Foxford Focus

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Update from the Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers

As we come to the end of this half term, I'd like to take a moment to thank you for your continued support and partnership. It's been a busy and rewarding few weeks, filled with learning, growth, and a number of exciting achievements across the school. This newsletter highlights some of the key moments and successes from the term, along with important updates and reminders for the weeks ahead.

As ever I am so proud of my students and staff, so much has been completed in just 4 weeks. Good luck to all the Year 11 and 13 students who are busily revising for their final examinations, which they have been working towards for so long. I know they will try their best and that is all we can ask of them.

Have a good week off and I look forward to the next and final half term of the academic year.

Mrs Gallagher
Headteacher

Calendar

Friday 20 June	Year 11 Leavers Assembly
Friday 20 June	Year 13 Prom
Friday 27 June	Training Day
w/c Monday 30 June	Year 10 mock exams
Monday 7 July	Awards Evening
Monday 7 July	Year 10 Geography Trip
Thursday 10 July	Year 11 Prom
Wednesday 16 July	Sports Day
Wednesday 16 July & Thursday 17 July	Year 9 Graduation Evenings
Friday 18 July	Last day of term

Challenge Partners Review Success!

We are proud to share that our recent Challenge Partners review was a great success! For those unfamiliar, Challenge Partners is a national network that brings together schools to support each other in improving outcomes for children. As part of this process, a team of experienced senior leaders from other schools across the country visited us to review our teaching, leadership, and learning environment. They observed lessons, spoke with staff and students, and explored how we help every child thrive. Their feedback was overwhelmingly positive, recognising the dedication of our staff, the strong sense of community, and the good progress our students are making. We are excited to continue building on this success and when we get the report, we will be sharing it with you.

Year 9 M-Path Workshops

On Wednesday, 30 April, we welcomed Jack, a representative of M-Path, an organisation that works with students on topics such as mental health, stereotypes and expectations in society. All year 9 students were given a highly focused talk on 'escaping the Man Box' followed by a bespoke hour-long workshop in smaller groups. The students engaged well with Jack, contributing to group discussions and challenging stereotypes. The students were positive following the workshops and found them useful, with most of them feeling that they had learnt something new about the subject.



Impactful Teaching

Teachers have been developing many aspects of their practice in the classrooms as part of our *Inclusive Classroom* agenda. A large part of this is our use of iPads in the classroom, which allow staff to provide live modelling of tasks so that students know how best to complete them. This has been particularly useful with Year 11 and 13 students who have been busy revising and preparing for exam questions. Other year groups are benefiting from our use of digital creative technology as they too are able to work alongside teachers in developing their answers and their confidence.

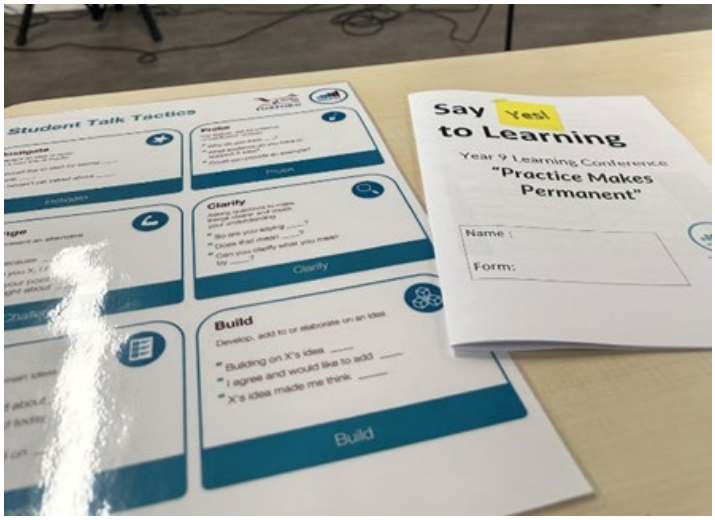
Teachers are continuing to refresh their teaching resources, ensuring that our content is most relevant, exciting and interesting for our young people. We are particularly ensuring that our provision is the best we can give; students understand the reason for learning in lessons and how they build on their prior knowledge and link this learning with future lessons. Our revision sessions for Year 11 and 13 are being well attended, with students giving positive reviews of that sessions and how they are helping them.

Linked with the sequencing of lessons, we are developing students' abilities to write formally, which is good practice for their exams. In lessons, we are focusing on the use of key vocabulary, asking students to use this vocabulary specifically in their spoken and written answers. This not only develops their ability to write coherently but also develops their oracy skills, which are also being developed across the school in our Oracy Orange tasks in lessons.

We have been continuing with our professional development for staff too, allowing them to share good practice as well as develop their own learning; research-led development is crucial in bringing to Foxford the most recent and modern approaches which will benefit all of our students.

Another successful half term for Foxford's learning community.

