

Cokethorpe
SCHOOL

THE OCELLUS

From the Headmaster

We are told that the period of austerity this country is facing is deeper and longer lasting than the Great Depression of the 1930s. But images from that time, which we sometimes see on TV and in history books, seem to paint a different picture. The grinding poverty, the soup kitchens, the marches of unemployed workers, the hopeless look in the eyes of ragged children, all seem to point to a depth of suffering far greater than what we see today. I know there are people in our society who are currently experiencing great hardship. I simply want to point out the extraordinary increase in the basic quality of life that has occurred over the past 80 years, such that, even in a deep recession, we cannot compare the quality of our lives today with those of the past. Or those in many other countries right now. The record amount of money raised recently by Comic Relief is testimony to the fact that many people in this country do understand that. I believe that members of the school community here at Cokethorpe, often very generous with their time and money, get it too. Perhaps something of the hardship of these times will help us understand, even more sharply, that vast numbers of people across the world live in circumstances far, far worse than ours, every day of their lives. It can never be said too often, especially in our current predicament, that we are the lucky ones.

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Front Cover:

Libby Flaherty (Year 5, Symonds) dressed as an astronaut for Literary Character Day, next to the Mars Rover prototype.



Parents' Information Workshops

On Tuesday 5 March, the School held an evening of Parents' Information Workshops, where professionals delivered seminars on a range of issues that parents have to face as their children get older.

The seminars included:

- Facebook and electronic communication, legal and emotional effects as well as grooming
- Eating disorders
- Drugs: the signs to watch out for, and the effects and support available
- Self-harm and low self-esteem
- Emotional health
- Choices and consequences that your child may face

Sixth Form students were on hand to show parents potential dangers and how to navigate through Facebook and other social media.

The parents who attended commented on how useful the seminars were.

Aerospace and Robotics

RAL Space carry out an exciting range of world class space research. A small group of Third Form pupils were able to participate in a variety of fun scientific experiments in March, from building spaghetti and marshmallow towers to creating their own satellite devices. The day gave an insight into the various career options available to young people who may be interested in pursuing both science and engineering careers.

UKMT Maths Challenge

The following pupils received awards in the 2013 Intermediate Maths Challenge:

Best in School, Best in Fourth Form, Gold Award and qualifier for European Pink Kangaroo round: (Top 1% of all results in the country)
Thomas Christensen

Best in Fifth Form and Gold Award:
Ellen Garbutt

Gold Award Winners:
Laurence Lodge, Nicholas Caddy, James Staples

Best in Third Form and Silver Award:
Alexander Billing

Silver Award Winners:
Katie Jenkins, Cameron Elphick, Ryan Smith, Joseph Wilde, Toby Watts-Lay, Oscar Frith

Bronze Award Winners:
Toyah Overton, Eloise Fraser-Paterson, Charlie Tobin, Fraser Logue, Bethany Mulloy, Nancy Battersby, Matthew Brown, Joe Whittington, Poppy Rand-Bell, Mike Davis, Eloise Shepherd, Laurence Scott

Sixth Form Taster Day

Despite GCSE exams just around the corner, A Level choices is also something which needs consideration at this stage. To help this process, all Fifth Form pupils experienced a day in the life of a Sixth Former on Thursday 31 January. Taster lessons were on offer in every subject and gave pupils a real feel for the rigours and excitement of A Level study. Pupils also enjoyed spending time in Cuppa and the Sixth Form Common Room. ☑



Fifth Form Physics Trip

'On Wednesday 16 January, Fifth Form Physics pupils were given the exciting opportunity to visit Rutherford Appleton Laboratory. We were taught about the research into cryogenics, the science of freezing things, and were given a tour around ISIS, a neutron source and effectively a giant microscope for significant scientific research. We built a space probe out of spaghetti and marshmallows and put it on a 'shaker table'. This was to model what a space launch was like and see if it could withstand the representative launch sequence.' ☑

Izzy Smith (Fifth Form, Harcourt)

Black Country Living Museum

'We first went to see how chain was made and immediately discovered that there were no health and safety whatsoever, the worker only had a leather apron and thin leather gloves! Next we went to an outhouse, with just two toilets that had to be shared between 13 people. No toilet paper, just newspaper. The school lesson was strict and simple and we learnt the '3 Rs'. The coal mine was very realistic.' ☑

Mike Billing (Upper First, Vanbrugh)



Team Maths Challenge

On the last day of term, four of the School's top mathematicians competed in the UK Teams Maths Challenge Regional Finals. The team was Third Formers Alexander Billing and Benjamin Foster (both Vanbrugh), and Upper First pupils Florian Goette (Queen Anne) and Mike Billing (Vanbrugh). The event comprised of four rounds; The Group Challenge, the Crossword, the Mini Relay and the Relay. The team finished a creditable 14th place out of 35 schools. ☑



Third Form Battlefields Trip

'On Thursday 28 February, Third Form went on a history trip to Belgium. We visited Essex Farm and Langemark cemeteries before heading to the Menin Gate in Ypres where there was a service held in honour of British soldiers who died, it was very moving. After Ypres we visited Hooze Crater and from there the trenches of death, which gave us a real sense of war. The next day we went to Tyne Cot Cemetery where 12,000 soldiers are buried. We held a brief service before leaving. It was an emotional trip which inspired everyone.' ☑

Bella Robertson (Third Form, Harcourt)





Public Speaking and Debating

Cokethorpe's superb year of public speaking and debating success continued this term. Cokethorpe represented Oxfordshire in the regional final of the English Speaking Union (ESU) Mace Debating Competition. This was hotly contested, Cokethorpe coming runners-up to Warwick School.

Two Cokethorpe teams showed themselves to be outstanding future talents with a mature showing in the Oxford Union Schools' Debating Competition. Despite being the youngest teams, they were only narrowly defeated in their debates.

In the RIBI Youth Speaks County Final the team did a superb job but were narrowly pipped by The Oxford Oratory.

English Literary Recitals

Miss Jackson continued the English Department's programme of Literary Recitals this term with *Where Angels Fear To Tread*, dealing with writers' fascination with fear. Stories of the grotesque and weirdly horrible were interlinked with exploring the elements of the supernatural and the macabre. Mr Heaney added to the recital by playing a spectacularly disturbing piece entitled *I'm Dying, I Love You*.

Mrs Howells's recital, entitled *Women: The Fairer Sex?*, engaged the audience in a heated debate about gender. She focused on definitions of feminism and addressed the different gender roles within literature and explored modern and traditional examples of female narrative voice. The audience then engaged in a lively discussion as to whether traditional feminism still has a place in today's society.



Poetry by Heart

On Monday 25 February, Lower House and Third Form took part in the first final of the School's Poetry by Heart competition. English class winners from all three year groups assembled to perform some challenging poetry that they had learnt from the anthology released for the nationwide competition. Pupils showed exceptional skill, not only in remembering some lengthy poems, but also in their understanding of and empathy with the words they spoke.

Cokethorpe also represented Oxfordshire at the ESU Public Speaking Midlands Regional Final. Pitched against nine other county championship teams, they were narrowly beaten by Kenilworth School to be runners-up. The foundation has been laid for a successful season next year.



Miss Ringham took an enthusiastic and attentive audience on a literary journey through the trials and tribulations of love. Asking the enigmatic question, *What is Love?*, she explored the various forms of love. Mr Walwyn, Mrs Pratley and Mr Monaghan shared the readings from their own weddings, leading to some beautiful and poignant moments. Louis Allen (Upper Sixth, Harcourt) and Holly Cooper (Fifth Form, Feilden) also delivered excellent renditions of notable poems.

Finally, Mrs Miller discussed the works of Geoffrey Chaucer. A brief pilgrimage into *The Canterbury Tales*, retelling the 'marriage' tales, was followed by a journey through *The Clerk's Tale*, which reflected the obedience desired of women by men, whilst the pear tree incident of *The Merchant's Tale* presented what many men feared.

Poetry by Heart

The winner of Lower First was Ruby Plumridge (Gascoigne) who performed *Miss Loo* by Walter de la Mare and the runner up was Megan Cambrey (Feilden) who performed *Envy* by Adelaide Anne Procter.

The Upper First prize was taken by Louisa Mattinson (Harcourt) who performed *God, A Poem* by James Fenton and the runner up was Evie Garbutt (Feilden), also performing *Envy* by Adelaide Anne Procter.

In the Third Form, Richard Turner (Feilden) was victorious with an outstanding performance of *Ha'nacker Mill* by Hilaire Belloc and second place was taken by Georgie Edwards-Lowe (Feilden) performing *My Papa's Waltz* by Theodore Roethke.

A recording of the competition featuring all of the performed pieces can be found on the School website.

Public Speaking and Debating

ESU Mace Debating Regional Final

Team:

Saul Garrett (Lower Sixth, Feilden)
Bethany Mulloy (Fifth Form, Swift)

Position:

Runners-Up

Oxford Union Schools' Debating

Teams:

Saul Garrett (Lower Sixth, Feilden)
Bethany Mulloy (Fifth Form, Swift)
Harry Lovibond (Fifth Form, Queen Anne)
Fraser Logue (Fifth Form, Vanbrugh)

RIBI Youth Speaks Public Speaking

Team:

Beth Sandland (Lower Sixth, Queen Anne)
Daniel Pye (Fifth Form, Vanbrugh)
Harry Norton-Shaw (Fifth Form, Vanbrugh)

Position:

Runners-Up

ESU Public Speaking Regional Final

Team:

Fraser Logue (Fifth Form, Vanbrugh),
Harry Lovibond (Fifth Form, Queen Anne)
Gabby Smith (Fifth Form, Feilden)

Position:

Runners-Up
Outstanding Personality Award:
Fraser Logue

English Literary Recitals

All the recitals can be heard on the School website, where full articles and photographs are also available.

Spanish Exchange

Nine families welcomed exchange students from Spain during March. A full account of the five days, written by Thomas Christensen (Fourth Form, Swift), is available on the School website.

Sixth Form

Headstart Scheme

Oliver Armstrong (Feilden) has been selected by the University of the West of England for a course in Automotive Engineering, with an opportunity to work on a Landspeed record holding vehicle. Alexander Owen (Feilden) will study Engineering at Newcastle University. Adam Roche (Queen Anne) will be at the University of Surrey also studying Engineering. Leicester University have selected Harry Bryson (Harcourt) to study Maths and Connie Gascoyne (Gascoigne) will also spend a week there studying Biology.


Birmingham University

On Thursday 31 January, the whole Lower Sixth had the opportunity to spend the day at the University of Birmingham. The Admissions team put on a day specially for the students, tailored to their needs, as they begin thinking about university options in more detail. There was a presentation introducing the applications process, offering general advice about applying to any university, as well as top tips for making a competitive application to a highly selective institution such as Birmingham. The Admissions Tutor's guidance on course selection and personal statements was of particular interest and everyone listened very attentively. A student representative received a very warm response from the year group, as he shared his experiences and his guide to student life. A tour of the campus followed, and the students were whisked around the highlights of this attractive university. Hopefully the day gave plenty of cause for reflection and the students look forward to the exciting year ahead, as they start to think seriously about their chosen future path.

The HaHa Magazine


- *Reality TV – The Ultimate Guilty Pleasure* by Ally Hutchinson (Upper Sixth, Queen Anne)
- *Opera – Not at all Stuffy, Actually!* by Zoë Mace (Upper Sixth, Harcourt)
- *Download Degradation of the Modern Age* by Emma Harpin (Upper Sixth, Gascoigne)
- *Manga and Anime: The West is Missing Out* by Tom Binnie (Lower Sixth, Harcourt)
- *Is our Obsession about Food Becoming More and More Sinister?* by Lucy Grout (Upper Sixth, Feilden)
- *Gap Year: Real Life Experience or Just a Holiday by Another Name?* by Max Harrington (Lower Sixth, Queen Anne)
- *A Letter to George Lucas* by Saman Ridha (Upper Sixth, Queen Anne)
- *Sport for All?* by Anna Withey (Lower Sixth, Harcourt)
- *We're not Teenage Dirtbags, Baby!* by Emily Thompson (Lower Sixth, Queen Anne)
- *Oh so Individual!* by Molly Treanor and Lizzie Gardner (both Lower Sixth, Vanbrugh)

Life After Cokethorpe

Five Lower Sixth students have been selected for the prestigious 'Headstart' scheme, whereby students across the country compete for a place to study a Science or Engineering subject at undergraduate level at a top university for one week in the summer. The students are excited at the prospect of developing new skills and experiencing university life first hand, as they work towards their UCAS applications. 




