

# THE OCELLUS

### From the Headmaster

I don't imagine it is likely anyone will want to take the editor of The Ocellus to the Press Complaints Commission. Just the same, it feels quite appropriate to reflect here upon the very fine line that characterises freedom of speech. It seems undeniable that some parts of the media have confused free speech with the freedom to sell newspapers, by holding people's private lives up to prurient interest and public amusement. As is often said, there is a distinction between the public interest and what interests the public. Apparently, in Roman times, forcing gladiators to fight to the death and feeding people to wild animals used to amuse the mob and gain public support. But exploiting the baser human instincts for personal gain is not defending human rights. Philosophy teachers sometimes ask students whether anyone has the right to shout 'fire!' in a crowded theatre, just for fun. If not, why not? Can even so-called 'human rights' be absolute? Such matters have a resonance for us here at Cokethorpe. These days, media such as Twitter and texting form a part of the lives of most members of a school community, and schools know well that they can be used to slander and bully as well as to extend friendship. The Leveson Inquiry has reminded us that words can be hateful, and can even 'wreak havoc' in people's lives. The young Australian broadcasters whose hoax call led to the suicide of a nurse asked, 'Who could have imagined such consequences?' That's exactly the point: so often we can't predict the consequences of what we say or what we write, even when it is done in jest.

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### **University Destinations**

The destination of the 2012 Upper Sixth leavers is correct as of September 2012. Please see the website for subjects being studied. OCs reapplying, or whose destinations are unknown, are not listed. To make corrections or additions email foundationoffice@cokethorpe.org.

Ashdown, Ella St Mary's Baneriee, Paris Bangor Barbour, Sienna Royal Agricultural College Beardsell, Katja Nottingham Bennett, Alice Brunel Bennett, Jack Aston Portsmouth Bennett, William Oxford Brookes Biggs, Jack Booty, Jacob Durham Brooker, Amv York Bryson, Alexander Rath Buckley, Lizzie Birmingham Buckley, Spencer Cade, Alexander Brunel Sheffield Hallam Cadman, Lloyd Exeter Cartwright, Lily Chichester Chan, Jonathan Oxford Cully, Jack Sheffield Donovan-Brady, Tom Bath Spa Duffy, Declan **Bath** Elder, Charlie Loughborough Farrell, Lydia Chester Finlayson, Katie **Edinburgh Napier** Gaertner, Amy Warwick Gavin, Gabriel LICI Gordon, Jenna **Plymouth** Hammond, Jack Brighton Hardie, Lizzie Royal Agricultural College Kingsbury, Billy Abervstwyth Knight, Timothy SOAS, University of London Kratt. Elliot Leeds Lewis, William Oxford School of Drama Lord, Alex Portsmouth Mason, Lissi Falmouth Muller, Gregory Napper, Archie Harper Adams Nettlefold, Lucia Bath Osborn-Banton, Myles Goldsmiths O'Shea. Victoria Cardiff Outteridge, Max Manchester Met Oxford Brookes Pandher, Ben Parker, Edward Oxford Brookes Parsons, Oliver Loughborough Purdy, Henry Leicester Tigers Revell, Jack Nottingham Ronaldson, Oliver Brunel Sargeant-Long, Ellis Gloucestershire Smith, Georgia Roehampton Stanton, Stephanie Chester Swan, Charlotte Birmingham Taylor, Louis Southampton Oxford Brookes Turner, Amy Van Dorssen, Hugo Exeter Wigham, Grace Reading Willett, Lucy Royal Agricultural College Wood, Rachel York Zhang, Charles **UCL** 

# **Editor's Note**

The ☑ icon indicates that a longer write-up and/or further photographs are available on the School website.

Front Page Photo: Keith the Peacock

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

# Third Form Speaking

On Friday 7 December, the Third Form pupils gathered in the Cranham Library for the finals of their annual speaking competition. This year pupils were asked to prepare a speech on a contemporary issue and the classroom preliminary rounds were keenly fought. The top two pupils from each group then faced the cauldron of their peers for the final and the standard was very high. Topics were varied and all captured aspects of life of concern and interest to the pupils. All in the room were captivated by the strength of feeling expressed and the attention to detail in the oration and performance. Congratulations go to all who performed and especially to the top three; in third place was Georgie Edwards-Lowe (Feilden) with her impassioned plea for campaigning to abolish the death penalty across the globe, second went to Clare Berry (Queen Anne) for her ironic argument for the abolition of speeches! And the winner was Richard Turner (Feilden) for his comic and vibrant call for the school day to start later (a compelling dream!). ៤

# **English Literary Recital**

In *City Lights*, the first Literary Recital of the academic year, Mr White explored the San Francisco beat poetry scene in the 1950s that centred around the City Lights bookshop, the birthplace of a literary revolution and an anti-establishment fusion of poetry, narrative and jazz.

The recital linked ideas of Christmas, the criticism of modern materialist living and the alternatives to this nightmarish vision that was seen by American writers as early as 1952. With such an ambitious rationale Mr White launched into some contemporary hip hop lyrics that dwelt on the shopping culture and the need for labels in our world. As a contrast the poetry of Ferlenghetti, Ginsberg and Kerouac advocated the need to dwell in nothing from time to time, appreciating the beauty of the every day; whether it be urban or rural. This Buddhist

# **GCSE English Trip**

The annual Fourth and Fifth Form theatre trip took place this term with Cokethorpe dominating the stalls at the Oxford Playhouse for a University of Oxford student production of the IGCSE set text *A View From the Bridge* by Arthur Miller. Set in America in the 1950s the play explores relationships in terms of the psychological and the social, examining a community's ability to condemn and redeem. The pupils were also privileged to have a lecture and Q&A session before the performance to enhance their understanding and help with their examination preparation.

As this was a student performance there were some questions about characterisation and some performances far outshone others. Interestingly this made for lively discussion on the way home from the show and in the lessons that followed. Overall it was another exciting and worthwhile trip, and to watch a show as a large group gave the pupils common ground for their discussions and for forming their own opinions on the play.



influenced writing was then contrasted with the 'horror' of the lyrics of Madonna's *Material Girl*. The result was chilling in some ways, humorous in others and thought provoking to all who attended.

During the Lent Term, Miss Jackson, Mrs Howells, Miss Ringham and Mrs Miller will all be leading their Literary Recitals. 답

# **Upper First Author Visit**

'On Tuesday 13 November, Upper First pupils were privileged to have a visit from Mrs Celia Rees, the author of *Witch Child*. This is a novel about a young girl accused of witchcraft, which we are currently studying in class. Mrs Rees spoke about how she got her inspiration and how her former students urged her to write books for teenage readers. She discussed what a character from her book would take with them if they had to move away from their family in a hurry. It was fascinating to hear how this was linked to the Kinder Transport, when 10,000 Jewish children were sent from Nazi-occupied Europe to England. These children would leave their homes as young as five without their parents and all they could take was a small bag with a few objects. This led her to ask what we would pack in our own box if we were ever put in this position, discussing the sentimental value of objects and how they can mean different things. I really enjoyed her visit as it made me think about how much I want to write and how an idea can

spark from almost anything.' 더 Samara Clark (Upper First, Feilden)

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# Academic

# **RIBI Youth Speaks**

The Cokethorpe Senior team won the local round of the RIBI Youth Speaks Public Speaking Competition in November. Beth Sandland (Lower Sixth, Queen Anne), Harry Norton-Shaw and Daniel Pye (both Fifth Form, Vanbrugh) presented a talk about internet use. They will attempt to become Oxfordshire Champions in February. In the Junior category, Wilf Cartwright (Upper First, Queen Anne), Arthur Blake (Third Form, Gascoigne) and Richard Turner (Third Form, Feilden) finished creditable runners-up.



#### **ESU Public Speaking**

Harry Lovibond (Fifth Form, Queen Anne), Fraser Logue (Fifth Form, Vanbrugh) and Gabby Smith (Fifth Form, Feilden) defeated eight schools to become Oxfordshire Champions of the English Speaking Union's Public Speaking Competition. Competitors displayed a range of skills including unprepared speeches, posing questions to speakers, delivering a pre-prepared speech and fielding questions from the audience. In addition, Harry Lovibond was awarded the individual prize for Chairman of the Night.



### **ESU Mace Debating**

Cokethorpe completed a hat-trick of wins with a victory in the first round of the English Speaking Union's Mace Debating Competition. Saul Garrett (Lower Sixth, Feilden) and Bethany Mulloy (Fifth Form, Swift) defeated Abingdon School and Radley College, the pair opposing the motion 'This House would tie development aid to the enforcement of population control mechanisms', and were praised by the judges for the excellence of their argument and their incisive questioning.

#### **David Benedictus**

On Wednesday 3 October, Cokethorpe's Writer in Residence gave a fireside reading from *Return to the Hundred Acre Wood*, the first authorised sequel to the original A A Milne stories. In a hushed and atmospheric Corinthian Room, Benedictus explained the introduction of a new character Lottie the Otter. The audience members were transported as Pooh and their favourites went on a search for water only to meet a new friend – it was a truly magical bedtime story. After honeycake and tea in the interval, Benedictus answered questions and gave details of his long and acclaimed career.



#### **Senior Mistress's Trip**

'On Thursday 13 September a group of girls who have expressed an interest in literature travelled to Woodstock Methodist Church to listen to a lecture by Dr Belinda Jack on The Woman Reader as part of The Blenheim Palace Literary Festival 2012. The Oxford academic discussed the controversy behind the relationship between women and their education through literature. Through digital imagery we examined the disparities between men and women in their reading and we were engaged by the shocking information regarding the prior limitations of access to books for women. We journeyed through history and came to appreciate what a privilege it is in today's society, for women to freely read a book of their choice." Christie Batty (Upper Sixth, Gascoigne) and Ally Hutchinson (Upper Sixth, Queen Anne)

# **Higgs-Boson Lecture**

On Friday 7 December, fifteen pupils from Fifth Form and above attended a talk at Rutherford Appleton Laboratories (RAL). Dr William Murray works at RAL as well as CERN, in Switzerland, where the Large Hadron Collider is based. He explained what the Higgs-Boson discovery meant in terms of the Standard Model; which is a model that attempts to explain the universe. Pupils were also able to view actual data and interact to give their opinion on whether the Higgs-Boson has been found. Most pupils agreed it was and expect their grandchildren will look back on this event as momentous as the discovery of DNA.

#### **David Benedictus**

The reading by David Benedictus was part of his month long residency at Cokethorpe and is to be followed later this year with an anthology of pupil photography and writing. Mr Monaghan commented 'We've been delighted and honoured that a major literary figure like David Benedictus has been able to join Cokethorpe School for our first ever writer-in-residency project. His experience in writing children's fiction has really helped unlock the magic of words for our pupils and we've been thrilled with the creative work they've undertaken with him.'

As quoted on the David Benedictus website, he has 'been almost everywhere and done almost everything'. Educated at Eton College, Balliol College, Oxford and the State University of Iowa, his first job was as a tutor to the Rothschilds and other work has included being an assistant at the Royal Shakespeare Company, a London tour guide, occasional acting roles and an art critic including an antiques correspondent for the Evening Standard. He has worked at the BBC as a reporter, editor, director, producer and presenter and has also published 25 novels, both fiction and nonfiction.

www.davidbenedictus.info

# **Academic**

# **Psychology Research**

Stephanie Burnett-Heyes, a researcher from the Psychology Department at the University of Oxford, came into School during December to conduct a study into the effect of mental imagery on young people. She was seeing a group of Fourth Form boys, all studying GCSE Psychology, over the course of the two days. Ms Burnett-Heyes said at the end of her visit that 'the boys were great. They were all prepared to put effort in, have a go and concentrate on the mental imagery task, and they came up with some really individual mental images. It was a pleasure to work with them'. The boys look forward to reading the report of the study in due course.

### **Girls' Workshops**

The focus of the Sixth Form workshop was firmly focused on the future. The girls explored strategies for building confidence in terms of interviews, taking on challenges, managing stress, conflict resolution and making decisions about the future.

# **Headmaster's Assembly**

During a Headmaster's Assembly, Mr Ettinger asked pupils and staff to consider what Christmas present they wanted. He asked them to send him requests, explaining their rationale, and he received over 140 letters asking for a variety of presents. The winner, announced in the final Assembly of term, was Connie Gascovne (Lower Sixth, Gascoigne). Her prize was the promise that potato smiles, to be known as 'Connies', would be served once every half term for the next five terms. She was also presented with a framed picture of the 'smiles' as a reminder of her Christmas wish that came true.

'When the Headmaster announced his competition, I thought about what I might like for a while then came to the conclusion that I have been at Cokethorpe for ten years and I've never had my favourite childhood food, potato smilies. So I thought why not ask for Christmas to have them on the lunch menu just once. I realised that I'd never met someone that didn't like them so surly everyone could benefit from this. I thought that before I left school, having spent my entire academic career at Cokethorpe, that this would be the icing on the cake. It sounds silly but it would be really sentimental. I was completely shocked that I won especially considering it was quite an unusual request and when the Mr Ettinger said he had over 140 entries I thought I had no chance. I'm so thrilled that I won and the Headmaster exceeded my wish by promising to put them on the menu every term which is more than I ever expected. This has been the highlight of my time at Cokethorpe and I cannot begin to express how happy this has made me. It is the best present I have ever received.

# **Trip to Berlin**

'In October the Fifth Form History pupils visited Berlin. From a personal perspective, the highlight was how the German people have dealt with their frightful past, which I found very noble. The people that we met didn't shy away from the Nazi era and openly admitted to the roles which some of their relatives undertook. My favourite place was the Reichstag (the parliament building) because I liked the contrast of past and present – the past represented by the old mansion house and the present by the modern glass dome. We saw what was left of the 'iron curtain' (Berlin Wall), a construction which was taken down as quickly as it was put up. Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp was extremely moving, and the reality of being in a place that had seen so much bloodshed really hit home. The trip helped us to understand the reality of Germany's past, and how Adolf Hitler was able to influence a nation.'

Elly Stradling (Fifth Form, Swift)

# **Girls' Workshops**

This term has seen the Senior Mistress, Mrs Copeland, introduce workshops for the Senior School girls. These were run by Melissa Mehta, who also runs workshops for the Oxbridge candidates. The first workshop was for the Fourth and Fifth Form girls and was focused on building confidence, self-esteem and independence. The aim was, through a range of activities, for the girls to have a clear positive sense of their identity and a means of expressing it consistently. It was a challenging day and the girls came away with strategies to cope with day-to-day stresses and a greater willingness to take creative academic risks.



# **Trip to Bristol University**

As part of the Information for Sixth Form Entry day, the Fifth Form travelled to Bristol University. The visit began with a tour of the campus with student ambassadors. After lunch they attended a lecture in the Chemistry Department on the gases that make up the planet. 'Frying' eggs in nitrogen and seeing them thaw, together with colourful and very loud explosions, made for a very memorable and entertaining lecture. They then walked over to the English Department for a lecture on Medieval English. The visit was an enjoyable insight into university life and provided a meaningful context for the Information Evening that evening.



