



Cokethorpe
SCHOOL

THE OCELLUS

The termly newsletter of the School

David Goldsmith (1927–2009)



*Mr David Felton Goldsmith MBE,
Headmaster 1979–1989.*

From the Headmaster

As I write, the country has been deciding which young hopeful has the X Factor, which professional is the Sports Personality of the Year, even which celebrity has the makings of a Ballroom Dancing champion. Each year we decide which Briton has got talent, which celebrity we most want to see submerged in a barrel of worms and who we think deserves to remain hermetically sealed-in with a bunch of dysfunctional housemates. Competition is also a factor of life at school. Schools themselves are put into league tables, school teams compete to win matches, A Level students fight for places on the best courses at the best universities. Shakespeare said 'all the world's a stage...' but at times it seems as though all of life is a contest, and all the men and women merely competitors. I am firmly of the belief that competition is a good thing; that it sharpens us up and helps us to greater achievement. But it is sometimes costly. Did you know that a 'rat race' was once a form of jazz dance? Now it is a term to remind us that if we spend our lives constantly chasing, we never stop long enough to enjoy the present moment. Just as dangerously, we may never be satisfied with who we are, only ever hoping to be something more, or even someone else.



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A Level Examination Results

Grade A	28%
Grades A to B	59%
Grades A to C	85%
Grades A to E	99%
Avg UCAS Points	298

GCSE Examination Results

Grades A* to A	36.8%
Grades A* to B	69.5%
Grades A* to C	93.5%
Pass Rate	100%

Maths Challenge Questions

Below are some example questions from the Senior Mathematics Challenge:

- 1) The product of five consecutive integers is 360 360. What is the mean of the integers?
- 2) I have a number that is less than one million. Putting a 1 after it makes it three times as large as putting a 1 before it. What is my number?
- 3) All the edge lengths of a particular cuboid are integers. It turns out that the cuboid's volume is numerically equal to its surface area. If the shortest edge length is 3cm, what is the maximum possible length of the longest edge?
- 4) A van travels from Leeds to Trowbridge with an average speed of 50km per hour. What average speed does it need to achieve on the return journey to make the average speed for the whole journey 60km per hour?

Front Cover: School Governor, Mr Bond-Smith, visits the School with his racing-green classic car to show the Junior School children.

Maths Challenge Answers

- 1) 13
- 2) 42857
- 3) 42cm
- 4) 75km per hour

GCSE and A Level Results

As the school year marches on, and with the Year 11 pupils having recently taken their mocks, this seems a good time to report of the successes in the summer examinations of 2009. Records were broken again across the board, with Cokethorpe's best ever GCSE results (94% A*-C grade, 37% A* and A grades).



At A Level Cokethorpe equalled the previous best average points score of 300 (an average of BBB) and increased the numbers in the top grades. Particular congratulations go to Karim Bahou (Feilden), Timothy Muller (Vanbrugh) and Charles Bennett (Feilden) for their four A grades. Expectations are higher still for this year's results.



Biology Trip to Kenya

During July a group of pupils embarked on a whirlwind tour of Kenya. The week included a variety of exciting excursions and activities, two highlights being a safari drive in the Masai Mara where pupils got the chance to see an array of spectacular animals in their natural habitat, and a visit to a local primary school in Naivasha.



Pupils also visited Naivasha market where they purchased local crafts and enjoyed practising their haggling techniques. They then went to a tea estate near Nairobi where they learnt about the production of tea and got the opportunity to feed some friendly Colobus monkeys. The trip was a fantastic success and a unique experience, which the Biology Department hopes to repeat in the future.



Lunchtime Lecture

As part of the lunchtime lecture programme Mr Williams delivered a fascinating lecture on war photography during the Michaelmas Term. The lecture focused on the work of Don McCullin and explored the technical and aesthetic aspects of McCullin's work, speaking of pity, empathy, horror and humour in equal measure. Watch out for next term's offerings...



Biology Trip to Preston Montford

Year 13 Biologists enjoyed the great outdoors whilst on a three-day trip to the Preston Montford Field Studies Centre in Shropshire during November. The centre, which is set in 12 hectares of grassland and woodland on the banks of the River Severn, allowed students to study fresh water and moorland ecology and conservation as part of their A Level studies.



ACADEMIC

English Literary Recitals

The English Department continued to be active in bringing English alive this term. Mr Philips's Year 10 class presented their study of *Touching the Void*, while Mr Elkin-Jones read some of the fabulous Gothic horror stories that Year 9 had produced, as inspired by Edgar Allan Poe. In addition, Mr White gave a presentation about verse inspired by conflict in the developing world.

Rapid History of Poetry

The English Year 11 top set took on the world of poetry to demonstrate, in the Busking Booth during one lunchtime, where it comes from. From Horace, through the ancient world and back to the Medieval, before sweeping into the Twentieth Century and ending with Benjamin Zephariah's *Ode to a Hedgehog*, they recited it all.



Talk on Climate Change

'During a Monday lunchtime on 30 November we attended a lecture about climate change and water usage. It was an enjoyable presentation given by the Sustainability Director of Coco-Cola, Jake Buckus. We learnt about the alarming amount of water we use and that if we want to stop climate change then all of us need to act now.'

Daniel Pye (Year 8, Vanbrugh)

English Trip to Blackwell

During September Year 7 and 10 pupils visited the Oxford branch of Blackwell bookshop. After being taken on a guided tour of the store, pupils were then given the wonderful honour of each choosing a fiction or non-fiction text to go on the shelves of the Cranham Library for future generations to enjoy.



Talk by Prison Inmate

As part of their work on theories and types of punishment, Year 9 pupils were privileged to have the opportunity to listen to, and ask questions of, a current inmate and warden from Springhill Prison in Buckinghamshire. The talk, which involved discussions of criminology and rehabilitation, was very much enjoyed by the pupils.



Design Technology Conference

During December the Sixth Form Design and Technology students went to the Institute of Education in London to take part in the Inspired by Design Conference. It was an opportunity for students to hear from keynote speakers from the world of professional design including Grace Davey and Jonathan West from the Helen Hamlyn Centre, Luke Pearson from the multidisciplinary Design Consultancy, Peter Neal, Chair of Examiners for GCE Product Design and Pascal Anson, a designer and lecturer at Kingston University.

The afternoon concluded with an inspirational talk from perhaps one of Britain's best known designers, that of Richard Seymour, of the London based design consultancy, Seymourpowell.

Ethics Conference

On 2 December Year 11 Philosophers joined pupils from other local schools to attend a one day Ethics Conference at Oxford Town Hall. They took part in four sessions on moral subjectivism, Kant, utilitarianism and Christian ethics. The conference consolidated and extended the work they have been doing towards their AS Level exams in the summer.

Law Trips

In December the Sixth Form Law students visited a number of law courts to observe the varied processes of the country's legal system.

The Year 12 Law students were able to watch the efficiency of the Magistrates' Court in Oxford and see a number of defendants convicted of crimes and consequently sent to prison, something which they had not anticipated seeing. In addition they were able to contrast this to the formality of the Crown Court and observe the role of a jury.

The Year 13 Law students went to London and witnessed two murder trials in progress where one defendant decided to defend himself, a rare event at the Old Bailey. In addition they visited the impressive Royal Courts of Justice to see how the appeal process works; the students enjoyed these real experiences and have been given a taste of the law in action.

Youth Speaks Competition

On Wednesday 25 November Alexander Owen (Year 9, Feilden), Saul Garrett (Year 9, Feilden) and Nadia Rashid (Year 7, Feilden) went to the Corn Exchange in Witney to participate in the Rotary Club Youth Speaks competition. Alexander was the main speaker and his topic was whether professional footballers are overpaid. He spoke very well and the team acquitted themselves admirably in a competition of very high standards. Although they did not progress to the next round, they thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

Thanksgiving Lunch

On Thursday 26 November the School's American and Canadian members of staff and pupils were invited to attend a special Thanksgiving lunch held in the Headmaster's Study.

This was the first time that Cokethorpe has celebrated this holiday which is traditionally a harvest festival celebrated primarily in the United States and Canada.

ACADEMIC

Scholars' Lunchtime Lectures

The mainstay of the Scholars' Programme is a series of lunchtime lectures to expand and connect the knowledge of the pupils, providing a platform for independent research and their own presentations. There were three keynote addresses to the scholars this term:

Scholars in Years 7 to 9 were treated to a hands-on session run by Ms Taylor of the Art Department. They discussed the purpose and prevalence of art in their lives with the help of lemons and blindfolds.

The Years 10 and 11 scholars received a talk by Mr Elkin-Jones on the impact of their choices at this stage in their lives. A lively discussion was had on the importance of commitment to a pathway through their academic lives.

Scholars in Years 12 and 13 attended a wonderful talk by Dr Searls on the nature and impact of viruses. This was topical in this time of pandemic news and a thrilling insight into a world too small to see, but impossible to ignore.

The scholars were also treated to a session on presentation skills run by the Registrar, Mrs Berry, in preparation for university interviews and the presentation of their independent assignments. The School looks forward to seeing their presentations in March when they will be addressed by Professor Whitely of the government's Marine Biology Research Unit.

Geography Association Quiz

Eight pupils from Years 7 and 8 from took part in a Geography Association Quiz at the Dragon School in Oxford on 12 November. The questions ranged from general knowledge to current affairs and geography. Cokethorpe did very well against some stiff competition.

Padlock Competition

After finding a locked padlock at home the Headmaster set a challenge for pupils to crack the combination. Within a day the challenge was complete and a bigger padlock had been produced. Several days, and several padlocks, later even the largest padlock the Headmaster could find had been opened. Parents can be assured that this is reflective of the ingenuity of the pupils concerned not a result of any school curriculum on international safe breaking! The winning pupils, Jason Cardy and Charlie Cassetari (Year 8), chose a prize of a McDonald's meal. This was served to them and their guests by the Headmaster on the balcony in the Dining Hall.

Business Studies Trip

In October Year 11 Business Studies pupils visited The Pottery Place, a local Witney business, as part of their GCSE coursework research. Owner Maggie Sheehan was especially generous with her time and patience, fielding students' questions that will help them complete their coursework. Pupils also had the opportunity to paint their own piece of pottery, which was enjoyed by all.



Oxford Castle

To support their investigation into the development of castles during the Medieval period, Year 7 pupils visited Oxford Castle where they learnt about the developments of its long and varied history. Pupils were given a guided tour around the castle, and particularly enjoyed being introduced to the ghost in the crypt. They also spent time in the Learning Centre, where they used various forms of evidence to explore the way the castle has developed.



Civil War Time Traveller

Year 8 pupils explored the weapons and dress of English Civil War soldiers in November. Their visitor, a member of the Sealed Knot Society, came equipped with stories about what life was like and a wide array of weapons; the 'bone cruncher' and 'bacon slicer' swords had everyone captivated. Pupils had the opportunity to handle the weapons, and dress up as Civil War soldiers, bringing to life a topic that had such an important impact on the country we live in today.



Dragons' Den

Year 9 pupils dared to enter The Dragons' Den to present their pitches to some feisty fire-breathing dragons. In class, pupils had been designing an advertising campaign to sell a new snack, and were charged with the task of creating a marketing strategy for launching this product. One group from each class then attempted to sell their ideas to the Dragons: Mr Fenton, Mr Williams, Mrs Landon, Mr Walton and Mr Walwyn. Pupils withstood intense scrutiny and produced polished performances; the winning team consisting of Ross Battersby (Gascoigne), Alexander Owen, Oliver Armstrong and Saul Garrett (all Feilden). The occasion was testament to the hard work undertaken during class.



