



Cokethorpe
SCHOOL

THE OCELLUS

From the Headmaster

In December, the young diver Tom Daley announced on YouTube that he was in a relationship with another man, ending a long period of media speculation about his sexuality. We of course know what dangers there can be in failing to show sensitivity and respect towards a young person's sexual development. During Tom Daley's teenage years, whilst facing this particular press and public curiosity, he was bullied for his success and had to change schools, he coped with the illness and eventual death of his father, he trained to become a world champion diver and an Olympic medalist, he was pursued viciously by internet trolls, AND he studied for his GCSEs and A Levels (doing rather well, by all accounts). I mention it here as an, admittedly extreme, illustration of the pressures faced by young people today; school work and exams, the positive and negative role of social media, the possible problem of bullying, emerging sexuality, relationships with families and friends, time taken up by sport and other interests. Such challenges, if responded to positively, can certainly be character forming. But anyone, not just a teenager, would struggle to deal with such pressures unless they felt loved and supported. Tom Daley's story is a timely reminder to parents and teachers to provide this love and support. By all accounts, he is a fine young man, but we can be sure that he owes a great deal to the caring structures built up around him. I hope it will also remind pupils feeling the weight of such pressures that they are not the first, and are not alone, that problems can be overcome and that they should always look to others for help.

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University Destinations

The destination of the 2013 Upper Sixth leavers is correct as of October 2013.


Please see the website for subjects being studied. OCs reapplying, or whose destinations are unknown, are not listed.

To make corrections or additions, please email foundationoffice@cokethorpe.org.

Alden, Hannah	Birmingham
Allen, Louis	Exeter
Bamford, Zachary	Greenwich
Barkham, Matthew	East Anglia
Batty, Christie	Warwick
Berger, Isabel	Gloucestershire
Biscoe, Joe	Manchester
Bond, Teague	Liverpool
Bosse, Ethan	Nottingham
Carter, Fleur	Harper Adams
Chan, Yik Lun	Loughborough
Chen, Cindy	Manchester
Chitty, James	Aston
Cole, Jack	Brunel
Duffield, Alice	Royal Holloway
Ellison, Georgina	Greenwich
Evans, Gabriella	Loughborough
Field, Christian	Bristol
Fellows, Harry	Sheffield
Ferryman, Charlotte	Greenwich
Hollifield, James	Manchester
Hutchinson, Ally	Exeter
Johnson, Tilly	Winchester
Jones, Elliot	Swansea
Lawson, George	Bournemouth
Li, Steven	Leicester
Lloyd, Oliver	Manchester
Logan, Henry	Cardiff
Mace, Zoë	King's College London
McCall, Daniel	West London
Nolan, Emily	Brunel
Porter Goff, Benjamin	Sheffield Hallam
Relph, Joshua	Oxford Brookes
Revell, Lucia	Reading
Ridha, Saman	Bristol
Rock, Daniel	De Montfort
Ryan, Dermot	Chester
Taylor, Matthew	Canterbury
Verdon, Henry	Northampton
Von Hoven, Charlie	Hull
Wang, Yinan	Bristol
Wells, Thomas*	Buckinghamshire New
Williams, Amy	Loughborough
Williams, Lewis	Loughborough
Zinovieff, Peter	Sheffield

* starting September 2014

Editor's Note

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

Front Page Photo: A Christmas Turkey


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

English Literary Recitals

The Michaelmas Term featured three very different Literary Recitals, each with a strong and significant theme. On Thursday 17 October, Miss Jackson's recital of *Madness In The Attic* was incorporated within the Gothic Horror Tales, so expertly delivered by Rupert Mason of The Redheart Theatre Company to the Third Form.

This was followed a month later by Mrs Walwyn's *Traveller's Tales*, featuring EAL pupils reading in either English or their first language. Subject matter included poetry exploring the idea of travelling to the moon, Chinese poetry describing the Yangzi River and a Japanese poem about travelling on a plane. Mrs Walwyn concluded with poetry supporting the themes, before a reading from *The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey*.

Finally, on Thursday 28 November, Mr White and Mr Heaney presented *Ugly Sounds* in the Drama Studio. Mr White's largely improvised poetry was accompanied by Mr Heaney's sounds on the electric violin, the theme revolving around 'ugly' words with listeners urged to think about their reaction to the sounds before sudden changes in pace and tone created an atmosphere of almost palpable discomfort.

During the Lent Term, Mrs Howells, Mrs Miller and Ms Mountain will all be performing their Literary Recitals. 


Third Form Speaking

'On Monday 9 December, the Third Form pupils gathered in the Cranham Library for the finals of their annual speaking competition, *Speeches for Change*. The first speech was delivered by Daniel Bailey (Gascoigne) on living life to the full, which featured some very effective points. Several more speeches took place, including a speech by Ed Charter (Vanbrugh) on bringing back the death penalty and Will Turner's (Feilden) speech on the mandatory learning of a foreign language. All of the speeches were very convincing and provoked a lot of thought and debate. The winning speech was delivered by Samara Clark (Feilden), whose talk on the sensitive subject of troops in Afghanistan was both bold and convincing. Grace Henstone's (Queen Anne) well-devised speech on testing brain dead patients to develop scientific research earned second place, and Josh Tracey's (Vanbrugh) speech on poverty was third. Overall, the speeches for change were of a very high standard.'

Jonathan Taylor (Third Form, Feilden)

Author Visit

'We were lucky enough to have the opportunity to listen to the inspirational words of Celia Rees, the writer of many captivating books. During her visit to Cokethorpe on Tuesday 12 November, we talked specifically about a book we have been studying called *Witch Child*, a book that I have thoroughly enjoyed reading. She shared her techniques and thoughts with us and encouraged us to think big, explaining that a single idea like a seed can grow into a towering tree. Not only did she express the secrets of her way to success in writing with us, she also involved us in several activities.

We all learned how Celia Rees turns her ideas into intriguing, page turning tales and how we can include this knowledge in our own writing challenges.' 

Anna Wallace (Upper First, Swift)





Public Speaking and Debating

The Michaelmas Term has been busy for Cokethorpe's Public Speaking and Debating pupils. Two teams entered the annual RIBI Youth Speaks Competition on Thursday 14 November. Congratulations go to Ed Charter (Third Form, Vanbrugh), Samara Clark (Third Form, Feilden) and team leader Wilf Cartwright (Third Form, Queen Anne) for winning their category on the subject of gender equality. The team will progress to the Area Round in February. Lower First pupils Katie Procter (Feilden), Rhianna Gibson (Feilden) and Abbey Malin (Feilden) took on a challenging environmental topic and did very well to be runners up in their first competition.

Sixth Form students participated in the prestigious Cambridge Schools' Union Debate on Wednesday 13 November. Bethany Mulloy (Lower Sixth, Swift) and Harry Lovibond (Lower Sixth, Queen

Anne) were praised by the adjudicator, debating whether 'parents should be paid by the government to stay at home and raise their children'. Cokethorpe's second team, consisting of Aimee Epelle (Lower Sixth, Queen Anne) and Harry Norton-Shaw (Lower Sixth, Vanbrugh) showed impressive insights on 'reintroducing national conscription'. A total of 27 teams were entered in this year's Oxfordshire event.

The final event of 2013 was the English Speaking Union's Public Speaking Event. Richard Turner (Fourth Form, Feilden) chaired and Ardan Devine (Fourth Form, Queen Anne) questioned the motion that 'terrorism can be justified' before Charlie Hodges (Fourth Form, Queen Anne) spoke on whether 'people should be allowed to die with dignity'. The competition was thought provoking, and unexpectedly humorous given the topics chosen. ☞

Gothic Horror at Cokethorpe

On Thursday 17 October The Shed was transformed into a candle lit cavern where gothic tales were regaled. Murder was committed and ghosts rose and withered as Rupert Mason of The Redheart Theatre Company gave an outstanding performance of several of the stories that the Third Form have studied in English this term as part of their exploration into the gothic genre. Lighting, sound effects and a riveting use of voice transformed the space, holding the audience spellbound throughout the story-telling performances, moving from *The Red Room* in H.G Wells's story, to a claustrophobic attic where murder was committed in Edgar Allan Poe's *The Tell Tale Heart*, and finally to the railway line in Charles Dickens' *The Signalman*. Pupils asked a number of thought-provoking questions and were keen to discover how anyone could learn so many words and perform them so accurately. They were also fascinated that all the lighting and sound effects were controlled entirely by Rupert Mason as he performed the stories. ☞



Celia Rees

'I was very pleased to be invited to visit Cokethorpe for a second time this Autumn. It is always nice to be asked back. It means the first visit must have gone well! I met with Year Eight (Upper First) classes, some of whom are studying my novel *Witch Child*. It is always a pleasure to talk to students who know a book and I hope that I was able to offer some insights unique to the author. We also had a chance to do some writing together, to unleash everybody's 'inner author' and for me to share some tricks of the trade.

At lunch time, I was given a thorough grilling by a lively group of Year 5 students from the Cokethorpe Junior School, who asked me about everything from my favourite book, to my hobbies.

I was happy to share something of my writing life with staff and students and very much enjoyed my day.'

Celia Rees, Author

Fifth Form CV Talk

Early in the Michaelmas Term, the Fifth Form attended a presentation by careers consultant Emma Goodman to learn about the fine art of getting their Curriculum Vitae to stand out to prospective employers.

Emma started her talk to the Fifth Form by telling them that 'you have 15 seconds to make a good impression – make them count!' She then proceeded to give some excellent advice.

The Fifth Form pupils were shown many practical tips which will ensure that their CV's will be at the top of the pile!

Career Reflections

New this year is the introduction of a series of talks specifically for Third Form, known as *Career Reflections*. The talks feature speakers with a link to the School, including past pupils, giving insight into their particular career progression and advice for anyone wishing to follow a similar career path.

In the first talk on Tuesday 22 October, the Third Form enjoyed listening to the accounts of a guest journalist from the Oxford Times, who was able to tell them about his route into this competitive profession. A fascinating glimpse into a snapshot day of early starts, waiting outside courtrooms, investigating and reporting on local incidents and accidents kept the audience engaged. There was also a questions and answers session at the end which allowed pupils to get further details about the life of a journalist.

The remaining *Career Reflections* talks will be held on the following dates:

Tuesday 14 January 2014
Tuesday 11 March 2014
Tuesday 1 July 2014

Author Visit

'I always find it immensely flattering to be invited to talk to students, and my recent trip to the beautiful Cokethorpe School was no exception. Flattering, because ultimately to know that English students are pouring over a book that I wrote (*A Game Of Polo With A Headless Goat*; or rather, a small extract of it) means that I hopefully am some small inspiration to future writers.

Speaking to a large group of GSCE students, and later to a smaller group of English A Level students, they were attentive and asked some perceptive questions. I hope they enjoyed the experience; I don't remember ever having an author come and speak to us at school – mind you, we learned prose only by writers who were no longer living!

I hope it encourages them to write, to be expressive, also to be inquisitive about the world and want to explore and have adventures. I feel privileged that I had that opportunity soon after graduation, which gave me a wonderful experience of life.

Hearty thanks to the School, the students and especially the English Department at Cokethorpe and I wish you all every success - which ever path in life you choose.'

Emma Levine, Author

Poetry by Heart

Lower House

- 1st: Lukas Russell
- 2nd: Frankie Brown
- 3rd: Michaela Logue

Third Form to Fifth Form

- 1st: Louisa Mattinson
- 2nd: Charlie Hodges
- =3rd: Benjamin Foster
- =3rd: Matthew Ellacott

Katie Buckley (Upper Sixth, Harcourt) will represent the school in the County Final.

Target 2.0

Following two months' research into the macroeconomic conditions of the UK Economy, the Cokethorpe School Target 2.0 team competed in the regional heats of The Times and Bank of England Target 2.0 Competition.

Students gave a convincing presentation before a panel of economists from the Bank of England, justifying why the Monetary Policy Committee should keep the base rate at 0.5% to promote further growth in the UK economy.

