



Cokethorpe
SCHOOL

THE OCELLUS

The termly newsletter of the School

From the Headmaster

It would be strange to write for this edition of *The Ocellus* without referring to the impending election, not least because there are students in the School who will, in May, be able to vote for the first time. But I do so with some trepidation. Educational custom has it that, in their official role, headmasters should neither proselytise nor campaign. So I shall tread carefully.

Some pundits are saying that the turnout of voters will be very low, the result of disenchantment with politics and politicians, with sleaze and spin. But low turnout is not new in the UK. In 1918 when universal suffrage was granted to men, less than 60% turned out to vote. In the Twentieth Century overall, only an average of about 70% of those eligible to vote actually did so. There seems to be a lack of engagement, a lack of interest in politics in the UK. Even on days when there is news of great international importance, so many of our newspapers serve up stories about celebrities, often stories about people who are famous for nothing more than being famous. I suppose these papers know what their readers want. Here's the irony, what engages many of those who condemn sleazy politicians is... sleaze.

Some of the blame for this state of affairs must lie with education. From an early age we focus on employment. We have 17 and 18 year olds who haven't studied history or literature for years, and haven't studied philosophy at all. Many lose contact with ideas and think of life only as a weave of work and leisure. Hard thinking is either eschewed altogether, or seen as a necessary evil in the work-place, to be avoided at all other times. Sleazy politicians must take some of the blame for a low voter turnout in May. But I also suspect that the British have a worrying tendency to become intellectually lazy.



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HE and Careers Fair Stands

Educational Institutions:

Birmingham University
Cambridge University
Cokethorpe Sixth Form
Oxford Brookes University
Oxford Media & Business School
Queen Mary, University of London
Regent's College London
Royal Agricultural College
Royal Holloway, University of London
The Royal Veterinary College
University of Bristol
University of Oxford
University of Sussex

Employers:

Bampton Medical Practice
Concateno
Corn Street Dental Practice
Darbys Solicitors
Helen & Douglas House
NatWest Bank
Oxfordshire Fire & Rescue Service
Premier Letting
Royal Air Force
Royal Navy
Sainsbury's
Siemens Magnet Technology Limited
South Central Ambulance Service
STL Communications Limited
Thames Valley Police
The Army
The MGroup
West Oxfordshire District Council
Westfield House Nursery School
Witney Four Pillars Hotel

Professionals from the following areas:

Physiotherapy
Screenwriting

The Ocellus

The word ocellus (pronounced 'oh-sell-us') refers to the eye in the tail feathers of a peacock.

Front Cover: Official opening of the new Dining Hall

Year 9 Trip to Ypres

As the rain pelted against the windows of the bus Year 9 pupils sat inside, relieved to be visitors to the battlefields, rather than young soldiers preparing to leap into the unknown some 90 years ago. The three-day trip in February was designed to enrich the work done in History and English focusing on the causes, course and the subsequent literature of the war. The enormity of the conflict and the suffering incurred can be difficult to convey in the classroom, but is hard to avoid when standing at Tyne Cot, where 12,000 bodies lie in front of the names of 34,000 men who have no known grave. It was particularly poignant



to visit the grave of Lt Richard Walmsley, great great uncle of Saul Garrett (Year 9, Feilden), and to hear the story of Lt Colonel Edgar Mobbs, great great grandfather of Charlotte (Year 9, Queen Anne). Other students also found the names of relatives, either on the Menin Gate or in the many cemeteries that punctuate the landscape of the Ypres Salient. As ever, Cokethorpe pupils were exemplary in their attitude towards the trip and gained a great deal from the expert guidance provided by Trevor and Bruce, the guides. It will, no doubt, be a trip that stays with them for a long time to come.



HE and Careers Fair

More than 35 different employers and universities were represented at this year's Higher Education and Careers Fair. The number of pupils and parents in attendance was fantastic, demonstrating the value of this annual event. Alongside representatives from both the public and private sectors, many of the nation's top universities were present, providing additional assistance for Year 12 students as they begin to think about Higher Education.



Didcot Power Station

Year 8 went on a Geography field trip to Didcot Power Station this term as part of their study of energy. Pupils watched a promotional video on electricity and then toured the site; they also visited the coal delivery area, saw the transformers and ended up in the control room and generating plant. They learnt that nut kernels from Indonesia are used in conjunction with coal as part of the government's green energy drive. It was a very enjoyable and informative visit.



Sports Science Workshop

On Tuesday 25 March, two sports scientists from the Lucozade Sports Science team visited Cokethorpe to work with the Sixth Form Physical Education students. The annual budget for their work in sport exceeds £20 million and it was an honour to have them in School. Students attended a comprehensive lecture on sports nutrition and diet in the morning and later participated in practical speed and fitness tests. Paul Tyrer and guest runner Jack Morton

(both Year 13, Gascoigne) broke the Lucozade 'YoYo' test record, by beating previous records set by educational establishments. The test involved a 55m by 20m shuttle run, with only a five second recovery period every 40m: it began with a slow speed and the tempo gradually progressed in pace until they ended in a sprint. Much was learnt during the workshop and Cokethorpe students once again demonstrated the depth of their sporting talents.

Innovative Ideas Competition

A team of Year 8 pupils, consisting of Frederick Orme (Vanbrugh), Edward Collins (Feilden) and George Wenman (Vanbrugh) made it to the final of the 2010 Innovative Ideas competition, part of the Oxfordshire Science Festival. Frederick's brilliantly original idea was aimed at solving the modern day problem of storing and recycling household waste. It was a delight to see them apply their knowledge by brainstorming ideas, producing marketing plans, researching costs and using ICT to design 3D products. The final of the competition was held at Milton Park, where they met Ed Vaizey MP and leading entrepreneurs. The experts gave the team feedback to help them develop their idea into a commercial reality. Look out, Dragons!



Interview for BBC Radio Oxford

On 16 March Frederick Orme, accompanied by Dr Flaherty, was invited to talk about the Innovative Ideas competition on BBC Radio Oxford. Frederick dealt with the studio surroundings and questions directed at him extremely well and deserves praise for his thoughtful and highly articulate responses. The interview was later broadcast on the Louisa Hannan show.

English Lunchtime Recital

In preparation for the trip to see *An Inspector Calls*, Year 10 pupils from Miss White's class led a drama-based 'hot-seating' activity. Pupils acted in character and responded to questions from the audience on the question 'who is to blame for the death of Eva Smith?' Pupils carried out this activity with a great deal of enthusiasm and gained an insight into Priestley's characterisation.



Geography Trip to Slapton

'Lower Sixth Geographers embarked on a cold, yet fun trip to Slapton in Devon in January. We learnt all about field research methods, collection of data and analysis. We stayed in Slapton Field Studies Centre, where we were given comfy beds and delicious food to fuel us for our late evening lessons, followed by card games with Mr Bown. We visited Torquay, Totnes, Start Bay and Stokeley Farm, where we looked into re-branding, tourist activity and coastal management. We particularly enjoyed the trip to Torquay where we did small group fieldwork and managed to squeeze in a bit of time to go to the arcade and get our faces painted (for free) with "We love Geography".'

Blaise Dyer (Feilden) and Annabel Hunter (Swift)



An Inspector Calls

As part of their English GCSE course the whole of Year 10 and Year 11 travelled to London on Thursday 11 February to see an award-winning production of J B Priestley's classic thriller *An Inspector Calls*, at the Wyndham's Theatre. This was an exceptional opportunity to see a live performance of a GCSE text in a production that was both faithful to the full text, and directed by an internationally acclaimed director of stage and screen (Stephen Daldry, *The Hours*, *Billy Elliot* and *The Reader*). The pupils were a credit to the School and the trip undoubtedly gave all of them a valuable insight into the dramatis personae and themes in the play. It will also greatly help enhance their ability to write about the play in their forthcoming English examinations. All in all it was a most enjoyable and valuable trip.

Intermediate Maths Challenge

Results from this year's Intermediate Maths Challenge are as follows:

Best in School, Gold Award:
Alan Chan

Gold Award Winners:
Alexander Bryson
Ethan Bosse
Lloyd Cadman

Silver Award Winners:
Samuel O'Brien
Gregory Muller
Yinan Wang
Brendan Ware
Harry Fellows
Katja Beardsell
Marianne Pearson
Sophie Fisher

Bronze Award Winners:
Teague Bond
Isaac Staff
William Bennett
Alex Lord
Amy Gaertner
Timothy Knight
Alice Duffield
Letitia Cookson
Alfie Turner
Ben Porter Goff
Madeleine Allardice
Billy Kingsbury
Jacob Booty
Elliott Jones
Duncan Bruce
Laura McKenney

Oxfordshire Science Festival

The OSF is when organisations throughout the county engage the public in their work through lectures, discussions, debates and interactive activities. It started in 2008 with 28 events; 2010 saw over 100 events exploring, debating, experiencing and discussing science.

History Conference

The History Department is always keen to take learning outside the classroom, and, where possible, to engage students in a wider understanding of the topics they are studying. Whilst Year 11 were enjoying a taste of Sixth Form, Upper Sixth Historians spent a day in London this term attending a conference on Nineteenth-Century America. They heard from a number of very prestigious speakers, some of whom are world leaders in terms of their research on events such as the War of Independence and the Civil War. The content covered will, undoubtedly, help them when they become the first Cokethorpe cohort to sit their Cambridge Pre-U examination in May.

SHMIS Poetry Anthology

Two pupils, Lucy Nielsen (Year 8, Gascoigne) and George Lawson (Year 10, Gascoigne), together with former pupil Charles Bennett (2009, Vanbrugh), have had their poems published in the 2010 SHMIS Schools' Poetry Anthology. Below is Lucy Nielsen's entry, *Landscape*:

It was cold
I was scuffing my boots,
Along the hard ground.
I felt like the field was warning me,
The fog was like a barrier,
Telling me to stop and turn away.
The trees were bare,
Almost dead in the harsh chill of winter.
The rays of sunlight
Had just started to lick over the horizon
And sent my shadow
Running in front of me.
I stopped.
I tried to hear his loose shoe
Clinking on the ground
But it wasn't there
Just the morning birds.

The fog was low
Covered him from view
He was hidden from me
I called him, in hope
Of breaking the eerie silence.
Nothing, until,
Out of the gloom
There was a faint red smudge.
It was him
His rug, pushing the fog,
Out the way for me.
But, he was lying down,
I dropped his leathers
And ran to him.

His painful wheezing
Getting louder as I approached
I knelt down beside him,
To stroke his sweaty neck,
His heat was burning
Through my numb finger tips
It hurt me to touch him.
I stroked his wet face,
The life slowly faded
From his eyes.
The last spark of light
Was killed with a single,
Wet, salty tear from
A lonely girl.
A girl at the side
Of a cold, muddy, horse.
On a dead, unloving
Winters day.

Oxfordshire Association for Young People

The OAYP is the largest youth organisation in the county, offering opportunities to those aged 8 to 25 by providing sports clubs, development and training, and information on subjects such as drug and alcohol abuse.

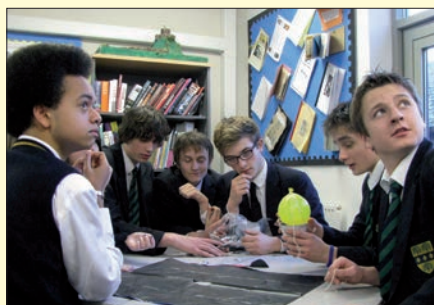
Modelling Success

Sophie Fisher (Year 11, Feilden), recently completed her first international catwalk show, modelling for Karl Lagerfeld's Chanel Haute Couture Spring/Summer 2010 collection during Paris Fashion Week. Despite being a little daunted, but nevertheless enjoying the experience, she was then signed up by various fashion houses for London Fashion Week and is presently heading a six-month campaign for Kurt Geiger.