House of Colour

Lower Sixth and Fifth Form girls were treated to sessions on personal styling and dressing to impress by Lisa Whiteside from House of Colour this term. The importance of first impressions and the non-verbal communication of clothes were covered, along with interview dress and styling for different occasions. The difference between fashion fads, trends and classic looks were discussed with money-saving advice given. 




Particle Physics Masterclass

Upper Sixth Physics students visited the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory in February. This invaluable day provided an overview to their A Level topic and a chance to see some particle accelerators. The students were given a tour of ISIS, a neutron source used for pioneering research projects, and also had the opportunity to find the elusive Higgs Boson using actual data from ATLAS – an experiment at CERN. 




A Level English Trip

'This was an innovative production of a play that has retained its emotional poignancy for over 60 years. *The Glass Menagerie* by Tennessee Williams is an autobiographical play where the playwright lays bare his feelings about how he, his mother and his sister, obsessed with her menagerie of glass animals, were trapped in their own dream worlds, in which we, the audience, were also absorbed.' 

George Lawson (Upper Sixth, Gascoigne)



The HaHa Online Magazine

A dynamic group of students from the Sixth Form have been working hard at a new website, new format and new material for a relaunch of the Sixth Form online magazine. *The HaHa* is an online publication, accessible at www.cokethorpehaha.com, which seeks to produce entertaining articles in which students reflect on a range of issues, encompassing both ends of the journalistic spectrum, from the serious to the frivolous. All contributors seem to have enjoyed honing their persuasive writing skills through this Friday AOB activity and applications are welcomed from potential new members, including those in the current Fifth Form who may wish to contribute in the future. 





Studying Abroad

Dr Ian Brennan, Professor of Marketing at the Hasan School of Business, Colorado State University spoke to the Lower Sixth students on Friday 8 March about the exciting opportunities available for study in the USA. Dr Brennan gave an engaging talk, which encompassed a range of institutions and courses. He highlighted the similarities and differences between the two systems and explained about the scholarship and bursary programme, which allows many top British students to make successful applications to the States. The talk was of particular interest to a number of students and a group of Sixth Formers stayed behind to quiz Dr Brennan further about the application process. Thank you to Dr Brennan for coming to visit. ☑



Enlightenment Lectures

Sixth Form students welcomed Dr Richard Corfield for a fascinating scientific journey into the importance of genomics. Guy Salkeld of the National Trust visited to look at the history of Cokethorpe's Georgian buildings through the deductive lens of Sherlock Holmes, using diagnostic evidence to explain phases in the School's history. ☑

Houses of Parliament Visit

Following the work of the Lower Sixth Government and Politics students on Parliament and its role in the UK Political System, they were able to visit the institution itself. After a tour of both Houses, including a visit to the Royal Robing Room and the division lobbies where the MPs register their votes, they went to the Prime Minister's Office. There the students had an opportunity to discuss some of the big political and constitutional issues with the Prime Minister's Parliamentary Private Secretary and Member of Parliament, Sam Gyimah. The day was rounded off by a trip to Downing Street and the Supreme Court. Here students were able to watch cases which impact on the fundamental rights of all British citizens in progress. ☑



Geography Trip to Wales

Twenty-one Lower Sixth Geographers left a snowy Cokethorpe in January, enjoying a scenic but easy journey to the village of Betws-y-Coed in the Snowdonia National Park, North Wales. During the five-day visit, the students participated in classroom sessions covering fieldwork techniques and data analysis. Fieldwork undertaken included visiting the former slate-mining village of Llanberis to assess the extent and success of rural rebranding, comparing this with the rebranding of an urban environment in the seaside resort of Llandudno. They also learnt about glaciers at Nant Ffrancon and the problems of coastal erosion in the seaside town of Crickieth. It is hoped the field trip will prove invaluable for the students' exams in the summer. ☑



Enlightenment Lectures

'It was a great pleasure to lecture at Cokethorpe School. The staff and students were very welcoming and asked many perceptive questions afterwards. I look forward to a return visit.'

Dr Richard Corfield

'Richard gave a dynamic and superbly illustrated talk to our Sixth Formers for his Enlightenment Lecture. Richard opened our eyes to the inspiring, and sometimes questionable, use of science in various fields – from genetic research and cloning, through to identifying the dead from wars of long ago. Bursting with character, Richard is a knowledgeable, well-connected writer, broadcaster and scientist.'

Mr Elkin-Jones, English Teacher

'It was hugely enjoyable to visit Cokethorpe and see the buildings being looked after and cherished by the students and staff who are obviously very proud of their School. It really is lovely to see the Georgian building so full of life and I'm sure Chancellor Harcourt and his circle of friends would have approved of the music room! It was also fantastic to see how interested everyone is in the history (and archaeology) of the School and I very much enjoyed putting my talk together – it's amazing what lies waiting to be found when we start looking. Thank you to everyone for inviting me and making me feel so welcome – I hope we can do some more archaeology in the future and maybe even find that missing moat!'

Guy Salkeld

'Guy Salkeld focused on the relationship between the detective skills of Sherlock Holmes and the architecture and history of Cokethorpe. Guy's skills as a detective were not far off those of Holmes himself, with map overlays and attention to the smallest of details; the date of the beams in the School's Round House being traceable from the tree circles in the wood. We observed how a small cupboard tucked away in the Junior School music room had once opened onto an expanse of open country. The history of the HaHa, an undiscovered moat and the prospect of a long lost medieval village located near the School Chapel were just some of the mysteries and stories revealed.'

Alfie Turner (Upper Sixth, Feilden)

Oxfordshire Youth Awards

'On Thursday 21 February I travelled to the 2013 Oxfordshire Youth Awards, held at the Oxford Town Hall. I had been nominated by Dr Flaherty in the 'Science, Technology and Environment' category, for encouraging others to enjoy and pursue science subjects to a higher level. The evening was very interesting in hearing what other young people have done for their communities. Famous faces appeared throughout the evening including author Philip Pullman and Gaz Coombes from the band Supergrass. It was a fun and inspirational evening.'

Ethan Bosse (Upper Sixth, Vanbrugh)

Ruddigore Cast

Robin Oakapple	Jacob Yolland
Richard Dauntless	Ardan Devine
Sir Despard Dauntless	Fraser Logue
Adam Goodheart	James Bennett
Rose Maybud	Ellen Garbutt
Mad Margaret	Aimee Epelle
Dame Hannah	Zoë Mace
Sir Roderic Murgatroyd	Zac Bamford
Zorah the Bridesmaid	Katie Buckley
Ruth the Bridesmaid	Emily Thompson

Bridesmaids

Elizabeth Allen
Marion Bird
Alice Burns
Olivia Busby
Megan Cambrey
Anna de Buriatte Moglia
Rachel Dodimead
Lottie Fellows
Isabel Fisher
Louisa Flaherty
Katie Foster
Scarlett Howard
Rosie Hunt
India Hurford-Jones
Elise Loeffen
Michaela Logue
Louisa Mattinson
Ruby Plumridge
Melanie Severn
Verity Smith
Lydia Wannell
Sophie Wheeler
Anna Withey

Morris Dancers

Louis Allen
Oliver Armstrong
Oliver Baboolal
Miles Beirouti
Harry Bryson
Charlotte Ferryman
Saul Garrett
Alexander Owen
Francis Plummer
Rosie Turner

Statues

Anna Withey
Melanie Severn

Welcome

Francis Plummer

Music

Harry Fellows
Isaac Staff

Technical Helpers

Nathan Black
Alexander Jobling
Matthew Roche

The Witch's Curse?

Whilst *Ruddigore* (*The Witch's Curse*) eventually became a relatively profitable success for Gilbert and Sullivan, its first performance in January 1887 did not end well. It was reported by *The New York Times* that at the final curtain there was loud hissing and shouts of 'Take off this rot!' and 'Give us *The Mikado*!'



Senior School Production

Gilbert and Sullivan plots are rarely comprehensible and Cokethorpe productions are never pedestrian, so *Ruddigore* (*The Witch's Curse*) exploded into The Shed in a riot of colour, song and silliness. After a cheeky introduction by a Morris Dancer (Francis Plummer, Lower Sixth, Queen Anne) the lights came up on a wonderful west-country vista. Onto this Kernowyon coastline skipped the delightful Bridesmaids, 25 in all, bemoaning the lack of eligible bachelors in their part of the world. The Bridesmaids were marvellous in their role as a Chorus, chattering and simpering throughout the play, and giving each scene vitality and verve. Into their midst drove the eldest spinster in town, Dame Hannah (Zoë Mace, Upper Sixth, Harcourt), resplendent in her peroxide perm, gilet-necked make up and leopard leggings. Her brilliant, vodka-swilling appearance astride a mobility scooter immediately flung us into a deliciously dark parallel universe, full of mischief and the macabre.

The balance of innocence was struck with Rose Maybud (Ellen Garbutt, Fifth Form, Feilden) and Robin Oakapple (Jacob Yolland, Lower Sixth, Gascoigne), whose sweet and shuffling courtship was a joy to watch. These two performers brought maturity and professionalism to their roles with exceptional self-awareness, gushing sincerity and knowing winks. The bravado with which Ellen deployed the innocent, but forceful Rose was inspiring and Jacob's secretive Oakapple was a master class in energetic audacity. He was joined by his foster-brother Richard Dauntless (Ardan Devine, Third Form, Queen Anne) and faithful servant Adam Goodheart (James Bennett, Fourth Form, Swift). It was fantastic to see two such talented actors grabbing the comedy reins with such confidence, the former a swaggering naval officer full of gallant charm in his uniform and the latter a creeping drip with sandals and sweater vest.

Another fresh face on the Cokethorpe stage is Aimee Epelle (Fifth Form, Queen Anne) whose Mad Margaret was superb in her screeching, gurning lunacy. She veered from hyperactive extrovert to unsettling psychopath in a heartbeat as she haunted the object of her desire, the wicked Despard Dauntless. This role was expertly played by Fraser Logue (Fifth Form, Vanbrugh) who was superb in his first central role. His swindled scoundrel stalked the stage in hilarious fashion.

The second Act transported us to the gloomy Ruddigore castle, where the now disgraced Ruthven Murgatroyd (aka Oakapple) tries pathetically to fulfil the family curse of committing a crime every day. This is enforced by the animated portraits of his long-dead ancestors, one of whom Roderick (Zac Bamford, Upper Sixth, Feilden) leaps from a pyrotechnic mist to ensure his descendant's diligence. Supported by the impressively ghoulis statues (Anna Withey, Lower Sixth, Harcourt and Melanie Severn, Fifth Form, Gascoigne), Zac rasped with delicious comic excess. Perhaps the funniest and most touching scene of the whole play was the final duet, between his character and the formidable harridan Hannah. Their beautiful vocal harmony and dance resembling two geriatric crabs epitomised this production's ability to move an audience towards laughter and sentiment in the same gasp.

Congratulations to the young technical team who worked tirelessly to ensure that this play ran smoothly. Terrific support was also provided by the Morris Dancers whose hard work in rehearsal and goofy performance prompted rapturous applause every time they were on. Praise must also go to the excellent band (Upper Sixth Formers Harry Fellows, Vanbrugh and Isaac Staff, Gascoigne) whose effortless ability provided the musical backbone of this fantastic production. 📺

Disposable People

Upper Sixth Drama and Theatre Studies students Zac Bamford (Feilden), Georgie Ellison (Queen Anne), Christian Field (Harcourt), Charlotte Ferryman (Queen Anne), George Lawson (Gascoigne) and Zoë Mace (Harcourt) presented their devised piece entitled *Disposable People* in The Shed on Wednesday 6 March as part of their Exploration of Drama and Theatre examination.

This shocking ensemble presentation was the culmination of a substantial research project that took the students on a journey of exploration through political, historical, cultural and social issues at home and abroad. Firstly the plight of child soldiers in Liberia was explored, using a clever combination of movement and narration. A grotesque rehash of *Blind Date* exposed the disturbing facts behind the growth of modern day slavery and human trafficking to the UK. The poor treatment of soldiers returning from Afghanistan suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder was dealt with in true ensemble style with all members of the cast playing many different roles such as the Prime Minister, fellow soldiers, medical officers and family members.

Perhaps one of the most heart-breaking scenes was *Audrey's Memories*. Confined to a wheelchair and ignored in the old people's home, Audrey's past was brought to life through mime in sepia tones, providing a stark contrast to her present, pitiful state as she waited in vain for a visitor. The final scene provided a dark but mesmerising portrayal of how vulnerable young girls are groomed and trapped by sex offenders.

