

Cokethorpe
SCHOOL

THE OCELLUS

From the Headmaster

The thirtieth anniversary of the Falklands War reminds us that we have continued to be involved in many conflicts since the end of World War II, and have witnessed the death or serious injury of many brave men and women. What we have not witnessed since 1651, thankfully, is a civil war. Historians point out that civil wars take on a particular ferocity, and cause division within families and between friends that can take generations to heal. No one who has read an account of the bloody massacres that Spaniard heaped upon Spaniard in the Spanish Civil War, or the genocide in the former Yugoslavia, can doubt the truth of that.

Recently we have witnessed another country starting to tear itself apart through civil war, in Syria. Yet, with the memory of recent atrocities clearly in mind, the UN could not even put together an unequivocal statement of condemnation, let alone a plan of action, as countries cynically balanced their national interests and valued alliances against the fate of innocent women and children. How often do we see that? Self-interest consistently and constantly lying at the heart of our failure to act morally.

We live in a multi-faith and multi-cultural society, one in which not everyone shares the Christian understanding of Jesus as the Son of God, and for whom this Easter break is just a holiday. But we know that even an increasingly secular society respects nobility of spirit. That is why we pay such honour and respect to our dead soldiers as they are borne back from Afghanistan. The idea behind Easter, if not its theology, can also be a powerful image, for people of all faiths and none. The story, like that of our soldiers, is of a man's willingness to sacrifice himself for the sake of others, an act so wholly devoid of cynicism and self-interest that it has set a benchmark for authentic civilised human action.

The Christian belief in the resurrection proclaims the triumph of the noble spirit. I certainly hope that, as the school community at Cokethorpe strives for excellence and success, fostering such humanity will always be its main *raison d'être*.



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'Ocellus' (pronounced 'oh, sell-us') refers to the eye in the tail feathers of a peacock.

Quotes Over Coffee

The Coffee Shop was redecorated recently and famous quotes now adorn the walls:

'Suave molecules of mocha stir up your blood, without causing excess heat; the organ of thought receives from it a feeling of sympathy; work becomes easier and you will sit down without distress to your repast which will restore your body and afford you a calm, delicious night.' – *Prince Talleyrand*

'I believe humans get a lot done, not because we're smart, but because we have thumbs so we can make coffee.' – *Flash Rosenberg*

'Over second and third cups flow matters of high finance, high state, common gossip and low comedy. Coffee is a social binder, a warmer of tongues, a soberer of minds, a stimulant of wit, a foiler of sleep if you want it so. From roadside mugs to the classic demi-tasse, it is the perfect democrat.' – *Unknown*

'A fig for partridges and quails, ye dainties I know nothing of ye. But on the highest mount in Wales I would choose in peace to drink my coffee.' – *Jonathan Swift*

'Nothing is sad on a beautiful morning save to look down and realise you just had the last sip of coffee and the mug sits indifferently empty.' – *Terri Guillemets*

'Is it possible to get a cup of coffee-flavoured coffee anymore in this country? What happened with coffee? Did I miss a meeting? They have every other flavour but coffee-flavoured coffee. They have mochaccino, frappuccino, cappuccino, al pacino... coffee doesn't need a menu, it needs a cup.' – *Denis Leary*

Front Cover:
Archive photo from the Cokethorpe prospectus 1964.



Les Garçons

On Thursday 8 March pupils from Upper First, along with those who study French in the Third Form, were treated to a performance of the new French play *Les Garçons* by the Onatti Productions – a foreign language theatre company which tours schools throughout the United Kingdom.

The play, which revolved around a series of disasters during a babysitting evening, was both funny and very enjoyable. There was some audience participation and the actors' energy and delivery ensured that everyone could follow the action and was involved throughout the session.



Third Form History Trip

'After waking up in the early hours we were up and ready to look at all the interesting things there are to see in Belgium. We arrived after a smooth journey and went to Hooze Crater Cemetery where our guide talked about some of the graves' particular stories. We then looked round a place that has some artefacts such as a German dug out and old guns. The next day we drove to the Irish tower and looked around it whilst our guide provided us with interesting facts. We also went to Essex Farm Cemetery where we saw more graves and heard shocking stories about soldiers our age who had died in action. We also heard a beautiful



Literary Recitals

Mr White used his recital, entitled *They Say I Don't Care*, to show a passion for the old in reference to the modern, by reading works from Chaucer to the end of the Nineteenth Century. He linked these through theme, style and mood to a final piece of his own poetry. A Level English students performed creative pieces and literary extracts in their recital, to enlighten the Fifth Form about the nature of the A Level Literature course and the A Level Language/Literature combination. This was followed by a lively question and answer session. In Mr Monaghan's recital, *The Sea*, pupils were transported to a world of surf and sandy toes.

Focusing on poetry, the audience was taken through childhood trips, around the animals and wildlife of the ocean, before finishing on supernatural aspects including ghost ships and sea monsters. The choice of poets ranged from the Renaissance to the modern day and included work from Poe, Coleridge and Larkin.

Geography Trip to Wales

Twenty eight Lower Sixth Geography students spent three fantastic days in North Wales investigating rebranding at Llanberis (a rural ex-slate mining village) and Llandudno (an urban, seaside resort) using different fieldwork techniques to assess the success of these rebranding projects. A very wet Sunday was spent looking at coastal management on Criccieth beach, with waves from Brazil, hot chocolate and plenty of rain! However, this rain fell as snow on the mountains, which gave the students the perfect conditions in which to look at cold environment processes and glacial landforms.



rendition of *In Flanders Fields* by Cameron Elphick (Queen Anne). Later we went to the town of Ypres and looked around Menin Gate and all looked for our surnames amongst the 36,000 names of soldiers whose bodies were not identified. We had the opportunity to explore the 'Trenches of Death' which were amazing and returned later that evening to hear the Last Post, a daily remembrance event for those who died in Belgium. The next day we went to Tynes Cot Cemetery, the largest Commonwealth concentration cemetery in the world.'

Heidi Lawson, Nancy Battersby and George Wood (All Gascoigne)

Philosophy Café

'Does getting what you want make you happy?' asked Miss Rose in the first Philosophy café of the Lent Term. True to the contrarian spirit of the Café, the Head of Psychology argued against the view that desire satisfaction is the path to contentment. Alluding to the wisdom of Buddhism, it was suggested that desire is actually the root of unhappiness. Later in the term Philosophy teacher Miss O'Hagan posed the question 'Are women as free as men?' The debate centred around the position that due to fundamental differences between men and women, both socially and biologically, women are not as free as they think. The debate culminated in a vote which suggested that women are not as free as men, and that a change in social attitudes towards the roles of men and women would be a step in the right direction.



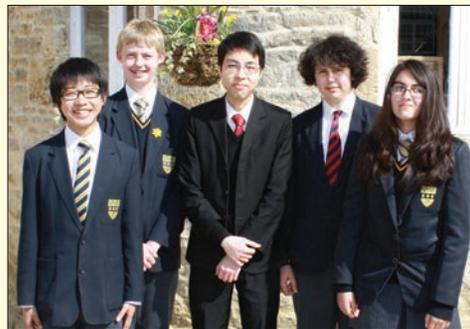
Didcot Power Station

The Upper First visited Didcot Power Station, a 40-year-old station built to supply London, which is due to close in 2015. Recently nuts from Indonesia started being burnt as part of the government's initiatives to reduce carbon emissions. Pupils were shown a film explaining the history of electricity and how it is made and then went

Maths Challenge Success

Cokethorpe pupils performed outstandingly in the UKMT Intermediate Mathematics Challenge this term. Third Form pupils Laurence Lodge (Vanbrugh), Thomas Christensen (Swift) and Nadiya Rashid (Feilden) not only gained Gold certificates, but were placed in the top 2.75%. Roy Luo (Harcourt), also gained Gold and was placed in the top 500 for his age group. Jonathan Chan (Upper Sixth, Feilden), who helped the group to prepare, participated in the Senior Kangaroo round himself and was invited to sit the British Mathematical Olympiad Round.

In the Team Challenge Tom and Roy were joined by Eloise Fraser-Paterson and Benjamin Foster (both Upper First, Queen Anne), where they came second against 41 other international teams, competing in the regional finals.



on a tour of the site. The trip was enjoyed by everyone and helped in the pupils' understanding of the energy topic studied this term in Geography. Pupils then went to Reading Green Park to see a wind turbine. It was very interesting seeing the wind turbine close up, and it was surprising how little noise it made as it was quite windy.

Spanish Exchange Return Visit

'Last November 15 of Cokethorpe's Modern Foreign Language pupils went on an exchange trip to a school in Bormujos near Seville. Everyone was nervous about meeting their Spanish partners, but the matches were made perfectly and everyone soon found that they had a lot in common with their partner. Of course, we spoke lots of Spanish, learnt new vocabulary and improved our pronunciation. After a three month wait, the students from Seville finally came to England to visit us. We had all missed our partners so much that the experience of having them stay with us was very emotional. During the six days, we visited London, Oxford and the Cotswolds, before finishing the week with a farewell evening involving presentations from both schools and performances in dance and music. I think everyone would agree that the exchange was a huge success, and some people have enjoyed it so much that they have arranged to fly out to Spain for their summer holidays!

Toyah Overton (Fourth Form, Queen Anne)



Upper Sixth Theatre Trip

Having studied the text *'Tis Pity She's a Whore* last year, Upper Sixth English Literature students were keen to see an interpretation of the play that wrestles with morality and the influence of the state on the lives of ordinary citizens. This cheek by jowl production did not disappoint and everyone was spellbound by the modern interpretation and their trademark insistence on the physical nature of theatre. The dance sequences and tableaux moments were mesmerising, and the collapse into violence at the centre of the play was both horrific and captivating.

Maths Challenge

The following pupils received awards in the 2012 Intermediate Maths Challenge:

Best in School, Gold Award and qualifier for Cayley Olympiad round:
Roy Luo (Top 500 in age group)

Gold Award Winners and qualifiers for Grey Kangaroo round:
Thomas Christensen, Laurence Lodge, Nadiya Rashid (Top 5,500 in age groups)

Gold Award Winners
Bethany Mulloy, Ellen Garbutt

Silver Award Winners:
Jon De Vos, James Staples, Saul Garrett, Matteo Catrini, Charlie Tobin, Daisy Wilcox, Julian Davies, Fraser Logue, Katherine Woolley, Harry Bryson, Chris Hutchinson, Henry Ettinger, Katie Jenkins

Bronze Award Winners:
Molly Williamson, Francis Plummer, Alexander Owen, Emma King, John Morrison, Edward Blackburn, Jonathon Harling, Samuel Farrant, Ben Armstrong, Nicholas Caddy, Toby Watts-Lay, Matthew Brown, Molly Treanor, Ross Battersby, Harry Stevens, Anna Withey, Mike Davis, Jason Cardy, Toyah Overton, Callum Breslin, Lily Bradstock, George Grime, George Hallett

Headmaster's Tweets

A selection from the Lent Term:

'I am delighted (and a little flattered) to report that five wonderful girls in Year 5 think their headmaster has lost weight since Christmas.' (5 January)

'A joke told to me by a Year 4 boy this morning: What do you call a French man who wears sandals? Answer: Philippe Follop. Genius.' (10 January)

'Congratulations to Upper Sixth students already celebrating university offers, including Material Science at Oxford and Medicine at UCL.' (18 January)

'Cokethorpe pupils competing in the UKMT 2012 team maths challenge regional finals + coming 2nd place = a very proud Headmaster!' (19 March)

General Studies Feedback

'I very much enjoyed my visit to Cokethorpe. Great space, attentive audience, good questions, opportunity for follow-up at a more specialist level... what more could a visiting lecturer want? I was talking specifically about the linguistics of text-messaging, but the discussion ranged well beyond that, into the internet as a whole and into questions to do with language in general and the English language in particular. If it was as stimulating for the students as it was for me, then I'm very happy. Thanks too for your warm welcome and splendid lunch.'

Professor David Crystal

'It was a really engaging session and I enjoyed the way that Professor Crystal wasn't judgemental, but very open-minded about how language changes and suits all of us, even students.'

Louis Allen (Lower Sixth, Harcourt)

'It is always a pleasure to speak to young people with such open minds and unlimited expectations. I found all the students to be curious and questioning in their approach to learning and I really enjoyed the way in which they made their enquiries and, luckily for me, also the way in which they listened to my answers. I was impressed by the relationship which has clearly been established between sports participation, competition and the development of character. In many school environments it has become all about winning and not about the students' personal development through sport.'

