



**We are  
Lyng Hall  
24.04.26**



# CCFC Celebration: Coventry's Journey

## The legacy of the Sky Blues

Our Y10 students share an important narrative that captures the resilience, drive and rebirth that encapsulates our city. They witnessed a historic moment for Coventry City Football Club. We marked the day at school – with student and staff donning their shirts – and a sunny lunch spent on the field, with a penalty shoot-out and blue and white doughnuts. This article captures how our team resiliently fought to reach this climactic moment after 25 years.



# Coventry City

Back where we belong





# CCFC Celebration: Coventry's Journey

By Harry Hewitt, Mason John and Harry Terrence

## Relegation (some of our staff body were there...)

Shockingly, Coventry City were relegated from the Premier League in 2001. They had a team that was made for the topflight like players in Mustapha Hadji and Gary MacAllister. They were thought to go straight back up, right where they belong, but how the Sky Blues were wrong. 2 11th place finishes followed by a 20th place finish. Coventry never looked threatening enough for the championship and that started the downfall of the city's footballing culture.



## Slow collapse into the championship

Still surviving in the EFL Championship by the skin of their teeth, Coventry were taken over by business investment group, SISU. This was the beginning of what seemed like the end for the Sky Blues. Heavy debts remained while SISU were cutting costs from the football club furthering the team down the football pyramid. Not only that, but we left our once beloved home, Highfield road, a sad day for all Coventry fans. This led us to the Ricoh Arena and then 2012 soon hit leading to the inevitable relegation to league 1.



## Ground sharing and administration

Coventry entered administration and received a 10-point deduction 8 months into the league 1 campaign in March 2013. The team survived countless times but eventually this hurt the team enough; effectively relegating them to league 2 in the 17/18 season. We had to groundshare at Northampton towns ground, the Sixfields stadium. The fans protested and funds weren't being paid. Exacerbated by the fact that the squad was constantly changing in league one before the relegation and it just wasn't clicking. League 2 football was on the horizon.



## The Mark Robins' Era

In March 2017, former manger Mark Robins - who was at the helm from September 2012 and left in February 2013 to manage Huddersfield town - was reappointed to help with the dire situation. He soon became a club legend by securing the play offs and winning the playoff trophy to secure league one promotion. As soon as his appointment was made, he won the then known as 'Papa Johns Trophy'. Key players like Marc McNulty, Jordan Willis and Liam Kelly helped start the club's revival. Smart signings for cheap and strategic decisions in the higher ups started to unfold, with SISU slowly losing their place. After a few slow seasons in League 1, we soon got promoted back to the Championship after a 1st place finish in the early cut 19/20 season (due to Covid). Mark slowly cemented himself as a club legend.





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## Another ground share at St Andrews

More financial issues hit and Coventry were forced to play at St Andrews, Birmingham city's home ground. This hurt city's home advantage with the revenue, but Coventry were still promoted to the championship in the Covid season. This was a tough time for the home fans having to play half an hour up the road as they wanted to play at their home. This was proof that Robins was a certified manager for the level and surely could never be sacked.



## Coventry 22/23 Miracle Season

This season started off as any other start to a Coventry season, we were winless in 7, picking up 3 points and looking to slip back into the habit of slow starts to the season. We then picked up a 1-0 home win against Middlesbrough and from there it was only up. Until the New Year, City picked up 9 wins 5 draws and 4 losses to good sides. Towards the back end of this season, City were unstoppable - becoming unbeaten in their last 7 and before the 4-0 defeat to Stoke we were on an unbeaten streak of 9 games.

This spurred the Coventry fans to believe that this was the season they would become Premier League again. Beating Boro over 2 legs with a 1-0 win away from home sent Coventry to Wembley and we were 1 win away from the Premier League. On the 27<sup>th</sup> of May 2023, it was Coventry vs. Luton, Championship pof, the stage was set, who would step up?

