



WE ARE CONYERS

It has been another strong half term at Conyers, with our motto, Perseverando, evident in everything we do. Across the school, there has been a clear and consistent focus on effort, perseverance and doing things properly.

Sport continues to be a real strength with almost too much to mention. Our Year 7 netball team continues to develop well, while Year 8 secured tournament success through excellent teamwork and discipline. Inter-form football has also been a highlight, with strong participation and competition across year groups.

World Book Day brought a real energy to the school, with staff embracing the day and creating a genuine buzz around reading. This builds on our weekly We Are Readers focus. Reading sits at the heart of what we do at Conyers. Despite the well-documented national decline in reading for pleasure as students move into secondary school, our students are moving in the opposite direction. 73% of students in Years 7 to 10 report that their reading for pleasure has improved since joining us. That is a strong position and one we will continue to build on.

Attendance remains a key priority and something we cannot express the importance of more. Students who attend every day, take full advantage of the opportunities in front of them and maximise life chances. Our message is simple: miss a day, miss the adventure. Every lesson matters. Every day counts. Strong attendance directly supports achievement, routines and wider wellbeing, and we will continue to work closely with families to maintain high standards.

Our Discovery programme continues to add real value to students' wider development. This half term included community action at Key Stage 3, cooking on a budget for Year 13 and important learning around water safety. These experiences build independence and prepare students well for life beyond school.

Across the curriculum, there are strong examples of learning taking place every day. Year 7 students have been applying electrical principles through practical work, Year 10 have been developing core cooking skills in Food Technology, and Year 8 have designed and built lamp prototypes in Design Technology. These are just a few examples of the high-quality experiences taking place across the school.

Recognition remains a key part of our culture. Over 115,000 positive points have been awarded this half term alone, reflecting consistent effort and high standards. We also had the privilege of awarding six students with Perseverando Pins for achieving over 2,000 positive points. This is a significant milestone and a clear reflection of sustained commitment.

As we move into a critical period for our Year 11 and Year 13 students, the focus now shifts firmly to final preparation for examinations. We wish all families a restful Easter break and look forward to welcoming students back on Monday 20 April 2026, ready for the next phase.

Mr Coleman - Head of School

Save The Dates

Thursday 2 April, 3.15pm	Students finish for the Easter holiday
Monday 20 April, 8.40am	Students return after the holiday
Thursday 30 April	Year 10 Subject Consultation Evening
Monday 4 May	Bank holiday, school closed
Monday 11 to Friday 15 May	Year 8 exams this week in lessons
Monday 18 to Friday 22 May	Year 7 exams this week in lessons
Friday 22 May, 3.15pm	Students finish for the half term holiday
Monday 1 June, 8.40am	Students return after the holiday
Monday 1 to Friday 5 June	Year 9 exams this week in lessons
Friday 17 July, 2.30pm	Students finish for the summer holiday

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Hot Chocolate Fridays

A long-standing rewards tradition at Conyers is Hot Chocolate Fridays, where students are nominated for this event for outstanding achievements across all aspects of school life.



Perseverando Pins

Year 10 - Jake, Atteb, Rowan, Alfie and Lewis
Year 9 - Jacob



Year 8

Isaac, Jack, Tom, Elsa, Haneen and Enya



Year 7

Hugo, Henry, Billy, Alice, Isobel and Evie

Spotlight on...