Trip to Berlin

'Bringing our knowledge from our IGCSE History course to life, Fifth Form History students visited Berlin during the October half term. After a good night's sleep at the comfortable hostel, we began our trip at Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp, with our visit the following day to the Berlin Wall particularly hard-hitting. The rest of our trip included visits to the Brandenburg Gate, The Olympiastadion, The House of the Wannsee Conference and the Reichstag. We concluded with an evening of bowling where, despite much talk, Mr Galvin's bowling skills were really not that impressive! Overall the trip was a great success'.

Heidi Lawson (Fifth Form, Gascoigne)



Trip to Bristol University

The Fifth Form experienced life as a student of one of the leading universities on Tuesday 12 November. Bristol University arranged two bespoke lectures for Cokethorpe pupils, providing a flavour of academic study in addition to a campus tour and discussions on the more informal side of student living with current undergraduates. A gripping lecture on Middle English was full of surprises; many myths about the 'primitive' nature of life in the Medieval Period were dispelled before the afternoon lecture, *The Physics of Ice Cream*, which enabled students to witness changing states and consider the physics behind cookery, including a demonstration (and tasting) from the team involved in Heston Blumenthal's Molecular Gastronomy. The day was important for our pupils, who are in the process of making key decisions about A Level choices before joining the Sixth Form in 2014.



Poetry by Heart

For the second year running, Cokethorpe School entered the national Poetry by Heart competition with all pupils from the Senior School participating. Finals were held on Wednesday 4 December for Lower House and Thursday 5 December for Third Form to Fifth Form in the Cranham Library. Lower First pupils were first, and immediately the bar was set, the audience enthralled and the judges becoming increasingly concerned about the need to decide upon eventual winners. Upper First pupils then took on the

challenge; there was humour, drama and such an intensity to some performances that everyone was moved in one way or another. The following day, pupils from the Third Form to Fifth Form performed their poetry. The standard was so high because students were not just reciting memorised poems, they were reciting the meaning as if the texts were their own compositions. Echoing the words of Chief Judge and Housemaster Mr Walwyn, the competition was not difficult to judge; it was almost impossible.

Philosophy Café

Pupils and staff debated the nature of harm during the Philosophy Café. The discussion was a follow up to the Enlightenment Lecture on drugs and harm given by Professor David Nutt at Cokethorpe during November. Particularly heated debate within the Café included whether skiing without a helmet was 'reckless' in the same way as drug taking and whether we could really calculate the true consequences of our actions in the way Professor Nutt described.



Oxford Castle Trip

'Lower First went to Oxford Castle to learn about Norman Castles and their development. We visited a workshop where we looked at interesting artefacts and discovered how they were used by medieval people. We also tried to build a castle to see which design was the best before knocking them down with catapults (my team won!). This was followed by a guided tour of the castle, climbing right up to the top of the Norman tower and stopping at rooms on the way before enjoying views all over Oxford from the top. Finally we climbed to the top of the motte with Mr Hayne, who showed us the well which would have been used in sieges of the castle. It was a great trip'.

Ella Dalton (Lower First, Swift)



Spanish Exchange

On Saturday 5 October, twenty Fifth Form pupils taking Spanish GCSE went to Bormujos, a little town just outside of Seville in Spain. As soon as we arrived, we were greeted by our Spanish partners and their families who made us feel very welcome. We met up with our teachers at the school in Bormujos on Monday and were given a Spanish lesson, then we headed into Seville and visited the Cathedral which was truly beautiful, before an evening of pool and bowling. On Tuesday and Wednesday we went back into Seville and looked around some of the palaces and their grounds before visiting sites in Córdoba. We had to listen intently to what the teacher was saying, as we were doing a quiz in Spanish as we went round. On Thursday, we were quite upset that it was the last day. Laurence Lodge (Fifth Form, Vanbrugh) and Matthew Brown (Fifth Form, Queen Anne) gave a presentation in Spanish about Cokethorpe, Oxford and London before Heidi Lawson (Fifth Form, Gascoigne) and I performed a song. We said our final farewells and a few tears were shed. We made our way back to England after an extremely good trip and we learnt a lot! Thank you to the teachers that took us and to the exchanges for hosting us so accommodatingly in their houses.'

Thomas Christensen (Fifth Form, Swift)

Positive Voice

'How do you address the sensitive topic of HIV and Aids? Should this be approached tentatively, gently and with great caution? Not according to Emma Cole, who gave her *Positive Voice* presentation to Upper Sixth Students on Tuesday 19 November. Instead, she approached difficult topics head-on and gave a powerful talk with humour and references to her love of Queens Park Rangers' football team and Bruce Springsteen. Emma informed us about the facts of living and coping with the life shortening disease in a compelling and enjoyable way. In this eye-opening and inspiring talk, our woefully outdated beliefs and misconceptions were challenged and realigned when it comes to what is still strangely considered to be a taboo subject by some within today's society.'

Emily Thompson (Upper Sixth, Queen Anne)

Schools' Challenge

Shannon Dalton (Lower Sixth, Swift), Samara Clark (Third Form, Feilden), and William Allen (Upper First, Vanbrugh), ably led by Elly Stradling (Lower Sixth, Swift), gave a good performance in the Schools' Challenge national quiz, the national general knowledge competition based on the format of *University Challenge*. The team finished a close second to the Oratory School.



Headmaster's Tweets

A selection from the Michaelmas Term:

'I hope everyone is geared up for the start of the new School year! I'm expecting lots of haircuts, new shoes and fresh notebooks.' (2 September)

'Asked by one of the senior girls 'did I see you at Reading Sir?' My response: 'No, I don't think so.' Hadn't realised she meant the festival.' (11 September)

'The new school nurse informs me that she has run out of plasters. The reason? Pupils complaining that their new shoes are starting to rub.' (12 September)

'Good luck to our 1st XV Rugby team in the NatWest Cup against Lord Williams's School, Thame. You can 'bank' on it being a good match!' (25 September)

'Wonderful to see the School so busy for Open Morning. Thank you to everyone who came and we hope to see you again in the near future!' (7 October)

'Hope Sixth Form Textiles students enjoy the trip to the Knitting Show at Alexandra Palace in London. The event synopsis had me in stitches...' (10 October)

'Sports galore, a Sixth Form trip to London, the Fifth Form back from Spain and scouts here in the evening. Just another day at Cokethorpe!' (10 October)

'Sixth Form seeing Macbeth @cockpittheatre today. Reminds me of a joke. Shakespeare walks into a bar. 'Get out' barman says, 'you're bard.' (15 October)

'I look forward to today's Junior School Cantata. I am sure parents and staff will be humming the infectiously catchy songs all day and night!' (16 October)

'Tonight the Lower House Disco takes place in The Shed from 7.00pm. Teachers are already dusting off their dancing shoes in anticipation...' (23 October)

'A warm welcome back to all pupils and staff. You will no doubt be pleased to know that it's only six weeks until we break up for Christmas!' (4 November)

'Congratulations to the Cokethorpe U14 Netball Team for becoming County Champions yesterday, scoring in the last minute to seal the victory!' (19 November)

'Cokethorpe joins the rest of the world in mourning the loss of Nelson Mandela, whose legacy will inspire generations for years to come.' (6 December)

'Looking forward to the first performance of the Senior School Christmas Production *A Christmas Turkey* this evening... I hear it's a cracker!' (6 December).

Enlightenment Feedback

'On 14 November, the Sixth Form Enlightenment Lecture was given by Professor David Nutt from Imperial College London, on 'Drugs, Science And The Media: An Unholy Trinity?' Professor Nutt is Professor of Neuropsychopharmacology and a consultant psychiatrist in the Central and North West London mental health trust, where he conducts research into the mechanisms of addiction and the effects of drugs on function.

We had a very thought-provoking talk and question and answer session on what constitutes a drug, examining legal versus illegal drugs (e.g. ecstasy versus alcohol) and how the media and government play a strong role in presenting the facts. Professor Nutt spoke about our need to assess what we define as risky behaviour and how politicians can easily manipulate so-called 'facts' about drugs to deliver a political message. Whilst this talk was controversial and challenged many accepted viewpoints, it was useful to gain an insight from someone with such deep pharmacological knowledge.'

Rosie Turner (Upper Sixth, Feilden)

On Tuesday 26 November the Lower Sixth enjoyed a lecture from Professor Andy Phippen, an expert in Social Responsibility in IT, about the internet and morality. Controversial issues such as censorship and privacy were raised, which lead to an interesting discussion about the growing role that technology plays in our lives, and both the positive and negative effects this could have. The talk was entertaining and thought-provoking, giving us all a new perspective about how we use the internet and social media.'

Bethany Mulloy (Lower Sixth, Swift)

Exchange in Argentina

'As part of a foreign exchange with a girl called Romina, I spent three weeks in Buenos Aires with the most welcoming family. I spent the first two weeks at my exchange school with its small but tightly-knit community, making friends and meeting amazing students and teachers. During the second week, I visited the centre of Buenos Aires. I saw everything from Recoleta's famous cemetery full of mausoleums to Avenida de Mayo's Obelisk. I took the opportunity to visit the Eva Peron Museum in Palermo and found it liberating being able to explore this completely different culture. To send me off, as is customary in this vibrant culture, Romina hosted a leaving party where we ate asado (a huge cut of roasted ribs) until we could no longer stand. I had an amazing night and I really miss the friendships I made. I owe all of this incredible experience to the host family who made me feel like part of them, to the school in Argentina, to Ms Wise, Ms Giraldo and my mother who gave me this opportunity.'

Matteo Catrini (Upper Sixth, Gascoigne)

Lower Sixth Careers Familiarisation

'During our visit to RAF Brize Norton, we were able to learn about the wide variety of jobs and careers that are offered within the Royal Air Force. We had talks from Engineers, Pilots, Weapons Defence Officers, Intelligence and Logistics Officers, Physical Training Instructors and the Military Police. Education and training in the RAF offers great opportunities, with some university courses being sponsored. We were also fortunate enough to go on board a C17 aircraft, use the technical simulators for parachute jumping before having a tour of the Officers' Mess and learning about this traditional exclusive club. As a Sixth Form group we all found the day very enjoyable and informative.'

Matthew Clark (Lower Sixth, Swift)



Enlightenment

This term, the Sixth Form students have participated in two Enlightenment Lectures. Professor David Nutt, former government advisor and consultant psychiatrist in Central and North West London, gave a fascinating talk on drugs and the role which the media plays in awareness, with respect to both the good and the bad. Professor Andy Phippen was the second lecturer, with his talk to the Lower Sixth focusing on morality within the context of social media and the internet, and whether online technology actually changes what we deem as morally acceptable. ☑

Prefects' Induction Day

At the beginning of term, the newly-elected Prefects of the School attended an Induction Day. The students worked in teams with the brief to produce their own promotional video about Cokethorpe. It is fair to say that the final videos led to interesting discussions in The Shed afterwards, with teams displaying humour, truth and the occasional 'embellishments' throughout their videos! Mr Stevens and Mr Sheer were thoroughly impressed by the efforts that each team displayed.



Biology Field Trip

The annual Biology field trip to Preston Montford on the Welsh borders took place over three days of a long weekend early in the Michaelmas Term. The bespoke course was designed to cover the Ecology component of the AQA A2 Unit Four and during the three days, the students covered fresh water ecology, eutrophication, succession and grouse moorland management, with the nearby Stiperstones Moor being the only such example in the South of England. Some extremely variable weather, interesting sites and a focused yet amusing group of students made for a most enjoyable and productive few days.





Christmas Dinner

'There are two things all Sixth Formers love; good food and fancy dress. Cokethorpe's recent Christmas dinner, held for Sixth Form and staff, included both of these elements, with a definite focus on the individuality of the costume! The night started with people entering the Sixth Form Common Room, receiving gasps and laughter from the crowd due to the effort that they had put into their outfits. There was a simply breathtaking variety of costumes; some clearly had days (or weeks!) of thought put in to them, whereas others had been thrown together 'last-minute'. Nevertheless they put the entire room of around 200 people collectively into a great mood, which was carried on through the night. We then descended to the Dining Hall, where the food was suitably festive and greatly enjoyed by all; a fun awards ceremony again provoking a lot of laughter. The end of the night culminated in a Sing/Shout-Off between the tables to the tune of *The Twelve Days of Christmas*, which left most people with ringing ears. The night was great fun and we look forward to next year's event.'