Sixth Form Taster Day

On Tuesday 2 March, Year 11 attended a Sixth Form Taster Day, allowing them a glimpse into the life of a Cokethorpe Sixth Former. They were given the chance to experience the full range of A Level courses and, according to staff, they were interested and engaged students. Pupils also made the most of the Sixth Form Centre and the Coffee Shop; they were impeccably behaved throughout the day, with many taking the opportunity to demonstrate their prefecting potential. There were some superb entries for the 'Russian omelette' challenge and the day culminated with a Chinese meal and quiz. The Sixth Form look forward to welcoming this year group into the Lower Sixth in September.



Scholars' Symposium

'On the last Tuesday of the Lent Term, all of the scholars from Year 7 to the Upper Sixth took part in the first ever Cokethorpe Scholars' Symposium, entitled *The Footprint of 21st Century Man*. Our guest for the day was Professor Andrew Whiteley, a marine biologist from Centre for Ecology & Hydrology in Oxford, who lectured on the effects of global warming on the lower end of the food chain, for example plankton. Every scholar presented a project on a subject of their choice and by the end we had covered a wide range of topics, from 'the causes of global warming' to 'the meaning of infinity'. Finally, in the afternoon we took part in a general knowledge quiz which challenged us with questions outside of the curriculum. Overall it was a fascinating, challenging and enjoyable day!'

Fraser Logue (Year 8, Vanbrugh)

Film Studies Lecture

Film is one of the newest art forms and arguably the most popular: from India to Iran, on the web, by television or at the Cineplex, films are watched by every type of audience, everyday, everywhere. Mr Elkin-Jones's lunchtime lecture demonstrated the skill of 'reading' a film by using the opening three minutes of the British dystopian thriller *Children of Men*. The lecture demonstrated just how meanings in films are established. Through revealing the interplay of mise-en-scene, performance, cinematography, editing and sound, and how this creates narrative and genre, Mr Elkin-Jones revealed that there is clearly more to a film than just watching it – like all art, it has to be read.



OAYP

Daniel McCall (Year 10, Vanbrugh) has recently been working with the youth group Oxfordshire Association for Young People (OAYP). Having been involved with the Peer Educator Project, teaching groups of younger children about the effects of drugs and alcohol, he was later approached to host the Oxfordshire Youth Awards, in front of an audience of over 500 guests. Since then he has led a three-person team in applying to the government for funding. After researching activities available to young people in the area, Daniel and the OAYP applied for two grants: one aimed at giving aid to young people who are struggling financially and the other to purchase a mini bus to assist with transportation. Both appeals were granted and Daniel looks forward to continuing working with the OAYP on future projects.

THE SIXTH FORM

Government and Politics Trip

On Monday 1 March the Lower Sixth Government and Politics students visited the Houses of Parliament and the new Supreme Court in Westminster. In the morning the students were given a tour of Parliament and in the afternoon they had the opportunity to sit in the Strangers' Gallery at both debating chambers and observe proceedings. In between they also had a tour of the new Supreme Court, on the western side of Parliament Square, and listened to a case in progress in the main court room. The trip was a great success and very much enjoyed by all.



General Studies

The Sixth Form General Studies programme welcomed Professor David Ferguson and Dame Jocelyn Bell-Burnell for the Lent Term's talks. Prof Ferguson, from Oxford University's Medical Sciences Division, described his work on the use of the electron microscope in biomedical research, including sub-cellular details of humans and their parasites. Suzy Russell (Upper Sixth, Swift), an A Level Biologist, found the talk particularly interesting but also stated how it had visually enhanced all the Sixth Formers' understanding of the world around them on a cellular level. Dame Bell-Burnell is a renowned award-winning astrophysicist and a self-confessed admirer of all poetry with an astrological theme. William Lawson (Upper Sixth, Gascoigne) noted how the lecture gave the audience an insight into the wonders of outer space, whilst encouraging participation as staff and Sixth Formers read out various selected verses too.



Philosophy Café

This term's Philosophy Café was led by Mr Uglow, who argued that Facebook, the social networking site, is detrimental to true friendship. The Café was well attended, with many contributors from Years 10 to 13 trying to convince Mr Uglow otherwise. The question was explored enthusiastically, but neither side gave much ground on the substantive issue as to whether online social networking is a positive phenomena. The final consensus was in favour of Facebook, though at the time of writing Mr Uglow has yet to create a profile.



Prefects' Sleepover

'When the idea of a sleepover was suggested, the prefects quickly embraced the idea with open arms. It was only as we cautiously set foot into the imposing grandeur of the supposedly haunted Mansion House that there was a slight air of regret. Mr Walton, with his innate ability to sense fear, soon heightened the atmosphere of dread: 'The cleaners say she appears every evening, howling and wailing throughout the corridors'. Nevertheless, we crept up to the Junior School rooms that would serve as our sleeping quarters for the night; bare wooden floorboards were less than comforting, but the sight of hot chocolate certainly was. Despite some good efforts, the prefects struggled to get each other truly terrified with ghost stories and other pranks, yet we had a good time trying. Thank you to Mr Ettinger, Mr K Walton, Mr J Walton and the catering staff for a thoroughly enjoyable evening.'

Torin Pocock (Upper Sixth, Gascoigne)



Enrichment Programme

The Sixth Form Enrichment Programme continues to go from strength to strength. This includes the compulsory sessions of one hour each week in which the Lower Sixth complete an intensive course of planning and preparation in the lead up to UCAS and the Upper Sixth are given vital advice in their planning for life at university.

Lower Sixth Trip to Bath

Lower Sixth students' research into the university application process began this term, with them all visiting Bath University for the day. The year group had their first taste of a formal lecture from university tutors about the UCAS process. Students were given methods for targeting different types of courses at institutions, and advice was given about how to craft personal statements. Student ambassadors explained how to manage debt and work-social life commitments. These undergraduates also gave the Lower Sixth a campus tour in small groups, providing them with a chance to discover first hand what life in a top league university might be like. Sixth Form students can find out more about what undergraduate life can be like, and how to make the most of their applications, by going to www.cokethorpe.org.uk/go/heinfo to listen to podcasts and download other Higher Education resources.

Gap Year Talk

Cokethorpe was pleased to welcome back former pupil Oliver Nieburg (2006, Vanbrugh), who spoke to the Upper Sixth about his experiences whilst on a Gap Year in South Africa with the organisation Platform2. This is a global volunteering scheme for 18 to 25 year olds who visit a developing country and get involved with global issues of justice and poverty. The Sixth Form students left full of enthusiasm, inspiration and with ideas for their own Gap Year experiences.

Letting Property at University

Life after Cokethorpe is a complicated place. There are horror stories about about renting property at university and so to talk about this occasionally cut-throat world, the Upper Sixth welcomed former parent Jan Bartlett and former pupil Hannah Brown (2008, Queen Anne) from Premier Letting (pictured left). They spoke about what to look for, and to insist upon, when looking to rent good quality and safe property in university towns. It is hoped that the talk will prevent students from entering naively into the world of the unscrupulous landlord in the future.

IYGDTTWT... Cast List

The Panics

Lissi Mason
 Chloë Pickford
 Hope Boyd
 Anna Withey
 Annabelle Hulewicz
 Bethany Mulloy
 Courtney Bates-Brownsword
 Elise Du Feu
 Emily Thompson
 Gabriella Evans
 Hanna Young
 Katie Jenkins
 Lulu Revell
 Rosie Turner
 Sian Keegan
 Sonal Mandalia
 Sydney Skinner

The Survivors

Clementine: Olivia Plummer
 Tommy: Gregory Muller
 Roger: Myles Osborn-Banton
 Evelyn: Madeleine Allardice
 John: Luke Saunders
 George: Blaise Dyer
 Danah: Isabel Berger
 Toby: Oliver Cookson
 Alison: Heidi Lawson
 Janis: Lucy Grout
 Stacey: Thomas Amor
 Benny: Frederick Orme

Musicians

Concertina: Freddie Miles
 Trumpet: Oliver Parker
 Bass Clarinet: Duncan Bruce
 Sound Effects: James Hand

The Reapers

Sid: Thomas Wood
 Mand: Jessica Wulff
 Bob: Alexander Lawson
 Cybil: Charlotte Ferryman
 Kay: Zoë Mace
 Billy: Edd Bird
 Kat: Jessica O'Brien
 Charles: Daniel McCall
 Rox: Saskia Kovandzich
 Angel: Zoë Cantley
 Coco: Laura Wood
 Sonny: Fraser Logue

Gaia

Brontë Coppock-Cudd

The Woodland Court

Lord Justice Mushroom: George Lawson
 Sergeant Tadpole: Francis Plummer
 Sergeant Slowworm: George Hooper
 Marjorie Catkin: Christie Batty
 Colin Catkin: William Lewis
 Mr Thorn: Sebastiaan Evans
 Mrs Oak: Rachel Wood
 Mr Fern: Miles Beirut
 Miss Peacock: Lauren Bates-Brownsword
 Miss Willow: Alice Bird
 Mr Conker: Brian Clarke
 Mr Pigeon: Louis Allen
 Mr Moorhen: Guy De Vos
 Poppy: Melanie Severn
 Mr Badger: Jack Revell
 Foxy: Jessica Green
 Tony Bear: Daniel Pye

If You Go Down To The Woods Today...

As the audience entered The Shed they found themselves sitting in the shadowy clearing of a strange and mysterious wood. As one's eyes became accustomed to the dark, a hunched and hooded figure sat gently rocking on a tree stump, whilst three ghostly musicians, shrouded in the mist, played their sad, haunting but strangely beautiful music. A Panic arose from the feet of the figure, dancing wildly yet gracefully and then suddenly from all around, there was deafening clattering and banging on The Shed walls. It was here that the nightmare began to unfurl.

This original story, written and directed by Mrs Hooper and Mr Heaney, told of two gangs struggling to survive in a post-apocalyptic scenario. The Reapers, revelling in the underworld, were managing to stay alive through cannibalism, while The Survivors tried to look after each other and attempted to live by their wits alone. Both however lived in fear of The Panics: dead, zombie-esque little girls who fed off the sick and the frightened. Their superbly choreographed dances were mesmerising to watch; they truly were a powerful and terrifying force.

The appearance of The Woodland Court, half-human, half-woodland creatures, was infectious and a welcome relief from the plight of the orphaned children. They brought vibrancy and colour to the stage as the audience watched their comical court cases. Amongst those present were the persistently drunk Colin Catkin, the flamboyant Mr Conker, the long-suffering Lord Chief Justice Mushroom and the wonderfully surreal Mrs Oak, whose outbursts contained prophetic warnings of the destruction ahead.

With all the disparate groups eventually coming together in the final scene, the answers to all the questions posed at the beginning of the play were answered: why did the disaster happen? Who are The Panics? Where did they come from? What was the end of the Emergency Broadcast going to say? Why are The Woodland Creatures so frightened of human children? Who is Gaia? What will happen to the children now?

This was theatre at its very best – a truly extraordinary production! The story was expertly told through a fusion of acting, music, dance, costume, lighting and sound. With over 100 pupils, contributing on and off the stage, it would be impossible to mention individual performers or crew by name. Each and every pupil involved came together to produce this magnificent performing arts ensemble.

For a full review and more photographs of the production please visit the Latest News page of the School website.



THE ARTS

The Crucible

During the Lent Term Year 11 pupils presented extracts from Arthur Miller's *The Crucible* as part of their GCSE course. There were some extremely moving and powerful performances which led to a considerable number of A grade assessments. Based on real events in Salem in 1692, the play deals with issues such as ignorance, personal integrity and courage.



