



— The Cooper School —

Parent Bulletin

No 20 - Friday 13th February 2026

Key Dates and Upcoming Events

Monday 23rd February 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Y10 Geography trip to Birmingham• Year 11 Mock Exams
Tuesday 24th February 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Y10 Geography trip to Birmingham• Year 11 Mock Exams
Wednesday 25th February 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Y10 Geography trip to Birmingham• Year 11 Mock Exams
Thursday 26th February 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Y10 Geography trip to Birmingham• Year 9 Parent Consultation Evening• Year 11 Mock Exams
Friday 27th February 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Y10 Geography trip to Birmingham• Year 11 Mock Exams

HALF TERM 16th - 20th February

**Back to School w/c Monday 23rd February 2026 -
Week B**

Year 7-10 families: Assessment Week feedback - we would love to hear your thoughts about our approach to assessment this year. If you are happy to contribute, please fill in this Short Survey.

Thanks
Mrs McMillan

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Remember free period products are available for students and family.

Please come to the office or email office@thecooperschool.co.uk

Work Experience Placements Year 10 and Year 12 Deadline: Friday 23rd February

A quick reminder for all Year 10 and Year 12 parents regarding the upcoming work experience week.

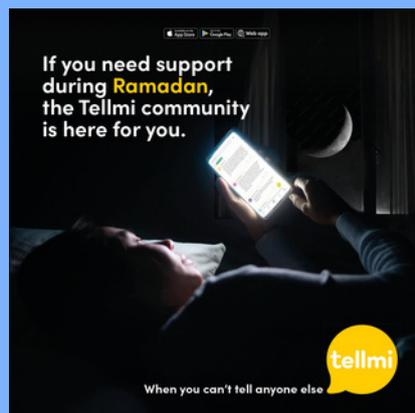
Finding a placement is a vital step in developing "real world" skills, and the deadline for submitting confirmed details is fast approaching.

All placement forms must be returned by February 23rd 2026 which should include employer contact details, insurance information, and a brief job description.

Students should submit their forms via Unifrog.

Ramadan begins next week, and we recognise that this time can bring additional adjustments for some students.

Tellmi offers a free, safe, and anonymous space where students can discuss any concerns they may have and seek support from peers facing similar challenges, whether it's something minor or significant.



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The PE department is proud to announce that this year's Cooper School CPR event has been a great success!

During this week we have managed to train and refresh all students at the Cooper School on the process of both CPR and the Recovery position. All of our students have undertaken the lessons this week, with absolute focus, showing great respect to the importance of this lifesaving set of skills. Each student has been issued with a CPR certificate from the British Heart Foundation which they should display at home with pride!

To continue the journey and share the skill of CPR as far as possible, it would be fantastic if you as parents and guardians could have conversations at home, to really explore what the pupils have learned, using their knowledge to really cement the importance of household CPR.

To explore what pupils have been trained in, please use the link below from the BHF;

<https://revivr.bhf.org.uk/?>

[gclid=CjwKCAiAkbbMBhB2EiwANbxtbbqgfc1XMqPyLUk0xD_OdG_gVU8xnPbS_vh6To3nVgUYaEvVi2pghhoCzfYQAvD_BwE](https://revivr.bhf.org.uk/?gclid=CjwKCAiAkbbMBhB2EiwANbxtbbqgfc1XMqPyLUk0xD_OdG_gVU8xnPbS_vh6To3nVgUYaEvVi2pghhoCzfYQAvD_BwE)

**Thank you for your continued support
Have a great, active half term
Mr Cook**



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If your child has borrowed a plastic container to bring food home from their Food lessons, please could they return it to school as soon as possible. We would also greatly appreciate any unwanted plastic containers you may have.

In addition, we are currently collecting empty washing-up liquid bottles for use in the Food Department. If you have any to donate, we would be very grateful if your child could bring them in.



Thank you for your support.

DT Team



Our virtual university fair on 18 March at 4 - 6.30pm is just five weeks away!

Over the course of two hours, students can attend mini-lectures on a range of subjects and meet 32 universities from across the UK including Kings College London, Manchester Metropolitan, and the University of Aberdeen.

The fair is free to all students and ideal for Y10-12

> Share the sign up link with your students

The subject discovery fair gives students a taste of what it's really like to study at university through mini-lectures on trending topics across a wide range of subjects.

Students can learn about:

Cybersecurity and AI: How ChatGPT works with the University of Westminster

Environmental and earth sciences: Global sustainable development with the University of Warwick

Business: Brands and what they mean to consumers with the University of Essex

And much more, with sessions on other popular subjects including Criminology and Psychology, Medical Sciences, and Creative Arts.

