



— The Cooper School —

Parent Bulletin

No 11 – Friday 21st November 2025

Key Dates and Upcoming Events

Wednesday 26 th November	KS5 Geography trip
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Next week (w/c 24th November) is Week B



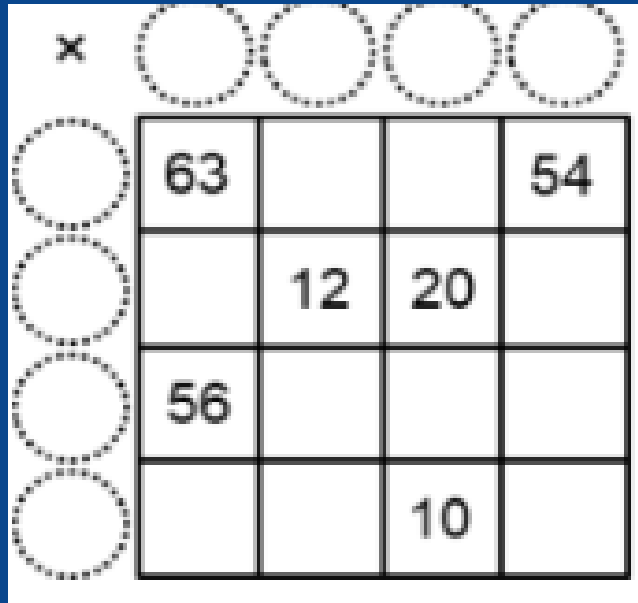
On Saturday the 15th, the students taking part in their Bronze DofE Award took part in a training session on how to navigate their edofe app. They were required to fill in what volunteering they were going to do, what physical activity and what skill they were going to learn. Some of the volunteering that the students are doing is helping out with coaching and sports leadership, litter picking and park run. The physical section is taking part in sports like football, working out in the gym, cycling and walking. The skills sections involve students learning to cook, reading, acting and drama and art. There were also 3 Year 10 students who attended as Young Leaders for the Silver Award. They will also be there to support the Bronze DofE students to complete their award.

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MATHS

Our KS3 PDM groups have been competing this week in a TTRS competition. Congratulations to 7MCh, 7MMa and 9GMa for their high scores. Top student performers Ella G (Y7), Jack M (Y7) and Priscilla (Y9). The challenge starts again on Monday - good luck!

Do you want a quick maths puzzle of the week? Each circle has a different digit from 2 to 9 to complete the times tables grid. Our Year 7s have been puzzling over these during lessons.



This year, our Sports Leaders have already made a fantastic impact across our Primary School sport events. So far, 45 Sports Leaders have supported and helped run activities and festivals for our feeder Primary Schools, including Cross Country, Girls' Football, and next week's T1 Rugby Festival. Thanks to their leadership, a total of 295 primary pupils have taken part in these events so far. We are incredibly proud of the confidence, teamwork and responsibility our leaders continue to show for every event. If any students are interested in joining the Sports Leaders programme, they should speak to Mr Brown for more information



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Important Notice Regarding Student Welfare and Toilet Access

To all Parents and Guardians of The Cooper School Community,
We wanted to include a response in this week's bulletin further to recent discussions on social media regarding student access to toilet facilities during lesson time. We understand that these discussions have caused concern, and we want to take this opportunity to clarify our policy and reassure you of our commitment to the welfare and dignity of every student.

Our Policy on Toilet Access

- Toilet Access: All students are able to access toilets during both morning break and lunch time. There are allocated toilets for Year 7, Years 8 & 9 and Years 10 & 11. Each break is 30/35 minutes long and access is supervised by duty staff. These natural breaks in the day provide an opportunity for all students to access toilets across the school
- During Lesson Time: Our standard procedure, common across many secondary schools, is to encourage students to use the facilities during the designated break and lunch times outlined above. This helps to maximise learning time and minimises disruption to lessons. However, staff will allow students to access the toilet if they need to via the allocation of an out of lesson toilet pass.
- Urgent Needs: If an urgent need arises during a lesson, students are permitted to go upon communicating their genuine need to their teacher.

Protocol for Addressing Concerns

We value the feedback from our community and are committed to promptly addressing any concerns you may have regarding our policies or your child's welfare.

We wish to emphasise that public social media forums are not the appropriate venue for resolving individual student issues or discussing sensitive school matters. Discussions on public platforms often lack necessary context, can include inaccuracies, and ultimately prevent us from resolving issues directly, discreetly, and effectively.

If you have any specific concerns or require clarification about your child's welfare, access, or any school procedure, please contact your child's PDM in the first instance so that any concerns may be passed onto relevant colleagues enabling us to investigate and address the matter confidentially and efficiently.

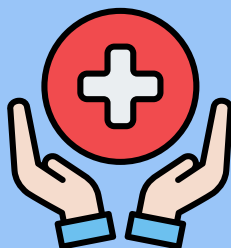
Parent Code of Conduct

Thank You to Our Students and Parents!

We would like to extend a huge thank you to our students for their cooperation and excellent behaviour during the recent flu immunisation sessions!

The students were outstanding—they showed great maturity, resilience, and patience throughout the process. Their calm and positive attitude made the day run incredibly smoothly for the nurses and staff.

We also appreciate the efforts of our Parents and Carers in ensuring that consent forms were returned promptly. Your support is vital in helping us keep our school community healthy.



Chromebook Scheme update

We are delighted that the vast majority of our students (95.5%) now have a personal device that they use both in lessons and at home to support their learning.

If your child(ren) is not yet part of the scheme, a reminder that the £50 loan option is now appearing on your Parentpay and, once paid, a device can be issued very quickly.