Year 8 Physical Theatre

Year 8 Drama pupils explored the world of physical theatre this term. Their study of Antonin Artaud, anthropomorphism, the 'grotesque', soundscapes and tableau in class culminated in a fantastic performance of their own devising in The Shed. They produced a fast-paced and complex piece about a comically brutal game show entitled *I'm A Prisoner – Get Me Out Of Here* and they also treated the audience to extraordinary

machines such as the *Dream Machine* and the *Party-Date-Anator*. Unruly kids were given some brussel sprout treatment in the *Child Catcher 3000* and the *Re-Animator* dealt with the unfortunate issue of elderly relatives who are prone to mortality. The performance was rounded off with the brilliant exploration of a giant game of Cluedo, where the heroes were forced to roll a die in a haunted house to save their lives.



Gig Night 3

Such is the popularity of this musical extravaganza, Gig Night 3 sold out immediately, leaving many disappointed. After a warm-up set of Stevie Wonder covers played by the Jazz Band, the gig started with the amazing song-writing and performance skills of Henry Plumridge (Year 8, Gascoigne). The night's platform was filled by a large number of pupils actively involved in making music both in and out of School and by the end of the first half it was clear once again that Gig Night was demonstrating sheer excellence. During the interval the Soul Singers provided a background of heartfelt melodies and harmonies.

Despite some performer's disappointment that they could not present more than their allotted slot, the night moved from one brilliant performance to the next and culminated with the group Jammin' at Jacks. They not only thrilled the audience, who had been seated for over two and a half hours, but also presented their set as an assessed piece for their Music GCSE. Gig Night 3 was a thoroughly spectacular and exciting event. The complete list of performers totalled over 60 pupils, working either solo or in collaborative musical groups. Word is that Gig Night 4 is already being planned!



IYGDTTWT... Feedback

'We saw the show last night – absolutely wonderful. This play could grace any famous stage, from the wonderful set to the actual substance of the play. Brilliant and it certainly should get the recognition it deserves. How lucky to have such talented people at Cokethorpe. It was a night we shall never forget.'

'Thank you for the excellent production you staged last week. I can still see The Panics swirling into The Shed and almost sucking the air out of the place. They were incredibly unsettling and their dances were stunning, edgy and angular, as if choreographed by Nijinsky himself. I had to hide behind my coat several times.'

'All the performers were wonderful, you have a very talented and lovely group of children at Cokethorpe.'

'It's going to be very difficult ever choosing the easy option of putting on a well-known show written by 'someone else' from outside the School, now that we all know what Cokethorpe is capable of!'

'I wanted to say how much I and all my family enjoyed 'If You Go Down To The Woods Today...' on Friday. The production looked and sounded completely professional. Every actor played their part with total conviction: the dancers danced beautifully and it was really refreshing to hear original music that added so much to the atmosphere, and the set and costumes were stunning. It was a triumph!'

Future Drama Productions

Monday 26 and Tuesday 27 April 2010
A2 Drama Performance Examination:
The Lives They Left Behind
The Shed, 7.00pm

Wednesday 26 and Thursday 27 May 2010
AS Drama Performance Examination:
A Clockwork Orange
The Shed, 7.30pm

Monday 28 June 2010
Year 8 Drama Production:
Mythipedia
The Shed, 7.00pm

Tuesday 29 June 2010
Year 7 Drama Production:
The Witches
The Shed, 7.00pm

Friday 9 July 2010
Senior School Prize Giving:
Shakespeare's Love's Labour's Lost

THE ARTS

Standlake Primary School

In February, the Music Scholars were invited to perform at Standlake Primary School as part of an assembly to introduce instruments to the pupils at the school. Each of the scholars performed in front of the children, either as soloists or in groups. Both the children at the school and the Music Scholars found this to be a thoroughly rewarding experience.

Welsh National Opera

'Before Christmas, I auditioned for a small part in Puccini's *Tosca*, to be performed by the Welsh National Opera and I was lucky enough to be selected. This meant that I had to leave home for three months and join another school for a term. This was all a bit scary but very exciting. Rehearsals started in January and the opening night was at the fabulous Millennium Centre in Cardiff. There have been a total of eighteen shows at various different venues around the country including Southampton and Plymouth. Being on tour has been fantastic! I have been impressed by how professional the production is and how much has gone into the show. What I particularly love about *Tosca* is how the music tells the story. I will never forget this wonderful experience.'

Ellen Garbutt (Year 8, Feilden)

Percussion Workshop

On Sunday 28 February eight percussionists travelled to the Guildhall School of Music and Drama for the Youth Percussion Ensemble Day. The event was led by the percussion ensemble Sankorfa, of which Mr S Wilson, one of Cokethorpe's percussion teachers, is a member. The day comprised of a series of workshops from djembe drumming to body percussion and throughout the day groups from a number of schools took part in a percussion ensemble competition. The event proved to be a truly rewarding experience for all those who went and there was a chance to see and hear a vast array of percussion instruments that may not have been encountered before.

Lent Term Music Recitals

The AS and A Level Music students gave a recital in the Corinthian Room on the evening of Thursday 11 February, during which their pieces were recorded as part of their performance module. The Corinthian Room was also the venue for a lunchtime recital on Thursday 25 March in which a number of pianists gave some excellent performances.

Choral Society Concert

The School held a magnificent concert in St Mary's Parish Church, Witney on Tuesday 2 March. The evening began with the First Orchestra, plus guests, performing Bizet's *Farandole* and also his famous *Habanera* aria from the opera *Carmen*, with a Tenor Horn solo by James Ellacott (Year 10, Feilden). Lower Sixth students Paul Berry (Queen Anne), Ross McKee and Freddie Miles (both Gascoigne) then took the lead for a movement each of Mozart's *Horn Concerto No. 4 in E^b Major*. The newly-formed Choral Society, consisting of pupils, parents, staff and other friends of the School, completed the evening with a powerful rendition of Vivaldi's *Gloria*.



Young Musicians' Platform

On 19 January the Year 11 GCSE musicians gave a concert in The Shed to showcase their performance coursework. The audience was treated to a wide variety of music, some composed by the pupils themselves. The evening demonstrated the wealth of musical talent in this year group, from an *Indian Raga for Bass Guitar*, composed and performed by Jack Revell (Swift), with James Hand (Queen Anne) providing a synthesised drone using music technology, to the more traditional performances such as Marianne Pearson's (Swift) *House of Elliot* and Duncan Bruce's (Vanbrugh) *Voi Che Sapete* from Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro*.

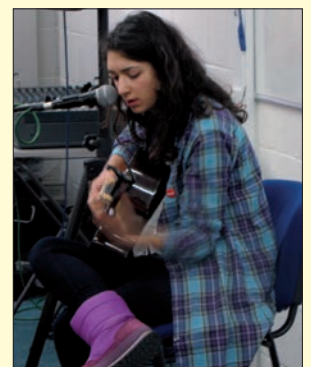


Choral Evensong

Former pupil and senior organ scholar at Durham University, James Winkley (2008, Gascoigne), returned to Cokethorpe on Tuesday 23 March to play at the Choral Evensong in the Chapel. The Schola Cantorum sang the *Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis in D* by George Dyson and Howells's beautiful anthem, *Like as the Hart*. Looking ahead to the end of Lent, the Chaplain handed out palm crosses.

Academy of Contemporary Music Visit

Pupils in Years 10 to 13 were treated to a presentation from Guildford's Academy of Contemporary Music this term. The talk was a fascinating insight into a vibrant and successful academy offering opportunities to study and work in many aspects of the music industry. Pupils learnt about some of the courses available for guitarists, drummers, keyboard players, singers and composers as well as audio engineering, promotion, publicity, management and advertising. The inspiring visit culminated with a performance and question and answer session given by one of the Academy's recent successful artists, Rokhsan Heydari.



Youth Jazz Band Challenge

On Friday 5 March the School's Jazz Band participated in the Youth Jazz Band Challenge, as part of the Chipping Norton Music Festival. Four groups competed for an award donated by The Rotary Club of Chipping Norton and, by all accounts, Cokethorpe's band performed superbly. Nevertheless, the first prize was awarded to a local band with the Jazz Band coming third overall.

THE ARTS

Design and Technology Trip

Lower Sixth visited Stewart Milne Construction in Witney during the Lent Term to see how Computer Aided Design couples with Computer Aided Manufacture. They saw the structure of a house manufactured in the short time they were there and listened to a talk by Mr Shaun Thomas. The trip demonstrated how modern processes and sustainable materials are used effectively; the small number of staff employed within this process was a surprise to all. Very little manual lifting was used and the aim to achieve minimal waste has come about through improvements in production systems.



Art and Textile Work

Pupils have produced some outstanding Art and Textile pieces this term. Elliot Kratt (Year 11, Gascoigne) created a pen and wash berry piece (below), while Taisia Graves (Year 8, Queen Anne) completed a flower design (below right) in support of her Natural Form project. Inspired by Maison Blanc, Sonal Mandalia (Year 11, Swift) designed a display of felted cakes (right) for her GCSE coursework.



Photography Lecture

A Level Photography students had the opportunity to participate in master classes with the international award-winning commercial photographer, Yuri Anderegg this term. He came into School to visit the students on three separate occasions, during which he shared his wealth of experience in designing and creating images as well as his technical photographic skills. The students also had an opportunity to use cutting edge lighting equipment and cameras to develop their own practice. It was

Van Gogh Exhibition

On 8 March the Art Department took Years 10, 12 and 13 to *The Real Van Gogh* exhibition at the Royal Academy in London. It was the biggest Van Gogh exhibition in London for 40 years, including over 30 of his drawings and 60 paintings. His drawings in black chalk and charcoal were of fields, roof tops, fishing boats at sea and olive groves. There were also many of his famous paintings of chairs, people and landscapes in vivid and vibrant colours. Pupils also got the chance to see extremely fragile and rarely displayed letters written by the artist himself. It was a great exhibition demonstrating the genius of Van Gogh.



an extremely exciting and motivating experience that has very much inspired and spurred the students on with their own studies of the subject.

Easter Island Art

A number of stone sculptures, inspired by the statues for which Easter Island is partly renowned, have been exhibited around the School grounds this term. The heads, or *moai* as they are natively known, can be seen in the courtyard behind the Design and Technology block, and one is also currently being exhibited on the Cokethorpe Plinth outside of the Dining Hall.

Easter Island, situated in the South Pacific, was once home to the Rapanui people and is famous not only for its spectacular 887 monumental statues, but also serves as a cautionary tale of the cultural and environmental dangers of the over-exploitation of natural resources.

Chairs for A Level Art Students

Cokethorpe A Level Art Students are looking for people to donate chairs which they will use during their Art lessons to help further their individuality. Chairs can be new or used, any style or design and those selected will be fitted with a specially made and named plaque.

Please contact the Foundation Office at foundationoffice@cokethorpe.org if you have a chair that you would like to donate.

The Royal Academy of Arts

Forthcoming exhibitions and events at the Royal Academy of Arts, London include:

- 10 February–22 June
Relics of Old London: Photography and the Spirit of the City
- 16 February–28 April
Illustrate: Painting by Andrew Potter
- 9 March–16 May
Eighteenth-Century Watercolours from the Royal Academy Collection
- 13 March–13 June
Paul Sandby RA: Picturing Britain, A Bicentenary Exhibition
- 19 March–20 June
Barbara Rae RA: Prints
- 29 April–3 May
London Original Print Fair 2010
- 10 July–26 September
Sargent and the Sea

For more details on the above events visit the Royal Academy website: www.royalacademy.org.uk/events

Soccer Fixtures

1st XI

Abingdon School (H)
Wallingford School (A)
Pate's Grammar School (A)
Bicester Community College (H)
The Oratory School (H)
Akeley Wood School (H)
Reading Blue Coat School (H)
Radley College (A)
The Cotswold School (H)
Burford School (A)

2nd XI

Abingdon School (H)
Pate's Grammar School (A)
The Oratory School (H)
Akeley Wood School (H)
Reading Blue Coat School (H)
The Cotswold School (H)
Burford School (A)

3rd XI

Abingdon School (H)
Magdalen College School (A)
The King's School, Witney (H)
The Oratory School (A)
Reading Blue Coat School (H)
St Edward's School, Cheltenham (H)

Netball Fixtures

1st VII

Bloxham School (H)
Headington School (A)
Henley College (H)
Tudor Hall School (H)
Pangbourne College (A)
Oxford High School (A)
Stowe School (H)

2nd VII

Bloxham School (H)
Headington School (A)
Henley College (H)
Pangbourne College (H)
Stowe School (H)

U16s

Bloxham School (H)
Kingham Hill School (H)
School of St Helen and St Katharine (A)
Pangbourne College (H)
Oxford High School (A)
Kingham Hill School 2nd VII (H)

All the term's sports fixtures and results are available on the School website.