This enthralling and uncompromising production avoided employing obvious shock tactics, but delivered five powerful stories with grace, maturity and outstanding dramatic skill, providing the audience with plenty of food for thought. ☑



Upper First Physical Theatre

The Upper First pupils presented their devised pieces of Drama using the complex style of Physical Theatre on Wednesday 23 January. Each group developed ideas in order to formulate a story based on the subject of *Journeys*.

U1C began with a tremendous example with their piece entitled *Down the Rabbit Hole* which told a precautionary tale of what might happen if you follow a rabbit into a magical world.

A completely different approach was taken by U1A in their story of a train crash victim's journey to the edge of death and back again. *Oxford Circus* was a harrowing tale, skilfully communicated by all.

U1D lightened the mood with their accomplished presentation of *Dream World* which took the audience on an imaginative journey through dreams and nightmares.

Finally, U1B presented their comic story of how one man's ordinary day goes from bad to worse. In *Wilf's Bad Day* the audience was treated to a series of unfortunate events from his car breaking down to the shattering of his romantic dreams concerning his unrequited love for his work colleague.

The pieces were presented with poise, energy and skill and all groups should be very proud of their performances. ☑

The Arts Academy

The Arts Academy is for group drama work and runs every Saturday in The Shed from 10.00am to 1.00pm during term time.

The groups work from scripts or devise their own plays in preparation for LAMDA Group Examinations.

For example, at the end of the Michaelmas Term, a group performed a scene from *Alice in Wonderland* featuring Tweedledum and Tweedledee and the Walrus and the Carpenter for their Grade 5 and achieved Distinction.

Two other groups completed their exam this term on Monday 18 March, with one group performing a devised piece at Grade 5 and the other group performing other scenes from *Alice in Wonderland*, including the kitchen scene, the Cheshire Cat and the Mad Hatter's Tea Party.

In addition to rehearsing for plays, the groups take part in a series of drama games, which are always fun and are essential for team work and improvisation skills.

At the end of the Lent Term, the group presented an End of Term Showcase for an audience of parents, families and friends.

Whilst numbers are limited, new members of The Arts Academy are welcome to join at the start of each term.

Disposable People Roles

In addition to various other minor roles, the main characters the students undertook were as follows:

Zac Bamford
Derek Grayson
Michael Harper
Kamar Jamil

Georgie Ellison
Madeline Bowen
Medical Officer
Chelsea White

Charlotte Ferryman
Gryla Black
Audrey Harper
Kerry Saunders

Christian Field
Stewart Verman
The Prime Minister
Harry Harper

George Lawson
Child Soldier
Lewis McKay
Assad Hussain

Zoë Mace
Shima
Emma McKay
Ashley Brooks



A Level Music Concert

Jacob Yolland (Lower Sixth, Gascoigne)
Voice
Dancing Through Life Stephen Schwartz
In Whatever Time We Have Stephen Schwartz
Goodnight Sweetheart Ray Noble
Mad World Roland Orzabal

Ross Battersby (Lower Sixth, Gascoigne)
Clarinet
Summertime George Gershwin
The Favourite Scott Joplin
Swinging Shepherd Blues Oliver Ledbury

James Ellacott (Upper Sixth, Feilden)
Tenor Horn
Elegy Martin Ellerby
Chanson de Martin Edward Elgar
Ev'ry Valley George Handel
Pie Jesu Gabriel Fauré
Rondo (Concerto No 2) Wolfgang Mozart

Jack Wollner (Upper Sixth, Harcourt)
Guitar
Lovers' Carvings Bibio
Only Love Ben Howard
Walk In The Sun Daniel Jones

Harry Fellows (Upper Sixth, Vanbrugh)
Guitar
Have You Heard Pat Metheny
Stranger In Town Pat Metheny

Lunchtime Music Recital

Marion Bird (Third Form, Feilden): Voice
Eloise Fraser-Paterson (Third Form, Queen Anne): Piano
Jar of Hearts Christina Perri

Harry Creak (Third Form, Feilden)
Alto Saxophone
Isn't She Lovely Stevie Wonder
Ribbon In The Sky Stevie Wonder

Matthew Ellacott (Third Form, Feilden)
Jamie Langford (Third Form, Vanbrugh)
Wilf Cartwright (Upper First, Queen Anne)
Medley Various

Thomas Christensen (Fourth Form, Swift)
Piano
River Flows In You Yiruma

Jazz Band

On Friday 8 March the Cokethorpe School Jazz Band (CSJB) performed in a jazz competition at Chipping Norton School. Marion Bird (Third Form, Feilden) sang *Walk On By* by Bacharach and David, with Harry Fellows (Upper Sixth, Vanbrugh) playing a beautiful guitar solo. The band finished with *Westchester Lady* with a drum solo by Jamie Langford (Third Form, Vanbrugh), and further solos from Matthew Ellacott (Third Form, Feilden) on cornet, Isaac Staff (Upper Sixth, Gascoigne) on piano and Harry Fellows and Aidan King (Fifth Form, Gascoigne) on guitar.

The CSJB also performed at St Hilda's College on Saturday 23 February as part of a charity Gala Concert, organised by The Rotary Club of Oxford Isis.



Gig Night

The Lent Term Gig Night exceeded the hype that has gathered over the years, with a host of musicians taking the stage. A number of pupils gave outstanding debut performances, such as Mia Biles (Third Form, Gascoigne), Gabby Smith (Fifth Form, Feilden), Ewan Johnson (Lower Sixth, Queen Anne), Charlie Dewhurst (Fifth Form, Feilden), Emily Thompson (Lower Sixth, Queen Anne) and Lucy Virji (Fourth Form, Harcourt).

As always, Upper Sixth Formers George Lawson (Gascoigne), Harry Fellows (Vanbrugh) and Isaac Staff (Gascoigne) did what they do best, producing slick and accomplished pieces. Two of the youngest performers on the night, Lottie Fellows (Lower First, Vanbrugh) and Sophie Wheeler (Lower First, Swift) sang a cappella, demonstrating skill and confidence of performers twice their ages. 📺

The show had its familiar faces, delivering their usual high level of talent. Daniel Pye and Fraser Logue (both Fifth Form, Vanbrugh) performed well together, a collaboration which was worth the wait. Daniel Bailey (Upper First, Gascoigne), LuisaMae Lisi (Third Form, Harcourt), Thomas Christensen (Fourth Form, Swift), Ellie McBride (Third Form, Gascoigne) and Clare Berry (Third Form, Queen Anne) also performed superbly.



Lunchtime Music Recital

The Lunchtime Music Recital on Thursday 31 January was a chance for the younger members of the School to come to the fore and a marvellous opportunity to hear the future leaders in School music.

Pupils from Upper First to Fourth Form performed a diverse range of pieces and styles on a variety of instruments. 📺

Choral Evensong

The termly Choral Evensong took place on Wednesday 20 February and celebrated Candlemas, with canticle settings by Charles Wood and the anthem *The Lord is my Shepherd*, taken from the setting of the *Requiem* by John Rutter.

Reverend Humphreys led the worship with music from the Schola Cantorum, accompanied on the organ by Stephen Power, organ scholar elect at Gloucester Cathedral. 📺



A Level Music Concert

The annual A Level Music Concert took place in the Corinthian Room on Wednesday 27 February. The Sixth Form Music students performed the repertoire for their performance module to an audience of parents, staff and fellow students. The range was very varied and there was a wealth of talent on display. Other Cokethorpe musicians and the Wantage Silver Brass Band supported some of the performances. 📸



Skunk Anansie Visit

On Monday 25 February, some Cokethorpe music pupils were treated to a surprise visit from two members of the globally successful rock band Skunk Anansie. Guitarist Ace and drummer Mark Richardson came in at the request of visiting music teacher Ian Aguado-Bush and joined some of the Cokethorpe pupils during their private music lessons, commenting on how impressed they were with the level of talent and determination demonstrated by the pupils.



Young Musicians' Platform

The Young Musicians' Platform is an opportunity for Fifth Form pupils to perform their GCSE examination repertoire to an audience and a chance to hone their playing skills.

In the Corinthian Room on Wednesday 30 January, the concert showed what talent there is at Cokethorpe within the Fifth Form. The evening included eleven fine performances, of which three pieces of music were composed by the soloists themselves. The programme ranged from the James Bond theme to Ram Jam, taking in Handel and Dido along the way.

All Fifth Form pupils should be very proud of their performances, not only with the pressure of having their pieces recorded as part of their GCSE examinations, but also performing them to a live and appreciative audience. 📸



Soundtrack and Screen

Performing Arts Coordinator Mr Heaney has recently composed the soundtrack to a short film. *Porphyria* is based on nineteenth century poet Robert Browning's work *Porphyria's Lover* and is a dramatic monologue examining abnormal psychology. The soundtrack was created using digital electric music technology and the film premiered in Edinburgh in February. Mr Heaney has also recently appeared as an on-screen musician in BBC One's new drama *The Village*, and has performed electric violin with the world's leading theremin virtuoso, Lydia Kavina, as part of the Ashmolean Museum's Friday Live Event series, a performance based exhibition of Old and New Music Technology, mixing traditional compositions with improvisation.

Young Musicians' Platform

Aidan King (Fifth Form, Gascoigne)
Acoustic Guitar
Strumpellato Aidan King

George Wenman (Fifth Form, Vanbrugh)
Piano
Rio Del Aire George Wenman

Christian Ettinger (Fifth Form, Harcourt)
Acoustic Guitar
All Funked Up Jason Woolley

Charlie Tobin (Fifth Form, Feilden)
Bass Guitar
Amazing Grace Victor Wooten

Rebecca Witchell (Fifth Form, Gascoigne)
Piano
James Bond Theme Monty Norman

Rebecca Witchell and Melanie Severn (Fifth Form, Gascoigne)
Piano and Voice
White Flag Dido

Melanie Severn (Fifth Form, Gascoigne)
Voice
Could I But Express In Song Leonard Malshkin

Daniel Pye (Fifth Form, Vanbrugh)
Electric Guitar
Black Betty Ram Jam

Henry Plumridge (Fifth Form, Gascoigne)
Acoustic Guitar
Two Fingers Jake Bugg

Fraser Logue (Fifth Form, Vanbrugh)
Voice
Sa Tra I Ceppi G F Handel

Richard Thompson (Fifth Form, Queen Anne)
Acoustic Guitar
Not Entirely Blue Richard Thompson

Did You Know?

Skunk Anansie formed in 1994 and in 2004 was named as one of the UK's most successful ever chart acts by the Guinness Book of British Hit Singles and Albums, with a total of 141 weeks in both the singles and albums charts.

The band has toured globally with such other bands as U2, Aerosmith, Feeder, Lenny Kravitz, Bad Religion, and Muse.

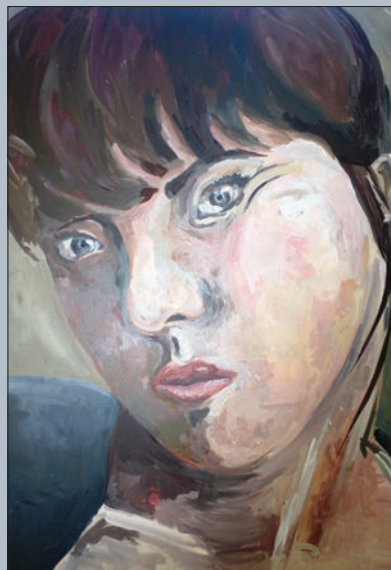
Radio Heaney

Mr Heaney recently took to the airwaves on BBC Introducing in Oxford to discuss one of his musical compositions, which he played at the beginning of Miss Jackson's Literary Recital *Where Angels Fear to Tread* on Thursday 10 January.

During the interview with presenter Dave Gilyeat, Mr Heaney discussed the origins and inspiration behind the track, which centred on the pain and loss of those affected by the September 2001 terrorist attacks in the United States, and the evolution of the electric violin as a performance instrument.

Art Gallery

Below are some examples of creations from GCSE and A Level Art pupils.



Faces by Gabriella Evans (Upper Sixth, Swift), completed as part of her coursework, inspired by a visit to the Jenny Saville Exhibition which was on at the Oxford Museum of Modern Art.



Bird by Molly Treanor (Lower Sixth, Vanbrugh), completed for her GCSE coursework project based on natural forms.



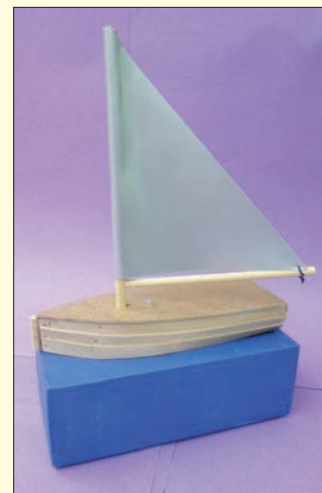
Landscape by Alfie Turner (Upper Sixth, Feilden), inspired by his visit to the David Hockney exhibition and based on local landscape Wittenham Clumps in the Thames Valley.