#### **Civil War Time Traveller**

'On Thursday 29 November, a Civil War Time Traveller visited Cokethorpe. Upper First pupils heard stories told in an active and captivating way and everyone left the Chapel excited and eager to tell their families about the visit. The Time Traveller demonstrated, through the use of clothes and weapons, the cruel yet clever ways of killing a man in the midst of a battle. Overall I found the experience entertaining and engaging, and it certainly helped me understand much more about how difficult life would have been and how much we take for granted.'



#### Life on Mars Lecture

'Lower First to Third Form pupils visited Rutherford Appleton Laboratories to attend a lecture by well-known author Steven Cutts. One of his books is called *Viking Village* which is a science-fiction book set on Mars. The lecture was about Mars; if we could ever travel there, if it was possible to have any form of life living there and what Mars is like. Steven was very entertaining and supported his talk with a slideshow of amazing images. Everyone enjoyed the trip and found the talk highly interesting.'

Louisa Flaherty (Lower First, Harcourt)



# **EAL Trip**

'On Saturday 3 October, a group of English as an Additional Language (EAL) students went on a Cultural Enrichment trip to explore the Cotswolds; from Burford, one of 'Europe's most idyllic places to live', to Bourton-on-the-Water, the 'Venice of the Cotswolds'. The highlight of the day was definitely the 'treasure hunt', where we were split into two groups, and were given maps and reference materials to find our way to the final destination. Overall, it was a fantastic and very worthwhile day.'

Yinan Wang (Upper Sixth, Vanbrugh)

#### **Oxford Castle**

'On Friday 16 November, Lower First pupils went to Oxford Castle as part of their topic on The Normans and Castles. After splitting into groups, some went on the castle tour whilst others went to the Learning Centre. In the Learning Centre there were a number of tables with different activities. We had five minutes at each table, looking at various artefacts and establishing what they were and trying on medieval clothes. We finished with a trebuchet competition, making them with limited materials such as lolly sticks and plastic spoons. We then fired marshmallows at a target.

Following this we toured the castle itself, which included climbing St George's Tower, the oldest part of the castle. The small rooms were very cold and eerie. We learnt the story of Queen Matilda and how she escaped the castle when she was besieged by her cousin Stephen. We then went down into the crypt and discovered how people had used it as an early school; it was really dark. Finally we explored the bit of the castle which had been turned into a prison. Overall it was a great experience and I learnt a lot'.

Austin Bowsher (Lower First, Vanbrugh)



# **Olympic Torch**

In the first chapel service this term, Revd Humphreys looked back on the Olympics, and the amazing way the athletes, especially the Paralympians, used the gifts they had been given to achieve amazing results. The pupils were challenged to think about how they can use the gifts God has given to them with the help of an Olympic torch. This had been carried into Woodstock by Clive Stone, who suffers from kidney cancer. He has been campaigning tirelessly for increased funding for drugs for his fellow sufferers. It is examples like this that can inspire us too. As you can see, many pupils were keen to touch the torch!



#### **Headmaster's Tweets**

A selection from the Michaelmas Term:

'Two productive staff INSET days ahead of the pupils arriving tomorrow and Thursday. I feel an air of anticipation around the School site...' (4 September)

'Delighted with the positive feedback to the Junior School weekly email introduced last Friday. Thank you to all parents who have commented.' (11 September)

'Upper First Harcourt and Third Form Gascoigne enjoyed the @shakeshop1 in Witney yesterday – prize for best Lower House assembly last year.' (13 September)

'Lower First pupils have now met with their Lower Sixth buddies. This peer-mentoring scheme is important to both older and younger pupils.' (28 September)

'Good debate about the Olympics at HMC Conference, Belfast. Lord Moynihan Chairman of the British Olympics Association spoke extremely well.' (3 October)

'The sun shone for us on a busy Open Day – thanks to pupils and staff for helping to make the day a great success. So many positive comments.' (6 October)

'Enjoyed meeting with pupils, as I do every Wednesday, looking at their exercise books and chatting about school and other interests.' (10 October)

'Choral Evensong followed by the Lower House Disco. I can confirm that I sang at the first and danced at the second and didn't mix them up!' (24 October)

'Amazing peacock carving by artist Matt Cave finished today. Two tonnes of wood, 36 days of labour and the tail even has ocellus markings!' (6 November)

'Matchsticks needed for the Politics students and staff who stayed up until 4.15am for the US Election results, but what a good experience!' (7 November)

'The Civil War Time Traveller landed in the School Chapel this morning to talk to the Upper First about the gruesome lives of the Roundheads.' (29 November)

'A very busy and successful Michaelmas Term has come to an end; now for a well-deserved rest for all pupils and staff.' (14 December)

'Wishing Biology teacher Miss Timbrell and Physics teacher Mr Mason a wonderful wedding today... and may their Chemistry last a lifetime!' (23 December)

'Took daughter to see Viva Forever in London – a musical based around the songs of the Spice Girls. I believe I qualify for Dad of the Year!' (28 December).

# **Sixth Form**

#### **General Studies**

From the Lent Term, the General Studies Programme will become known as the Enlightenment Programme. The Enlightenment Lectures will still take place in The Shed at 11.20am.

#### **General Studies Feedback**

#### **Matthew Blake**

'Having visited numerous schools to give lectures about my round the world bike ride, I have found the key to a good lecture is an enthusiastic audience; I got this completely at Cokethorpe. The students were highly receptive to what was most likely a foreign concept to them (the idea that you could cycle all that way on a bike) and from the numerous questions they had at the end of the talk it became apparent they had a genuine interest. Days after the talk, I am still receiving contact from students asking more questions. I am very grateful to Cokethorpe for having me, for the excellent lunch I was served and for how welcome I was made to feel in the School. The aim of the talk is to make the students realise that the world is bigger than what is immediately around them and that one of the best things you can do with your life is to travel. You never know, hopefully now we may even hear of a few gap year projects from Cokethorpe students involving bicycles and a long distance. Matthew Blake, SOS Children's Villages

'Matthew Blake was interesting and very funny as he spoke to the Sixth Form. It was fascinating to hear about the different customs that people have in the large number of countries which Matthew visited on his journey. People are so different, yet so similar as well. I particularly liked his story about wherever you are in the world, people will always come together to overcome a problem; quickly followed by people trying to make money from the solution! The talk was particularly motivating in how to go about experiencing something completely new and I know that many pupils have been in contact with Matthew, via Twitter and the website, for further advice since the talk.

Hannah Alden (Upper Sixth, Harcourt)

#### Giles Darkes

'It was a pleasure being able to present to such an interested and engaged audience. The talk went well with the Sixth Form audience clearly receptive and interested in the subject matter, answering my questions intelligently and thoughtfully throughout the process. I enjoyed giving the talk and found it rewarding to do; as always, presenting a subject to others makes you reflect on it yourself. I hope that the students are now more aware that a map is not always the objective document that it seems to be. Many thanks for asking me to come, for the excellent lunch you so kindly provided, and for introducing me to your very agreeable colleagues.

Giles Darkes



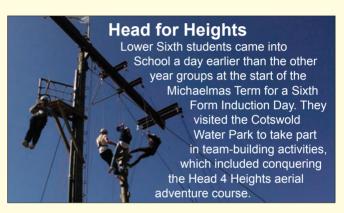
**Prefects' Induction Day** 

'On Wednesday 5 September, Prefects had an Induction Day in which Mr Walton spoke about the forthcoming year, and how we, as Prefects were involved. We were then split into four teams, with the objective to design an imaginative facility to put Witney on the map. We spent time discussing, planning and creating our ideas. The task really brought the teams together, using the skills and abilities that each individual could bring to the group. In the afternoon the four teams presented to the judging panel, which consisted of Mr Ettinger (Headmaster), Mr Sheer (Head of Sixth Form), and Cllr Fenton (a member of the Planning Committee from West Oxfordshire District Council). There was a wide range of interesting ideas across the four teams, including a water maze which would be the first of its kind, a market emphasising Witney's links to twinned cities in Europe, and ideas which celebrated Witnev's original roots of blankets and textiles facilities. The day helped us work together and taught us skills which will be valuable in our role as Prefects this coming year.'

> Fleur Carter (Upper Sixth, Harcourt) and Tilly Johnson (Upper Sixth, Swift)

### **General Studies**

This term Sixth Form students have received three General Studies lectures. Lucy Brett, Education Officer and Examiner at the British Board of Film Classification, spoke about how the film industry categorises its censorship. Giles Darkes, a cartographic consultant, illustrated how maps may not always be the objective documents they seem to be and left Sixth Formers thinking about how what mapmakers leave out may be more important than what they leave in. Finally, Matthew Blake, who spent four years cycling the world between April 2008 and April 2012, spoke about his travels and the work he has done for the charity SOS Children's Villages, particularly the Village in Chipata, Zambia. 년









# **Law Trip**

The A Level Law trip to London never disappoints when they visit the civil and criminal courts. The highlight of the day was when the students sat in the public gallery to witness the appeal case of Sergeant Danny Nightingale, the SAS soldier who was detained for possession of a firearm. They were able to sense the tension while legal argument developed until finally a decision was made and justice prevailed – Danny Nightingale was released! They watched the relief and jubilation as he came down the steps of the Royal Courts of Justice to meet the TV crews and express his thanks with his wife by his side – headline news indeed.



# **Economics Competition**

On Wednesday 28 November a group of A Level Economists participated in the Bank of England Target 2.0 Regional Heats Competition at Unipart Conference Centre in Cowley. Led by Captain Matthew Barkham (Upper Sixth, Feilden), the presentation team of Connie Gascoyne (Lower Sixth, Gascoigne), Alexander Owen (Lower Sixth, Feilden) and Beth Sandland (Lower Sixth, Queen Anne) presented the findings of their macroeconomic research and justified their decision for why the Monetary Policy Committee should raise interest rates to 2%. The group then fielded questions from the representatives of the Bank of England, answering gueries about fiscal policy and quantitative easing. Students showed great poise in answering these questions.

# **Physical Education Trip**

On Thursday 8 November, A Level Physical Education students travelled to Northampton Saints Rugby Club for a Sports Science day. The group was given a guided tour and learned about elite sports preparation through talks on strength, conditioning, diet and analysis. The students were able to see how detailed and specific the preparation and training for elite sport has to be and the specialist staff and facilities that are in place for performers at the very top of rugby union.

# French Exchange

In October, Miss Bennett and Mrs Hutchings accompanied six Lower Sixth French students to their partner school, the Lycée Brizeux in Quimper. France. The journey took the group through London, on the Eurostar to Paris and via TGV to Quimper. There were some nerves prior to arrival, although all the students had spoken to their partners via email and Skype, and so were not quite complete strangers. The group spent two days attending lessons at the Lycée Brizeux, which was a little daunting but extremely enlightening as the classes were much bigger than at Cokethorpe. It was quite an experience sitting in a Maths lesson in France being delivered entirely in English. There was time to walk around the beautiful medieval city Quimper and then on Friday and the weekend the group stayed with their partners and their families. It was a really fruitful experience and lasting friendships have certainly been made.





#### **Feedback Continued**

#### **Lucy Brett**

'On Thursday 27 September, the Sixth Form students were treated to a presentation by the British Board of Film Classification's Film Examiner and Education Officer, Lucy Brett. We were given an in-depth and enlightening view of how the film industry categorises its censorship. Using short clips and examples of films, we were able to fully participate and understand how the process of censorship works.

Throughout the presentation, we learnt about and discussed the importance of censorship and its effects on the community (with particular focus on young children and parents), as well as how effective it can be to the marketing of the film and its overall success. With humorous presentation skills, Lucy Brett was able to show us how to categorise key scenes, an example of which focused on *The King's Speech*.

This rare and valuable insight into the film industry is sure to inspire us to take a closer look at the films we watch, and maybe in the long run create a few careers in the process.'

Zac Bamford (Upper Sixth, Feilden) and Charlotte Ferryman (Upper Sixth, Queen Anne)

I had a fabulous time with the staff and pupils at Cokethorpe. The students were engaged and prepared to ask challenging questions, and to discuss film ratings and my role and everyone made me feel very welcome. And lunch was pretty good too!

Lucy Brett (BBFC)

#### **Forthcoming Lectures**

Enlightenment Lectures taking place during the Lent Term.

Tuesday 29 January 2013 'It's elementary, my dear Watson': Cokethorpe, as Seen from Another Side

Guy Salkeld, archaeologist at The National Trust, uses detective tips from Sherlock Holmes to discover what Cokethorpe's layout and buildings tell us about the people who live and worked here.

Thursday 21 February 2013
Whatever Happened to Jurassic Park?

Dr Richard Corfield, scientist and science writer, takes a look at where genomic science is now and whether and when real cloning of extinct animals will be achieved.

#### Thursday 21 March 2013

Treading the Thin Line: Peacekeeping and International Relations in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Colonel Richard Glass, Mission Planning Officer at The United Nations, introduces the work of MONUSCO, the world's largest peace keeping mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

# Sixth Form

# **Senior Maths Challenge**

Best in School, Gold Award and Qualification to Senior Kangaroo Round:

Yinan Wang

#### **Gold Award Winner:**

**Ethan Bosse** 

**Best in Lower Sixth and Silver Award:**George Hallett

#### Silver Award Winners

Teague Bond, Steven Li, Isaac Staff, Alan Chan

#### **Bronze Award Winners:**

Sky Dai, Ross Battersby, Samuel Farrant, Matteo Catrini, Jonathon Harling, Jon de Vos, Jay Cheng, Harry Bryson, Saul Garrett, Joshua McKenney, Harry Stevens

The top 1,500 students in the country are invited to take the Senior Kangaroo round. There were more than 95,000 entries submitted this year from more than 2.000 centres.

#### **Knotty Maths Trip**

'On Wednesday 14 November a group of 15 Sixth Form students, along with Miss Townsend and Mrs Scaysbrook, visited Magdalen College in Oxford to listen to a lecture given by Dorothy Buck of Imperial College London, who was speaking on the topic 'The Knotty Maths of Medicine'. During this lecture, we learnt the basics of knot theory such as what defines a knot in medicine, how the trefoil is the simplest knot and how 1.5 million different knots can be made using less than 15 crossings in the string! The medicinal applications of this were then demonstrated to us as we saw knots in strands of DNA and discovered cells that can untangle them rather easily. After the talk, the group then looked around the College and also visited Queens' and Brasenose Colleges. Overall, a very interesting trip and an eye-opener for Medicine and Mathematics applicants!' Ethan Bosse (Upper Sixth, Vanbrugh)

**Cambridge Visit** 

With an eye to studying History at university, Saul Garrett (Lower Sixth, Feilden) and Beth Sandland (Lower Sixth, Queen Anne) accompanied Mr Bostwick and Mr Uglow to Robinson College, Cambridge to attend a seminar focusing on 'bridging the gap' between Sixth Form study and beyond. They enjoyed a thought-provoking lecture from Dr Peter Claus of Pembroke College, Oxford, and had the opportunity to visit the Cambridge University Library. Mr Uglow and Mr Bostwick then facilitated sessions focusing on what studying History at university would be like, ambitiously condensing a week-long research project into an hour. The day was a great success for all concerned.