Rugby News

Andy Berry (Upper Sixth, Feilden) was chosen as Rugby World's Player of the Month in the February 2010 issue.

Edward Church (Upper Sixth, Vanbrugh) represented the South West in the U18 Divisional Rugby Festival held at West Park Leeds RFC in January.

Soccer

This was another highly successful season with the teams winning or drawing nearly 70% of their fixtures. Pride of place once more goes to the 1st XI, who only lost one of their ten fixtures, winning six and drawing three (all of which Cokethorpe was winning with just minutes to go). The most notable wins came against Abingdon School and Radley College. The majority of players in this squad have played in the 1st XI for three seasons, since Year 11. During this time the boys have played in a manner that brings great pride to Mr Bown as their coach, winning the vast majority of their games, but also playing in the correct style and spirit. Over these three seasons they have won 26, drawn 5, and lost 2. This is a record of excellence that the younger pupils will need to aspire to, with many players leaving at the end of this year.



The 2nd XI and 3rd XI have had an enjoyable season, with many younger players pushing hard for 1st XI places and developing well for the seasons to come. Notable wins came against The Cotswold School and Burford School.

The U15 and U14 pupils are a talented group, with a number of U15 players expected to step up to 1st XI standard next year. The teams only achieved one win each this season and must reflect on how they can turn potential and talent into results in the coming years.

The U13 and U12 teams have enjoyed successful seasons, winning the majority of their fixtures and playing some exciting soccer. There are a number of excellent players in these year groups and the future of soccer at Cokethorpe looks a bright one.

Netball

2010 has been a year of development for the netball teams, with the toughest fixture list to date, playing the top netball schools in Oxfordshire. After some exciting games there have been a number of memorable performances. The U12s beat Bloxham and Pangbourne in what were fast and competitive games, the 2nd VII won against Headington and Henley College, and the U13s had a superb win at home to Tudor Hall. A team for the future, with two South Regional representatives in the form of Sarah Cuddy Watts (Vanbrugh) and Louise Tyrer (Gascoigne), is the U14s. The team of the season, the U16s, will be an exciting squad to watch next year.



Shooting

The annual shoot at the Wedgcock Ground near Warwick included schools from across the South of England. This year Cokethorpe entered a senior and a junior team who both, despite not shooting at their best, acquitted themselves well. The younger team beat all other participants including some of the senior teams and the senior team's performance was good enough to place Cokethorpe second to Millfield, beating Warwick, Old Swinford Hospital, Marlborough and Stowe. The Cokethorpe Clay Pigeon Shooting Club very much look forward to competing in the British Schools' Championships in Buckinghamshire on Saturday 1 May, where they aim to retain their title.





Mixed Hockey

This term saw Cokethorpe mixed hockey further develop and progress. Boys in particular have enjoyed the opportunity to hone their skills. One notable fixture was against Abingdon School's 3rd XI. Cokethorpe dominated, showing the ability to play an open, passing game and the positive attitude and enjoyment from both teams was evident. The final result was 7–1 to Cokethorpe.



Karate Success

Congratulations to Lydia and Daniel McCall (Years 9 and 10, Vanbrugh) who were both involved in the British Karate Championships held in London in January, organised by the WUKF (World Union of Karate-Do Federations). The event was an open international with individual contestants from Slovenia, Turkey, Poland, Belgium, France, England, Scotland and Wales.

Lydia received a silver medal for an individual event in which she fought opponents who were all taller than her, some up to 12 inches. She also won silver in a team event while Daniel won his silver in a team event in which he played a considerable part by taking his team from bronze to silver position.



U12 Hockey Tournament

On Thursday 18 March Cokethorpe hosted the U12 County Hockey tournament. It was an exciting competition and Cokethorpe had some impressive performances. They drew against Oxford High and had an excellent win against Tudor Hall. Unfortunately a narrow 1–2 defeat against Headington saw Cokethorpe beaten into third place. Definitely a team to watch for the future.



Rugby Sevens

On Tuesday 9 March the Year 7 rugby squad took part in the Sibford School Sevens tournament. 16 schools took part and Cokethorpe performed superbly to win all their group games before meeting Warwick School, the tournament favourite and reigning champions, in the final. However, Cokethorpe pressurised Warwick into numerous mistakes to secure a tremendous victory by 38–19.

U12 Cross Country

One of the many cross country events that Cokethorpe entered this term was the U12 County Schools' Championships held at Chinnor Rugby Club. The two Cokethorpe teams joined 30 other schools taking part, with 140 girls and 180 boys in each respective race. The boys ran a difficult course covering 2,600m while the girls ran 2,000m. Both teams performed well and all pupils should be proud of their individual performances. Congratulations to the girls' team who came second in the county for the team event, narrowly losing to Headington, with Elisha Evans (Year 6, Swift) finishing second overall and Erika Davies (Year 7, Queen Anne) third. The boys' team finished a very respectable fifth overall in the county.



Sports Colours

Full Colours

Netball	Suzy Russell (re-award)
Soccer	Jamie Amer
	Guy Biggs
	Jack Morton
	Billy Webb

Half Colours

Netball	Kimberley Mallett
Soccer	Jonathan Morris

County Cross Country

Cokethorpe took part in the Oxfordshire Schools' Cross Country Championships at Radley College on Tuesday 2 February. All the runners, many of whom had not competed before, did exceptionally well. In particular, Shona Stanley (Lower Sixth, Vanbrugh) came eighth out of 18 in the Senior Girls' event and George Miller (Lower Sixth, Harcourt) came third out of 48 in the Senior Boys' race. Both Shona and George subsequently qualified to represent Oxfordshire in the All England race held in March.

National Cross Country

Shona Stanley (Lower Sixth, Vanbrugh) and George Miller (Lower Sixth, Harcourt) represented Oxfordshire at the national Aviva ESAA England Schools' Cross Country Championships, which took place at Heaton Park in Manchester on Saturday 20 March. Shona came 195th out of 277 in the Senior Girls' 4,500m race, and George came 130th out of 304 in the Senior Boys' 7,000m race. In the aggregate results, which included the results from the junior, intermediate and senior races, the Oxfordshire girls' squad took first place in the group for counties with a school population less than 60,000. The Oxfordshire boys' team came sixth.

U12 Cross Country Teams

Girls

Erika Davies (Year 7, Queen Anne)
Elisha Evans (Year 6, Swift)
Alicia Moon (Year 7, Queen Anne)
Alexandra Cross (Year 7, Gascoigne)
Oonagh Ryley (Year 6, Swift)
Josie Dennis (Year 7, Harcourt)
Megan Bird (Year 7, Harcourt)
Sophie Smith (Year 7, Queen Anne)

Boys

Charlie Dyde (Year 7, Feilden)
Joseph Wilde (Year 6, Harcourt)
Sam Sweet (Year 6, Queen Anne)
Rory Atkins (Year 7, Gascoigne)
David Mallett (Year 7, Gascoigne)
William Alden (Year 6, Harcourt)
Dickie Turner (Year 6, Feilden)
George Smith (Year 7, Queen Anne)

THE JUNIOR SCHOOL

Prize Winners for the Term

00RR	Ben Orton
01RS	David Haar
02LO	George Donald
03JD	Michael Ogilvie
04MM	Sophie Drake
04RO	Annabel Clarke
05MC	Luke Smith
05HL	Louisa Mattinson
06GM	Louis Beresford
06MO	Eloise Fraser-Paterson

Young Writers

Young Writers is part of the parent company of Forward Press Ltd. By running annual, national competitions for the past 19 years, Young Writers has promoted poetry and creative writing within schools. The Mini Sagas 2009 competition, entitled *The Adventure Starts* received over 30,000 entries from across the UK. The stories, that can be on any theme but must not exceed 50 words, are selected on the basis of imagination, expression and writing ability. Visit www.youngwriters.co.uk for more information.

Take One Picture

'Take One Picture' is the National Gallery's country-wide scheme for schools. Each year the Gallery focuses on a painting from their collection to inspire cross-curricular work in classrooms.

Arts Week Activities

In addition to the lessons that centred around the painting *Two Boys and a Girl Making Music*, there were a number of additional Arts Week activities:

- Sixth Form students introduced the 'Take One Picture' painting to the Junior School children in Assembly
- Music recital in the Corinthian Room by the Junior School Orchestra and individual performances
- Percussion Workshop in The Shed
- Junior School Clarinet Quartet played from the balcony during lunch
- Junior School children participated in the Cokethorpe Choral Society's performance of Vivaldi's *Gloria* at St Mary's Church, Witney
- Street Dance and Modern Dance performance in the Corinthian Room
- Inter-House Arts Quiz
- Book Character Parade in which children and staff dressed up as literary characters to help celebrate World Book Day
- Exhibition displaying some of the work from the 'Take One Picture' lessons in the Entrance Hall and in the corridors outside the classrooms

There is a full gallery of photos from the Junior School Arts Week in the Latest News section on the School website.

Scholarship Awards

Congratulations to the nine Junior School children who were invited to take further assessments following the Senior School Entrance Examinations. Academic Scholarships were awarded to Benjamin Foster and Jessica Williams (both Vanbrugh). Matthew Ellacott (Feilden) was awarded a Music Scholarship and Sydney Bennett-Miller (Gascoigne) a Drama Scholarship. Sport Scholarships were awarded to Anya Duffy (Queen Anne), Joseph Wilde (Harcourt), Elisha Evans, Alastair Grime, and Thomas Smith (all Swift). Congratulations also go to Tom Drake (Feilden), Eloise Fraser-Paterson (Queen Anne) and Jamie Langford (Vanbrugh) for receiving Exhibition Awards. Overall, this is a record for the Junior School and a fine achievement.



Young Writers' Success

As part of the ongoing programme for more able writers, children from Year 3 to Year 6 were selected for a writing workshop. They were given the challenge of writing a Mini Saga in 50 words. The results were entered in the national Young Writers competition. The editorial team selected work based on imagination, perception, expression and creative use of language. Cokethorpe was delighted that all eight of its entries were chosen to be included in the book. Congratulations to Arthur Blake (Gascoigne), Austin Bowsher (Vanbrugh), Toby Brown (Queen Anne), Kate Hooper (Swift), Tara Devine (Queen Anne), India Hurford-Jones (Swift), Joe McBride (Gascoigne) and Jessica Williams (Vanbrugh). A number of Senior School pupils also feature in the publication.



Junior School Arts Week

Lessons during the Junior School Arts Week focused on the painting *Two Boys and a Girl Making Music* by Jan Molenaer. Each class produced a range of 3D models including woven bird cages, fabric faces, decorated birds, bands of musicians and beautiful slippers. 2D work included mixed media

interpretations of the picture, fantastic fabric collages of the figures and military jackets with carefully chosen buttons. The painting inspired poems about friendship and emotions, and descriptive pieces describing the artist. Data handling projects were undertaken and graphs completed.



French Festival

Fourteen Year 6 children took part in 'le Festival Français' at Chandlings School. They gave an excellent performance of their own versions of *Cinderella* and *Little Red Riding Hood* and enjoyed watching other songs and sketches in French, performed by pupils from nine local prep schools. A highlight included a French version of *Barbie Girl*, which they sang all the way back in the minibus!