> Browse the full schedule

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Our Production of Oliver! Sets the Stage Alight

What a week! We would like to extend a massive "Thank You" to everyone who joined us in the audience to support our incredible students during their production of Oliver!. It was a spectacular showcase of talent, featuring show-stopping songs, vibrant choreography, and students truly acting their socks off.

To say we are proud would be an understatement. This production brought together every year group, fostering a beautiful sense of community and "theatrical family" that was evident in every scene.

Our sincere thanks go to:

The Pupils: For your relentless hard work, late-night rehearsals, and unwavering dedication.

The Parents: For trusting us with your children's creative journeys and supporting them (and us!) throughout the process.

Warmest regards (the very tired) Production Team!



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10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

FOSTERING A SENSE OF BELONGING

Helping children feel like they belong is vital for their emotional wellbeing, academic success, and overall development. A true sense of belonging reduces anxiety, builds confidence, and supports resilience. These ten tips are designed to help parents and educators create inclusive, caring environments where children feel accepted, safe, and valued.

1 USE EVERYDAY MOMENTS

Belonging is built in the small moments. Use daily routines such as meals, school drop-offs, or quiet times, to check in, offer praise, or listen. These interactions don't need to be lengthy to be meaningful. Consistent gestures of connection and warmth show children they are important, making them feel seen, appreciated, and truly part of the home or classroom community.

2 INVOLVE THEM IN RULE-MAKING

Inviting children to help create rules or routines gives them a sense of shared ownership and responsibility. When their voices are heard, they feel respected and included in the decision-making process. This empowers children, fosters cooperation, and reduces resistance. Whether at home or school, co-created expectations are more likely to be followed because they come from a place of mutual respect.

3 VALIDATE ALL EMOTIONS

Acknowledging a child's emotions, whether positive or challenging, helps them feel accepted as they are. Validating statements like "I can see that made you upset," or "That sounds really exciting," support emotional expression and connection. Children who feel emotionally safe are more likely to seek help, participate openly, and trust the adults around them – all of which contribute to a sense of belonging.

4 HIGHLIGHT HIDDEN STRENGTHS

Go beyond academic success or good behaviour and take time to recognise a child's less visible qualities, such as thoughtfulness, resilience, or humour. Noticing these strengths sends a powerful message that they are valued for who they are, not just for what they do. This boosts self-esteem and helps children feel accepted in a world that often focuses on external achievements.

5 SHOW CURIOSITY ABOUT CULTURE

Ask respectful, open questions about a child's cultural background, family customs, or celebrations. These conversations create opportunities for children to share what matters to them and to feel proud of their identity. Whether at home or in school, valuing cultural experiences helps all children feel that their heritage is respected, and that they belong in a diverse, inclusive environment where every voice counts.

6 BELONGING BUDDIES

Pairing children with a peer they might not typically choose can foster new connections and break down social barriers. Assigning short projects, games, or shared responsibilities gives them a reason to interact. Buddy systems help quieter or less confident children feel included and supported. Over time, these intentional connections can develop into meaningful friendships, strengthening the wider sense of community and inclusion.

7 AVOID LABELS AND COMPARISONS

Avoid labelling children by behaviour or comparing them to others, as this can damage self-esteem and foster exclusion. Statements like "Why can't you be more like..." may unintentionally make a child feel less worthy. Instead, focus on individual progress and strengths. Encouraging children to celebrate their own achievements, however small, helps them develop confidence and feel valued for being themselves.

8 MAKE TIME FOR ONE-TO-ONES

Spending regular one-to-one time with a child shows that they matter on an individual level. These moments can be as simple as reading a book together or chatting during a walk. Focused attention, free from distraction, builds trust and emotional connection. It lets the child know they are important and cared for, which is crucial for developing a strong sense of belonging.

9 REFLECT THEIR INTERESTS

Whether at home or in school, including children's interests in daily life reinforces their importance. Display their artwork, talk about their favourite books, or include their hobbies in family activities or lesson plans. Seeing their identity reflected in their environment tells children they belong. It shows that their passions, preferences, and contributions are valued and that they have a place in the group.

10 EMPHASISE 'WE' OVER 'THEY'

Use inclusive language that reinforces unity and shared identity. Phrases like "Let's figure it out together," or "We all help each other here," promote collective responsibility and connection. Avoiding divisive terms like "those children," or "that class" helps children feel part of a supportive group. Language shapes experience, and inclusive language fosters environments where every child feels safe, welcomed, and included.

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

#WakeUp
Wednesday

The
National
College

Contact Details:

Telephone Number: 01869 242121

Office/Reception Email: office@thecooperschool.co.uk

Absence/Appointments Email: absence@thecooperschool.co.uk

For any safeguarding concerns: safeguarding@thecooperschool.co.uk

IF YOU HAVE ANY SAFEGUARDING CONCERNS OUT OF SCHOOL

HOURS PLEASE CONTACT MASH TEAM ON 0345 050 7666

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