



CORLEY ACADEMY

Inclusion Aspiration Perseverance Independence

NEWSLETTER

July 2026

Headteacher Welcome

We have had an exceptionally busy Summer Term. From exams to many amazing visits, we have managed to achieve a lot in the past seven weeks - some of which you will read in this edition of the newsletter. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our wonderful staff for their hard work and commitment to our students over the whole of this academic year. I wish all of our students, families and staff an enjoyable and restful summer and look forward to welcoming our students back to school in September.

Rights Respecting Schools Silver Award Success

We are delighted to share that our Rights Respecting Schools Steering Group has successfully helped the school achieve the **Silver: Rights Aware** award as part of the UNICEF Rights Respecting Schools programme.

Our UNICEF Assessor reflected that *"the pupils spoke about many significant improvements in their school that have come about through pupil voice, whether through the School Council, Rights Respecting Steering Group, Action Against Bullying Committee or through the termly Baraza"*. Pupils explained *"We're good at deciding things. The Baraza allows us to ask anything we like"*, *"Our voice is always listened to and linked to Article 12"*.



As part of the assessment process, members of the steering group met virtually with the assessor, where they confidently answered questions and spoke in detail about the work we have been doing to embed children's rights across the school. They represented the school brilliantly and clearly demonstrated their understanding of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and our journey so far.

A few days later, we held a small celebration with the Steering Group to recognise this fantastic achievement. During this time, we also reviewed the accreditation report for Silver and began planning our next steps as we work towards achieving Gold status.

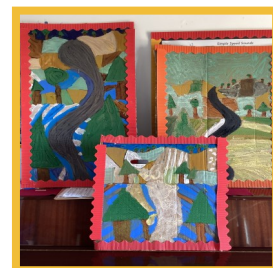
Our discussions focused on how we can further develop our school by:

- Encouraging more students and staff to confidently use the language of the UNCRC.
- Embedding rights respecting actions more consistently across Corley School life.
- Continuing to build a shared understanding of children's rights within our whole school community.

We are incredibly proud of our steering group for their hard work, commitment and leadership. This is an exciting milestone and we look forward to continuing our journey towards becoming a Gold: Rights Respecting School.

David Hockney Inspiration

Inspired by our topic on the work of artist David Hockney, Class 3 created their own large scale pieces. They thought carefully about complementary and contrasting colours and have made some incredibly striking artwork as a result.

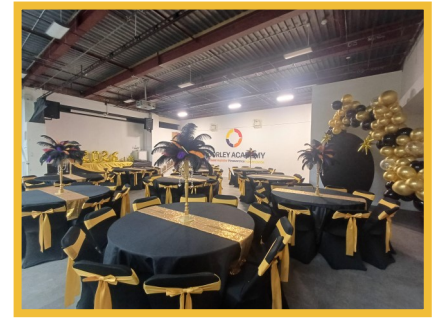


Year 11 Leavers' Celebrations

After a busy exam season, our Year 11 students enjoyed a well-deserved treat to Drayton Manor Theme Park before joining together to celebrate their achievements at the Year 11 Leavers Celebration Assembly. Students were presented with their Record of Achievement folders and shared a delicious meal with their families and staff.

A big thank you goes to the Heart of England Conference Centre for donating tables for our Leavers' Assembly and to Ms Merrithew and her team for the beautiful table decorations that made the event truly memorable.

As we say goodbye to some students and look forward to welcoming others into our Post 16 cohort in September, we wish all our Year 11 and Post 16 leavers the very best for their future paths. You will always be a part of the Corley Academy family.



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EVENTS AND CONFERENCING

STEM on Track Grand Finals 2026

What a fantastic way to round off this year's STEM on Track programme! On Saturday 20th June, our students attended the STEM on Track Grand Finals 2026, competing against schools from across the programme after months of designing, building and preparing their karts.

We are incredibly proud that both of our karts passed scrutineering with flying colours, a testament to the dedication, precision and teamwork our students demonstrated throughout the build process.

Our drivers represented Corley brilliantly on the track. Kart 10 led the race for an incredible 20 minutes before mechanical complications brought some real-world engineering challenges into play. Despite this setback, both teams showed resilience and determination, finishing a very respectable 14th and 17th out of 23 competing karts.

It was fantastic to have our build team and staff there to cheer on the drivers and celebrate everything the students have achieved together throughout the project.

A huge thank you to Stellantis Performance Academy for your incredible support throughout the programme. Your encouragement, expertise and investment have been an invaluable part of our students' journey.

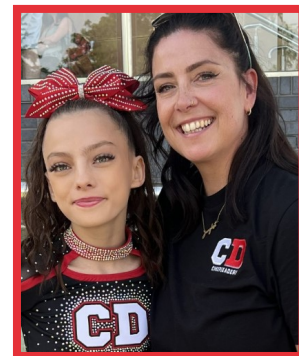
The season may be over, but the work doesn't stop here! Our students will now begin dismantling the karts, ready to start the process all over again for next season.

Well done to everyone involved – what an achievement!



Cheer Success!

Last month, Miss Maddocks had the pleasure of watching Kiera compete in her very first cheerleading competition in Worcester. We are delighted to share that Kiera and her team, **Flash**, came away with **1st place**! Kiera showed fantastic **PERSEVERANCE** through her training, **ASPIRATION** by taking on a new challenge, and excellent **INCLUSION** and **INDEPENDENCE** as part of her team. She is a brilliant example of our Corley Values in action. Congratulations Kiera. We are all very proud of you!