Pitt Rivers Museum

The Pitt Rivers Museum displays the archaeological and anthropological collections of the University of Oxford. The museum was founded in 1884 by General Augustus Pitt Rivers, who donated his collection to the University of Oxford. The General's founding gift contained more than 18,000 objects but there are now over half a million.

Design Technology

The Third Form pupils have recently completed a project that has stretched their designing and problem solving skills. The brief asked the pupils to design and manufacture a prototype bird box. They had to consider whether to use recycled or sustainable materials and to develop an innovative design for a specific consumer market. A wide variety of materials and components were used including bark from the trees that were felled by the tornado here at Cokethorpe in May, acrylic, steel, plywood and even an old tyre.



The Fourth Form pupils have also been busy completing a project to design and manufacture a child's night light. Pupils were required to construct a simple battery-powered circuit that used a sensor to control a colour changing LED, before designing and making the housing for the circuit. The designs were varied, exciting and successful, the result of hard work, increasing skills and dedication. Meanwhile, the GCSE and A Level pupils have been completing their coursework projects this term. 

Art and Textiles Trip

'On Tuesday 22 January we went to the Pitt Rivers Museum in Oxford, it was dark and cramped inside yet perfectly presented the unusual objects in an interesting light. There were many items collected from all over the world, shown throughout the three floors of the museum. Each floor interested different people, I personally preferred the first floor which was full of masks and cultural artefacts. We spent two hours in the museum looking round, taking photographs and sketching objects of our choice. The day was a complete success and lots of fun as it introduced the idea of pattern and decoration though culture for our GCSE coursework.'

Eilish Malliagh (Fourth Form, Feilden)

In the afternoon, the pupils also had the chance to explore the Ashmolean Museum and found great inspiration in the Egyptian and the Eastern Art collections. They photographed and sketched the artefacts, collecting information about colour, texture and pattern.

The lively and interesting studies they have created in their sketchbooks will be used to inform their ideas for their coursework.



AOB and Fundraising for Charity

Staff Training

With the Duke of Edinburgh season fast approaching a number of staff undertook a training day in the Brecon Beacons to prepare for Walking Group Leader training and assessment in the coming months. The group took advantage of a brief sunny interlude on a February weekend to hit the hills. It still proved rather cold and windy at the top of the 800m Fan Fawr. The training was a great success with an excellent opportunity for brushing up on old skills and learning new ones.



Duke of Edinburgh Training

'On the bleak morning of Saturday 16 March, the Fourth Form pupils arrived at School cold yet eager for their first Duke of Edinburgh training day. They were joined by eleven members of staff, who trained them in the numerous arts of camp crafts. They learnt how to put up and take down tents, cook soup on portable stoves (while trying not to burn themselves), how to read a map and deduce their bearings from it, and lastly, basic first aid. It was a very informative day, with only one bombardment of rain, which gave us a real idea of what we have to undertake as part of the award.'

Next term we will complete our practice expedition, walking for two days, spending a night under canvas and cooking our own dinner and breakfast.' 📖

Laurence Lodge (Fourth Form, Vanbrugh)



Jewellery Sale

The jewellery-making AOB pupils sold the products of their labour during lunchtimes this term. The group designed and made all the necklaces, bracelets and earrings on sale, many of which made excellent Mother's Day presents.

An impressive £64 was raised, which has been donated to Helen & Douglas House.

AOB Achievements

The following pupils have been awarded certificates for achievements in AOB:

Mosaic and DT Skills

Luke Jackson (Lower First, Swift)
Andrew Marples (Third Form, Harcourt)

Kitchen Garden

Nathan Black (Upper First, Harcourt)

Target Sports

Christopher Singleton (Upper First, Queen Anne)

Yoga

Elizabeth Pickup (Upper First, Gascoigne)

The HaHa Online Magazine

Tom Binnie (Lower Sixth, Harcourt)
Emily Thompson (Lower Sixth, Queen Anne)

AOB Activities

The AOB activities that have been running this term are:

- Glee Club
- Knitting
- Clothing Design
- Young Explorers
- Tae Kwon Do
- Target Sports
- Public Speaking
- Everyday Economics
- Golf
- The Art of Chess
- The HaHa Online Magazine
- Japanese Culture
- Schola Cantorum
- Music Ensemble
- Manga Club
- Mosaic and DT Skills
- Free Writing
- Soccer Training
- Cricket Training
- British Sport
- Team Ball Games
- Yoga
- Dance
- American Football
- Astronomy
- Kitchen Garden
- Band Music
- Venice Work Book
- Jewellery Design
- Film Shorts
- O-B Programming
- Sixth Form Trust Fund
- Young Enterprise
- Netball Training
- Strength and Conditioning
- Drama Production
- Greenpower Go Kart

Non-Uniform Day

Pupils from both the Junior and Senior Schools, as well as teaching and support staff, came into School on Friday 15 March wearing their home clothes. Each person donated £1 or more for the privilege and a total of £744.50 was raised to donate to the School's chosen charity, Helen & Douglas House. The charity, based in Oxford, provides hospice care for children and young adults and celebrated its 30th Anniversary during 2012.

Boys' and Mixed Hockey

The Lent Term has seen a total of six fixtures take place for the Boys' Hockey team, and whilst the team has shown great endeavour and spirit throughout the term, unfortunately results have gone against them. Losses were incurred to opposition teams including Sir Thomas Rich's School, Abingdon School, The King's School Gloucester and Rendcomb College.

However, the final game of the season, a Mixed fixture at home to Burford School, saw the team secure their first win of the season in a closely fought 1–0 victory.

The team has undoubtedly made progress over the course of the Lent Term and will no doubt use the experience and skills gained this year to provide a solid platform for next year.

1st XI Soccer Results

Grilli Canning College	W	3–1
St Clare's Oxford	W	4–1
Wheatley Park School (Cup)	W	4–2
Wheatley Park School	W	7–3
Henley College	W	9–1
Wood Green School	W	4–0
Sir Thomas Rich's School	W	3–2
St Edward's School, Oxford	D	3–3
Henry Box School	W	2–1
King Alfred's (Cup)	W	4–2
Pates Grammar School	W	2–1
Magdalen College School	W	1–0
Oxford & Cherwell VC (Cup)	W	Pens
Reading Blue Coat School	L	3–0
Burford School	W	5–1
Akeley Wood School	W	3–2

U14 Soccer Results

King Alfred's (Cup)	W	2–0
Abingdon School	W	7–0
Faringdon Community College	W	8–0
Bartholomew School (Cup)	W	2–1

U13 Hockey

The U13 Hockey team took part in a County Tournament at Bloxham School on Thursday 21 February.

Despite not quite reaching the final, the team performed well, finishing the tournament in third place overall.

Kayaking Success

Louis Allen (Upper Sixth, Harcourt) and George Barnicoat (OC 2010, Harcourt) posted the second fastest time of the day in the first race of the kayaking season on Sunday 3 February.

Sam Glover (Fourth Form, Queen Anne), William Alden (Third Form, Harcourt), Fred Herbert (Fourth Form, Harcourt), Oliver Parker (Lower Sixth, Feilden), and Jamie Unwin (OC 2011, Harcourt) also took part.



Soccer Report

The 2012–2013 season has been one of the most successful ever for the School, with outstanding results for all ages.

The U12s have enjoyed an unbeaten season, winning all of their matches. Elliott Couse (Lower First, Swift) and Alexander Wilde (Lower First, Harcourt) have performed with distinction, with many other players also contributing to the team's success. The U13s lost their opening two matches, but have shown great spirit to turn their season around. Having started their season successfully last term, the U14s have won all of their matches this term and have reached the semi-finals of the County Cup. Both Joe Whittington (Third Form, Gascoigne) and James Tanner (Third Form, Vanbrugh) have received representative honours and it is no coincidence that the team have conceded only a handful of goals in ten fixtures.

Wins have been harder to come by for the U15s, but many boys will be pushing for 1st and 2nd XI places next season. The 2nd, 3rd and 4th XI teams have also had good seasons.

However, it is the success of the 1st XI which has stood out this year, with the team playing sixteen fixtures, winning fourteen, drawing one and losing just the once. The team has also progressed to the semi-final of the County Cup, producing performances of the highest order. Captain Jack Wollner's (Upper Sixth, Harcourt) leadership of the side, in addition to his goal tally of twenty one in sixteen matches, has been particularly exceptional.

Good luck to the U14 and 1st XI in their semi-finals, to be played in the Summer Term. ➦



Cross Country Success

The Cross Country Schools Championships were held at Radley College on Tuesday 29 January. The Junior girls and boys ran well, narrowly missing out on places for the county team, particularly Ben Munday (Third Form, Harcourt) who was just one place off selection in the squad. The Intermediate girls were represented by Erika Davies (Fourth Form, Queen Anne) and Elisha Evans (Third Form, Swift), pictured above. In poor course conditions, Erika finished in a solid 13th place, with Elisha running well to finish an creditable 6th place.

A huge well done to all competitors who took part and a special congratulations to Elisha who will represent Cokethorpe in the National Schools Cross Country Championships. ➦

Sam the Marathon Man

Fourth Former Sam Glover (Queen Anne) has recently returned from taking part in a Marathon Canoeing competition in Gent, Belgium on Saturday 23 March.

Sam was one of 20 competitors to be selected for the Marathon Racing Committee (MRC) Development Team, following his performance at the MRC Training Days. In the near future, Sam will also have the opportunity to take part in assessment races for national selection, for the chance to represent Great Britain in the U16 category.

Sam is a member of Falcon Canoe Club Oxford and currently competes in Division 3 of the Hasler Series, which is the British national club championship for Marathon Canoeing.



Netball Report

It has been a particularly difficult term due to the appalling weather. However despite this, the girls have responded admirably with enthusiasm and determination, and achieved some good results amongst the teams.

A memorable moment for the 1st VII was their magnificent performance against Tettenhall College, Wolverhampton. This was a display of outstanding netball from both teams and included some talented youngsters from Lower House, Evie Phillips (Upper First, Swift) and Emily Kent (Lower First, Harcourt) both making their 1st VII debuts.

The U12A team are the Team of the Season, topped off by beating Headington School and Oxford High School to become finalists in the County Netball Tournament. 🏆



Divisional Rugby Stars

Olivia Jones (Lower Sixth, Queen Anne) has been selected for the RFU South West U18 Divisional Rugby Squad. Olivia's selection came after she was nominated to attend a Divisional Trial, as a result of her success in County Rugby. Jack Taylor (Fourth Form, Gascoigne), above, has been selected for the East Midlands Divisional Rugby Squad after being nominated by his coaches at Northampton Saints. Jack and Olivia will now have their eyes set on England selection for their respective age groups.



Sibford Sevens Rugby

Several Cokethorpe teams took part in the Sibford Sevens Rugby Tournaments this term. In the U13 competition, the Cokethorpe team, pictured above, produced a fantastic display to win the Plate Final. The U16 team, which included six U15 players, reached the semi-finals with Jack Taylor (Fourth Form, Gascoigne) and Matthew Clarke (Fourth Form, Feilden) in particular impressing against older opposition. In the U14 competition, Cokethorpe battled well to reach the final.



Clay Pigeon Shooting

On Saturday 16 March the Cokethorpe team went up to Wedgenook Shooting Ground for the Warwick Challenge and South Region Clay Pigeon Shooting Championships. Cokethorpe took fourth place behind the hosts Warwick, Millfield and Kingham Hill. Charlie Lay (Third Form, Swift), pictured right, took second place in the Individuals and Ethan Bosse (Upper Sixth, Vanbrugh) and Edward Mordue (Fifth Form, Queen Anne) were tied for third place, from almost a hundred competitors. Those in the team were Ethan Bosse, Mattias Athwal (Lower Sixth, Swift), Charles Von Hoven (Upper Sixth, Vanbrugh), Edward Mordue, Edward Collins (Fifth Form, Feilden) and Charlie Lay.

Sports Colours

Full Colours

Soccer	Jack Wollner (Harcourt)
	James Holifield (Feilden)
	Teague Bond (Feilden)
Netball	Gabriella Evans (Swift)
Kayaking	Oliver Parker (Feilden)

Half Colours

Soccer	Joe Biscoe (Gascoigne)
	Elliot Jones (Swift)
Netball	Hannah Alden (Harcourt)

1st VII Netball Results

Magdalen College School	L	13–20
Akeley Wood School	D	14–14
Bloxham School	L	6–28
Tettenhall College	W	23–21
Stowe School	L	13–32
The Henley College	L	8–17

Netball results for all teams can be found on the School website.