Year 8 have been making one of a kind lamp designs using paper prototypes



Key Stage 3 Infinity Bridge project



Year 7 Science - Electrical Practical Activity



Year 10 Food Technology - Planning, preparing and creating their own individual layered desserts

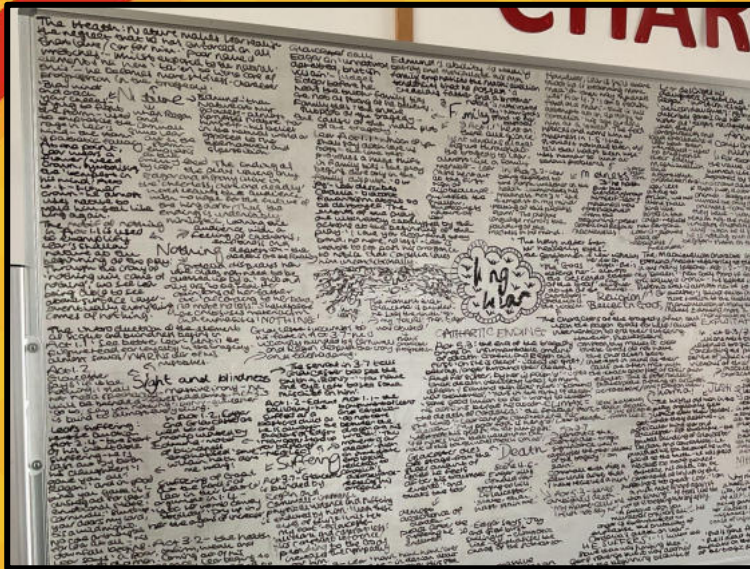


Pathways students making French toast!



Inter-form Football

#WEARECONYERS



Positive Points

Since we launched, we've celebrated a massive milestone of 1,047,270 positive points awarded.



Golden Tickets Awarded This Term

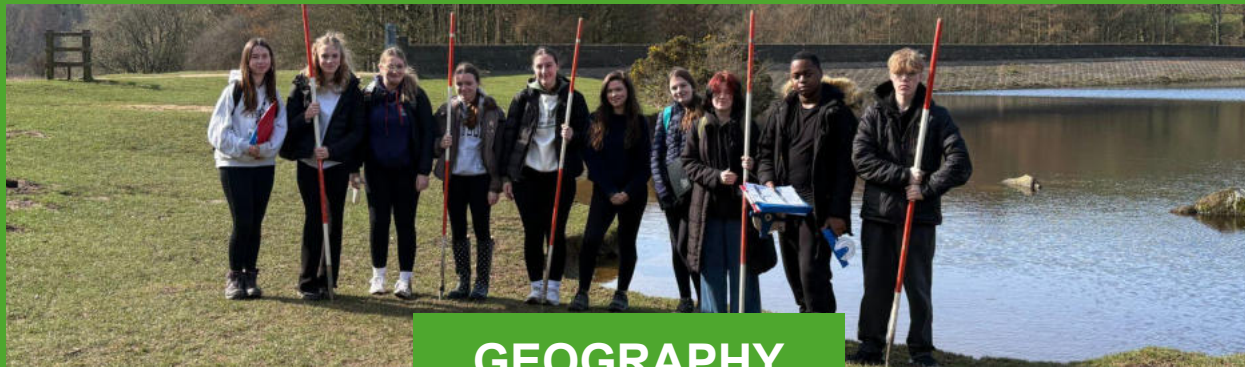
Year 7 - 192
Year 8 - 220
Year 9 - 209
Year 10 - 213
Year 11 - 213
Year 12 - 93
Year 13 - 105



Aspiration Badges Awarded This Term

Blue - 147
Green - 102
Pink - 74
Purple - 132
Bronze - 109
Silver - 72
Gold - 54





GEOGRAPHY

In Geography, Year 10 have just finished their third GCSE unit, learning about tropical rainforests and cold environments. They've all worked really hard this half-term and completed some great work!

Year 11 and Year 13 have been working really hard to complete their courses, as the exams are less than 7 weeks away! They've all been completing revision questions weekly, to practice exam technique.

Year 12 enjoyed a trip to Cod Beck Reservoir, where they investigated how infiltration mats change with distance from the reservoir. They worked well all day, and the sun even came out! This is all to prepare them for when they start their independent coursework.