John Neal

Text Messaging Facts

Below is a list of facts and figures about 'SMS-ing', commonly known as 'texting':

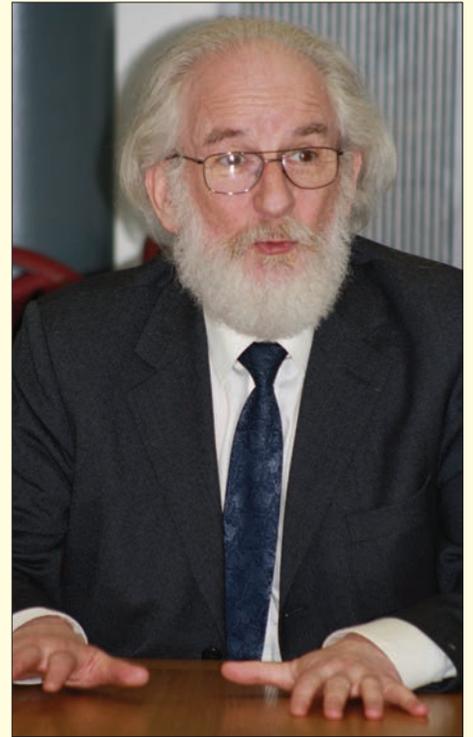
- Short Messaging Service (SMS) was invented during the 1980s as a method of communication for engineers building the mobile network
- The first text message (or 'telenote' as it was originally called) was sent on 3 December 1992 by Neil Papworth to colleagues at Vodafone and said 'Merry Christmas'
- The commercial launch of SMS took place in 1995
- In 2000, just half of UK adults said that they had a mobile phone – that figure stood at 91% by 2010
- August 2001 was the first month in which over one billion messages were sent in the UK
- Over 129 billion text messages were sent in 2010 in the UK, representing an average of over five a day for every person in the country
- Globally, 6.1 trillion text messages were sent during 2010 and 7 trillion in 2011. 1.2 trillion had been sent during 2009
- The peak hours for texting are between 10.30pm and 11.00pm

General Studies Lectures

Professor David Crystal, the author of over 100 books and a world authority on the English Language, visited the School in February to lecture students on the phenomenon of texting and to outline how, contrary to popular opinion, it is not in fact ruining the English language.

Professor Crystal told his audience that text spellings, shortened words and even emoticons are all just part of a tradition that has spanned hundreds of years. Pointing out that in the World War II the students' grandparents defeated fascism whilst writing S.W.A.L.K on envelopes, he suggested there was no reason why they could not achieve great things whilst using C U or LOL. He also argued that the internet was the third great revolution in language after speech and writing.

The session was very well-received and students asked a range of engaging questions, including what the future effects of technology might be and whether a single language might be used across the world in future.



Equally fascinating was prominent psychologist John Neal's lecture on the psycho-physiology of effective leadership. Mr Neal is a highly acclaimed psychologist whose work takes him across the UK, Europe, the United States and Australia; he regularly works with elite international sports teams as a consultant psychologist, and is currently advising some of the UK's top rugby and Olympic teams in preparation for upcoming competitions.

Mr Neal's dynamic and interactive General Studies lecture had students being put under pressure to perform in order to recreate the mental and physical stresses associated with leadership and competition in the sporting and academic worlds. However, this included nothing more than singing from memory, wiggling feet whilst writing the number eight in the air, and standing on chairs and waving, whilst under a degree of hypnosis. After lunch, Mr Neal joined the Sports Academy pupils to speak to them on the concept and importance of developing character in sports performers. He provided great insight into how the mind works and the values that great sportsmen and women possess. The students clearly enjoyed the lecture and went away motivated, with new ideas about how this might impact their own training. ☞



Sixth Form Taster Day

On Tuesday 24 January, Fifth Form pupils had the chance to experience life in Cokethorpe's Sixth Form. The day started with a briefing in the Sixth Form Centre, followed by four sample A Level lessons. Many took the opportunity to try out new subjects, whilst others chose to experience the increased depth and challenge that the continued study of their favourite GCSE subjects would bring. Visits to the Coffee Shop at break and lunchtime, along with time spent relaxing in the Sixth Form Common Room, gave pupils the chance to share their experiences.

The afternoon finished with a talk by motivational speaker Dave Keeling, whose energy, enthusiasm and unique style encouraged the pupils to think beyond their immediate schooling and understand that a successful future is built by grasping every small opportunity that presents itself. The pupils finished the day in a buoyant mood, eagerly anticipating what is to come in September. ☞

Movie Night

On Friday 2 March, the Sixth Form students transformed their Common Room into a mini cinema to enjoy two comedy films after school. They watched *The Other Guys* followed by *Tropic Thunder* while enjoying lots of pizza and popcorn. To add to the relaxed atmosphere, the dress code largely consisted of pyjamas and duvets! The Sixth Form Committee deserve thanks for their hard work in both arranging and getting support among the students for this event. Mrs Copeland and Mr Galvin joined them to help run and supervise the evening.



Law Trip

AS Level Law students visited both the Magistrates Court and the Crown Court on Tuesday 7 February. Affray, assault and public order offences were at the forefront of the justice system providing excellent insight into court process and allowing real application of the law to be studied first hand. It was an insightful and motivating day, bringing the law to life for the students.



A 'Dream' Performance

'Entering the Lyric Theatre, rumours spread of another highly pretentious, heightened portrayal of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. They couldn't have been more wrong. From the moment the curtain went up in the bourgeois, fancifully decorated proscenium arch theatre to reveal the grimy tiles of what appeared to be a boys' changing room, I thought we'd turned up to the wrong production. How wrong I was; food fights, rock music, alcohol, sex and mayhem; Filter's production churned out copious amounts of humour and bathos in its original interpretation of a play about chaos and entanglement of love.'

George Lawson (Lower Sixth, Gascoigne)



Applying to Oxbridge Workshop

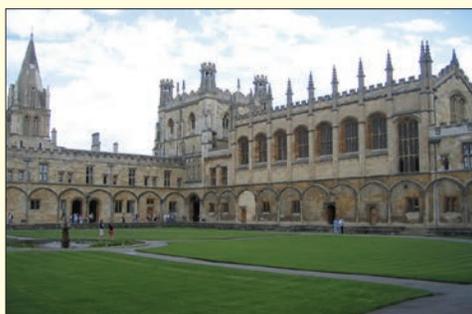
On Friday 24 February, a group of Lower Sixth students considering applying to Oxbridge attended a seminar at The School of St Helen and St Katharine.

'Our event started with a keynote address from Mike Nicholson, Director of Undergraduate Admissions at Oxford University. He was engaging and funny, dispelling many of the myths about Oxford and the application process, and he went out of his way to impress upon us that whilst the application process was rigorous and selective, most of all it was fair. Despite this reassurance, the entry requirements still sound fierce, with aptitude tests a necessity for entry to Oxford as well as an A*AA minimum at A Level required for both universities.

For the second session of the evening, talks were tailored to what we wanted to do, whether that was the sciences or combined subjects, with a focus on the humanities. While I can't vouch for the quality of the science lectures (no doubt plenty of maths and waving of calculators with differing answers was involved), the combination lecture gave an interesting insight into the courses available at Oxbridge, the requirements necessary and course outlines for some of the more popular subjects.

This, rounded off with an open question and answer session at the end, has left us all with a clearer sense of what is expected of an Oxbridge student and a greater confidence and conviction to achieve our goals.'

Louis Allen (Lower Sixth, Harcourt)



Oxbridge Workshop

As well as attending the 'Applying to Oxbridge' workshop, a group of Lower Sixth students also took part in a 'Preparing for Oxbridge' workshop run by Melissa Mehta, a Cambridge graduate and founder of Impetus Coaching.

Impetus Coaching specialises in visiting schools across the UK to coach potential Oxbridge candidates on how to increase their confidence in the face of challenging interviews, as well as identifying and communicating the qualities that make them desirable to competitive universities.

The workshop included exercises such as 'Jedi Mind Tricks', designed to relax students and conquer pre-interview nerves. The students also learnt about the importance of body language and how to word their answers carefully in order to stay out of those interview pitfalls. The day ended with the students writing letters to themselves in order to capture their feelings of confidence and calm; Melissa will then mail the students' letters back to them in September as a reminder of the techniques and tricks they learnt in the workshop.

The School would like to thank Melissa and Impetus Coaching for another successful workshop. The skills that the students learn in these coaching days are not only useful for university interviews, but also for later in life.

University Visit

In January, the Lower Sixth students visited the University of Birmingham in order to prepare them better for making their UCAS applications in the Michaelmas Term of next year. The liaison team gave talks explaining how the UCAS system works as well as advice on how to choose the course that suited them best and impress with their personal statement; this skill will doubtless come in handy not only for the university application process, but also later in life when the students come to apply for full-time employment.

The Lower Sixth students were then given the opportunity to explore the campus and ask more general questions. Hopefully this experience has given them a taste of university life, as well as reminding them that UCAS deadlines are not far off!

Williams F1 Trip

In February Sixth Form Design and Technology students were granted rare access to the Williams F1 factory and development centre at Grove. Seeing the prototyping facilities, carbon fibre workshop and sophisticated stereolithography machinery used to create the complex aerodynamic forms of the car, all proved to be a fascinating insight into this otherwise highly elusive and high-tech business.

Production Review

The following is written by Tom Baker, currently attending The Dragon School, who will join Cokethorpe in the Third Form after completing his Common Entrance Examinations. Tom played Seymour in The Dragon's recent production of *Little Shop of Horrors*.

'As I walked into The Shed on 21 March, I was transported to a different world, down on Skid Row. There was a band of 'down-and-outs' wanting donations for their music, smoke coming out of a pipe, and a pair of pants hanging up on a washing line on the balcony of a tatty apartment.

I had been invited to see the show, after having played Seymour in The Dragon School's production, so I was very excited to see how Cokethorpe put on the show. I wondered how the man-eating plant, Audrey 2, would be done and how Mushnik's Flower Shop would be positioned.

The shop was done well by putting it on floor level, stage left. What was particularly effective was the window where you could see people walking past. Myles, who played Seymour, was outstanding. He did an excellent shimmy in 'Ya Never Know'. Knowing how difficult it is to learn so many lines, I asked him what worked for him. He replied, 'mainly by repetition and writing it down'.

Jacob, who played Audrey 2, told me the main challenge was acting using only his voice. He had also gone from playing upper class characters to an American man-eating plant. He certainly succeeded! I didn't expect him to be wearing a plant, but it was very effective to see his face in the centre of Audrey 2. However, his legs were trapped inside the costume, so in the interval he had to wait to be carried off! Saskia sang beautifully as Audrey, and you could really believe she wanted to be 'Somewhere That's Green'. I really liked Jack as Mushnik. It was hilarious when he held his breath while waiting for Seymour to see if he would be his son.

Greg, I found out, had only ever played the good guys in previous plays. This time he was playing Orin, the mad evil dentist. He did this excellently with a manic smile. I wondered if the Headmaster would be able to get his daughter to go to the dentist ever again! What made this show so professional was that each member of the chorus stayed in character the whole time.

The five Urchins, Melanie, Hanna, Stephanie, Katie and Lucy (who showed me around the school when I visited) were outstanding with their singing, dancing and attitude. The show was superbly directed and choreographed, especially the inventive way of moving in 'Da-Doo'. Well done everybody, and particularly the band.'



Little Shop of Horrors

Following the enormous successes of previous productions, it was always going to be very difficult for the School's Music and Drama Departments to choose the next show for their next big production. Once decided, it quickly became apparent that working on such a well-known production had its challenges; in this case, *Little Shop of Horrors* had been made into a very successful film, and the inconsistencies between this and the original stage musical were unexpected. In particular, the endings were completely different!

In the preparation and execution of this production, there were key players who contributed to the total success of the show. The lead part of Seymour was given to Myles Osborn-Banton (Upper Sixth, Queen Anne) and he far exceeded expectations, not only in his brilliant portrayal of the character but off stage too; Myles provided inspiration and motivation to the whole cast. He was not alone in his dynamic energy, as all the leads performed with a high level of professionalism and conviction. It was inspiring to watch how each performance was pushed to such a high standard almost entirely through the sheer enthusiasm of the cast. In short this was an exceptionally good team who worked extremely well as a unit.

Another leap forward was the wider incorporation of choreographed movement and dance. This was led with conviction by Miss Ringham, and was a major contribution to the show's success. Also of key importance was the completely pupil-led musical accompaniment. Isaac Staff (Lower Sixth, Gascoigne) on piano led the band dynamically, while Aidan King (Fourth Form, Gascoigne) on guitar, Harry Fellows (Lower Sixth, Vanbrugh) on bass and Elliot Kratt (Upper Sixth, Gascoigne) on drums each added flair and character to the show without ever being intrusive to the action on stage.

The whole spectacle was made all the more convincing by the brilliant costumes, excellent set and fantastic lighting, and the School's thanks go to all those involved. An unexpected bonus was the donation of the all-important plant, made by the Witney Dramatic Society. All involved had an absolute thrill working on this show, and the positive impact on all who saw it was palpable. ☑



Upper First Physical Theatre

Upper First pupils experimented with Physical Theatre this term, and their lunchtime performance was a brilliant showcase for this complex art form. The first piece, an advert for the *5-Star-Food-A-Tron*, was followed by the exciting *Computerized*, which explored the perilous worlds of various console games. There was excellent comic timing displayed in *Haunted House*, and a winter wonderland turned into a twisted dreamscape in *The Nightmare Before Christmas*. This was a marvellous exposition of the talent in the Upper First, and indicates that the Second Form production at the end of the year will certainly be something to look forward to. ☑



A Level: Who Cares?