# **Biology Field Trip**

Upper Sixth Biologists spent three days at the Preston Montford Field Studies Centre in September. The bespoke course was tailored to the A Level specification and covered succession, fresh water ecology and moorland management. Field work took up much of the day, with evaluation and statistical analysis the focus of the evening programme. A tiring but useful and enjoyable few days.



# Young Scientists of the Year

'On Thursday 22 November, we visited the Oxford University Museum of Natural History to attend the Oxfordshire Young Scientists of the Year Awards. In the different categories Isaac Staff (Upper Sixth, Gascoigne) was nominated for Biology. Yinan Wang (Upper Sixth, Vanbrugh) for Physics and me for Chemistry. Following a canapé buffet amongst the exhibits, there were talks from scientists at Rutherford Appleton Laboratories, a representative from the Society of Chemical Industry and the keynote speech coming from Roy Green, the leading investigator of the Stephen Lawrence murder. Overall, a fascinating evening that provided great insight for us all into future careers.'

Ethan Bosse (Upper Sixth, Vanbrugh)



# **Design Technology Trip**

In order to help them with their current AS Level 'teaching aid' project, the Lower Sixth Design Technology students visited Science Oxford Live on Monday 12 November to see how the centre engages visitors and teaches them scientific principles using toys and structures. The students were interested in how the artefacts were made and how ergonomics had been employed to enable each scientific principle to be understood and demonstrated in a safe and effective manner. An air gun using a rubber membrane, optical illusions using mirrors and a wall of photochromic ink, which retained the shadowy image of whoever stood in front, were some of the many artefacts that engaged the students

and helped them to record how children are entertained and learn how science works. The AS Level module has certainly been made more accessible by the research carried out on the trip.



'On Thursday 8 November, twelve students from Fourth Form to Upper Sixth, all part of the English Extension Programme, were chosen to visit Oxford University for the day. The students were selected because of their passion and enthusiasm to pursue English beyond A Level. The day began with a tour of St Hugh's College, visiting the Chapel, the Library and a typical student room, finishing with the two 'essentials', the bar and the canteen. After lunch we had a Q&A session with an English Literature undergraduate which I felt was very beneficial; there is no one better to talk to about university and admissions than someone who has experienced the system first hand, and some very useful points came through about what universities look for in candidates. We were then taken to the hugely impressive Keble College and given a Literature lecture on Mary Shelley, Lord Byron and other romantics. The lecture was followed by a play from Oxford University students. The performance of *Bloody Poetry* was the highlight of the day as the quality of acting was high and the play was well-written. Before visiting Oxford University I had cast it out of my mind as an option for admission. However, the visit has certainly inspired me to work to my full potential, to achieve the best possible grades and ensure my place at a prestigious university.'

Ry Gavin (Fifth Form, Queen Anne)

# Sixth Form



# Live Lounge

With the success of the event last year, the Sixth Form Social Committee arranged a second Live Lounge evening, which took place on Friday 16 November. Similar in set-up to Gig Night, but with the stage open only to Sixth Form students and staff, there was a high level of performance with a wide variety of genres. The Sixth Form Centre took on a visual transformation as the furniture was moved and the lighting was changed to recreate the feel of a music venue, and although the audience was by no means large, this was perfect as it added to the intimate and fun nature of the performances and of the evening in general.

Mr Heaney began with a haunting piece that appropriately stunned an expectant audience early on, followed by a fantastic rendition of a song from the musical theatre version of *Billy Elliot* from Jacob Yolland (Lower Sixth, Gascoigne).

Things became somewhat less serious as Saul Garrett (Lower Sixth, Feilden) performed his parody of the classic *What a Wonderful World* with the lyrics based around Saul's thoughts on Cokethorpe life, with references that left the audience in stitches. The staff band, consisting of Mr Galvin, Mr Bostwick, Miss Ringham and Mr Forsey, performed a number of songs, including brilliant acoustic takes on contemporary chart songs. The evening ended with a selection of questionable, yet enthusiastic, songs from Sebastiaan Evans (Lower Sixth, Swift) which he spontaneously prepared during the interval.

The event was a huge success, with talent showing from everyone involved, and credit should be awarded to Mr Galvin and the Social Committee for its organisation. A third event next year is unanimously agreed."

Tom Binnie (Lower Sixth, Harcourt)

#### **Christmas Dinner**

This year's Sixth Form Christmas Dinner was another resounding success. Over 140 students and staff gathered for a drinks reception in the Sixth Form Centre on Friday 30 November. There were some fantastic outfits including Mexican bandits, superheroes, the entire cast of Shrek and a set of colouring crayons! The best outfit of the evening was voted as Teague Bond (Upper Sixth, Feilden) with an outstanding Lego man costume. Everyone then moved to the Dining Hall to enjoy a delicious Christmas dinner. Christian Field (Upper Sixth, Harcourt), Head of the Sixth Form Social Committee, presented a range of awards from 'best laugh' to 'best couple' across the Lower and Upper Sixth, which the Sixth Form had voted on the previous week. Everyone also enjoyed a version of *The Twelve Days* 



# Safe Drive, Stay Alive

All Sixth Form students attended an important event at the King's Centre Oxford on Wednesday 21 November. Along with schools from across the county, Cokethorpe Sixth Form was present for the annual 'Safe Drive, Stav Alive' presentation from the local emergency services. A range of professionals, from paramedics to police officers and consultant surgeons. in addition to a parent of a crash victim and a young female victim of an accident, spoke with great passion and conviction of their experiences working with and living with the consequences of road traffic accidents involving young people. This was a hard-hitting and moving event, and one which provoked serious reflection on the Sixth Formers' responsibilities, both as passengers and drivers. Thank you to the 'Safe Drive, Stay Alive' team for their commitment to reducing accidents and for their thought-provoking presentation.

#### **Sixth Form Committee**

Students sitting on the Sixth Form Social Committee this academic year are:

Christian Field (Committee Head)

Beth Sandland

Holly Keylock

**Eleanor Cully** 

Katie Buckley Emily Thompson

Charlie Von Hoven

Alexander Owens

Ethan Bosse

Rosie Turner Mattias Athwal

Oliver Parker

Samuel Farrant

Alice Bird

#### **Nuffield Placement**

Isaac Staff (Upper Sixth, Gascoigne) was one of 1,000 students from across the country to receive a prestigious Nuffield Research Placement in the summer. The placement included using an electron microscope in conjunction with researchers at Oxford Brookes University.

# **US Election Night**

Fifteen A Level Politics students spent the night at Cokethorpe on Tuesday 6 November in order to watch the results of the 57th presidential election. Following a film and takeaway pizza, the students settled down to watch the results from each state come in. By 4.15am, when they turned in for a short four-hour sleep, the election was all but over with Barack Obama soon to be re-elected, over opponent Mitt Romney.

#### Inspired by Design

On Monday 26 November, A Level Design and Technology students travelled to the University of London to listen to a lecture entitled 'Inspired by Design' in which they were addressed by prominent designers.

# The Arts

#### St Cecilia Concert

**Brass Ensemble** 

The Eves of All **B** A Heanev

Katherine Woolley (Oboe)

Jean-Joseph Fiocco

**Soul Singers** 

Sunday Morning The Velvet Underground Glowina B A Heaney Lovesong The Cure

**Lower House Clarinet Quintet** 

March from Ode for St Cecilia's Day George Frideric Handel

Ellen Garbutt (Voice)

Poor Wandering One from The Pirates of Penzance Arthur Sullivan

James Ellacott (Tenor Horn)

Rondo from Fourth Horn Concerto Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

**Schola Cantorum** 

Roland Orzabal Mad World Goodnight Sweetheart Calvin Carter

**Thomas Christensen (Piano)** 

Doctor Gradus ad Parnassum from Children's Corner Claude Debussy

**Senior Clarinet Quintet** 

Stardust Hoagy Carmichael

Aidan King (Guitar)

Cellar Dooi Aidan King

**Soul Singers** 

Waiting **B A Heaney** Till Then The 13th Floor Elevators

Zoë Mace (Voice)

In the Arms of an Angel Sarah McLachlan

Medley of pieces from their repertoire.

#### St Cecilia Concert Ensemble **Performers**

Louis Allen

Caitlin Belsham

Hannah Berry

Marion Bird

Wilf Cartwright

Brian Clarke

Harry Creak

Matthew Ellacott

Harry Fellows

Charlotte Ferryman

Louisa Flaherty

Eloise Fraser-Paterson

Katie Jenkins Jamie Langford

Fraser Logue

Oliver Parker

Daniel Pye

Lukas Russell Melanie Severn

Gabby Smith

Isaac Staff

Elliott Swancott Charlie Tobin

Lucy Virji

Rebecca Witchell **Edward Woolley** 

Jacob Yolland







# **Gig Night**

For the first Gig Night of the academic year. another packed audience was treated to the most spectacular night of music by far. The evening was augmented by the inclusion of a short set of dance numbers and the programme was notably absent of any pre-recorded backing tracks. This marks a raising of the bar by the pupils and has set a standard that will be no mean feat to match in future. In addition to the dance and all-live music, the evening saw more Junior School children take to the stage than in previous years, presenting some of the most memorable highlights of the night with well-rehearsed and confident performances of great music.



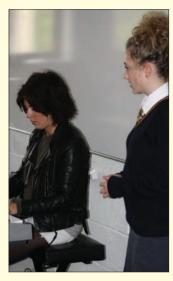
Two performances from the evening in particular must be highly commended for sheer beauty of harmony, control and musical poise. A duet by Gascoigne Fifth Formers Melanie Severn and Rebecca Witchell captivated the entire audience through an effortlessly and perfectly balanced ensemble. Also the duet performed by Harry Fellows (Upper Sixth, Vanbrugh) and James Ellacott (Upper Sixth, Feilden), a rendition of a Simon and Garfunkel classic, was stunning and had perfectly tuned harmonies and immaculate presentation. The highly animated conversation, smiles and laughs shared at the end of the evening are testament to the fact that this was a real treat. &

#### **Lunchtime Music Recital**

The Music Award Holders' recital was suitably varied; Oliver Parker's (Lower Sixth, Feilden) lively trumpet funk, Katherine Woolley's (Lower Sixth, Queen Anne) poised oboe piece and polished song performances by Ellen Garbutt (Fifth Form, Feilden) and Jacob Yolland (Lower Sixth, Gascoigne). The recital ended with a lively piece given by Third Formers Matthew Ellacott (Feilden) and Jamie Langford (Vanbrugh) and Wilf Cartwright (Upper First, Queen Anne). 년



the feast day of St Cecilia, the patron Saint of music. History tells of a battle royale between St Cecilia and Boreas, but the concert that took place in The Shed allowed the goddess of music to triumph over the god of wind and winter, with some excellent performances from the pupils. The concert featured the School Choir, Soul Singers and Jazz Band, in addition to soloists and small ensembles, and a receptive audience rightly enthused over the contributions made by the participants.



# **Jazz Morley Visit**

Musicians gathered in the Lecture Room to listen to an intimate performance and open Q&A session by the young singer song-writer, Jazz Morley, on Friday 5 October. This was Jazz's second visit to Cokethorpe, having been so impressed by the quality of questions and attentive listening by pupils during her visit last year. The audience was treated to a top quality performance of some of Jazz's newest material. The depth and searching nature of the pupils' questions once again made a very positive impression.

The highlight was without doubt when Heidi Lawson (Fourth Form, Gascoigne) requested to sing one of Jazz's own songs with Jazz accompanying on piano. Jazz was clearly moved by the performance and admitted that it was the first time she had ever heard someone else perform her material. That evening, Jazz performed in The Jericho Tavern in Oxford, with Mr Heaney performing as her headline support act.

# **Arts Academy Showcase**

The end of term Arts Academy Showcase took place on Saturday 8 December in front of a receptive audience of families and staff. The Showcase demonstrated a number of musical skills and techniques that had been put into practice on Saturdays throughout the Michaelmas Term. The pupils played to a high standard, covering every form of music, including classical, jazz, folk and blues, which is a credit to their musicianship.







### **Arts Academy Showcase**

The following Arts Academy Music pupils performed at the end of term showcase on Saturday 8 December:

#### Lower First

Hollie Kenworthy (Queen Anne) Joe McBride (Gascoigne)

#### Upper First

Wilf Cartwright (Queen Anne)

#### Fourth Form

Thomas Christensen (Swift)

#### Fifth Form

Rebecca Witchell (Gascoigne) Daniel Pye (Vanbrugh) Christian Ettinger (Harcourt) Henry Plumridge (Gascoigne) Harry Lovibond (Queen Anne)

#### **Head Chorister**

James Ellacott (Upper Sixth, Feilden) is the 2012–2013 Head Chorister, with Ellen Garbutt (Fifth Form, Feilden) as Deputy Head Chorister.

# **Forthcoming Events**

Performing Arts events taking place during the Lent Term.