Coventry went 1-0 down inside 23 mins and were trailing until the 66<sup>th</sup> minute when Gustavo Hamer, a now City legend, stepped up and scored the goal to equalise the tie. Cov fans were in dream land as we looked the better side going into extra time half an hour, Luton scored last minute however it was disallowed for a foul in the build up and then came penalties! Coventry heartbreak occurred as Fankaty Dabo missed his penalty - crushing the hearts of thousands of Sky Blues, in and outside of Wembley. This was what was needed for the team - Coventry's footballing culture hasn't been the same ever since, in a good way. We got the Phoenix fire in our belly.



## Doug King Takeover

The 22/23 season was when we finally got rid of SISU and Doug King bought the club, that was the start of something special for the Sky Blues. The change of ownership brought improved attendances and the fans' relationship with the owners grew. This was widely regarded as what Coventry needed to gain off field, as well as on field, stability. Mark Robins immediately caught on, featuring in a chant to the song "I'm into something good". He has become a huge fan in recent times seen singing the club's anthem: "We Live And Die In These Towns".





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In the 23/24 season, the Sky Blues finished 9th in the league with a poor end to the season, but that wasn't the highlight of the season. The real highlight of this season was the magical cup run, reaching the FA Cup semi final at Wembley.

Our road to the semi-final: Oxford at home 6-2 win, Kasey Palmer scored an absolute worldie of a goal to send us through to the next round. We then played Sheffield Wednesday away from home, which resulted in a 1-1 draw with the home side scoring in the last minutes of the game, sending it to a replay. In this game however, City's new at the time recruit, Victor Torp played and scored a beautiful goal on debut. We then played Maidstone United, who went on a magical cup run of their own beating Ipswich town 2-1 away from home, dispatching them 5-0 with Ellis Simms scoring a hattrick and Fabio Tavares scoring a brace.

Then the magic started, beating Premier League side Wolves 3-2. This game will live long in the memory for Cov fans as Ellis Simms and Haji Wright scored in the last minutes to beat the side. This then booked our place at Wembley for the 2nd year running. We then faced Manchester United at the home of football; we went 3-0 down inside of 58 minutes. Coventry then sparked a crazy comeback that no one saw coming: 3-1 thanks to Ellis Simms, many thought was a consolation goal but then 3-2 when Callum O'Hare scores a deflection. Then in the final minute of the game 90+5 minutes, Haji Wright scored a penalty past Andre Onana to secure extra time for the Sky Blues. Extra time was dull, both teams hitting the cross bar, but then again in the last minute of extra time, Victor Torp scored a goal that sent Coventry to the FA cup final for the first time since FA cup 87'! But then VAR stepped in and disallowed the goal by a margin on Haji Wright. Wembley heartbreak again - losing on penalties.



## 24/25 Heartbreak yet again

Coventry's 24/25 season was nothing but outstanding getting the play offs, but the start of the season was a nightmare turned dreamland for many Sky-Blue fans. We started the season poorly picking up only 14 points by November. Coventry lost to Derby 2-1 - the day after everyone found out that the club sacked Mark Robins, the man who got us into the place we were. Placed 17th in the league, we signed massive name, Frank Lampard, who many thought would flop but oh how they were wrong! He got the Sky Blues to the play offs again come the end of the season.

Everyone was loving Frank Lampard, and they finally thought this was the year. Social media regarded Coventry as 'next season FC' because they fell short in the play off semi finals to rival Sunderland, conceding in the Last minute of extra time due to an abnormal header. Coventry would come back even stronger making smart recruitments in the summer. This was the start of city's return to the Premier League.



## 25/26 Champions

This season was the start of something special, with Frank Lampard at the helm, Coventry started the season by buying their stadium and then on the same day beating QPR 7-1. Coventry couldn't stop scoring and found themselves top by Christmas only losing 2 games up until that point, after that Coventry soared until they reached the top.



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We managed to raise another £138 pounds for Prom with our CCFC Celebration day.

Our top scorers for the penalty shootout: Richie Maphosa, Marco Machala, Lindon Mitchell in our KS4-5 rounds. With Arens Jata, Nikodem Lisewski and Mohammed Aro picking up the title in the KS3 rounds.



