



Headteacher Welcome

We have completed our first full term of the new academic year. Students have continued to thrive, enjoying many fantastic opportunities such as Year 11 exploring their options for next year, collaboration events with other schools in our Trust and contributing generously to our charity collections. Thank you so much for all of your donations towards these fantastic causes—it really is appreciated. May I take this opportunity to wish you all an enjoyable and restful Christmas. 🎄



Remembrance Day

On Tuesday 11th November, we held our annual Remembrance Day Assembly outside. This year, one of our year 9 students read the poem “In Flanders Field” while students listened respectfully and observed a minute silence to remember the sacrifices made by people in past and present conflicts. Students were invited to decorate a poppy and write a message on the back. These were placed together to create a wonderful wreath which was placed in reception. All students were a credit to Corley Academy in the way they participated in the service, showing respect, maturity and understanding.

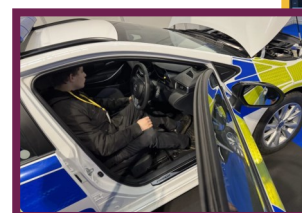
Year 11 Explore Their Futures at the National School and College Leavers Festival

In November, our Year 11 students attended the National School and College Leavers Festival at the NEC in Birmingham— a fantastic event designed to help young people explore the exciting opportunities awaiting them after school.

The festival brought together a wide range of employers, colleges, universities, and training providers from across the UK. Students had the chance to learn more about potential career paths, apprenticeships, and further education options in a variety of industries, including the military, police force, automotive, security, fire prevention, and STEM sectors, amongst many others.

As well as gathering useful information and advice, students enjoyed getting hands-on with a range of interactive activities. From controlling military robots, testing their skills on flight simulators and trying on uniforms to having their fingerprints taken by the police, there was plenty to keep everyone engaged and inspired throughout the day.

The event proved to be both educational and enjoyable, helping our students to think carefully about their next steps and the many exciting possibilities ahead of them. “I had an absolute blast,” said one of our Year 11 students. We’re proud of how our students represented the school and look forward to seeing how this experience shapes their future choices!



Christmas Tree Competition

Class 3 visited St Mary's Church in Fillongley to assemble our entry for the Christmas Tree Festival. The Class have worked very hard to create biodegradable decorations that we hung on our wooden tree. They drilled holes, sawn the dowel and created a range of beautiful ornaments that we hope will attract votes from the visiting public. There were nearly 50 other trees in the competition so it is with great joy to announce that Class 3 won the competition. Well done to all students!



Corley Academy and Kingsbury Academy Outdoor Learning links

On Wednesday 19th November, our Forest School at Corley Academy welcomed outdoor learning staff and students from Kingsbury Academy for an exciting enrichment session. Activities included a special interest-themed scavenger hunt, as well as time around the fire enjoying marshmallows.

Our students demonstrated excellent leadership, compassion and modelled our value of inclusion so brilliantly, ensuring that all visitors were fully supported and able to participate. It was wonderful to see teamwork, creativity and compassion in action, reflecting what is so important to us in a real-world setting.

This collaboration highlights the positive impact of shared learning experiences and we hope that it is just the start of our connection with Kingsbury and the Outdoor Learning curriculum. A big well done to everyone for making the day such a memorable and inspiring occasion.



Class 4 and 5 Christmas Fayre

On Monday 15th December, Class 4 and 5 planned and hosted their own Christmas Fayre. It was not only a success but also a fantastic personal achievement for all of Class 4 and 5. Each student had input into planning each stage of the event from the type of stall and the posters to what was sold. Students learnt about money and customer service in the process of planning. All KS3 and KS4 students were invited in 25 minute slots, and were able to spend money at the Christmas Fayre. They were served by Class 4 and 5 students and supporting staff members. Some of the highlights were the Tombola which was busy throughout the fayre, the Christmas for sale stall which showcased handmade items from all across life skills and Youth Enterprise Preparation for Adulthood, as well as kind donations from volunteers! Class 4 and 5 would like to say a massive thank you to all staff, students and parents who made this amazing event possible, with your donations, support and trust in us to make this event truly magical!