THE JUNIOR SCHOOL

Corinium Museum Visit

Year 4 went on a very informative and enjoyable trip to the Corinium Museum in January. In the morning the children eagerly participated in a carousel of activities, including dressing up, playing Roman games and making mosaics. During the afternoon they explored the museum's wonderful range of exhibits.

Woodland Trust Tree Planting

Following a successful trip to Stratfield Brake last October, Year 4 were invited back by the Woodland Trust to plant trees at their site near Kidlington. It was a cold day but the physical activity soon warmed the children up and they planted 40 young trees for the woodland conservation charity. The children also learnt about different tree species and how to plant and protect young trees.



Sponsored Walk

The Junior School children and staff all very much enjoyed their sponsored walk around the School's beautiful parkland on the cold, sunny afternoon of Tuesday 9 March. The children did extremely well, collecting a sticker at each half kilometre checkpoint. One child managed twelve and a half kilometres in the hour and the youngest children managed three and a half kilometres each. When added up, the total distance covered by staff and pupils was an amazing 740 kilometres (460 miles). This is further than Cokethorpe to Edinburgh, or Cokethorpe to Paris!

This year the chosen charities were The Footsteps Foundation and Thomley Activity Centre, both based in Oxfordshire.

Ashmolean Museum Visit

As a conclusion to their History topic on Ancient Egypt, Year 5 visited the newly-refurbished Ashmolean Museum in Oxford. The children had a guided tour of the Egyptian galleries where they saw first hand many of the objects they have been studying. They were also given the rare opportunity to handle some artifacts that were over 5,500 years old.

Oxfordshire Science Festival

Year 6 children took part in a cryogenics demonstration as part of the Oxfordshire Science Festival in March. This was led by former pupil Nigel Parker (1978, Queen Anne), Head of Cryogenics at Oxford University. They learnt that at very low temperatures, many strange and fascinating changes occur in matter, and avidly watched the wonderful experiments.

Ashmolean Museum

In November 2009 the Ashmolean's £61 million redevelopment opened to the public, supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund. Award-winning architect Rick Mather helped create a new building that has doubled the Ashmolean's gallery space, incorporating full environmental control, a new Education Centre, and state-of-the-art conservation facilities. Visit www.ashmolean.org for more information about the University of Oxford's Museum of Art and Archaeology, which was opened in 1683.

Oxfordshire Science Festival

'I think that the talk was brilliant. I would love to see it again and I'd like to take up cryogenics when I'm older.'

James Thomas (Year 6, Harcourt)

'I don't think you can have a better hands-on experience!'

Louis Sharpe-Ward (Year 6, Gascoigne)

'The Science lecture was thrilling. The best bit for me was the marshmallows which he dipped in liquid nitrogen.'

Alexander Jobling (Year 6, Swift)

Cryogenics

In physics, cryogenics is the study of the production of very low temperatures (below -150°C) and the behaviour of materials at those temperatures. A person who studies this is called a cryogenicist and they use the Kelvin temperature scale rather than the more familiar Fahrenheit and Celsius.

Summer Fair

The Junior School Summer Fair will take place on Tuesday 25 May from 2.00pm to 4.00pm. Parents are invited to support the afternoon event, for which the children devise and create their own stalls as part of their Design Technology project. The money raised will go to support this year's charities.

The Footsteps Foundation

The Footsteps Foundation helps children and young adults with neuro-motor disorders to develop and maximise their physical abilities and provides funding for them to benefit from intensive physiotherapy at The Footsteps Centre. Visit www.footstepsfoundation.com for more information.

Thomley Activity Centre

Thomley Activity Centre provides a unique recreational facility for disabled children, their families, friends and schools. Visit www.thomleyhall.org for more information.



THE JUNIOR SCHOOL

Year 5 and 6 Swimming Gala

On Friday 26 February Year 5 and Year 6 took part in a swimming gala at Chandlings School. All teams participated in a number of events including the 50m freestyle, backstroke and breaststroke, and the 24m butterfly, medley relay and freestyle relay. It was a very competitive event with 50 pupils taking part in total. There were some stunning individual performances by Luke Garbutt (Feilden), Annabel Clarke (Feilden), Mia Biles (Gascoigne), Nathan Black (Harcourt), Benjamin Foster (Vanbrugh), Joseph Wilde (Harcourt), Matthew Ellacott (Feilden), Elisha Evans (Swift) and Matthew Roche (Queen Anne). The atmosphere around the swimming pool was tremendous with lots of noise and respectful cheering. All the teams performed well, particularly the U11 boys who finished only three points behind the Chandlings team.

Inter-House Netball

House Netball captains are in brackets.

1st	Swift (Elisha Evans)
2nd	Gascoigne (Lulu Allen)
3rd	Feilden (Keely Harding)
4th	Queen Anne (Anya Duffy)
5th	Harcourt (Luisamae Lisi)
6th	Vanbrugh (Laura Fiedorowicz)

Inter-House Soccer

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

Inter-House Cross Country

Please see the page opposite for a write-up on the Junior and Lower School Inter-House Cross Country competition.

Cross Country Competition

The U11 and U10 girls' and boys' teams entered the Chandlings School cross country competition this term. The children competed against some strong runners and completed a gruelling course in difficult weather conditions. However this did not hinder some blistering performances by many individuals and all pupils performed admirably. Elisha Evans (Swift) won the U11 girls' title, and the U11 boys finished fourth in the team event, with Joseph Wilde (Harcourt), Michael Hook (Feilden), Thomas Smith (Swift) and Sam Sweet (Queen Anne) finishing in the top 20. Sam Orton (Swift) and Alex Wallace (Swift) finished within the top 15, also placing the U10 boys' team fourth overall, with the U10 girls finishing ninth.

Soccer

The U11s had their most successful season ever, with both the A and B teams remaining undefeated. The A team, who were the Junior School's team of the term, also had six victories to help win the Sibford School six-a-side tournament. The whole team performed magnificently, although special mention should go to captain Joseph Wilde (Harcourt), sharp shooter Alastair Grime (Swift) and wing wizard Sam Sweet (Queen Anne). The U9As had a great season culminating with the team taking the runners-up spot at a hotly contested Hatherop Castle tournament. Three group games and a semi-final were won convincingly before the dreaded penalty shoot-out settled the final, but unfortunately not in Cokethorpe's favour. It was a frustrating start to the year at Akeley Wood where the boys had to settle for a 2-2 draw. An excellent all round performance followed at New College School where captain Jack Smith (Swift) bagged an impressive four goals in an 8-2 win, although they unfortunately lost 3-2 against a strong St Edward's School, Cheltenham team in their next match.



Netball

This was a difficult season, with some disappointing results despite some excellent performances. Highlights include the U10s 2-2 draw against Akeley Wood and the U11As finishing the season beating Kingham Hill's U12 team 8-7.



Inter-House Netball

Despite atrocious weather conditions, spirits were not dampened on the netball courts. Years 3 to 6 played alongside one another to provide a superb afternoon's competition, with every single girl rising to the challenge. Thank you to the House captains who organised their teams and set a good example. Players who stood out for the umpires were: Annabel Clarke, Keely Harding and Sophie Drake (Feilden), Michaela Logue and Francesca Brown (Vanbrugh), Elisha Evans, Eloise Fraser-Paterson, Oonagh Ryley and Charlotte Jeffs (Swift), Anya Duffy and Emily James (Queen Anne), Yukiko Nishikawa (Gascoigne) and Luisamae Lisi and Verity Smith (Harcourt). There was also some superb shooting from Isabel Fisher (Feilden), Louisa Mattinson (Harcourt) and Sydney Bennett-Miller (Gascoigne).



Inter-House Soccer

This year's tournament was also played in appalling weather conditions. Nonetheless the boys were in high spirits and performed admirably, whilst getting extremely muddy! Following the initial rounds, the winners of Group A (Harcourt) played the winners of Group B (Queen Anne) in the final. After 15 minutes, the score was tied at 0-0 and the winner was decided with a penalty shoot-out. Harcourt won 3-1 on penalties with Joseph Wilde scoring the winning goal. The third and fourth play off was also won by penalties, with Feilden defeating Vanbrugh. Fifth place was taken by Swift who beat Gascoigne.



THE HOUSES

Inter-House Cross Country

Thursday 18 March saw the eagerly awaited Inter-House Cross Country, in which every pupil in the Junior and Lower School competed. There were seven races in total: Reception were first completing a gruelling run around the Chapel. Next came Years 1 and 2 running around the Chapel and back again. Years 3 and 4 completed a longer run around the sports field. Years 5 and 6 undertook a whole lap and a half of the games field, while Years 7 and 8 completed two laps. The event started in blazing sunshine, but as the afternoon

continued the weather became cloudy and cold. The enthusiasm of the pupils was excellent as usual and the support for individuals and House teams was tremendous. The competition for positions resulted in some very close races. There were outstanding individual performances from Annabel Clarke (Year 4), Sam Orton (Year 5), Elisha Evans (Year 6), Erika Davies (Year 7), Joseph Wilde (Year 6), Ryan Oliver (Year 8), Luke Watkins (Year 8) and Beth Stanley (Year 8). Winners were all presented with certificates for their achievements.



Vanbrugh House Trip

On Friday 5 February members of Vanbrugh House went to Kirtlington Village Hall to watch a pantomime starring Lydia McCall (Year 9):



'Our evening began with dinner at Ask, where we had a delicious meal. The pantomime was *Robin Hood* and most of the cast were children. The funniest part was a spider that kept appearing in the castle, scaring the Sheriff and chatting to Maid Marian. Lydia McCall, Vanbrugh House's rising star, played the part of Willy Scarlet, one of Robin Hood's band of Merry Men, and she played the part really well. It was a good play and worth seeing. At the end, we all congratulated Lydia on her fantastic performance before heading back to School.'

Samuel Farrant (Year 9, Vanbrugh)

Inter-House Netball and Soccer

Following a busy term of netball and soccer fixtures against other schools, March saw Cokethorpe's Houses compete against each other in their Inter-House matches. Rivalry, as well as a good sense of sportsmanship,

between the School's six Houses is always fierce and these round robin matches were no exception. In netball it was Gascoigne that took first place, while in soccer Swift were crowned winners for the second year running.



Inter-House Cross Country

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

Inter-House Netball Results

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

Inter-House Soccer Results

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

Most Recommendations

- Year 7: Henry Grimwade (Gascoigne)
- Year 8: Courtney Bates-Brownsword (Feilden)
- Year 9: Jessie Grimwade (Gascoigne)
- Year 10: Ben Porter Goff (Swift)
- Year 11: Abigail Harris (Feilden)
- Year 12: Isabelle Evans (Swift)
- Ben Ruhle (Swift)
- Overall Winner: Henry Grimwade
- House Winner: Queen Anne

History of the Houses

Feilden House is named after the Feilden family. Major Percy Feilden bought Cokethorpe House in 1908 and renovated it lavishly.

Gascoigne House takes its name from the family of the same name, which is of French origin. A Gascoigne married into the Harcourt family in 1954.

Harcourt House is named after the Harcourt family that bought the estate in 1708 and built the original Queen Anne house between 1710 and 1720.

Queen Anne House takes its name from the monarch in whose reign the current building was erected on the foundations of a Tudor manor house.

Swift House is named after Jonathan Swift, who wrote *Gulliver's Travels* and is known to have stayed at Cokethorpe with his friend the then Lord Harcourt.

Vanbrugh House is named after Sir John Vanbrugh, a famous architect of the early Eighteenth Century, who designed Blenheim Palace.

FUNDRAISING FOR CHARITY

Haiti Earthquake

A devastating 7.0 magnitude earthquake struck Haiti on 12 January 2010 at 4.53pm. It was the worst earthquake to hit the country in 200 years. Up to three million people live in the area worst hit by the quake, which centred 10 miles south-west of the densely populated capital Port-au-Prince. By 24 January at least 52 aftershocks, measuring 4.5 or greater, had been recorded. The latest estimates, as of 12 February, are that 230,000 people were killed, 300,000 injured and 1.2 million were left needing emergency shelter.