SCIENCE

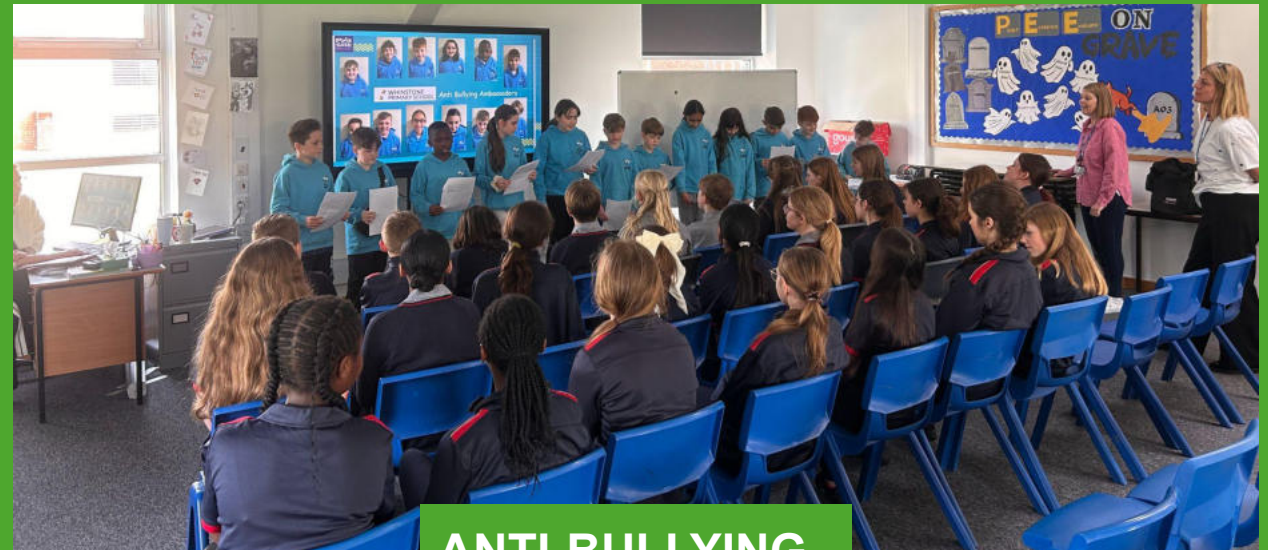
This half term some of our Year 13 Biologists went to the Life Science Centre in Newcastle to complete a full University-level lab practical to see if they were a taster or non-taster of the bitter PTC chemical found in sprouts. Students tested their taste buds to see if they could taste the chemical, then extracted their DNA from their cheek cells, and amplified their DNA using PCR. The DNA was then digested with restriction endonuclease enzymes and underwent gel electrophoresis to separate the fragments and view them under UV light to determine if they had the genes for tasting or non-tasting of PTC. Despite being first-timers, students showed superb lab skills using micropipettes and loading the gel which are both extremely tricky techniques!

MATHS

February and March have been busy months for the Maths department with an increased exam focus for Year 11 and 13. Many students have attended lunchtime revision across the department with after school Boost sessions also being well attended by Year 11 students.

Our Year 7, 8 and 9 students have enthusiastically embraced the challenge of becoming the 'Conyers Mathlete' - over 150 entries were received for the first two challenges.

Congratulations to Ava H for becoming our first ever Mathlete and to everyone who has sent in such fantastic and well worked solutions to the first two problems.



ANTI-BULLYING AMBASSADORS

We were delighted to host the Anti-Bullying Ambassadors from Whinstone Primary School for the first time recently for a very special collaborative session. The visiting students have spent the last two years working toward the prestigious Diana Trust Award, and they joined us to present the culmination of their hard work, sharing the strategies and initiatives they have developed to foster kindness and inclusivity.

It is no small feat for primary-aged pupils to stand up and lead sessions for older students, yet the ambassadors handled the challenge with incredible poise. They were an absolute credit to their school—insightful, articulate, and incredibly brave. The confidence and clarity with which they shared their experiences made a lasting impression on everyone involved, and our students and staff have learned a great deal from the visit.