GCSE Science Live

'On 1 December 50 pupils attended GCSE Science Live at the New Theatre, Oxford. This event featured five scientists speaking about possible careers after studying Science and advice on how to succeed in GCSE examinations. Maggie Aderin spoke about space science, Richard Dawkins spoke about evolution, whilst Steve Mould was the funniest having studied Physics and then worked on Blue Peter and as a stand-up comedian. Professor Jim Al-Khalili concluded the day with his talk on time travel, parallel universes and black holes.'

*Christie Batty, Ethan Bosse,
Charles Von Hoven, Zoë Mace and
Alec Perry-Cain*



THE HOUSES

The Crawford Relay

Once again the Crawford Relay proved an exciting and taxing race with superb efforts from all those taking part.

Running 600m may sound easy, but under the competitive nature of House events it is often more difficult than track athletics. Twists and turns, different running surfaces and the dreaded relay

baton change-over all made for a challenging and close race. The first team across the finish line was the Staff Team in a time of 10m 26s, falling just short of the course record. However it was Queen Anne who took first place with a winning time of 10m 49s, narrowly beating Vanbrugh by one point.



Inter-House Music Competition

This year's Inter-House Music Competition was a huge success. Every member of the six Houses participated in the event, which lasted the whole day. This year's winning House was Queen Anne and the Individual Contribution Award winner Thomas Wood (Vanbrugh). Thank you to the adjudicator Mr West, Director of Music at Christ College, Brecon.



Christmas Advent Services

Advent is a period of reflection after what has been a very busy term. Each House had their own service in the School Chapel and it was a delight to see so many parents and pupils there. A mix of readings, carols and an interesting and reflective sermon by the new School Chaplain, Reverend Humphreys, made each service very enjoyable.



Inter-House Hockey

This year's Inter-House hockey was a very close competition, with just two points between each position from 1st to 5th. Swift led the way with a number of talented players in their squad. It was a tie for 2nd place between Gascoigne and Vanbrugh. Falling short was Queen Anne at third, but they definitely won the competition for best team play.



Inter-House Rugby

Despite poor weather interfering with the Inter-House rugby, it was a fierce competition in both the Years 7 and 8 and Upper School tournaments, in which many of the 1st XV played out of their normal positions. The final of the Upper School competition saw Swift triumph over Feilden in an exciting and surprising match, with Swift coming first in the overall rankings.

Most Recommendations

Year 7: Thomas Christensen (Swift)
Year 8: Katie Jenkins (Queen Anne)
Year 9: Will Cunnington (Gascoigne)
Year 10: Claire Hudson (Feilden)
Year 11: Abigail Harris (Feilden)
Year 12: Joel Gascoigne (Gascoigne)
Year 13: Novia Chen (Feilden)
Overall Winner: Thomas Christensen
House Winner: Queen Anne

Inter-House Music Results

1st: Queen Anne
2nd: Gascoigne
=3rd: Vanbrugh
=3rd: Harcourt
5th: Feilden
6th: Swift

Inter-House Hockey Results

1st: Swift (19 points)
=2nd: Gascoigne (17)
=2nd: Vanbrugh (17)
4th: Queen Anne (15)
5th: Feilden (13)
6th: Harcourt (7)

Inter-House Rugby Results

1st: Swift
2nd: Feilden
3rd: Harcourt
4th: Gascoigne
5th: Vanbrugh
6th: Queen Anne

Vanbrugh's Grand Day Out

During September 10 members of Vanbrugh House visited the Cotswold Water Park:

'When we arrived we were eager to start our activities. We were introduced to the staff who led us to some logs and barrels. Then our instructor showed us how to make a raft, as raft-building was our first activity. Then we were taken to the changing rooms to get our wet suits. When we got back to the raft we were told that we had to sail it to an island in the lake and back.

After lunch our next activity was canoeing. We went through safety procedures and then got in the water, feeling very excited but nervous. We played a game where we split into teams and played water football. Once we had warmed up and dried off we all got taken to the archery pit where we had a competition. We headed back to the bus, said a big thank you to the staff and headed home. It was a brilliant day!

*Ben Tracey and
William Cuddy Watts, (Year 7)*

THE SIXTH FORM

Christmas Shopping Trip

Sixth Form students had a fun-filled day of Christmas shopping on Saturday 12 December at Birmingham's Bull Ring Centre. They fought valiantly against the crowds to ensure that their friends and families would be surprised with lovely gifts come Christmas Day. The students had a thoroughly enjoyable day out.

University Destinations

2009 leavers' university destinations:

Bahou, K	Oxford Brookes
Brindle, T	Cardiff
Brooks, E	Southampton
Cannon, D	Oxford Acting School
Cook, J	Sussex
Davey, S	Royal Agricultural College
Ferrier, F	Exeter
Gale, J	Nexus College
Geekie, J	Manchester Metropolitan
Gottfried, E	UWE
Herd, R	Liverpool
Ireland, J	Plymouth
Jennings, E	Worcester
John, D	Gloucester
Jones, P	Lancaster
Kim, J	University in Korea
Landon, I	Nottingham
Latcham-Ford, Z	Portsmouth
Lewis, G	Northumbria
Lockyer, S	Portsmouth
Lord, C	UWE
Lyzba, K	Kingston, London
Metcalfe, E	Cardiff
Miller, S	Hartbury
Morris, N	Roehampton
Muller, T	UCL
Nielsen, S	Queen Mary, London
Reardon, J	King's, London
Sensecall, L	Southampton
Smith, G	RADA
Staples, M	Brunel
Sun, Y	Bristol
Thompson, M	Swansea
Tolson, E	Cardiff
Toumazou, M	South Bank, London
Truran, S	Queen's, Belfast
Tucker, A	Cardiff
Wakeman, D	Coventry
Wenman, H	Royal Agricultural College
White, L	Lincoln

The destination of leavers is correct as of September 2009. Those re-applying, or whose destinations are unknown, are not listed. To make any additions or corrections please contact the Foundation Office on 01993 892339 or foundationoffice@cokethorpe.org

Oxbridge Candidates 2009–2010

Novia Chen (Oxford, Mathematics)
William Lawson (Oxford, Medicine)
Michael McLoone (Cambridge, Anthropology and Archeology)
Charlie Bennett (Cambridge, English)
Callum Staff (Cambridge, Engineering)

Sixth Form Christmas Meal

The Sixth Form had their annual Christmas meal in the superb surroundings of the new Dining Hall on Friday 4 December. The evening began in the Sixth Form Centre, where everyone gathered to admire the creativity and inventiveness that had gone into a whole array of fun fancy dress costumes. Following this, the students sat down to a lovely meal prepared by the catering staff in the Dining Hall and listened to speeches from the Social Committee. The impressive Christmas tree and the roaring open log fire all helped to infuse the evening with an atmosphere of conviviality and Christmas cheer. Many thanks to Mr Ettinger for allowing use of the School as a venue and the Sixth Form students look forward to future social events next term.



Biologist of the Year

William Lawson (Year 13, Gascoigne) was one of thirty winners to receive a prize for the Sixth Form Biologist of 2009 Awards at a ceremony at Oxford University Museum of Natural History during November. Students were given a tour of the museum and then joined parents and teachers for a lecture given by the broadcaster and presenter, Dr George McGavin. Dr McGavin talked about the fascinating insects he had discovered while making his recent wildlife TV programmes. The award winners were then presented with certificates and book tokens.



Chemist of the Year

Congratulations to Gurdeep Bhella (Year 13, Queen Anne) who was nominated Sixth Form Chemist of the Year. All of the prize winners including Gurdeep were presented with certificates and book tokens by Andrew Ladds, CEO for the Society of Chemical Industry at Oxford University, on Thursday 26 November. The award is an opportunity to celebrate the talent of exceptional students such as Gurdeep within the region, while also raising aspirations and encouraging students to apply their Chemistry skills in higher education and in industry.



Cambridge Debate Competition

Four Sixth Form scholars took part in the regional heat of the Cambridge Union Debate competition at Cheney School for the first time this year. It is the premier competition of its type in the country and after a thoroughly enjoyable workshop two weeks before the competition, the students were ready for combat in the real thing. In teams of two they battled prepared and unprepared motions with students from 14 schools across the South West for the four available positions in the national finals. The motions were as varied as 'The banning of the consumption of meat',

'The Police should have the right to smack young offenders', and, 'The legalisation of all drugs is necessary'. Philip Quadri (Gascoigne) and Luke Withey (Harcourt) ended up in a credible sixth place (only two away from the nationals), and Caroline Jenkins (Queen Anne) and Huw Williams (Swift) came twelfth. Despite not making it through to the next round they have vowed to continue this form of debating in School and have another attempt at it next year. The excitement and challenge of debating is something that the scholars hope will become a mainstay of their programme.

THE SIXTH FORM

StopGap Theatre Seminar

'On 24 November we had the pleasure of having director Alex Rogers and a RADA student join us in one of our English Literature classes. They talked to us about how the *Taming of the Shrew* can be interpreted. It was a very insightful and active lesson and has helped us prepare for our coursework.'

Georgina Toumazou, Isabelle Evans and James Silver (Year 12)

General Studies Lectures

During the Michaelmas Term Sixth Formers had the privilege of hearing Tom Clowes, climber and explorer, relay the gripping story of his ascent to Mount Everest. Not only was it a true tale of how sheer determination leads to success but also a testimony to what success can sometimes cost. The second lecture of the term was given by Dr Anna Barford, of Sheffield University, on 'What an Atlas of the Real World Reveals about Us'. The talk was based around a new version of mapping in which countries are sized and shaped according to a range of factors such as the prevalence of tuberculosis or poverty, giving a very different view of the world maps.



Prefects' Induction Day

The Prefects' Induction Day presented students with the business-focused challenge of putting forward a development proposal for a piece of land in Witney. The groups had four hours to produce a 3D plan, a video and a display. The teamwork displayed was outstanding and in their final presentation to Mr Phil Shaw, from the West Oxfordshire Planning Department, they demonstrated presentation skills worthy of professionals.



Interview Skills Workshop

Year 13 students took part in an interview skills workshop on the last day of the Michaelmas Term. The session was run by two parents, Mrs Fraser-Ellis and Mr Parnell, and was designed to help prepare our Year 13 students for university and job interviews that they may face in the coming months. To help students stay focused throughout the morning they were first treated to a full English breakfast in the Dining Hall.

City Challenge

The term started in style with Year 12 taking part in the Oxford City Challenge. The students, including those new to the Sixth Form, spent the morning solving clues around the city and then lunched in the splendid Dining Room of Exeter College. The day was rounded off with a series of presentations culminating in the awarding of medals to the winning team.



Philosophy Café

The fifth Philosophy Café focused on the question 'Do we really live in a democracy?' Mr Schofield, Head of Philosophy and Politics, put forward three arguments against the motion, however after much lively discussion the majority were not convinced and the group voted in favour of the issue.



Teams Maths Challenge

In November the regional final of the Senior Teams of Four Mathematical Challenge took place at St Edward's School, Oxford. Cokethorpe was represented by Novia Chen (Feilden), Helena Jennison (Harcourt), Young-Hoon Kong (Queen Anne) and Luke Withey (Harcourt).

Although unsuccessful in their attempt to reach the next round, the team competed magnificently against the cream of Oxfordshire's Sixth Form mathematicians, coming a very creditable 5th overall. The majority of competitors, including the Cokethorpe team, are studying Further Mathematics and most have Oxbridge aspirations.

Did You Know?

An average English breakfast contains 540 calories yet a Starbucks muffin and grande latte with whole milk contains 843 calories.