The world immediately responded with governments and individuals donating money to the Disaster Emergency Committee and other charities to help the Haitian people rebuild their lives. This money was used to meet the urgent need for medical care, food and water, appropriate emergency shelter and also latrines to prevent the spread of diseases. Homes, schools, health clinics and essential services such as water and sewerage needed to be replaced or provided. Haiti is the poorest country in the western hemisphere, greatly increasing the risk that people will suffer or die in the aftermath of a natural disaster.

www.dec.org.uk

RAPID UK

RAPID UK is an acronym for 'Rescue And Preparedness In Disasters'. It was formed in 1996 to meet the growing need for a specialist international urban search and rescue team. Their primary objective is the relief of human suffering and distress in any part of the world resulting from a disaster of any kind. This is achieved by deploying suitably trained and experienced search and rescue response teams. Within an hour of the Haiti earthquake Rapid UK had an operation team on stand-by, ready to go out as soon as flights and equipment could be organised. A four person assessment team flew out on 13 January, closely followed by five search and rescue experts.

Marie Curie Daffodil Appeal

Cokethorpe once again supported the Great Daffodil Appeal, Marie Curie Cancer Care's biggest fundraising campaign that takes place throughout March each year. This year the School raised £104.44 through the sale of daffodil badges, which turned the School yellow whilst pupils and staff showed their support of Marie Curie nurses, helping them provide high quality care in patients' own homes or in one of the charity's hospices.

Haiti Earthquake Appeal

For the Haiti Earthquake Appeal the School raised over £4,000 through a non-uniform day, parental donations and also sweet sales during a five week period. The pupils that organised these sales, contributing over £800 to the total, were Year 8 pupils Harry Lovibond (Queen Anne), Thomas Deabill (Swift), Harry Hastings (Swift), Toby Farrant (Vanbrugh) and Justin Foster (Harcourt) and also Emily Hastings (Year 7, Swift).



World Challenge

The pupils taking part in the 2011 World Challenge expedition to the Indian Himalayas have begun their fundraising efforts in earnest. One of the initiatives in February was a cake and sweet sale, organised by Year 10 pupils George Lawson (Gascoigne), Jamie Unwin (Harcourt) and James Ellacott (Feilden), which raised £120. More fundraising events will take place next term.



Langa Township Update

Last year Mr Rees visited the Langa Township near Cape Town as part of his pre-rugby tour inspection. He saw first hand some of the most distressing living conditions imaginable. As part of their effort to help the local children, pupils sold refreshments at the recent England U16 rugby matches and raised almost £150.



RAPID UK

The School was delighted to welcome one of the first British volunteers on the ground after the Haiti earthquake struck. Andy Reid, from the organisation RAPID UK, which provides experienced disaster response personnel, spoke about the effect the earthquake had on the city of Port-au-Prince, and shared some of his experiences. He used thermal imaging equipment to show students how he and his colleagues go about finding survivors.



Jewellery Sale

The jewellery-making AOB group held a jewellery sale on Friday 12 March, in advance of Mother's Day. A beautiful array of earrings, phone charms, bracelets and necklaces gave customers a difficult choice as they considered their purchases, with which they were given a free gift bag. The pupils involved were delighted and very proud to raise nearly £200, which will go to the Lesotho fund.

Kenya Aid Foundation

The Christmas boxes that the Junior School donated last term have been safely delivered and well received at the Fort Smith School in Nairobi and at the Naivasha Highway Primary School, which the Biology pupils visited last year. The charity has reported how much the pupils have enjoyed using all the items sent.



Ski Trip to Austria

Over the Easter holidays 31 pupils, accompanied by four members of staff, embarked on a weeks skiing in the Ziller Valley, known as the 'most active valley in the world'. The group were met with fantastic conditions on the slopes, although the weather was mixed at times. They returned home in time for plenty of Easter chocolate, having thoroughly enjoyed their action-packed week.



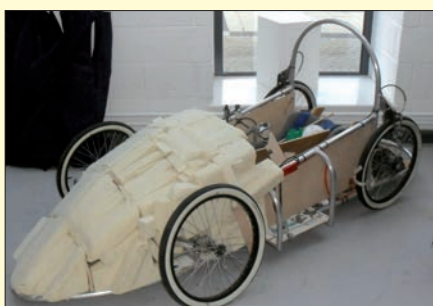
Duke of Edinburgh's Award

It was raining when the Year 12 Gold Award Expedition group set off on their last accompanied training expedition at the end of March. It was still raining when they arrived on North Dartmoor and walked out into the moors. It rained as they made camp over 4km from the nearest road and it was still raining as they broke camp on Saturday morning. Despite the challenging weather, everyone remained in high spirits and were still smiling when they returned to School; this bodes well for the next expedition when they receive minimal supervision and will have to rely on one another during their four-day practice expedition on Exmoor.



Greenpower Go-Kart Update

The club is pleased to announce that they are booked into a preliminary practice session at Goodwood race circuit on 25 April. This will enable the team to run the kart to its full capacity with other cars for the first time (and to check out the competition!). The first regional heat will take place at Castle Combe Race Circuit in Wiltshire on 27 June, where they will compete for the first time. The team are now focusing on completing the car and preparing it for running at greater speeds. Finishing the GRP bodywork, establishing an effective cooling system for the battery and motors, and correcting wheel alignment are now immediate priorities.



Year 8 Podcasts

Further to last term's *Radio Wave* and *Cheese FM* podcasts, Year 8's latest AOB podcast project, *Radio Phobia*, featured the following pupils:

Courtney Bates-Brownsword
Danielle Batty
Charlotte Dewhurst
Joe Bulman
Jason Cardy
Laura Cardy
Holly Cooper
Sebastian Fisher
Monty McKenna
Thorne-Rian Owen
Charlie Tobin
Harry Austin
Ben Armstrong

To listen to the Radio Phobia podcast go to
www.cokethorpe.org.uk/radiopodcasts

Kitchen Garden

The School's Kitchen Garden was adorned by smart new apple tree plaques this term. The garden is home to ten varieties of apple including:

Ashmead's Kernel
Blenheim Orange
Bramley Clone 20
Howgate Wonder
Lord Lamborne
Newton Wonder
Scrumptious
Laxtons Superb
James Greve
Braeburn

The Kitchen Garden contributes to the fruit and vegetables that are available for pupils on a daily basis.

Greenpower Go-Kart

The Greenpower Go-Kart team would like to echo their thanks to all those who have helped them in the project thus far. They would also like to extend their appeal for any assistance from parents, or indeed anyone with expertise in bodywork fabrication and electrical running gear. Any further help will enable the team to meet the first preliminary race in June fully equipped and with confidence.

Please get in touch with Mr Forsey at acf@cokethorpe.org for further details.

Polo Lessons

The School is hoping to organise polo lessons for pupils. Please contact Miss Jackson at dchj@cokethorpe.org for more information or to register your interest.

NEW DEVELOPMENTS

Website Redesign

It seems that when a major redesign of the School's website is planned and a date is set for the switch over to take place, it starts to snow. This was the case in February 2007 and again in January 2010 as the School was due to start the Lent Term. Parents, pupils and staff visiting the website to see whether the School would be closed the next day were therefore surprised to discover the new-look website.

Since the last redesign the website has become increasingly dynamic, with over 400 pages of news and information. The web statistics speak for themselves in illustrating the growth in visitors and usage. The recent redesign allowed the School to restructure the content in a more user-friendly way and to give the look and feel of the website a 'face-lift'. The website has now become even more vibrant with the use of photo galleries and news from the School and it is now undoubtedly the first place for parents and staff to look for information. Many parents have also mentioned how much they welcome the use of online reply forms and ticket reservations.

Please do contact the Foundation Office with any comments or feedback about the website.

Junior School Parent Survey

In February the Foundation Office conducted a Junior School Parent Survey. On the back of a very positive Inspection Report from the ISI, in which the Junior School came out very well indeed, the Headmaster and the Head of Junior School wanted to build on this further and get a clearer picture of parents' views. An excellent 78 out of 98 families responded, their answers giving a valuable indication of the expectations and aspirations of the parents, and providing useful and actionable information to identify new opportunities, support existing plans, reaffirm how the School is seen in the eyes of the parents, and address any matters of particular concern.

The questionnaire was followed up with three discussion sessions, to which all parents were invited and 24 out of 98 families participated. The informal discussions allowed the School to gain a more detailed understanding of parent views on particular areas that were drawn from the questionnaire. The School would particularly like to thank Mrs Howard, Dr Logue and Dr Fisher, all current parents, for leading these discussions.

The summary feedback report is available from the School website.

Celebration Dinner

Cokethorpe held a fabulous celebration dinner on Friday 12 February to mark the official opening of the new Dining Hall and Sixth Form Centre and in honour of the out-going Chairman of Governors, Michael St John Parker. Over 100 guests arrived to the impressive sound of bag pipes drifting from the new development's rooftop, before enjoying a champagne reception in the Sixth Form Common Room. Mr Ettinger and senior and long-serving members of staff were joined by current and former Governors, members of the Cokethorpe Society Committee, two former Headmasters, David Crawford and Philip Cantwell and the family of the late David Goldsmith, former Headmaster. Those that had helped in the construction of the building and representatives from a range of other companies, schools and organisations also attended. The Dining Hall looked particularly magnificent for the occasion and, following a music performance from the Schola Cantorum, the Catering Department presented a most impressive four course dinner. Following the dinner the Headmaster welcomed the guests before handing over to the new Chairman of Governors, Sir John Allison, who paid tribute to two other out-going Governors John Hunt and Tony Baker. He then invited Mr St John Parker to declare the building open by unveiling a commemorative plaque. Sir John Allison made mention of many of the School's highlights that Mr St John Parker had presided over since he had joined the Governors in 1985. On behalf of all those present, and the thousands of others that had benefited from Mr St John Parker's gift of his time over a quarter of a century, Sir John thanked him for his visionary strategic leadership. Mr St John Parker brought the evening to a close with a speech which paid tribute to many people, saying it had been 'a privilege of quite staggering dimensions to be part of Cokethorpe's growth'. He referred to Cokethorpe's history up to the opening of the Dining Hall as the 'first chapter of what will become a great work', noting how the development was 'an expression in material form of what Cokethorpe is all about', and that being granted membership of the Headmasters and Headmistresses Conference (HMC), was the product of a sustained and prolonged team effort.



Portraits of Headmasters

The Dining Hall foyer now proudly displays three oil paintings of former Cokethorpe Headmasters, Peter Allen, David Goldsmith and David Crawford. These were commissioned by Mr Ettinger

and painted by former parent Louise Sturgis, a professional painter who trained at the Royal Academy in London. The School looks forward to receiving Philip Cantwell's painting in due course.



ANNUAL FUND 2009–2010 INTERIM REPORT

Annual Fund 2009–2010 Update

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the inaugural Annual Fund so far. The Headmaster and the members of the Annual Fund Committee have been enormously pleased by the response to the appeal and are taking this opportunity to update you on its progress. The generosity from parents, staff, alumni, governors, and friends has helped to make this Annual Fund most successful and as a result the School has already been able to put some of the funds received into immediate effect. This includes the purchase of the Yamaha piano, which now resides on the balcony in the Dining Hall, and the Kayaking Club have received new equipment, with plans for a new roof for the Boat House under way. As the pie chart below illustrates, the majority of the donations have been unrestricted (ie 'General') and therefore the School has been able to allocate money towards projects with particular priorities. The School is on target to achieve all the projects outlined in the brochure distributed in October (also available on the School website), but as with any fundraising appeal, the School would always welcome more donations! If you haven't already supported the School through the Annual Fund, it is hoped that this report may serve as a reminder or incentive to now do so. Thank you for helping Cokethorpe provide an even more exceptional, innovative and broad-based education.

