



— The Cooper School —

# Parent Bulletin

No 15 - Friday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2026

## Key Dates and Upcoming Events

Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> January 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Year 11 Progress Consultation Evening</li></ul>
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> January 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Swimming Festival at Bicester Leisure Centre</li></ul>

## Next w/c Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2026 -Week A

### Welcome Back!

Welcome back to school after the Christmas break! It's wonderful to see everyone returning refreshed, recharged, and ready for a new term of learning and fun. The first week back is a great time to reconnect with friends, settle into routines, and set new goals for the months ahead. Teachers and staff are excited to continue building on the progress made last term and look forward to a fantastic start to the new year together.

### Assessment Reminders

Yr 7 & 9 have their second assessment week of the year next week. A reminder of the preparation advice shared before Christmas can be found below

Year 7 Assessment Week 2 Preparation advice - Jan 2026

Year 9 Assessment Week 2 Preparation advice - January 2026

Yr 8 and 10 have their second assessment week from Mon 26<sup>th</sup> Jan. Further information and preparation advice will be shared next week.

Yr 11 have an English Literature mock on Thurs 22<sup>nd</sup> Jan. Revision advice was shared in the letter before Christmas attached here for quick reference.

Dec Letter to Yr 11 Parents - Jan event and Christmas revision

PLEASE CAN STUDENTS REMEMBER TO BRING A FULLY CHARGED CHROMEBOOK. IT IS ESSENTIAL FOR THE ASSESSMENTS

**DREAM BIG.WORK HARD.BE KIND.**

## **Student Spotlight: Ayla's Incredible Fundraising Success!**

**We are bursting with pride for one of our Year 8 students, Ayla Boshier, who recently completed the Bicester 5k Santa Fun Run at Whitelands Sports Ground!**

**Ayla has been a dedicated supporter of the local charity Alexandra House of Joy for several years, selflessly giving up her school holidays, evenings, and weekends to help raise thousands of pounds for their cause.**

**For this event, Ayla set herself a massive target of £1,000. We are thrilled to share that through her hard work and the support of our amazing community, she has shown what true determination looks like!**

**Watching our students make such a positive impact outside the classroom is what makes us so proud. Huge congratulations to Ayla for her kindness, her stamina, and her commitment to helping others. It's not too late to help her reach that final goal! If you'd like to add to her total, her JustGiving page is still open. Please follow the [link](#) Well done, Ayla! You are an inspiration to us all.**



## **OLIVER! The Musical**



**We are getting incredibly close to opening night, and the excitement in the corridors is palpable! Our talented students have been working tirelessly—rehearsing their lines, perfecting those iconic songs, and polishing the choreography—to bring the streets of Victorian London to life right here at The Cooper School.**

**If you haven't secured your seats yet, there is still time! We still have a limited number of tickets available for our upcoming performances.**

**Oliver Tickets**

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## Local forward thinking and exciting Businesses in and around Bicester!

**We are asking for your help to inspire the next generation of problem-solvers and innovators!**

**We are excited to be planning an upcoming STEM Day at The Cooper School and are keen to work with local businesses and organisations whose work connects to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) – including careers that students may not immediately recognise as STEM!**

**This could include (but is not limited to):**

- **Engineering (mechanical, electrical, civil, aerospace)**
- **Technology & IT (software development, AI, cybersecurity, data science, gaming)**
- **Manufacturing, Product Design & Quality Control**
- **Construction, Architecture & the Built Environment**
- **Robotics, Automation & Electronics**
- **Science & Research (laboratories, environmental science, chemistry, physics)**
- **Healthcare, Medical Technology & Pharmaceuticals**
- **Automotive, Motorsport & Transport Technologies**
- **Renewable Energy, Sustainability & Environmental Technologies**
- **Mathematics, Finance, Statistics & Analytics**
- **Digital Media, Animation, Graphics & Creative Technologies**
- **Agriculture, Food Technology & Materials Science**
- **Colour Technology, Materials, Surface Finishes & Coatings (including colour technicians, pigments, printing, textiles, plastics and product finishes)**

**This is a fantastic opportunity to exhibit your work, promote your business, and inspire young people by showing how STEM skills are used in a wide variety of real-world careers.**

**Where - The Cooper School, Churchill Road, Bicester**

**When - February 2nd 2026 9:05am - 11.05pm**

**If you're interested in getting involved or would like more information, please email - [careers@thecooperschool.co.uk](mailto:careers@thecooperschool.co.uk)**

## 🐝 Huge News: Help the Eco-Bees Secure £1,500! 🐝

We are thrilled to announce that the TCS Eco-Bees have secured a spot in the Tesco "Stronger Starts" blue coin scheme! From now until the end of March, the Eco-Bees will be featured in ALL Bicester Tesco stores (both the large Superstore and all local Express branches).

### 🌱 The Goal

This is an amazing opportunity to support biodiversity and environmental improvements at The Cooper School. While we have already secured a minimum of £500, we are aiming for the top prize! If we have the most blue coins by the end of March, we will receive £1,500 toward our green projects, including:

- New planters and vibrant plants to brighten our campus.
- Bird houses and bug hotels to support local wildlife.
- Sustainability projects led by our dedicated students.

### 📍 Where You Can Vote

Every time you shop, please collect your blue tokens and drop them in the Eco-Bees box at the exit of:

- Tesco Superstore (Lakeview Drive)
- Tesco Express: Langford Village (Nightingale Place)
- Tesco Express: Southwold (Holm Square)
- Tesco Express: Bicester Hart Place (Glory Farm)
- Tesco Express: Bowmont Square (Shakespeare Drive)

### 💡 How You Can Help

1. Don't forget to ask: If you use the self-checkout and don't see tokens, please ask a member of staff—they are usually happy to help!
2. Spread the word: Tell friends, family, and neighbors to choose the Eco-Bees box when they do their weekly shop.