Senior Maths Challenge

Best in School, Gold Award:
Young-Hoon Kong 96

Gold Award:
William Liu 87
Helena Jennison 83
Albert Gan 82
Novia Chen 80

Silver Award:
Tom Chen 66

Bronze Award:
Qian Han Ma 62
William Lawson 60
Michael McLoone 60
Gurdeep Bhella 57

The cut off marks were as follows:

Gold ≥ 79
Silver ≥ 64
Bronze ≥ 54

Film Studies Presentations

Two Year 13 students, Tom De Vos (Vanbrugh) and Michael Severn (Gascoigne), gave presentations on the ideas that they had been exploring in their Film Studies classes this term. The scripts made up one half of their coursework for A2 Level Film Studies. For this task students had to research a topic about which they have a personal interest, develop a working thesis, and explore it critically with reference to three films. Tom presented his ideas on dystopian Science-Fiction films, including *The Terminator*, *Children of Men* and *I, Robot* while Michael explored levels of morality as presented in three films about the Vietnam War.

THE ARTS

Art Scholars' Christmas Cards

During the Michaelmas Term the Art Scholars were asked to produce a Christmas card design for the Headmaster to use. Instead of choosing one overall winner, all the designs were put together to create a striking collage. The scholars were:

Thomas Amor (Year 8, Queen Anne)
Amy Williams (Year 10, Swift)
Taisia Graves (Year 8, Harcourt)
Gabiella Evans (Year 10, Swift)
Will Cunningham (Year 9, Gascoigne)
George Wood (Year 7, Gascoigne)
Harry Hastings (Year 8, Swift)
Jake Bisley (Year 9, Gascoigne)



Chairs

A Level Art students have been invited to design their own chair. Artists should feel free to experiment, be creative, paint, build or sculpt! Students uncomfortable with sculpture may paint a found or purchased chair or seek help from the Design and Technology Department.

Ghost Bikes

'Ghost Bikes are memorials for bicyclists who are killed or hit on the street. A bicycle is painted white and locked to a sign near the crash site, accompanied by a small plaque. They serve as reminders of the tragedy that took place on an otherwise anonymous street corner, and as quiet statements in support of cyclists' right to safe travel. The first ghost bikes were created in St Louis, Missouri in 2003, and have since appeared in over 100 locations across the world.'

www.ghostbikes.org

Alec Peever

Stone and letter carver Alec Peever is one of the country's leading sculptors. All work is handmade using traditional techniques, but experimentation, along with fine craftsmanship, have always underpinned his imaginative projects. He has previously been commissioned by Cokethorpe for the sundial in the Upper Quad, the new fireplace in the Dining Hall, a gargoyle on the wall of the Design Technology building and a large-scale version of the coat of arms.

Art and Photography Trip

'As part of our A Level courses AS and A2 Art students and A2 Photography students spent three days in St Ives. We took part in workshops and collected ideas and visuals for inspiration towards our projects. Although the weather was varied we managed to dodge the showers to explore St Ives and make use of its brilliant resources. We found that the unique light as it squeezed through the thick clouds made for spectacular scenery. We visited an exhibition called 'The Dark Monarch' at the Tate St Ives. Conceived from a book by Sven Berlin on St Ives artists, the mixed exhibition proved a sinister yet intriguing perspective into the otherwise beautiful landscape. We also visited the Barbara Hepworth Museum and



Art Competition Presentation

On 20 October, Dave Woolnough, the Simons Group Project Manager, and a representative from West Oxfordshire District Council, attended a Feilden House assembly in The Shed. This was to present Oliver Armstrong (Year 9) with his cash prize for winning the Marriotts Walk Art competition. Mr Williams collected the School's cash prize on Cokethorpe's behalf.



Sculpture Garden. The sculptures were fantastic as they accentuated the beautiful tropical-like environment and imitated its natural forms. The trip was really enjoyable and contributed invaluable towards our projects.'

*Amy Hewes (Year 12, Harcourt) and
Katy Bennett (Year 12, Feilden)*

Photography Trip to London

Photography pupils have had a very exciting and highly productive term. On 10 November, the Year 12 Photographers travelled to London to visit both The Photographers' Gallery and the Victoria and Albert Museum of Art and Design. The students were inspired by works on display and discovered just how exciting and fascinating museums can be.



Cokethorpe Plinth

Mr Schofield, Head of Philosophy, Religion and Ethics, is the second person to have his work exhibited on the Cokethorpe Plinth. The inspiration behind his creation is the recent occurrence of 'ghost bikes' left chained to gates at the sites of fatal road traffic accidents, as memorials to cyclists killed whilst riding. Applications to exhibit on the Cokethorpe Plinth are still being accepted.



Bodleian Gargoyle

In Issue 7 of *The Ocellus* it was revealed that Alfie Turner (now Year 10, Feilden) had been chosen as one of nine winners to have his design, of Sir Thomas Bodley, made as an actual gargoyle and set in stone on top of Oxford's Bodleian Library. On 12 September Alfie visited the library to see local author Philip Pullman unveil the gargoyles, which were made by Alec and Fiona Peever, from Ducklington.

Lunchtime Recitals

The term's recitals continued to show the broad diversity of musical talent at Cokethorpe. Each concert featured different pupils and covered a broad range of styles and genres, from solos, duos through to small ensembles. There were newcomers to the platform as well as some now very familiar faces. Attendance

increased throughout the term, the last having standing room only. Outstanding performances included Year 12 guitarist, Thomas Wood (Vanbrugh); Year 5 pianist, Yukiko Nishikawa (Gascoigne); and a duet by Year 7 singer Heidi Lawson accompanied by her brother William (Year 13, Gascoigne).



St Cecilia Concert

Thursday 19 November saw the School's major ensembles perform in a concert dedicated to the Patron Saint of Music, St Cecilia, whose feast day is celebrated on 22 November. The evening began with the School Orchestra performing Curzon's rousing *March of the Bowmen*. This was followed by *Gabriel's Oboe* from the film *The Mission*, by Ennio Morricone, in which Katherine Woolley (Year 9, Queen Anne) was the soloist. Thomas Wood (Year 12, Vanbrugh), the Individual Contribution prize winner in the Inter-House Music Competition,

performed a piece of guitar tapping. Rory Gratwohl (Year 13, Feilden) and Lucy Furneaux (Year 10, Harcourt) also performed solos as winners of the instrumental and vocal categories. The Schola Cantorum and Soul Singers treated the audience to a variety of popular favourites, whilst the Concert Band gave a rendition of *Spider Pig* from *The Simpsons*. Freddie Miles performed *Old Man River* and the concert reached a rousing finale with performances from the Jazz Band and a combined orchestra and Jazz Band in Mancini's *Pink Panther*.



Philharmonia Concert Trip

On 11 November, 22 GCSE and A Level musicians went to Cheltenham Town Hall to see the Philharmonia Orchestra, conducted by the young Russian Vasily Petrenko, who has recently been announced as the principal conductor of the National Youth Orchestra. The first half of the programme began with Mussorgsky's *Night on a Bare Mountain*, a portrayal of the spirits of darkness gathering on a mountain to celebrate the Black Mass of Satan. The Russian pianist, Boris Giltburg then joined the orchestra for a thrilling performance of Grieg's *Piano Concerto*.

The concert ended with Shostakovich's mighty *5th Symphony*, performed with immense weight, brilliance and character.



Lunchtime Recitals

24 September 2009

Jazz Band

James Ellacott (Year 10, Feilden)
Olivia Henshall (Year 12, Queen Anne)
Duncan Bruce (Year 11, Vanbrugh)
Katherine Woolley (Year 9, Queen Anne)
Emily Sayers (Year 13, Swift)
Freddie Miles (Year 12, Gascoigne)
William Draper (Year 12, Harcourt)

5 October 2009

Saxophone Quartet

James Metcalfe (Year 12, Gascoigne)
Thomas Wood (Year 12, Vanbrugh)
Francesca Ellis (Year 12, Gascoigne)
Rhiannon Dawkins (Year 12, Swift)
Jazz Band

5 November 2009

Gregory Muller (Year 11, Vanbrugh)
Jack Wollner (Year 11, Harcourt)
Marianne Pearson (Year 11, Swift)
Declan Duffy (Year 11, Queen Anne)
Myles Osborn-Banton (Year 11, Queen Anne)
Joshua Relph (Year 11, Vanbrugh)
Mr B Heaney

3 December 2009

Yukiko Nishikawa (Year 5, Gascoigne)
Heidi Lawson (Year 7, Gascoigne)
William Lawson (Year 13, Gascoigne)
Lewis Williams (Year 10, Vanbrugh)
Hanna Young (Year 10, Swift)

Welsh National Opera

Ellen Garbutt (Year 8, Feilden) has been selected to perform in the chorus of the Welsh National Opera touring production of Puccini's *Tosca* during the Lent Term. 'I found out about this amazing opportunity from my cousin. WNO were auditioning at her school and so I went along for the day. I found out I got the part two days later.' WNO will perform throughout March and April, performing in venues across the United Kingdom.

LSO Youth Orchestra

Freddie Miles (Year 12, Gascoigne), who studies French Horn at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama on Saturdays, was invited to play with the LSO On Track Youth Orchestra during October half term. This is a London Symphony Orchestra initiative devised to bring together the excitement of live performance with the adrenaline rush of making music with others. The first two days were spent rehearsing their own devised work and *Into The Ferment* with its composer James MacMillan. This gave the players an insight into how a composer turns his ideas into a fully formed piece of music. The other two days were spent under the professional conductor Kristjan Jarvi, who brought the final performance at the Barbican to a rousing conclusion.

THE ARTS

Theatre Trips

It is very important for Drama pupils to experience as much live theatre as possible and a critical review of current plays now forms part of both the A Level and GCSE courses. Recent theatre trips have been very popular and have provided the pupils with a broader understanding of what makes a successful production. The first trip was to the Oxford Playhouse to see *Deepcut*, an award-winning play based upon the tragic and mysterious deaths surrounding Deepcut Barracks. For the second trip, the Drama Department were lucky enough to see the opening night of the Royal Shakespeare Company's production of *Twelfth Night* starring Richard Wilson, who was perfectly cast as the dour and maltreated Malvolio. It was a slick and professional performance of Shakespeare at its highest level.

Year 9 Film Project

Other titles included: *The Murder of Simon Cowell*, *Lancashire's Got Talent*, *The Poshest Family in Britain?*, *Record Breakers*, *Survival Camp*, *Celebrity Cooking Challenge* and *Terror Toddlers*.

The Government Inspector

Mayor Anton Antonovich:

George Lawson

Anna Andreyavna:

Bronté Coppock Cudd

Maria Antonovna: Saskia Kovandzich

Ivan Khylestavkov: Thomas Wood

Ossip: Luke Saunders

Judge: Guy De Vos

Charity Commissioner:

Alexander Lawson

Postmaster: Edd Bird

School's Superintendent: Huw Williams

Peter Ivanovich Bobchinsky:

Hugo Van Dorssen

Peter Ivanovich Dobchinsky:

Timothy Knight

District Physician: Louis Taylor

Police Inspector Fistov: Brian Clarke

Police Constable Punchov: Jack Revell

Police Constable Dustov: Thomas Amor

Abdullin: Louis Allen

Shopkeeper Lyulyukov:

Myles Osborn-Banton

Shopkeeper Rastakovsky: Daniel Pye

Shopkeeper Korobkin: Miles Beirouti

Korobkin's Wife: Alice Bird

School Superintendent's Wife:

Madeleine Allardice

Locksmith's Wife: Lucy Grout

Sergeant's Widow: Rachel Wood

Mishka: Sonal Mandalia

Waiter: Alex Lister

Gendarme: Oliver Cookson

Dobchinsky's Wife: Heidi Lawson

Townfolk: James Ellacott

Bethany Mulloy

Katie Jenkins

Lauren Bates-Brownsword



Year 7 Mime Performance

Year 7 pupils devised and confidently performed three mime pieces in The Shed on 21 October. They worked hard to create believable and detailed plays that communicated their plots without using any words. The plays, entitled *October the 31st*, *The Man in the Mirror* and *Have 7N Got Talent?* used elements of both naturalism and stylism and were greatly enjoyed by the audience.