Using the stimulus 'Who Cares?' as their starting point, the A Level Drama and Theatre Studies students devised a shocking and thought-provoking piece of theatre that often made for uncomfortable viewing. Staged within a gameshow format, audience members reluctantly joined the host for a chance to 'walk in someone else's shoes'. This was never a pleasurable experience; they were transported into the forgotten world of Joyce Carol Vincent, a 38-year-old woman who, despite having family and friends, lay dead in her flat for three years before being discovered. A true story, this begged the question of how society allowed this to happen, especially in the modern world of mobile phones, email and social networking sites. It was, however, the cold, hard facts from the cases of Baby P and Victoria Climbié that left the audience speechless. Despite the challenging nature of the material, the ensembles were excellent in their delivery. It was a mature, creative and intelligent piece that demonstrated this year group's tremendous performance skills, and will be hard to forget. 📺



GCSE Assessments

Fifth Form Drama pupils had their devised GCSE pieces assessed during a performance on Thursday 1 March. Each group dealt with topics of a serious nature such as anorexia, drug abuse and alcohol addiction. These issues were carefully researched and sensitively developed using a wide variety of styles and techniques. 📺



LAMDA

This term the School started offering individual drama tuition for pupils interested in studying for a LAMDA qualification. LAMDA (the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art) has a reputation for excellence across the globe and their nationally-recognised examinations are specifically designed to offer pupils a range of opportunities to develop self-confidence, communication skills and enhance creative thinking. Lessons are now being taught by a LAMDA specialist and are available for pupils in Years 5 and 6 in Junior School, and from Lower First to Upper Sixth in the Senior School.

Little Shop Cast and Crew

Seymour	Myles Osborn-Banton
Mushnik	Jack Revell
Orin	Gregory Muller
Audrey	Saskia Kovandzich
Audrey II, The Plant	Jacob Yolland
Winos	Louis Allen
	George Lawson
Urchins	Melanie Severn
	Lucy Grout
	Hanna Young
	Stephanie Stanton
	Katie Buckley
Jessica Wulf	Agent 1 and Chorus
Daniel Pye	Agent 2 and Chorus
Brian Clarke	Agent 3 and Wino
Band	Harry Fellows (Bass)
	Elliot Kratt (Drums)
	Aidan King (Guitar)
	Isaac Staff (Piano)
Lily Cartwright	Puppeteer and Chorus
Thomas Amor	Customer and Chorus
Chorus	Clare Berry
	Marion Bird
	Alice Burns
	Anna De Buriatte Moglia
	Katie Foster
	Eloise Fraser-Paterson
	Keely Harding
	Katie Jenkins
	Fraser Logue
	Bethany Mulloy
	Laurel Mulloy
	Harry Norton-Shaw
	Verity Smith
	Harry Steel
	Jess Steel
	Emily Thompson
	Freddie Turner
	Hetty Watts-Lay
	Nathan Black
Lighting	Tom Drake
	Alexander Jobling
Backstage	Henry Grimwade

Summer Term Drama

Lower Sixth Text in Performance
Monday 14 and Tuesday 15 May

Lower First Production
Monday 2 July

Second Form Production
Tuesday 3 July

Summer Shakespeare Production
Friday 13 July

Lunchtime Music Recitals

Thursday 19 January: Fourth Form

- Daniel Pye (Vanbrugh) performed two of his own compositions for voice and guitar with the help of Richard Thompson (Queen Anne)
- Christian Ettinger (Harcourt) and Henry Plumridge (Gascoigne) performed *Claudia* by The View
- Rebecca Witchell (Gascoigne) performed Einaudi's *Nuvole Bianche* as a piano solo
- Ellen Garbutt (Feilden) sang Sondheim's *Send in the Clowns* from *A Little Night Music*
- Aidan King (Gascoigne) performed a piece by *Final Fantasy* composer Nobuo Uematsu
- Melanie Severn (Gascoigne) and Annabelle Hulewicz (Vanbrugh), accompanied by Christian Ettinger, gave a delicate rendition of Paramore's *The Only Exception*
- Fraser Logue (Vanbrugh) concluded the programme with a song of his own performed by a six-piece band made up of his fellow pupils

Thursday 15 March

- Thomas Christensen (Third Form, Swift) played a piano solo by Pam Wedgewood called *No Regrets*
- Music Exhibition Scholar, Jessica Alexander (Lower First, Feilden) gave a solo flute performance of *Sicilienne* by Paradis
- Fraser Logue (Fourth Form, Vanbrugh) performed Bach's *Prelude No 1 in C Major*
- The programme continued with a piece of electronic music called *Think*, created by Aidan King (Fourth Form, Gascoigne), and two further pieces by Aaron Levvy (Fifth Form, Vanbrugh)

A Level Music Concert

- Zoë Mace (Lower Sixth, Harcourt) beautifully sang two arias: *O Mio Babbino Caro* from *Gianni Schicchi* by Puccini and *L'amour est un oiseau rebelle* from *Carmen* by Bizet
- Hanna Young (Lower Sixth, Swift) demonstrated her vocal range and depth of tone in *Summertime* from *Porgy and Bess* by Gershwin and *Hopelessly Devoted to You* by John Farrar from the film version of *Grease*
- James Ellacott (Lower Sixth, Feilden) gave a securely handled rendition of the well-known Rondo from Mozart's *Horn Concerto No 4*
- Jack Wollner (Lower Sixth, Harcourt) played an expressive guitar solo version of *You've Got a Friend in Me* by Randy Newman before being joined by Gregory Muller (Upper Sixth, Vanbrugh) who sang the song *Old Pine* by Tom Howard
- Harry Fellows (Lower Sixth, Vanbrugh) and Spencer Buckley (Upper Sixth, Gascoigne) played fiendishly intricate guitar pieces, which included improvised sections. Harry played *Fusion* by Jason Woolley and Deirdre Cartwright's *Whatever Happened to Jazz?* Spencer played *September Chill* by John Parricell and *Musement Park* by Deirdre Cartwright

Choral Evensong

The Lent Term Evensong was held in the School Chapel on the feast of Candlemas. This festival traditionally marks the move away from Epiphany and looks forward to the next part of the year. The service, which was Mr Henderson's last with the School, included the setting of the *Canticles in D* by Charles Wood and the setting of *The Lord is My Shepherd* by Howard Goodall. 📷



A Level Music Concert

Cokethorpe's AS and A Level Music candidates presented an evening of polished performances in The Shed on Tuesday 13 March. The audience enjoyed pieces in a diverse range of styles and at a standard ranging from Grade 6 to Grade 8. The concert showcased the students' final assessed examination pieces. 📷



Music Recitals

There were two Lunchtime Music Recitals this term. The first was given by Fourth Form GCSE Music candidates, who performed solo and ensemble pieces to an invited audience of Third Form pupils. The second saw a new direction; alongside traditional performances, the recital also contained performances of recordings of electronic pieces. 📷



Choral Society Concert

This year's Cokethorpe Choral Society performance was of Carl Orff's dramatic masterpiece *Carmina Burana*. There was a wider membership of singers this year, with friends, grandparents and alumni joining the regular parents, staff and pupil participants. Over 100 pupils from the Lower House also added their voices to the spectacle. This was a tremendous experience for the pupils who were captivated by the array of percussion instruments used and the virtuosic fingers of pianists Mrs Payne and Mrs Henderson. The vocal ranges of this majestic piece are extreme yet the choir and all the soloists sung their parts exceptionally. 📷

Young Musicians' Platform

GCSE Music candidates took to the stage in the annual Young Musicians' Platform on Tuesday 24 January. For GCSE Music, each candidate must present both a solo and an ensemble performance and this evening consisted almost exclusively of the solos. There was a wide range of well-prepared performances, which formed a strong basis for the pupils' coursework submissions later in the term.



Jazz Band

The Cokethorpe Jazz Band have had an extremely busy and successful Lent Term, taking part in numerous competitions and concerts under the watchful eye of band leader Mr Mullin.

In February, the band performed in a charity Gala Concert organised by the Rotary Club of Oxford Isis. The concert was held at the Jacqueline du Pré Music Building at St Hilda's College, and all proceeds went to Toybox, a Christian charity committed to helping children living and working on the streets, principally in Latin America. The band, with Hal Dunnett of Magdalen College School on alto saxophone, played a set comprising of a variety of pieces. This was a definite crowd-pleaser, made all the more satisfying by the concert's good cause.

On Friday 9 March, the Jazz Band performed in the Chipping Norton Youth Jazz Band Challenge. The band played their best set to date, and soon after their performance were approached by Mr Martin Davies, organiser of the Chipping Norton Jazz Festival held in September. Mr Davies was very impressed by the band's capabilities, saying that he was glad to hear 'a youth band playing proper jazz'; he then invited the band to perform a thirty minute set for the Festival, which they happily accepted!

Also in March, the Jazz Band performed alongside other bands from all over the county at the JazzFactor Youth Competition, which was part of the Oxford Jazz Festival. Their opening number *Night Train* featured brilliant solos from Matthew Ellacott (Upper First, Feilden), Harry Fellows (Lower Sixth, Vanbrugh) and Isaac Staff (Lower Sixth, Gascoigne), followed by a mature vocal from Hanna Young (Lower Sixth, Swift). Throughout the performances, Jamie Langford (Upper First, Vanbrugh) on the bongos, Wilf Cartwright (Lower First, Queen Anne) on double bass and Elliot Kratt (Upper Sixth, Gascoigne) on drums laid down some superb backbeats. Cokethorpe's set was nothing short of excellent, earning them first place and the grand prize of a day's recording at SAE Institute, as well as the Allegro Cup trophy and the chance to support the opening act at the Oxford Jazz Festival, which took place on Saturday 7 April at the Copa restaurant in Oxford. By now the band were well-practised, and their set at the Festival was wonderfully professional. The soloists were all on great form, and the rhythm section brought the pieces together cohesively. As a result, the Jazz Band has been asked to perform in the Witney Music Festival on Sunday 13 May. ☑



Gig Nights

Gig Night 6, which took place in January, was a triumph for Cokethorpe's musical talents. There were performances by a host of groups and solo singers, with stand-out performances by Myles Osborn-Banton (Upper Sixth, Queen Anne), Ella Ashdown (Upper Sixth, Vanbrugh), LuisaMae Lisi (Upper First, Harcourt), Daniel Pye (Fourth Form, Vanbrugh) and of course the musical comedy duo of Jacob Booty (Upper Sixth, Swift) and Jack Cully (Upper Sixth, Feilden). Later in the Lent Term, Gig Night 7 lived up to the reputation of the event with some stunning performances. There were ten new acts performing in the show and they did not disappoint. In particular, Marion Bird (Upper First, Feilden), Jacob Yolland (Fifth Form, Gascoigne), Daniel Bailey (Lower First, Gascoigne) and Sydney Bennett-Miller (Upper First, Gascoigne) deserve special mention for leaving the audience mesmerised with their performances. ☑



Drum Workshop

On Monday 19 March, the School was visited by Mr Mike Sturgis, a professional drummer who has toured with rock bands throughout America and is now the Head of Drum Studies at The Academy of Contemporary Music in Guildford. Mr Sturgis treated some of the School's drummers to an hour-long class, in which he gave valuable advice on learning, practising and mastering the instrument. As well as imparting his hard-earned wisdom, Mr Sturgis also gave a brilliant rendition of one of his current songs. The class was extremely informative and inspiring, and the School thanks him for taking the time to speak to the pupils.

Choral Society Concert

The *Carmina Burana* soloists were:

- Ellen Garbutt (Fourth Form, Feilden)
- Daniel Pye (Fourth Form, Vanbrugh)
- Mrs Cowley (Parent)
- Dr Grimwade (Parent)
- Mrs Prince (Staff)
- Mr Henderson (Staff)

National Children's Band

After successfully auditioning for the cornet section of the National Children's Brass Band of Great Britain last year, Matthew Ellacott (Upper First, Feilden) has secured his seat again and been invited back to Repton School to attend a week long residential course during the summer holidays. Last autumn, the band was invited to The Bridgewater Hall, Manchester to perform alongside international musicians at the Art Festival.

Electronic Music Software

The Annual Fund 2012 has been able to support the purchase of some music industry pro-standard software, Complete by Native Instruments. Earlier this term, Aaron Levvy (Fifth Form, Vanbrugh) and Matthew Pickup (Fourth Form, Gascoigne) approached the Headmaster requesting the software, with the promise that they would put it to immediate and excellent use. With the money available in the Annual Fund, it was agreed and within a few days of installing the software the first pieces of music began to appear. Working under the group name of Nyctophobia (Greek for fear of the dark), Aaron and Matthew have very quickly attracted serious attention from record labels and are looking towards the summer when they are expecting to have their works played at music festivals. They have published their work on iTunes and have instantly attracted a growing following of fans via their own Soundcloud-based website. Aaron also performed some of his own compositions made using the software at a Lunchtime Music Recital.

This is an excellent illustration of how money generously donated to the Annual Fund can make a real and immediate difference to Cokethorpe pupils.

The Arts

What To Do With 8 Pence

'When considering what I would do with the sum of 8p, I thought what every boy would think at first – give it to mum, she will know what to do! But then I remembered the assembly in which we were encouraged to be interesting and creative and also imagine the impossible.