Laurence Moloney (Lower Sixth, Harcourt)



English and Drama Trips

In October, Lower Sixth Literature students and Upper Sixth Drama students entered the world of renaissance drama through a workshop day at The Globe Theatre in London. As well as watching a tremendous performance of *Macbeth*, they also had the chance to work with one of the actors in a rehearsal space. This was then supplemented two weeks later with a visit to the West End fringe to see a further performance of *Macbeth*. As a complete contrast, this was set in the City amid a banking takeover. This led to debate on the relevance of Shakespeare to the modern world. These visits have led to brilliantly engaged coursework and the realisation that theatre is both accessible and exciting.



Young Scientists of the Year

On Wednesday 16 October, Ewan Johnson (Upper Sixth, Queen Anne), Oliver Armstrong (Upper Sixth, Feilden) and Jon De Vos (Upper Sixth, Vanbrugh) were selected by Cokethorpe to attend the Oxfordshire Young Scientists of the Year event at Oxford's Sheldonian Theatre. The event aimed to honour and inspire the county's best Year 13 scientists, with over 70 representatives from 30 schools.

Forthcoming Lectures

Enlightenment Lectures taking place during the Lent Term.

Tuesday 28 January 2014

The Shadow of The First World War: How Nothing Was Ever The Same Again

The First World War changed everything forever, and its repercussions are still being felt to this day. Dr Peter Caddick-Adams will explain more.

Tuesday 25 February 2014

CSI - Crime Scene Insects

Amoret Whitaker's job is not for the faint-hearted, combining the study of insects with the investigation of decomposing bodies. Her talk will cover her research and the police investigations in which she has played a key role.

Tuesday 11 March 2014

The Pen Is Mightier Than The Sword: Using Graffiti To Build Identity

Dr Nancy MacDonald's lecture will explore how graffiti writers use their sprayed words and the environment they impose these on to make a name, and literally 'make themselves'.

Design Technology Trip

On Friday 27 September, Sixth Form Design Technology students visited the MINI Plant in Oxford in order to enhance their understanding of manufacturing on an industrial scale. The group was able to gain a strong understanding of industrial manufacturing processes and the systems used to manage the flow of production on a large scale, touring the factory floor and seeing the processes in action.

Physics Taster Day

'Compared to an open day, my experience at a Physics Taster Day was much more rewarding and useful. I got a taste of what to expect, with lectures, laboratory work and then a tutorial which allowed me to ask any questions. Overall the experience was extremely useful, and has certainly solidified my options for university courses. I am also spending one week's work experience at the structural engineering company, FLI. They manufacture screw piles for use by multiple companies, the most prominent being Network Rail. So far I have been attending meetings, creating drawings and designs for the piles and using excel to create formulas.'

Ross Battersby (Upper Sixth, Gascoigne)

Lower Sixth Induction

The Lower Sixth enjoyed some glorious late summer weather for their Induction to the Sixth Form. Fun was had by all, with the emphasis on team building and involvement. All groups met the various challenges set with admirable commitment and enthusiasm, a positive sign for the coming years.

St Cecilia Concert

Saint Cecilia (from the Latin, *Sancta Caecilia*) is the patroness of musicians. It is written that as the musicians played at her wedding, 'she sang in her heart to the Lord'. Her feast day is celebrated in the Roman Catholic, Anglican, Eastern Orthodox, and Eastern Catholic Churches on 22 November. She is one of seven women, excluding the Blessed Virgin, commemorated by name in the Canon of the Mass.

Blues Band

Hard Work John Handy
St Cecilia E Blues The Band

Soul Singers

Glory Land Traditional
In Between Days The Cure

Katherine Woolley (Voice)

Pie Jesu Andrew Lloyd Webber

Chamber Orchestra

Autumn and Winter Antonio Vivaldi
Hallelujah Leonard Cohen

Lower First Choir

Swingin' Samson Michael Hurd

Jazz Band

Isn't She Lovely Stevie Wonder
Feel Good Inc. Gorillaz

Jacob Yolland (Voice)

A Bit of Earth (from The Secret Garden)
Simon/Norman

Electric Strings

Hodie Christus Natus Est Traditional

Soul Singers

I Need You To Turn To John/Taupin
Tomorrow Is A Long Time Bob Dylan

Clarinet Quintet

The Shrine of St Cecilia Perne/Loveday

Schola Cantorum

My Eyes for Beauty Pine Herbert Howells
Magnificat in D major Charles Wood

Chipping Norton Festival

On 29 September, the School Jazz Band performed at the Chipping Norton Jazz and Music Festival. Gig Night performers Cate De Buriatte Moglia (Fifth Form, Harcourt) and Thomas Christensen (Fifth Form, Swift) stunned the audience with two beautiful songs after a blues opening by the band, before going on to play a range of songs by artists as diverse as The Gorillaz, Stevie Wonder and Kenny Burrell. The band has already been asked to perform again in the festival next year which is testament to the level of performance delivered by all who represented the School.



Gig Night

Gig Night was another outstanding night of music, with performers ranging from the Junior School right up to the Upper Sixth. The diversity of music ranged from Elton John to the Red Hot Chili Peppers, plus a number of original songs. Due to the exceptionally high standard, it would be wrong to single out any individual or group, as the level of performance was so high. It should be noted that Gig Night actually starts a few hours before the first act takes to the stage and, in addition to the performers, the Music Department would like to draw attention to a small group of unseen

pupils who work as stage crew for such events. There is a great deal of setting up to do and a number of conscientious and diligent pupils worked hard to ensure all the microphones, amplifiers and speakers were in place, connected correctly and checked for sound in good time to allow warm-ups and a final run through. Collectively, their work ensured one of the smoothest run Gig Nights to date.

The next opportunity to experience such a fantastic night of live performances will be the Gig Night in March 2014, so don't miss out! ☑

St Cecilia Concert

After a whole term of preparation, Cokethorpe's homage to St Cecilia proved to be a varied and exciting evening of music making. The ensembles and repertoire reflected the range and diversity of music learnt during the Michaelmas Term and moved seamlessly from Blues to Soul before crossing the West End. The first half closed with Vivaldi, a staple of the orchestral canon, before the Lower First had their say with a spirited performance of Michael Hurd's *Swingin' Samson*. It was a delight to hear the whole year singing en masse in what is a new initiative here at Cokethorpe. The second half took the audience on a geographical journey, transporting them from Detroit to Palm Springs, from the Vatican to African American doo-wop, before settling nostalgically in Gloucestershire with the choral music of Herbert Howells. ☑





Music Award Holders' Concert

On Thursday 3 October the Corinthian Room was the setting for Cokethorpe's Music Award Holders to demonstrate their considerable talents to parents, fellow pupils and teachers. New for this academic year, the programme demonstrated the variety of musical tastes and styles which one would expect of our Award Holders, taking the audience on a journey from Grieg's Norwegian folk influences to the New Jersey jazz scene of the 1950s. Hearty congratulations to all Music Award Holders for excellent performances.

Arts Academy Showcase

Now in its third year, the Arts Academy finished off another term with a fabulous showcase of diverse and eclectic music. First was some raucous Blues music provided by Sixth Formers Daniel Pye (Lower Sixth, Vanbrugh), Richard Thompson (Lower Sixth, Queen Anne), Harry Lovibond (Lower Sixth, Queen Anne), Christian Ettinger (Lower Sixth, Harcourt) and Henry Plumridge (Lower Sixth, Gascoigne) before some of the younger musicians took to the stage: Charlie Clarke (Lower First, Harcourt) performing *Little Talks* by Of Monsters and Men with great assurance, accompanied by Mr Mullin on cajon. Oliver Charles (Lower First, Gascoigne) then performed two beautiful songs, the famous Beatles' tune *Blackbird* and a song of his own creation, *Money*. Charlie Clarke provided excellent piano accompaniment and Joe McBride (Upper First, Gascoigne) provided rock-steady beats on drums. Will Riman (Upper First, Feilden) then led the famous soul classic, Bill Withers tune *Ain't No Sunshine* on trumpet with surprise appearances by Billy Morrison (Upper First, Vanbrugh) on vocals and Eddie Binnie (Upper First, Harcourt) on bass. Cameron Knox (Third Form, Feilden) gave an absolutely stunning performance of *Old Pine* by Ben Howard and Ellie McBride (Fourth Form, Gascoigne) took to the stage singing *Youth* by Daughter, accompanying herself at the piano perfectly. Wilf Cartwright (Third Form, Queen Anne) then dazzled the audience with an electric guitar solo. To finish, some of the Arts Academy's original members, now going by the name The Subterraneans and showing great promise for the future, entertained the audience with a short set of tight-knit works, including two original songs *Diane* and *Creepy Ray* with a splendid rendition of *Mardy Bum* by Arctic Monkeys.



Choral Evensong

Choral Evensong proved to be the atmospheric event to which nearly 500 years of history has borne witness. Using the traditional text from the 1662 Book of Common Prayer, Reverend Turner welcomed us to acknowledge and confess our manifold sins and wickedness as the wind howled around the School Chapel. Happily, Schola Cantorum presented a very dignified service which included a setting of *Psalm 150* by Sir Charles Villiers Stanford, the *Canticles in D major* by Charles Wood and, obeying the age old rubric that 'In Quires and Places where they sing here followeth the Anthem', gave a hearty rendition of Howells' *Mine Eyes for Beauty Pine*. The singers, guided with experience and maturity by Head Choristers Jacob Yolland (Upper Sixth, Gascoigne) and Katherine Woolley (Upper Sixth, Queen Anne), were encouraged by the large congregation, which rivaled many a cathedral gathering.

Arts Academy Showcase

The following Arts Academy Music pupils performed at the End of Term Showcase on Saturday 7 December:

Lower First

Oliver Charles (Gascoigne)
Charlie Clarke (Harcourt)

Upper First

Hollie Kenworthy (Queen Anne)
Joe McBride (Gascoigne)
Will Riman (Feilden)

Third Form

Wilf Cartwright (Queen Anne)
Cameron Knox (Feilden)

Fourth Form

Mia Biles (Gascoigne)
Ellie McBride (Gascoigne)

Fifth Form

Thomas Christensen (Swift)

Lower Sixth

Christian Ettinger (Harcourt)
Harry Lovibond (Queen Anne)
Henry Plumridge (Gascoigne)
Daniel Pye (Vanbrugh)
Richard Thompson (Queen Anne)

Head Chorister

Jacob Yolland (Upper Sixth, Gascoigne) and Katherine Woolley (Upper Sixth, Queen Anne) have been named jointly as Head Choristers for 2013-2014.

Forthcoming Events

Performing Arts events taking place during the Lent Term. This academic year includes the introduction of new events such as the termly Music Award Holders' Concerts. In addition, the final night of the Senior School Lent Term Production, *Oh, What A Lovely War!*, will take place in London at the Studio Theatre, RADA.