Year 9 Film Project

During the term Year 9 pupils devised topical daytime television shows, working in small groups to create individual pieces of VT. There were some very creative offerings ranging from *Mr Ryan's Giant Slug Plantation* to the fateful night when Cokethorpe was razed to the ground following a mishap at the Fireworks Extravaganza.

Year 10 Assessments

Year 10 pupils devised short plays in small groups that were filmed for internal assessment and external moderation.



Drama Scholars Recital

The Drama Scholars performed a wonderfully eclectic programme in The Shed at lunchtime on Tuesday 6 October. Bronté Coppock-Cudd (Year 13, Swift) opened the proceedings with a powerhouse presentation of *Over the Moon* from *Rent*. She did justice to the role of Maureen, a wild and outspoken performance artist whose protest culminated in getting the audience to 'moo' with her! Lucy Grout (Year 10, Feilden) and Saskia Kovandzich (Year 9, Harcourt) delivered a commanding duologue from *Noughts and Crosses* of a mother and daughter struggling to come to terms with the recent hanging of their friend. George Lawson (Year 10,



Theatre in Education

The Junior School children were treated to performances of Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* and *The Tempest* in The Shed during the term. This was part of the Year 11 GCSE Drama course. The pupils prepared the pieces over a period of four weeks, ensuring they catered for the specific needs of their target audiences. All groups did exceptionally well, involving and engaging the children with some creative interpretations, strong characterisations and bags of humour. This was an enormously successful project that was enjoyed by all.



Gascoigne) and Miles Beirouti (Year 9, Queen Anne) gave an hilarious portrayal of Blackadder and Baldrick in two extracts from *Blackadder's Christmas Carol*. Alexander Lawson (Year 12, Gascoigne) performed in two pieces, first as a history master attempting to inspire his pupils to realise their university ambitions from Alan Bennett's *The History Boys*, and second as Serge from *Art* by Yasmina Reza. This was with Louis Taylor (Year 11, Feilden) and Edd Bird (Year 12, Gascoigne), the three boys portraying the sparring friends with great control and comic timing as they argued over Serge's purchase of an expensive white-on-white painting.



THE ARTS

The Government Inspector

The Senior School Christmas Production of Nikolai Gogol's *The Government Inspector* was performed in The Shed over two evenings. The cast, consisting of pupils from Year 7 to Year 13, gave an hilarious account of what happens in a small Russian town when corrupt officials and local merchants mistake a 'nobody' for an incognito inspector. There were some exceptional performances but particular mention must be made of Thomas Wood (Year 12, Vanbrugh) as the slippery Khylestakov, George Lawson (Year 10, Gascoigne) as the manic Mayor and Bronté Coppock-Cudd

(Year 13, Swift) as the snobbish Anna. Saskia Kovandzich (Year 9, Harcourt) was exceptionally funny as the fragile and awkward Maria and Brian Clarke's (Year 10, Queen Anne) constant patter as the bumbling Police Inspector Fistov kept the audience laughing throughout both the evenings. With a set built by Mr Warner and wonderful costumes from Mrs Mace, this was a slick production from start to finish. The Drama Department are very grateful to everyone who took part, once again showcasing Cokethorpe's fantastic dramatic talent.



Lent Term Production

Next term's production is entitled *If You Go Down To The Woods Today*. This is an original story incorporating theatre, music and dance by Mrs Hooper and Mr Heaney. Performances will take place on 17, 18 and 19 March 2010, in The Shed.

Set in a world wrecked by disasters: where adults are never seen again; children have sought safety in the woods and have no choice but to fend for themselves. They share the woods with mysterious part-human folk who live a seemingly blissful life through Law and Order. But unseen and everywhere are the terrifying and deadly Panics...

Who or what caused this nightmare world? Can the children survive the Panic attacks?

Tickets: £5 (no concessions)
Payable by cash, cheque or end of term bill. Includes donation to The Woodland Trust. Tel: 01993 892338
Email: boxoffice@cokethorpe.org

WIDER COMMUNITY

Haunted Sleepover

25 Cokethorpe and Standlake Sea Scouts used the School as the venue for their haunted sleepover during October. The Sea Scouts slept in the Corinthian Room and participated in a wide range of activities such as clay pigeon shooting.

Royal Navy Inspection

The inspection of the Cokethorpe and Standlake Sea Scouts by the Admiralty took place at Cokethorpe on 3 December. The evening included dinner for the Naval officers and Scout leaders and an inspection. Mr Henderson, the Scout Leader, was delighted that the inspection was passed with flying colours.

Hockey

Wychwood Ladies Hockey and the Oxfordshire Hockey Association continued to train and compete on the School's Astroturf pitches throughout the Michaelmas Term. Cokethorpe has also been the venue for national sports courses and county and England hockey matches. The School looks forward to once again hosting Rover Oxford's national hockey championships in April.

Minibus Hire

Cokethorpe were delighted to lend three minibuses to the Young Farmers to assist them in their 3 Peaks Challenge. They raised £12,000 for the Mike Jefferies Development Fund, which organises activities for young people in Oxfordshire.

Summer Activity Weeks

During the last two weeks of July, over 150 Cokethorpe pupils, their siblings and friends enjoyed 10 days of land and water-based activities at Cokethorpe and Hardwick Park such as archery, shooting, climbing, golf, kayaking and waterskiing. Cokethorpe looks forward to running the Activity Weeks again over the coming summer holidays.



Ride and Stride

The School Chapel, St Mary's the Virgin, was one of many regional churches to open its doors for a church Ride and Stride fundraising day on Saturday 12 September. It was lovely to see so many Cokethorpe parents supporting the event.

Cricket

Cokethorpe's first-rate cricket pitches were used throughout the summer season to host county training and matches for both boys' and girls' cricket. Cokethorpe is also pleased to be able to offer its facilities to the Downs, a local cricket club, as a home ground for their league cricket.

The School also welcomed a South African cricket team to Cokethorpe in July, when they played against some of the regions local cricket teams.

Elite Rugby

The elite rugby team continued to use Cokethorpe's pitches to train throughout the Michaelmas Term.

Sports Colours

Full Colours

Rugby	Ahlexi Enjily Jonathan Morris Edward Church Andy Berry Mark Jones Rory Gratwohl Joshua Atkins
Hockey	Chloë Pickford Kimberley Mallett Suzy Russell
Carys Protheroe	

Half Colours

Rugby	Julian Watkins Christopher Clare Laurie Gibson Guy Biggs
Hockey	Olivia Plummer Sunny Ricketts Shona Stanley

Australia v Gloucester

Members of the senior rugby squads visited Kingsholm, Gloucester on a cold November night to see the Guinness Premiership team play the mighty Australian side fresh from the recent Tri Nations tournament. Prior to this exciting encounter, which was comfortably won by the young touring side, the group met British Lion, England and Gloucester legend Mike Teague. The trip was a resounding success and also saw both Mr Cummins, a former Gloucester player, and Mr Rees, a former coach at the club, return to one of their old stomping grounds.

Football Coaching Day

Jamie Cox (Year 11, Gascoigne) attended an international football coaching day in Manchester in October. He qualified for the coaching following the Bobby Charlton football course he took part in during Curriculum Enrichment Week in July. Jamie thoroughly enjoyed his day, being coached by Manchester United trainers.

Regional Hockey

Congratulations to Sunny Ricketts (Year 12, Swift) and Shona Stanley (Year 12, Vanbrugh) who have been selected for the Regional Hockey squads in their respective age groups.

Golf Championship

Sunny Ricketts (Year 12, Swift) was part of the Oxfordshire Girls' team that claimed the handicap title in the Midlands South team finals at Temple in October.

Athletics

Jackson and Freddie Curtis (Harcourt) competed in the javelin events of the UK Athletics Association championship meeting at Bedford in August. Jackson (Year 12) threw 56.64m to take bronze in the U17 age group. Freddie (Year 10) threw 51.58m, a personal best by 4m, to also gain bronze in the U15 category.

Netball

Cokethorpe won two of their five games at the U14 county tournament in November. The 1st VII won two, drew two and lost three in the U18 county tournament, finishing fifth in their group. There were some excellent performances in both competitions, which bodes well for the Lent Term netball season.

Hockey

This has been an exciting year for Cokethorpe hockey, which had a focus on developing core skills and improving results amongst the top schools in the county. The 1st XI had an outstanding year with many memorable victories at Tudor Hall, Stowe and Oxford High to name a few. Their season culminated in qualification, through the county tournament, to compete in the Regional Hockey competition. Here they competed against the top teams from the South of England, finishing third out of eight.

The 2nd XI had a good season with some great wins against Bloxham, Akeley Wood and Pangbourne. The U16 team beat Shiplake and won 7-1 against King's School Gloucester. In the county tournament they finished as runners-up in their group demonstrating the depth of talent coming through in this year group.

Rugby

This has once again been a successful term for Cokethorpe rugby. A squad of 25 benefited greatly from a four-day pre-season camp in North Yorkshire, participating in training sessions and a series of controlled games against hosts Giggleswick School. Once again Cokethorpe fielded a 3rd XV, playing two matches against a school that four years ago played the 1st XV.

The two teams that entered the Oxfordshire County Cups both reached the finals and were crowned champions; the U19 team retained the title beating Henley College 24-9 and the Junior Colts (U15) won 35-3 against Gillotts School, Henley. Overall the A teams won in excess of 60% of the matches played which is very creditable considering that the fixture list includes many schools with strong rugby traditions.



The U15s had a tough season with some hard-fought games, narrow defeats and some draws. They struggled with injury and illness but remained positive throughout. The U14s started the term with a number of defeats, but as their training began to pay off, their results improved significantly. They finished the season with a flourish, beating schools such as Oxford High, Tudor Hall and finishing third in the county tournament. The U13s had a successful season, winning the majority of their games. The U12s had some outstanding results and high scores including a 7-0 win at Bloxham and a 9-1 victory over Rendcomb College.

Sports Results

Please see the School website for a complete list of the term's sports results.



The Terriers (U12) had a tough start to the season, but won five of their 11 fixtures. They were well led by Rory Atkins (Gascoigne) and show real promise for the future. The Foals (U13), led by Redford Curtis (Harcourt), once again proved to be a competitive side. Their brand of running rugby saw them triumph in nine of their 15 matches. The Yearlings (U14) won only three of their 12 fixtures, but proved to be a very resilient group. Captain Jackson Burton and Alex Burford (both Feilden) enjoyed influential first seasons. The Junior Colts (U15) enjoyed a successful campaign, winning 11 of their 13 fixtures. Major contributions were made by both Joshua Poole and Thomas Wells. The Colts (U14) also had a successful season, which saw some remarkable reversals in fortunes such as a 70 point turn round against Dean Close. They suffered a run of defeats at the end of the season, due to injuries in the squad, but they still won eight of their 12 fixtures. The 2nd XV won against two schools who played against the 1st XV last season and also enjoyed good wins against Shiplake, Stowe and Pangbourne. The 1st XV only lost once all season (19-8 to Pangbourne in a really tough encounter). One highlight of the season was the first ever win at this level against Magdalen College School.

West Oxfordshire Schools' Cross Country

Cokethorpe once again hosted the West Oxfordshire Schools' Cross Country event, held on Friday 20 November. The event, organised by Simon West, the Sports Facility Officer at Cherwell District Council, saw nine of the region's schools, including Cokethorpe, take part. The courses, which varied from 2 to 6 kilometres in length, covered the beautiful School grounds. Cokethorpe teams put in some fantastic performances with the U12 girls, U15 boys and girls, U17 girls and U19 boys all winning their respective categories.