I started thinking about what I could do with 8p to make it more sentimentally valuable. So instead I would first break the 8p down into three 2p coins and two 1p coins so I had the amount in five coins. I would then travel around the world for a year, collecting the most memorable things I could to build up a massive picture and collection of my travels. Then taking all the items, I would bury them somewhere on their respective continent in a chest. That chest could only be opened by a specific coin, which I would keep close to me at all times. The five coins would therefore be the five keys. Then, in ten years' time, I would go back to the places I had buried everything and open them up and see the result of my travels. This way the coins would be the most valuable thing in my life, worth more than any amount of money, as they would have the ability to unlock forgotten memories, something everyone has always wanted to do.'

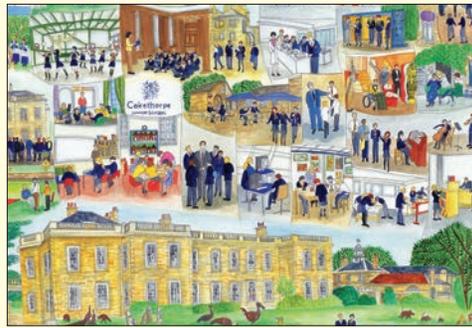
Will Millett (Lower Sixth, Harcourt)

Eight Pence Change

In a recent Headmaster's Assembly, Mr Ettinger recounted an article from *The Times* about a reporter who was shocked at a youth who bought a packet of chewing gum for 42p, and handed back the 8p change he was due. This was illustrating how many young people would rather donate small change to charity or leave it on the counter rather than carry it in their wallets. The Headmaster then asked the pupils what they would do with 8p change. He was very pleased with the response, with 138 pupils, five parents and six members of staff all letting him know what they would do with this small amount of money. Ranging from using 1ps to blind-bake cakes, to creating tap shoes out of 2p pieces, the ideas were creative and inspiring, with some practical and others idealistic!



The winning response, however, was from Will Millett (Lower Sixth, Harcourt) who described how he would use the five coins as keys to open boxes he had hidden across five of the seven continents. Inspired by the idea, the Design and Technology Department created an exhibit of three coins for the Cokethorpe Plinth.



Limited Edition Prints

The School recently commissioned artist Ivel Müller to paint a highly colourful and extremely detailed picture of the School and all the activities that help reflect its spirit. She has really captured the true essence of Cokethorpe and the School is very pleased with the result (a section of which is pictured). Limited edition prints are available to purchase via the School website, where a complete version of the painting is available to view. [↗](#)

Fundraising for Charity

Refuge

Refuge, established in 1971, is a charity providing support for female victims of domestic violence. The charity's main service is to offer a network of 45 safe houses, with 250 spaces, to give emergency accommodation to women and children when they are most in need.

Refuge also provides outreach services for victims in the home, and operates the Freephone 24-Hour National Domestic Violence Helpline in partnership with Women's Aid. In addition, Refuge seeks to raise awareness of domestic violence and lobbies to influence changes in legislation and policy. For more information visit www.refuge.org.uk.

Fashion Show

The shops and designs that were featured in the Charity Fashion Show included:

- Devious
- Sassi
- Harpers
- Domino
- Aspire
- Cokethorpe Textiles Students
- Cokethorpe 1st VII Netball Strip
- Cokethorpe Breakdancer Hoodies

Fashion Show

On Tuesday 27 March Cokethorpe hosted a Charity Fashion Show in aid of Refuge and Helen & Douglas House. Much of the organisation was done by the pupils, who also modelled clothes and accessories provided by local shops. Also featured were some spectacular outfits designed and made by Cokethorpe A Level Textiles students. It was an exciting night of fashion, music and dance, with the generous donations reaching a fantastic £400. The girls and boys looked professional and confident as they strutted down the catwalk for an enthusiastic audience. Special thanks to Sophie Fisher (Upper Sixth, Feilden), no stranger to the catwalk herself, who helped make the show a success. [↗](#)

Marie Curie

Pupils and staff helped raise £407.71 for Marie Curie Cancer Care this term. Feilden pupils held a cake sale, whilst Vanbrugh held a Fifa competition. The sale of daffodil pins also contributed to this fantastic total.





Greenpower Formula 24

Tuesday 27 March saw the nine current members of the Greenpower team travel to the Goodwood race circuit in Sussex to test the amendments and improvements that have been made to their Greenpower go-kart 'Cokethorpe 1' over the last few months.

The team worked tirelessly to ensure the car passed the strict extensive scrutinising process. Once the wheel bearings were tightened and a few more cooling holes were drilled out for the motor, the car was ready to go. A heart-stopping moment in the pits occurred when a cable had become detached from the speed controller, but once fixed by the team, the car left the pits and ventured out onto the large 2.4 mile circuit. After several laps at a steady pace to ensure the temperature of the motor wasn't going to get too high, the car was let out for several more laps at a time with James Jeffs (Upper First, Vanbrugh), James Duffield (Third Form, Queen Anne), Matthew Jobling (Lower First, Swift) and Teyte Skinner (Lower First, Queen Anne) taking turns to don the helmet and take the wheel.

As it was a test day for the regional south central heat, the racing spirit was hard to subdue, but in the end the car managed a respectable 22mph and a lap time of roughly five minutes. The car remained intact and willing for more, coming 21st out of the 27 cars competing – not bad for the car's second time on a track and only being run under test conditions.

Mr Forsey would like to thank Thomas Deabill (Fourth Form, Swift), Sam Glover (Third Form, Queen Anne), George Grime (Fourth Form, Swift), Harry Jobling (Lower First, Swift) and Alexander Jobling (Upper First, Swift) for their efforts on the day. Thanks also go to Mr Johnson for helping in the preparations within the Design and Technology Department and to Mr Brown for giving up his time midweek to join the team and for supplying much of the electrics.

The team are now looking forward to the preliminary regional Greenpower heats later this year, where they intend to improve the performance of the car even more and steadily move higher up the league table.

Sailing

This term has been very productive for the School Sailing Club, who have been visiting the Oxford Sailing Club at Farmoor Reservoir twice weekly. Ms Rose gained her Level 2 Powerboat qualification, which has enabled Mr Baldwin to coach the pupils from inside the dinghies.

Pupils have progressed quickly from Toppers, Picos and Lasers to more challenging trapeze boats with asymmetric spinnakers, such as the Laser Vago. Thomas Deabill (Fourth Form, Swift) even had the opportunity to gain some instructing experience, which he has used for his Duke of Edinburgh's Award Volunteering qualification.

AOB Activities

This term, AOB activities have included:

- Life Drawing
- Enterprise Society
- Sports Academy
- Archery
- Duke of Edinburgh's Award
- Chess League
- Enamelling
- Kitchen Garden
- Meditation
- Philosophy Discussion
- Stocks and Shares
- Coursework Help
- Bananagrams

Breakdancing

Cokethorpe has seen some impressive breakdancing this term, with Sergei Kundik (Third Form, Feilden), Sam Coles (Upper First, Swift) and Ben Tracey (Third Form, Vanbrugh) leading the way under the guidance of Marcus Maurice of dance group Flaw R Tists. As well as performing at the switching-on of the city lights in Oxford, the boys also put on a show for the Junior School during Arts Week, much to the children's delight. There was also a breakdancing competition in The Shed on Wednesday 7 March, in which fifteen dancers performed with their typical energy and enthusiasm, Sergei Kundik claimed the prize, and special mention goes to Jacob Yolland (Fifth Form, Gascoigne), Sam Coles and Rosie Turner (Fifth Form, Feilden) for a spectacular dance-off.

Duke of Edinburgh's Award

So far this year, the Duke of Edinburgh's Award programme has included:

- Four members of staff battling knee-deep snow in the Brecon Beacons to work towards their Walking Group Leader qualifications
- Five Sixth Formers enjoying blazing sunshine in the Brecon Beacons for their Gold Award navigation training
- Fifteen Fifth Formers experiencing some excellent river and woodland walking in the Wye Valley for their Silver Award practice expedition
- Four Sixth Formers heading out in pouring rain and strong winds for their four-day Gold Award practice expedition on Dartmoor

Ski Trip

On Friday 9 December, 40 Cokethorpe pupils travelled to Schladming, Austria for the annual School ski trip. Despite a long coach journey the party arrived in the village of Forstau in good spirits. The hotel looked after the pupils and staff excellently and any fears of poor snow were quickly dispelled. In fact, nine inches fell during the penultimate afternoon. By the end of the week the whole group were advancing with confidence down the difficult runs and those assessed for their GCSE all scored well. A thoroughly enjoyable trip was had by all and the School looks forward to returning next year.



Sailing

'I never really enjoyed sports before I began sailing. I used to dread the thought of going outside on a freezing cold day to play rugby but joining the Sailing Club has changed all this. I had never sailed before, but thanks to the expertise of Mr Baldwin I was out on the water in my own boat within three sessions. Of course with anything new comes mistakes. I have almost sunk a boat, which caused much hilarity amongst my peers. Sailing with Cokethorpe is fantastic fun and even though there are occasional mishaps, it is definitely worth a try.'

George Hooper (Fourth Form, Swift)

1st XI Soccer Results

Chipping Norton School	L	2-4
The Oratory School	D	2-2
Pate's Grammar School	L	3-4
Reading Blue Coat School	D	0-0
Abingdon School	L	1-3
Magdalen College School	W	2-0
The Henry Box School	D	0-0
Burford School	W	2-0
St Edward's, Cheltenham	D	1-1

1st VII Netball Results

Oxford High School	L	9-18
Akeley Wood School	W	16-10
National Schools' Regional Finals		12th
Rye St Antony School	W	15-7
Bloxham School	L	17-27
Tudor Hall School	L	21-24
Headington School	W	25-19
Stowe School	W	14-5
The Henley College	L	9-16

Boys' 1st XI Hockey Results

Warwick School	L	1-5
Shiplake College	W	5-0
Sir Thomas Rich's School	L	1-5
Burford School	W	1-0
Rendcomb College	D	1-1
Sir Thomas Rich's School	L	1-5

Speed Timing Gates

The Physical Education Department purchased an exciting new specialist piece of equipment this term thanks to donations received through the Annual Fund 2012. The Brower Timing Gates are a wireless state-of-the-art system that measures time, speed and repetitions to within one hundredth of a second, and then feeds the data back to a computer for analysis. This equipment will be valuable to all sports and pupils of all ages; GCSE and GCE candidates will particularly benefit from the precision that it brings to their training programmes. Alyce McNaughton (Upper Sixth, Gascoigne) described the system as an 'invaluable tool in helping me stay motivated and in measuring the effects of my training development plan'.

London Get Set Network

As the London Olympics edge closer, Cokethorpe was pleased to be officially welcomed into the official London 2012 education programme, 'Get Set'. The London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games awarded Cokethorpe with a plaque and certificate to acknowledge the School's involvement in the London 2012 education programme. Cokethorpe joins other educational establishments

as members of this special London 2012 community and will receive access to exclusive competitions and 2012 Games-related opportunities.



Individual Achievements

Tae Kwon Do

James Ellacott (Lower Sixth, Feilden) was named Men's Lightweight South West Champion in February, after he represented Cokethorpe in the Tae Kwon Do South West Championships. Fighting in the men's division, James secured his title in the final with a sharp side kick into his opponent's abdomen during extra time.

Rugby

Following his selection for the South West U16 Rugby squad, flanker Jackson Burton (Fifth Form, Feilden) was named as part of the England South U16 team that competed in the Wellington International Festival in April. England South beat Scotland and Canada but lost to Wales. 🏴󠁧󠁢󠁥󠁮󠁧󠁿

Henry Purdy (Upper Sixth, Queen Anne) achieved England honours for a second season when he was selected for the U18 Clubs and Schools squad. As centre for the South West U18 squad, Henry played impressively in their 12-36 defeat against the London and South East squad in the Divisional Festival, securing his England selection. Henry played in his first international of the season on Saturday 14 April, scoring the opening try against Ireland. 🏴󠁧󠁢󠁥󠁮󠁧󠁿



Warwick Shooting Challenge

On Monday 19 March three Cokethorpe teams competed in the Warwick Challenge, a Southern Region shooting event hosted by Warwick School. Out of the 21 teams that entered, the Cokethorpe A team took second place, beating old favourites Millfield, Harrow, Rendcomb, Bromsgrove and Christ's Hospital. The Cokethorpe Bs also came second, whilst in the individuals, Ethan Bosse (Lower Sixth, Vanbrugh) gained Second High Gun, as did Lucia Nettlefold (Upper Sixth, Vanbrugh).



Kayaking

Louis Allen (Lower Sixth, Harcourt) travelled to Belgium in March for the Gent Blaarmeersen Marathon. It was Louis's first international event and he put in a sterling performance, completing the 18km course in 1.28.57, thus placing him second overall and making him the fastest British competitor.

Tennis

In February Evie Phillips (Lower First, Swift) won her first Grade 4 tennis tournament, the points from which put her as joint county number one. Evie has also been selected for the county tennis squad and has been asked to represent The White Horse Tennis Centre in their AEGON team, which has won her the right to compete at South Regional level.

Golf

Amy Gaertner (Upper Sixth, Queen Anne) triumphed at the National Golf Skills Challenge this term, coming top of her age category. 🏴󠁧󠁢󠁥󠁮󠁧󠁿

Archery

Ryan Kendrick (Lower First, Feilden) won this year's U16 Indoor County Championships in March, to become the U16 County Champion, smashing the county record in the process.