Young Musicians' Platform

Thursday 30 January
7.30pm – 9.15pm, The Shed

Music Award Holders' Concert

Thursday 6 February
12.45pm – 1.30pm, Corinthian Room

A Level Music Concert

Thursday 27 February
7.30pm – 9.15pm, The Shed

Choral Evensong

Wednesday 5 March
5.30pm – 6.30pm, The Chapel

Senior School Lent Term Production

Wednesday 19 – Thursday 20 March
7.30pm – 9.30pm, The Shed
Friday 21 March
7.30pm – 9.30pm, Studio Theatre, RADA

Gig Night

Thursday 27 March
7.00pm – 9.15pm, The Shed

A Christmas Turkey

Cast

Thomas Amor	James Houseman
Miles Beirouti	Chris Parker (sound man)
Sam Bird	James Baker (stagehand)
Katie Buckley	Sarah Richards
Ardan Devine	Todd Butter
Charlie Hodges	Bill Thompson (stagehand)
Holly Keylock	Nurse
Harry Lovibond	Alan Beadle
Bethany Mulloy	Jane Floss
Harry Norton-Shaw	Ken Kennett
Francis Plummer	Barry Price
Matthew Roche	Steve Plank (stagehand)
Laurence Scott	Paul Rogers
Aimee Epelle	Debbie

Shakespearean Word

Tom Binnie
 Anna De Buriatte Moglia
 Gabriel Cox
 Louisa Mattinson
 Callum Rowe

Dangerous Duo

Arthur Blake
 Alexander Jobling
 Alexander Reid

Magicians

James Bennett
 Mia Biles
 Alexander Cooper
 Ellie McBride
 Emily Thompson

Dancers

Megan Cambrey
 Tara Devine
 Amy Didcock
 Rachel Dodimead
 Luke Garbutt
 India Hurford-Jones
 Michaela Logue
 Ruby Plumridge
 Sam Topley
 Lydia Wannell
 Yasmin Wall
 Sophie Wheeler
 Anna Wallace

Production

Written by	Mrs C Hooper (inspired by Mischief Theatre)
Directed by	Mrs C Hooper Mrs G Ringham Mr T Walwyn
Lighting	Mr T Galvin Nathan Black Hayden Camidge
Costumes and Props	Mrs L Mace
Set	Mr A Stuart Mr G Lawson
Programme	Miss C Krol
Box Office	Mrs T Bennett

GCSE Drama Assessment

The Fifth Form Drama pupils undertook a filmed six-hour assessment during the Michaelmas Term. The assessment certainly put the pupils through their paces as they explored, devised and shared work based on a variety of issues arising from the stimuli.

A Christmas Turkey

Ken Kennett's long awaited self-penned Christmas production of *Holly in the Heart* did not go quite as well as he had planned. Not only had his dog been accidentally killed by Chris the sound man the day before, but he also discovered that the hall had been double-booked by Debbie Fox and her various 'talent' acts rehearsing for the forthcoming television talent competition *Scraping the Barrel*.



Kennett's embarrassingly emotional introduction to his appalling play was the most convincing scene of the whole evening and things only got worse from then on. The central murder victim was patently still alive, stumbling his way to his unconvincing demise. The feebly moustached Sebastian and the amnesiac butler Jennings buffooned their way around the crime scene only to be joined by the ludicrously mismatched identical twins Alice and Gloria, one as melodramatic as the other wooden. The audience's pain was compounded by the dreadful Cedric who gave the worse death scene in living memory. Barry Price played the role of Inspector Potter, whose psychotic episodes meant that he had to be sedated by his nurse in front of the live audience. We were led to believe that the director's beloved dog had been trained to play the Inspector's crime solving hound, but it was someone's insane idea to use a child's stuffed toy dog on wheels as an alternative.



However, when the action was interrupted by the talent acts who had booked the space, things went from bad to worse. A precocious troupe of child dancers, dressed in 1970s polyester curtains, three ridiculous looking individuals known as *The Dangerous Duo* and the preposterous *Melvin and the Marvellous Marvels*, who managed to accidentally suffocate a magician in a bag, were just for starters. Perhaps the worst act was *Shakespearean Word* – a rap group who vowed to stop the killing on the streets of Witney by destroying Shakespeare's works of genius. This was a truly awful evening, made only bearable by the continuous and raucous laughter of the audience which drowned out the cacophony on the stage.

In truth, this was an outstanding cast who worked extremely hard to create such chaos with their pitch-perfect characterisation, subtle comic timing and brilliant teamwork. This was a glorious note to end the term on and was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone lucky enough to get a seat. 📺

Arts Academy Showcase

The Drama Academy presented a series of pieces at the End of Term Showcase, with the groups currently preparing for their LAMDA exams next year. There were ten works shown in all with pupils from Lower First to Third Form. A clear highlight was a scene from *Blackadder* with Alexander Cooper (Third Form, Gascoigne) admirably taking on Rowan Atkinson's character and excellent supporting performances from Laurence Scott (Fourth Form, Swift), Alexander Reid (Third Form, Queen Anne), Ella Mattinson (Lower First, Harcourt) and Athis Knox (Lower First, Feilden). Also, very well presented was the Upper First group showing a scene from *The Wizard of Oz*. The final piece, a slick telling of the dark Arabian Nights tale included some beautiful harmony singing from a group of Third Form girls.





Physical Theatre Workshop

On Thursday 7 November, GCSE and A Level Drama students were extremely fortunate to experience a master class in Physical Theatre by Flintlock Theatre.

Fresh from their outstandingly successful production of *The Government Inspector* and now Artists in Residence for the Oxford Playhouse, this company introduced our students to creative and energetic explorations of physicality, characterisation and ensemble work. The master class was invaluable for all students as they prepare for the various practical assessments and devised performance exams this year. ☑



Lower First Mime

The Lower First enthralled the audience with their wonderful presentation of mime on Monday 18 November. The pupils were responsible for devising their own mime performances and the resulting pieces were hugely impressive, taking the audience on an imaginative journey with their four polished and professional presentations. The Drama Department awaits the end of year production with eager anticipation. ☑

Drama Award Holders

The Drama Award Holders presented a selection of monologues and duologues in the Shed on Monday 21 October. Katie Buckley (Upper Sixth, Harcourt) began with a monologue from *The History Boys* by Alan Bennett, delivering a proficient portrayal of Mrs Lintott before Sam Bird's (Third Form, Harcourt) mature presentation from Arthur Miller's *All My Sons*. Aimee Epelle (Lower Sixth, Queen Anne) brought great energy to the stage with her rendition of Anderson from *KES* by Barry Hines, followed by Third Form Award Holders Louisa Mattinson (Harcourt) and Anna De Buriatte Moglia (Harcourt) as two warring

sisters in *The Glass Slipper*. Post-apocalyptic *The Chrysalids* by John Wyndham was the choice of Lydia Wannell (Third Form, Feilden) and India Hurford-Jones (Third Form, Swift) who delivered a fascinating duologue as friends Sophie and David before Sam Bird's comic lamentation as seven year old Mickey from Willy Russell's *Blood Brothers*. Katie Buckley then gave a beautifully observed rendition of Lady Macbeth's descent into madness, closely followed by Thomas Amor's (Lower Sixth, Queen Anne) measured performance as Shakespeare's *Macbeth*. ☑



Theatre Trips

1984

'On 3 October, the A Level Drama students travelled to the Oxford Playhouse, to watch Headlong Theatre's gripping adaptation of Orwell's classic but terrifying novel, *1984*. This modern reworking was masterminded by Robert Icke and Duncan Macmillan, and was truly an unforgettable experience for the audience. Whilst it was a highly stylised piece of theatre, the enchanting acting skills of the leads and the intimidating lighting and sounds created an intense and captivating atmosphere. The play left us with a great deal to think about, not only in relation to our course, but also to the nature of privacy, and how little of it we have left in today's society.'
Francis Plummer (Upper Sixth, Queen Anne)

The Secret Agent

A Level students visited the Warwick Arts Centre to see a touring production of Theatre O's *The Secret Agent*. Whetting our appetites in a fantastic exhibition of surrealist art beforehand, Theatre O took us on a hilarious and yet gripping journey into the birth of terrorism. With inventive symbolism, intricate lighting and soundscapes and exceptional performances, this was an invaluable experience for any student of Drama. At one point the audience were invited to participate and a captivated Cokethorpe crowd leapt to their feet; such enthusiasm from our pupils was rewarded by being invited onstage and taking part in the surreal and brilliant spectacle.

LAMDA Report

Examination Results in July 2013:

Grade 8 Gold - Solo Acting (Distinction)
Charlotte Ferryman

Grade 7 Silver - Solo Acting (Distinction)
Aimee Epelle

Grade 5 Verse and Prose (Distinction)
Alexander Cooper

Grade 4 Acting (Distinction)
Ella Mattinson (Solo)
Louisa Mattinson, Sofia Ward-Naranjo (Duo)
Ruby Plumridge, Michaela Logue (Duo)

Grade 3 Acting (Distinction)
India Hurford-Jones, Rosie Hunt (Duo)

Grade 2 Group Devising (Distinction)
Ella Mattinson, Frankie Brown, Neve Macken, Lily Sweet

Grade 1 Group Devising (Distinction)
Hayden Camidge, Harry Hanson, Ben Phillipson, James Shaw, George Kinniburgh

Grade 1 Group Devising (Distinction)
Annabel Page, Gabriel Emerson, Chisengo Lukama, Jack Harding, Grace Ettinger

Entry Level Group Acting (Distinction)
Jossy Brown, Rosa Birchenough, Isabelle Carnell, Zöe Smith, Olivia Stacey

Photogram Competition

In September, several A Level Photography students entered a competition where an image had to be produced without a camera and using the darkroom, either a Photogram or a Cyanotype.

Harry Norton-Shaw's (Lower Sixth, Vanbrugh) entry, titled *Teenage Anxiety*, was successfully chosen to feature as part of an exhibition at the Urmsom-Burnett Gallery in Salisbury from the end of January until mid-February, before the exhibition moves to London where it will show until mid-March at the Silverprint Gallery.

Artist Workshop

At the beginning of the Michaelmas Term, artist Stuart Roper made a return trip to Cokethorpe to work with some of the Upper First and Third Form students. This was a reward for outstanding art homework which had been produced in the previous School Year. Like the older students before them, everyone had a go at using Stuart's pen and wash techniques using animals as a theme. Despite this being a new method of working for most of the students, some excellent outcomes were achieved.

Cokethorpe Plinth

The exhibit that has been displayed on the Cokethorpe Plinth this term is an offering from Lechlade-based artist Percy Wraithwright, who frequently exhibits in Bristol and London. The piece is entitled *Summer*.

Ideas for new exhibits for the Cokethorpe Plinth should be sent to the Plinth Committee, via the Headmaster's



Art and Textiles Trip to Cornwall

'We travelled to St Ives in Cornwall for a four day Art Trip. St Ives has been famous for its artists from World War Two to the present day and, due to its location, gets more sunlight than nearly any other part of the UK, which makes colours appear extremely vivid and crisp. On our first full day we spent the day at the School of Painting, participating in workshops. We spent the morning doing a life drawing class, and in the afternoon doing a landscape workshop with oil paint and wooden boards. On Friday we visited Barbara Hepworth's house and sculpture garden for a guided tour before visiting The Tate, St Ives to look round the *Aquatopia* exhibition. On our final morning, we had a tour around the world renowned Leach Pottery and learnt all about its history and the firing process.'

Harry Hastings (Lower Sixth, Swift)



Knitting and Stitching Show

'The Sixth Form Textiles group went on a trip to The Knitting and Stitching Show in London, Alexandra Palace. The exhibition provides an opportunity for textiles artists to go and exhibit their work. When we arrived at the show, we explored the exhibits in groups and spoke to the artists. After lunch, we took part in some workshops arranged for us by Miss Maskell, providing us with more techniques for our projects before catching the train back to Oxford. We all found this trip very inspiring and it gave us an opportunity to find an artist that influenced us all.'

Chloe Harris (Lower Sixth, Queen Anne)

Trip to London Museums

Early on Tuesday 19 November the A Level Photography students gathered at Oxford station to catch the train to London, before taking the Underground to the National Portrait Gallery for the annual Portrait Photographer of the Year show. The students debated whether they agreed with the winning image of jockey Kate Walsh by Spencer Murphy, which had been taken just after a race revealing the exhaustion in her mud-splattered face. After a lunch break where the students had the opportunity to take pictures, the party set off for the Photographers' Gallery in Oxford Circus. Here they saw two shows; the first, a collection of images by the photographer Lartigue of his marriage to Bibi illustrating the gradual demise of their relationship and decadent lifestyle in the 1920's. The second show *Home Truths* involved a group of photographers that had each depicted their experience and view of motherhood. There were some controversial images, which caused considerable discussion.



AOB Activities and Trips

Trip to Marseille and La Ciotat

As Capital of Culture for 2013, the city of Marseille and its surrounding coastline promised to be an exciting destination for a group of twelve Fifth Form girls, accompanied by Mrs Copeland and Mrs Howells. The action-packed few days included a stay in La Ciotat, trips into Marseille to explore the renovated port area and the amazing contemporary art. The group also found time to visit the breathtaking Notre Dame Basilica, with panoramic views across the city and the sea, and took a boat trip to visit the inspiring Calanques, a beautiful national park of limestone cliffs plunging into the sea.