‘Practice makes Permanent’ Say Yes to Learning



Success Through Purposeful Practice and a Growth Mindset

We recently had the pleasure of hosting the ‘Say Yes to Learning’ conference with our Year 9 students, where we explored two powerful concepts that are key to helping students achieve long-term success: **purposeful practice** and a **growth mindset**. These concepts not only enhance academic achievement but also encourage a healthy, resilient approach to challenges—skills that will benefit your child both now and in the future.

Here’s a quick summary of what we covered and how these ideas can support your child’s development:

Purposeful Practice: The Key to Improvement

During the session, we discussed the importance of **purposeful practice**. It’s not just about putting in the hours—it’s about practicing in a focused, intentional way. For example, if a student struggles with a particular topic in Maths or English, they should aim to practice those areas specifically, rather than simply repeating tasks they already know well.

Purposeful practice is about setting clear goals, working on weaknesses, acting on feedback, and staying consistent even when progress feels slow at first. This approach helps students build confidence as they see improvements over time, and it’s something they can apply across all subjects and activities.

Growth Mindset: Embracing Challenges as Opportunities

The second focus of the session was **growth mindset**—the belief that abilities and intelligence can grow with effort, learning, and persistence. Rather than thinking “I’m not good at this” when faced with a challenge, students with a growth mindset think, “I’m not good at this yet, but I can improve with practice.”

We shared stories of well-known figures like **Rory McIlroy**, who famously took 14 years to win the Masters after many knock backs. These examples helped students understand that setbacks aren’t the end—they are simply part of the learning journey towards success.

A growth mindset helps students:

- **Embrace challenges**: Instead of avoiding tough tasks, they tackle them head-on.
- **See failure as a learning opportunity**: Mistakes are not something to fear but something to learn from.
- **Persist through difficulties**: They understand that growth happens through consistent effort and learning, not instant results.

In Summary: Success is a Journey

The session was an eye-opening experience for our Year 9 students, helping them understand that success doesn’t just come from talent—it comes from dedication, resilience, and the willingness to keep improving. Purposeful practice and a growth mindset are not just academic tools; they are life skills that will help your child navigate challenges with confidence and determination.

When these ideas are reinforced at home and school, your child can develop the skills and mindset they need to succeed—both in school and in life.

Thank you for your continued support in shaping our students' success!

Year 12 Justice Club

Fourteen enthusiastic Year 12 students went on a fascinating trip to join the newly formed Justice Club, led by Coventry University's Law School. The highlight of the visit was an engaging session where they delved into the details of a captivating old violent crime case. The students thoroughly enjoyed dissecting the evidence, discussing legal arguments, and considering the complexities of the historical case.

This was the first visit of its kind in a new planned enrichment offer in our strong partnership with Coventry University and we look forward to the next visit already!



Neon Award Nomination

We're thrilled to announce that Foxford School has been shortlisted for a NEON Award!

Nominated by the University of Warwick's Widening Participation Team, this recognition celebrates our strong partnership and ongoing commitment to the Experience Warwick programme—an initiative aimed at expanding access to higher education for all students.

Since becoming a formal partner with the University in 2023, we've proudly supported our students by actively engaging in 14 events during the 2023–2024 academic year—the highest attendance of any participating school.

This nomination highlights our unwavering dedication to widening participation and empowering young people to achieve their full potential through higher education.
We are honoured and grateful for this recognition.

The awards evening is in June, so fingers crossed!

Foxford Inclusion Poetry Competition

1st Place: £20 Voucher
The Place I Never Thought I'd Find by Harleen Barjwa in Year 10

2nd Place: £15 Voucher
A World Worthy of Peace by Olivia Miller in Year 9

3rd Place: £10 voucher
Let Kindness Flow by Hajra Ramzan in Year 9

4th Place: £10 Voucher
Racism by Skylar Agbortarh in Year 8

5th Place: £10 Voucher
Inclusivity by Michelle Rzepka in Year 8

The Place I Never Thought I'd Find by Harleen Barjwa

I used to stand at the edge of the room,
Feet heave like stone,
Watching the world spin without me,
Like I was invisible,
A whisper no one caught.

Every smile felt borrowed,
Every laugh, a stranger's song,
And I told myself...
Some people are meant to live outside the circle.

But then, without noise, or reason,
They came-
People who saw me,
Not the mask or the quiet,
But the whole of me.

They spoke like sunlight,
Soft on the skin,
And slowly, the ice I'd worn, began to melt.

They said, you can stay.
They said, you don't have to try so hard.
They said, we want you here.
There words, an echo I never knew I needed,
Again and again, until I finally believed them.

Now peace feels like this: like sitting at a table
Where no one asks you to shrink,
Like breathing without checking
If you're too much. I am not on the outside anymore.
I am inside the warmth,
Where I belonged,
Even when I couldn't see it.

The Importance of Good Attendance

At Foxford School, we are committed to providing every student with the best possible education and opportunities for success. A key part of achieving this is ensuring that students attend school regularly and on time.