# Young Musicians' Platform

Wednesday 30 January 7.30pm – 9.15pm, The Shed

#### **Choral Evensong**

Wednesday 20 February 5.30pm – 6.30pm, The Chapel

#### **A Level Music Concert**

Wednesday 27 February 7.30pm – 9.15pm, The Shed

# **Senior School Lent Term Production**

Wednesday 13 – Friday 15 March 7.30pm – 9.30pm, The Shed

#### **Gig Night**

Thursday 21 March 7.00pm – 9.15pm, The Shed

#### **Inter-House Music**

#### Solo Guitar Class

Winner: Aidan King (Gascoigne)

#### Solo Instrument Class

Winner: James Ellacott (Feilden)

#### **Solo Piano Class**

Winner: Isaac Staff (Gascoigne)

#### **Solo Singing Class**

Winner: Zoë Mace (Harcourt)

#### **Ensemble Singing Class**

Winning House: Harcourt

# Whole House Singing Class Winning House: Gascoigne

Overall Winner: Gascoigne
Best Individual Performance: Zoë Mace

# The Arts

#### **A Christmas Carol**

Cast

Carol Singers

Rosie Turner
Louisa Flaherty
Megan Cambery
Anna Wallace
Ebenezer Scrooge
Bob Cratchit
Fred
Thomas Amor
The Charitables

Rosie Turner
Louisa Flaherty
Megan Cambery
Anna Wallace
George Lawson
Harry Lovibond
Thomas Amor

George Wood
James Bennett

Jacob Marley Zac Ramford Ghost of Christmas Past Beth Sandland Scrooge as a Schoolboy Callum Rowe Lydia Wannell Little Fan Dick Wilkins Harry Norton-Shaw Mr Fezziwia Louis Allen Nell Megan Bird Ghost of Christmas Present Katie Buckley **Child Ghosts** Ruby Plumridge Lottie Fellows

India Thomas
Rosie Hunt
India Hurford-Jones
Maddie Garrett
Louisa Mattinson
Rachel Dodimead
Michaela Logue
Verity Smith

Katie Foster
Anna De Buriatte Moglia
Tiny Tim Sam Topley
Mrs Cratchit Charlotte Ferryman

Peter Cratchit
Martha Cratchit
Fred's Wife
Fred's Sister-in-Law
Ghost of Christmas Yet To Come
Widow

Luke Garbutt
Alice Burns
Katie Jenkins
Katie Jenkins
Katie Jenkins
Katie Jenkins
Katie Jenkins
Mimee Epelle
Houis Allen
Widow

Mia Biles

Laundresses Ellie McBride Sofia Ward-Naranjo

Undertakers Fraser Logue Emily Thompson

Charwomen Heidi Lawson Jessica Williams

Boy Sam Bird

#### **Production**

Adapted and Directed By Mrs C Hooper Assisted By Miss G Ringham Mr T Walwyn Lighting Design Mr T Galvin **Lighting Operation** Alexander Owen Nathan Black Sound Mr B Heaney Mrs C Hooper Sound Operation Mr A Stuart Mrs I Mace Makeup Mrs J Curry Costumes and Props Mrs L Mace Set Design and Build Mr A Stuart

#### **GCSE Drama Assessment**

Mr G Lawson

The enforced child migration programme between 1920 and 1967 and the Hillsborough disaster of 1989 formed the basis for the Fifth Form Unit 1 GCSE Drama practical controlled assessment concerning 'Lost Lives' on Tuesday 25 September. A gruelling six-hour filmed assessment put the pupils through their paces as they explored a variety of issues arising from the stimuli.



The lights came up on the notorious curmudgeon Ebeneezer Scrooge, played by George Lawson (Upper Sixth, Gascoigne) whose faultless performance saw him onstage for the duration of the entire play. George's ability to lend gravitas and originality to such a renowned role led the audience through feelings of revulsion, laughter, pity and empathetic rapture. His visible unravelling when faced with the regret of his past deeds, the dread of his current plight and the horror of what might befall him was both poignant and believable. He was strongly supported by a large cast, of whom there are too many to praise individually, but particular mention must go to some key players. Harry Lovibond (Fifth Form, Queen Anne) and Tom Amor (Fifth Form, Queen Anne) as Bob Cratchitt and nephew Fred respectively, were extremely convincing with their depictions of festive cheer and gentle goodness. They in turn were very strongly supported by the actors and actresses who made up their happy households, each depicting wholesome family life with ease and naturalism. Comic relief was provided by the appearance of the bumbling 'Charitables' as well as the rosy, yet tortured Carol Singers, Louis Allen (Upper Sixth, Harcourt) as the earnest Fezziwig and Harry Norton-Shaw's (Fifth Form, Vanbrugh) imbecilic Dick Wilkins cheerfully reflected the happier times of Scrooge's youth.

The show was stolen however by the set-pieces and appearance of the various spirits of the story. Zac Bamford (Upper Sixth, Feilden) was truly terrifying as the fettered and decomposing Jacob Marley and Beth Sandland (Lower Sixth, Queen Anne) was hypnotic as the Ghost of Christmas Past, materialising to lead Scrooge through the forgotten sadness of history. Particular mention must also be made of Callum Rowe (Upper First, Harcourt) as the young Scrooge, Lydia Wannell (Upper First, Feilden) as the doomed Little Fan and Megan Bird (Fourth Form, Harcourt) as Nell for their mesmerising portrayals of innocent youth, traced with bitter regret. Katie Buckley's (Lower Sixth, Harcourt) Ghost of Christmas Present was engaging and haunting and she was superbly supported by the large number of

her 'Sisters' whose chilling synchronised movement lent this sequence an unsettling edge.



The terrifying appearance of the Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come allowed for the ghoulish and cackling Widow, Undertakers, Laundresses and Charwomen to appear. These performers must be credited with creating a nightmarish, yet thoroughly believable vision of Dickensian vultures picking over the remains of an unloved man. An endearingly impressive performance from Sam Bird (Upper First, Harcourt) as the Boy led the audience back into the joyful present, as Scrooge woke to find his chances renewed on Christmas Day morning.

# **Arts Academy Showcase**

The Drama wing of the Cokethorpe Arts Academy went from strength to strength this term, under the leadership of Mrs Cooper. Every Saturday participants rehearsed classical pieces and devised their own for the end of term showcase. Parents and staff were treated to a variety of comic and straight performances followed by delicious catering in the new Cuppa Coffee Shop. It is hoped the Academy will continue to attract strong acting talent from within Cokethorpe.





From the moment we entered one of the rehearsal rooms and began an intense warm-up to focus us, we knew we were in for a professional experience. From using script extracts of *Twelfth Night* to practise exercises in listening to cues, stage awareness and establishing character relationships and status, to chorus work and chasing another character's tail whilst delivering lines, the time flew by in a workshop which we'll all remember as highly educational and insightful as well as fun and exciting. The cherry on the cake was watching the Royal Shakespeare Company give its first performance of *Twelfth Night* in the evening, and seeing some of the scenes we'd rehearsed earlier that day come to life in a professional performance. Their original, inventive, and highly comic interpretation of such an old play proved to us the timeless nature of Shakespeare's comedy about the complications of love and family reunion.'



#### **Lower First Mime**

The Lower First excelled in their first public performance, with a presentation of mime work. Four stories were brought vividly to life by each group. The audience experienced the dangers of a powerful remote control, the wild imagination of dreamscapes, saw what happens when Santa over-indulges, and how a magician can wreak havoc at a retirement home. This was an entertaining performance from a very talented year.

# **Drama Award Holders and Friends Showcase**

Drama Award Holders Katie Buckley (Lower Sixth, Harcourt) and George Lawson (Upper Sixth, Gascoigne) headed an impressive lunchtime presentation in The Shed on Thursday 4 October. Katie began with an informative insight into the practitioner Constantin Stanislavski and the birth of naturalism, followed by a monologue from Touched by Stephen Lowe to exemplify the style. George chose to discuss the influences and inspirations of actor, director and playwright Steven Berkoff before presenting one of Berkoff's monologues The Actor.

Ellen Garbutt (Fifth Form, Feilden) followed with her lively and mischievous interpretation of Puck from *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

A Level Drama and Theatre Studies students Zoë Mace (Upper Sixth, Harcourt) and Zac Bamford (Upper Sixth, Feilden) concluded the presentation, impressing the audience with their superb monologues. Zoë performed an extract from *Steel Magnolias* by Robert Harling and Zac portrayed the role of Bedlam from *The Roses of Eyam* by Don Taylor.







#### **Theatre Trips**

#### Medea

'On Thursday 15 November, a group of Upper Sixth Drama students went to Warwick Arts Centre to see a production of Euripides' Medea. The performance was the basis of our Section C Drama examination and we were therefore fully attentive and engulfed into all aspects of the play. The production itself was a modern interpretation of the classic Greek tale, and was able to blend the original tragic storyline into a somewhat humorous account, which in turn was set in the present day. This allowed us to both engage and enjoy the material presented, which may have been lost to us as a modern audience, in its original form. To quote one of the many appreciative Drama students within the group, "it managed to satisfy our dramatic appetite".

Zac Bamford (Upper Sixth, Feilden) and Zoë Mace (Upper Sixth, Harcourt)

#### **Beautiful Burnout**

On Tuesday 9 October, Upper Sixth Drama students went to Warwick Arts Centre to see Frantic Assembly's production of *Beautiful Burnout*. This hard-hitting tale of five youngsters who channel their anger into the 'noble art' of boxing was a fascinating lesson in movement and the art of devising. With a pulsating soundtrack by Underworld and a backdrop of glittering video screens, this was a unique production that was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

#### **Arts Academy Showcase**

Alice in Wonderland, Lewis Carroll
Megan Cambrey Lower First, Feilden
Ruby Plumridge Lower First, Gascoigne
Michaela Logue Lower First, Vanbrugh
Millie Taylor Lower First, Queen Anne
Samara Clark Upper First, Feilden
Lottie Fellows Lower First, Vanbrugh

The Importance of Being Earnest, Oscar Wilde

Louisa Mattinson Upper First, Harcourt Sofia Ward-Naranjo Upper First, Queen Anne

What Katy Did, Susan Coolidge
Ella Mattinson Year 6, Baker

#### **Devised Piece**

Alexander Cooper Upper First, Gascoigne Alexander Reid Upper First, Queen Anne Ellie McBride Third Form, Gascoigne Mia Biles Third Form, Gascoigne

A Little Princess, Frances Hodgson Burnett Michaela Logue Lower First, Vanbrugh Ruby Plumridge Lower First, Gascoigne

Have a Nice Day, Spike Milligan Alexander Cooper Upper First, Gascoigne

Alice in Wonderland, Lewis Carroll
Louisa Mattinson Upper First, Harcourt
Sofia Ward-Naranjo Upper First, Queen Anne
Lydia Wannell Upper First, Feilden
Katie Foster Upper First, Harcourt
Anna De Buriatte Moglia Upper First, Harcourt
India Hurford-Jones Upper First, Swift

# The Arts

### **Trip to Venice**

Below are extracts from the Art and Textiles trip to Venice online blog:

#### Friday 26 October:

'It's been an eventful day today, from covering every form of transport the night before including cars, buses, planes, trains and boats we finally made it to the picturesque city of Venice.'

'Our first rendezvous point was St Mark's Basilica where we went into The Doge's Palace. The vast space and intricate mosaics of St Mark's took all our breaths away.'

'Another hour of sketching, painting and photographing our surroundings provided great insight into the life of a Venetian.'

# Saturday 27 October

'The journey to breakfast was a dry one, the water levels were high, but it's Venice... we thought nothing of it.'

'Breakfast was interrupted by the raging torrents of the canal outside. Looking out of the window we beheld the sight of the canal now engulfing the pavement at a staggeringly rapid rate. Our route to the rooms was blocked, so as a means of transport we resorted to bare foot and piggy back.'

'The rain didn't stop us from making it to the Rialto Bridge where we stood and took photos of stunning scenery. It was as if we were the modern day Canaletto!'

### **Cokethorpe Plinth**

The exhibit that has been displayed on the Cokethorpe Plinth this term is an offering from a Spanish artist called Jose Alonso and the piece is entitled *Te Estoy Teniendo En*.





# **Art and Textiles Trip to Venice**

Twenty-two Art and Textiles pupils from Fifth Form to Upper Sixth visited Venice during the Michaelmas Half Term, to enjoy the visually pleasing architecture and vistas. It was an eventful but wholly fruitful trip in which the pupils packed in a lot and produced a great deal of impressive practical work. They were fortunate enough to visit some excellent contemporary art museums and the pupils were taken aback by the diversity of work the city provides. They were very unfortunate with the weather but spirits remained high throughout. Read the daily blog on the School website.

# **Art Award Holders**

On Thursday 13 December the Art Award Holders all gathered for the annual presentation and lunch. Since September the Art Award Holders have been preparing work based on an artist of their choice. Presentations included work based on Wayne Thiebaud, Felicity House, Karen Butti, Claes Oldenburg, Mustafa Sidiki and Stik.

All of the Award Holders prepared a short presentation and answered questions about their chosen artist. The standard of work was excellent and a display of the work will be posted in the Art Department in January. Well done to everyone who attended, it was a very successful and productive meeting. After the presentation the pupils celebrated with a special pizza, fries and salad lunch!

Below is a photograph of Harry Hastings (Fifth Form, Swift) presenting work inspired by the artist Claes Oldenburg and his giant ice-cream.



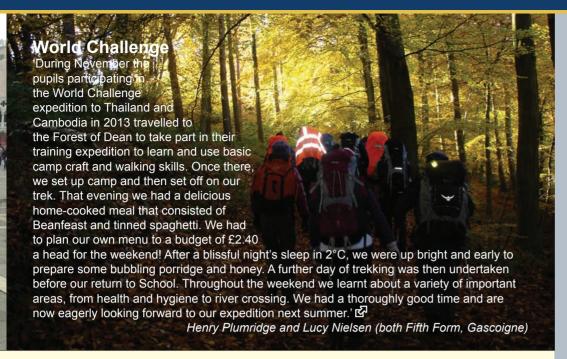
# **Trip to London Museums**

'We first went to the Barbican to see the 'Everything Was Moving' exhibition, with the overriding theme being documentary during the '60s and '70s in a number of different countries. Two prominent photographers were David Goldblatt and Ernest Cole who depicted the harsh times during the apartheid in South Africa. We then moved to the Tate Modern. The exhibition we saw showed work by Daido Moriyama, whose photos were simple yet captured an essence of the place that he was photographing. There was also work by William Klein, one of the great American photographers. In this exhibition he attempted to capture the times in which the photos were taken in New York. Rome and Tokyo. Throughout this exhibition the numerous photographs were displayed in a very impressive manner, which really enhanced the nature of the work and showed a more interesting and exciting way to showcase photography.

Peter Zinovieff (Upper Sixth, Gascoigne) and James Holifield (Upper Sixth, Feilden)



# **AOB Activities and Trips**



# **Trip to Malvern Hills**

'On Monday 17 September, Lower First set off for the Malvern Hills Outdoor Education Centre. We arrived in bright sunshine and after our picnic lunch went straight into one of seven different activities, which included the zip-wire, the guad pole, rock climbing, crossing bridges in the tree tops and even bushcraft. All the activities were great fun and everyone worked together really well as a team. On our first evening, we walked to the top of the Malvern Hills and the view across the valley was incredible, especially as the sun was beginning to set. The second evening involved night orienteering which required us to be able to read a map, and some were better at this than others!

Overall, we had an amazing time; the sunny and dry autumn weather was perfect for the outdoor activities and everyone got to know each other a lot better too which will help us through our first year of the Senior School.' 전 Megan Cambrey (Lower First, Feilden)







# Ski Trip to Austria

Forty-two pupils and five staff enjoyed a week's skiing in the Austrian resort of Mayrhofen in December. Plenty of snow, wipe-out wigs, good food and evening activities, including curling and bowling, made for an excellent trip. Go to the School website to read their daily blog.