Lower First Malvern Hills Trip

'In early September, Lower First pupils set out on a trip to Malvern Hills Outdoor Education Centre. We did lots of amazing activities such as climbing, king swing, quad pole, low ropes and archery. The food was delicious and everyone had a great time.

The point of the trip was to meet new people and to work on our team building skills. For example, in one of our problem solving tasks, the team had to work together to get everyone up a slippery pipe. Too soon our three days were up, we had come away having made new friends and being able to work better together as a year group. The trip was fantastic but we were exhausted when we finally got home.'

Paige Rowe (Lower First, Harcourt)



Ski Trip to Austria

A group of fifty pupils and five staff enjoyed a week's skiing in the Austrian St Anton resort in December. The trip was hugely enjoyable; plenty of snow, good food and evening activities, with the party arriving back at Cokethorpe well before Father Christmas! Go to the School website to read their daily blog.



World Scout Jamboree

Scouting is not only for young people to go camping at weekends, get away from home, make fires, whittle sticks and burn almost anything. Scouting is a worldwide charity. Scouting in England may mean something completely different to scouting in Afghanistan or South Africa. Once in every four years, thousands and thousands of Scouts from around the world meet at a World Scout Jamboree which, to participate in, Scouts must be selected and then attend a selection weekend. This happens in each county and over a weekend camping, all Scouts are assessed by a team of judges that are writing down scores constantly. The main categories are enthusiasm, team work and initiative. This year only 36 could be picked from over 170 hopeful participants from Oxfordshire. Cokethorpe students Charlie Hodges (Fourth Form, Queen Anne) and Rachel Dodimead (Upper First, Queen Anne) have been selected from Oxfordshire to attend the 23rd World Scout Jamboree in 2015 in Japan. However, getting selected is the easy part; those that are selected have to raise a minimum of £130,000 which will go to those from less affluent countries. Please keep an eye out for their fundraising schemes over the next couple of years!

Thirteen in 13

At the end of the previous academic year, members of Mr Ryan's tutor group entered a national competition organised by The Anne Frank Trust called *Thirteen in 13*. The competition invited anyone turning thirteen in 2013 to upload a letter to the Prime Minister, telling him what they would like to see in the world in which they are growing up.

Kate Fisher (Third Form, Gascoigne) was one of the thirteen winners for her letter, which made suggestions for how young people can tackle social problems including helping the elderly, building links in the community and helping other teenagers deal with bullying. Kate received a certificate, a letter from the Government's Cabinet Office directly in response to her letter, and a letter from Prime Minister David Cameron to all winners which specifically discussed the issues raised.



Sports Captains

Athletics	Lois Waknell
Cricket	Jason Cardy
Hockey	Connie Gascoyne
Kayaking	Oliver Parker
Netball	Olivia Jones
Rugby	Callum Breslin
Clay Pigeon Shooting	Mattias Athwal
Soccer	Scott Cade
Tennis	Evie Phillips

Sports Colours

Full Colours

Rugby	Callum Breslin George Hallett Saul Garrett Harry Stevens Tom Dee Tom Empson
Hockey	Rosie Turner Connie Gascoyne Katherine Woolley Olivia Jones

Half Colours

Rugby	Francis Plummer
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1st XV Rugby Results

Crypt Grammar School	17-3	W
Watford Boys' Grammar	13-17	L
Akeley Wood School	39-12	W
Lord Williams's School	36-12	W
Abingdon School	5-38	L
King Alfred's Academy	56-0	W
Wycliffe College	21-14	W
Sir Thomas Rich's School	15-15	D
Pate's Grammar School	8-35	L
Bloxham School	12-55	L
Reading School	24-19	W
King Edward VI School	5-25	L
Royal Latin School	65-12	W

1st XI Hockey Results

Headington Girls' School	2-2	D
Tudor Hall School	0-3	L
Bloxham School	0-8	L
Cheltenham Ladies' College	0-6	L
Henley College	4-0	W
Pate's Grammar School	1-7	L
Magdalen College School	1-5	L
Pangbourne College	0-4	L

U18 Oxfordshire Plate

On Wednesday 4 December, Cokethorpe hosted the Oxfordshire U18 Plate Tournament. It was a fantastic afternoon with high levels of hockey skill demonstrated by all.

Cokethorpe's 2nd XI played Tudor Hall, Rye St Antony, Kingham Hill School, Magdalen College School and Bartholomew School, holding their own in some very tough matches. Amy Creed (Fifth Form, Swift) made some truly amazing saves in goal and kept hope for the rest of the team.

Eventually Bartholomew School came out on top once again, taking the title of Oxfordshire Plate Winners.

Well done to everyone for making it such a fantastic occasion.



Rugby

The School won over 50% of all fixtures this season, which is a reasonable return given the number of injuries suffered by all age groups. Worst affected by this were the U15 side, who were never able to field their first choice lineup.

The 1st XV won seven and drew one of their thirteen matches. The young squad was, on occasions, exposed defensively by the increasing physicality of the game, yet the scrum was never bettered by any opponent, whilst captain Callum Breslin (Upper Sixth, Queen Anne) led a hardworking back row unit. The U14's began their season slowly, however the arrival of a new coach revived their fortunes with a positive finish to the season, with four wins from their last six matches. The U13 side, despite best efforts never quite matched last year's feats after losing their influential captain, George Williams (Upper First, Vanbrugh), for most of the season. The U12's had a magnificent season, losing just one match to Warwick School by two points. 🏉

Hockey

This season has been marked out by the attitude of the players. At the Senior end, the 1st and 2nd XI teams sustained defeats, but continued with resilience and enthusiasm. The 1st XI took an inspired victory against Henley College and nail-biting draws against Magdalen College and Oxford High School in the County Tournament. The 2nd XI performed well in the Oxfordshire Plate Competition and also defeated Rye St Antony and Pangbourne. The U15s started with a loss to Bloxham but beat Headington and Kingham whilst the talented U14s missed out on qualification by just a point in the County Tournament but won games against Pangbourne, Kingham Hill and Bloxham. Lower House had an outstanding season, winning 22 fixtures. The U13s defeated Tudor Hall, Headington and Oxford High, with the U13B team beating St Hugh's and Cranford House. The U12s though are team of the season, remaining unbeaten and scoring a massive 58 goals whilst only conceding eight. Both Neve Macken (Lower First, Vanbrugh) and Frankie Brown (Lower First, Vanbrugh) have been selected to represent the County squad in the U13 age group, a great achievement. 🏑



U14 Netball Champions

The U14 squad won the County Tournament on Monday 18 November. After winning their first match 9-8, the superb attacking skills of Evie Phillips (Third Form, Swift), Georgie Kent (Lower First, Harcourt), Sasha Hargreaves (Third Form, Swift) and Georgie Vallance (Upper First, Vanbrugh) secured a 20-1 win against Headington B and Jennifer Wells (Third Form, Queen Anne), Kate Fisher (Third Form, Gascoigne) and India Hurford-Jones (Third Form, Swift) contributed towards another strong scoreline

of 14-2 against Lord Williams, with the team going into the Quarter Final draw in top position and beating Tudor Hall School 12-4. In the Semi Final, the team secured a 10-4 win against Headington A and the final match against Oxford High A was an absolute thriller. The match was still 12-12 as the end of extra-time approached, but a superb long pass from Georgie Vallance to Goal Attack Evie Phillips, who shot and scored on the final whistle, secured victory and the County Championship. 🏏

Olivia Jones

Olivia Jones (Upper Sixth, Queen Anne) was selected to represent England South West in Rugby Sevens, joining the team for the multi-sport School Games in Sheffield in September. Footballer David Beckham, who acts as a Sainsbury's Active Kids ambassador, said 'Olivia should be incredibly proud of being selected to compete in the Sainsbury's 2013 School Games. To be given the chance to compete in a multi-sport event and experience a major sporting occasion like this is a huge opportunity for these young people.' The event is supported by National Lottery funding from Sport England and delivered by the Youth Sport Trust.



Cross Country

On Saturday 9 November the Cross Country teams travelled to Bedford to take part in the Regional Round of the ESAA School Cross Country Cup. The Junior Girls finished in eighth position, a great achievement considering such strong opposition. The Junior Boys finished fourth, just missing out on a national place, whilst the Intermediate Boys' finished in ninth position. All the Cokethorpe runners should be proud of what they have achieved so far against bigger and stronger opposition. The County Championship takes place at Radley College in January, where all will be fighting to finish in the top eight to secure a place in the County squad.



Kayaking

'During the second weekend of October, Cokethorpe Kayak Club travelled down to Fowey Canoe Club to take part in their annual Hasler Race. Luckily the thrashing rain stayed in Oxford and we were able to enjoy the sunny Cornish weather. Five Cokethorpe pupils took part in the race which took place on the Fowey estuary. On the twelve-mile course, William Alden (Forth Form, Harcourt) and George Barnicoat (OC 2010) who raced Division 2, finished sixth with a time of 1 hour 28 minutes. This was closely followed by a finish from Sam Glover (Fifth Form, Queen Anne) who completed the course in a time of 1 hour 33 minutes. The eight-mile course saw Oliver Parker (Lower Sixth, Feilden) and Jamie Unwin (OC 2011) racing in Division 6 and finishing second with a PB of 1 hour 7 minutes. James Bennett (Fifth Form, Swift) finished 4th in Division 6 with a time of 1 hour 13 minutes. Unfortunately Fred Herbert (Fifth Form, Harcourt) who raced in Division 4, retired due to injury.

Well done to all those who took part and thank you to our coach Ian White for the organisation of the trip.

Chloe Rogers

On Friday 11 October, GB International hockey player Chloe Rogers passed on invaluable hockey tips and skills to Cokethorpe Senior School girls in a variety of coaching sessions. Olympic bronze medallist Chloe took coaching sessions and showed each group her bronze medal from the London 2012 Olympic Games. After lunch, the 1st XI and Sports Award Holders asked Chloe questions about her playing career, training, fitness and sponsorship. It was a real insight into the life of an international sportswoman.



Dominic House

Dominic House (Upper First, Queen Anne) has been selected for the Oxon Player Development Programme (PDP), following his performances for both School and his rugby club, Witney RFC. Dominic's selection for the PDP is the culmination of a selection process which began when Dominic first joined Cokethorpe in September 2012 and played for the U12A team, also joining Witney RFC. Following recognition of his potential, Dominic was assessed at Oxford RFC before undertaking a 'FAST' Test at Henley RFC, organised by London Wasps.

Dominic's qualification into the PDP was announced in September, along with 26 other boys from the County.

Sailing

Joe DeBanks (Fifth Form, Vanbrugh) and his team achieved success in the National School Sailing Association's Team Racing Championships in October. Joe's team won the Junior Angus Westley Trophy and came second overall in the two-day event, which took place at Holowell Sailing Club with 26 teams participating.

Ski Trip Preparation

In preparation for the forthcoming Ski Trip to Austria in December, a group of twelve pupils from Lower First to Fifth Form attended a Beginners Ski Course at Snozone in Milton Keynes. The course lasted 2 hours in -5 degree temperatures on real snow, to best prepare them for the trip. It was an excellent day and all pupils made significant progress.

Chloe Rogers

Chloe Rogers first started playing hockey at the age of nine in 1994 at Dunmow Hockey Club, when the Dunmow Minis were first formed. She went on to play for other clubs in Essex including Dunmow HC, Braintree HC and Bishop's Stortford HC before spending eight seasons with Chelmsford Hockey Club. Chloe made her senior international debut for the England women's national field hockey team in November 2003 against Japan at Chelmer Park, Chelmsford. In addition to her bronze medal from the London 2012 Olympics, she holds a World Cup bronze, a Champions Trophy silver and bronze along with two Commonwealth Games and European Championship bronze medals. She is also one of the leading indoor hockey players in the UK. Prior to the London 2012 Olympics, Chloe was also at the Beijing 2008 Olympics, where the England women's team finished sixth overall. Chloe's other international honours include a gold medal from the KT Cup and a Setanta Sports Trophy gold medal.