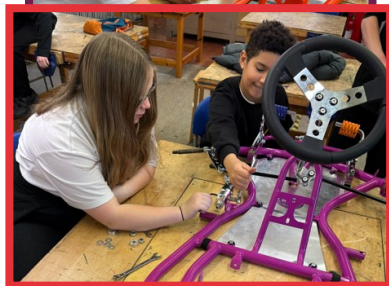
Triumph at HADO VR Tournament

Our STEM Enrichment group recently enjoyed an exciting visit to HADO, where students had the chance to take part in Virtual Reality dodgeball. The event brought together teams from four schools, with Corley represented by four enthusiastic squads ready to take on the challenge. Students explored how the technology worked to create the immersive VR experience and were able to see the link between science, technology and interactive gaming.



All students were fully engaged throughout the session and thoroughly enjoyed taking part in some friendly competition against other SEN schools within our network. Every student demonstrated excellent teamwork, sportsmanship, and a willingness to step outside their comfort zone.

A special congratulations goes to Corley 1, who were crowned winners of the mini tournament! Overall, it was a fantastic experience that inspired curiosity, teamwork, and a deeper interest in STEM innovation.



STEM on Track Update 2025/26

We're thrilled to be back for our second year of the *STEM on Track* enrichment project, and the excitement in the workshop is as strong as ever. Our go-karts are slowly being pieced back together by two new groups of eager and enthusiastic students. Unlike last year, this build season has brought a few extra challenges, as we've discovered several components that need repairing or replacing. While this has made the engineering process more hands-on, it has also given students a fantastic real-world opportunity to problem-solve and apply their developing STEM skills.

On the learning side of the project, our students are engaging brilliantly with the online platform. They are exploring how core STEM principles link directly to the design and performance of our go-karts, as well as how these concepts play a vital role in the wider world of motor racing.

We are also delighted to have the continued support of our incredible sponsors at the **Stellantis Performance Academy**. Their expertise, guidance, and generous funding remain essential to the success of the project. We would like to express our sincere thanks for their ongoing commitment.

Into Film Festival

Classes 11 and 12 visited the Coventry Showcase Cinema on Friday 14th November to be part of the "Into Film" festival that happens each year across the country.

The students watched *Sonic 3* and were all very enthusiastic about the opportunity. They showed resilience and bravery by being part of an audience, and indicated that this is an activity they would like to be able to do independently outside of school with their families and eventually on their own with friends.



Students will next participate in the festival by writing a film review to be entered into the national competition. All students had a lovely time! For more information on Into Film visit their [website here](#).

Reading Leaders Festive Themed Literacy Morning

On Thursday 11th December, our Reading Leaders had the wonderful opportunity to visit Keresley Grange Primary Academy for a festive-themed literacy morning. Students enjoyed reading with Key Stage One pupils, helping to decorate both cupcakes and the Christmas tree, all while engaging in meaningful conversations with younger children. Two of our Class 12 Life skills students also wrote festive stories just for them so we will be sending recordings of these for them to enjoy in the New Year.

The visit celebrated our shared love of reading and provided an exciting chance for our students to develop their leadership whilst developing our values of aspiration and inclusion. The interaction between Corley Academy and Keresley Grange continues to bring mutual benefits, fostering confidence and enthusiasm for learning in both schools.

Well done to all our Reading Leaders for their creativity, kindness and leadership during this special festive event – you truly made the morning magical for everyone involved. And thank you to Keresley Grange staff and students for a beautiful Christmas cards, very special cupcake wreath and all the special times we shared.



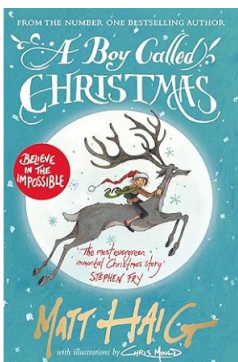
Fantastic Fundraising!

Our fundraising continued this half term with a coffee day on Thursday 13th November, raising funds for Macmillan Cancer Support. The event was held at Corley Village Hall and students and visitors were able to pay £1 for a drink and a cake. Everyone had a great time, and to top it all off, the grand total raised was a huge **£500**. Well done everyone!

Also, during November, we raised money for the Poppy Appeal and on Friday 14th November, to raise money for the BBC Children in Need appeal, students were invited to wear non-uniform. **£176.02** was raised.

On Friday 12th December, students were invited to wear their festive Christmas jumpers to support the Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day appeal. Another successful collection of **£113.60** has been raised.

Thank you all very much for your generosity supporting these worthy causes.



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:

A Boy Called Christmas by Matt Haig

"I really like the book because it is a good story and you get to learn about the origins of the jolly fat man!"

Sending very best wishes to all our families for an enjoyable and peaceful Christmas.

We welcome students back to school on Monday 5th January 2026