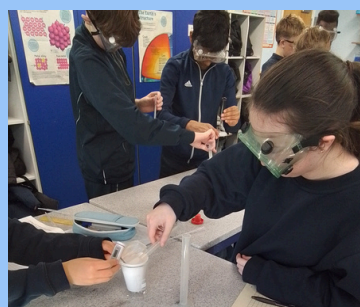
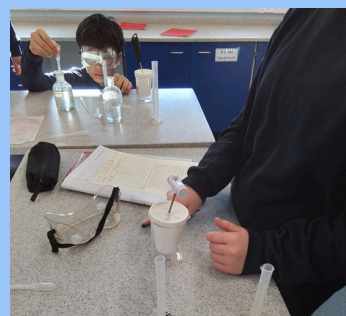
We are passionate about ensuring that our students have the tools and skills they need to flourish in our increasingly digital world and utilising online resources is now an increasing priority in our lessons.

From 1st December we will no longer have devices in school that can be routinely lent to students. As an expected piece of equipment, PDMs will be checking each morning that the students in their group have brought their charged Chromebook into school. We will also be adding a specific category on Classcharts for recording when this has not been the case. We will then follow up with students who are repeatedly attending without being fully equipped.

For the students who are not signed up to the scheme, we will not log this on Classcharts but we would like to remind you that there will be many times in lessons where students without Chromebooks may not be able to engage with all tasks in the same way as their peers; they will have to be given alternative, paper-based ways of completing tasks.

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Year 10 chemistry students have been doing amazing work measuring the temperature changes of different chemical reactions as part of their GCSE core practical skills.



To all Parents/Carers,

We are issuing this urgent notice regarding harmful content currently circulating on TikTok that relates to students at our school and others in Bicester.

We have been made aware of several TikTok accounts that are posting harmful messages and sharing images of students, often taken directly from the students' own TikTok profiles.

We ask that all parents take the following immediate steps:

- **Please check your child's TikTok account immediately.**
- **Ensure your child is not following and is not the owner of any account using the name or referencing "littlemiss" (or variations thereof) that are naming students in local schools.**
- **Work with your child to review and secure their TikTok privacy settings.**

TikTok Age & Safety Reminders

Please remember the following guidelines for digital safety:

- **TikTok has a legal age requirement of 13+. Students under the age of 13 should not be using the platform.**
- **For students aged 13-15, their correct age must be set on the platform. Accurate age settings automatically apply crucial safety protections.**

Contact the School if you or your child have any further information regarding these accounts, or if you have any safeguarding concerns, please contact the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead immediately and confidentially.

Contact the Police we also strongly advise that any incidents of online harassment, malicious communication, or image sharing be reported to the non-emergency police line (101). If you believe a child is in immediate danger, always call 999.

Thank you for your support in addressing this serious online safety matter. The safety and well-being of our students is our highest priority.

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What Parents & Educators Need to Know about TRACKING DEVICES

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Bluetooth tracking devices like Apple's AirTag and Samsung's SmartTags have exploded in popularity, with millions sold each year. These small tools help people locate their lost items, but their discreet design has also made them attractive for more sinister purposes. From stalking to bullying, tracking devices present unique risks that trusted adults need to understand and address.

STALKING AND HARASSMENT

Because of their tiny size and unassuming appearance, tracking devices can easily be hidden in bags or clothing. They've been used to monitor individuals without their knowledge, with a lawsuit in the US labelling AirTags "the weapon of choice of stalkers and abusers". In the UK, use of tracking devices in coercive control and stalking cases reportedly rose by 317 percent between 2018 and 2023.

TOOLS FOR BULLYING

Tracking devices could allow bullies to follow or locate their targets even outside of school. This makes it difficult for children to find refuge, potentially extending the trauma of bullying into spaces – like home – that should feel safe and secure.

FALSE ACCUSATIONS

Because tracking devices are linked to user accounts, they could be misused to 'prove' ownership of someone else's possessions. Someone could, for example, plant a tracker on another person's belongings to falsely claim them as their own.

INVASION OF PRIVACY

These devices are designed to share location data with the user via other people's phones, which can unintentionally broadcast someone's movements without their consent. This makes them vulnerable to being monitored by strangers without realising.

DIFFICULT TO DETECT

Many tracking devices are designed to be discreet, but that also means they're easy to hide. Without proactive checking or the right tech to detect them, children and young people might not realise they're being tracked.

Advice for Parents & Educators

WATCH FOR WARNING SIGNS

If a child's peers always seem to know their location – whether in person or hinted at online – it could be worth checking for tracking devices. Some, like AirTags, will eventually make a noise if separated from their owner. Listen out for a chirping sound.

CHECK LIKELY HIDING SPOTS

Common places where trackers may be planted include jacket linings, bag seams, pockets, or under bike seats. If you find one, take a photo of the serial number before disposing of it – this could help police trace the account it's linked to.

USE DETECTION APPS

Apple devices running iOS 14.5 or later will notify users of unknown AirTags nearby. Android users can install Apple's 'Tracker Detect' or the third-party app 'AirGuard' to scan for tracking devices from various manufacturers.

HAVE THE CONVERSATION

Talk to your child about what tracking devices are, what signs to look out for, and how they might be misused. Emphasise the legal consequences of using them to prank, harass, or monitor someone.

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is a seasoned technology journalist with bylines in Wired, TechRadar, The Guardian, The Evening Standard, The Telegraph, and The New Statesman. He specialises in consumer tech, online safety, and emerging risks in the digital landscape.



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