Netball Players of the Match

1st VII

Shannen Forry-Purvis (Lower Sixth, Vanbrugh)
Olivia Jones (Lower Sixth, Queen Anne)
Gabriella Evans (Upper Sixth, Swift)
Emily Kent (Lower First, Harcourt)
Lydia McCall (Lower Sixth, Vanbrugh)

2nd VII

Gabrielle Sadones (Lower Sixth, Vanbrugh)
Tilly Rand-Bell (Lower Sixth, Swift)
Connie Gascoyne (Lower Sixth, Gascoigne)

3rd VII

Aimee Epelle (Fifth Form, Queen Anne)
Vanessa Blake (Fifth Form, Gascoigne)

U15

Oonagh Ryley (Third Form, Swift)
Elisha Evans (Third Form, Swift)
Erika Davies (Fourth Form, Queen Anne)

U14

Freya Rowe (Third Form, Harcourt)
Eloise Maxa (Third Form, Feilden)
Wiz Binnie (Third Form, Harcourt)
LuisaMae Lisi (Third Form, Harcourt)
Makhaila Stanton (Third Form, Queen Anne)

U13

Jennifer Wells (Upper First, Queen Anne)
Evie Phillips (Upper First, Swift)
India Hurford-Jones (Upper First, Swift)
Charlotte Bury (Upper First, Vanbrugh)
Louisa Mattinson (Upper First, Harcourt)
Harriet Stone (Upper First, Swift)
Grace Henstone (Upper First, Queen Anne)
Olivia Messenger (Upper First, Queen Anne)
Georgina Bibby (Lower First, Swift)

U12

Megan Cambrey (Lower First, Feilden)
Georgie Vallance (Lower First, Vanbrugh)
Emily Kent (Lower First, Harcourt)
Sophie Wheeler (Lower First, Swift)
Hannah Craig (Lower First, Gascoigne)
Darcie Wilkes (Lower First, Feilden)

Evening of the Arts

Samba Band

Barty Gray, Jack Harding, Tom Forbes, Fletcher Sharp, Theo Langford, Jossy Brown, Tabitha Howard, James Shaw, Hayden Camidge, Szófia Homoki, Zoë Smith

Solo

Athis Knox *A Smuggler's Song*
by Christopher Le Fleming

Cello Duet

Isabelle Carnell *Bourrée*
Miss Shortland by G H Stölzel

3JD Poetry

Harry Furlong *Monsters*
by Tony Bradman
Tabitha Howard *The Song of the Pansy*
Fairy by Mary Baker

Junior Orchestra

Isabelle Carnell, Benjamin Shaw, Max Hichens, Rosa Birchenough, George Kinniburgh, Hayden Camidge, Hester Beer, Barty Gray

4ND Poetry

Theresa Goette *Where Teachers Keep*
their Pets by Paul Cookson
Tom Orton *Greedy Dog*
by James Hurley

Year 3 Tap Dance

Happy Tappers
Isabella Clarke, Maddie Flaherty, Tabitha Howard, Holly Kendrick, Ella-Mae Leach

Year 6 Street Dance

Tambourine
Dennis Catrini, Oliver Charles, Charlie Clarke, Harry Hanson, Charlie MacDonald, Rowan Paton, Joe Spilsbury, Ben Wardell-Yerburgh

Piano Solo

Chisengo Lukama *Down by the*
Riverside by Tim Richards

Solo

Tilly Hurford-Jones *Castle in a Cloud*
by Claude-Michel Schönberg

Chamber Choir

Hester Beer, Szófia Homoki, Zoë Smith, Theresa Goette, Jossy Brown, Edith Wannell, Thomas Smith-Donald, Jonathan Peach, Gracie Karslake, Merry Longman, Libby Flaherty, Victoria Cowley, Harry Phipps, Rosa Birchenough, Chisengo Lukama, Cole Skinner, Isabelle Carnell, Annabel Page, Athis Knox, Hayden Camidge, Charlie Clarke, Ben Wardell-Yerburgh, Harry Hanson, James Shaw, Joe Spilsbury, Louis Ciampoli-Messiou, Ezme Pickford, Lily Sweet, George Kinniburgh, Ella Mattinson, Joshua Cook

4MM Poetry

Hester Beer *Boudicca*
by Clare Bevan
Szófia Homoki *Overheard on a*
Saltmarsh by Harold Monro

Years 2 and 3 Modern Dance

Jasmine Hammond, Theo Langford, Emily Martland, Ruby Sharp, Tabitha Howard, Ella-Mae Leach



Year 4 Corinium Museum

On Wednesday 27 February, the children in Year 4 enjoyed a fascinating visit to the Corinium Museum in Cirencester, which has one of the finest and most extensive Roman collections in the country. This trip supported the children's studies in History of Life in Roman Britain. In addition to the experience of dressing up in Roman style clothes and wearing Roman jewellery, the children enjoyed playing the games of Knuckle Bones and Calculi, as well as examining real Roman pottery and mosaics. Many interesting facts were learnt during their visit, which extended their understanding of this period in history. 📖

Viking Invasion in Year 3

On Wednesday 23 January, Thor the Viking talked to the Year 3 children about the Viking way of life, which they have been studying in History. Thor told them exciting stories about these Nordic invaders, and showed a wide range of authentic objects such as armour, weapons, musical instruments, real furs and a quern with which to grind corn. The experience really enhanced their learning about this period in time. 📖



Year 6 Oxfordshire Museum

On Wednesday 30 January, Year 6 visited The Oxfordshire Museum in Woodstock as part of their History topic on the Victorians. In the classroom the children were asked to calculate sums on slate boards, then had to show how neat their handwriting was during a 'Copy Exercise' using a dip and ink pen. Of course the children were not to speak until they were spoken to and had to stand to answer their teacher. Luckily all of the children escaped the cane this time! The children were also given the opportunity to explore the museum and engage with some of the exhibitions, which completed a thoroughly enjoyable and informative morning. Dennis Catrini (Year 6, Baker) said, 'It was interesting and fun! I loved the Victorian classroom because it was very realistic and it was different to our everyday school life!' 📖



Year 1 Oxfordshire Museum

On Thursday 21 February, Year 1 went to The Oxfordshire Museum in Woodstock, to have a hands-on experience learning about toys from the past. During the introductory talk the children had opportunities to consider how toys from the Victorian period compared with those of today, and were very shocked to learn that Victorian children had only three or four toys to play with. However they soon realised that, with a little imagination, these toys had lots of possibilities! The children had great fun playing with a wide range of replica indoor and outdoor toys including whip and top, cup and ball, Jacob's ladder and puppets. The visit was a good catalyst for discussion back in class and also enabled the children to think about other aspects such as how some of the toys moved and the materials from which they were made. 📖





Junior School Arts Week

The Junior School celebrated Arts Week at the beginning of March, with many of the activities based around poetry. Some of the highlights included poetry performances from Senior School staff, musical lunchtime recitals, brass workshops by James Ellacott (Upper Sixth, Feilden), dance displays of Ballet, Street Dance and Morris Dancing involving Senior School pupils, and open Street Dance workshops at which over 40 children participated. There was also a drum performance by internationally renowned drummer Mike Sturgis, together with very popular singing competitions. The week finished with a literary character parade involving all the children and staff.



Evening of the Arts

The Evening of the Arts on Tuesday 5 March began with an Art Exhibition in the Mansion House. Parents enjoyed refreshments as they viewed the children's very impressive Art and English work. The ever exuberant Samba Band then led parents up to take their seats in The Shed. What followed was a spectacular hour of poetry, music and dance from Junior School pupils. All the children from Year 2 to Year 6 had learnt poems by heart over half term to take part in class competitions. The winners performed their poems during the evening; some funny, some sad, both classical and modern and the quality of these winning pieces was most impressive. The audience was treated to an array of musical items from the Junior School Orchestra, Junior Band, the Chamber Choir and individuals. Rosa Birchenough's violin solo performance of Puccini's *O Mio Babbino Caro* was a particular musical highlight. Dance featured several times during the evening. The Year 3 Tap Dance *Happy Tappers* charmed the audience; the Year 6 Street Dance added a contemporary edge and the Year 2 and 3 modern dance, *It's a Hard Knock Life*, complete with brooms and dusters, added a comical touch. 📺



Evening of the Arts Cont.

Piano Solo

Henry Birchenough

Fugue

by Alec Rowley

Maddie Flaherty

Vampire Blues

by Kevin Wooding

Violin Solo

Rosa Birchenough

O Mio Babbino Caro

by Giacomo Puccini

Junior Band

Hayden Camidge, Charlie Clarke, Harry Hanson, Dennis Catrini, Adam Kendrick, Elliot Stagg

Skyfall by Adele

Wonderwall by Oasis

5BG Poetry

Imogen Brown

Dear Santa, Here's My

Christmas List by Kenn Nesbitt

Geneva Hedges

Dave Dirt's Jacket

Pocket by Kit Wright

Solo

Tom Orton

Camelot

by Frederick Loewe

Oliver Charles

Money

by Ollie Charles

6ZS Poetry

Frankie Brown

Be Very Afraid

by Carol Ann Duffy

Dennis Catrini

Macavity – The Mystery

Cat by T S Elliot

Year 6 Performance Poetry

A Smuggler's Song

by Rudyard Kipling

5HL Poetry

Harry Phipps

Dreaming the Unicorn

by Tony Mitton

Rosa Birchenough

Little Red Riding

Hood and the Wolf by Roald Dahl

Piano Solo

Benjamin Shaw

The Old French Melody

by Peter Ilyitch Tchaikovsky

6MO Poetry

George Kinniburgh

Jabberwocky

by Lewis Carroll

Tara Devine

If

by Rudyard Kipling

Chamber Choir

I am the Wind

by Lin Marsh

Volcano

by Lin Marsh

Lent Term Prize Winners

0RT

Nancy Beer

Jack Hammond

01RO

Seb Tattersall

02LO

Jasmine Mellor

03JD

Isabella Clarke

04MM

Max Hanson

04ND

Thomas Smith-Donald

05BG

Amelia Leslie

05HL

Annabel Page

06MO

Ezme Pickford

06ZS

James Shaw

Junior School

Inter-House Cross Country

The individual winners of the Junior School Inter-House Cross Country were:

- Year 1: Findlay Knox (Baker)
Kalina Kaltschmidt (Symonds)
Year 2: Kye Carrington (Lockwood)
Jasmine Hammond (Gwyn)
Year 3: Ben Orton (Lockwood)
Isabella Clarke (Lockwood)
Year 4: Tom Orton (Gwyn)
Josy Brown (Symonds)
Year 5: Jack Wilde (Gwyn)
Isabel Buckingham (Lockwood)
Year 6: Ben Wannell (Baker)
Frankie Brown (Baker)

Children's Air Ambulance

The Children's Air Ambulance (TCAA) will provide a national bespoke helicopter transfer service moving children safely and quickly between hospitals for specialist care and treatment.

Inter-House Results

The Junior School had its Inter-House Netball competition on Thursday 21 March, braving the elements. Congratulations to the Baker House girls who were the overall winners.

Soccer

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

Arts Week

The activities that took place during Junior School Arts Week included:

- Year 6 Brass Workshop
Staff Reciting Poems at Lunch
Junior Orchestra Performance
Street Dance Workshop
Years 4 and 5 Ballet Lesson
Parents Reciting Poems
Senior School Dance Demonstrations
Year 4 Brass Workshop
Clarinet Quartet Performance
LAMDA Lessons
Junior Band Workshop
Years 1 and 2 Ballet Lesson
Poetry Slam Competition
Year 1 Brass Workshop
Years 1 to 3 Modern Dance Lesson
Chamber Choir Singing Competition
Year 5 Brass Workshop
Drum Workshop
Year 3 Ballet Lesson
Samba Percussion Workshop
Reception Class Brass Workshop
Lower Junior Singing Competition
Literary Character Day
Years 2 and 3 Brass Workshop
Year 2 Violin Club
Mr Mullin Jazz Demonstration
Years 4 to 6 Modern Dance Lesson

Cokethorpe Carousel

The Pre-Prep children continue to welcome their friends from Westfield House Nursery School twice a week for the Cokethorpe Carousel sessions.



Sponsored Walk

The Junior School raised a fantastic £3,802 for The Children's Air Ambulance in February, following the sponsored 'Helicopter Walk' which took place around the School grounds. Children from Reception up to Year 6, and their teachers, took part in the challenge on a chilly but dry afternoon. Everyone enjoyed the event despite the cold and joined in with the spirit of the occasion, wearing colourful hats and happy smiles.