#### **AOB Achievements**

Pupils who have been awarded certificates for achievements in AOB this term are:
Austin Bowsher (Lower First, Vanbrugh)
Elijah Vieira-Faria (Fifth Form, Harcourt)

Elijah Vieira-Faria (Fitth Form, Harcourt)
Emily Thompson (Lower Sixth, Queen Anne)
Hannah Deabill (Upper First, Swift)
Kate Fisher (Upper First, Gascoigne)
Lizzie Pickup (Upper First, Gascoigne)
Wilf Cartwright (Upper First, Queen Anne)
Alexander Owen (Lower Sixth, Feilden)
Philip Thornton (Fourth Form, Harcourt)
Laurence Lodge (Fourth Form, Vanbrugh)

#### D of E Gold Award

'On Wednesday 24 October, four of us embarked on our Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award expedition in Dartmoor. We soon realised, however, the conditions we would be walking would literally all be wind and rain. We were into our second day of walking after wild camping the night before when our troubles began. We faced a bog that we could not get through, we couldn't see more than 20 feet due to the fog and half of our group were showing signs of hypothermia. Despite this, we had to push on through the bog until we hit the road and we were picked up by the teachers. It was a difficult time of year to attempt the expedition, and we were not aided by Mother Nature, but hopefully some of us shall undertake it again next July in the Peak District, maybe in nicer weather! The whole group would like to extend their thanks to Mr Hardie who spent a great deal of time and effort aiding the group in preparation for this attempt.

Ethan Bosse (Upper Sixth, Vanbrugh)

# Youngest UK Glider

At the age of 14, Freddie Turner (Fourth Form, Swift) has become the youngest person in the UK to qualify as a solo glider pilot. Freddie is a member of the Oxford Gliding Club and started learning to fly in August, shortly before his 14th birthday. Following 64 training flights he was 'sent solo' on Saturday 17 November. His training consisted of rigorous assessment of 67 different aspects of flying, including winch launches, speed control, and dealing with emergencies. Each had to be signed off by an instructor after demonstrating consistent capability for that procedure. He then had to satisfy two instructors that he was sufficiently skilled and with the right attitude to be sent solo. Freddie is now aiming for the next level, which entails a solo flight of five hours and also to become a qualified aerobatics pilot.

15

# **Sport**

#### **Sports Captains**

Athletics **Redford Curtis** Cricket Jason Cardy Hockey Amy Williams Oliver Parker Kayaking Nethall Gabriella Evans Thomas Wells Rugby Clay Pigeon Shooting Ethan Bosse Soccer Jack Wollner Caleb Dyer **Tennis** 

# **Sports Colours**

Full Colours

Rugby Thomas Wells
Joshua Poole
Joshua Relph
Matthew Taylor
Will Millett
Henry Logan
Hockey Gabriella Evans
Amy Williams

1st XV Rugby Results

| Abingdon School         | 15–6  | L |
|-------------------------|-------|---|
| Akeley Wood School      | 36–5  | W |
| King Edward VI School   | 22–19 | W |
| Watford Boys' Grammar   | 27-10 | W |
| St Columba's School     | 15–41 | L |
| Wycliffe College        | 48–6  | W |
| St Thomas Rich's School | 5-42  | L |
| Pates Grammar School    | 0–38  | L |
| The Royal Latin School  | 41–15 | W |
| Richard Hale School     | 12–5  | W |
| Reading School          | 34–0  | W |
| Abingdon School (Final) | 13-20 | L |

#### 1st XI Hockey Results

| Grilli Canning, Argentina | 1–3 | L |
|---------------------------|-----|---|
| St Edward's, Cheltenham   | 1–2 | L |
| Pangbourne College        | 0-0 | D |
| Oxford High School        | 0–1 | L |
| Tudor Hall School         | 0–1 | L |
| Headington School         | 2–2 | D |
| Magdalen College School   | 3–3 | D |

**U12 County Hockey** 

Thursday 29 November saw Cokethorpe host the U12 County Hockey Tournament in which six teams took part in a round robin competition. Cokethorpe started off strongly with Hannah Craig (Lower First, Gascoigne) scoring a hat-trick during the 4-0 victory against Headington School. Next was Bloxham School, Darcie Wilkes (Lower First, Feilden) scoring four of the 6-1 win. The U12 team then faced Oxford High Bs (6-0), Oxford High As (2-1) and Tudor Hall School (3-2) completing the clean sweep to finish top of the table. All girls played extremely well and should be very proud to be named County Champions.

#### **Elite Academies**

This term has seen the introduction of regular training sessions for cricket and tennis players after School. Elite Cricket sessions take place on a Tuesday whilst coach Chris Hampton leads the Tennis Academy on Thursday afternoons.



Rugby

Of the 84 fixtures played this season 47 matches were won, 1 drawn and 36 lost, with a superior win/loss record in every squad. In the U12s there is a pleasing amount of talent emerging but the need for consistency in performance is required next year. The U13s, after a hesitant start, found their feet and strung some impressive performances together. The U14s did not quite reach the heights of previous years, yet showed glimpses of the talent they clearly possess. The U15s did well following a difficult season the year before. At the senior end the 2nd XV was the busiest squad playing 17 matches, including two rounds of the county cup against 1st XV opposition. The 1st XV was always going to face a challenging season given the loss of many experienced players. If they had taken their chances against Abingdon, the County Cup would have been retained for a fifth consecutive year.

### **Hockey**

This season has proved to be challenging. With the loss of so many senior girls last year the senior squads are currently in a stage of rebuilding and restructure. However, the opposition remained deliberately tough, which may be the reason for so many draws. Lower down the School the results and standard of hockey have been fantastic. 70% of all fixtures were won or drawn; this is an impressive statistic and testament to how hard all the girls work. The U14As remained unbeaten this season, conceding only two goals all term. Equally impressive was the U12As, losing just one game and scoring a remarkable 29 goals in only seven fixtures as well as being crowned County Champions, not losing a single game throughout the tournament. The U12As are deservedly the team of the season. All the teams and coaches should be proud of their efforts and there is great potential for the future in every age group.



#### **Visit from South Africa**

Parents from the U14 and U15 squads hosted boys and staff on tour from Mamre in the Western Cape, South Africa for two nights in November. Cultural visits culminated in a keenly fought rugby match, with Mamre deserved 29–7 winners.



# Visit from Argentina

The 1st XI Soccer and Hockey teams welcomed a touring side from Grilli Canning College of Argentina in September. The soccer team won 3–1 whilst the hockey girls lost 3–1. Following post-match teas, commemorative presentations were made.

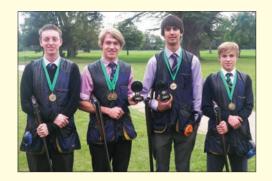


#### Soccer

The 1st XI team has played regular matches this term, providing important preparation for the more traditional soccer season in the Lent Term. With a young, talented and determined squad the team won all of their six matches, ably captained by Jack Wollner (Upper Sixth, Harcourt).

The quality of play, both individually and collectively, has been outstanding, as has the attitude of the squad. With fifteen matches scheduled for the Lent Term, along with entry into the County U19 Knock-Out Cup, the team has much to look forward to and indeed many challenges to face.

This term the U14s entered the England Schools Football Association (ESFA) national knock-out cup competition and got to the quarter-finals. Victories over Wheatley Park School (7–0), Langtree School (6–0) and ARK Kings Academy in Birmingham (5–0) saw the side gain in confidence. The U14s will feel bitterly disappointed by the 1–0 loss of their quarter-final against Broadlands in Keynsham, having dominated all possession and creating enough chances to have won comfortably. Broadlands were, to their credit, well organised and scored from their only shot. Nonetheless, this bodes well for the soccer term.



# **Clay Pigeon Shooting**

Cokethorpe dominated at the British Schools Open Clay Shooting Competition on Wednesday 10 October. The A team came first ahead of Swinford Hospital and the B team came a respectable third ahead of Seaford College. All the top three guns were from Cokethorpe with Matthew Athwal (Lower Sixth, Swift), Ethan Bosse (Upper Sixth, Vanbrugh) and Edward Collins (Fifth Form, Feilden) showing fantastic form.





# Kayaking

Tom Hart (Lower First, Gascoigne) was part of the winning Banbury Canoe Club team that recently won the 2011–2012 Geoff Sanders Trophy. This is a series of races for paddlers aged from 8 to 12 years, run alongside the Hasler races, the national club championship in marathon canoeing. His accumulated points meant that this is the second year running that Tom and his fellow Lightning paddlers (the type of kayak in which they compete) have won this prestigious award.

# **Archery**

Ryan Kendrick (Upper First, Feilden) travelled to Holland to compete in the Dutch Run-Archery National and Open Championships in October. The event, attended by competitors from all over the world, consisted of heats and a final in which the participants run four 400m laps, shooting three bows at each milestone. Ryan, seeded fourth fastest after the heats, came a close second to take the silver medal. Ryan is now looking to compete in Russia and Germany in their National Championships next year.





### **Rugby Tour to USA**

A squad of 39 players enjoyed their Rugby Tour to North America in the summer. The itinerary included New York, the Canadian capital of Ottawa, the picturesque city of Kingston on Lake Ontario, Toronto and the spectacular Niagara Falls, Chicago, and also the University of Notre Dame and Elkhart in Indiana. The schedule covered five matches for both the U16 and 1st XV teams, a busy programme of excursions and sightseeing and many thousands of miles of travel. It was achieved with enthusiasm and good humour and the pupils were excellent ambassadors for the School.

#### Netball

Evie Phillips (Upper First, Swift) and Emily Kent (Lower First, Harcourt) have impressed on the netball court this term and have been making excellent progress across the county. Evie represents Oxford's Trinity Netball Club in the South Region U14 League playing Goal Shooter and Goal Attack. She has also been selected for the U16 Oxfordshire County Academy which is very impressive given her young age. Emily, also part of Trinity Netball Club, plays for the U12A squad in the Berkshire Junior Netball League. She has been selected for U14 Satellite Academy which is once again commendable for an U12 player. Cokethorpe wishes the girls well in their training as they prepare for the U14 Disneyland Paris International Netball Tournament in April 2013.

### Sailing

Kieran Husband (Fifth Form, Harcourt) recently attended an interview for a place on the Clipper Venture Round the World Yacht Race 2015–2016, in which he was successful. The race takes 11 months and is broken down into eight legs, travelling a total of 40,000 miles. The training will consist of three weeks sailing and one week theory. Kieran's position on the yacht is likely to be the bowman, who gets the wettest and coldest. Kieran will be doing this in his gap year and hopes to raise enough money through sponsorship to take part in as many legs as possible.

#### **Tennis**

Evie Phillips (Upper First, Swift) competed in the Oxfordshire Wilson County Closed Tennis Tournament in September, traditionally the final tournament of the calendar. She entered four categories which was a big commitment and after five days of matches she made the finals in all four categories. She finished finals day as County U12 girls singles and doubles champion, U12 mixed doubles runner up and U14 girls singles consolation runner up. The points scored meant that Evie finished her final season as an U12 as County Number 1 by over 200 points.

#### **Prize Winners**

The end of Michaelmas Term Prize Winners in the Junior School were:

Reception **Edward Allen** Year 1 Abigail Donald Phoebe Hichens Year 2 Holly Kendrick Year 3 **Emily Mumford** Year 4 Casper Bolton Frederick Gascoyne Year 5 Jack Wilde George Kinniburgh Year 6 Ben Phillipson

#### **Primary Maths Challenge**

The Primary Mathematics Challenge takes place each November in over This event is run by the Mathematical Association with the aim of enriching knowledge and understanding of Year 5 and 6 pupils with an aptitude for

This November eleven Junior School top marks, earning them certificates.

#### Gold Certificate:

Neve Macken (Year 6, Lockwood) Silver Certificates

Tara Devine (Year 6, Lockwood) Bronze Certificates:

Sam Elek (Year 5. Gwvn) Jamie Snowdon (Year 6, Baker)

#### Jazz Morley

A number of Junior School children were able to enjoy the Q&A session with musician Jazz Morley when she visited the Senior School.

#### **Kit Wright**

Kit Wright has written over twenty-five poetry books for adults and children, and is often published in children's literary textbooks. Educated at New College, Oxford he went on to work as a lecturer and then a full-time writer, winning a number of prizes in the literary world.

#### Kit's Top Writing Tips:

- Don't be too worried about finding your own voice. The more you write and the more styles you try out, the more it will come naturally
- Write ideas down when they occur to you. It's a good idea to carry a notebook - you never know when something might pop into your head!
- Read as much as you can. Writers who don't read are a bit like chefs who don't eat - you need to appreciate the end product in order to create it

# **Harvest Cantata**

On Wednesday 17 October the Junior School Chamber Choir treated parents to a wonderful mixture of songs at the Harvest Cantata. The repertoire included the catchy Singing Vegetables, with the Year 6 soloists wearing vegetable fascinators. This contrasted with the thought-provoking Thank You Lord for the Harvest, with a solo by Lily Sweet (Year 6, Baker). Other highlights included the energetic Do the Dough, the actions of which were demonstrated by Grace Ettinger (Year 5, Lockwood), Geneva Hedges (Year 5, Baker) and Victoria Cowley (Year 5, Symonds) and the beautiful Seeds of Friendship, with a solo from Chisengo Lukama (Year 5, Gwyn).



ry gooey! 🗹

2.000 schools across Great Britain. Mathematics. The challenge is aimed at the subject and consists of twenty-five problems and brain teasers.

children took part, settling down to the task with a mixture of excitement and trepidation. They all displayed a positive attitude and willingness to have a go, even though some questions were obviously quite perplexing. Congratulations to those who achieved

Barney Bolton (Year 6, Symonds)

The Quantum Theatre Company, which school children who are writing stories, and as



On Wednesday 21 November, Year 4 children visited the Roald Dahl Gallery and Bucks County Museum and tried many scientific activities based on Roald Dahl's stories. They experimented with mirrors and cameras and the BFG's sound table, explored Matilda's library, crawled through Fantastic Mr Fox's tunnel and entered James's Giant Peach! They dressed-up, looked at creatures through digital microscopes and rode Charlie's Great Glass Elevator. The children also participated in a drama activity based on Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. The children are reading Danny the Champion of the World as their class text in English lessons. 더

**Year 4 Trip to Roald Dahl Museum** 

# The Story That Wrote Itself

Pre-Prep and Carousel Campfire

The Pre-Prep children and their friends from Westfield House Nursery

in the School woods this term. Miss Ogilvie read a story called How Rall

which explains how the animals in the wood got their various shapes an

children toasted marshmallows in the embers, which were delicious and

presents educational ideas and concepts in an engaging and entertaining way, visited on Wednesday 26 September to perform The Story That Wrote Itself. The play was about two the plot unfolds they consider all the attributes of a good story. The children enjoyed the story, not really realising that they were learning how to write their own amazing stories.

**Year 5 Poetry Workshop** 

Following the trip to The Children's Bookshow at the Oxford Playhouse for Years 4 to 6, the Junior School welcomed the renowned children's poet Kit Wright on Wednesday 7 November to work with Year 5 in a Poetry Workshop. The children were very excited to meet a 'real live poet'! Kit spoke to Year 5 about one of his most famous poems, The Magic Box, and the children then worked on their own versions, letting their imaginations take them to the four corners of the globe and into space, analysing their feelings in search of poetic items to put in their own magic boxes. With a few crossings out here and there (essential in any poetry draft) they produced some wonderful imagery. As a further treat, the children each received a copy of Kit's book

> Cat Among the Pigeons personally signed by the author, which concluded a thoroughly stimulating and motivating afternoon.

