardens before going for lunch at McDonald's. Behaviour was exemplary and the students were a credit to the school.



We have had visits from Emma at Grapevine each week. Emma has been doing some health-based workshops with Post 16. The class engaged really well with the sessions, participated in games and were able to answer many questions.

We have also had visitors from two colleges. Robert Jones from Coventry College and Cath Sherlock from Hereward College have been in to speak to the group about life at college and the courses and pathways that they have available. Post 16 students asked many questions and now have lots to think about as they begin to prepare for their next steps after Corley.



## Recommended Reads

Each newsletter we will feature a recommended read or a book review. In this edition of the newsletter, our recommendation comes from a Year 8 student:

### **Last Girl In by Cheryl Diane Parkinson**

*"I recommend this book for other students because it is suitably challenging to read and it is full of sport and adventure. If you like sports then you will enjoy the story of Kerry-Ann, the last girl in, and if you like cricket then you will LOVE it!"*

*Wishing all our students and families a restful half term.*

*We welcome students back to school on  
Monday 3rd November 2025.*