Train Club's Visit to Miniature Railway

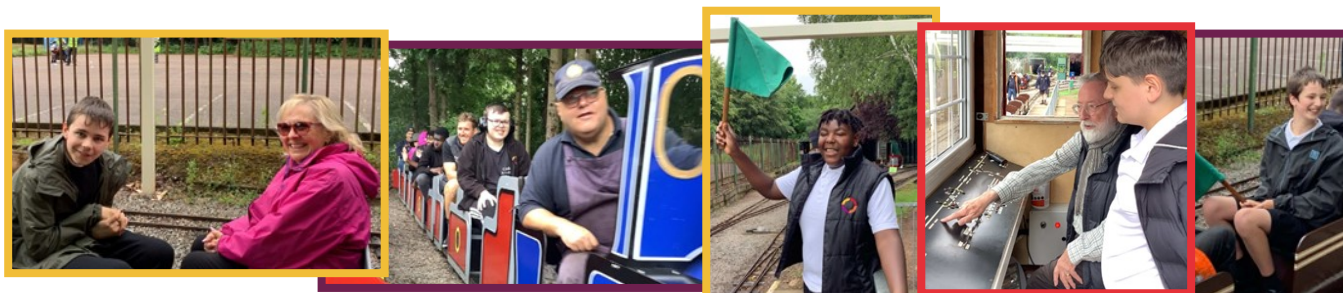
Our ever popular Train Club enjoyed a wonderful morning visiting the Copsewood Miniature Railway, thanks to the generosity of an incredible team of volunteers who open their railway free of charge to special schools on selected days each year.

The students were treated to an unforgettable experience, travelling on both steam and diesel locomotives, as well as the rare opportunity to ride behind a unique double-headed train featuring both a steam engine and a diesel engine working together.

The visit was not only great fun but also highly educational. Students learned how the railway operates safely, discovering how signals and control systems are used to manage train movements and prevent collisions. They were even invited into the signal box, where volunteers explained how the railway is controlled and answered the students' many enthusiastic questions.

During a well-earned refreshment break, students explored an impressive model railway display inside the café, watching the miniature trains travel through the detailed landscape while learning more about the hobby and the engineering behind it.

Corley Academy would like to extend our sincere thanks to all of the volunteers for their warmth, patience and enthusiasm. Their passion for the railway created a memorable experience for our students, who returned to school full of excitement and eager to share everything they had learned.



KS3 Young Writers Poetry Competition

During the Summer term, KS3 were given the opportunity to enter a Young Writers Poetry Competition. The theme of the competition was 'I have a dream' inspired by the famous Martin Luther King Jr.'s famous civil rights speech. Students wrote poems about their dreams, their ambitions and even their nightmares! Young Writers have chosen to publish all of those who entered, which is an incredible achievement for those students! Well done to all students who entered and we look forward to the winners being announced and books being published over the summer!

Book Farm Visit

On Thursday 2nd July, some of our Year 10 students went on a visit to Astley Book Farm as part of their Functional Skills 'planning a trip' unit of work. All students took the opportunity to explore the many nooks and crannies and had a look through some of the wonderful books on offer. Every student bought a book and some even treated themselves to a cake! Students commented *"It was amazing and I want to go back and explore some more"*, *"I have enjoyed the book I bought about Coventry plus it was quiet in there"* and *"Firstly, I was unsure of what to expect but when I got there, I really liked it and I want to go back."* All students were impeccably well behaved and we all had a lovely time.



Summer Fare

On Thursday 9th July, the Young Enterprise group hosted our first Summer Fare. Held in our beautiful school grounds, on a very warm day, the Young Enterprise group arranged stalls consisting of face painting, free books, recycled-to-new items and sweet treats. Students also had the opportunity to enjoy a BBQ lunch instead of their usual school meal and enjoyed a host of fun activities including beat the goalkeeper, play your cards right and the very popular soak the teacher! An enjoyable afternoon was had by all. Thank you to parents and carers for your donations towards the event.



Outdoor Learning Visit

Corley students were invited back to Kingsbury Academy to assist their Outdoor Learning students. On this occasion, Corley students were helping the Kingsbury students erect tents. They were incredibly patient and supportive of the younger students, and both tents were put up in no time!

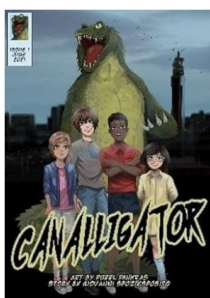
Gary and Pumpkins First Bath

The Guinea pigs, Gary and Pumpkin, had their first bath at school. The students came together to help with this as the boys were not very keen on getting wet! Students worked really well together showcasing their nurturing skills.



Duke of Edinburgh

Thank you to our Duke of Edinburgh participants who spent 442 hours volunteering between 1st April 2025 and 31 March 2026. The Duke of Edinburgh award scheme said *'We are immensely proud of the dedication, effort and achievement of young people making an impact in their community.'* What an incredible achievement! Well done to all involved.



Recommended Read

Each newsletter we will feature a recommended read or a book review. In this edition of the newsletter, our recommendation comes from a Year 9 student:

"Canalligator is a graphic novel set in the canals of Birmingham and tells the rhyming tale of Casey, an unlikely reptile hero and his friendship with four young people."

Sending very best wishes to all our students and families for an enjoyable Summer holiday. We look forward to welcoming our students back to school on Thursday 3rd September 2026