Following a circuit of three kilometres, each child collected a sticker at half-kilometre checkpoints and they reached an impressive 774.5km between them during the hour and fifteen minutes spent walking. A cheque was presented to Nicole Rolfe, Fundraising Manager for TCAA, during an Assembly on Friday 8 March. Nicole said: 'Thank you to all the children, families and staff for raising vital funds for the charity. Its events and supporters like Cokethorpe who will help keep us flying.'



Young Adventurers

The children from Reception to Year 2 have been visiting a 'Forest School' this term, an inspirational programme that offers regular opportunities to develop confidence and self-esteem through hands-on learning experiences in a woodland environment. These Friday afternoon Pre-Prep Adventurers sessions are part of the children's outdoor learning and curriculum enhancement and will continue in the Summer Term.

The sessions take place at Lea Wood in the Fairford Estate of Gloucestershire and are run by the Ernest Cook Trust. Each session incorporates a number of activities that help the children understand the importance of working together. These include exploring the use of different senses, woodland craft activities, problem solving, and helping them understand, appreciate and care for the natural environment.



Year 6 Junior Citizens Trust

On Monday 28 January, Year 6 visited the Rewley Road Fire Station in Oxford to take part in the Junior Citizens Trust. As part of their PSHE curriculum, the children were introduced to a series of scenarios intended to test their knowledge and understanding of dangers they may encounter whilst growing up. The pupils learnt about water safety, fire safety, internet safety, first aid, potential hazards in the home, road safety, rail safety and very importantly, how to make an emergency 999 call correctly.



Inter-House Cross Country

The Junior Inter-House Cross Country took place on Tuesday 19 March in unusually good weather conditions, with the races supported by a large contingent of families and staff. All pupils from Reception to Year 6 took part, and although Symonds House was leading going into the final race, Gwyn finished strongly to take the trophy. 🏆



Pancake Making

The Pre-Prep children enjoyed making pancakes to celebrate Shrove Tuesday.



Garden Adventures

The Reception children have been planting bulbs and sowing seeds in the Kitchen Garden.

Soccer Report

This was a brilliant season for the A teams, both of which went undefeated this term. The U11As played 6, won 4 and drew 2. They also won the Sibford School 6-a-side tournament. The outstanding player was the captain Alex Wheeler (Year 6, Gwyn), who showed skill, strength and vision in all his matches. He was supported by the most improved player Ben Wannell (Year 6 Baker), who was a rock in defence. Two Year 5 players Luke Munday (Baker) and Jack Wilde (Gwyn) deserve a special mention for being ever present in the A team.

The U9As won all of their four matches. Ben Orton (Year 3, Lockwood) and Tom Orton (Year 4, Gwyn) were stand out players with timely contributions from Jamie Hammond (Year 4, Baker) in goal. Harvey Gould (Year 4, Lockwood) showed great composure in defence and Harry Furlong (Year 3, Symonds) is an extremely promising winger.



Hockey Report

The U11s qualified for the IAPS South Regional Hockey Tournament for the second year running. This will take place next term.

Netball Report

Despite the start of the term being heavily disrupted by snow and freezing temperatures, the Junior School children were not phased and took to their training programme with purpose and enthusiasm. This had a positive effect on their development and in addition to their excellent teamwork they were linking passes together with confidence. All the teams performed very well in their competitive matches and also secured some notable wins against The Manor and Chandlings School. Frankie Brown (Year 6, Baker) was nominated as the overall player of the season by Mrs Floyd, Head of Netball.



Netball Results

The Player of the Match is given in italics below the result.

U11As

The Manor Prep School	6-5	W
	<i>Ella Mattinson</i>	
Sibford School (Tournament)	Joint 1st	
	<i>Nyha Edwards</i>	
Hatherop Castle	0-6	L
	<i>Frankie Brown</i>	

U11Bs

The Manor Prep School	11-0	W
	<i>Lily Sweet</i>	

U10s

The Manor Prep School	1-3	L
The Manor Prep School	0-5	L
	<i>Annel Page</i>	
Chandlings School	6-5	W
	<i>Isabelle Carnell</i>	
Hatherop Castle	0-6	L

U9s

Kitebrook School	6-2	W
Chandlings School	3-2	W
	<i>Isabella Smith</i>	

Soccer Results

U11As

St Edward's, Cheltenham	2-2	D
	<i>Charlie Clarke</i>	
New College School	7-0	W
	<i>Jack Wilde</i>	
New College School	4-0	W
	<i>Alex Wheeler</i>	
Sibford School (Tournament)	1st	
Bruern Abbey	6-0	W
	<i>Jamie Snowdon</i>	
Abingdon Prep School	2-2	D
	<i>Ben Wannell</i>	
St Edward's, Cheltenham	3-1	W
	<i>Luke Munday</i>	

U11Bs

St Edward's, Cheltenham	0-6	L
New College School	3-1	W
New College School	3-0	W
St Edward's, Cheltenham	2-1	W

U11Cs

New College School	3-0	W
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U10As

Abingdon Prep School	0-8	L
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U9As

New College School	3-2	W
	<i>Tom Orton</i>	
St Edward's, Cheltenham	5-1	W
	<i>Tom Orton</i>	
Abingdon Prep School	4-2	W
	<i>Harry Furlong</i>	
St Edward's, Cheltenham	2-1	W
	<i>Tom Orton</i>	

U9Bs

St Edward's, Cheltenham	1-4	L
	<i>Max Hanson</i>	
St Edward's, Cheltenham	1-2	L
	<i>James Furlong-Price</i>	

U8s

New College School	1-0	W
	<i>James Furlong-Price</i>	

The Houses

Most Recommendations

Lower First: Hannah Craig (Gascoigne)
Upper First: Tom Craig (Gascoigne)
Third Form: Max England (Gascoigne)
Fourth Form: James Bennett (Swift)
Fifth Form:
William Ward-Naranjo (Queen Anne)
Lower Sixth: Saul Garrett (Feilden)
Upper Sixth: Isaac Staff (Gascoigne)
Overall Winner: Tom Craig
House Winner: Gascoigne

Lower House Heroes

Lower House Heroes are nominated by tutors for reasons such as having a positive contribution to School life, good behaviour, or working especially hard on a particular activity or event.

First Half of Term

Becky Alexander	L1 Feilden
Ruby Plumridge	L1 Gascoigne
George King	L1 Harcourt
Hollie Kenworthy	L1 Queen Anne
May Manning	L1 Swift
Rebecca Le Maitre	L1 Vanbrugh
Freddie Holford	U1 Feilden
Lizzie Pickup	U1 Gascoigne
Stuart Barbour	U1 Harcourt
Olivia Messenger	U1 Queen Anne
Hannah Deabill	U1 Swift
Megan Channer-Forbes	U1 Vanbrugh

Second Half of Term

Darcie Wilkes	L1 Feilden
Hannah Craig	L1 Gascoigne
Louisa Flaherty	L1 Harcourt
Rachel Dodimead	L1 Queen Anne
Elliott Couse	L1 Swift
Elliott Swancott	L1 Vanbrugh
Cameron Knox	U1 Feilden
Daniel Bailey	U1 Gascoigne
Sam Bird	U1 Harcourt
Luke Smith	U1 Queen Anne
India Hurford-Jones	U1 Swift
Alexander Swancott	U1 Vanbrugh

Ashes Cup Winners

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

Lower First Swift	18 January
Lower First Feilden	1 February
Lower First Gascoigne	22 February
Lower First Gascoigne	8 March
Lower First Feilden	22 March

Inter-House Soccer

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

Inter-House Netball

Lower School Winner: Swift
Senior School Winner: Queen Anne
Overall Winner: Queen Anne

Inter-House Soccer

The first week of the new term saw the Inter-House Soccer take centre stage for all age groups. Matches were played in a great spirit, providing the ideal warm up for the fixtures in the coming weeks.

The Lower House competition was dominated by Swift, who scored freely throughout, winning the final in fine style with a score of 3–0 over Vanbrugh. The Third and Fourth Form competition was much closer, with Queen Anne eventually edging a tense final against Gascoigne. Finally, in the Senior competition, Swift was once again victorious, scoring late in the final against Vanbrugh. ↗



Lower House Trip

‘Our annual Lower House trip to the Oasis Leisure Centre in Swindon was an exhilarating experience. It was fun for us all and it was great for our two year groups to be together on a Friday evening, whether it was racing down the rapids or bobbing up and down when the wave machine was turned on. We were lucky enough to have the whole place to ourselves and most of us managed to stay in the pools for very nearly one and a half hours! We can guarantee that even the teachers had a blast on this awesome trip.’

Grace Henstone and Olivia Messenger
(Upper First, Queen Anne)

Swift House Movie Night

Members of Swift House chased away the winter blues after the half-term break with a Movie Night in The Shed. The House had previously voted on a range of retro movies with *Ferris Bueller’s Day Off* winning the majority of the vote.

The evening kicked off with a variety of crisps and snacks followed by the amusing narrative of Matthew Broderick, who plays the lead role in the film. There was an interval for a pizza dinner, and the House members enjoyed the rest of the film’s hilarious antics whilst munching on sweets. A relaxing evening was enjoyed by all.

Inter-House Netball

Following a eventful season for the School netball teams, Inter-House Netball was the focus for the final week of term. The Senior House matches took place on Wednesday 20 March and some outstanding netball was played. Queen Anne dominated this competition, going through unbeaten in all their games. On Thursday 21 March the Lower House competition took place, with all teams determined to do well for their senior teams as the points are added together to determine the overall champions. Swift were the team that were unbeaten in this competition and, similar to the competition the day before, all teams demonstrated just how much they have developed this term. The Queen Anne girls were the overall Inter-House Netball winners, so congratulations to them! ↗



Inter-House Drama

The annual Inter-House Drama Competition took place on Friday 8 February in the Sports Hall. The judges this year were Jessica Campbell, Tommo Fowler and Rebecca Thomas from Oxford University Dramatic Society.

For the Ensemble category this year each House had been given the task of writing, directing and presenting an episode of an original soap opera. As usual, each House proved adept in their unique interpretations of this genre and provided the Senior School and external judges with an afternoon of great entertainment.

The competition began with the Monologue category which saw one member from each House deliver a monologue of their choice to the audience. This is a daunting task, but each and every pupil demonstrated great courage and skill in their diverse performances.



Inter-House Poetry by Heart

On Monday 4 March, the final of the Senior School Poetry by Heart Competition was held in the Cranham Library, to decide who would go forward to represent the School in the County Competition. The twelve titans of the performing world met to declaim their chosen poems and enrapture their audience with their sensitive storytelling prowess. Judges were faced with a very challenging decision as many of the competitors gave outstanding performances, all of which are available on the School website.



Congratulations to Queen Anne who was victorious overall, with the Outstanding Individual Contribution Award presented to Francis Plummer (Lower Sixth, Queen Anne).

The judges' comments on each of the monologue and ensemble performances, available on the School website, make for interesting and entertaining reading. [↗](#)



Inter-House Drama

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

The Outstanding Individual Contribution Award was presented to Francis Plummer (Lower Sixth, Queen Anne).

Monologues

- Feilden: Ellen Garbutt (Fifth Form)
Dogface by Kellie Powell
- Gascoigne: George Lawson (Upper Sixth)
An Inspector Calls by J B Priestley
- Harcourt: Katie Buckley (Lower Sixth)
Stage Door by George Kaufman
- Queen Anne: Miles Beirouti (Lower Sixth)
Rumours by Neil Simon
- Swift: James Bennett (Fourth Form)
Our Day Out by Willy Russell
- Vanbrugh: Michaela Logue (Lower First)
The Tooth Fairy, Own Adaptation

Ensemble Pieces

- Feilden: *Townsend Manor*
- Gascoigne: *Operation Impossible*
- Harcourt: *Shopping on Baker Street*
- Queen Anne: *Sandy Bottom*
- Swift: *Friend*
- Vanbrugh: *Not So Fresh Meat*

Judge's Comments on Queen Anne:

This was outstanding! I didn't stop laughing from start to finish. The ukulele music was wonderful and you brilliantly captured the conventions of the genre with the superb opening tableau and brilliant choreography throughout. Please pass on our compliments to the writers and director.