Prize Winners

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

Reception	Tom Blackmore
Year 1	Cash Burridge
Year 2	Tegan Buckingham
Year 3	Charlie Kerton
Year 4	Isabella Clarke
Year 5	Ella Shaw
	Issy Staggs
Year 6	Annabel Page
	Jack Harding
	Jarvis Drew

Primary Maths Challenge

Each November, selected pupils from over 2,000 schools in Great Britain sit the annual Primary Maths Challenge. The paper is aimed at Year 5 and 6 pupils with an aptitude for the subject and a love of problem-solving. The challenge comprised of 25 questions and conundrums designed to test and inspire our talented mathematicians. All of the children showed enthusiasm and determination as they sat the paper and at times a little frustration as one or two of the perplexing conundrums eluded them! This year, twelve pupils were invited to take part in the challenge. Well done to all of the pupils who took part, each of whom showed a great willingness to have a go and do their very best.

Gold Certificate:

Freddie Quartley (Year 6, Lockwood)
Benjamin Shaw (Year 6, Symonds)

Silver Certificates:

Ewan Short (Year 6, Symonds)

Bronze Certificates:

Jenny Allen (Year 5, Symonds)
Jack Harding (Year 6, Symonds)

Languages Day

This year the Junior School celebrated the European Day of Languages in two ways. On Wednesday 25 September they had fun finding out how to say hello in a wide range of languages, collecting stickers from the Junior School staff along the way. Secondly, on Monday 30 September, Years 2, 3 and 4 were entertained by Guillaume and Jean from the Big Wheel Theatre Company. Their energetic and fun performance, all in French, involved all the children and was a great experience for everyone. Year 5 and 6 will have their own performance later in the Year.

What is a Cantata?

'Cantata' literally translates as 'sung' and is derived from the Italian word *cantare*. A cantata is a vocal composition with an instrumental accompaniment, typically in several movements, often involving a choir.

Bushcraft Expedition

On Thursday 26 September, Year 5 and 6 spent the day and night camping in Cornbury Park Woods, as part of their outdoor learning programme. They were looked after by the instructors, who welcomed them with a series of activities in the woods. Their first major task was to learn how to survive if they were ever stranded in the woods or on a mountain. The children were taught how to make a fire and were then sent off in their tribes to collect wood and build their own fires to cook lunch, which was trout with delicious Paella and rolls. After lunch the pupils were taught how to build shelters for the night. Following a busy afternoon, it was time for supper. The tribes made their way through the woods looking out for plants and fungi that could be used to survive on, before reaching a clearing to be greeted by the sight of two pizza ovens! The children walked back to camp in the dark after a delicious supper, using their torches to guide them. Marshmallows were toasted and eaten with hot chocolate before they went to their shelters for the night. Next morning, the exhausted but still enthusiastic children had a delicious breakfast, cleared their shelters away and packed ready to return to school. A great time was had by all! ☑



Harvest Cantata

On Wednesday 16 October, the Junior School Chamber Choir performed their Harvest Cantata. After the opening rousing song, *Everybody Come To The Harvest Fair*, a change of mood heralded the arrival of Year 4, whose performance of *Can You Hear Me?* was a particular highlight. Parents were also treated to the *Bread Song* and the *Cheese Song*, featuring Bakers, Comedians and dancing cheeses, before concluding with the poignant *Only One World*, including solos from Theresa Goette (Year 5, Lockwood), Harvey Gould (Year 5, Lockwood) and Jonathan Peach (Year 5, Symonds). ☑



Reception Visit

The Reception Class enjoyed meeting children from the Farmhouse Nursery, who came to visit in November. The children explored the Nature Trail together, seeing signs of Autumn where the leaves were changing colour and falling from the trees, as well as a jumpy frog! Back in the classroom, the children enjoyed a drink, biscuit and a story together. We are looking forward to seeing them again next term! ☑

Year 6 Mexicolore Visit

On Monday 21 October, Year 6 pupils entered the Corinthian Room to be met with thumping Aztec drums and the magnificent sun stone lit up in all its glory! Before long they were chanting Aztec *Nahuatl* words in harmony and re-enacting daily life in the Aztec period. The children were adorned in feathered headdresses and traditional Aztec clothing, bringing the period to life and even learning how to play an Aztec ball game!





Ice Skating Trip

On Friday 6 December, the children in 4MM and 5BG had an exciting trip to The Hill Top Garden Centre. An ice rink had been specially created at the centre for the Christmas period. The children were quickly given sturdy ice boots to wear and were soon on the ice! There were Ice Marshals there to monitor behaviour and First Aiders on site too. The Ice Marshals were not needed but the First Aiders were! After a hesitant start and a few minor bumps, the children became quite proficient and had a happy time gliding around on the ice. Mr Gaertner was also tempted to join the fun, whilst Mrs Marchbank wisely took photographs! A good time was had by all.

Harvest Appeal

This term, the Junior School supported a local charity called Cotswold Volunteers. The children took home Cuppa cups and collected an assortment of coins and notes. A fantastic total of £700 was collected and presented to Mrs Amanda Howard, who works for the charity. The children also brought in jigsaw puzzles, board games and birthday and Christmas cards to entertain the elderly people. ☑



Chedworth Villa Trip

Year 5 and 6 visited Chedworth Villa on Monday 16 September, to help them understand how wealthy Romans would have lived, giving a context to their Latin work. In groups they dressed up as slaves to make Roman medicines with herbs and spices. They observed and handled historical artefacts that revealed more about Roman life, and toured the site looking at the remains and imagining life nearly two thousand years ago. The well-preserved remains included bath houses, corridors and dining halls with sophisticated mosaic floors and a shrine to the water gods. ☑



Year 6 Trip to Didcot Works

On Wednesday 13 November, Year 6 visited Didcot Sewage Treatment Works. Before the tour around the working environment the children were given an introduction to the site and a safety talk. Everyone put on their wellies, a hard hat and high visibility vest, and of course a pair of gloves! The group followed a designated safe route around the site, stopping at various viewing areas, discussing what was happening at each point before returning to the Education Centre to wash their hands. Once back in the classroom the children took part in an activity called 'Poo Soup'. Just what we needed before lunch! This demonstrated how to clean water using a basic filtration system. The children worked in teams and there was a prize for the cleanest water. It was a very informative experience and everybody learned how to make a difference, both at school and at home. ☑



House Captains

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

Baker

Captain: Annabel Page
Vice Captain: Jarvis Drew

Lockwood

Captain: Amelia Leslie
Vice Captain: Freddie Quartley

Symonds

Captain: Libby Flaherty
Vice Captain: Benjamin Shaw

Gwyn

Captain: Jack Wilde
Vice Captain: Imogen Brown

Pennyhooks Farm

Pennyhooks Farm was the Junior School's chosen charity during the Summer Term. The farm provides a unique learning environment for children and young adults with communication difficulties. There are also workshops on the site where young adults can learn skills such as working with wood and with willow. It was an excellent experience for the Cokethorpe staff and pupils to visit Pennyhooks Farm and the Junior School is proud to have supported such a worthwhile charity. On Tuesday 5 November 2013 the Year 4 children visited Pennyhooks Farm. They were hosted by Mr Lewis and Miss Otter, who showed them around the site. The children had the chance to feed and stroke the animals including donkeys, chickens, goats, pigs and cows. They also helped to collect the hens' eggs and were introduced to the huge cockerel, Charlie! After that, Mr Lewis took them for a walk around the fields and along the river. They visited a willow dome where Mr Lewis showed them how to cut off pieces of willow and mould them into circular shapes. The trip was a great experience for the children. ☑

Cotswold Volunteers

Cotswold Volunteers was originally set up by a nurse and a social worker, who were concerned about the needs of the elderly in the community. They planned to provide assistance with shopping and gardening for those who were frail and did not have any family in the local area. The charity was officially registered on the 1st January 1961 and recently celebrated its 50th anniversary. Over the years, the charity has extended its services to include a befriending service and a volunteer car scheme and has continued to grow significantly.

Chedworth Villa

One of the largest Roman villas in Britain, Chedworth Villa in Gloucestershire dates back to the 2nd century, believed to have been founded around 120AD.

Pre-Prep Nativity

A Little Bird Told Me

Narrators Edward Harris
Noah Carrington
Abigail Donald
Monty Bolton
Lottie Sales
Tegan Buckingham

Robin Henry Cook
Dove Kalina Kaltschmidt
Birds Seb Tattersall
Findlay Knox
James Harris
William Macleod

The Milky Way Fraser Barnas
Maddie Goldie
Lola Blackmore

The Star Lily Charles

Angels Amelia Atkinson
Amelia Furlong-Price
Nancy Beer
Molly Ferrier

Shepherds Tom Blackmore
Claudia Goldie
Finlay Barnas
Hattie Hunt
Bo Carrington

Sheep Antonio Virk
Abigail Shaw
Kiara Kaltschmidt
Giovanni Kirk

Camels Jack Turner

Wise Men Cash Burridge
Edward Allen
Jack Hammond
Rebecca Williams

Mary Chomba Lukama
Donkey Jack Harris
Joseph Thomas Rohlf

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

Junior Christmas Concert

Star Carol Chamber Choir
In the Bleak Midwinter 6ZH
Calypso Carol 4MM
Carol of the Bells Chamber Choir
Ding Dong Merrily On High! 5BG
Little Drummer Boy 6ND
It Was On A Starry Night 3JD
Love Shone Down Chamber Choir
Hark The Herald Angels Sing 5HL
We Three Kings 6MO
Oh Come All Ye Faithful All

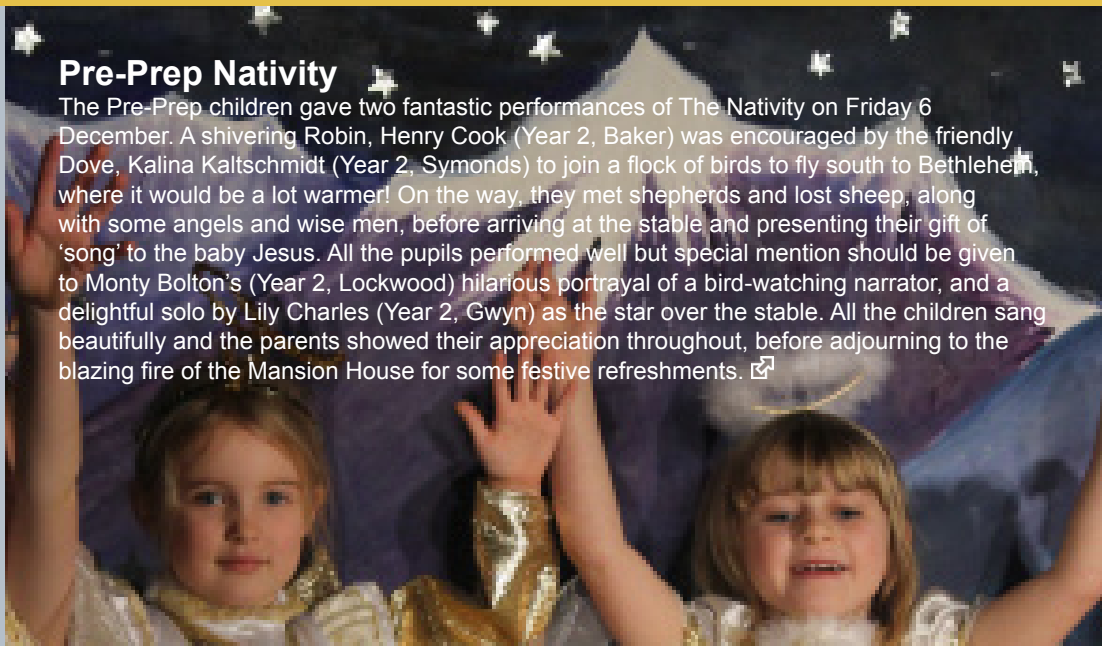
Costumes Mrs L Mace
Miss A Williams

Lighting Mr M O'Connor
Mr T Galvin

Sound Mr N Dawson
Music and Drama Mrs S Du Feu
Piano Accompaniment Mrs R Prince
Additional Sound Effects Mr R Bird

Pre-Prep Nativity

The Pre-Prep children gave two fantastic performances of The Nativity on Friday 6 December. A shivering Robin, Henry Cook (Year 2, Baker) was encouraged by the friendly Dove, Kalina Kaltschmidt (Year 2, Symonds) to join a flock of birds to fly south to Bethlehem, where it would be a lot warmer! On the way, they met shepherds and lost sheep, along with some angels and wise men, before arriving at the stable and presenting their gift of 'song' to the baby Jesus. All the pupils performed well but special mention should be given to Monty Bolton's (Year 2, Lockwood) hilarious portrayal of a bird-watching narrator, and a delightful solo by Lily Charles (Year 2, Gwyn) as the star over the stable. All the children sang beautifully and the parents showed their appreciation throughout, before adjourning to the blazing fire of the Mansion House for some festive refreshments. ☑



Christmas Concert

The Junior School Christmas Concert took place in The Shed on Tuesday 3 and Wednesday 4 December. The Concert began with a performance of John Rutter's challenging *Star Carol*. Max Hichen's (Year 4, Gwyn) poignant solo contrasted well with the more upbeat verses sung by each year group in turn. 6ZH then came swirling on as snowflakes, to a beautiful accompaniment on Piano and Cello, Benjamin Shaw (Year 6, Symonds) and Isabelle Carnell (Year 6, Gwyn) and finished with a most dramatic presentation of Laurie Lee's *Christmas Landscape*. 4MM gave a fantastic performance of their own Star readings, accompanied by John Tavener's eerie music before the upbeat *Calypso Carol*, which had everyone's feet tapping. For their second piece, the Junior Chamber Choir performed *Carol of The Bells* in three-part harmony. This set the scene nicely for 5BG, with their theme of Christmas Bells. In addition to poetry, pupils used hand bells most effectively, particularly in their own Carol, *Ding Dong Merrily on High*.