Thank you all massively for your support.



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## **Year 11 Taster Day and Sixth Form applications:**

Yesterday was an excellent experience for all year 11 students to get a real taste of what the KS5 curriculum we have on offer here at Cooper is really like. It was great to see the high level of engagement and asking thoughtful questions. Hopefully it has also allowed students to continue to think about their next steps after GCSEs.

Therefore, please encourage your children to get their Sixth Form applications in via our website [here](#) ASAP.

Closing date is the beginning of March.



We are pleased to announce that we will be hosting a Careers Fair on Thursday 29 January 2026.

During the school day, the event will be attended by Year 9 and Year 10 students as part of their careers education programme. A wide range of organisations from different sectors will be present, offering valuable insight into career pathways, further education, apprenticeships, and employment opportunities.

The Careers Fair will remain open until 5:00pm, allowing students in Years 9 to 13, as well as parents and carers, the opportunity to attend after school. This will provide families with the chance to speak directly with representatives, ask questions, and gather further information about future options.

We are delighted to welcome a diverse range of organisations, with more attendees to be confirmed shortly.

We strongly encourage students and parents to attend and take advantage of this valuable opportunity to explore future career pathways.

Kind regards,  
The Careers Team

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# Does your child still need a Flu Vaccination?

## We are still vaccinating!



Follow the QR code / link  
to consent for your child and make a  
community clinic appointment

*If you've already filled in the consent form,  
please book your appointment using the  
reference number that was emailed to you from  
***school.immunisations@nhs.net*** when you consented*

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**For more information visit  
[www.oxfordhealth.nhs.uk/imms](http://www.oxfordhealth.nhs.uk/imms)**



# 10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

## ESSENTIAL ONLINE SAFETY

Children and young people use the internet every day to learn, play, and connect, but the online world is not always safe. For adults, it can be hard to keep up with the risks, including harmful content, cyberbullying and scams. These 10 tips provide clear and practical advice to support safer and healthier digital habits, helping young people to make informed, secure choices when using technology.

### 1 START EARLY CONVERSATIONS

Begin talking about online behaviour from the moment children start using devices. Use age-appropriate language and revisit topics regularly, making it clear they can speak to you about anything that upsets or confuses them. Keeping these chats open helps build trust, so children are more likely to come to you when needed.

### 2 PROMOTE SAFER SHARING

Children can overshare without understanding the risks. Remind them that photos, locations, or messages can be copied or shared beyond their intended audience. Explain how even private messages or group chats can be saved and/or misused. Talk about what is appropriate to post, message, and who it's safe to share with.

### 3 ENCOURAGE DIGITAL BALANCE

Many apps and games are designed to keep users engaged through rewards, likes, or constant updates. These features can make it hard for children to switch off. Talk openly about how these systems work and help children recognise when it's time to take a break. Building in tech-free routines supports a healthier balance and awareness of their screen time.

### 4 CREATE A SAFE SPACE FOR CONCERNS

When children come to you with a concern, respond with interest and care, rather than with alarm. Keeping your reaction measured helps them feel safe and supported. This doesn't mean ignoring serious issues; it means showing that you're there to help. When children trust that they can speak openly, they're more likely to feel supported through unpleasant online experiences, and to ask for help in future.

### 5 STAY INFORMED AND CURRENT

With emerging technologies like AI moving and changing so quickly, it's important to stay updated on how children are using new platforms, apps and games. Ask them to show you what they use and let them take the lead as you explore together. This opens up valuable conversations and helps you stay ahead of emerging risks and trends.

### 6 TEACH CRITICAL THINKING

Talk to children about how to recognise unreliable information or scams online. With AI-generated videos, photos, and stories becoming harder to spot, help children question what they see and encourage them to look for evidence, check sources, and ask questions. These skills will help them avoid risks, make smart choices, and develop healthy habits for the future.

### 7 SET CLEAR BOUNDARIES

Involve children in conversations about device usage so they feel included. Agree on digital rules such as screen-time limits, age-appropriate apps, and no devices in bedrooms overnight. Use parental controls to block or filter harmful content and explain that rules are there to protect and support them, not to spoil their fun.

### 8 LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Children often copy the behaviour of adults around them. Show them what balanced, respectful, and mindful use of technology looks like, such as avoiding scrolling during family time and speaking kindly in messages. If you expect certain behaviour from them online, make sure your own habits reflect the same standards.

### 9 EXPLORE PRIVACY SETTINGS TOGETHER

Show children how to use privacy tools on apps, games, and websites. Teach them to use strong passwords, block or report others in response to problems, and avoid sharing personal details. Explore settings together so they feel confident and in control, and explain that these features are there to help them stay safe online.

### 10 KNOW WHERE TO GET HELP

Familiarise yourself with tools and organisations that support online safety. The National College offers online safety guides and webinars which provide tips on staying safe. Websites like Report Harmful Content and CEOP can be used to report when something goes wrong. Show children how to report or block users, and where to go if they feel unsafe. Make sure they know that asking for help is always the right thing to do, and be prepared to support them.

### Meet Our Expert

Home to the world's largest CPD library for educators, The National College has transformed the way education establishments go about developing their workforces and managing compliance. Our three memberships help all phases and types of setting raise standards, save time, reduce risk, and build a culture of improvement.

See full reference list on [our website](https://nationalcollege.com)

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