Cross County Championships

'On Tuesday 24 January, we took a team to the Oxfordshire Schools' County Championships. Our U15 girls ran strongly, with Elisha Evans (Upper First, Swift) finishing sixth. Erika Davies (Third Form, Queen Anne) also ran fantastically, gaining a place as a reserve for the team. Out of our U17 boys, Luke Watkins (Fourth Form, Swift) made it onto the team by finishing in eighth place, while I managed to finish sixth in the U19 girls' event.'

Amy Brooker (Upper Sixth, Feilden)



Netball

This was an important season for Cokethorpe's netballers as they entered the consolidation phase of their development. The School has seen a dramatic improvement across all ages, linking play through accurate and confident passing. A significant achievement for the 1st VII was being crowned U19 County Champions and earning their place at the National Schools' Regional Finals. The Lower House also continue to impress and there has been an increase in girls joining local clubs, which will no doubt benefit the future of netball at Cokethorpe.



Soccer

The School enjoyed one of its busiest soccer terms ever, with 68 matches played. Of these, exactly half were won, with a further nine drawn. The emphasis was on participation, with an increase in fixtures. The best example of this was against The Oratory where nine senior teams played, including a 4th XI for the first time. Results for the elite teams have been strong (with a win ratio just above 80%) demonstrating the talent Cokethorpe possesses. Both the U13s and U15s won all of their matches and the U15s have progressed through to the County semi-finals, where they will play Cooper School after Easter. There have been many outstanding performers, with boys representing Oxford United in their respective age groups. The 1st XI had a positive, if at times frustrating season, winning three, drawing four, and losing three matches. They saved their best performances for the strongest opposition, such as a 2–0 win against Magdalen College School.



Hockey Report

The boys' 1st XI played some attractive hockey this season; highlights included a 5–0 win against Shiplake College and a 1–1 draw with Rendcomb's 1st XI. Player of the season went to centre-forward William Bennett (Upper Sixth, Feilden), whose pace and quick dribbling was consistently the biggest threat to opposition. Mention should go to Lloyd Cadman (Upper Sixth, Harcourt) who has been an exceptional captain for the past two years, and was top goal scorer again this season with five goals.

Despite hockey not being the main sport for girls this term, Cokethorpe entered two teams into the U13 County Hockey Tournament, both of which got through to their respective semi-finals, while Cokethorpe hosted the U12 County Tournament in March. As reigning champions they hoped to retain their titles. The final placings went down to goal difference and with just a goal in it Cokethorpe had to concede their title. The U12s however, remain undefeated in the 2011–2012 season.

Sports Colours

Full Colours

Soccer	Alexander Cade (Swift)
Netball	Lydia Farrell (Vanbrugh) Sophie Fisher (Feilden) Alyce McNaughton (Gascoigne)
Kayaking	Louis Allen (Harcourt)

Half Colours

Soccer	Jack Biggs (Feilden) Jacob Booty (Swift) Alex Lord (Gascoigne) Edward Parker (Vanbrugh) Jack Wollner (Harcourt)
Netball	Lily Cartwright (Queen Anne) Gabiella Evans (Swift) Stephanie Stanton (Queen Anne)

Players of the Week

Soccer

Cameron Elphick (Third Form, Queen Anne)
Edward Parker (Upper Sixth, Vanbrugh)
Sam Sweet (Upper First, Queen Anne)
Sam Topley (Lower First, Harcourt)
Ryan Oliver (Fourth Form, Swift)
Jack Wollner (Upper Sixth, Harcourt)
Joseph Wilde (Upper First, Harcourt)
George Murrin (Fourth Form, Swift)

Netball

Vanessa Blake (Fourth Form, Gascoigne)
Lily Cartwright (Upper Sixth, Queen Anne)
Louise Tyrer (Fifth Form, Gascoigne)
Connie Manning (Fifth Form, Swift)
Charlotte Bury (Lower First, Vanbrugh)
Lucy Nielsen (Fourth Form, Gascoigne)
Evie Phillips (Lower First, Swift)
Charlotte Mobbs (Fifth Form, Queen Anne)
Alexandra Cross (Third Form, Gascoigne)

Lower House Rugby Feast

On Saturday 4 February a group of 46 boys from Lower House visited Northampton Rugby Club for a tour of the stadium, as well as being allowed inside the changing rooms prior to the Northampton v Wasps match. This gave them the chance to meet the players, including a question and answer session with giant 6'7" England second row Courtenay Lawes. In the afternoon the boys watched an impressive Northampton demolish Wasps, after which many boys collected autographs and had photos taken with several players and then settled to watch England overcome Scotland in the Six Nations.

Cokethorpe Rugby Sevens

In March the School hosted the Cokethorpe Sevens tournament. Over 250 boys from 12 schools took part in the competitions run at U13, U15 and U18 level. Unfortunately, in the face of stiff competition, Cokethorpe was not amongst the trophy winners. In the U13 competition a physically dominant Aylesbury Grammar School took the honours, whilst at U15 Warwick School was crowned champions. In an exciting senior competition, last year's champions, Warwick School took the title again.

Junior School

Lent Term Prize Winners

00RT	Lottie Sales (Symonds)
01RO	Reece Waltho (Gwyn)
02LO	Olivia Reece (Gwyn)
03JD	Isabella Smith (Symonds)
04MM	Chisengo Lukama (Gwyn)
04ND	Freddie Quartley (Lockwood)
05BG	Frankie Brown (Baker)
05HL	Ben Wannell (Baker)
06CC	May Manning (Symonds)
06MO	Louisa Flaherty (Gwyn)

The Fossil Man

Below are some quotes from the Junior School children following the visit from 'The Fossil Man'.

'My favourite bit was when he showed us the insects in the amber with a detective light. Overall, it was 'fossilastic'!

Tilly Hurford-Jones (Year 3, Baker)

'I found it really interesting learning about extinct animals – they were fascinating.'

Tom Orton (Year 3, Gwyn)

'The hands-on fossil experience was really fun, and I learnt a lot. I really enjoyed learning about how fossils are formed and how amber was created millions of years ago by tree sap.'

Hannah Berry (Year 6, Gwyn)

'It was great that it was a hands-on workshop instead of just sitting and listening.'

Hollie Kenworthy (Year 6, Gwyn)

Buried Treasure

'Oscar and I were making an arena scene out of soil at playtime. When we were digging, we found a medal and a chain. It was wrapped around a root of a tree. We looked at it closely and it was a swimming medal from the Royal Life Saving Society. It had 'I Turner, July 1960' engraved on it. We would like to return it to its original owner. Was I Turner a child who went to school here in 1960? Or perhaps it belonged to a visitor. We think it has been on the ground for a long time as it was very dirty. Part of the chain is missing so we are still looking for that. If you know who I Turner is then please contact the Foundation Office.'

Cole Skinner (Year 4, Baker) and Oscar Craik (Year 6, Lockwood)



Science Demonstration

On Wednesday 14 March, Year 6 children took part in a cryogenics demonstration, given by Nigel Parker (OC 1978, Queen Anne), as part of the Oxfordshire Science Festival. They learnt that at very low temperatures, many strange and fascinating changes occur in matter, and avidly watched the weird and wonderful experiments shown to them. They even enjoyed a cold 'crispy' marshmallow, dipped in liquid nitrogen and an ice-pop.



Year 1 Victorian Toy Workshop

On Wednesday 22 February Year 1 went to the Oxfordshire Museum in Woodstock for an eagerly anticipated 'Time to Play' workshop based on toys from the past. The children listened to a talk about some of the differences between modern toys and those of the Victorian era, and were keen to look at the exhibits in the museum afterwards. The doll's house and Penny Farthing bicycle were particular favourites. They also had the opportunity to play with a range of replica toys, including a cup and ball, whip and top, Jacob's ladder, yo-yos and masks. The children had great fun and enjoyed trying to master some of the more unfamiliar toys. ☒



Year 3 Viking Invasion

On Wednesday 11 January, Thoralf the Viking came to talk to the Year 3 children about the Viking way of life, which they have been studying in their History lessons. The children immediately became engrossed as he told them exciting stories and adventures about these historic Nordic invaders. They were shown a wide range of authentic objects such as armour, weapons, musical instruments, real furs and a quern with which to grind corn. The experience really enhanced each child's learning about this period in time. He even demonstrated the use of the sword by chopping a swede in two and also fired arrows across the Corinthian Room! ☒



Visit from The Fossil Man

On Wednesday 7 March the Junior School received a special visit from Mr Jules Howard, also known as 'The Fossil Man'. Mr Howard, a wildlife conservationist, writer and fossil expert, brought his unique hands-on experience 'Discover Fossils', as part of the Annual Fund 2012. The interactive workshop gave the children the opportunity to see, hold and investigate fossilised remains, using a range of equipment and resources to learn all about the mysteries of ancient Earth. As well as getting up close and personal with the teeth and bones of extinct crocodiles, sharks and dinosaurs, the children searched through collections of rocks and identified the fossils hidden amongst them. A highlight of the session was examining tree amber brought all the way from Madagascar and finding their very own fossilised invertebrates; as most of these pieces had never been examined before, the children may well have discovered some specimens for the very first time! The children's enthusiasm and comments illustrate that the day's activities had inspired their curiosity about the prehistoric world. The School would like to thank all those who generously donated to the Annual Fund 2012 for making this wonderful learning experience possible. ☒



Le Festival Français

On Friday 10 February, 12 Year 6 children took part in 'Le Festival Français' at Chandlings School. Eight schools performed sketches and songs in French. The Cokethorpe children performed their version of the fable *The Fox and the Crow* and three poems. It was wonderful to see so many children confidently performing in French. The children enjoyed watching the other schools as well as the generous supply of *pain au chocolat*.

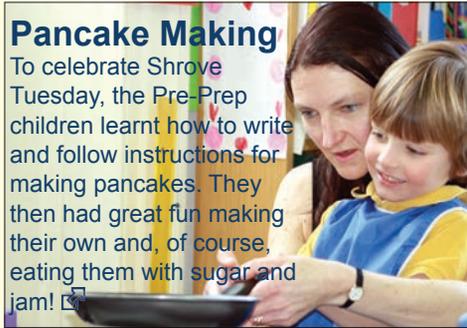
Year 4 Corinium Museum Trip

On Wednesday 29 February, the Year 4 children and their teachers and helpers visited the Corinium Museum at Cirencester. This exciting trip afforded them the hands-on experience of dressing in Roman-style clothes, playing Roman games and the chance to discover new facts about Roman foods and cooking. The visit also gave the children the opportunity to view and touch beautiful Roman mosaics and to see many other interesting artefacts. When the children returned to Cokethorpe, it was clear from their follow-up work in History lessons that they had learnt many fascinating facts from the visit.



Pancake Making

To celebrate Shrove Tuesday, the Pre-Prep children learnt how to write and follow instructions for making pancakes. They then had great fun making their own and, of course, eating them with sugar and jam! ☺



Year 6 Junior Citizen Scheme

On Thursday 2 February Year 6 children visited the Junior Citizen workshops at Rewley Road Fire Station in Oxford. They were introduced to a variety of scenarios aimed at teaching and identifying dangers. These included water and fire safety, road and railway safety, calling emergency services, internet safety, cyber bullying and first aid. The children worked interactively with members of the emergency services and took a great deal from the morning's activities. They gave fantastic feedback and showed tremendous interest in this programme, which will now be introduced to the Year 6 curriculum as an annual event.