Good attendance is essential. Evidence shows that students who attend school regularly perform better academically, have stronger friendships, and are more confident and resilient. Missing even a few days can lead to gaps in learning and impact progress.

We are currently working closely with students and families to improve attendance across the school. As a reminder:

- 96% attendance is considered good.
- 90% attendance or below is classed as persistent absence.
- Every day of learning counts – over a school year, just one day of absence every two weeks adds up to nearly four weeks of lost learning.

How You Can Support Us

We ask for your support in the following ways:

- Ensure your child attends school every day unless they are seriously unwell.
- Book medical appointments outside of school hours whenever possible.
- Avoid taking holidays during term time.
- Talk to us early if there are any challenges affecting your child's attendance.

If you have concerns about your child's attendance or need support, please don't hesitate to contact their Year Leader or our Attendance Team. We are here to work with you and your child to remove any barriers and help them succeed.

Thank you for your continued support in making sure your child gets the most out of their education.

Free Parent Arbor App

Please download the free Arbor app.

We are now using the app to send 'In App' messages, trip payments and consent and school shop items.

You will also be able to view your child's praise points, Behaviour points, attendance and timetable.

The app will enable you to check your child's emergency contact details are up to date, as we no longer issue paper forms for this.

The app can be downloaded from the App Store or Google Play Store.

If you have any problems, please email foxfordmail@castlephoenixtrust.org.uk

Year 10 Mock Interviews

Our Year 10 students recently took part in a valuable mock interview morning, supported by fantastic volunteers from Severn Trent. In preparation, students wrote CVs for professional review and spent time considering and practising their interview responses.

On the day, they put their skills to the test in one-to-one interviews, receiving constructive feedback to help build their confidence and employability.

A special congratulations to those who impressed the interviewers most and were awarded a 'You're Hired' certificate in recognition of their outstanding performance!

UK FEMINISTA
ACTION
AWARD
BRONZE

UK Feminista Action Award

We are pleased to announce that we have been awarded a UK Feminista Bronze Action Award.

The Feminista's Award Scheme is a national awards programme recognising and rewarding schools and colleges for taking action to combat sexism and sexual harassment, which our Pastoral Team and many staff have been involved in.

Congratulations to all involved!



Students Cultivate Their Own Learning Environment with Flowers and Veggies

At Foxford, students from various year groups have taken the initiative to design and build their own outdoor learning environment. The project, led by both students and supportive staff, has turned an unused patch of school grounds into a thriving garden filled with colourful flowers, fresh vegetables, and a renewed sense of ownership over their education.





Learning Beyond the Textbook

The garden is more than just a pretty space — it's a hub for hands-on learning. Science lessons come to life as students study plant biology, and the importance of pollinators. Even literacy thrives as students write about their experiences, and create poems about nature.

"This garden is our classroom now," stated, one of our student leaders. "We decide what to plant, how to look after it, and we learn from our mistakes."



Sowing Seeds of Sustainability

With a strong focus on sustainability, the students have implemented compost bins and upcycled planters made from old containers and discarded materials. They grow vegetables which will be used in cooking classes.

“By growing our own food, we’re learning about healthy eating, climate change, and where our meals actually come from,” said Deputy head Mrs Harris, who oversees the eco-club responsible for the project.

We look forward to giving you regular updates on our garden!









CLOTHING COVENTRY



SCHOOL UNIFORM SUMMER POP UP





BOOKING TO ATTEND OUR FREE UNIFORM EVENTS WILL OPEN SOON, WATCH THIS SPACE!

12TH - 28TH AUGUST 2025

For more information contact:

Clothing Coventry

19 Napier Street
Coventry
CV1 5PR

clothingcoventry.org
0770 404 4230
admin@clothingcoventry.org

SAVE THE DATE

EXAMS ARE OVER

YOU CAN FINALLY LOSE THE BLAZER!



CLOTHING COVENTRY WILL FIND YOUR OLD BLAZER A NEW HOME WITH SOMEONE WHO NEEDS IT

Other items of uniform can also be donated, please visit our website for more details.
www.clothingcoventry.org

May Holiday Activity Timetable

COVENTRY FAMILY HUBS

Looking for fun activities to enjoy with your family this May half term?

Coventry Family Hubs are hosting a range of FREE activities for children of all ages during the school holidays. From crafts and games to outdoor adventures, there's something for everyone!

The FUN & FREE activities include:

- **Baby and Me:** Special sessions for babies (up to 2 years) to explore and develop new skills while parents connect.
- **Sports in the Park:** outdoor fun with physical play and games for all the family
- **Fun Family Sessions:** enjoy activities such as crafting, cooking, karaoke, science experiments and gardening.
- **Go Walks:** Join us for our new walks from each of the Family Hubs and get to learn more about your local area.

SCAN FOR FULL TIMETABLES

For more information

Visit **www.coventryfamilies.co.uk**, **scan the QR code** for full timetable details or email **earlyhelp@coventry.gov.uk**



Coventry City Council

child friendly COV