Annual Fund 2009–2010 Projects

Academic: Weather Station and Solar Panels **Sport:** Upgrade of Boat House
Junior School: Violins and Polytunnel Garden **Performing Arts:** Yamaha Piano
Extra-Curricular: Visit from a mobile planetarium and natural history show

Individual Donations Case Study

Cokethorpe is a registered charity and gifts made from UK income tax payers can be made tax-effectively by giving through the Gift Aid scheme. This is when HM Revenue & Customs will increase your gift by 28p for every £1.00 that you give (2009 tax rates). If you pay tax at the higher rate you can claim further tax relief (in your self assessment form) and the actual cost to you can be reduced.

Your Monthly Gift	We Receive Monthly	Annual Cost To Donor (Basic Rate)	Annual Cost To Donor (Higher Rate)	Total Value Of Gift We Receive
£5.00	£6.40	£60.00	£45.00	£76.80
£10.00	£12.80	£120.00	£90.00	£153.60
£20.00	£25.60	£240.00	£180.00	£307.20
£50.00	£64.00	£600.00	£450.00	£768.00
£100.00	£128.00	£1,200.00	£900.00	£1,536.00

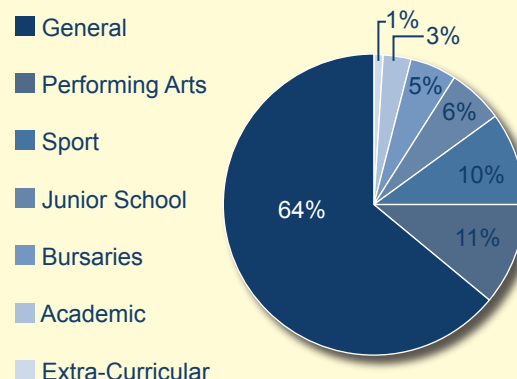
Yamaha Piano

'Thank you for to the School's Annual Fund. This has proved an invaluable asset for the department and is used several times a week by staff and pupils. The school's accompanist regularly uses the piano on the balcony due to the quality of the instrument and the wonderful acoustics in the Dining Hall. It has also been used for the accompaniment of music scholarship auditions, examination coursework and for accompanying the choir.'

Miss M Bastin, Director of Music



Current Distribution



'Gifts of any size make a genuine difference to the School. It is your participation that really counts.'

Boat House

Buoyancy aids and other kayaking equipment have already been purchased and plans have been drawn up to repair the roof of the Boat House over the summer holidays.



Thank you to the Cokethorpe Parents' Association who have pledged to donate 10% of their profits from this year's CPA events to the Annual Fund.

The Annual Fund 2009–2010 will close on 31 July 2010.

Proposals for the Annual Fund 2010–2011 project are now being accepted.

Corporate Match Funding Case Study

Below is a case study for parents, former pupils and other friends of the School who work for a company that offers a match funding scheme. Higher tax payers can also claim back tax relief of 20% on the value of their donation on their self assessment tax return, reducing the overall cost to them.

Donor at £33 per month:	£396.00 (per annum)
Company at £33 per month:	£396.00
Total:	£792.00
Gift Aid Received:	£223.34
Total annual donation to Cokethorpe:	£1015.34
Final cost to donor (after tax reclaim):	£316.80

CPA Committee

Chairman:	Ruth Wigham
Vice Chairman:	Jan Johnson
Treasurer:	Flynn Reid
Secretary:	Foundation Office
Damian Ettinger	John Bennett
Catherine Christensen	Victor Faria
Shaun Foster	Sue Furneaux
Simon Hooper	Maggie Neil
Adi Hughes	Theresa James
Linda Mace	Sarah Plumridge

Forthcoming CPA Events

Junior School Treasure Hunt

Saturday 24 April 2010

Children of the Junior School and their siblings are invited to decipher clues, fight off pirates and walk the plank to find the hidden treasure buried in the School grounds. The first clue will be issued outside of the Coffee Shop between 11.00am and 12 noon. Pirate fancy dress is encouraged and there will be prizes for the best costumes. A barbecue and refreshments will be available throughout the day.

Tickets are £5.00 each and can be reserved through the Box Office or purchased on the day.

Classic Car Rally

Sunday 20 June 2010

Whether you own a classic motor vehicle and would you like to display it for other enthusiasts to see, or you are an admirer of classic cars yourself, come along to the Classic Car Rally and enjoy food, drink and family entertainment. See the website for more information.

boxoffice@cokethorpe.org
01993 892338

Schools Trader

This is a free-ads website for school communities which allows parents, staff and alumni to trade with each other free of charge – everything from pets to property, furniture to holiday homes, bikes to musical instruments. Go to www.schoolstrader.com for more information and to view what items are being offered today.

Oxford Wine Company

A reminder that The Oxford Wine Company kindly offers an extra 5% discount on all purchases of wine made by Cokethorpe parents. This is on top of the 5% case discount. In addition to this, the CPA receives a donation of 5% of the purchase value of all transactions made using the Cokethorpe Loyalty Card.

Burns' Night Supper

On Friday 22 January over 130 guests enjoyed a magnificent evening in the new Dining Hall, in celebration of Burns' Night. The Cokethorpe Parents' Association hosted this popular supper for the second year and it was thoroughly enjoyed by all that attended.

Guests, dressed in black tie, kilts and plenty of tartan, arrived to the sound of bagpipes and drums. Following the Selkirk Grace, they were treated to a traditional soup course before the Head of Catering, Mr Bradford, brought the Haggis in led by a piper. The poem *Address to a Haggis* was recited before a whisky toast was proposed. Following the meal there was the Appreciation and the Toast to the Lassies before the guests enjoyed dancing a céilidh to a traditional band.



Signed England Football Shirt

The CPA is delighted to announce that, due to the generosity of a Cokethorpe parent who works for Nationwide, it has obtained a signed England football shirt. The shirt, which is mounted in a glass case with an authentication certificate, has been signed by the 2010 England World Cup squad, including players such as Wayne Rooney, Frank Lampard, Steven Gerrard and Gareth Barry. Pupils, parents, staff and all other friends of the School have the opportunity to win this shirt in a raffle for which the winning ticket will be drawn at Prize Giving on Friday 9 July 2010. Tickets are £2.00 each and can be purchased at School events or by contacting Ruth Wigham at rwigham@ocvc.ac.uk. Proceeds will be shared between the CPA and the upcoming Sports Tours.



Quiz Night

Over 100 parents and staff attended the first Cokethorpe Parents' Association Quiz Night on Saturday 27 February. A professional Quiz Master conducted the proceedings in the Dining Hall as 16 teams pitched their general knowledge against each other. Fish and chips were

provided during the break, which served as excellent brain food. As the evening went on the scores got very close and the teams more competitive; it was, however, the quiz team 'Aqualira' who took first place and went home with the winner's trophy.



VISITORS

Prince Dipangkorn Rasmijoti

For the last week of the Lent Term, 5 year old HRH Prince Dipangkorn Rasmijoti from Thailand visited the Reception class. He was with the School for one week while his mother, Princess Srirasm, completed a training course locally.

The Prince, who is second in line to the Thai throne, was accompanied during his stay by an entourage of diplomatic and palace staff. Despite having limited English the Prince enjoyed his time at Cokethorpe and quickly made friends with his classmates, who in turn gained a great deal of cultural experience from His Royal Highness's visit.



Year 7 Assessment Day

The Year 7 Assessment Day was particularly successful after the prior disruption to interviews caused by snowy conditions. Cokethorpe Year 6 children, and those applying from a range of other primary and local prep schools, completed the examinations, which represent the final part of the School's assessment process.

Following a morning of assessments and a delicious lunch, candidates were then able to choose an afternoon of activities which included sport, creative writing, ICT, art, drama, science, music-making and design technology. By the time the parents greeted their children in the Dining Hall over tea and cake, all thoughts of the morning's tests were forgotten and the children were able to say goodbye to new friends, hoping to see them again in September.

Families with children planning to start at Cokethorpe School in September 2011 should contact the Registrar for more information about assessment days in 2010.

Bursars' Reading Group

Cokethorpe hosted the Bursars' Reading Group this term, a group of Independent School Bursars primarily from Oxfordshire and Berkshire, who meet each term to discuss topical issues. 35 Bursars attended the meeting in the Corinthian Room followed by lunch in the Dining Hall. The meeting was lively and the provision of professional human resources personnel was high on the agenda, along with the new inspection regime and safeguarding requirements.

French Visitors

The School welcomed two French pupils, Marcel and Augustin Lucas, for a week during February. Their English was good as they had spent some time in Oxford last year; they now live in France but miss England very much. They received such a warm welcome at Cokethorpe that they have offered to return the favour and invite a Cokethorpe pupil to live with them and experience life with a French family and in a French school for a week.

WIDER COMMUNITY

Oxfordshire Science Festival

Cokethorpe was delighted to host the Oxfordshire Science Festival's Trebuchet Competition on a sunny 21 March, run by scientists from the Culham Centre for Fusion Energy Apprentice scheme. The scientists had designed and assembled their own 'scrap-heap' style trebuchet, which was able to launch water balloons nearly 60 metres. Members of the public were then able to use the scientists' design and theory to build their own mini trebuchets using garden canes and tea strainers! All the participants enjoyed the afternoon, with one team managing an astonishing 28 metres.



Yahoo Hockey Tournament

Cokethorpe was once again the venue for the region's round of England Hockey's national youth hockey tournament, sponsored by Yazoo. The day was organised by West Witney Hockey Club and the School welcomed 200 young hockey players from local clubs, along with a large number of spectators.

England U16 Rugby

The England U16 rugby squad used the School for two training camps in advance of their Four Nations Tournament in Italy. They played two practice fixtures against different Combined Academies U17 sides.



Sea Scouts

The Standlake and Cokethorpe Sea Scouts, whose 'home base' is here at Cokethorpe, have enjoyed some excellent country-wide functions this term, under the guiding wing of Dave Henderson. A 'fundraising ladies night', to raise money for travel scholarships that will help send the scouts to California to celebrate 100 years of scouting, will take place on 24 April. In addition the West Oxon Sea Scouts St George's Day parade and service will take place at the School on 25 April.

Village Charity Cycle Ride

The School once again loaned two minibuses to act as support vehicles for the annual Chadlington village charity cycle ride, in aid of Helen & Douglas House, the Oxfordshire Association for the Blind, and Help for Heroes. The riders covered approximately 100 miles over the two days, from Chadlington to the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire. Sponsorship money is still coming in but they hope to beat last year's total of £5,000.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Turning Back the Pages

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

5 Years Ago

- U14s went to Belgium for a weekend of sport. The girls' hockey team won all but one of their games against the British School of Brussels. The rugby team played BSB as well as two teams from local clubs and they too won all but one of their games
- A2 Drama students scripted their own scenes about the murder enquiry into the death of Roberto Calvi; an Italian ex-banker found hanging from scaffolding under Blackfriars Bridge in London in 1982. The result was a dynamic and intriguing play

10 Years Ago

- F1 hits Cokethorpe. Racing car designer Adrian Reynard came to Cokethorpe to give a General Studies lecture and brought along his BAR Formula 1 car, which was on display in the Entrance Hall

15 Years Ago

- The new Sports Hall was handed over at the beginning of September. It was officially opened on 28 November with displays of badminton, fencing, trampolining, basketball, netball, soccer, short tennis, hockey and aerobics

25 Years Ago

- The Aviary was proving a popular school club with different species of birds ranging from common budgies to the more exotic Zebra Finches and Orange Bishops, all being cared for by a group of dedicated boys. Zebra Finch eggs were successfully hatched on a number of occasions. The Cokethorpe Aviary was featured in *Cage and Aviary* magazine

30 Years Ago

- As part of the refurbishment of the recently purchased Chapel the east window was replaced, having been restored by Edward Swinger, the Cornish restorer of period stained glass. The pulpit, originally built in 1842, was restored to its original position at the south side of the chancel. Repairs to the altar rail were undertaken by local craftsman Chris Keeley from Abingdon

45 Years Ago

- Cokethorpe Rifle Club won the Colonel Mitchell Challenge Cup in the National Small-Bore Rifle Association's Junior Winter Competition. Eighty schools and clubs entered teams.