# Coventry City

Back where we belong





# Community Understanding

By Holly Masterson and Kristy Ebihon

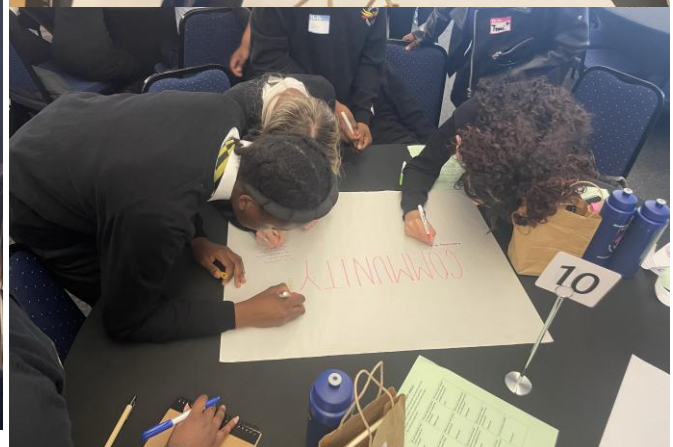
## Young Voices Shaping Cohesion Conference 24th March 2026

On the 24th of March, 6 pupils from Lyng hall school were invited to participate in the Coventry youth conference. This event held place in the Coventry transport museum, and it allowed young people to communicate and point out the wrongs in communities and try to share ideas to make our city better. This consisted in taking part in activities such as community bingo and poem making.

Our day started with community bingo; this activity was important because it allowed us to explore the different personalities within our community. It allowed us to build friendships with different school pupils and understand other peoples' ideas. After this activity we made posters on what Community and ... meant to us. This activity granted us the opportunity to develop better ideas for our own projects.

Youth conferences are important because they provide a platform for young people to speak up about issues of concern, rather than only having adults make all the decisions. These events bring people together to share new ideas and help build the confidence to lead, demonstrating that the opinions of younger generations matter.

Without a voice for young people in the community, decision-makers miss out on fresh perspectives and the reality of what that generation is going through. By encouraging involvement now, the community becomes more modern and better reflects the people who will be living in the future.





# Community Understanding

## International Women's Day #GiveToGain

You will remember in our last feature we shared our events for International Women's Day. This week we welcomed Coventry Haven into school to receive our donation, and to deliver an important testimony to our students.

We were able to donate £250 – alongside nearly 30 Dignity Bags, and a significant volume of other needed items to support in the formation of further bags. Each act supports our wider community. Our kindness is part of the change we wish to see.



**Lisa Hagan**  
Lyng Hall School

**Coventry Haven**  
women's aid

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Fax: 02476 652 878  
E-mail: info@coventryhaven.co.uk

22nd April 2026

Dear Ms Hagan and your students,

**Thank you for your donation**

I wanted to write to say a heartfelt thank you for your incredibly kind and generous support for Coventry Haven Women's Aid.

Your donation of £250, alongside the huge amount of toiletries and the obvious care and thought you put into putting everything together, means such a great deal to us.

These gifts are far more than practical items. For women and children subjected to domestic abuse, receiving essential toiletries and personal care items can provide real comfort, dignity and reassurance at a time that may feel frightening, uncertain and overwhelming. The fact that you took the time not only to donate, but to think so carefully about what would be helpful, is something we truly value.

Your kindness will have a direct impact on the women and children we support. It shows compassion, understanding and a genuine desire to help others, and that should never be underestimated.

I also want to thank you for the maturity and respect you showed during my visit. It was a privilege to spend time with you and to talk about this subject with such a thoughtful group of students.

On behalf of all of us at Coventry Haven Women's Aid, thank you again for your generosity, your care and the effort you have made to support our work.

With warmest thanks,

Yours sincerely

**Jaime Richards MClOF**  
Development and Funding Officer



## Our MAT Community

# How far is everyone responsible for each other?

We were excited to host our first MAT English event – Y10 students from across the four secondary schools came together to explore 'An Inspector Calls.' Our community theatre was alive with debates about whether our world is filled with morning Birlings or Inspectors.