First Aid Course

On 9 December, 19 AS PE students took part in a formal first aid course to help them qualify as 'sports leaders'. Under the tutorship of an experienced trainer, Nigel Matthews, the students all took part in practical emergency situations from learning how to deal with broken legs to resuscitation. Once qualified the students will be allowed to coach younger pupils, as well as their peers, with the knowledge that if an accident occurs they will be able to deal with it correctly.



County and Regional Netball

Congratulations to Sarah Cuddy Watts (Vanbrugh), Charlotte Mobbs (Queen Anne) and Holly Keylock (Feilden), all in Year 9, for being selected to represent Oxfordshire in the U14 netball team. Sarah Cuddy Watts and Louise Tyrer (Gascoigne) have also been selected to represent the South of England U14 netball squad.



International Rugby

Andy Berry (Year 13, Feilden) and Edward Church (Year 13, Vanbrugh) have represented the England U18 Conference Squad in a series of trial matches. These were designed to identify and prepare players for the forthcoming international fixture against the touring Australian Schools and for the Six Nations tournament. Both featured in games against the South West Academies and London Academies sides and Andy was also selected to play against the North side. Both are awaiting news of their possible selection for the England U18 Group Squad. Meanwhile Mark Jones (Year 13, Queen Anne) has represented the Irish Exiles and James Silver (Year 12, Queen Anne), their Scottish counterparts.

Oxfordshire Judo Championships

Alice Bird (Year 9, Gascoigne), fought off some tough opponents in the Oxfordshire Under 50kg Girls' category at the county judo championships in November. This is the third year running that Alice has taken gold in her section, reflecting the energy and determination that she puts into her training and competitions.



National Kayaking

George Barnicoat (Year 11, Harcourt) attended the National Indoor Kayak Championships in September and came first in both the 200m and 500m U16 races. In the process he beat three of the current GB Olympic team and has also been invited to train with the National Junior team.



Tennis

Caleb Dyer (Year 7, Feilden) has ended the U12 tennis year ranked first in Gloucestershire. He was previously ranked in the 800s nationally and is now at a fantastic 106th. He now moves into the U14 year group where it is expected he will continue to make great progress.

Cross Country Results

U12 Girls (Team Position: 1st)

Elisha Evans	2nd
Erika Davis	3rd
Alexandra Cross	6th

U15 Girls (Team Position: 1st)

Beth Stanley	1st
Anna Withey	10th
Amy Williams	12th

U15 Boys (Team Position: 1st)

Luke Watkins	3rd
Edward Blackburn	4th
Ben Armstrong	8th

U17 Girls (Team Position: 1st)

Shona Stanley	4th
Gorgia Lisi	5th
Lydia Farrell	7th

U19 Boys (Team Position: 1st)

George Miller	1st
Richard Stevens	3rd
Jack Morton	5th

Cokethorpe Kayak Race

The 2009 Kayak and Canoe Race had record attendance this year with a good turnout from Ealing, Reading and Devizes canoe clubs as well as former and current Cokethorpe pupils. Noteworthy performances included Tim Pearse (2006, Harcourt) coming second in the Senior K1 event, and Cokethorpe coming 1st, 2nd and 3rd in the Junior K1 event. Jamie Unwin (Year 10, Harcourt) won the shorter Junior event with Laura McKenney (Year 11, Swift) coming second. The full list of results is on the School website.

Equestrianism News

Ella McEwen (Year 11, Gascoigne) represented Great Britain at the European Pony Eventing Championships in Belgium during the summer, in which Ella and the GB team clinched silver. Alfie Bradstock (Year 11, Gascoigne) has taken part in a number of events, including the Horse of the Year show. He came an impressive fourth in both the Squibb Demolition National Pony Foxhunter and the Blue Chip Feed Balancer Pony Newcomers championships. Alfie also came 1st and 2nd in the Pony Open Novice section at Bishop Burton in October. Nicholas Lucey (Year 12, Vanbrugh) has also been competing this season, with results including 1st place in the Novice Section C category at the Pontispool competition in September.

Sailing

Alex Hedges (Year 12, Queen Anne) and Sam Unwin (2009, Harcourt) took part in the National School Sailing Association's Regatta in Yorkshire in August. This was the first time that Cokethorpe has taken part. It was a learning experience for them as the standard was high but they enjoyed the five days on the sea with 100 students from all over the country.

THE JUNIOR SCHOOL

Ducklington Village

'We went to Ducklington to look at houses. I had my picture taken by an old house. We also saw a wooden house.'

Jake Crozier (Year 1, Feilden)

Cotswold Wildlife Park

'We saw really cute meerkats.'

Tilly Hurford-Jones (Year 1, Feilden)

'Inside the cage were lemurs and we were allowed to go near them!'

Benjamin Shaw (Year 2, Vanbrugh)

'The zoo keeper showed us the skunks, there were eleven skunks!'

Rosa Birchenough (Year 2, Swift)

Westfield House Party

Westfield House Nursery School, in Aston, recently turned 20 years old and invited the Reception class to celebrate with a party on Thursday 17 September. The children had a lovely time on the bouncy castle and in the ball pool, making birthday cards, hand-printing and playing in the garden. They also had birthday tea and a piece of celebration cake.

Shakespeare Week

As part of Shakespeare Appreciation Week in the Junior School, the Year 11 Drama pupils developed their own versions of *The Tempest* and *Twelfth Night* for the children to enjoy. Great fun was had and much audience participation was involved. The children also learnt about Shakespeare's settings and characters, as well as facts about his life.

Roald Dahl Museum

Year 4 visited the Roald Dahl Museum in Great Missenden, where Roald Dahl lived and wrote for 36 years, to enjoy a day of educational activities and learn more about the art of literature.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Austin Bowsher (Year 4, Vanbrugh) who was recently presented with his kickboxing purple belt at Windrush Kickboxing Club. Congratulations also go to Louis Sharpe-Ward (Year 6, Gascoigne) for receiving his green belt in Judo from his club in Appleton.

Journey Sticks

These are sticks wound with wool to attach objects and other 'finds' from a walk. Items such as feathers, bark, leaves, acorns and crab apples help to decorate the sticks and serve as reminders for the route travelled.

Visit to Ducklington

Year 1 children visited Ducklington village to spot the various kinds of dwellings that they have been discussing in class. They enjoyed observing the characteristics of the different houses, in bright autumn sunshine.

Shopping at Sainsbury's

The Reception children went shopping for French food, at Sainsbury's in Witney, in preparation for tasting it as part of their Day of Languages. The pâté was the most popular food.

The Northmoor Trust

During Geography and Languages Week, Year 5 visited Project Timescape at Wittenham Clumps. The children experienced various geographical environments, which they sketched and labelled from the top of Round Hill. They also looked at the remains of a Bronze Age Fort on Castle Hill, which contained the Poem Tree at the top. The children used this as inspiration to write their own poem about how they thought the landscape would change in 200 years time.



Stratfield Brake

On Friday 2 October Year 4 donned their walking boots and set off for Stratfield Brake, near Kidlington, for woodland activities led by staff from the Woodland Trust. In glorious sunshine, the children learnt to identify trees by looking closely at the leaf shapes. In small groups, they then had the challenge of building a shelter for a small animal, using sticks, moss, fallen leaves and bark. Finally, after working out the ages of trees by counting their rings, the children helped to construct 'Journey Sticks'. It was an interesting morning, much enjoyed and many new facts were discovered.



Chipping Norton Theatre

As part of their literacy work on 'Traditional Tales', Year 1 and 2 children visited the atmospheric Chipping Norton Theatre in November to watch a production of *Dick Whittington and His Cat*. The children had studied the story and knew all the characters so were able to get really involved in the play. After the matinée performance, the children each wrote a short review of what they had seen. The reviews all reflected how much the children had enjoyed the play and illustrated that their favourite character had been Dick Whittington's cat, Tommy, and the best baddie the King Rat.

Cotswold Wildlife Park

The new Reception children, along with Years 1, 2 and 3, enjoyed a visit to the Cotswold Wildlife Park in Burford as part of their science work about animals. It was a glorious day and the children were able to see a wide range of large animals including camels, rhinoceros, lions, wolves and monkeys as well as smaller varieties such as meerkats, otters, lemurs, penguins and skunks. They were even lucky enough to meet some brand new arrivals to the park... two baby reindeer! It was great fun and the day was topped off with an exciting time in the adventure playground.



THE JUNIOR SCHOOL

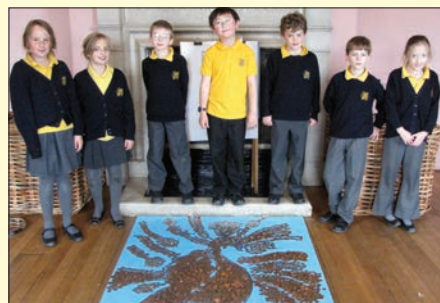
Day of Languages

The Junior School celebrated their annual Day of Languages on Thursday 24 September. The classes focused on the country of their designated language in Geography throughout that week and then showed each other what they had been learning in Assembly. On the Language Day itself, each class enjoyed a special language lesson as well as some language and country-themed quizzes and an international lunch. This year the languages included French, Spanish, Italian, Chinese, Dutch, Danish, Maori, German and Afrikaans. The language specialists were staff, pupils and parents and a big thank you to those who gave their time and



The Peacock Challenge

The Junior School children covered the large drawing of a peacock with a variety of coins. The coins were then sorted and counted by the children and the handsome sum of £152.37 was achieved. This money was presented to The Nasio Trust as a Harvest gift by Jessica and Emma Foster. Mrs Lord and Mr Gaertner accepted the cheque on behalf of the charity, which they also supported with their recent successful climb of Mount Kilimanjaro.



expertise to give the children such a superb experience. Please contact Mrs Griffin if there are any other parents who would be able to help expand the range of languages next year.



Primary Maths Challenge

On 24 November, ten pupils from Year 5 and Year 6 participated in the national Primary Mathematics Challenge, organised by the Mathematical Association. For forty-five feverish minutes the children tackled a range of taxing puzzles and conundrums. The children applied themselves gallantly and showed great perseverance and determination.

Christmas Shoebox Appeal

A wonderful array of beautifully packaged gifts were brought into the Junior School by children, parents and staff. A total of 120 boxes were collected by the Kenya Aid Foundation, to be delivered to children at the Naivasha Highway Primary School in Kenya in time for Christmas. Thank you to everyone for the support and to Mrs Daphne Smith and Mrs Maureen McBain, who knitted hats and mittens to go inside the boxes.



Snowman Scene Raffle

The prize of a knitted scene containing snowmen, chocolates, snowballs and a sledge, created and donated by Mrs Daphne Smith, was won by Gracie Karslake in Year 1. Runners-up prizes of chocolate snowmen were won by Harry Furlong in Reception and Mrs Alden. A total of £57 was raised and the money sent to the Nasio Trust as a Christmas gift for their nursery schools in Kenya.

Prize Winners of the Term

00RR	Liam Crozier
1RS	Gracie Karslake
2LO	Freddie Gascoyne
3JD	Francesca Brown
4MM	Henry Kuester
4RO	Joe McBride
5MC	Madeline Pound
5HL	Jennifer Wells
6GM	Michael Hook
6MO	Alastair Grime

House Captains

Feilden	Michael Hook
	Matthew Ellacott
Gascoigne	Jordan Smith
	Sydney Bennett-Miller
Harcourt	Luisamae Lisi
	Alyssia Lotter
Queen Anne	Anya Duffy
	Alexander Epelle
Swift	Ella Perry-Cain
	Thomas Smith
Vanbrugh	Jessica Williams
	Benjamin Foster

Primary Maths Challenge

Gold Certificates

Louis Sharpe-Ward (Gascoigne)
Thomas Smith (Swift)

Silver Certificates

Eloise Fraser-Paterson (Queen Anne)
Jordan Smith (Gascoigne)
Joseph Wilde (Harcourt)

Bronze Certificates

Matthew Ellacott (Feilden)
Benjamin Foster (Vanbrugh)
Madeline Pound (Feilden)
Ella Perry-Cain (Swift)

Junior School Visitors

4MM welcomed Mrs Mary Plumridge to their class to help with a Design and Technology activity and Mrs Daphne Smith visited on two occasions to teach some of the Year 4 children the traditional craft of Corn Dolly making and helped them to use textiles to make a Christmas greetings card. The Junior School is very grateful to all visitors who are able to share their skills with the children and enhance the curriculum.