Poetry by Heart

Feilden

- Rosie Turner (Lower Sixth):
Ozymandias by Percy Bysshe Shelley
- Ellen Garbutt (Fifth Form):
The Applicant by Sylvia Plath

Gascoigne

- George Lawson (Upper Sixth):
Envy by Adelaide Anne Procter
- George Wood (Fourth Form):
God, A Poem by James Fenton

Harcourt

- Katie Buckley (Lower Sixth):
Strawberries by Edwin Morgan
- Louis Allen (Upper Sixth):
Paradise Lost by John Milton

Queen Anne

- Beth Sandland (Lower Sixth):
Sonnets from the Portuguese XXIV by Elizabeth Barrett Browning
- Katie Jenkins (Fifth Form):
Out, Out by Robert Frost

Swift

- Jacob Phillips (Fourth Form):
Welsh Incident by Robert Graves
- James Bennett (Fourth Form):
Still Life by Elizabeth Daryush

Vanbrugh

- Fraser Logue (Fifth Form):
Auguries of Innocence by William Blake
- Lawrence Lodge (Fourth Form):
Ozymandias by Percy Bysshe Shelley

Cokethorpe Parents' Association

CPA Committee

Chairman: Catherine Christensen
Vice-Chairmen: Kirsteen Fellows
Sara Knox
Secretary: Adi Hughes
Treasurer: Flynn Reid

Damian Ettinger
Sarah De Buriatte
Victor Faria
Julie Grime
Simon Hooper
Nick Moglia
Sarah Plumridge
Clare Priestley-Smith

Forthcoming CPA Events

Coffee Mornings

Every Tuesday during term time
8.30am – 9.15am, Coffee Shop
All Cokethorpe parents are invited to socialise over hot refreshments during the Summer Term, commencing Tuesday 16 April 2013.

Cokethorpe Summer Fête

Saturday 22 June
12.00 noon – 4.00pm
A traditional summer fête including cream teas, strawberries and cream, hot food, children's races, face painting, stalls, ice cream, tug of war, bouncy castles, jousting horse and a raffle.

Burns Night Supper

On Friday 25 January, the CPA hosted yet another successful Burns Night celebration. Guests arrived to the wonderful sounds of the piper, and entered the Dining Hall, transformed with beautiful flowers arranged by Mrs Fellows. After the Selkirk Grace, Mr Bradford paraded the haggis, escorted by the piper. Mr Logue gave a moving rendition of *Address to a Haggis*. A delicious dinner, including a haggis, tatties and neeps starter, fuelled everyone for the evening. After dinner Mr Faria gave the first speech, *A Toast to the Lassies*, prepared as a poem, with the response on behalf of the lassies given by Mrs Christensen. The excellent London-based band Ceilidh Generation, then started and the dance floor was quickly filled with lots of dancing and laughing. ☞



Quiz Night

The CPA Quiz Night on Saturday 9 March was well attended, with twelve teams consisting of parents, staff, former pupils and friends battling it out to be the 2013 champions. Teams pitched their general knowledge against each other, with delicious fish and chips served during the break to keep the brain cells working.

It was a close competition with 'The Hornets' being crowned victors yet again, consisting of Mr and Mrs Hughes, Mr and Mrs Hutchings, Paul Hughes, Ali Hughes and Alicia Francis. The CPA would like to thank Mr and Mrs Murrin for all their hard work in preparing the quiz, particularly quiz master Mr Murrin. Thanks also go to Mr and Mrs Vieira-Faria for running the bar. ☞



New Developments

Governors Away Day

On Saturday 23 February, the Governing Body, along with the Headmaster and Bursar, took part in a Strategy Away Day. Hiring a room at The Four Pillars Hotel in Witney, the day involved reviewing the School's Development Plan, which is updated annually. Trends and forecasts, including both internal and external factors that may help or impact achieving the Headmaster's vision for the School, were also discussed. Looking ahead to the future, new buildings and larger refurbishment projects were also considered.

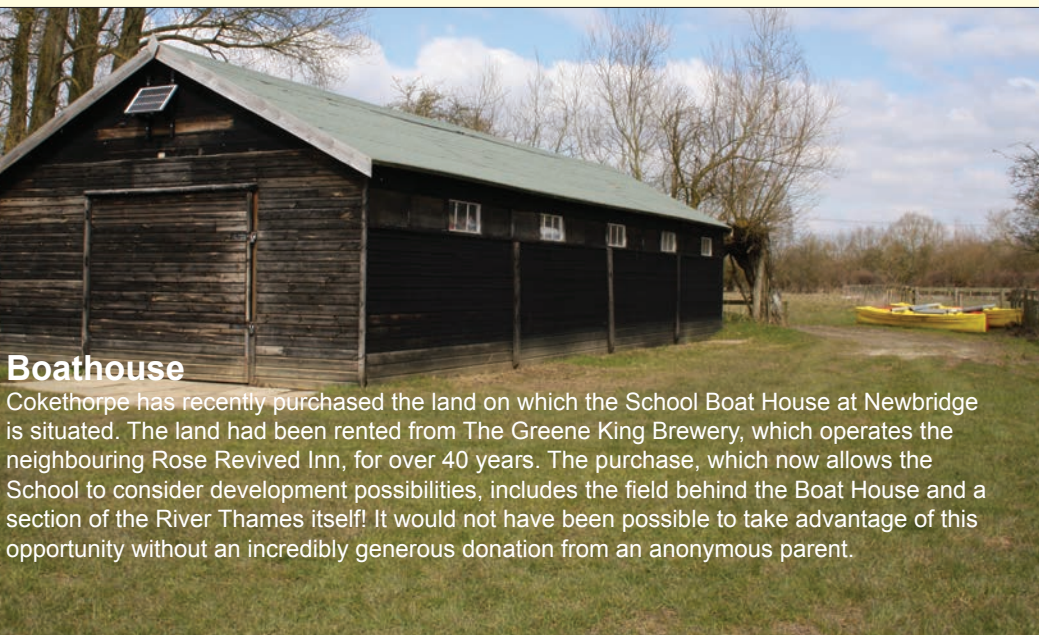
Annual Fund 2013

The School is now half-way through the Annual Fund 2013. Received donations have so far guaranteed the purchase of an electronic cricket scoreboard, which will be in place for the Summer Term, and a week of cookery courses for the Senior School pupils after the internal examinations have finished in June.

Current forecasts indicate that the new hymn books for the Chapel will also be achieved. A small number of new pledges would also allow the School to complete the final project, a traditional Red Telephone Box to convert into a second-hand book lending library.

Cokethorpe in the Snow

The weather disrupted the Lent Term again this year, with a number of events cancelled due to snow and freezing temperatures. Whilst the School remained open as much as possible, it did close on Friday 18 January (other than for public examinations) when Oxfordshire saw the heaviest of the snowfall. The School grounds looked particularly beautiful though! ☞



Boathouse

Cokethorpe has recently purchased the land on which the School Boat House at Newbridge is situated. The land had been rented from The Greene King Brewery, which operates the neighbouring Rose Revived Inn, for over 40 years. The purchase, which now allows the School to consider development possibilities, includes the field behind the Boat House and a section of the River Thames itself! It would not have been possible to take advantage of this opportunity without an incredibly generous donation from an anonymous parent.



Bampton Classical Opera

'Bampton Classical Opera started twenty years ago on a whim of an idea and has steadily grown into a company of national reputation for its accessible performances of rarely-heard 18th-century opera, sung in English with some of the country's most exciting young singers. We have always been fortunate to enjoy the warm support of Cokethorpe, and the relationship has been celebrated in this anniversary year with the establishment of a new competition for young singers. The competition was inaugurated on Saturday 23 February with a Gala Dinner and we were thrilled that both Mr Ettinger and his Director of Music, Mr Harris, were able to attend.

The event attracted over 70 guests and was held in the Dining Hall, which proved the perfect venue. The School's caterers excelled themselves; the guests were entertained with a short operatic recital from Company singers performing from the minstrels' gallery. We couldn't have wished for a happier launch to our 2013 celebrations.'

Gilly French, Artistic Director

Oxfam Concert

'On Saturday 16 February I held a charity music concert in The Shed, thanks to the generosity of Cokethorpe in letting us use their fantastic facilities. I'm running the London Marathon for Oxfam in April, so the event was part of my fundraising for this wonderful cause. A variety of different performers treated the audience to a fantastic show of musical talent including the Oxford Alternatives – an a cappella group from Oxford University, Nick Barstow – the former MD of Out of the Blue, Songscope – a group of young singers based in Witney and Henry Box School. The event raised a very encouraging sum of money towards my goal of £2,000. Please visit www.justgiving.com/zoebanfield to read my marathon journey.'

Zoe Banfield, Ducklington Primary School



Mars Rover Visits Cokethorpe

In March Cokethorpe welcomed 'Bridget', the first prototype of a Mars Rover being developed for the European Space Agency's ExoMars mission. As the host school, the visit was organised by The Sciencebook Trust and involved the engineers from the company Astrium, who designed and created the Rover. Five sessions over two days included Cokethorpe pupils as well as children from local primary and secondary schools and Beaver and Scout troops.

The engineers from Astrium spoke about the ExoMars mission, which is to search for signs of life on Mars. They introduced Bridget and demonstrated how she moves over rocks and boulders. The children learnt how they plan to launch in 2018 and were surprised to hear that when the mission finishes 10 months later that there are no plans to bring the Rover back as the technology doesn't exist yet. Maybe there were some future space engineers and scientists in the audience who will be the ones to find a solution to the challenge of retrieving old rovers, or indeed be the first to visit the 'red planet' themselves. ☑

Wider Community

This term the School has continued to support a number of local groups, associations and sports clubs.

England Rugby

The England U16 rugby squad held a training camp at the School on Saturday 9 and Sunday 10 March, which included a friendly match against the Wasps U17 academy side.

Young Farmers

The Young Farmers used the AstroTurf for a hockey match on Sunday 17 February.

Beavers and Sea Scouts

Standlake Beavers, Scouts and Explorers continue to use the School's facilities for their weekly sessions.

Mini Tennis Event

Cokethorpe Tennis Coach Chris Hampton ran a mini tennis event in the Sports Hall for Cokethorpe pupils and local children on Sunday 27 January.

Witney Rugby

Witney Rugby Football use the School's Sports Hall and grounds when booked up on their pitches.

Wychwood Hockey

Wychwood Hockey Club have continued to use the AstroTurf for their league fixtures this term.

Oxfam Concert

A concert in aid of Oxfam was held in The Shed on Saturday 16 February.

Bampton Opera

The Bampton Classical Opera held its anniversary celebration dinner here on Saturday 23 February. For more information visit www.bamptonopera.org.

Ducklington Football Club

This is the second year that Cokethorpe has sponsored Ducklington Football U14s by hosting their training and league matches.

Oxfordshire Science Festival

Cokethorpe hosted the Mars Rover prototype, which included sessions for local primary and secondary schools, and local Scout groups. The Trebuchet Event on Sunday 17 March was cancelled due to the settling snow.

Wychwood Hockey

A number of current and former Cokethorpe pupils play for Wychwood Hockey Club. New players are very welcome. For more information please visit www.wychwoodladieshockey.co.uk.

Baptism

Mr and Mrs Howells held a baptism for their daughter, Seren May Elizabeth Howells, in the School Chapel on Sunday 17 March (despite heavy snow in the morning!). Seren was baptised by the School Chaplain, Reverend Humphreys, and Mrs Copeland is one of her godparents.



Turning Back the Pages

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

10 Years Ago (2003)

Thanks to Miss Mills's directions and Mr Harrison's unerring inability to read a map, the intrepid Cokethorpe senior tennis team arrived at Rendcomb only half an hour later than scheduled but with the petrol gauge nudging ominously towards the red.

15 Years Ago (1998)

Every child in the Senior School can now have 'InterNet' access and the Juniors will not be far behind!

20 Years Ago (1993)

On Thursday 19 May various pupils took part in a sponsored silence. For some this was an infinitely harder task than they anticipated; a few not even managing to survive longer than about 45 minutes.

25 Years Ago (1988)

This last year has been a fairly pleasing one up at the pond, although there have been quite a few problems, mainly due to foxes which have carried off a number of pigeons, ducks, some bantams and a goose. The pigeons started off with twelve but by the end of the Spring Term we had only two. Luckily, they proved to be male and female, and they have now risen back to their original number.

30 Years Ago (1983)

The first ever school 'Open Day' took place on Sunday 25 June in ideal, sunny conditions.

35 Years Ago (1978)

Cricket Report: Once again the English climate very nearly outplayed us. After the drought of 1976, it rained for most of the winter and at the start of the Summer Term the water-table was so high that the School seemed in imminent danger of sinking.

40 Years Ago (1973)

On Saturday, the Sealed Knot Company will fight a Skirmish in the South Park at the School, with 200-300 Cavaliers and Roundheads engaged in an enthralling presentation of Civil War fighting. Chelsea Pensioners will be our guests of honour.