This visit marks the beginning of an exciting journey for our own Key Stage 3 Anti-Bullying Ambassadors here at Conyers. Inspired by the 'gold standard' set by Whinstone, our team is eager to get to work and implement some of these excellent ideas and good practices. We are truly excited to begin this chapter and work together to make a lasting, positive change across our school community.

We want to say a huge thank you to the Whinstone ambassadors for their time, effort, and inspiration; we truly hope to continue working with you and building on this brilliant new partnership in the future.

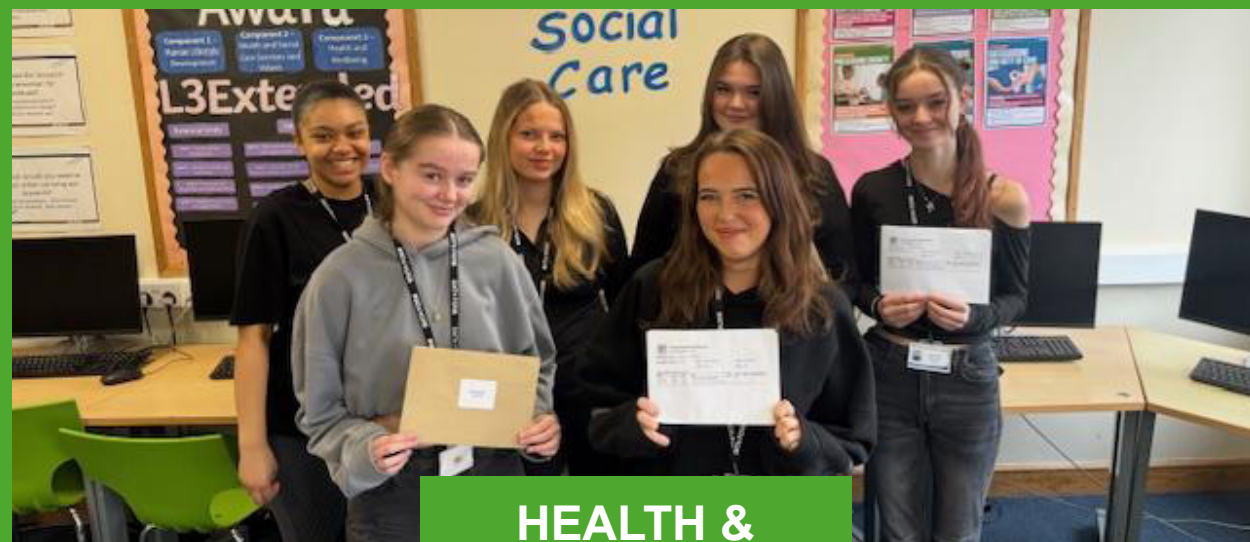


PRIMARY EXPERIENCE DAY

We were thrilled to welcome Year 5 students from Levendale, Layfield, and Ingleby Mill to Conyers for a vibrant Primary Experience Day centered on the world of Drama and English. Led by Mr. Smith and Miss McAvoy, the day was an immersive journey into Shakespeare's *The Tempest*, where our visiting pupils traded their school uniforms for the roles of shipwrecked kings and mystical island spirits.

The energy in the room was electric as the students dove into the complex language and themes of the play. Under the expert guidance of our staff, the Year 5s didn't just read the script—they brought it to life. From exploring the booming power of the storm to the delicate magic of Prospero's island, the students showed incredible creativity and teamwork. The highlight of the day was seeing the groups perform their scenes. It was wonderful to witness the confidence of the pupils as they took to the stage, projecting their voices and interpreting the characters with such enthusiasm. For many, it was a first taste of secondary school life and the performing arts, and they rose to the occasion brilliantly.

A huge well done to all the students from Levendale, Layfield, and Ingleby Mill for their hard work and brilliant performances. We hope you left the island of *The Tempest* feeling inspired, and we look forward to seeing many more of your dramatic talents in the future!



HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE

It has been a fantastic and busy time for Health & Social Care at Conyers!

We are incredibly proud of our Year 12 students, who have recently received their exam results. They have achieved some truly outstanding outcomes, reflecting their hard work, dedication, and resilience throughout the year. These results are a testament to the effort they have put into their studies, and we are excited to see them continue to develop their knowledge and skills as they move forward in the course.

Our Year 13 students are now on the final stretch of their Health & Social Care journey. With coursework nearing completion and final assessments approaching, they have shown great commitment and maturity. We are also delighted that many of our students have already secured university placements at Teesside, Northumbria, Leeds, and Durham, progressing onto a range of courses including Primary Education, Nursing, and Social Work. This is a fantastic achievement, and we are very proud of their success as they prepare for the next stage of their careers.

Year 11 students have also received their controlled assessment results and should be extremely proud of what they have achieved. Their hard work and determination have really paid off, and these results place them in a strong position moving forward.

Meanwhile, our Year 10 students are currently working hard on their controlled assessment, with a deadline set for the end of April. We encourage them to stay focused and continue putting in their best effort as they work towards completing this important part of the course.

Well done to all of our students for their continued effort and success!

#WeAreConyers

STUDENT LEADERSHIP & CELEBRATING SUCCESS

We are celebrating the success of some of our amazing student leaders who have demonstrated perseverance and are an inspiration to us all.

Student leadership at Conyers is about ensuring that students are able to contribute positively to their shared communities. This can take the form of active engagement in clubs and volunteering and it can also take the form of exhibiting the values of respect, patience and kindness towards each other. If we are being honest, given recent events at home and abroad, these are values that we desperately need.

A student that has demonstrated these values is Jack Kirtley who joined Conyers as a very reserved student who was reluctant to participate at first, but has overcome his initial hesitance to embed himself in the Conyers community. In Year 10, it is fair to say that Jack is thriving. One of the ways he has excelled is in his Drama lessons, which he says is essential as you develop the soft skills of communication and empathetic understanding. Jack says that Drama has helped develop his confidence and work with other people he may not have otherwise, had he not persevered. This has led Jack to join the school band and participate in tours such as the one which sent him to Strasbourg last year. Outside of Conyers, Jack is benefitting the local community and volunteers at the Teesside Hospice in Yarm as part of the Duke of Edinburgh programme. In his words 'I love listening to what the elderly shoppers have to say and serving the community that I'm from'. Jack is an excellent ambassador for young people and a proud student at Conyers School. He is someone that we can all look up to and hope to emulate.

Another student that goes above and beyond is Year 9 student Elizabeth Horlock. She is a fantastic historian and geographer who goes above and beyond to help peers in lessons. Elizabeth is a Conyers student that uses her initiative and seeks out opportunities to contribute to the school. She is also passionate about books, which is perhaps the reason why she has been appointed by Mrs Dawson as the Senior Assistant Librarian. Given how busy the library can get during social times, her presence is a God send. Elizabeth has also ventured into mentoring students with their French from time to time when she sees them struggling with their homework in the library. This is exactly the type of selfless attitude we wish to inculcate in school and wider society. Also, the fact that she is a Star Wars fan is the icing on the cake.

Sixth Form Inspiration

We have some extremely exceptional student leaders in our Sixth Form who have matured since they started at Conyers School in Key Stage 3. Amongst them is Year 12 student Eva Harris who, aside from being an astute Politics student, is also a volunteer at a karate academy in Thornaby teaching young children how to defend themselves. This likely explains her knockout blows in political debates. If that were not enough, Eva captains a chess team in Thornaby and organises matches and tournament. The logical consistency translates well into her essays as she maneuvers various arguments. These revelations are a complete surprise and demonstrates that Conyers students are full of pleasant surprises. Eva's commitment to both her studies and volunteering show just what an asset she is to the community.

