



— The Cooper School —

# Parent Bulletin

NO 25 - FRIDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2026

## Key Dates and Upcoming Events

Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> April 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>BACK TO SCHOOL</b></li></ul>
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> April 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Year 10 Progress Consultation Evening</b></li></ul>

**HALF TERM FRIDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2026**

**Back to School on Monday 13th April 2026 - Week A**



Today, we say a fond farewell to our Headteacher, Dr Robert Whannel as he embarks on his next chapter. We want to extend our deepest gratitude for his dedicated leadership, his commitment to our children's growth, and the lasting impact he has made on our school community.

While we are sad to see him go, we wish him nothing but the very best in his new endeavours.

**Thank you, Dr Whannel, for everything!**

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



## Eid Celebration Lunch – A Wonderful Success!

Dear Parents,

We wanted to share a quick note of thanks for making our Eid Celebration Lunch such a memorable and joyful event today! It was wonderful to see the students come together to share delicious food, celebrate community, and learn more about the traditions of Eid. The energy in the room was truly special, and the spirit of generosity was felt by everyone

We are absolutely thrilled to share the final results of our Comic Relief fundraising efforts. Thanks to your incredible generosity, our school community raised a phenomenal:

**£1,150**

Whether you baked a dozen cupcakes, sent in your spare change, or helped your child find the perfect "Red Nose" accessory, your support has been truly inspiring.

Where does the money go?

This donation will go directly toward supporting vulnerable people both here in the UK and across the globe. Your contributions help tackle:

- Child poverty and food insecurity.
- Mental health support services.
- Safe housing for families in crisis.

It's moments like these that remind us how powerful our community can be when we pull together for a great cause. A huge thank you to the students for their enthusiasm and to you for making it all possible.

Comic Relief - The Cooper School

View gallery  
Change cover

**£1,150**  
raised by 136 supporters

Give Now

Share

COMIC RELIEF Red Nose Day 2026 - Secondary Schools  
Campaign by Comic Relief (RCN 326568)

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# Happy Easter!



**Our Year 10 GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition students have been busy bringing a burst of seasonal flavour to the department this week. To celebrate the upcoming break, the classes have been practising their high-level pastry and decorating skills with some Easter-themed baking. The students demonstrated fantastic technical precision and a great eye for presentation.**

**We have 5 year 12 students taking part in the Lessons from Auschwitz project where they have the amazing opportunity to attend seminars to learn more about the Holocaust. The aim is to keep the memory of the Holocaust relevant and up to date.**

**The students also had the opportunity to attend a day trip to Auschwitz where they received a guided tour. They will now use this information to continue building on Holocaust Education in the school.**



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## Fixtures

The year 11 Basketball team gained a well deserved victory this week over TBS! The team played really well with a decisive 3 up formation leading a very dominant offensive court position. The man of the match was Tolu, who led an amazing screen formation at the back! Well done team!

## Interform week

As with every end of term, the PE departments Interform weeks ran with amazing success, with high participation and a great buzz of student enjoyment. Students had the opportunity to participate in Football, Pickleball, Basketball, Trampolining, badminton and Volleyball! Thank you to all our students that embodied our values of Dream Big, Work Hard and Be Kind and well done to all of those that were awarded a certificate of reward!

## PE Electives Term 5



**NATIONAL BADMINTON**

**OXFORDSHIRE BADMINTON ASSOCIATION**  
Affiliated to the National Badminton Association

**OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY  
BADMINTON TRIALS**

Radley College Sports  
Centre  
Sunday 3rd May  
10am - 1pm



All levels welcome  
- both community  
and county places  
offered!

See age group timings & book now:  
[bookwhen.com/nb-trials](http://bookwhen.com/nb-trials)

NATIONALBADMINTON.ORG.UK

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Dear Parents and Carers,

We want to ensure all our students stay nourished, even when they aren't feeling well enough to be in the classroom.

If your child is currently eligible for Free School Meals and is at home unwell, you are welcome to arrange a packed lunch for collection from the school office.

Please call or email the school office by 10:00 am

Lunches will be ready for pickup at a designated time (usually during the standard lunch break).



After school revision sessions for all year 11s every day!

We would welcome donations of biscuits, fruit, pastries/ cereal bars, bread, tea bags, hot chocolate, honey, marmite etc

Also any raffle prizes (eg chocolate, easter eggs)

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# 10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

## EFFECTIVE REVISION AND STUDY SKILLS

As exam season ramps up, revision often becomes louder, busier, and less effective. Many pupils still rely on comfort strategies like re-reading and highlighting. These can feel productive but rarely build long-term memory. This guide will help you create a low-effort, high-impact revision system that teaches pupils how to revise, rather than merely emphasising its importance.