45 Years Ago (1968)

A visitor to Cokethorpe can never be long unaware of the presence of our two peafowl, for they will be seen at any time of the day perching on the roofs, silhouetted against the sky.

50 Years Ago (1963)

The School Play was staged at The Corn Exchange, Witney on 29 and 30 March. Some day we shall have a school hall of our own, but until then the Corn Exchange at Witney will have to suffice for the staging of school productions.

The Round House

The Round House, together with the building now known as The Old School House, are thought to be the oldest buildings on the Cokethorpe site, pre-dating the mansion by some 300 years. The Round House was variously known as 'The Granary', 'The Game Larder', 'The Dovecote' and even erroneously as 'The Ice House'. The original purpose of the building is unknown but it was most likely built as a storehouse for grain etc.

The sale document of the Cokethorpe estate for 1954 gives the following description 'In the adjoining yard is a picturesque old circular building of considerable antiquity, used as a game larder'. According to that document the guide price for the freehold of the estate (with a further 150 acres available for separate purchase) was a mere £17,500.

Early pupils of Cokethorpe School remember the Round House as 'a rather unpleasant place, full of rubbish', clearly not generally used by the School, except for storing bicycles. However, it has undergone a number of transformations since then. The Scientific Society, which was founded in 1962, used the top floor as their meeting place, downstairs housing the toilet block. By 1982, the top floor, which had become a Biology lab, was transformed into an Art room and in 1986 the infamous 'Round House loos' were finally demolished leading the then Bursar to announce that 'the legend of the Round House loos has been laid to rest' and that Cokethorpe boys 'will be excused the use of one of the oldest and most antiquated systems in the country'.

1992 saw the most extensive renovation. A damp proof course was put in and 'widespread beetle infestation' was dealt with. The ceiling timbers were reinforced and some, but not all, of the blocked up windows were reinstated. A new iron spiral staircase was designed and made by Peter Knipe, a member of the Cokethorpe staff.

By 2000 the ground floor was being used as a Sixth Form Club with lager being sold on Wednesday and Saturday evenings, soft drinks, sweets and chocolate at other times. Today the Round House houses the Foundation Office on the top floor whilst the ground floor, which was until recently the School uniform shop, has undergone another transformation and is now a comfortable meeting room.

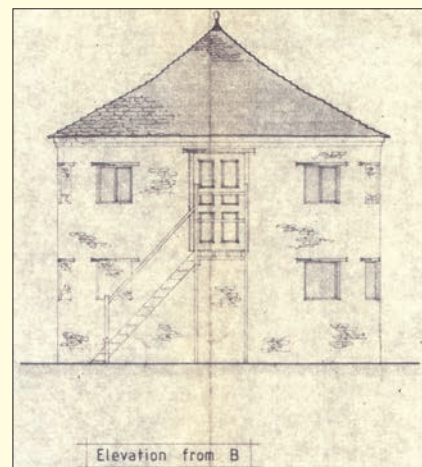
Biography of Dr F Brown

Martin Lockwood (OC 1959), one of the first Cokethorpe pupils, visited the School in March. He was accompanied by his wife Margaret, and Joan Smyth and Mary Harrison, both daughters of Dr Francis Brown who founded the School in 1955. Martin has written a biography of Dr Brown and he presented a copy to the Headmaster, along with a framed photograph of Dr Brown. All the visitors were very impressed with the School and grounds and Dr Brown's daughters were delighted to see how the School has grown and developed since it was founded by their father. They feel he would have been very pleased. Martin met the Captain and Vice-Captain of Lockwood House and regaled them with stories from his time here.



Above: The Round House in the early 1950s looking neglected and forlorn.

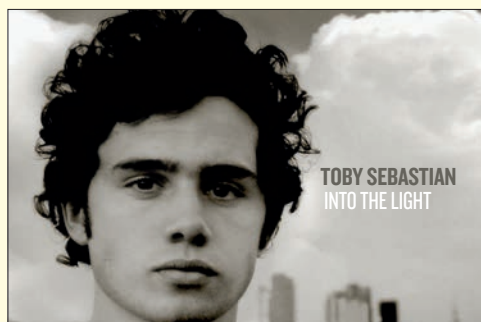
Below: The drawing submitted for planning purposes for the renovation in 1992. The staircase was in fact installed the other way around.



Martin Lockwood (far right) pictured with Dr Francis Brown's daughters Joan Smyth (far left) and Mary Harrison, and the Lockwood House Captain, Neve Macken (front left) and Vice-Captain Hayden Camidge (front right).

Music and Film Debuts

Toby Pugh (OC 2009, Harcourt), whose stage name is Toby Sebastian, has released his debut album *Into The Light*. It can be downloaded from iTunes and Amazon. He has also made his first appearance in a film called *The Philosophers* which was shot in Indonesia and is due out for release next year. Toby, who says that friends and teachers have played a big part in his career, adds 'The album is finally here folks, hope you enjoy. Next one is on the way'. 📧



A Flying Visit...

Mr Daniels recently caught up with Tariq Deir (OC 2004, Queen Anne) and Colin Whelan (OC 2003) whilst at London Oxford Airport in Kidlington. Tariq is the Managing Director of Fly Bright Ltd, with Colin the Operations Manager for this aircraft detailing company, which offers the private aircraft industry interior and exterior valeting services. Fly Bright Ltd is the sister company to Jet Connections Ltd, offering charter and management solutions, which Tariq also runs.



Cothill School Sports Master

Alex Bramhall-Kidd (OC 2009, Queen Anne) was appointed as Sports Master at Cothill School in Frilford in September 2012. After completing his GCSEs at Cokethorpe, Alex completed a two-year National Diploma in Sports Development and Nutrition, gaining Distinction whilst also coaching football in a Witney primary school for Oxford United. Alex also gained coaching experience at Cokethorpe during 2010–2011, which he says 'really helped push my career forward'. Last year Alex was involved in the ECB 'Chance to Shine' campaign, delivering cricket to local primary schools and gained his Level 2 ECB cricket coach status in the process. Alex's talents are used to the full at Cothill as sports are played every afternoon.



Norland Nanny on BBC Breakfast

Abigail Harris (OC 2010, Feilden) appeared on BBC Breakfast on Friday 1 March as part of a feature on Norland College. The 'Norland Nannies' have been trained at this prestigious childcare college in Bath since 1892 and the three-year course includes training as diverse as self-defence and evasive driving to protect children in their care. Abigail said 'Being a student at Norland College has been a life changing achievement for me. It has allowed me to fulfil my dream of attending the world's best nannying college. Doing a year's work experience at Westfield House Nursery and Cokethorpe Junior School before this allowed me to get priceless experience which has been essential to me for becoming a nanny.' 📧

Can You Identify Cancer Cells?

Andrew Hanby (OC 1976, Queen Anne), a pathologist and cancer researcher, is also a lead scientist for 'Cell Slider', a collaboration between Cancer Research UK and Zooniverse in which members of the public are asked to help analyse real life cancer data. Andrew explains that looking at the tissues removed from patients entered into trials to test the efficacy of new cancer drugs is a valuable research tool. Through a process of grids, labelling, colour-tagged staining and scoring, it is possible to correlate the success of the drug. One drawback is that this is a labour intensive process and this is why parts of images of the tissue have been uploaded to the web so that the 'citizen' can contribute to the scoring and ultimately to the targeting of new drugs. Visit www.cellslider.net to take part.



Society Events

Unfortunately the planned Recent Leavers' Reunion, Society Lunch and Society Sports Festival had to be postponed due to heavy snow forecast at the end of March. These will now be held in the Summer Term and Old Cokethorpeans will be informed of the new date as soon as possible.

School Memories

Below is a memory of Cokethorpe provided by Jonathan Cranston (OC 1999, Harcourt).

'I reflect on my time at Cokethorpe with great fondness: the many highs and lows on the sporting field, the occasional nights boarding in Queen Anne after an evening spent working on my GCSE Design Technology project, the variety of extramural activities. Mr Fenton and Mr Daniels were probably the two members of staff that have left a lasting impression on me, but I will always remember Mr Cranham fondly – year on year he organised such high calibre speakers for General Studies Lectures. I had the privilege to have him as my tutor in Upper Sixth and for all his quirks and idiosyncrasies he was a very caring man who took a great interest in his pupils and strove to facilitate their success in whatever way he was able.'

YouTube Hits

The film provided by Steven Pudney (OC 1968, Queen Anne), capturing the 1968 Prize Giving at Cokethorpe, has now surpassed 1,500 views on YouTube. If you haven't yet seen the footage, do take a look as it gives a fascinating insight into school life during those years.

England U20s Debut

Henry Purdy (OC 2012, Queen Anne) was part of the England U20s rugby squad that was victorious in the Six Nation Tournament for this age group during February and March. Henry was selected for the starting line up in the fixtures against Ireland and France, scoring two tries in the latter match, and as a replacement for the Italy and Wales games. Meanwhile, he continues to play regularly for the Leicester Tigers Academy and A League squads.

Visits

Dennis Ho (OC 2001) was visiting England for the first time since he left and took the opportunity to return to his old school, commenting that even the smell of the Mansion House reminded him of his boarding school days!

Professor Peter Davies, who taught Science at Cokethorpe from 1965–1966, also had a tour of the School when he visited in March, during Spring Break at Cornell University where he is now a Professor of Plant Physiology.

Ave Atque Valet

Mr A C Forsey (Design Technology)

'I leave Cokethorpe with many fond memories, to take up the position of Head of Design and Technology at a prep school in Norfolk. I have valued the time I have spent in such a friendly and nurturing environment and take memories with me that include travelling to Sri Lanka, building and racing the Greenpower Go Kart but most of all, however, teaching friendly and capable pupils, particularly those that joined Year 7 in the year I started back in September 2007. I will miss the hard working and happy environment that the DT Department now has in abundance and particularly the DT team. I wish them continued growth, success and happiness in the years ahead at Cokethorpe and hope to stay in touch.'



Mr P Warner (Physics)

'Fourteen years seem to have passed quite quickly and I take a mixture of memories with me. Overall I am proud to have played some small part in the transformation of Cokethorpe to its prominent place in the market place today. Although academic excellence is now the focus of the School I feel that Cokethorpe has not lost its core identity of providing an all rounded education and I hope the delicate balancing act will continue and that the School will prosper further.'

I'm retiring from teaching after 34 years in the profession and am going to perhaps take things a little easier as a self-employed painter and decorator – I'd be happy to give quotes (warner50@btinternet.com).'



Mr M J Minch (Facilities Manager)

'I joined the Cokethorpe team eleven years ago, already a parent, I had retired, become bored and needed a focus. The opportunity to do something new whilst simultaneously embarrassing my children was too good to miss. The School has doubled in size in the intervening years and transformed entirely presenting new and exciting challenges at every turn. I have thoroughly enjoyed myself at Cokethorpe, met a host of characters and made some very good friends. I wish you all well for the future and hope to see many of you as customers at the new venture in Cornwall (www.trenarlett.com).'



Mr P S Bradford (Catering Manager)

'I leave Cokethorpe with fond memories and a wealth of experience. The opportunity to be involved in such a vast project as the development and planning of the new Dining Hall has been hugely rewarding. The School has always been very supportive of the Catering Department, investing its belief in individuals that shine. The Cuppa brand has developed hugely since its inception at Cokethorpe and requires more of my time, as do my family. I have made many good friends here and will miss you all immensely. If you are ever in and around Cheltenham, call in for a cuppa!'

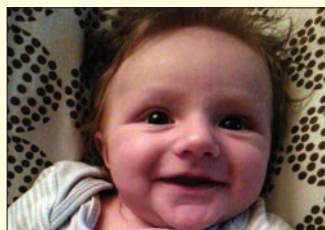


Staff News

Congratulations to Mr and Mrs Mason (née Timbrell) in the Science Department on their marriage on Sunday 23 December 2012.



Congratulations to Mrs C Lee, Finance Officer, on the arrival of Ezra Andrew Stephen Lee on Sunday 30 December 2012, weighing 8lb 8.5oz.



Members of the Common Room enjoyed a 'Blind Wine Tasting' Evening, hosted by The Oxford Wine Company, on Friday 1 February.



Open Evening

Wednesday 15 May: 4.30pm – 6.30pm

Prospective parents interested in entry at any age are warmly invited to attend. All departments will be open, and there will be refreshments and activities. All welcome.

Headmaster's Addresses:

5.00pm and 6.00pm

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

Contact Information

Headmaster

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

Senior Management Team

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

Housemasters and Housemistresses

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Photographs

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

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