### Students from across the schools share their thoughts:

“The most impactful thing was when we saw that we all have to be responsible for each other.”

“My biggest takeaway is seeing how much Mr. Goole's principles have influenced our society.”

“This session allowed me to initiate conversations with the different schools. Sharing different opinions on inspector calls.”

“I now have a deeper insight to all the characters.”

“I have enjoyed meeting, they are very nice and funny people, thank you Miss Hagan.”

“Inspector calls was made to better society and although we are better, this still hasn't happened.”

“It helped me structure an argument.”

“I learnt how everyone's different perspectives changes and how interesting each view is.”

“This was so fun.”

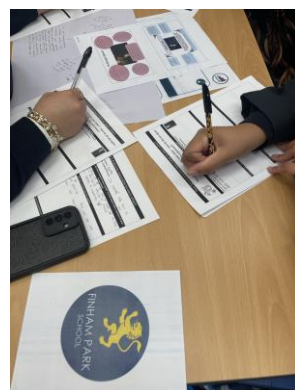
“I worked with people I've never worked with before.”

“The debates were good as the questions asked helped broaden the view of how I could develop my ideas for an individual person. Thank you for organising this.”

“The debate really helped me look at different ways of thinking and look at views I didn't look at before.”

“I have learnt that An Inspector Calls can still represent society today.”

“I think the debate was the most beneficial because I got to argue with different points of view which was interesting.”





## Community Understanding

### Introducing our new school counsellor

I have just joined Lyng Hall School, and I am extremely excited to get our counselling service up and running. I am a qualified counsellor specialising in working with children and young people.

Counselling provides a space to be heard, understood and explore your thoughts, feelings and experiences. Sometimes bottling things up can feel overwhelming and we can feel stuck with how we feel and unsure of what to do. Having a space separate from everyday life can sometimes make it easier to approach how we are feeling, or what is on our minds.

Young people access counselling for a wide range of reasons, including:

- self-esteem
- anxiety
- exam stress
- friendship difficulties
- bereavement
- low mood
- anger
- difficult life experiences



Counselling provides a confidential space to talk through your feelings, free of judgement and pressure. This means what we talk about in sessions stays private. Your safety is my top priority, therefore there are limitations to what information I can keep confidential. If you share details that raises concern for your (or someone else's) safety and wellbeing, I will need to share this information. This could be with our Safeguarding Team, parents and other children's services.

If you feel that you would benefit from our counselling service, please ask your Pastoral Year Co-ordinator to make a referral. Once a referral has made, we can have a chat to explore if counselling is right for you.

#### **Some of our Y9 students had the opportunity to interview our new member of staff:**

##### *What is a counsellor?*

Well, it is basically a person who can help you open up about your feelings and emotions so it can allow you to work better in school and help you feel better about yourself so a bit like therapy so you can understand yourself a bit better. Also, there are different types of therapy for example creative therapy which helps you talk about your feelings and what is making you feel a certain way but not just talking, you can use mood cards instead if you didn't want to necessarily talk about it. There are different ways you can talk about it without using words it also a good way if you're a creative person you can use those activities in the session to suit you so you can build trust with the councillor.

##### *Why is it important?*

She says working with young people is very important especially in secondary school as we are teenagers so it is the importance of knowing that you can express how you feel without having to worry about what others think about you, having a councillor allows you to have a safe space to talk about your worries or something that is keeping you down. If you are afraid to talk to the councillor in one of the first sessions, you just have to start a conversation and get to know each other so you can build trust to eventually open up in the sessions as it will just be you and the councillor so it is completely confidential in the sessions so there is nothing to worry about. In addition to this, she says her favourite part is just getting to know all the students that she meets just know that their doing well and that their ok.

Once again, the best thing about the session is that it is 100% private and confidential so there will be nothing to worry about even if you wish to share your views about other people in the school no one will know. As the councillor sessions are new to our school some of the qualities, she says which are needed for her to be in her job is to show empathy, to be understanding about different people's situations and basically getting to know them and making the experience enjoyable for them so they are comfortable talking to the councillor.