The 'just giving' nature of our sixth formers does not end there. Health & Social Care student Georgia Kay regularly volunteers at the James Cook University Hospital. She will often be seen in the therapeutic care wards talking to patients and putting them at ease. Georgia is one of the kindest and most polite students anyone could come across. The patients at JCUH are in very safe hands.



Student Parliament

Members of the student parliament have been meeting to finalise their charity plans/events, which will hopefully come into fruition. In one of the meetings Sixth Form students Witness Ikah and Barsett Ayodele delivered a talk on the importance of organising, funding and delivering a diverse range of workshops. They were very passionate about engaging young people from all walks of life and raising aspirations in the community. The Conyers Sixth Form is the ideal place for our student leaders to develop further and develop their confidence. This was particularly the case with Barsett who is one of the most intelligent, confident and eloquent speakers in the school.

Izzy Phipps, one of our most celebrated members of the Student Parliament, wanted to share some tips on how to manage exam anxiety. Student Voice indicated that Year 11 and 13 students were at a crucial crossroads in their academic career and perhaps needed some urgent guidance on how to manage revision and exam anxiety/resilience. Izzy Phipps, who heads the Inclusion Committee of the Student Parliament, has shared some wisdom, which is borne out of experience:

"I think we all know how stressful exam preparation can be. At times it feels like you're being crushed by your workload and the end is nowhere in sight. I've definitely been there. If you're feeling that way now, please know that those moments don't last forever, and even if it seems impossible at the time, things always get better. If you need some help managing your revision, here's what I suggest. Firstly, I'd say to have a plan. This can be in whatever form works best for you. Some people like a set revision timetable, others prefer to make to-do lists, and I'm sure that you'll find other ideas if you ask around. If the way of planning you're doing now isn't working, don't be afraid to try other methods and keep experimenting until you find something that works for you. Next, try to take things one day at a time. I know it can be easy to always be thinking about the future and what's coming next, but I also know that if you think that way all the time then you'll get overwhelmed very, very quickly. Once you have a plan in place, tackling just one thing at a time makes your workload feel so much more manageable. It's also incredibly important to make sure that you're taking care of yourself. Nobody is capable of working all the time. Taking time to rest and do things that you enjoy is just as important as homework and revision. I'm well aware that it might feel like there's not enough hours in the day to do everything, but by setting time aside for yourself, you'll find yourself with so much more energy when tackling your revision and you'll probably end up getting things done quicker. But above all, if you are struggling, please ask for help. If you only take one thing away from this, please let it be that you are surrounded by people who'll be more than happy to help you, but they can only do that if they know you need it. Teachers, support staff, parents and older students have all been through what you're going through, and we're all here for you. Whatever you're trying to handle, you don't have to cope with it alone. I wish you all the best of luck with your exams, and please remember that even if things go wrong, there is always another way to get to where you want to be, even if it's not obvious at first."

IT & COMPUTING

It has been an incredibly productive term in the world of computing. From budding entrepreneurs to future software engineers, our students have been hard at work mastering the digital skills that define the modern world. Here is a look at what each year group has been tackling:

Key Stage 3: Building the Foundations

Year 7: Digital Enterprise

Our youngest digital citizens have been exploring the intersection of technology and business. They have been investigating how modern enterprises—from global giants to local startups—leverage technology to reach customers and streamline operations.

Year 8: Search and Sort Algorithms

Year 8 have stepped into the shoes of computer scientists, deconstructing the logic behind data organization. They've been mastering Binary and Linear Search, as well as Bubble and Merge Sort algorithms. Understanding these processes is vital for grasping how software manages vast amounts of information instantly.

Year 9: VB.NET Console Programming

Taking their coding skills to the next level, Year 9 have transitioned into text-based programming using Visual Basic (VB) in a console environment. They are currently learning how to handle variables, selection (If-Statements), and iteration (Loops) to build functional, logic-driven programs.