**Day of Languages** 

On Monday 1 October the Junior School had its Languages Day. Following an international-themed lunch, each class had a visitor to teach them a language and about where it is spoken. Reception had a French picnic, 4MM dressed up in Kenyan costumes, 1RO did Russian ballet and several classes tasted new snacks. After a flag and music quiz the children had a special assembly to show each other what they had been doing. 년



# **Harvest Appeal**

The Junior School raised an incredible £594.40 and collected 487 toothbrushes during the Harvest Appeal. Mrs Sue Russell, Administration Manager for The Nasio Trust, commented: 'A huge thank you to everyone who has helped make this a whopping collection. We support 265 children so this amount will allow for replacement brushes too.' Mrs Daphne Smith also knitted some stripy hats to send with the toothbrushes. 년



# **Fun in the Forest**

Pre-Prep and Year 3 children visited Sutton Courtenay Environmental Centre to learn about the plants and animals. They had great fun at the nature reserve, building dens in the woodland as well as climbing trees and playing in the Musical Garden. The children all took part in workshops and activities to learn about animals and their 'super senses' and also found out how local animals prepare for the winter.





# **Christmas Appeal**

was presented with a large cheque for The Nasio Trust charity, representing the money collected during the Harvest Appeal and an additional £125 raised through the Christmas Raffle. In addition, the children had packed 85 gift bags with small, well-chosen gifts for the children supported by the charity. Mrs Russell gave an excellent presentation with photographs of the children in Kenya who will benefit from the donations. The money raised will buy much needed items, including toothpaste and solar powered lanterns. Many of these children live in huts made of wood and mud with no electricity or running water. They enjoy going to school where The Nasio Trust provides them with food and an education. Thank you to everyone who supported this term's appeals. ☑

On Friday 30 November, Mrs Sue Russell attended the Baker House Assembly and

# **Languages Day**

| 0RT | French, France       | Mrs Griffin   |
|-----|----------------------|---------------|
| 1RO | Russian, Russia      | Mrs Biles     |
| 2LO | Urdu, India/Pakistan | Ms Gaddu      |
| 3JD | Maori, New Zealand   | Mr Purdie     |
| 4MM | Ki-Swahili, Kenya    | Mr White      |
| 4ND | German, Germany      | Miss Bennett  |
| 5BG | Turkish, Turkey      | Mr Cavus      |
| 5HL | Spanish, Spain       | Mrs Giraldo   |
| 6MO | Polish, Poland       | Mrs Palm      |
| 6ZS | Italian, Italy       | Mrs Semenzato |

#### Christmas Raffle

A grand total of £125 was achieved. Thank you to Mrs Daphne Smith who made the beautifully knitted prizes.

#### Christmas Pudding Hats

Eloise Shirburne Davies (Year 6, Gwyn) Rory Morrison (Year 5, Gwyn) Jasmine Hammond (Year 2, Gwyn)

#### Snowman Scene

1st: Ella Shaw (Year 4, Baker) 2nd: Joe Spilsbury (Year 6, Baker) 3rd: Frederick Gascoyne (Year 5, Lockwood)

### **Fun in the Forest**

'I had to bury acorns like a squirrel and then later I went back to look for them and I couldn't find them!'

Reece Waltho (Year 2, Gwyn)

'I had a lovely time there, I had to pretend to keep a baby hedgehog warm but really it was a little hot water bottle!' Isabelle Phillipson (Year 2, Lockwood)

#### **House Captains**

Children in Year 6 were invited to prepare a speech when they stood for election for the new House Captain and Vice Captain. The other children in the House cast their vote in a secret ballot.

Captain: Frankie Brown Vice Captain: Ben Wannell

Lockwood Captain:

Neve Macken Hayden Camidge Vice Captain: Symonds

Captain:

Ezme Pickford Vice Captain: Adam Kendrick

Captain: Alex Wheeler

Vice Captain: Eloise Shirburne Davies

#### Olympic Torch Visit

Olympic Torch Bearer, Mr Richard Tyack, attended Junior School Assembly on Wednesday 26 September. He wore his Olympic tracksuit and brought the torch to show the children. Richard told them many facts about the torch and answered the children's questions. Richard was nominated for the honour of serving as one of the Torch Bearers in Oxford as he is an inspirational Cub Scout Leader of the Appleton Cub Scout Pack. The Cubs cheered him along during the Relay.

#### **Pre-Prep Nativity**

Away in a Manger

Year 2

Goats

Narrators Dee Biles
Joseph Curry

Jasmine Hammond Theo Langford Emily Martland Mikail Hamid

Ellis Leach
Geese Kye Carrington
Max Hichens

Hens Phoebe Hichens
Jasmine Mellor
Isabelle Phillipson

Maurice the Mule Lewie Camidge Sally the Stable Girl Ruby Sharp

#### **Reception Class**

Hen Amelia Furlong-Price
Mice Jack Turner
Rebecca Williams
Bird Nancy Beer
Spiders Edward Allen
Jack Hammond

#### Year 1

Lottie Sales Star Monty Bolton Donkey Mary Tiggy Buckingham Joseph Findlay Knox Abigail Donald Angels Madeline Goldie Kalina Kaltschmidt **Noah Carrington** Shepherds William Macleod Seb Tattersall Fraser Barnas Kings **Edward Harris** James Harris

Adaption and Director Mrs S Du Feu Scenery Mrs D Ross Costumes Mrs L Mace

### **Junior Christmas Concert**

The Magical Christmas Jigsaw

4ND The Bus Journey The Christmas Market 6ZS Christmas Eve 6ZS The Emperor's Decree 5HI The Census 5HI The Sheep 3JD Mary and Joseph Arrive in Bethlehem 4MM The Hills Outside Bethlehem 5BG The Journey of the Three Kings

Costumes Mrs L Mace Lighting Mr M O'Connor Sound Mr N Dawson Music and Drama Mrs S Du Feu Mrs R Prince Piano Accompaniment Additional Choreography Miss L Hall Jigsaw Artwork Mrs D Ross **Additional Sound Effects** Mr J Walton

#### Oh Yes They Did!

The Pre-Prep children visited the Chipping Norton Theatre in December and enjoyed a pantomime performance of *Cinderella*.

# **Pre-Prep Nativity**

The Pre-Prep children, looking resplendent in Mrs Mace's costumes, gave two fantastic performances of *The Nativity* on Friday 7 December. For the occasion, the Corinthian Room was transformed into a Stable, where Maurice the Mule was not happy! He was constantly being interrupted by an array of cheeky visitors from the Reception Class. Soon after the serene Star floated into the stable, Mary and Joseph arrived. The Stable Girl then broke the news to the sleeping Mule, who was overjoyed to discover a baby in his Manger! The Angels concluded the performance with a rendition of *Away in a Manger*.



# **Christmas Concert**

The Junior School Christmas Concert took place in The Shed on Tuesday 4 and Wednesday 5 December. After a short bus journey the Year 4 Choir, led by David Haar (Symonds), arrived at the bustling and twinkling Christmas Market. They were greeted by an array of stalls provided by Year 6 including Christmas baubles being sold by Ben Phillipson (Gwyn), turkeys from Dennis Catrini (Baker), and mulled wine from a stall holder played hilariously by Joe Spilsbury (Baker). The choir also performed Jingle Bells and Once in Royal David's City. with a heart-warming solo by Tom Orton (Gwyn). Some children from 6ZS discovered a stall selling old toys and after a poignant song, The Forgotten Toys, they were given a battered wooden jigsaw with a gold angel on the lid. Later on this toy seller appears as none other than the 'Gold Angel' on the lid, played beautifully throughout by Frankie Brown (Baker) who proceeds to tell them the very first Christmas story, encouraging the children to take out a piece of jigsaw as she does so.



As ever, each child had their own special part with lines to say and many catchy songs to memorise and sing. The costumes by Mrs Mace created a sea of festive colour. Mrs Prince's piano playing was assisted by Hayden Camidge (Year 6, Lockwood) on drums. Each class took their positions to perform for their appropriate 'piece' of the jigsaw and many audience members commented on the high standard of performing and acting. Highlights included a flock of dancing Sheep played by 3JD, Jack Harding (Symonds) and Samuel Elek (Gwyn) as two arguing Romans, and Barney Bolton (Symonds) as an incredibly evil King Herod. The Year 6 girls from 6MO also proved very popular with their lively performance of Jai Ho! with choreography by Miss Hall. By the end of the performance, the magical Stable Tableau had been created and the last piece of the Jigsaw was selected as none other than Baby Jesus. The audience joined in with a hearty rendition of Hark the Herald Angels Sing to complete the festive evening. ☑



# **Christingle Service**

On an appropriately crisp and frosty afternoon, the Junior School children gathered in the Corinthian Room for their traditional end of term Christingle Service. Revd Humphreys reminded the children of the message behind the Christingle with an interactive presentation, together with carols and readings. Year 2 had made the Christingles and two children from each class were chosen to carry them for the service. It was an enchanting scene as they processed into the darkened Corinthian Room as the School sang the carol *Silent Night*, in flickering candle light.



Rugby Report

The U11As scored an impressive 151 points in their five matches, conceding 104. The pinnacle of the season was the Cokethorpe U11 tournament, where they finished runners up to winners of the last five years. Winchester House. Players that have stood out this season are Barney Bolton, Adam Kendrick (both Year

6, Symonds) and Ben Wannell (Year 6, Baker), with Barney winning A team player of the season. The U11Bs was mainly made up of Year 5 children who, despite being younger than most of their opponents, played well as a tight, organised unit well led by fly half Jamie Snowdon (Year 6, Baker). Harry Phipps (Year 5, Symonds) and Max Swancott (Year 5, Gwyn) showed particularly good skills. Special thanks to their coach, Will Bishop (OC 2012, Harcourt).

The U9s showed great potential, with some record-breaking wins, and were only beaten by stronger, bigger boys. Many players demonstrated a great work ethic, but particular mention to the tough tackling Jadon Washington (Year 3, Gwyn) and the quick and skilful Tom Orton (Year 4, Gwyn).

# IAPS Inland Regatta

Barty Gray (Year 5, Symonds) and Fletcher Sharp (Year 5, Gwyn) took part in the IAPS Inland Regatta at Farmoor. Aged 9, they competed against 38 crews up to the age of thirteen from all over the country. They finished 11th overall and in their class (U11s) they achieved a magnificent 3rd place.



# **U11 Rugby Tournament**

On a blustery and cold afternoon in November, Cokethorpe hosted its annual 9-a-side Rugby Tournament. The eight teams were split into two groups, and played a round robin to determine who would progress to the final. Despite the conditions there was some excellent rugby played in the group stages, with all teams displaying determination and commitment. Group A winners Cokethorpe, having won two matches and drawn one, were to play a strong Winchester House team in the final. who had won their group undefeated. The first half was closely contested and at the end of the seven minutes both sides were vet to score. As the second half progressed Winchester House piled on the pressure, eventually winning by 3 tries to 0. 년



The U10 hockey team was slightly weakened as the strongest Year 5 players Amelia Leslie (Lockwood) and Libby Flaherty (Symonds) were playing up an age group. However the team showed fighting spirit and put in some fantastic defensive performances, with Isabel Buckingham (Year 5, Lockwood) constantly making crucial saves in goal.

The U9s show great promise for the future, winning two of their four fixtures, often against much bigger schools. The girls played some brilliant team hockey and a special mention should go to Tilly Hurford-Jones (Year 4, Baker), who often wowed the opposition with her skills and game play. ៤

# **Rugby Results**

| U11As New College School Abingdon Prep School St Hugh's Prep School Magdalen College School St Edward's, Cheltenham | 63–0<br>5–43<br>5–40<br>57–0<br>21–21   | W<br>L<br>W<br>D |
|---|---|------------------|
| U11Bs New College School St Hugh's Prep School Magdalen College School New College School St Edward's, Cheltenham   | 50–5<br>21–29<br>20–35<br>14–28<br>30–5 | W<br>L<br>L      |
| U10As<br>Abingdon Prep School   | 11–12                                   | L                |
| U9As New College School Abingdon Prep School St Hugh's Prep School New College School                               | 85–15<br>0–40<br>5–50<br>65–20          | L                |
| U9Bs<br>New College School<br>St Hugh's Prep School   | 35–40<br>25–75                          | L                |
| U8s<br>New College School   | 70–65                                   | W                |

#### Inter-House Results

#### Hockey

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

The Inter-House Rugby competition did not take place due to the wet weather.

# **Hockey Results**

| 0-1<br>3-3<br>0-4<br>1-0<br>1-3<br>4th<br>3-0 | L<br>D<br>L<br>W<br>L   |
|---|---|
| 0–9   | L   |
| 0–0<br>0–6                                    | D<br>L  |
| 9–2<br>2–4<br>1–4<br>2–1                      | W<br>L<br>L<br>W  |
|   | 3-3<br>0-4<br>1-0<br>1-3<br>4th<br>3-0<br>0-9<br>0-6<br>9-2<br>2-4<br>1-4 |

#### Judo

Mr Jim Lambert has recently received an award for 'Making a Difference to British Judo'. He has been coming to Cokethorpe to teach Judo for 28 years. Years 4 to 6 have lessons as part of the Junior School Activities Scheme (JSAS).

# The Houses

#### **Lower House Heroes**

Lower House Heroes are selected for reasons such as good behaviour, positive contribution to School life or receiving a high number of recommendations.

#### First Half of Term

| Hannah Berry      | L1 Feilden   |
|-------------------|--------------|
| Boris Pavlov      | L1 Gascoigne |
| India Thomas      | L1 Harcourt  |
| Toby Brown        | L1 Queen Ann |
| Archie Nicholson  | L1 Swift     |
| Billy Morrison    | L1 Vanbrugh  |
| Freddie Holford   | U1 Feilden   |
| Elise Loeffen     | U1 Gascoigne |
| Louisa Mattinson  | U1 Harcourt  |
| Wilf Cartwright   | U1 Queen Ann |
| Alexander Wallace | U1 Swift     |
| Charlotte Bury    | U1 Vanbrugh  |

#### Second Half of Term

| 2 | econd mail of Terrif    |    |            |
|---|-------------------------|----|------------|
|   | Jack Gamble             | L1 | Feilden    |
|   | Harriet Goss            | L1 | Gascoigne  |
|   | Louisa Flaherty         | L1 | Harcourt   |
|   | Ben Newport             | L1 | Queen Anne |
|   | Georgina Bibby          | L1 | Swift      |
|   | Georgie Vallance        | L1 | Vanbrugh   |
|   | Jessica Alexander       | U1 | Feilden    |
|   | Tom Craig               | U1 | Gascoigne  |
|   | Manuel Maldonado Vargas | U1 | Harcourt   |
|   | Grace Henstone          | U1 | Queen Anne |
|   | Sam Orton               | U1 | Swift      |
|   | Alexander Swancott      | U1 | Vanbrugh   |
|   |                         |    |            |

#### **Lower House Ashes Cup**

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 Upper First Vanbrugh have won the cup an impressive four times, with Lower First Gascoigne and Lower First Vanbrugh both winning the cup once.