Helen & Douglas House

Year 4 entered the Helen & Douglas House Christmas card competition this year. They sent in their entries along with a donation of £21 (£1 per card entered). Whilst the entries were not chosen as winners, each child received a letter, a sticker and balloon thanking them for supporting the charity.

THE JUNIOR SCHOOL

Christmas Production Cast

Year 3JD: The Talking Sheep

Sheep Francesca Brown
Dennis Catrini
Louis Ciampoli-Messiou
Joshua Cook
Tara Devine
Thomas Flory
Athis Knox
Michael Ogilvie

Year 4MM: The Market

Market Traders Max Lotter
Jessica Foster
Harrison Brown
Jack Smith
Innkeepers/
Villagers Toby Brown
Sophie Drake
Lottie Fellows
Antonia Haar
Henry Kuester
Billy Morrison
Ruby Plumridge

Year 5HL: Bethlehem

People Queuing Arthur Alden
Samuel Bird
Nathan Black
Christopher Dennis
Evie Garbutt
Luke Garbutt
Skye Gough
Millie Hulewicz
India Hurford-Jones
Louisa Mattinson
Nemo Tin
Jennifer Wells
Roman Soldiers Alexander Reid
Teyte Skinner

Year 6GM: The Census

Roman Soldiers Benjamin Foster
Michael Hook
Matthew Roche
Louis Sharpe-Ward
Thomas Smith
Jamie Langford
James Thomas
Ardan Devine
Romans Sydney Bennett-Miller
Oonagh Ryley
People Queuing Louis Beresford
Victoria Blake
Jessica Williams
Oliver Cook
Jake Ellis
Elisha Evans
James Jeffs
Alexander Jobling
Luisamae Lisi

Year 6MO: The Palace of King Herod

Slaves William Alden
Laura Fiedorowicz
Isabel Fisher
Emily James
Alyssia Lotter
King Herod Matthew Ellacott
Servants Arthur Blake
Thomas Drake
Alastair Grime
Jordan Smith
Bodyguards Alexander Epelle
Samuel Sweet
Joseph Wilde

Christingle Service

Reverend Humphreys led the Junior School's annual Christingle service in the School Chapel on the afternoon of Monday 14 December. The children reflected upon the meaning of Christmas as they sang carols and read prayers. At the end of the service the Chapel was filled with beautiful candlelight as the children lit their Christingles and sang *Silent Night*.



Christmas Production

The Junior School opened the seasonal festivities with *The Christmas Story*, written by Mrs Hooper and adapted by Mrs DuFeu. Each class performed a section of the story and all the children had an acting role and lines to learn. Delights included talking sheep, a sinister but

amusing King Herod, and shepherds who could not stay awake long enough to count their sheep. The acting was superb, with an array of impressive costumes produced by Mrs Mace. The audience raised the roof with the communal carols and the Chamber Choir sang two beautiful carols.



Visit from Father Christmas

There was great excitement when Father Christmas made an unexpected entrance from the fire escape to meet the Pre-Prep children after they had enjoyed a delicious Christmas lunch. He reassured the children that Rudolph and all the other reindeer were safely eating their lunches in The Barns before distributing his gifts, which were received with delight.

Pre-Prep Christmas Production

The children of the Pre-Prep performed *Shine Star, Shine* in the Corinthian Room on the afternoon of Friday 11 December. The three Story Tellers, Rosa Birchenough, Grace Ettinger and Emelia Wardle, told the story of the star that wants to show the way to the stable

where baby Jesus has been born – but he just can't shine! All of the children sang beautifully and delivered their lines clearly. The costumes were spectacular and everyone clapped with delight when the star, played by George Donald, lit up when it reached the stable.



THE JUNIOR SCHOOL



Rugby Report

The U11 team had a successful season, winning five of their seven fixtures and finishing the season with a very creditable 3rd place in the Cokethorpe tournament. The team was well led by Michael Hook (Feilden), whose powerful running and stout defence proved to be valuable in most matches. The team included some exciting runners in the form of Alastair Grime (Swift) and the surprise package of Sam Sweet (Queen Anne). Special mention must also go to Matthew Roche (Queen Anne), the most improved player of the season, and Joseph Wilde (Harcourt) for their excellent work ethic and superb defence. The U9s had a difficult season, but ended the term with a close game against New College School, losing 25–20.



Inter-House Hockey

This is always an exciting occasion with Years 5, 6, 7 and 8 competing alongside each other in their House colours. As in the Senior School, Vanbrugh and Swift dominated, finishing in first and second place. Harcourt climbed to third with some skilful team play. Although it was a cold November day the girls played with determination and enthusiasm, reflecting the huge wealth of ability and flair in the Junior School.

Inter-House Rugby

The rugby term culminated in the Inter-House rugby tournament, played on Tuesday 3 December. The weather stayed dry and mild to allow for yet another fiercely contested competition. There were some exceptional performances from all the Houses, but Queen Anne were the overall winners.

Cokethorpe Carousel

A new and exciting initiative this term was the Cokethorpe Carousel. Pre-school children, from Westfield House and other nurseries, have been visiting the School on Wednesday afternoons to experience life at Cokethorpe. The afternoon activities, which take place with the Reception Class children, include sport, creative play, music making, art and craft, dressing up and imaginative play.

Hockey Report

The U11 team has to be a strong contender for team of the season after a number of outstanding performances and remaining unbeaten this year. They scored an impressive 18 goals in games against Rupert House, Chandlings and The Manor and only conceded 2. This will be an exciting team to watch as they progress into the Senior School next year. The U10 team showed immense improvement over the term and were rewarded with some impressive wins against both Rupert House and Chandlings. The U9s, whilst not competing in competitive fixtures this year, all significantly improved their skills and understanding of the game, and demonstrated the true depth of talent and coaching in the Junior School.



Production Cast Continued

The Palace of King Herod Continued

Amalek	Richard Turner
Kings	Anya Duffy
	Eloise Fraser-Paterson
	Keely Harding
	Louisa Allen
	Joshua Lowe
	Ella Perry-Cain

Year 4RO: The Stable

Mary	Annabel Clarke
Joseph	Austin Bowsher
Innkeepers	Emma Foster
	Michaela Logue
	India Thomas
Roman Soldiers	Oscar Craik
	Joe McBride
	Alexander Wilde
	George Williams
Norah	Charlotte Jeffs

Year 5MC: The Shepherds

Shepherds	Alexander Cooper
	Alexander Frost
	William Howard
	Harry Jobling
	Matthew Jobling
	Cameron Knox
	Luke Smith
	Alexander Wallace
Angel Gabriel	Kate Hooper
Angels	Charlotte Bury
	Yukiko Nishikawa
	Madeline Pound
	Maisie Coolman
	Anne De Buriatte Moglia

Inter-House Hockey Results

1st	Vanbrugh
2nd	Swift
3rd	Harcourt
4th	Gascoigne
5th	Queen Anne
6th	Feilden

Inter-House Rugby Results

1st	Queen Anne
2nd	Vanbrugh
3rd	Swift
4th	Harcourt
5th	Feilden
6th	Gascoigne

Sports Results

Hockey U11s

The Manor Prep School	W	10–1
Rupert House School	W	3–0
Chandlings (U10s)	W	5–1

Rugby U11s

Sibford School	W	48–7
New College School (Away)	W	47–10
Akeley Wood School	L	42–12
Rendcomb College Junior School	W	28–12
St Edward's School, Cheltenham	W	36–21
New College School (Home)	W	26–0

All other sports results can be found at www.cokethorpe.org.uk.

Lesotho Update

Following three years of support from Cokethorpe, Ha Fusi Secondary School has developed a great deal. In the spring (the start of the new school year in Lesotho) an intake of 80 students is expected in the 1st Form. Of these, many will be 'double orphans', meaning they have lost both their parents, usually due to the HIV/AIDS pandemic. To help support them and their peers, Cokethorpe staff and pupils donated money to pay for things such as desks, school fees and text books, instead of buying Christmas cards and gifts for one another. Such simple sacrifices make a huge difference, and over £400 was raised.

Ha Fusi School Website

www.fusischool.org has been established to keep people updated with progress at Ha Fusi School in Lesotho. Learn about the history of the school, its plans for the future and how to support it. Register to 'Be a Friend' and receive newsletters produced by volunteers working at the school.

Langa Township

Members of the South African rugby tour squad held a cake sale during the term and raised a fantastic £220 to go to the Langa Township, which they will visit whilst on tour. Langa is a suburb of Cape Town that was created in 1923. In South Africa the word 'township' refers to a residential area for black Africans that segregates them from other racial groups within a city. The area is still almost entirely black today and is generally poor, with much squalor and deprivation.

Fast Day

The Michaelmas Term whole-school Fast Day took place on Friday 20 November.

Staff News

- During the summer Miss Collis was whisked off to Sri Lanka to get married to Alex on an elephant. Also, Mrs Palm (née Nadolska), Senior School Secretary, got married to Paul over the summer in Poland. Congratulations to them both
- Congratulations to Mr Forsey and his wife who are now the proud parents of a baby boy, Daniel Charles (8lbs 10½ozs), who was born at 2.35am on Thursday 27 August
- On Sunday 1 November Revd Roy Turner (and his guitar!) returned to the School Chapel for the christening of Mr Cooper's son, Alfie Edward
- Cokethorpe was sad to say goodbye to Mrs Hennigan (Senior School Secretary) in October and Mr Hyatt (Sports Technician) at the end of Michaelmas Term

Sixth Form Trip to Lesotho

'In the distance, a cloud was forming – our guides said it looked like snow. Within minutes we were in a blizzard, struggling along a dirt track that had recently featured on the National Geographic series *Perilous Journeys*, approaching the highest pass in Africa. Our Landrovers snaked upwards – slowly, and with occasional slips, but we got there in the end. The next day, pony trekking through one of the most remote parts of Southern Africa in the snow, the scenery was incredible. This was just one of many challenges that eleven Sixth Form students faced as they embarked upon their adventure.

Our trip started with a week staying in the village of Ha Molemane. During the days, we went to the small village of Ha Fusi, where a new secondary school is finding its feet. We spent time with the students, exploring their village and getting to know some of their language, before falling back on the universal language of football – a game which 'England' won, 4–3.

We were involved in introducing a new, more effective agricultural method to the students. Ha Fusi is a subsistence community, but the soil is increasingly poor, and erosion is wreaking havoc.



We worked hard to create a 'Key Hole Garden' in which soil is effectively fertilised, and stone walls resist the scourge of erosion. The result should ensure that the school can grow its own crops to feed the students.

One of the most memorable experiences was the trip to Thaba Bosiu, the mountain fortress where the Kingdom of Lesotho was founded. We took the Ha Fusi students with us on a big coach, and their delight was made apparent through continuous singing and dancing for the 1½ hour journey. We had been accepted into the community and it was a sad day when we packed our bags to leave.