Key Stage 4 & 5: The Road to Success

Year 10: Controlled Assessment Countdown

Year 10 are currently in the thick of their Controlled Assessment, which accounts for a significant 60% of their final grade.

Action Required: The final deadline is the first week back after Easter. It is essential that any missed lessons or incomplete sections are caught up on before this date. This is the opportunity for students to showcase the absolute best of their technical ability.

Year 11 & Year 13: Exam Readiness

Our examination cohorts are now in "performance mode". Lessons are focused on recalling core knowledge and refining exam techniques. Students are working through past papers to ensure they can apply their theoretical understanding under timed conditions.

Important Dates & Milestones

Please note the following upcoming examination and milestone dates. We encourage all students to use their revision resources and stay consistent with their study schedules.

Year 11 Computer Science, May 10, 2026

Year 12 IT, May 14, 2026

Year 11 IT, May 20, 2026

Year 13 Computer Science, June 7, 2026



MFL

There's been a lot going on in MFL this half term! Year 10 pathways classes have worked hard on their coursework portfolios and, as a result, enjoyed some cultural food-based lessons. One lesson involved making French toast, another involved creating a 3 course menu on a budget using French food magazines as inspiration. Year 11 have been preparing hard for their mock speaking exams too and Year 13 have been honing their speaking skills by attending zoom calls with native French speakers during Mrs Tatham's lessons to help them build confidence.

HISTORY

It has been a busy half-term in History. Year 8 students have been discussing the causes of World War I leading to a debate on who was most to blame for the outbreak of war. Students were rigorous in the defence of their given country whilst articulating evidence-based arguments for why others were more to blame. In Year 10, students have finished the Health and the People component of the course including their end of unit test and moved on to studying America during the 1920s. Year 11 have now completed their study of 'The Globe' theatre and produced some excellent 16-mark exam responses showcasing their independent research around the Historical Environment aspect of the course. Year 11 continue to amaze us with the effort they are putting in to their weekly focus revision sheets. Meanwhile, Year 13 students are delighted to see the back of their NEA having submitted their final essay on causes of Tudor rebellions. Sixth Form History students are now preparing for our annual debate with Yarm School which will take place in the summer term. Furthermore, Politics students have had their place at the Autumn Westminster Conference confirmed and can therefore look forward to hearing from high-profile MPs such as Jacob Rees Mogg, Chris Bryant and Daisy Cooper.



PE

Rugby

Girls embarked on a tournament for U14 and U12, which was held at Durham Johnstone. The girls showed grit, determination and had a lot of fun. Well done to all involved. Our U14 boys won the County 7s - a tremendous achievement and accolade. Well done!

Interform football

After a very intense few weeks of inter-form football we have some winners. Well done to everyone involved, from players to supporters the effort, attitude and camaraderie was really nice to see. The buzz in the sports hall was intense, especially during the finals.

Football

Year 8 Boys have had a turbulent time of late, of wins and losses. A great set of boys who represent Conyers proudly each time. Year 7 football team had a game against OLSB abandoned due to the wind, rain and hail. They went on to beat Northfield and lost to a strong St Micheals team.