#### **Most Recommendations**

Lower First: Elliott Swancott (Vanbrugh)
Upper First: Josh Tracey (Vanbrugh)
Third Form: James Jeffs (Vanbrugh)
Fourth Form: James Bennett (Swift)
Fifth Form: Katie Jenkins (Queen Anne)
Lower Sixth: Alexander Owen (Feilden)
Upper Sixth: Ethan Bosse (Vanbrugh)
House Winner: Vanbrugh

#### **Inter-House Hockey**

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

#### **Inter-House Speaking**

Junior Winning House: Queen Anne
Wilf Cartwright (Upper First)
Eloise Fraser-Paterson (Third Form)
Clare Berry (Third Form)

Senior Winning House: Vanbrugh Fraser Logue (Fifth Form) Daniel Pye (Fifth Form) Harry Norton-Shaw (Fifth Form)

#### **Inter-House Music**

Battle lines were drawn for the Inter-House Music Competition on Friday 19 October, with the rather apt theme of 'War' for the Whole House Song this year. In the morning, the solo instrumental and vocal classes bore witness to a number of stellar performances across the Piano, Guitar, Other Instrumental and Solo Singing categories. Zoë Mace (Upper Sixth, Harcourt) took the Best Individual Performer's crown with her poised rendition of a Gluck opera aria, though there were several highly gifted musicians competing for the honour. The afternoon session involved the whole school, either as audience to the Ensemble Class, won by Harcourt with a particularly polished and harmonious performance of One Direction's What Makes You Beautiful, or as active participants in the Whole House Song,

### **Inter-House Hockey**

The Inter-House Hockey tournament took place on Wednesday 12 and Thursday 13 September, with excellent weather throughout. A number of closely contested and fast-paced fixtures were played out, with Harcourt emerging victorious in the Senior competition, and Feilden winning the Lower House competition. However, once all the results were combined it was Swift that was declared the overall winning House after consistently good results in both tournaments.



# **Inter-House Public Speaking**

Thirty-six pupils engaged in their annual war of wits during Open Morning on Saturday 6 October. Queen Anne won the Junior Competition, with Richard Turner (Third Form, Feilden) awarded the prize for Outstanding Junior Speaker. In the Senior Competition, the Vanbrugh Fifth Form team triumphed, with Saul Garrett (Lower Sixth, Feilden) awarded Outstanding Senior Speaker.



with Gascoigne's stirring rendition of Bob Marley's *Buffalo Soldier* cementing their overall victory in the competition. The range and diversity of musical talent on show throughout the day was truly magnificent and all Houses and Housemasters should be congratulated for the tremendous effort that went into their performances.



#### **Lower House Disco**

To conclude a full and busy half term, Lower House pupils were given the opportunity to get dressed up, boogie on down and shake off those pesky winter blues with a wonderful evening of music, dance and light-hearted competition. The most popular dance track was, of course, *Gangnam Style*, brilliantly danced to by so many. The evening also served up an entertaining Tutor Group Dance-Off and even a Limbo Competition. It was a fantastic fun-filled evening for the pupils of Lower House.



#### **House Advent Services**

The House Advent Services were held at St Mary's Church in Witney and, as always, were tremendously well supported by parents and families. The Schola Cantorum, conducted by Director of Music Mr Harris, delivered an excellent repertoire of traditional and contemporary carols, with some wonderfully enthusiastic congregation participation throughout.



# Cokethorpe Parents' Association

Fireworks and Bonfire Extravaganza

Another lovely evening was had by all on Friday 9 November. The weather remained dry allowing families and friends to socialise in front of the Mansion House, while enjoying delicious homemade soups, pig roast and barbecue food. Mr Ettinger and parents served up warming mulled wine and hot chocolate with marshmallows and cream whilst members of the World Challenge team manned the tuck shop and sold various glow in the dark and fibre optic items. The fairground rides provided an evening of entertainment and the fireworks



# **Murder Mystery Evening**

This year's Murder Mystery Evening had teams of super-sleuths watching the drama of Soapsuds, staged on the fictional set of Diamond Road, a soap opera where one of the stars of the show was written out... for good. The evening featured the fantastic Cokethorpe Players, with Mr Galvin providing backstage support as well as an on-stage cameo role as the sound manager of Diamond Road. Special thanks to former member of staff Mr Cooper, returning as Inspector Foot to bring order to the proceedings. The audience was required to consider all evidence and solve the mystery of 'whodunnit'. While many teams were close, the winners were 'CSI (Not!)' and 'Ruth's Fabulous Team'. Huge thanks to organiser Mrs Mace for the brilliant set and costumes, the Catering team for the delicious curry supper, and the Maintenance team for their continued support.





# **Christmas Fayre**

The Christmas Fayre took place on Saturday 1 December in the beautiful setting of the Mansion House. Visitors to the Fayre were greeted with a choice from over twenty external stalls, selling a wide range of items including crafts, Christmas decorations, flowers, cards, iewellery and food. The refreshment stall was kept busy keeping people fuelled with mulled wine and mince pies, while Cuppa served up delicious soup and baquettes. The children's craft area proved to be very popular with Christmas stocking decoration, reindeer cupcake decoration, and girls looking glamorous with glittery Christmas nail varnish. The second-hand uniform shop was opened for the first time with both new and good quality items available to buy. The CPA was particularly grateful that Father Christmas and his elf helpers could spare time at this busy time of year to visit. Children entering the Grotto found a magical world of snow, decorations and gifts. Thanks go to all the stall holders and visitors and to those parents who helped run the event. Thank you to the Sixth Form for their donation of beautifully decorated cakes and delicious cookies from their bake-off competition the day before, which Holly Keylock (Lower Sixth, Feilden) won and Lucy Grout (Upper Sixth, Feilden) came second.





#### **CPA Committee**

The 2012–2013 Committee was elected at the CPA Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 19 September 2012.

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

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

The CPA Committee meet approximately once a month, at 8.00pm in the Corinthian Room. They are 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 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. Email catherine@o-a-c.co.uk.

# **Forthcoming CPA Events**

#### **Coffee Mornings**

Every Tuesday during term time 8.30am - 9.15am, Coffee Shop New and existing parents are invited to socialise over hot refreshments during the Lent Term, commencing Tuesday 8 January 2013.

#### **CPA Burns Night Supper**

Friday 25 January 2013 7.15pm -11.30pm, Dining Hall Join the CPA for a celebration commemorating one of the Scots' best-loved bards. The evening will follow typical Burns Night traditions including a piper, addresses, a céilidh, dancing and a delicious traditional Scottish feast. Kilts and tartan apparel are encouraged, although not compulsory. Tickets are £30.00 per person, which includes dinner and a dram of whisky.

#### **CPA Quiz Night**

Date to be confirmed. Put your trivia knowledge to the test at this year's Quiz Night. Please check the School website soon for further details.

To book tickets for any of the events above, or for more information, please contact the Box Office on 01993 892338 or boxoffice@cokethorpe.org.

# **Festive Coffee Morning**

The CPA Committee welcomed parents to a festive Coffee Morning on Tuesday 11 December. Croissants and mince pies were served and there was also the opportunity to purchase Cokethorpe Christmas puddings and young children's books at discounted prices.

# **New Developments and Staff News**

#### **Peacock Carving**

The magnificent wooden carving of a peacock, a representation of the School symbol, is now situated next to the driveway (see the front cover of this newsletter). It stands at over four metres in height and six and a half metres in length. The carving was commissioned to make use of the wood from trees in the grounds that were uprooted and felled by the tornado in May 2012. The peacock took artist Matt Cave thirty-six days to craft, and is made up of approximately two tonnes of wood from three species of tree (Cedar for the tail, Oak for the legs and body and Walnut for the breast and head). The legs include steel pins contained within the wood in order to bear the weight, standing on a base of Oak. The carving includes exquisite detailing on the tail, to replicate the ocellus markings commonly found on peacocks. The School would like to thank the CPA for fully funding the project. [2]

#### **Peacock Name**

Following a competition, the peacock has been named 'Keith Oswald Kenneth McRoderick'. Keith, in honour of Mr Walton, Kenneth the winning Junior School entry from Ben Wannell (Year 6, Baker) and Oswald McRoderick, the winning Lower House entry from Jonathan Taylor (Upper First, Feilden).



# **Annual Fund 2012**

The Annual Fund 2012 raised a most impressive £21,548, once again improving on the previous year's total. The Fund covered the cost of a number of items including a 3D Printer for Design and Technology. For a full list of projects, and information about the Annual Fund 2013 and how you can support it, go to www.cokethorpe.org.uk/go/annualfund.

#### **New Science Classroom**

Over the summer holidays a new Physics classroom was built, bringing the total number of Science laboratories to ten.

#### From the Common Room

**Weddings:** Congratulations to the following members of staff. Ms Gaddu married Paul Winch on Saturday 3 November in Birmingham. Mrs Dawes (née Dixon) married Stephen on Saturday 21 July at the Bay Tree Hotel, Burford. Mr Hughes married Claire on Saturday 28 July in Crantock, Cornwall. **New Arrivals:** Congratulations to Mrs Lamb and her husband Nick on the birth of their first child, Benjamin Nicholas, who was born on Wednesday 24 October 2012, weighing 7lb 8oz.









# **Fundraising for Charity**

# **Cherish Foundation**

'Our father regularly visits Hyderabad in India on business and he has made a connection with a local orphanage called the Cherish Foundation. We thought that it would be good to support them and came up with the idea of collecting sports kit as the children are very interested in sport.

The response from pupils and the Sports Department was huge and very soon the bins for collection were overflowing! Our father went to India in November and spent a lovely day at the orphanage where he took 50kg of kit. The children were delighted with everything although there was some confusion about shirt numbers being sizes!

The children live in very poor conditions but are so very grateful for the care and shelter they receive. They especially loved the matching kit with School crests on. We still have lots more kit for our father to take on his next few visits, probably in February.'

Jack Cole (Upper Sixth, Vanbrugh and Toby Cole (Fifth Form, Vanbrugh)

The Cherish Foundation was founded in January 2005 and provides a loving and stable family for approximately 40 girls and boys aged 6 to 16 years.

# **Christmas Hamper Campaign**

Cokethorpe delivered 57 hampers of food to St Mary's Church in Witney following the completion of its annual Christmas Campaign in December. Contributions to the hampers were from pupils, families and staff. They have been distributed to those suffering hardship during the festive season via the Church's links with local schools and The Besom in Witney. The hampers were received on behalf of the Church by Captain Jeff Hill, Church Army Minister for Witney and Michelle Bailey-Wells. Parish Administrator, who commented, 'We are extremely grateful to Cokethorpe for such fantastic support and I am sure that the recipients of these wonderful hampers will be overjoyed. They will really help needy families and the vulnerable at what can be a difficult time of year to'. d



#### Movember

Traditionally, sporting facial hair on one's top lip and raising money for research into testicular and prostate cancer have not always gone hand in hand, but Movember has done a great deal to link the two in recent years. Unwilling to shy away from a fundraising challenge and a good cause, eleven members of staff joined Cokethorpe's Team Cuppa (captained by Mr Bradford) and grew their moustaches throughout the month of November to raise a fantastic total of £895. At the end of the month. Head of Geography, Mr Capel, was presented with a hamper of Cuppa goodies for his phenomenally impressive nose-tickler. Many thanks to all who donated through the Movember website and the collection box in Cuppa. As the old saying goes, 'with great moustache comes great responsibility'.



# **Wider Community**

#### Remembrance Service

On Friday 9 November, pupils, staff and members of the local British Legion, marked Remembrance Day with a service in the Upper Quad. Revd Humpheys led prayers, a hymn and a minute's silence to remember those who have given their lives in the line of duty. The Brass Band accompanied the hymn and *The Last Post* and *Reveille* were played by Oliver Parker (Lower Sixth, Feilden).



# Haunted Sleepover Weekend

Members of the Lechlade Scout Troop enjoyed a Haunted Sleepover Weekend in Cokethorpe's Mansion House at the end of October. Sleeping in the eerie Corinthian Room, they took part in Halloween-related activities such as pumpkin carving and were also given the opportunity to try their hand at clay pigeon shooting under the supervision of Mr Daniels.



# **Oxford Downs Promoted**

Congratulations to the Oxford Downs 3rd XI cricket team members, who play their league fixtures here at Cokethorpe, for being promoted after coming second in Division 8. Captain Nick Rivett wrote to Mr Daniels saying 'Many thanks for your assistance and support this season and please pass on our thanks to all those at Cokethorpe who have helped enable us to secure promotion.'





### **Admissions Round-Up**

The first Open Morning of the academic year saw over 130 families visit to look round the Junior School, Senior School and Sixth Form. A successful Third Form Assessment Day has taken place, with places offered for 2013 and 2014 and there were some excellent candidates at the first of the Junior School Assessment Days. The Reception Class for September 2013 is nearly full.



# **Strickland Sponsored Cycle**

Nine customers from The Strickland Arms in Ducklington cycled 230 miles, from Ashburton in Devon to Ducklington, over just three days in September. They raised an incredible £4,820 for Alzheimer's Society and Young Dementia UK in honour of a former patron of the pub who died. Cokethorpe was pleased to help by lending a School minibus to act as the support vehicle during the challenge.



#### Oxfordshire Ride and Stride

Cyclists and walkers took part in the annual Ride and Stride in September, raising approximately £120,000 for the Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust (OHCT) and churches of their choice. The School Chapel was amongst the 520 Oxfordshire churches open and welcomed 12 visits during the day. Next year's 'riding and striding' will take place on Saturday 14 September 2013.

#### Remembrance Service

Following the Remembrance Service on Friday 9 November, three Junior School children had the opportunity to learn about one of the British Legion member's time serving his country. Nick Clack told them stories of how he earned his medals and also spoke about his father's medals, which Nick also has the honour of wearing.

# **Key 2013 Admissions Dates**

W/C Monday 14 January:

Lower First Candidate Interviews Thursday 24 January:

Junior School Assessment Day Lower First Candidate Interviews Saturday 26 January:

Lower First Assessment Day W/C Monday 25 February:

Third Form Scholarship/Awards Assessments
Saturday 2 March: Open Morning
Wednesday 15 May: Open Evening
Tuesday 4 June:

Junior School Assessment Day Tuesday 18 June:

Junior and Lower First Transfer Day

#### **Standlake Scouts**

The 1st Standlake and Cokethorpe Sea Scout Group continue to use Cokethorpe as it's headquarters during the winter season. The Beavers (6-8 years), Cubs (8-101/2 years) and Sea Scouts (10-14 years) use the School on Thursday evenings and also held the Annual General Meeting in the Coffee Shop in September. In addition, the Beavers enjoyed a camping weekend in the grounds in August. Helper and parent, Mrs Staples, adds: 'A big thank you for allowing us to camp at Cokethorpe. We had a fantastic time and the weather was beautiful. The Beavers loved the freedom of running around. Once the Beavers had gone to bed it was lovely sitting on the bench looking across the School's lovely setting."