6ND delivered an amusing poem *Christmas Thank You's*, before concluding their performance with the more serious poem, *The Gift*. Dressed as an assortment of animals, 3JD transported the audience to the stable with their readings, followed by an endearing performance of *It Was On A Starry Night*. The final Carol from the Chamber Choir, *Love Shone Down* was beautifully sung, with Jonathan Peach (Year 5, Symonds) displaying his vocal talent. Class 5HL's piece on Angels followed and, accompanied by Handel's *Hallelujah Chorus*, individual readings were superbly delivered. 6MO concluded the evening with some clever Haikus and poetry about the Three Kings. After an excellent performance of *King's Evidence* they led the final class Carol *We Three Kings* with solo verses from Chisengo Lukama (Year 6, Gwyn), Rory Morrison (Year 6, Gwyn) and Barty Gray (Year 6, Symonds). The evening was suitably concluded with a rousing rendition of *O Come All Ye Faithful* including pupils, staff and audience alike. ☑



Christingle Service

The Junior School walked the short journey from School to the Chapel for the traditional end of term Christingle Service. The children were welcomed by Reverend Turner and after traditional carols and readings, he reminded us of the meaning of Christingle with the help of a giant Christingle and several eager volunteers. As in previous years, Year 2 had made the Christingles and two children from each class had been chosen to carry them during the service. The lights of the church were switched off as the children filled the aisle with flickering candlelight. The School sang the final carol, *Silent Night*, which created a most enchanting scene and a beautiful end to the Service. ☑



Rugby Report

This has been a fairly successful term for Junior School Rugby teams. The U11A team won three of six matches and came fourth in the Cokethorpe U11 Tournament, narrowly missing out on a place in the final. The U11B team were also successful, winning four and losing two matches, and improved throughout the season, which was pleasing to note. The outstanding team though was the U9A team, who went the whole season undefeated. This included winning every match in the prestigious Abingdon Prep tournament. A feature of this team was their tough tackling, exemplified by Jadon Washington (Year 4, Gwyn), who was actually asked by a referee in one match to be taken off, as he was too strong for the opposition! The speed of Ben Orton (Year 4, Lockwood) and Harry Furlong (Year 4, Symonds) also proved too much for many opponents and we can expect big things of them in the future. ☑

IAPS Inland Regatta

Congratulations to Barty Gray (Year 6, Symonds) and Fletcher Sharp (Year 6, Gwyn) on achieving first place in the IAPS Inland Sailing Regatta at Farmoor on Friday 8 November 2013. It was a stunning victory in difficult conditions against 24 crews from around the country. In the four races throughout the day, the duo were placed no lower than second position in any race. With Barty at the helm and Fletcher as crew, they sailed their Pico with great skill and determination to secure a wonderful victory in a very prestigious event. ☑



Inter-House Hockey

On Thursday 12 September, Junior School children competed against one another. An extremely impressive level of hockey was displayed by all. Games were close, with only one or two goals determining the result in each game. However, Symonds came out on top to be named Junior School Inter-House Hockey winners. Well done to all the players! ☑



Hockey Report

Another exciting season kicked off in September with the Inter-House competition. This was followed by hard work in training with the focus on individual skill development and an introduction to team play. There were a number of great results, including wins against Chandlings, Hatherop and Kitebrook. The U11s performed admirably when representing Cokethorpe at the IAPS tournament, holding their own against some very big schools. A real highlight however was the Christmas Hockey Festival which saw all the U10s and U11s mix up with girls from other schools to form festive teams. The lovely feast and visit from Santa was a great way to finish a successful term.

Rugby Results

U11As

Abingdon Prep School	7–21	L
St Hugh's Prep School	0–42	L
Magdalen College School	14–28	L
New College School	68–0	W
St Edward's, Cheltenham	14–32	L

U9As

Magdalen College School	65–45	W
New College School	45–15	W
Abingdon Prep School	65–25	W
St Hugh's Prep School	55–35	W
St Edward's, Cheltenham	60–20	W
New College School	40–25	W

Inter-House Results

Hockey

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

Rugby

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

Inter-House Rugby

The House Winners for Rugby this term were a strong Baker House, who won all their group and play-off matches with ease. They proved too strong for Symonds in the final, winning 4-1.

U11 Rugby Tournament

On a particularly blustery and cold afternoon, Cokethorpe hosted its annual nine-a-side rugby tournament. Eight teams were split into two groups, playing each other to determine who would progress to the final. Despite the conditions there was some excellent rugby played in the group stages, with all teams displaying determination and commitment. Cokethorpe A, having won their two opening matches needed to defeat Magdalen College School in order to progress to the final. In a close fought game they were narrowly defeated, which meant they faced a strong Winchester House team in the third place play-off match. The first half was closely contested, with Cokethorpe working hard in defence to stop a well-drilled Winchester team, but as the second half progressed Winchester became stronger, particularly at the breakdowns, and piled on the pressure, eventually securing a comfortable win. Special mention should go to the ground staff, who worked hard to ensure the pitches were in excellent condition, and to our referees, who did a commendable and professional job all afternoon.

The Houses

Lower House Heroes

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

Below are the Lower House Heroes for the second half of the Michaelmas Term.

Ben Wannell	L1 Feilden
Téo Loeffen	L1 Gascoigne
James Shaw	L1 Harcourt
Finley Wightman	L1 Queen Anne
Matthew Christensen	L1 Swift
Joe Spilsbury	L1 Vanbrugh
Jack Gamble	U1 Feilden
Boris Pavlov	U1 Gascoigne
Eddie Binnie	U1 Harcourt
Rachel Dodimead	U1 Queen Anne
Thomas Jackson	U1 Swift
Michaela Logue	U1 Vanbrugh

Lower House Ashes Cup

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

Winners this term were:

Fortnight 1	Upper First Feilden
Fortnight 2	Upper First Queen Anne
Fortnight 3	Upper First Gascoigne
Fortnight 4	Upper First Swift
Fortnight 5	Upper First Queen Anne
Fortnight 6	Upper First Harcourt
Fortnight 7	Upper First Swift

Inter-House Rugby

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

Harcourt House Social

'The Harcourt House bowling night was a tremendous success. The evening began with a delicious meal of chicken kebabs, chunky chips and doughnuts provided by the School Catering staff. Fattened up and hugely satisfied we travelled in minibuses to the Bowlplex in Oxford. From Third Form to Upper Sixth the atmosphere was vibrant and competitive as the games commenced. Despite scores ranging from the hundreds to the tens, gutters worn flat and bumpers dented, there was laughter and slush puppies all round and as the evening drew to a close everyone was still feeling ready for another round. Many thanks go to the Harcourt tutors for helping transport the students and more so to Mr Lawson for the huge amount of effort that he put into organising such a wonderful evening. Perhaps he will consider a repeat next year (when he might be slightly more successful at beating the students!).'

Anna Withey (Upper Sixth, Harcourt)

Inter-House Music

The Sports Hall was the venue for this year's Inter-House Music Competition; this year's theme *The Music of Mr Burt Bacharach*. Mr Walton, retired Second Master, was the arbiter of good taste as Chief Adjudicator, enjoying a trip down memory lane as he listened to songs originally made famous by artistes such as Sir Tom Jones, Sandy Shaw and The Carpenters. The Houses rose magnificently to the challenge of the Whole House song category, demonstrating much energy and enthusiasm. Branching out into other song styles, the Ensembles and Soloists delighted all present with ingenious arrangements and some very impressive vocal performances. Only one House could take first prize overall, and this year the accolade went to a victorious Gascoigne. ☑



Crawford Relay

On Friday 18 October the School came together to watch the annual Crawford Relay. Two teams were chosen from each House and a team from the Junior School and a staff team also joined in on the fun. It proved to be a very competitive race, however Harcourt were victorious, their teams finishing in First and Third place. ☑

Inter-House Sport

The Inter-House Hockey tournament took place in September. A number of fast-paced fixtures were played out, and once the results were combined it was Queen Anne declared the overall winning House, with Harcourt runners-up. In the Inter-House Rugby, Swift's victories in the Lower and Middle School competition, coupled with their runner-up finish in the Senior competition, led to them taking the title.

Lower House Disco

The end of half term was concluded with Lower House pupils moving to the thumping sounds and the flashing lights that accompanied the disco beat. The pupils took up the challenge of the dance-off and *Britain's Got Talent* would have plenty of acts to showcase if they were to look to Cokethorpe School for inspiration! ☑



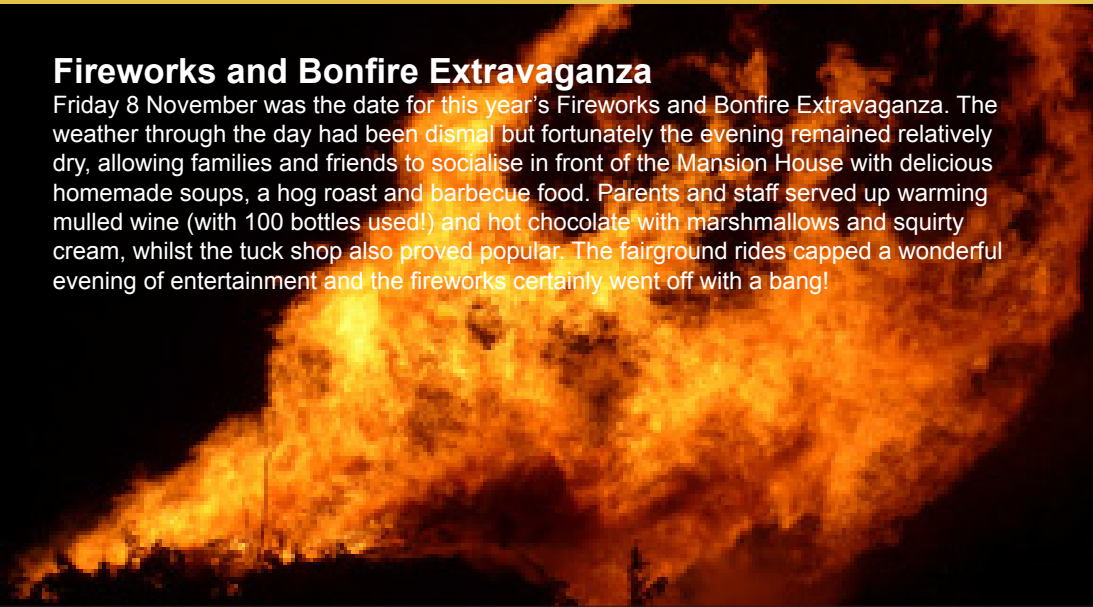
House Advent Services

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



Fireworks and Bonfire Extravaganza

Friday 8 November was the date for this year's Fireworks and Bonfire Extravaganza. The weather through the day had been dismal but fortunately the evening remained relatively dry, allowing families and friends to socialise in front of the Mansion House with delicious homemade soups, a hog roast and barbecue food. Parents and staff served up warming mulled wine (with 100 bottles used!) and hot chocolate with marshmallows and squirry cream, whilst the tuck shop also proved popular. The fairground rides capped a wonderful evening of entertainment and the fireworks certainly went off with a bang!