Archive Donations

Thank you to David Wood (1965, Swift) for sending photographs of his school days complete with all the names.

Cokethorpe Scout Group 1958

Thank you to former master Douglas Cook who recently lent his Cokethorpe Scout Group Log Book to the School. It is a handwritten account of the expedition to the Wye Valley in the summer of 1958, illustrated with hand-drawn maps and photographs. The first page begins 'Wednesday July 30th: At about half past nine a small van swung perilously out of the school gates, loaded high with rucksacks and packed inside with ten people.' The expedition was on its way. 'Thursday July 31st: The camp was roused at 7.30 by a far-too-hearty shout, "Come on you lazy campers!" Mr Hardy had arrived... We set off for Tintern at about 2pm, along the road as there were no footpaths... While having one of not infrequent rests a car drew up and proved to contain the local District Commissioner who had come in the hope of seeing us.'

More accounts of the hikes and camps follow, including visits to pubs where they were made most welcome and frequent stops for coffee and tea.



Outward Bound

Brian Horn joined Cokethorpe in the Michaelmas Term of 1961 as resident housemaster and to teach Physical Education. His particular task was to establish rugby, cricket and athletics as well as other minor sports. In the summers of 1962 and 1963 he hired a converted barn in Edale, Derbyshire to take First Years for a week's residential course. Activities included an introduction to rock-climbing, overnight camping and fieldwork involving local geography and local history. Thank you to Brian for donating his photograph album of the trips to Edale, which shows the pupils really enjoying themselves.

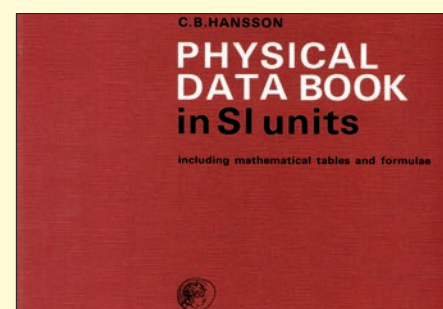


However, it wasn't always easy-going: 'On the last stage we went astray in the wilderness out of the way! Mr Hardy found a deserted back-garden, an impenetrable hedge and a field of barley: hardly an ideal route. But the astute use of the compass put us right and we received directions (unasked) from a cottager whom, by his lordly remarks about our map, we judged to be the Director General of the Ordnance Survey.' Sadly, all good things must come to an end and the entry for Saturday 9 August reads as follows: 'The end of a splendid holiday. We rose very early, ate a hearty breakfast and caught the bus into Bristol. At the station we all had a last cup of tea together and then Flea, Dave and Roger departed on the train, heading north: much waving and running along the platform. Feeling a bit flat, the others went back into the town for a couple of hours and then their turn came. The train for London steamed out of Bristol and the West Country settled down again to its tranquil life.'

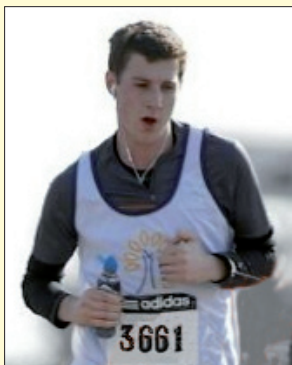


Physics Textbook

Thank you to former Physics master Charles Hansson who, on a recent visit to the School, donated a signed copy of a book he wrote whilst teaching at Cokethorpe from 1968 to 1972. Entitled *Physical Data Book in SI Units* it is a reference book intended for use by students of Mathematics and Physics at A Level. SI Units (the international system of units) were just being adopted as standard at the time of writing. The book includes mathematical tables and formulae for use in calculations that have been largely superseded by the use of scientific calculators, but were vital when the book was published in 1972.



THE COKETHORPE SOCIETY



Silverstone Half Marathon

On 14 March 2010 Chris Cassettari (2008, Vanbrugh) took part in the Silverstone Half Marathon, raising money for the Sir Michael Sobell House Hospice, which is an adult specialist palliative care service for people with a life threatening illness. 'Cancer kills more people every year than diabetes, bronchitis and allergies put together. My training programme was intense, but the understanding of their pain gave me all the required strength. The pleasure of taking in the Silverstone scenery whilst saving lives is an experience I shan't ever forget. I can only hope the £300 raised changes lives.' Please continue to give at www.justgiving.com/chris-cassettari.

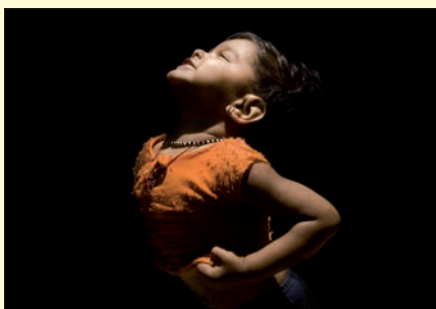
Scotland Rugby Appearance

Congratulations to Louise Gray (1998, Harcourt), who made her Scotland debut in the women's Rugby Union Six Nations. Louise, who plays Prop, came off the bench to win her first cap in the 28–12 defeat to Wales in February. She currently plays for Henley Rugby Club and qualifies for Scotland through her father. Louise is keen to keep her place in the squad as the women's Rugby World Cup, which is taking place in England this summer, looms. Speaking of her debut, Louise says 'It was exciting and scary, having to prove myself. I was on for about 15 minutes and we scored with a penalty from my scrum. I'm now looking to make the final 26 for the World Cup.'



Photography Exhibition

Professional photographer Andrew Farrar (1996) held an exhibition entitled 'Holy Cow' at St Andrew's Church in Holborn in January. Andrew comments that 'Western perception of Indian mythology as a plethora of colour and fantasy is accentuated and romanticised by the images that are adopted by our media and popular culture. With that in mind I went to India to see what effects Western culture, fashion and film had on key characters I encountered and cast for the project.'



Gold Medal Winner

Lena Beardsell (2007, Feilden), who is an Army Officer Cadet, won a gold medal at the Army's UK divisional Nordic ski championships held in France in February. This was just five days after trying cross-country skiing for the first time! Lena (lying down in the photograph below) competed in the 10km classic Nordic cross-country race and two biathlon races, in which competitors have to ski and shoot twice at targets on a firing range, and she won a team gold medal in the 4x6 biathlon relay race.



Top to Bottom Down Under

On 19 December 2009 John Vaughan-Fowler (1978, Harcourt) completed his mammoth charity bike ride from Darwin to Melbourne covering some 2,500 miles in 23 days. His route took him straight through the middle of Australia, battling temperatures over 40°C and hours upon hours on his own. From Alice Springs to Adelaide (956 miles) his back up team consisted of nephew Edward Eyers (1996, Queen Anne). He has raised over £25,400 for the Parkinson Disease Society and the Roald Dahl Foundation. To read about his extraordinary ride go to www.top2bottomdownunder.com, where you can also help him reach his initial target of £50,000.

Alexei Mishin

The School was sad to hear the news that Alexei Mishin (1999, Vanbrugh) had died on 22 May 2006. The Second Master, Mr Walton, fondly remembers Alexei, who came to Cokethorpe to board from Russia. He notes how Alexei was a very positive influence on the other boarders and that he was solid, hard working and very reliable.

Thomas Stead

The School was also sad to receive the news that Thomas Stead, former Geography master (1959–1968), died on 11 January 2010, peacefully after a long illness, aged 81 years.

Visits

Cokethorpe was delighted to welcome back Craig Harrington (2001, Harcourt) and Pablo Piferrer (2001, Swift) this term. Lyn Marshall, who was the Matron from 1958 to 1963, also had a tour of the School for the first time in 40 years.

Charlotte Krol

Charlotte Krol (2008, Queen Anne) has sent news from New Zealand, where she is spending her second semester of her second year studying at the University of Auckland. This is part of the 'Universitas 21' scheme (U21) which is an international network of 21 of the world's leading research universities. Charlotte says that this is a fantastic opportunity and that she was selected to represent Nottingham following a number of interviews and grade assessments. Before the term started, she travelled around New Zealand, Fiji and South-East Asia.

Dale le Vack

Dale le Vack (1962) has kindly donated a signed copy of his latest book to the School Library. *Not Quite The Gentleman* is a novel based on the life of his grandfather during 1890 and 1919, which focuses particularly on his war exploits and wounding at the Battle of Mons in 1914, and his subsequent captivity and escapes.

Forthcoming Society Events

Society AGM: Wednesday 19 May
Society Cricket Match: Friday 18 June
Society Hockey Match: Friday 18 June
Society Golf Day: Friday 25 June
See the website for more information.

Society Contact Details

Email: society@cokethorpe.org
Telephone: 01993 892339

TAIL FEATHERS

Ave

T C Hayne (History)

Mr Hayne is a graduate from Reading University and UWE. He has worked previously in Tokyo and Vienna and has spent time travelling in Australia and America. He enjoys rugby and is a season ticket holder at Harlequins RFC.



Mrs S Orton (Learning Support)

Mrs Orton joins from Leigh-on-Sea in Essex. A previous Head of Music for five years, she has worked with children with learning difficulties for the past eleven years. Outside School Mrs Orton is a keen tennis player and enjoys walking, but is now more likely to be found running around with her three young sons.



Ms Rose Achieves WGL Award

For four cold and snowy days during the February half term Ms Rose was assessed in the Brecon Beacons and Black Mountains as she attempted to achieve her Walking Group Leader (WGL) Award. It was a tremendously challenging course, which she is pleased to say she successfully passed. A number of different skills were tested including navigation, camp craft, leadership, responding to emergency situations, knowledge of flora and fauna and weather. This award qualifies her to lead groups in uplands that have previously been out of remit with her Basic Expedition Leader (BEL) Award, which is good news for Duke of Edinburgh's Award participants.

Baby News

Congratulations to Mrs Butler and her husband Adam on the birth of their baby boy, Luke Roger Butler. Luke was born on Wednesday 17 March at 3.18pm, weighing 8lb 5oz.



Mr Mullin is a Cotswold Hero

Congratulations to Mr Mullin, who has been teaching music at Cokethorpe for three years, for being nominated by Cameron Pickering (Year 9, Vanbrugh) to be a 'Cotswold Hero' for the February edition of *Cotswold and Oxfordshire Life* magazine. Mr Mullin features in the second series of 'Cotswold Heroes' that looks at people that make the Cotswolds great. Cameron Pickering nominated Mr Mullin stating that 'Gig Nights with Mr Mullin are awesome. He gives us a lot of freedom and encouragement with our music all the time'. Mr Mullin was also interviewed by BBC Radio Oxford about the achievement and about his love of Jazz.

Ms Redgrave and the Coull Quartet

Congratulations to Ms Redgrave for being appointed the new viola player for the internationally acclaimed Coull Quartet, the quartet-in-residence at the University of Warwick. The Quartet has performed and broadcast extensively throughout the UK, USA and Western Europe and gives an annual series of recitals at the renowned Warwick Arts Centre (around 170 concerts in all!). The members also teach many promising string players and university chamber ensembles. Ms Redgrave says that 'it is a tremendous privilege to be playing with musicians who have such a wealth of experience of quartet playing and the repertoire.'



Open Evening

Wednesday 28 April: 4.30pm – 6.30pm

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: 5.00pm and 6.00pm.

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, Mrs C 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 P Timms (hmsec@cokethorpe.org or 01993 892325).

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Photographs

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THE OCELLUS is edited and typeset by the Foundation Office. It is published by Cokethorpe School.

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