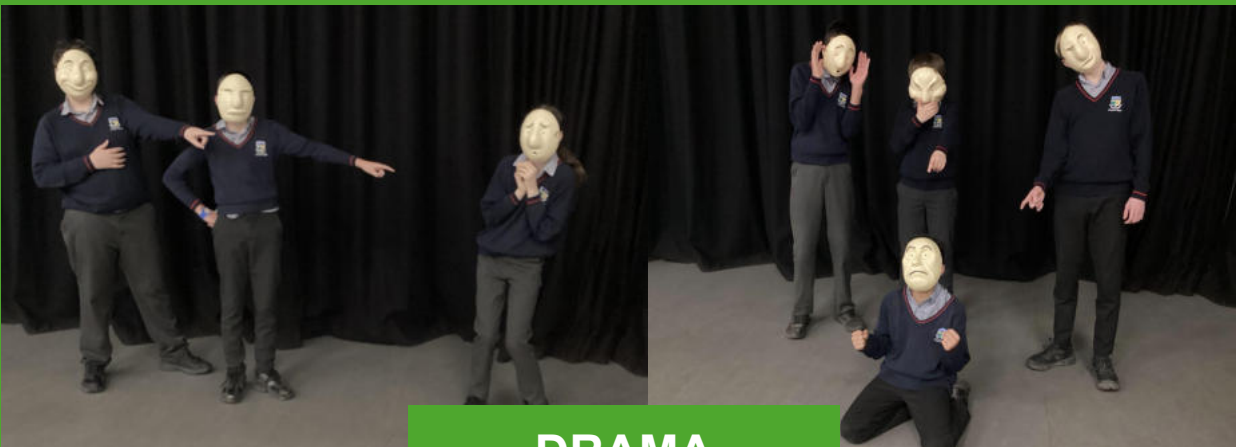
U16 girls county cup final winners

6-0 win vs a strong Trinity side. Conyers played some extremely good football, calm in possession and strong out of possession. 6 great goals came from intricate build up play. Pick of the bunch were a bullet header from EmJ from a pinpoint corner from Holly and a long distance strike from Niamh. A great way for the Year 11 students to sign off their successful Conyers football career. Below is a picture from the first game they play to their last.

Netball

Year 8 won the netball tournament, a fantastic display of determination a grit - well done girls! Year 7's showed excellent resilience during their netball tournament, so much progress was made throughout.





DRAMA

It has been a busy half term in Drama with both our GCSE and A Level students completing their component 3 examinations. We have been incredibly proud of the hard work and dedication all of the students have shown in rehearsals and preparation for the visiting examiner. We have also visited Northern Stage in Newcastle with our GCSE students to watch a production of their set text 'Noughts and Crosses' by Pilot Theatre company. A fantastic experience and the students thoroughly enjoyed it.

We have had fun in Year 8 this half term with students being able to explore mask work and puppetry. We have created paper man puppets in lessons to use in performance in the style of gyre and gimble and worked with trestle theatre masks.



RE

In RE there was success with our 'Boost' sessions. These were well attended by conscientious students who wanted to have help with the content for RE and also those who wanted to see how to answer the 12 mark GCSE questions for their GCSE exam. The focus for students now turns to ensuring they have revised and covered all the content and giving it their all with the remaining 6 RE lessons.

ART

It's been an incredibly busy half term. Year 11 & 13 Photography and Art students have been researching, sampling and planning for their exam prep, using the art rooms at lunchtime and some involved in intervention days. It's been a pleasure to see their work and ideas developing and discussing it with them.

Year 7 have explored the detailed insect drawings of Rosalind Monks, have gone outside to take landscape photos in the school grounds, explored editing of their photographs and started to look at the landscape painters Rebecca Vincent and John Virtue.

Year 8 have been creating preparation sheets exploring drawing and shading techniques for their beautiful drawing studies of shells.

Year 9 have been researching and selecting Japanese, Chinese and South Korean imagery to creatively develop their title pages, exploring layout and materials.

Year 10 are busily working on their Culture project final pieces to meet their deadline. Year 10 Photographers are responding to their Reflections project theme skillfully using the photographic artist Abigail Reynolds as their inspiration.

DISCOVERY

The fourth and final Discovery Afternoon was a real success! Students across all year groups had the opportunity to participate in a range of activities under the theme of Community. Some highlights included the Year 7 community litter pick, Year 8 learning about the importance of first aid, Year 9 exploring voting, Year 10 receiving an informative talk from the RNLI, and Key Stage 5 students learning to cook on a budget.

Some students in Key Stage 3 also had the opportunity to attend a rewards trip, recognising their exemplary attendance, to Moor House and Air Trail. Mrs Jones and Mrs Burn are extremely pleased with the enthusiasm and participation shown by all students.

A massive thank you, as always, to all staff for their involvement in making these days so successful!