#### **Strickland Cycle Challenge**

One of the oldest and fittest cyclists that took part in the 230-mile challenge in September was Joe Cockroft, aged 69. Joe is the grandfather of Charlie and Isabella Clarke in the Junior School. Organiser and landlady of The Strickland Arms, Alex Fullon, is now recruiting for the Strickland Cycle Challenge 2014, in which the aim is to cycle 400 miles in five days, from Paris to Ducklington. Go to www.thestricklandarmswitney.co.uk for more information.

#### Witney Rugby Club

Witney Rugby Club's U14 team played one of their matches here at Cokethorpe in November.

#### **Wychwood Hockey Club**

Wychwood Hockey Club continue to use Cokethorpe as its home for 1st and 2nd XI league matches this season.

# From the Archives

#### **Turning Back the Pages**

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

#### 15 Years Ago (1997)

Classical Civilisation tour of Greece. Despite a thunderstorm and questions as to our sanity from the locals we walked to the National Archaeological Museum only to find it had closed four hours earlier.

#### 20 Years Ago (1992)

One of the newest aspects of Cokethorpe is the introduction of girls.

#### 25 Years Ago (1987)

Three soccer teams left school at 5.30am one frozen February morning. We headed for Calais as forlorn as the retreat from Dunkirk; ironically the French now fear British soccer teams and school trips as they once feared the Panzers.

#### 30 Years Ago (1982)

The Pond area has seen much activity in the past year. Chickens and bantams are kept by about a dozen boys. Bantam eggs are much sought after by certain members of staff. Ferrets continue to fascinate boys and are treated as if they are royalty.

#### 35 Years Ago (1977)

In the February flood, members were able to canoe straight out of the Boat House (having changed on rafters in the roof) and on a direct course across the fields to Northmoor Weir where they were able to canoe it up as well as down (there is usually a five foot drop!).

#### 40 Years Ago (1972)

Edale is a fine memory – the preparations, the journey and finally arriving only to have to fill the water tank, and, in doing this I got particularly soaked.

### 45 Years Ago (1967)

The rearing of boys in Britain has always been based on the notion that a good deal of discomfort is somehow beneficial to one's health. Nevertheless to walk for the best part of a night across the sodden fields of Oxfordshire, negotiating barbed wire fences in inky darkness and to round off these joys by eating breakfast in a telephone box, might suggest that one needed one's head looking at.

#### 50 Years Ago (1962)

From the master in charge of the ski trip to Austria in 1962; 'Boys are only quiet when they are asleep. From Victoria, across the Channel and well into France and the early hours they talked. From dawn, through Basel, across Switzerland and into Austria they talked. After a brief respite in Innsbruck (we got rid of them for an hour while we waited for the connection), they talked the last lap to Seefeld.'

# Research in the Cokethorpe Archive

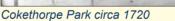
Alexander Billing (Third Form, Vanbrugh) has been doing some research in the Archive. Below is his article on Sir Simon Harcourt, Chancellor to Queen Anne, who owned Cokethorpe in the 18th century, and who was responsible for the building of the mansion as it is today.

'Sir Simon Harcourt was the son of Sir Phillip Harcourt; he was born in 1661 and died in 1727. While he was a great man of many talents, what was most impressive was the amount of trust placed in him. We can clearly see this from how he was taken in so quickly from one of the largest law firm's after graduating. He also demonstrated a flair and keen passion towards politics.

Before owning Cokethorpe Park, Sir Simon Harcourt led an honourable life and was presented with many important titles. For example, in 1702 he was knighted. However, this was nothing in comparison to the next 12 years of his life. During 1707–1708 (and then again in 1710) Sir Simon held the high office as attorney general. This meant that he was the main legal advisor to the government, and in some jurisdictions he also had executive responsibility for law enforcement or responsibility for public prosecutions.

In 1709 Sir Simon Harcourt became the proud owner of Cokethorpe Park and remained so until his death. While owning Cokethorpe, a lot of money was spent on repair and expanding, as well as hosting parties.







Simon Harcourt, 1st Viscount Harcourt, 1661–1727

It is a well-known fact that many famous and powerful people visited Sir Simon Harcourt, most important of these was Queen Anne. It is said that part of the panelling within the Mansion House was donated by the Queen. Only a year after buying Cokethorpe, Sir Simon became interested in Nuneham Courtenay which he got for a bargain price, bearing in mind that the property came with 2000 acres of land. The sale was and still is the best value for money property purchase in Britain's history.

Later on in 1710 Harcourt was presented with the honour of being Lord Keeper of the great seal until 1713. This was something that could be presented to someone who was formerly an officer of the English Crown. They were given the physical custody of the Great Seal of England. Harcourt was later made a baron in 1711 and then had the pleasure to be made a viscount only a year later. In 1713–1714 Viscount Harcourt was the chancellor to Queen Anne and they became very close which is believed to be why she gave him such a large present (the panelling). With such a fascinating history, Harcourt was clearly one of a kind and a great role model. It is no wonder that one of the houses in our school was named after him.'

#### **Archive Donations and Loans**

Thank you to James Cartland (OC 1964, Swift) who has recently donated notes and research papers to the archive. James did a lot of research into the history of the Cokethorpe estate when he was a pupil here in the early 1960s and in fact wrote a history. James has also loaned a series of Cokethorpe Estate books which date back to the 1850s. They give an interesting insight into the day to day running of Cokethorpe Park in the nineteenth century.



# The Cokethorpe Society



# Luke Ryan

Luke Ryan (OC 2006, Gascoigne and current Cokethorpe Physical Education teacher) has been appointed the new captain of Oxfordshire's Minor Counties team. Luke has played for the county at all age groups from Under 11 to the Minor Counties team, making his full senior debut in June 2006. He has also been a part of Oxford University Centre of Cricketing Excellence (2007–2009) and has played for Banbury CC since 2005. Aged 24, Luke will become the youngest ever Oxfordshire captain. Luke, who was Captain of Cricket at Cokethorpe in 2006, says 'I was pleasantly surprised, but also very honoured to be offered the role.'

#### Lizzie Hardie

'By the time I left Cokethorpe, the School had helped me both exceed the A Level grades I needed for university and had introduced me to Clay Pigeon Shooting. When I arrived at Cokethorpe in 2009, I had never picked up a shotgun, and yet after a few years of tuition from Mr Daniels, I was selected to shoot for my the Royal Agricultural College's Ladies Team. At a major competition in Scotland this November, not only did my team come first, beating the likes of Cambridge, St Andrew's and Exeter, but I was within a couple of clays of being the Ladies High Gun. Thank you Cokethorpe.'



Lizzie Hardie (2012, Queen Anne, Far Left in Photo)



# **Cokethorpe Reunion**

When Peter Siu (OC 1970, Harcourt) was in the UK in June, he arranged to meet up with two school friends of his, Alan Greenhalgh and John Fairchild (OCs 1971), shown above.



#### **Christopher Laughton**

Christopher Laughton (OC 1965, Swift) visited in September, his first time since he left Cokethorpe. He has good memories of rowing whilst here and his friends in 'Science Sixth'.



Craig Harrington (OC 2001, Harcourt) has joined the Major League Soccer team LA Galaxy in the United States as Head Coach for the U16 Squad. Craig first played football for Carterton FC at the age of seven, before joining Oxford United, Swindon Town and North Leigh youth teams. Following a very successful time at Cokethorpe, Craig discovered a talent for coaching whilst at the University of Kent, before moving to Southern California after his graduation and gaining his full coaching qualification. Craig said: 'It has been an amazing experience so far. To work in such an elite environment with the best youth players around is the best job in the country.'



#### **Dominic Cannon**

Dominic Cannon (OC 2009, Vanbrugh) has featured in HP Sauce's latest television advert. Entitled 'A Sauce of Manliness', the tongue-in-cheek advert offers a humorous take on what is considered to be 'manly'. Dominic features about 40 seconds in as the young man to whom HP's advice is that 'any attempt at facial hair should be applauded'. Dom, who studied Theatre Studies at A Level at Cokethorpe, went on to complete acting courses at The Birmingham School of Acting and The Rep College in Reading. He says 'I was really pleased to get the role of 'Moustache Man'. In the future I'd love to do more theatre work and break into the film industry'.

### **Forthcoming Events**

### **Recent Leavers' Reunion**

Saturday 23 March 2013, 7.00pm For OCs who belong to the Classes of 2010, 2011 and 2012 and recent staff leavers. Free but reservation required.

#### **Cokethorpe Society Lunch**

Sunday 24 March 2013, 12 noon For OCs and staff of any leaving year. £15 a ticket.

#### **Cokethorpe Society Sports Festival**

Sunday 24 March 2013, 2.00pm All OCs encouraged to participate in (or spectate) a variety of sports including soccer, rugby, hockey and netball.

#### **Cokethorpe Society AGM**

Wednesday 17 April 2013, 7.00pm All OCs warmly invited.

Email: society@cokethorpe.org Telephone: 01993 892339

#### **News Round-Up**

Last year's Captain of Rugby, **Henry Purdy** (OC 2012, Queen Anne) has been playing for the Leicester Tigers
A Team side this season. He also had his professional 1st XV debut on Friday
9 November in their cup defeat to Saracens.

Congratulations to **Nick Emmerson** (OC 1963, Queen Anne) on winning the Stonecot by-election in December to become the new Liberal Democrat councillor for the Sutton London borough.

**Sam Nielson** (OC 2009, Gascoigne) has recently established a new clothing brand. The London-based label 'Astray' is launching in January.

Congratulations to **Piers Skinner** (OC 2001, Harcourt) and **Emma** (née Cooper, OC 2005, Harcourt) on the birth of William, who was born on Wednesday 24 October 2012.

Richard Cashmore (OC 2005, Gascoigne) graduated as a Doctor in July 2012 from The Peninsula College of Medicine and Dentistry, part of the Universities of Exeter and Plymouth.

Timothy and Philip Pearse (OCs 2006, Harcourt) both graduated with their Engineering Masters degrees in July 2012. Tim did Engineering Design at Bristol and is now on a graduate training scheme at Rolls Royce (aerospace). Philip did Aeronautical Engineering at Southampton and now works at Lockheed Martin, Portsmouth.

**Jeremy Bird** (OC 1977, Swift) visited Cokethorpe with his family whilst over from Germany in October and was given a tour of the School by the Headmaster.

**Lewis Breslin** (OC 2010, Queen Anne) completed the Great South Run on Sunday 28 October, raising over £500 for Help For Heroes.

# **Tail Feathers**

#### Ave

Cokethorpe is pleased to welcome the following members of staff.

Miss M Bertholle (Modern Foreign Languages) 'Originally from Paris. I have been in the UK for six years, spending three in Wales and three in Oxford. I have a passion for travelling and try to visit at least two new countries each year and regularly go on road trips in the UK or in Europe.

#### A Y Chim (Chemistry)

'A graduate in Chemistry from Imperial College, I am joining Cokethorpe as a newly qualified teacher, having taught English for three years in Fukuoka, Japan. I am a Sixth Form tutor and I am also in charge of the Japanese Culture AOB option. Interests outside work include opera and cooking.'

#### A Farrow (Philosophy)

'After studying Philosophy at King's College London I taught English as a private tutor in Paris. I briefly managed farmers' markets around the south of England before becoming a teacher. When I am not reading Philosophy I like cycling, comedy, and science-fiction drama from the BBC.'

#### Ms R Gaddu (Science and Maths)

'Having worked in the Junior School at Cokethorpe, I became familiar with the positive approach adopted by all pupils and what a wonderful school this was to work in. I am delighted to be joining the Science and Mathematics Departments and I look forward to employing my middle school training in my new role.'

#### A P Gale (Biology)

'I previously worked at Henry Box School in Witney after studying for my PGCE at Oxford University. Prior to my return to Oxfordshire (I grew up in Wantage), I worked for six years at Abbey College in Birmingham after completing my degree at the University of Birmingham. In my spare time I enjoy travelling and sport, especially rugby, golf and cycling.

#### D R Harris (Music)

'I join Cokethorpe as Director of Music having been in a similar position at King's School, Gloucester for eight years. Prior to that I taught at schools in Reading and Peterborough and worked at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden. Outside of school I knit (quite well) and play golf (quite

#### Mrs J R Miller (English)

'After working in international schools in South East Asia and the Middle East. I returned to Oxford last summer. I am delighted to continue working at Cokethorpe after a maternity cover since February.'

#### Mrs A O Petersen (Psychology)

'I have joined Cokethorpe from Wood Green School in Witney where I was Head of Psychology for seven years. Before teaching, I worked as a freelance producer in corporate communications – in between raising my son and daughter aged 20 and 16. I came to the UK from Denmark at the age of 20 to work for one year ... !'

#### Mrs Z Smith (Junior School)

'I was previously teaching at an Academy in Berkshire but having grown up in Oxfordshire, I am delighted to be living and teaching here once again. The warm and friendly ethos at Cokethorpe has made my start here very enjoyable.

#### A E Uglow (History)

'I am delighted to be back at Cokethorpe, having left the School in 2010 for a two-year contract at St Andrew's International School in Malawi. Whilst the weather and surrounds are somewhat different, it already feels like I have never been away.'

#### Ms R L Wise (Modern Foreign Languages)

'After three years working in the television industry I decided to pursue a career where I could share my passion for languages with others. I enjoy singing, playing the piano and planning my travels!'



# **Open Morning**

Saturday 2 March: 9.30am - 12 noon Prospective parents interested in entry at any age are warmly invited to attend. All departments will be open, and there will be refreshments and activities. All welcome.

#### Headmaster's Addresses:

10 30am and 11 30am

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**

Mrs S A Landon Bursar: sal@cokethorpe.org

Second Master: K Walton

kw@cokethorpe.org Head of Junior School: Mrs C Cook

cc@cokethorpe.org Mrs S M L Copeland

Senior Mistress

smlc@cokethorpe.org

Director of Studies: E J Fenton

ejf@cokethorpe.org

Head of Sixth Form: G J Sheer

gjs@cokethorpe.org

#### **Housemasters and Housemistresses**

Mrs J L Pratley Lower House:

jlp@cokethorpe.org Feilden: Miss P S M Townsend

psmt@cokethorpe.org

Gascoigne: Mrs E Semenzato

es@cokethorpe.org Harcourt: W G Lawson

wgl@cokethorpe.org

Queen Anne: A P Gale

apg@cokethorpe.org Swift: Mrs M H Cooper

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#### **Photographs**

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