Arts Week

In March the Junior School held Arts Week: an event showcasing the range of creative arts, such as poetry, literature, art, dance and music, which make up a large part of the Junior School curriculum. The focus this year was on 'Take One Picture': an initiative set up by The National Gallery in London to encourage the use of one of their great works of art for imaginative cross-curricular study in the classroom. This year's picture was *Still Life with Drinking-Horn* by the Dutch artist Willem Kalf. All of the year groups embraced the idea and used it as inspiration for their work throughout the week. In addition to classroom-based activities, there were also performances in ballet, tap and modern dance, as well as a special street dance performance by the Senior School Breakdancing Group. The week also focused on instruments and music; Music Scholar James Ellacott (Lower Sixth, Feilden) held brass workshops for the children, while informal instrumental performances were given by the Chamber Choir and Junior School Orchestra. The week culminated with the children dressing up as their favourite literary figures for Book Character Day. ☺



Book Characters

The Junior School children dressed up as the following book characters:

Mary Poppins
Tinker Bell
Angelina Ballerina
Wicked Queen
Farmer Boggis
Captain Hook
Cat in the Hat
Woody the Cowboy
Princess Jasmine
Harry Potter
Robin Hood
Hermione Granger
King Richard
Dumbledore
Rapunzel
Little Red Riding Hood
Dorothy
Sleeping Beauty
Indiana Jones
Cinderella
A Knight
A Tiger
The Gruffalo
Rupert the Bear
Wally from *Where's Wally?*
The White Rabbit
Oliver Twist
The Mad Hatter
The Captain from *Titanic*
A Witch
A Pirate
Mr Gum
Deadly 60 Guy
Alice
A Smurfette
Super Soccer Boy
Skulduggery Pleasant
Lord Voldemort
The Karate Kid
The Very Busy Spider
Mad Eye Moody
Plop
Greg Heffley
Hiccup the Viking
Charlie Bucket
Gladiator
Captain Rex
Tigger
The Cat from *The Worst Witch*
Casper the Friendly Ghost
The Little Witch
Elizabeth, the Naughtiest Girl in School
Dennis the Menace
Heidi

Arts Week

Some of the classroom based activities based around the painting included:

- Pre-Prep wrote poems inspired by *Commotion in the Ocean* and invented 'Under the Sea' menus. They also created a 3D clay fish
- Year 3 wrote a story about the lobster who was afraid of the sea in Creative Writing. They did pastel drawings of fruits and underwater 3D scenes and also played a memory game of 'what was in the picture'?
- Year 4 visited Aston Pottery and stencilled plates using a sea life theme. They created Kenning poems about some of the items in the painting and also used the painting as a setting for a story in English

Junior School

Easter Raffle

A grand total of £70 was achieved for the annual Easter Raffle. Thank you to Mrs Daphne Smith, who provided the basket of knitted teddies and the chocolate goodies that were used as the prizes. The money raised will be presented to The Nasio Trust. Thank you to those who supported this raffle. The winners were as follows:

- 1st: Freddie Quartley (Year 4, Lockwood)
- 2nd: Annabel Page (Year 4, Baker)
- 3rd: Gabriel Emerson (Year 4, Lockwood)

Witney Talking News

Witney Talking News provides a weekly tape of local news and events for the visually impaired in the area. The main stories are taken from the *Witney Gazette*, but items are also featured from the *Faringdon Folly* and *The Oxford Times*. Visit www.wospweb.com/site/Witney-Talking-News for more information.

Dogs for the Disabled

Dogs for the Disabled is a charity creating exceptional partnerships between people living with disability and specially-trained assistance dogs. To find out more visit www.dogsforthedisabled.org.

REACT

REACT – Rapid Effective Assistance for Children with Potentially Terminal illness is a charity working to improve the quality of life for children with life-limiting illnesses living in financially disadvantaged households throughout the UK. To find out more visit www.reactcharity.org.

Sponsored Walks

2010	The Footsteps Walk	740km
2011	The Sunshine Walk	803km
2012	The Newshound Walk	891.5km

Inter-House Netball

It was a lovely afternoon and there was a great display of netball from all the Junior School girls.

- 1st: Gwyn (on goal difference)
- 2nd: Symonds
- 3rd: Lockwood
- 4th: Baker

Inter-House Soccer

The four Junior School houses participated in a round robin competition, with Gwyn and Lockwood making it through to the final. Baker and Symonds were evenly matched and in a closely fought 3rd/4th place play-off, which Symonds won 3–1. The final was extremely close and only a last-minute winner by Gwyn secured a 2–1 victory. The afternoon was a fitting end to the soccer season.

- 1st: Gwyn
- 2nd: Lockwood
- 3rd: Symonds
- 4th: Baker

Sponsored Walk

The Junior School Sponsored Walk took place on a bracing cold Thursday afternoon, with the Headmaster setting the walkers on their way from outside the Mansion House. All of the children, from the Reception Class to those in Year 6, along with their teachers, joined in with this fundraising challenge for charity. It was great fun and everyone enjoyed the spirit of the occasion, offsetting the bleak grey skies with their colourful hats, wellies and scarves. Following a slightly faster pace were the members of the Cross Country Club, who used the occasion as a training session in preparation for future competitions.

The route followed a circuit of three kilometres around the School grounds, with each child collecting a sticker at the half kilometre checkpoints. Between them, the children earned an amazing total of 1,783 stickers and covered a distance of 891.5 kilometres.

Over £3,620 has been collected through sponsorship and in March cheques were presented to the Junior School's two charities, the Witney Talking News and Dogs for the Disabled, in assembly.



REACT

On Friday 6 January the Junior School welcomed Mr Phil Cox from the charity REACT to give a talk in assembly about the refugee children in Darfur who have had to flee their homes. Mr Cox was then presented with a cheque for £643.59, which the charity will use to purchase text books. This money was raised during the Harvest Appeal, for which Cokethorpe children recycled containers such as yoghurt pots and filled them with coins. ☑

Inter-House Cross Country

On Thursday 1 March the entire Junior School took part in the Inter-House Cross Country event. There was a variety of distances for the different age groups, with many of the Year 5 and 6 children completing two circuits of the course. There were many excellent performances, with girls and boys surpassing their expectations. Lockwood House was the eventual winner, with Alexander Wilde (Year 6, Lockwood) receiving the trophy on its behalf.



Netball

The Junior School girls enjoyed a long but productive term of netball. Despite the freezing temperatures at times, they have shown true grit and determination in their quest to improve. The girls have played some incredibly tough fixtures, the results of which do not necessarily reflect their performances on the court. They have worked hard at developing their essential netball skills of throwing, moving and catching and it has been very rewarding to see just how much the girls have improved.



Soccer

It was a largely successful soccer season in the Junior School, particularly at U11 level where the A team went the entire season undefeated. The boys won all their matches apart from a 2–2 draw with a strong St Edward's School, Cheltenham. All the players performed to a high standard, but stand-out performances came from Alex Wheeler (Year 5, Gwyn), Jacob Short (Year 6, Gwyn) and from the captain Alexander Wilde (Year 6, Lockwood). The U9s saw mixed results but each game was well played.



Cross Country

On Monday 27 February teams from Cokethorpe Junior School joined 15 other schools from across Oxfordshire to compete in a cross country event for U8s to U11s at Chandlings School. Cokethorpe entered two girls' and three boys' teams. The teams acquitted themselves well, and there were also good individual performances from Tom Orton (Year 3, Gwyn), Jossy Brown (Year 3, Symonds), and Alexander Wilde (Year 6, Lockwood) who all finished in the top ten of their age groups. The entire Junior School cross country squad should also be commended for their enthusiasm and effort in their weekly practice sessions this year.



Hockey

Proudly sporting their new title of Oxfordshire County Champions, the Cokethorpe U11s travelled to Woking to compete in the Regional U11 In2Hockey Finals in March. The girls were up against the best prep schools from across the South of England and knew that the competition would be tough. On arrival, the team were thrown straight into the deep end against National IAPS Champions, Danes Hill School. Cokethorpe defended well and created a couple of chances but were unable to keep the attackers at bay, and the game finished a respectable 3–0. Undeterred the girls went straight back on to the pitch to defeat Ardingly College with an impressive display of hockey. They drew 1–1 against Milton Keynes, Hampshire Collegiate Prep and The Highfield School in games that could have gone either way, and also played well against Hornsby House Prep School, winning 2–0. Overall Cokethorpe finished seventh in a pool of 14 schools, which for their first experience of hockey at this level, and against some very large schools, was an exceptional performance. 🏆

Netball Results

<i>U11 As</i>	
Hatherop Castle School	L 11–13
Chandlings School	L 4–10
Cheam School	L 5–14
Akeley Wood Junior School	L 3–12

<i>U11 Bs</i>	
Cheam School	L 3–15

<i>U10s</i>	
Hatherop Castle School	W 7–3
Cheam School	L 3–6
Akeley Wood Junior School	D 5–5
Chandlings School	L 2–6

<i>U9s</i>	
Cheam School	L 0–12
Chandlings School	L 2–4
Akeley Wood Junior School	L 2–4
The Manor Prep School	D 4–4

Soccer Results

<i>U11 As</i>	
New College School	W 8–3
St Edward's, Cheltenham	W 4–1
New College School	W 3–0
Abingdon Prep School	W 9–0
St Edward's, Cheltenham	D 2–2
Akeley Wood School	W 6–0

<i>U11 Bs</i>	
New College School	W 3–0
St Edward's, Cheltenham	L 0–1
Abingdon Prep School	D 1–1
St Edward's School	W 2–0
Akeley Wood School	W 8–2

<i>U11 Cs</i>	
New College School	W 2–0

<i>U9 As</i>	
New College School	L 1–2
St Edward's, Cheltenham	L 0–2
New College School	D 2–2
Abingdon Prep School	L 0–7
St Edward's, Cheltenham	W 4–3

<i>U9 Bs</i>	
New College School	W 2–0
St Edward's, Cheltenham	L 0–10
New College School	L 1–2
Abingdon Prep School	L 0–7
St Edward's, Cheltenham	W 5–0

Hockey Results

Oxfordshire County Tournament

Our Lady's Abingdon	W 5–0
The Manor As	W 4–1
The Manor Bs	W 4–0
The Manor As (Final)	W 5–1
Overall Result:	First

South Regional In2Hockey Tournament

Danes Hill School	L 3–0
Ardingly College Prep	W 1–0
Milton Keynes Prep	D 1–1
Hampshire Collegiate Prep	D 1–1
The Highfield School	D 1–1
Hornsby House Prep	W 2–0
Overall Result:	Seventh

The Houses

Lower House Heroes

Below are this term's Lower House Heroes, nominated by tutors for a range of reasons such as working particularly hard in tutor group activities, the School play, sports matches, during fundraising events or for general positive attitudes, commitment and helpfulness.

First Half of Term

William Kent	L1 Feilden
Rosie Hunt	L1 Harcourt
Sam Topley	L1 Harcourt
Alexander Reid	L1 Queen Anne
Hannah Deabill	L1 Swift
Josh Tracey	L1 Vanbrugh
David Owen	U1 Feilden
George Hudson	U1 Gascoigne
Luke Unwin	U1 Harcourt
Emily James	U1 Queen Anne
Alistair Grime	U1 Swift
James Jeffs	U1 Vanbrugh

Second Half of Term

Samara Clark	L1 Feilden
Sam Biles	L1 Gascoigne
Louisa Mattinson	L1 Harcourt
Sofia Ward-Naranjo	L1 Queen Anne
Tom Cowley	L1 Swift
Maisie Coolman	L1 Vanbrugh
Michael Hook	U1 Feilden
Joe Whittington	U1 Gascoigne
Freya Rowe	U1 Harcourt
Eloise Fraser-Paterson	U1 Queen Anne
Tom Smith	U1 Swift
Jessica Williams	U1 Vanbrugh

Monologue Performers

William Lewis	Upper Sixth Feilden
Jacob Booty	Upper Sixth Swift
Saskia Kovandzich	Fifth Form Harcourt
Sydney Bennett-Miller	Upper First Gascoigne
Ella Ashdown	Upper Sixth Vanbrugh
Myles Osborn-Banton	Upper Sixth Queen Anne

Illyria Productions

The three guest judges for the Inter-House Drama Competition were Aidan Grounds, Jessica Norman and Lloyd Houston of Illyria Productions, an inspiring and innovative theatre company from Oxford University. According to their website, Illyria Productions 'aim to produce high quality pieces of theatre by working with the most talented directors, actors, designers, marketing and backstage teams at Oxford University. All twelve of Illyria's productions have received extremely positive reviews as well as covering costs and returning a good profit on every occasion.'

The School would like to thank Aidan, Jessica and Lloyd for taking the time to act as judges for the competition; their presence certainly lent a professional air to proceedings!

Inter-House Drama

This year the Inter-House Drama Competition saw the introduction of a Monologue category, in which one pupil from each House performed a published monologue of their choice. As Mrs Hooper pointed out, 'no-one should underestimate what tremendous courage it takes to perform in front of the whole School' and the six pupils certainly rose to the challenge as the standard demonstrated in this category was extremely high.

For the Ensemble category, pupils were given the task to write, direct and perform their own original seven-minute piece using Government Public Information Films as the stimulus. All Houses were truly excellent in their delivery and demonstrated great teamwork, acting talent, creative writing skills and expert comic timing. Harcourt gave some useful tips on *What to do in a Zombie Attack*, while Gascoigne provided some invaluable information for parents on *How to Embarrass Your Children*. Vanbrugh guided the public through some practical advice on *How to Survive the End of the World*, while Swift taught the audience *How to Avoid Death*. Audience favourites were Queen Anne's *Why You Should Always Use the Stairs* which demonstrated the pitfalls of using the lift, and Feilden brought the house down with their 1950s take on *How to be a Good Husband and Father*.

The three guest judges thoroughly enjoyed their day and were extremely impressed with the quality of the performances, which showed in the high marks that every House received. The winner of the Outstanding Individual Contribution award was Zac Bamford (Lower Sixth) of Feilden House for his exceptional performance; he was also responsible for writing the script, which led Feilden to victory as the overall winning House. 🏆



Lower House Swimming Trip

In February, Lower House pupils boarded two coaches and a minibus and were whisked away to the Oasis Leisure Centre in Swindon, the destination for their annual Lent Term trip. All were ready to take on the challenges of the new 'Storm' slide, the wave machine and the water cannon.

The accompanying staff and Sixth Form students also enjoyed the tropical climate, which offered welcome respite from the chill of an early February evening. 🏊‍♀️

Inter-House Public Speaking

House teams flexed their intellectual muscles in the Inter-House Public Speaking Competition run by the English Department on Open Day. Topics were diverse and ranged from whether women's sport deserved equal television coverage, to whether torturing suspected terrorists should be allowed.