### 1 DIAGNOSE BEFORE DOING

Before adding more sessions, identify why a pupil is underperforming: knowledge gaps, weak routines, poor choices, or low effort driven by a lack of confidence. Treating every issue as 'needs more revision' creates noise. Use a quick check: what do they know, what do they misunderstand, what can't they retrieve under pressure, and what do they avoid? Then match revision to the actual problem.

### 2 TEACH REVISION EXPLICITLY

Most pupils haven't been taught how to revise well, so they pick what feels easiest. Build short revision mini-lessons into curriculum time; demonstrate retrieval, spacing, and how to self-check. Model it live, do it together, then gradually hand over responsibility. The goal is independence, not dependency. When pupils understand why strategies work, they're more likely to use them when it matters.

### 3 PRIORITISE RETRIEVAL PRACTICE

Make recall the default. Use methods such as low-stakes quizzes, flashcards, free recall, blurring, and 'answer then check'. Effective testing helps to measure and strengthen learning. Keep it specific and frequent – small chunks, lots of repetition, and immediate feedback. For parents, the best question isn't 'Have you revised?' but 'What can you remember today, without notes?'

### 4 SPACE IT OUT

Cramming can boost short-term performance, but it's weaker for long-term retention. Help pupils spread practice across days and weeks, revisiting content after memory has faded. That 'slight struggle' is the point. Use a simple rhythm: new learning, next-day retrieval, a three-day revisit, a weekly revisit, and mixed practice before the exam. This turns revision into a routine, not a panic.

### 5 MIX, DON'T BLOCK

Practising one topic for a long stretch – known as 'blocked practice' – can feel easy, but it can hide fragile learning. Mixing topics, question types, or methods strengthens long-term learning and helps pupils apply knowledge later. For educators, design homework and revision packs so topics reappear in a planned cycle. For parents, encourage sessions that mix two topics rather than focusing on just one.

### 6 USE DESIRABLE DIFFICULTY

Revision should feel effortful, not effortless. Durable learning comes from challenging revision techniques: attempting answers before looking, explaining ideas aloud, writing from memory, or tackling unfamiliar question formats. The key is 'hard, but doable'. If a pupil always gets everything right, it's too easy. If they always fail, it's too hard. Aim for productive struggle with quick feedback loops.

### 7 CENTRALISE MATERIALS SIMPLY

Revision fails when pupils waste energy finding resources, navigating platforms, or guessing what matters. Reduce cognitive overload by centralising what they need: a single hub per subject, a clear list of priority knowledge, and a small set of standard task types such as quizzes, flash cards, exam questions, or corrections. Less admin clutter means more working memory for learning.

### 8 PLAN, MONITOR, EVALUATE

Strong revision is self-regulated. Pupils plan what they'll do, monitor if it's working, and evaluate what to change next time. Use a weekly revision review routine that asks: 'What did I try?' 'What improved?' 'What didn't?' 'What's my next micro-goal?' Post-mock action plans are powerful here because they force honesty about time spent, strategy used, and impact achieved.

### 9 WRAP MOCKS PROPERLY

Mocks only help if pupils learn from them. Use an exam wrapper approach: before the mock, set strategy goals; afterwards, analyse errors such as knowledge gaps, misread questions, weak methods, and timing issues; then create a targeted reteach and retest plan. Parents can support by asking: 'What type of mistake was it, and what's your fix?' rather than 'What grade did you get?'

### 10 MAKE TIME VISIBLE

Revision becomes real when time is protected and predictable. Help pupils build a timetable that's short, repeatable, and realistic: 30-40 minute blocks, clear start and stop times, and specific tasks, not 'revise science'. Avoid perfectionist plans that look pretty and collapse by Tuesday. Consistency beats intensity. Build momentum with small wins, then build from there.

### Meet Our Expert

Amjad Ali is the creator of Try This Teaching and the CPD and Inclusion Lead for the Chiltern Learning Trust. With over 19 years' experience in education, including leadership roles in diverse and high-need schools, he specialises in inclusive, evidence-informed practice. His work focuses on practical, low-effort, high-impact strategies that help students learn more and retain knowledge over time.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

See full reference list on our website

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IF YOU HAVE ANY SAFEGUARDING CONCERNS OUT OF SCHOOL

HOURS PLEASE CONTACT MASH TEAM ON 0345 050 7666

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