# College Values

Mr. Harragan shares key messages for our community

**1**

## BE POLITE. USE MANNERS. SHOW RESPECT.

MANNERS ARE RESPECTFUL.

**2**

## THE PROBLEM

We all know what manners are...  
But knowing them and **using them** are two different things.

**3**

## IT'S NOT JUST WORDS

RESPECT IS SHOWN IN THE LITTLE THINGS.

- Holding doors
- Listening
- Not talking over others
- How you speak to people – even when you're annoyed

**4**

## MUSIC TECH LINK

In music production, every sound has its own **space**.  
If everything plays at once, it's just **noise**.

✓ GOOD MIX = SPACE | ✗ BAD MIX = CHAOS

**5**

## THE KEY MESSAGE

### MANNERS ARE GIVING PEOPLE SPACE.

AWARENESS | BALANCE | RESPECT

**6**

## WHY IT MATTERS

- Teachers remember.
- Friends remember.
- Employers remember.

**YOU MIGHT FORGET A LESSON... BUT PEOPLE DON'T FORGET HOW YOU TREATED THEM.**

**7**

## SMALL ACTIONS, BIG IMPACT

Manners aren't a one-time thing.  
They're **tiny choices** that build a better world every day.

HOLD THE DOOR → SAY PLEASE & THANK YOU → BE KIND → MAKE A DIFFERENCE

**9**

## PROGRESS OVER PERFECTION

Small progress **every day** leads to **big results** over time.

DAY 1 Start small. → DAY 10 Stay consistent. → DAY 30 Keep showing up. → DAY 60 Build momentum. → DAY 90 See how far you've come!

✓ You don't have to be perfect. | You just have to **keep going**. ☆

HAVE A GREAT DAY

Remember...  
**MANNERS COST NOTHING**

From Mr. Harragan



## DID YOU KNOW?

<p><b>SCHOOL MEALS</b></p>	<p>Your child may be eligible for free school meals if you receive certain benefits such as income support. Queries can be directed to Coventry City Council. Tel: 024768337733 or Email: <a href="mailto:freeschoolmeals@coventry.gov.uk">freeschoolmeals@coventry.gov.uk</a></p> <p>Applications can be made through: <a href="http://www.coventry.gov.uk/applyforfreeschoolmeals">http://www.coventry.gov.uk/applyforfreeschoolmeals</a></p>		<p>To purchase food in the school dining room, money must be paid onto ParentPay as we are a cashless school. Login through: <a href="https://app.parentpay.com/public/client/security/v2/">https://app.parentpay.com/public/client/security/v2/</a></p> <p>If you experience any problems with this, please contact your child's pastoral year coordinator.</p>
<p><b>TRAVEL PASS</b></p>	<p>If you live more than 2 miles from the school, your child may be eligible for a free bus pass. For information on how a student would qualify for a pass, please visit: <a href="http://www.coventry.gov.uk/schoolbuspasses">http://www.coventry.gov.uk/schoolbuspasses</a></p> <p>Applications: <a href="http://www.coventry.gov.uk/applyforatravelpass">www.coventry.gov.uk/applyforatravelpass</a></p> <p>Queries: Tel: 02476975445 or Email: <a href="mailto:schooltransport@coventry.gov.uk">schooltransport@coventry.gov.uk</a></p>		
<p><b>UNIFORM</b></p>	<p>If your child out-grows their blazer but it is still in very good condition, they may be able to swap their blazer for a bigger size, if our stock allows.</p>	<p>If you are struggling with the cost of items of the uniform, we will do our best to try and help you. Contact your child's pastoral year coordinator in the first instance</p>	<p>We accept uniform donations. Please drop any items that you no longer need or require into school reception.</p>

## SCHOOL CALENDAR

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May – Year 8 Parent Evening  
 w/b Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May to w/b Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> June – GCSE Exams  
 Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June – Year 7 Parent Evening  
 w/b Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June – Year 10 Mock Exams  
 w/b Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> June – Year 10 & 12 Mock Exams



- Built on **Respect**
- Driven by **Resilience**
- Defined by **Excellence**