Despite some excellent individual performances from younger participants, an all Sixth Form team emerged triumphant. Isaac Staff (Lower Sixth, Gascoigne) and Alex Lord (Upper Sixth, Gascoigne) won over the judges with their calm yet considered discussion of the future of British society and the benefits and drawbacks of technology.

Gascoigne's victory sees the House claim the School Public Speaking Cup for the second year running. The event suggests a bright future for public speaking at Cokethorpe, with a wealth of young talent on show. 📺



Inter-House Soccer

In March, the Lower House teams competed for the Inter-House Soccer cup. Although the weather was typically chilly, the sun stayed out for the entire afternoon, allowing the teams to participate in some very enthusiastic and fast-paced games. The standard of play was consistently good, and the final results reflect the closeness of this term's competition; Feilden and Harcourt even managed to secure the same number of points in a draw for fourth place. Vanbrugh eventually secured first place to become winners of this term's Inter-House Soccer.



Inter-House Netball

A welcomed bout of beautiful hot and sunny weather provided superb conditions for this term's Inter-House netball tournaments, which were held over two afternoons. All teams took to the court with determination and confidence and the overall standard was impressive. Harcourt dominated the Lower House competition and Queen Anne took victory in the senior competition. Once the points were combined it was Queen Anne that were crowned the overall champions.



Most Recommendations

Lower First: Sofia Ward-Naranjo (Queen Anne)
 Upper First: William Matthews (Vanbrugh)
 Third Form: James Bennett (Swift)
 Fourth Form: Harry Lovibond (Queen Anne)
 Fifth Form: Alexander Owen (Feilden)
 Lower Sixth: Louis Allen (Harcourt)
 Upper Sixth: Samuel O'Brien (Swift)
 Overall Winner: Sofia Ward-Naranjo
 House Winner: Queen Anne

Inter-House Drama

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

The Outstanding Individual Contribution Award was presented to Zac Bamford (Lower Sixth, Feilden).

Inter-House Netball

Lower House Competition

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

Senior Competition

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

Overall

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

Inter-House Soccer

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

Ashes Cup Winners

The Ashes Cup is presented on a fortnightly basis to the Lower House tutor group that wins the most points for the number of recommendations (+2 points) and referrals (-1 point) they receive. This term the winning tutor groups (and the date awarded) were:

Upper First Gascoigne (6 January)
 Upper First Vanbrugh (20 January)
 Upper First Gascoigne (3 February)
 Lower First Vanbrugh (24 February)
 Lower First Gascoigne (9 March)
 Upper First Harcourt (23 March)

Cokethorpe Parents' Association

Future CPA Events

Coffee Mornings

Every Tuesday of the Summer Term
8.30am – 9.15am
Coffee Shop

New and existing parents are invited to socialise over hot refreshments during the Summer Term, commencing Tuesday 24 April.

CPA Right Royal Olympic-Sized Centre Court Fête

Sunday 24 June 2012
12.00 noon – 4.00pm
Entry: £1.00 per person

Wimbledon, the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, the London Olympics – there's lots to celebrate about being British this summer. This will be a fun family day with numerous quintessentially British stands and stalls including creams teas, Pimm's and face painting. Children will be kept entertained by bouncy castles, entertainers and a fancy dress parade to determine the best-dressed boys and girls. There will also be music and games, including pantomime horse racing and tug of war.

This event is open to Cokethorpe pupils, parents, families, friends and members of the wider community.

For more information, or if you would like to volunteer to run a stall, please email the Box Office or call 01993 892338.

CPA Committee

Chairman: Catherine Christensen
Vice Chairman: Martin Kendrick
Secretary: Adi Hughes
Treasurer: Flynn Reid

Damian Ettinger
Victor Faria
Kirsteen Fellows
Julie Grime
Simon Hooper
Sara Knox
Nigel Murrin
Sarah Plumridge
Clare Priestley-Smith

The CPA Committee, composed of current parents/guardians and staff, meet approximately once a month, at 8.00pm in the Corinthian Room. The committee is always keen to welcome new members and if you are interested in joining please get in touch. There are many people who prefer not to join a committee but are very willing to volunteer their help at specific events. A list of such 'helpers' is kept and the committee is always grateful to hear from anyone willing to join it.

Snake Davis

Snake Davis is a saxophonist who has played with some of the world's biggest artists. In the 1980s he fronted York band Zoot and the Roots.

Quiz Night

Eight teams, consisting of parents, current and former staff, former pupils and friends, battled it out to be the 2012 Cokethorpe Parents' Association quiz champions in March. Teams pitched their general knowledge against each other, with delicious fish and chips served during the break to keep everyone fuelled for the remainder of the quiz.

The scores were very close with only two points between the top three teams. However, it was the team 'Hugh's Who', made up of Mr and Mrs Hughes, Victoria Hughes (OC 2011, Vanbrugh), Matt Lockhead, and Mr and Mrs Hutchings, that went home victorious with the trophy.

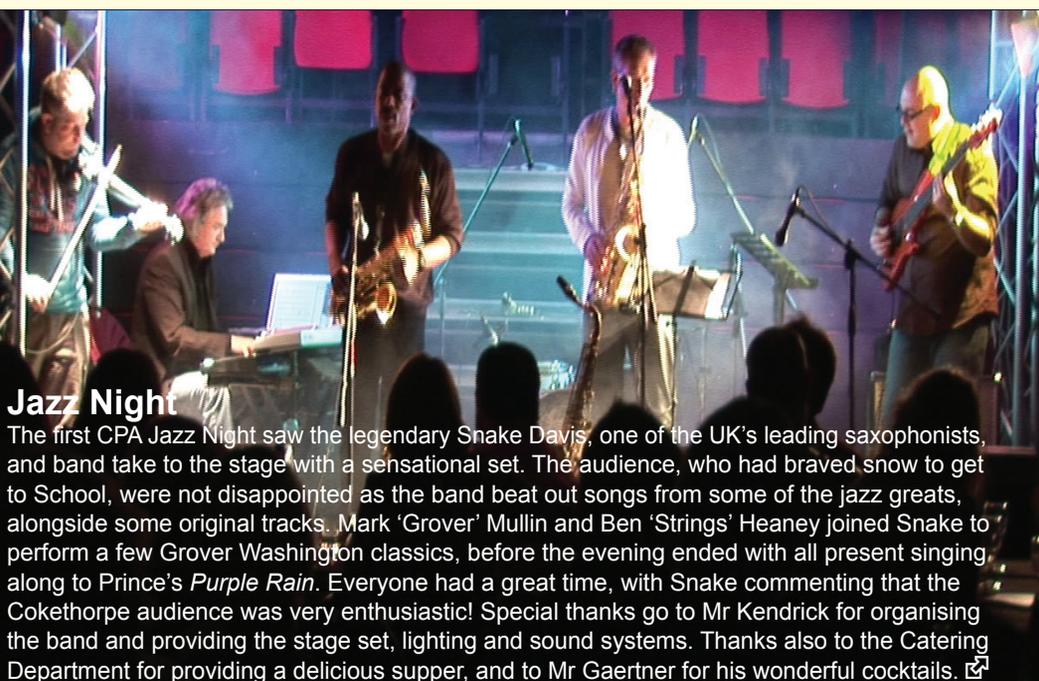
The CPA would like to thank Mr Murrin for his help with the questions, and give special thanks to the external quiz master Mr Bob Washbourne. ☞



Burns Night Supper

On Friday 20 February, the Cokethorpe Parents' Association came together to enjoy a Burns Night Supper. The Dining Hall was transformed into a beautiful setting for dinner, adorned with thistles and red roses to honour Robert Burns's poem *A Red, Red Rose*.

Guests arrived to the sound of the bagpipes and then, after the Selkirk Grace, Mr Bradford paraded the haggis, led by the piper. Mr Logue then gave a very powerful rendition of *Address to a Haggis*. This was followed by a delicious feast of the haggis to start, a mixed game casserole, and cranachan to finish, for which the CPA would like to thank the Catering Department. After dinner there were two toasts: the first a Toast to the Lassies, given by Mr Knox, and the second a Reply from the Lassies by Mrs Hughes. The guests then filled the floor and enjoyed dancing to traditional Scottish music for the rest of the evening. ☞



Jazz Night

The first CPA Jazz Night saw the legendary Snake Davis, one of the UK's leading saxophonists, and band take to the stage with a sensational set. The audience, who had braved snow to get to School, were not disappointed as the band beat out songs from some of the jazz greats, alongside some original tracks. Mark 'Grover' Mullin and Ben 'Strings' Heaney joined Snake to perform a few Grover Washington classics, before the evening ended with all present singing along to Prince's *Purple Rain*. Everyone had a great time, with Snake commenting that the Cokethorpe audience was very enthusiastic! Special thanks go to Mr Kendrick for organising the band and providing the stage set, lighting and sound systems. Thanks also to the Catering Department for providing a delicious supper, and to Mr Gaertner for his wonderful cocktails. ☞

Oxfordshire Science Festival

Over two hundred people attended an Oxfordshire Science Festival 2012 event at Cokethorpe School on Sunday 25 March. Members of the public enjoyed launching rockets, building robots to play football, assembling smart robots that could find their way out of a maze and making machines to shoot ping pong balls. Two large trebuchets, built by Cokethorpe pupils and the Engineering Apprentices from the Culham Centre for Fusion Energy, competed to hurl water balloons through the air. Another challenge accepted by many visitors, including Beavers and Sea Scouts, was to build mini trebuchets and catapults. Dr Flaherty, Head of Science, said 'I hope this

will inspire more young people to persevere with Science and Mathematics, as these can lead to so many exciting jobs which are vital to the UK's future prosperity.'



Lent Term Open Morning

This term's Open Morning took place on Saturday 25 February on an unseasonably warm day. Almost twice as many families as would normally visit a February Open Morning took advantage of the weather to enjoy their visit to Cokethorpe. The atmosphere was as usual made all the sunnier by the friendly welcome visitors received from the School's staff, pupils and current parents. The School looked beautiful and there was some very positive feedback.

Lower First Entrance

Following rigorous entry tests and interviews during January, children from the Cokethorpe Junior School and a range of other primary and local independent schools will join the School in September. This is a very exciting time for families as their children reach the end of Year 6 and begin the next chapter of their lives as Cokethorpe Senior School pupils in September. But first, they will be looking forward to their Transfer Day on Tuesday 26 June.



Witney Dramatic Society

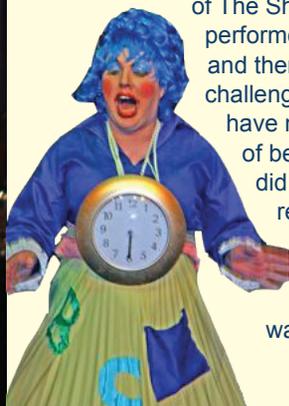
'Witney Dramatic Society faced our own special drama when the Corn Exchange, the theatre where we have been performing for 65 years, was closed suddenly just a few weeks before we were due to perform our 2012 pantomime *Babes in the Wood*. Were we downhearted? Well, to be honest, yes, but we were determined to go on with the show. And just in the nick of time, our saviour, Cokethorpe School, offered the use

of The Shed. The panto was performed later in the year, and there were many logistical challenges that the Society have never had to think of before, but the show did go on, and it was a resounding success. Everyone loved it, cast, crew and audience – and we want to thank everyone

involved, including Mr Daniels, Mrs Mace, Mr Galvin, Nathan Black (Lower First, Harcourt), the Maintenance crew, Pauline the cleaner and anyone else who helped. We really couldn't have done it without you (truly, oh no we couldn't!).'

Songscope

Songscope, a new theatrical and singing group in Witney catering for those aged eight to 14, held its first concert in The Shed on Saturday 17 December. The choir was started in September to help children learn to sing, grow in confidence and make friends. Cokethorpe offered them use of its facilities following the closure of the Corn Exchange in Witney. The audience of 140 enjoyed a range of entertaining and lively songs, instrumental solos and also the opportunity to join in with the singing themselves. Songscope's Summer Concert will be on Saturday 30 June 2012.



Sports

The School supports one major club from each sport in the local area.

During the Summer Term Cokethorpe acts as one of the Downs Cricket Club's home grounds for 3rd XI league games, of which they have approximately nine a year. This is an excellent symbiotic relationship, as Cokethorpe occasionally uses the Downs Club for overspill when the School has a large number of cricket fixtures.

Cokethorpe will also be the focus for the U12 Boys' County Cricket and the U13 Girls' County Cricket teams.

The School also heavily supports Wychwood Hockey Club, and it is also the venue for the National Hockey Festival, which includes teams from all over the UK. Over 1,000 visitors are expected on 14 and 15 April.

More recently Cokethorpe has started to support Ducklington Football Club by offering facilities for some of their league fixtures. It is hoped that this relationship will continue next football season.

Cokethorpe has also supported the Witney Rugby Club U9 players, who have used the School's pitches at weekends.

Sea Scouts

Beavers, Cubs and Sea Scouts from the 1st Standlake & Cokethorpe Sea Scout Group, use the School every week under the excellent guidance of Sara Staples (current parent). They use the Sports Hall and the Corinthian Room as well as the grounds for treasure hunts and their annual camp.