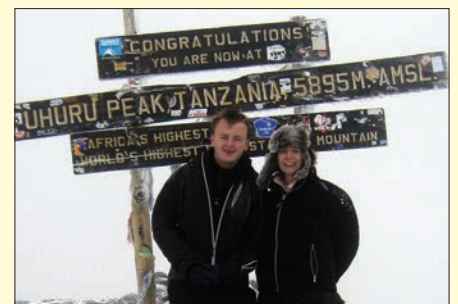
We then travelled into the mountainous region of the country, staying at a hostel with one of the most incredible views imaginable over the sparsely populated region. From Molomong, we headed to the beautiful Sehlabathebe National Park. Our final journey was spending a night at the Sani Top Chalet, the highest pub in Africa. Our two-week exploration of this beautiful country had come to an end. As we went back to Johannesburg to catch our flight, our thoughts were already on how and when to return.'

Mr Uglow



Kilimanjaro

In October, Mrs Lord, Alex Lord (Year 11, Gascoigne) and Mr Gaertner joined a group of eight to climb Mount Kilimanjaro, Tanzania. The group took the Lemoso Route (made famous by the Red Nose climbers) and after five days all successfully reached the summit of Africa's highest mountain, the Uhuru Peak (5,895m). The final six-hour climb started at midnight to allow for a magnificent view of the sunrise when they reached the peak. The trip had everything weatherwise with rain for three days, followed by blazing sun and then hail and snow on the peak. The climb was organised by the Nasio Trust, a charity that supports HIV orphans in Kenya. In total the group raised over £8,000, to assist the opening of a second school for 180 orphans. The Cokethorpe climbers raised in the region of £3,000.



Greenpower Go-Kart Project

Driven by Frederick Orme (Year 8, Vanbrugh), the School's first electric powered Go-Kart made its debut in October, being driven around the Upper Quad. This moment has been long awaited and comes as a welcome relief to all involved in its construction.

Practice sessions are scheduled for the Lent Term, however a few final things are still needed to complete the kart such as an aerodynamic body. To this end the team are looking for potential sponsorship in return for a 6" x 6" advertising space on the body of the kart. If you are able to help please contact Mr Forsey for further details.

Many thanks to those who have already offered advice and supported the project.



Boxing and Yoga Classes

The School's AOB programme continues to be enjoyed by all, with pupils participating in a range of different activities. Led by Miss Rose pupils have found themselves in an array of weird and wonderful shapes with the meditative discipline of yoga. Others have learnt the skilled and disciplined art of boxing, with classes led by Faz Keyani, Head Coach at the Oxford Boxing Academy.



Year 8 Sleepover

On one of the frostiest nights of the winter so far, the Year 8 girls stayed overnight at School, sleeping in the Corinthian Room. The mats, sleeping bags, large quantities of pizza, hot chocolate and Maltesers all ensured that they kept warm! Activities throughout the evening included team-building games, a night walk led by Mr Walton and spooky stories told by Mrs Pratley, while Miss Salter and Mrs Cooper helped settle them down for a good night's sleep.

Next morning an excellent continental breakfast was served and the occasion was rounded off by each girl receiving positive comments from every girl in Year 8. It will certainly be a night to remember for many years to come.



Duke of Edinburgh's Award

Those undertaking the Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award this year have started training and planning for their July 2010 Final Expedition on Dartmoor. After completing an in-school training day in October, they set out on a training expedition on Exmoor. Although the bright crisp weather created excellent conditions, breaking ice on tents in the morning was a challenge. Students learnt that putting navigation skills into practice can also be challenging when errors resulted in walking a little further than necessary!

Congratulations to former pupil Rubehn Enjily (2001–2007, Vanbrugh) who gave the current participants something to aspire to when he was awarded his Gold Award by the Duke of Edinburgh himself at St James's Palace on Tuesday 20 October.

Year 8 Podcast Workshop

Year 8 pupils have taken part in a radio workshop during the Performing Arts AOB with Mrs Hooper. The podcasts took 6 hours to complete and every child in each group was involved. To listen to the radio podcasts produced go to www.cokethorpe.org.uk/go/radiopodcasts

'Radio Wave' Featuring:

Thomas Amor
Constantin Patt
James Murphy
Elijah Vieira-Faria
Kieran Hubbard
Ollie John
Edward Mordue
Toyah Overton
Katie Jenkins
Taisia Graves
Alex Haywood
Matthew Hunt
Harry Lovibond
Jonathon Lane

'Cheese FM' Featuring:

Christian Ettinger
Aidan King
Nicholas Caddy
Celeste Black
Vanessa Blake
Melanie Severn
Lindsay Turvold
Jake Halfacre
Harry Blake
Redford Curtis
Oliver Cookson
Justin Foster
Henry Plumridge
William Parsons

World Challenge 2011

Over twenty pupils have signed up to take the 2011 World Challenge - a bespoke educational expedition designed to teach life and leadership skills, foster teamwork and expand minds outside of the classroom.

The group will spend three weeks in the Indian Himalayas, with two weeks trekking and one week working within a HIV orphanage. The tour will conclude with a trip to the famous Taj Mahal in the city of Agra. Fundraising events will be held in School over the coming terms to raise money for the expedition and for the orphanage.

Duke of Edinburgh's Award

The following Year 12 students are participating in the Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award this year:

Paris Banerjee (Feilden)
Joel Gascoyne (Gascoigne)
Annabel Hunter (Swift)
George Kerr (Feilden)
Richard Stevens (Swift)
Huw Williams (Swift)
James Woolley (Queen Anne)

COKETHORPE PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

CPA Committee

Chairman:	Ruth Wigham
Vice Chairman:	Jan Johnson
Treasurer:	Flynn Reid
Secretary:	Foundation Office
Damian Ettinger	John Bennett
Victor Faria	Kirsteen Fellows
Shaun Foster	Sue Furneaux
Simon Hooper	Amanda Howard
Adi Hughes	Theresa James
Peter Lodowski	Linda Mace
Sarah Plumridge	Rebecca Spilsbury

Forthcoming CPA Events

Burns' Night Supper

Friday 22 January 2010
Dining Hall, 7.30pm

Quiz Night

Saturday 27 February 2010
Corinthian Room, 7.30pm

Junior School Treasure Hunt

Saturday 24 April 2010
School Grounds, 11.00am

Contact the Box Office for more details.

Murder Mystery

The eagerly awaited *Return to Talbot Manor* was a sell out. The Cokethorpe Players were superb, and the return of the much loved 'Ruby' and 'Grime' had everyone in stitches. Only one team (out of the 20) correctly naming the murderer and each member won a bottle of wine.

Fireworks Extravaganza

Following days of rain and some drizzle early evening, the skies cleared in time for the most stunning display of fireworks Cokethorpe has seen to date. Three delicious pigs were consumed, 500 cups of mulled wine drunk, gallons

of soup and countless burgers were enjoyed by all. These two events raised £3,000 towards the next project. Thank you to all those who support the CPA events.

Coffee Mornings

It is lovely to see many new faces at the coffee mornings, this is a great way of meeting other parents. During one of the mornings, Craft-Ed, an educational craft company run by Karen and Peter Ogilvy, demonstrated how easy it is to create beautiful mementos without being naturally creative.



VISITORS

Open Morning and Admissions

The Michaelmas Term Open Morning brought a good number of visitors to the School on 10 October. There was a wonderful range of activities and displays, with some excellent outdoor performances around the site from musicians and Drama Scholars. The catering staff also served tasters of the School's lunch menu to enthusiastic visitors.

30 pupils from feeder prep schools including St Hugh's, Abingdon Prep, The Dragon, Ashfold and Brockhurst, attended the Year 9 Assessment Day on 18 November.

Head Teachers from Beijing

A delegation of educationalists from Beijing visited Cokethorpe on 21 October. The delegates, mainly Head Teachers from Beijing schools, took the opportunity to compare Cokethorpe's educational system to their own.

Inspection

The ISI inspection of Cokethorpe took place in October. The full report will be issued during the Lent Term.

Remembrance Day

This year's Remembrance Service was an important opportunity to pay respect to those who fought and died, not only in the First World War, but also in more recent conflicts. The moving service, including prayers, readings and a minute's silence, was led by Reverend Humphreys. The School is very grateful to Mrs Ann Clack who helps organise this service every year.



Mr Bond-Smith

Cokethorpe Governor Mr Bond-Smith brought his 1952 classic racing car into School in October to show the Junior School children. The children got to sit in the driving seat of what was the Formula One car of its day and watched as Mr Bond-Smith drove it around the School grounds. Mr Bond-Smith explained that the car can reach an incredible top speed of 148 miles per hour.



Licensing Service

The School welcomed Rt Reverend Colin Fletcher OBE, the Bishop of Dorchester, to conduct a service for the licensing of the Reverend Canon Roger

Humphreys as the new School Chaplain on 10 September. This took place in the School Chapel and was attended by the Chamber Choir and a selection of pupils.

NEW DEVELOPMENTS



Sixth Form Centre

The Sixth Form students have settled in well in the new Sixth Form Centre and are delighted with the new furniture for the Common Room. The students are making good use of the computer area and desks for study, the diner-style booths and vending machine and the new lockers and external bag rack to help keep the Common Room tidy.



Sixth Form Classrooms

Over the summer holidays, the mezzanine floor of the Design Technology Block was extended. In place of the Art classrooms that were there previously, there are now four dedicated Sixth Form classrooms for Psychology, Philosophy and Business Studies. There is also a Higher Education Library and a Lecture Room, which seats 70 people.

Reception Class Facilities

The old kitchen office and storage rooms in the Mansion House have been converted into new Reception Class facilities. The children will benefit from their classroom now being on the ground floor and there is also a separate play area with toys, a sand pit, art facilities and playhouse for dressing-up and imaginative play.

Automatic Front Gates

Having been granted planning permission, the School is delighted to have replaced the unattractive entrance barrier with automatic gates and striking complementary stone pillars. The gates themselves have been made on site by the School mechanic and welder Robert Collier, who has also made the basket and fire guard for the fireplace in the new Dining Hall.



Art Department

The Maintenance team carried out an incredible conversion of the old Dining Hall to create two spacious and well-equipped Art rooms; separated by a unique wall that rotates 90° to open it up into a large room perfect for an art exhibition. The old kitchens were also converted into a third classroom and a Sixth Form studio.



Annual Fund 2009–2010

The School has been delighted with the response to the inaugural Annual Fund. Over half of the projected target has already been donated or pledged and this will be spent to fulfil the first of the projects over the Christmas holidays. A mid-term report will be distributed in February with a full update of progress.

Maintenance Projects

In addition to the projects listed in the last issue of *The Ocellus*, the following work was carried out over the summer holidays and throughout the Michaelmas Term:

- General decoration and re-carpeting around the site
- Installation of furniture and lockers in the new Sixth Form Centre
- New bag racks for senior pupils near the Learning Support Department
- Purchase of 20 laptops for use in the Junior School
- Upgrade of computer terminals around the site
- Electronic whiteboards fitted in Science, Maths and Modern Languages
- Cricket squares scarified and seeded for next season
- Drainage of the First XV rugby pitch improved and the pitch re-seeded
- New coffee and hot chocolate facilities in the Coffee Shop

Dining Hall

The Dining Hall, Kitchens and Servery have been in full operation for a whole term now. Mr Paul Bradford, Head of Catering reflects on the new facilities:

'One of our main objectives for the new Dining Hall was to encourage pupils and staff to continue to eat a nutritious meal at lunchtime.

In the previous Dining Hall the catering department served 450 hot meals and 350 sandwich lunches each day. Now there are 770 hot meals and 60 sandwiches produced. Many pupils and staff have commented on what a pleasant dining experience the new building provides.

At Open Morning and CPA events parents have taken time to discuss the positive effect of the dining experience with catering staff. Many enquired as to how we encourage the pupils to eat so well. The answer is simply that our chefs prepare tasty dishes from fresh ingredients and that we are passionate about the food we serve.