Previous Schools

Current pupils in the Lower House joined Cokethorpe from the following independent schools, as well as 51 different local primary schools:

- Abingdon Preparatory School
- Ashfold School
- Beachborough School
- Chandlings School
- Ferndale Preparatory School
- Headington Preparatory School
- Kitebrook House
- Magdalen College Junior School
- Pinewood School
- Rendcomb College Junior School
- St Hugh's Preparatory School
- Summer Fields Preparatory School
- The European School, Culham
- The Manor Preparatory School

Open Events

The School's next open events will be on the evening of Wednesday 9 May and the morning of Saturday 6 October.

Parents, friends and family are, as always, very welcome to come in to see pupils' work and achievements.

From the Archives

Turning Back the Pages

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

10 Years Ago (2002)

A party of geographers from Years 8 to 11 visited Iceland for a five day field trip. It was the first time that Cokethorpe pupils had visited Iceland which is situated directly on top of an active tectonic plate boundary.

15 Years Ago (1997)

During the summer holidays the damage to the Chapel from the arson attack was repaired. As the bells were damaged irreparably three new bells were cast.

20 Years Ago (1992)

Pupils and staff raised £1,000, which was presented to the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association. The Cokethorpe guide dog is called Esther.

25 Years Ago (1987)

The Rt Hon Lord Wilson of Rievaulx gave the 'Early Lecture'. In thanking him the Headmaster said 'I never thought I would see the day when in this Corinthian Room I would hear Harold Wilson giving such a brilliant imitation of Winston Churchill!'

30 Years Ago (1982)

The new Common Room Block was opened at the beginning of the Summer Term. The top floor of the Round House was converted into an Art Room and a new Science Terrapin housing Biology and Chemistry was opened.

35 Years Ago (1977)

The Treasure Hunting Club had a very successful year. Finds included Roman coins, old pennies and a medieval pendant. The club was asked by the Police to help recover a lady's lost gold ring and after twenty minutes of searching they were successful.

40 Years Ago (1972)

The cricket team, known as the 'Cokethorpe Nomads' and composed of members of the First XI, two masters and an old boy, toured the Midlands for the first time.

45 Years Ago (1967)

The School was placed on the list of schools 'recognised as efficient by The Department of Education and Science' after a visit from HMIS in the Summer Term.

50 Years Ago (1962)

The first issue of *The Peacock* magazine was published. It ran for 27 years. The first edition announced the formation of The Cokethorpe Society.

OC Exhibition Visitors

John Farr (OC 1961, Swift)
Mark Girling (OC 1977, Harcourt)
Carolyn Williams (Former Staff)
Martin Lockwood (OC 1959)
Philip Vaughan-Fowler (OC 1976, Harcourt)
Hugh Talmage (OC 1954)
William Cotter (OC 1962, Queen Anne)



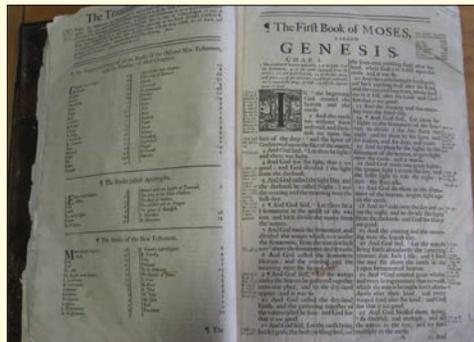
Then and Now

The two photographs above depict the Cokethorpe site in November 1956 and June 2010, showing the extensive building development over 50 years.

Archive Exhibition

To coincide with Open Morning in February, an exhibition of photographs and memorabilia from the Cokethorpe Archive was displayed in the Dining Hall. Visitors included members of the Ducklington History Society and Old Cokethorpeans who were pleased to see their younger selves in the old photos and to find their names in the Rugby Fixtures book that was on display. Also on display was the Cokethorpe Bible, which has recently been repaired. The restorer is of the opinion that the binding is older than the Bible itself which is Victorian. The binding is believed to date from the Sixteenth Century and was added to the

Victorian Bible sometime in the Nineteenth Century. Could this be an example of the earliest form of recycling? The School was delighted to welcome Hugh Talmage back to Cokethorpe on Open Day. It had been 59 years since Hugh had returned to the School, since attending the 'First' Cokethorpe, which was on the site from 1952–1954. He had a wealth of information about the Mansion House and kindly donated his old school cap (pictured in the 2011 Michaelmas Term edition of *The Ocellus*). This was the first exhibition that the School has held, and it is hoped that the amount of material will continue to grow in years to come. ☞



Donations

Thank you to Martin Lockwood (OC 1959), who kindly donated two books written by Doctor Francis Brown, the founder of Cokethorpe School. Martin is also writing a short biography of Dr Brown.

Thanks are also due to the anonymous donor of two Cokethorpe Library books that were returned to the School. They date from the early days of the School as the book plates inside them refers to Cokethorpe Park School. Presumably the donor was concerned that the fines for overdue returns would be too great and so decided to remain anonymous!

Colin Aylward-Smith, one of the pupils at the 'First' Cokethorpe School, has kindly donated a copy of the Cokethorpe School Service of Nine Lessons and Carols from December 1953. He has also sent a copy of the School photograph from 1953 (pictured below).



The Cokethorpe Society

News

The Society has been impressed to hear of a number of OCs taking part in fundraising activities of late. Finn White (OC 2007, Harcourt) competed in The RBS Group One Day Challenge in aid of The Prince's Trust, while Hannah Brown (OC 2008, Queen Anne) walked the Great Wall of China for muscular dystrophy and twins Laura and Lisa Porter (OC 2001) ran a half marathon for Parkinson's UK. Meanwhile Kris Leverton (OC 2003, Swift) has set up his own charity, Solegivers, dedicated to raising money for the world's poorest children (who often walk the dirty streets in barefoot) by organising barefoot events, such as running barefoot across Singapore! Visit Kris's website www.solegivers.com for more information and details on how to get involved.

Events

Recent Leavers' Reunion Dinner

Over 120 Old Cokethorpeans joined former and current members of staff at the most successful Recent Leavers' Reunion Dinner to date in January. Live music could be heard from the Dining Hall balcony as guests arrived to enjoy canapés and pre-dinner drinks while catching up with old friends and teachers alike.

Following grace, sung by members of staff and former Head Chorister, Freddie Miles (OC 2011, Gascoigne), guests took their seats for a three-course meal of medallions of pork, crème brûlée and a selection of cheeses. The event finished with a speech from the Chairman of the Cokethorpe Society, Tony Baker (OC 1964, Harcourt), who spoke about the purpose of the Society and of the programme of events planned for the coming year. Thank you to all who attended the evening. ☞



Congratulations to former Biology teacher Rebecca Jarrett and husband Tom, who celebrated the birth of their daughter Daisy Beatrice Clare on 8 January 2012.



Society Sports Festival

An inaugural Sports Festival took place on Saturday 31 March. Over 60 OCs participated in one or more of the sports, with many more turning out to soak up the atmosphere. Golfers set the day in motion teeing off on the School's newly renovated nine-hole golf course; Elliott Bennett (OC 2008, Feilden) finished top with a score of 33. Facing the School's 1st teams, OCs performed strongly in the soccer and hockey. Old Boys improved on last year, only narrowly losing by two goals, while victory only eluded the Old Girls by one goal. In the first alumni rugby match for a number of years, two teams of Old Boys, with a few staff members added into the mix, enjoyed a match characterised by palpable good humour. Lord knows who won this game - it really didn't matter though; players seemed to have a terrific time. The netball took the shape of a round robin tournament against the 1st VII and a team of current staff. All matches were played in good spirits and once the Old Girls warmed up and remembered the rules, a fun and competitive mini tournament took place!

It was a marvellous event and one that the Society hopes to repeat on an annual basis. If OCs have any sports that they would like to incorporate next year, please get in touch. ☞



A Social Society

We know our OCs are a sociable bunch, so keep up-to-date with news, events, photos and networking opportunities using the following social network sites:

Facebook: [TheCokethorpeSociety](https://www.facebook.com/TheCokethorpeSociety)
Twitter: [@oldcokethorpean](https://twitter.com/oldcokethorpean)
LinkedIn: [Cokethorpe Society](https://www.linkedin.com/company/cokethorpe-society)

Obituaries

The Society would like to pay tribute to David Dunaway (OC 1961, Queen Anne), who died on 20 March following a heart attack. He is survived by his wife Lynne, daughter Laura, son Patrick and his first grandchild, Griff. After leaving Cokethorpe David took a job with Fairthorpe Cars in Gerrards Cross, leading to one of his many hobbies: restoring motor bikes. David was to become a chauffeur for Air Vice Marshall Donald Bennett, who was involved in Fairthorpe Cars. He then took a holiday job with John Lewis and was one of the first ever graduate trainees, before working his way up to become a departmental manager and a highly respected employee serving the partnership for some 36 years. His leisure activities included golf and running marathons and triathlons. He was also a staunch Chelsea supporter and went to Le Mans several times.

Jonathan Harker (a friend for 58 years and best man at David's wedding)

Cryogenics Demonstration

The School was grateful to Nigel Parker (OC 1978, Queen Anne) for returning to School on Wednesday 14 March to lead a cryogenics workshop for the Year 6 children.

Forthcoming Events

Old Boys Twenty20 Cricket Match
Friday 22 June 2012, 5.45pm

Prize Giving
Friday 13 July 2012, 11.30am – 3.00pm

Sports Festival Results

Golf
Winner *Elliott Bennett*

Soccer
Old Boys v 1st XI 4–6
Player of the Match *Luke Withey*

Rugby
Old Boys v Old Boys Cokethorpe Draw
Player of the Match *Jake Wilson*

Hockey
Old Girls v 1st XI 5–6
Player of the Match *Izzy Landon*

Netball
Old Girls v 1st VII 2–7
Old Girls v Staff 3–10
1st VII v Staff 2–3
Staff v Old Girls/1st VII 7–7
Player of the Match *Chloe Pickford*

Ave Atque Valete

S Henderson (Director of Music)

'The sounds coming through my study window now are typical of my lasting memories of Cokethorpe: somebody's outstanding dubstep composition; another student singing with joyous abandon from the School hymnbook at the top of their voice; a brilliant group rehearsing for Gig Night; and a woodpecker working away at a tree in the warm sunshine. I have many, many fond memories and look forward to hearing of Cokethorpe's music growing from strength to strength.'

Mr Henderson has taken the position of Director of Music at Trent College, Nottingham.



Mrs G McHardie-Jones (Junior School)

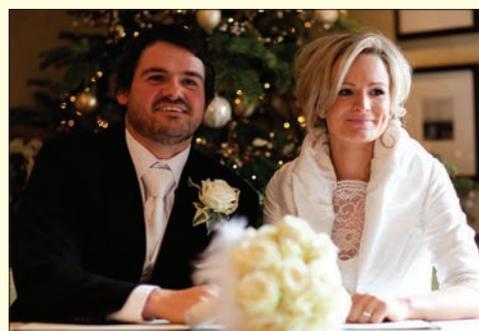
'I joined Cokethorpe in January 2005 as a Year 3 teacher and was immediately struck by the friendliness, support and dedication of the staff. A particular memory is the Year 6 'Mud Trip' to France in 2006. I hope to be remembered for my games and



hockey coaching of Year 2 upwards. In December, however, I decided that my mother's deteriorating health, the birth of my grandson and my daughter's impending wedding required more time, and I, *Shine, Jesus, Shine*, left the building!

Staff News

Mr Heaney recently played the electric violin as part of a duet with live subatomic particles. The piece, called *Cloud Chamber* and composed by Alexis Kirke (pictured), was performed at the £145 million Second Target Station at the Rutherford-Appleton Laboratories.



Weddings

Congratulations to Mr Bown and Jessica (above left), who got married on Sunday 11 December 2011 at the Le Manoir aux Quat'Saisons. Congratulations also to Miss Pratley, who married Lewis Lee on a sunny Wednesday 28 December 2011 at St Mary's Church, Cogges in Witney (above right).



New Arrivals

Congratulations to Mrs Green and her husband Chris on the birth of Millie Katherine Felicity (below left) who was born on Wednesday 14 December 2011, 8lb 3oz. Congratulations also to Mr and Mrs Howells on the birth of Seren May Elizabeth (below right), born Thursday 8 March 2012, 7lb 5.5oz.



Open Evening

Wednesday 9 May: 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. All welcome.

Headmaster's Addresses:

5.00pm and 6.00pm

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

Contact Information

Headmaster

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

Senior Management Team

Second Master: K Walton
kw@cokethorpe.org
Bursar: Mrs S A Landon
sal@cokethorpe.org
Head of Junior School: Mrs C Cook
cc@cokethorpe.org
Head of Sixth Form: Mrs S M L Copeland
smlc@cokethorpe.org
Senior Tutor: E J Fenton
ejf@cokethorpe.org

Housemasters and Housemistresses

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Feilden: Miss P S M Townsend
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Gascoigne: G J Sheer
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Harcourt: W G Lawson
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Queen Anne: Miss F M M Hamon
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Swift: Mrs M H Cooper
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Vanbrugh: T J Walwyn
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Photographs

For digital copies of photographs in this newsletter email the Foundation Office at foundationoffice@cokethorpe.org.

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