Post-match sports teas attract many parents and visitors into the Dining Hall. Saturday fixtures have seen in excess of 150 parents arriving for a traditional afternoon tea served with home-made cakes and sandwiches.

We continue to source local produce wherever possible. One of our current objectives is to serve locally grown English apples and pears for the entirety of the Michaelmas Term. Daily consumption of fresh fruit now stands at around 1,300 pieces.'

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Turning Back the Pages

Below are some news items chosen from past issues of *The Bell Tower* and *The Peacock*.

10 Years Ago

- Year 7 and 8 pupils built a pedal car and took part in the British Pedal Car Grand Prix in Ringwood, Hampshire. Unfortunately they were unable to finish as they were involved in a spectacular crash during the afternoon (in which no one was hurt)
- The English Touring Theatre Company visited the School and performed a short version of the play *The Master Builder* by Ibsen

20 Years Ago

- Mr Walton, Second Master, joined Cokethorpe
- Nicholas Horn (Harcourt) and James Horada (Queen Anne) were appointed Heads of School for the Academic Year 1989–1990

30 Years Ago

- Harcourt won the Inter-House Clay Pigeon Shooting Competition
- The Inter-House Cross Country took place, involving every boy in the School. Swift House won for the sixth year running, their twelfth win in fifteen years
- The Cokethorpe Society bought the School Chapel and handed the keys over to the School on 6 July 1979. Whilst Sunday Chapel Services still took place in the Corinthian Room during the Michaelmas Term, they moved to the new Chapel when the weather improved

40 Years Ago

- Swift House won the 1969 Inter-House Rugby Competition
- Mark Kitchin (Swift, 1966–1970) was named top scorer for the 1st XV rugby team with 68 points
- Sixth Formers joined the girls from Rye St Antony School for their School Dance on 24 November

Archive Donations

The School would like to extend their thanks to the following former pupils for their donations to the School Archives:

Kevin Ching (Harcourt, 1973–1975) for a selection of photos.

Martin Goss (Swift, 1965–1968) for a series of whole School photos from the years 1965, 1966, 1967 and 1968 and the 1966, 1967 and 1968 editions of *The Peacock*.

Martin Lockwood (1955–1959) for providing the School with some original end of term bills from 1956.

Whole School Photo

After recently making contact with a former lost old boy, Duncan Williams (1976–1981), he kindly sent in the below photo of the whole School taken in 1981.



Christmas Black Tie Photo

Darren Simon (Vanbrugh, 1995–2001) kindly donated a collection of photos from his time at Cokethorpe to the Archives. The featured photo includes the following former pupils: Thomas Brigstocke; James Rowland; Raoul Wortmann; Alexei Mishin; Emlyn Rimell; Tom Laybourne; Darren Simon; Steve Swift; Daniel Gibbons; Ivan Ho; James Swift; Benjamin Pearson.



Jenny Tristram

Thank you to Jenny Tristram (Swift, 1994–2003) who donated the below photo of a Cokethorpe play. People in the photo include Jenny; Toby Brown (Harcourt, 1995–2004); Cara Webster (Swift, 2001–2003) and Zion Pool (Feilden, 1997–2004).



Rowing Club

The below photo of the Cokethorpe Rowing Club was one of many donated to the Archives by Richard Furnival-Jones (Swift, 1959–1963). Richard can be seen bottom left and former master Douglas Cook has been identified as the person in the blazer.



Roger Bomford

Thank you to Roger Bomford (1961–1964) for the below picture. The photo is dated 1963 and is especially poignant as it features the late Robert Gunn. The other boys are Angus Dawson (1960–1964); Roger Bomford and Anthony Thompson (1961–1964).



1975 Colts Rugby Team

Many thanks to Paul Tolley (1973–1978) who, after attending a reunion dinner in November, sent in a photo of the 1975 Colts rugby team – referred to by David McHugh (Queen Anne, 1974–1978) as the 'undefeated team'. The photo was taken outside the Mansion House.



THE COKETHORPE SOCIETY



Reunion Events

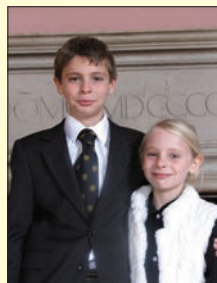
The School hosted a series of four reunion dinners and lunches in the stunning new Dining Hall during September and November. Over 170 former pupils and staff attended, including many who had not revisited the School since they left and others who had travelled from as far as Russia especially for the occasion. Thank you to everyone who helped make the events such a success.

Death Announcements

It is with great sadness that the School announces the death of David Goldsmith MBE, Headmaster of Cokethorpe from 1979–1989, who died on Thursday 1 October after a long illness. Any condolence cards or letters should be sent to Mrs Timms, Headmaster's Secretary, who will forward them on to the Goldsmith family. Cokethorpe was also sad to learn of the death of former pupil Robert Ridley Gunn (1960–1964) who passed away back in 1997.

Back to School

Cokethorpe has been delighted to welcome back a number of alumni and former staff during the recent months: Paul Murphy (1974–1979); Tabitha and Matthew Pavitt (2004–2008); Mr Hansson (Physics teacher, 1968–1972) and Doug Maxwell (1960–1962). The School was also pleased to have Doug's daughter Georgina spend a day in the Junior School.



Dragon Boat Racing

Andy Trotman (Queen Anne, 1959–1963) and Lena Beardsell (Feilden, 2002–2007) discovered they had more than dragon boat racing in common when they raced in the same team at a winter series: they were shocked to discover that they had also both been Cokethorpe students! The two Cokethorpians met again by chance, this time racing in Prague. Andy was racing for the Senior Men's Dragon Boat Racing Team and Lena for the Premier Women's Team. Both also proudly raced for their country at the Dragon Boat World Championships.



Fundraising

Congratulations to Edd Nieburg (Vanbrugh, 1999–2004) who, after months of training, ran 312 miles, the equivalent of 12 marathons in just 13 days. He has raised over £10,000 for the Thomley Activity Centre, which caters for the needs of disabled children.

In November Paul Derrow (Queen Anne, 1989–1996) and Tom Nelson (1993–1997) completed the gruelling Hell Runner course: a 12 mile track including freezing water, numerous hills and the 'bog of doom'. They raised over £300 for CLIC Sargent, a children's cancer charity.



Weddings

Congratulations to Tim Cranston (Harcourt, 1995–2002) and his wife Jude who got married in the Cokethorpe Chapel on 3 October 2009.

Our best wishes are also extended to former member of staff Christine Khoo who married Dr Gareth Roberts in a ceremony in Bermuda on 28 August.

Engagement

Congratulations to William Pegram (Queen Anne, 1987–1992) and his fiancée Nicola Mavroleon who got engaged in August 2009. The couple plan to marry in the summer of 2010.

New Appointment

Cokethorpe is delighted to learn that Nigel Lambert QC (1962–1965) has been appointed Head of Chambers for Carmelite Chambers, one of the busiest and most highly regarded sets of criminal Chambers in the country.

RMA Sandhurst

Verity Skinner (Harcourt, 1995–1999) has been selected to attend Sandhurst. In September she attended the Territorial Army Commissioning Course and passed off the parade square with the Queen's Commission as a Second Lieutenant in the Territorial Army Royal Logistics Corps. She is currently serving with the Port & Maritime Regiment and has been assigned Troop Commander of Vessel Troop.

James Dillon-Godfray

James Dillon-Godfray (1979–1982, Queen Anne) is Head of Marketing and Development at London Oxford Airport and has been instrumental to the introduction of the first commercial flights in over 20 years as well as the recent rebrand to include the capital's name.

Forthcoming Society Events

Society Golf Day

The Cokethorpe Society is hoping to establish a Golf Day for former pupils and staff. Before a date and venue is confirmed the Foundation Office would like hear from those interested in taking part in the Society's inaugural event, which is planned to be held in June 2010.

The proposed day would include a 9-hole Texas Scramble in the morning and an 18-hole Stapleford full handicap in the afternoon, with a light lunch in between and then a formal dinner to conclude the day.

Griffen Rugby 7s Tournament

Cokethorpe have been invited to enter a team in the next Griffen Rugby 7s Tournament to be held at Abingdon School on Saturday 14 March 2010.

Please contact the Foundation Office to register interest in either event.

Society Contact Details

Email: society@cokethorpe.org
Telephone: 01993 892339

TAIL FEATHERS

Ave

D J Mason (Physics)

Mr Mason has entered his sixth year of teaching, having previously taught in both state and independent boarding schools. He likes spending his holidays surfing in France and is a huge American Football fan.

A G M Stuart (Mathematics)

Mr Stuart recently graduated with a Masters in Mathematics from Warwick University and comes to Cokethorpe from teaching near Tamworth. He enjoys archery, a sport he hopes to introduce to the School.

Ms A S Rose (Psychology)

Ms Rose attended Leeds University and the Didsbury School of Education before her first teaching job in London. She then spent two years travelling SE Asia and Australia before teaching at Chipping Norton School for six years. She is thrilled to join as Head of Department and as the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Coordinator.



Miss M E Bastin (Music)

Miss Bastin was a choral scholar at King's College, London and a postgraduate at the Royal Academy of Music. She enjoyed a career of freelancing before training as a teacher where she discovered her loves of conducting, teaching and skiing.

L D Cummins (Physical Education)

Mr Cummins joins from St Edward's School, Cheltenham. A former coach of the England Schools U18 and U16 rugby sides, he is looking forward to helping the continued development of sport and PE at Cokethorpe.



R M Taylor (Biology)

Mr Taylor recently graduated from Balliol College, Oxford. He is a keen rugby player and rower and is delighted to be involved in coaching sport this year. Beyond zoology and sport Mr Taylor enjoys walking and climbing.

Mrs N Silversides (Business Studies)

Mrs Silversides joins after three years in industry, having previously taught at Gosford Hill School. She is a keen trampolinist and is proud to be able to say that she can perform a one and half-twisting-straight-front somersault!

Reverend R J Humphreys (School Chaplain)

Reverend Humphreys is delighted to come to Cokethorpe as the School Chaplain. He recently retired after fifteen years as Rector of Woodstock and Bladon. Before that he served in Carterton, St Andrews North Oxford, and as Chaplain at the Dragon School. Before ordination he was a Chemistry teacher.



Staff News: Please see the Blue Column on page 18.

Ave Atque Valet

Miss H Hiscox (History)

Miss Hiscox leaves after three years to take up the exciting role of parliamentary researcher with Ann Clwyd MP in Westminster. She will miss her colleagues, and more especially the pupils she has taught.

Mrs S Saunders (Learning Support)

Mrs Saunders joined 10 years ago and says 'I have seen Cokethorpe change from a good school into a great one; I am proud to have taught here'. She will miss the lovely setting, the great food and her colleagues.



Open Morning

Saturday 6 February: 9.30am – 12 noon

Prospective parents interested in entry at any age are warmly invited to attend. All departments will be open, and there will be refreshments and activities. Headmaster's address: 10.30am and 11.30am.

For personal visits at other times, for a tour, discussion with the Registrar, Head of Junior School if appropriate, and to meet the Headmaster, please contact the Admissions Secretary, Chris Bowerman (01993 703921 or admissions@cokethorpe.org).

Contact Information

Headmaster

Email correspondence with Mr Ettinger (dje@cokethorpe.org) is particularly welcomed during the Headmaster 'Live' hour (8.00–9.00pm, on the first Monday of each month during term time). At other times please contact the Headmaster's Secretary, Mrs Timms (hmsec@cokethorpe.org or 01993 892325).

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Photographs

For digital copies of photographs in this newsletter contact the Marketing Manager, Katherine Rutland on 01993 892339 or email ksfr@cokethorpe.org

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