CPA Committee

The 2013–2014 Committee was elected at the CPA Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 11 September 2013.

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

Damian Ettinger
Victor Faria
Julie Grime
Nick Moglia
Sarah Plumridge
Clare Priestley-Smith
Hannah Wharton

The CPA Committee meets once a month, at 8.00pm in the Corinthian Room. They are always keen to welcome new members and if you are interested in joining please get in touch. There are many people who prefer not to join a committee but are willing to volunteer their help at specific events. A list of such 'helpers' is kept and the Committee is always grateful to hear from anyone willing to join it. Please email catherine@o-a-c.co.uk.



Murder Mystery Evening

On Saturday 19 October, The Shed was beautifully transformed into Chington Floral Village Hall, adorned with floral table cloths, bunting, posters and a village hall notice board, for the CPA Murder Mystery Evening. The evening featured the brilliant Cokethorpe Players: Mrs Hooper, Mrs Ringham, Miss Bennett, Miss Shortland, Mrs Mace, Mr Galvin, Mr Walwyn, Mr Lawson and a brilliant debut performance by Mr Farrow. Mr Galvin provided lighting and sound and also enjoyed an onstage cameo role too. Special thanks go to Mr Cooper returning as Inspector Foot of the Yard, who brought order to proceedings and restrained suspects, particularly those who had had one too many glasses of sherry! Six teams managed to solve the case, and a great time was had by all. ☑



Christmas Fayre

On Saturday 30 November, the Mansion House provided a beautiful setting for the CPA Christmas Fayre. The tree looked beautiful and the warm fire and smell of mulled wine greeted friends and family of the School as they entered the Mansion House. With over twenty stalls selling a wide range of gifts from sweets, socks and toys to soft furnishings, home accessories and beautiful jewellery, visitors had plenty to choose from and many were seen leaving with large bags of purchases. Children had the opportunity of visiting Father Christmas himself who sat snuggled up to the fire in the Round House 'Grotto'. The children's craft area proved to be as popular as ever, with cake, tea towel and Christmas stocking decorating. Cuppa served up delicious soup and festive filled baguettes to keep everyone fuelled for the day.

Thanks go to all the stall holders, friends and family who came along, and to the parents and children who helped to decorate the Grotto and run stalls during the afternoon. Thanks also to the Drama, Marketing, Catering and Maintenance departments for their help and support at this event, and to the staff Common Room for entertaining with their beautiful carols. ☑



Forthcoming CPA Events

Coffee Mornings

Every Tuesday during term time
8.30am – 9.15am, Coffee Shop
New and existing parents are invited to socialise over hot refreshments during the Lent Term, commencing Tuesday 7 January 2014.

CPA Burns Night Supper

Friday 24 January 2014
7.15pm – 11.30pm, Dining Hall
Join the CPA for a celebration commemorating one of the Scots' best-loved bards. The evening will follow typical Burns Night traditions including a piper, addresses, a céilidh, dancing and a delicious traditional Scottish feast. Kilts and tartan apparel are encouraged, although not compulsory. Tickets are £30.00 per person, which includes dinner and a dram of whisky.

CPA Quiz Night

Saturday 8 March 2014
Put your trivia knowledge to the test at this year's Quiz Night. Taking place in the Dining Hall from 7:30pm, teams can be up to eight people and smaller groups will be combined. Tickets are £10.00 per person, which also includes a fish and chips supper.

To book tickets, please contact the Box Office on 01993 892338 or boxoffice@cokethorpe.org.

Festive Coffee Morning

The CPA Committee welcomed parents to a festive Coffee Morning on Tuesday 10 December. Delicious croissants and mince pies were served.

New Developments and Staff News

Wellbeing and Integrity

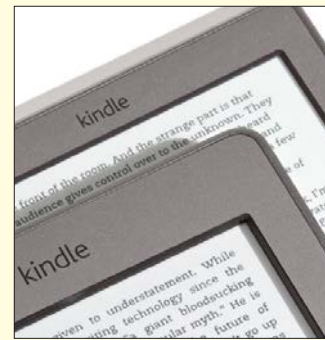
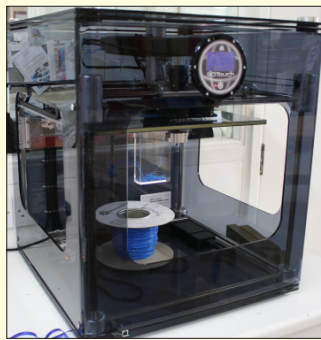
This term saw the launch of the Wellbeing and Integrity Toolkit (WIT). Pupils have taken part in talks, tutorials and services on a wide range of topics such as Eating and a Happy Life, Managing Emotions, Resisting Temptation and Consumerism. These sessions have resulted in many lively discussions, together with opportunities for pupils to reflect on how they can use what they have learnt to bring about their own wellbeing.

New Medical Team

Following the departure of School Nurse Mrs Haste and First Aider Mrs Holford, who left at the end of the Summer Term, Cokethorpe has been delighted to welcome the new School Nurse, Mrs Homewood, and First Aider Mrs Perry. The new medical team has certainly had a baptism of fire this Michaelmas Term, with an unprecedented number of injuries during sport, particularly in the rugby teams!

Braille Signs

The School has had Braille signs installed around the School to assist visually impaired pupils and visitors.



Annual Fund

The Annual Fund will soon be launching and the School is hoping to better last year's impressive total of £21,548, which in itself was an improvement on the previous year. Last year's projects included a new electronic cricket scoreboard for the School which will be used from the Summer Term, a week of Cookery Courses for Senior School pupils and a 3D printer for the Design Technology department. For a full list of projects, and information about the Annual Fund and how you can support it, go to www.cokethorpe.org.uk/go/annualfund.



From the Common Room

On Sunday 22 October, Mrs Lamb and her husband Nick celebrated the christening of their son Benjamin Lamb in the Cokethorpe Chapel with friends and family. It was a very special day, with Benjamin joining a long line of children to be christened in the School font, which dates back to Saxon times.

Fundraising for Charity

Martial Arts Fundraiser

Maintenance team member Mr Bellasie organised a Martial Arts Session and Fundraising Event on Tuesday 19 November, to raise funds for the Leukaemia and Lymphoma Trust. Mr Bellasie organised the event after learning that a black belt member of his training team received financial support and advice from the Trust during his bone marrow transplant. The event included instructive sessions in kickboxing, taekwondo, judo and karate, with members of several local clubs attending and taking part. Overall the event raised £220 for the Trust.

Junior Christmas Raffle

The Junior School has raised a fantastic £163.86 from its Christmas Raffle and the money has been presented to The Nasio Trust. The prize winners were:

Tegan Buckingham (Year 2, Baker)
Zoë Smith (Year 5, Baker)
Reece Waltho (Year 3, Gwyn)
Joseph Curry (Year 3, Symonds)

Thank you everyone for buying tickets and to Mrs Daphne Smith, a friend of Cokethorpe School who donated the prizes and knitted a selection of hats.



November

Following the success of last year's efforts, Cokethorpe staff once again donned their face-fuzz to raise money for research into testicular and prostate cancer through the month of November. This year, ten members of Cokethorpe's staff, captained by Head of Geography Mr Capel, grew their moustaches (with varying levels of success!) to raise a fantastic total of £737. The team would like to thank everybody who donated through the Movember website and the collection box in Cuppa to help them reach such a fantastic total by the end of December. Remember, as the old saying goes, 'with great moustache comes great responsibility'.



Christmas Hamper Campaign

Cokethorpe delivered hampers of food to St Mary's Church in Witney following the completion of its annual Christmas Campaign in December. Contributions to the hampers were from pupils, families and staff and the hampers have been distributed to those suffering hardship during the festive season via the Church's links with local schools and The Besom. Michelle Bailey-Wells, Parish Administrator, commented, 'Thanks again to Cokethorpe for their fantastic contribution. The hampers provide much-needed support to those in need and will make a real difference to those who receive part of this generous contribution at what can be a difficult time of year'.

Remembrance Service

On Monday 11 November, silence fell at 11.00am as Cokethorpe pupils and staff, along with members of the local British Legion gathered in the Upper Quad to remember those who had lost their lives in the line of duty. Reverend Humphreys and Reverend Turner delivered a solemn and thoughtful remembrance service, with a selection of prayers and a hymn. ☒



Admissions Round-Up

October Open Mornings have a vibrant atmosphere and the Open Morning on Saturday 5 October was no exception. Visitors were treated to a wonderful range of displays and activities. Candidates for the Third Form Assessment Day in November completed rigorous examinations, a group exercise and interviews.



Thames Relay

Cokethorpe was contacted by representatives of the Thames Festival, organising the carrying of a bottle of water from the source of the Thames in Lechlade to London. Eight paddlers from Cokethorpe School took one leg of the journey, starting at the Boathouse and finishing at Osney.

Key 2013 Admissions Dates

W/C Monday 13 January: Lower First Assessment Interviews
Thursday 23 January: Junior School Assessment Day
Lower First Assessment Interviews
Saturday 25 January: Lower First Assessment Day
Saturday 1 March: Open Morning
W/C Monday 3 March: Third Form Scholarship/Awards Assessments
Tuesday 13 May: Open Evening
Tuesday 3 June: Junior School Assessment Day
Tuesday 17 June: Junior and Lower First Transfer Day

Standlake Scouts

The 1st Standlake Group continues to use Cokethorpe as its headquarters.

Wychwood Hockey Club

Wychwood Hockey Club has held its 40th Anniversary Festival at the School this term and continues to use Cokethorpe for its home matches.

Events

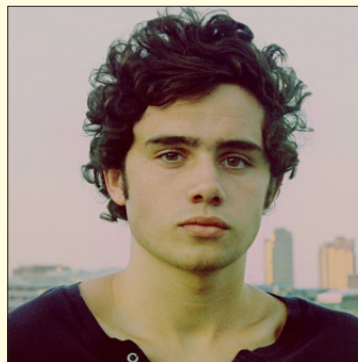
The School has played host to numerous local events this term, from fundraising nights to opera competitions!

The Cokethorpe Society

Toby Pugh

Old Cokethorpean Toby Pugh (2010, Harcourt) has landed a role in the film *Barely Lethal*, starring Hailee Steinfeld, Samuel L. Jackson and Jessica Alba. The film stars Steinfeld as a teen assassin, who runs away to lead an ordinary high-school life. Toby (under his performing name of Toby Sebastian) will play Cash Fenton, the singer in a local band and a love interest for Steinfeld's character.

Toby will also be seen in *The Philosophers*, and in addition to his film roles is enjoying success as a singer-songwriter, signed with A&M Records. ☒



Forthcoming Events

Cokethorpe Society Sports Festival and Leavers' Reunion Dinner
Details to be confirmed in early 2014

Cokethorpe Society AGM
Details to be confirmed in early 2014

Email: society@cokethorpe.org
Telephone: 01993 892339



Rachel Dent

Former Cokethorpe English and Drama teacher and Head of Sixth Form Rachel Dent (1995-2006) has been appointed as the new Head of The Abbey School in Reading. ☒



Lizzie Hardie

OC Lizzie Hardie (2012, Queen Anne) has captained the Royal Agricultural Ladies' Shooting Team to become National University Champions, with Rebecca Savins (OC 2012, Vanbrugh) also in the team.

News Round-Up

John Hughes (OC 1964, Queen Anne) visited the School whilst on holiday and was amazed to see the changes. John, now based in Carlisle, also provided a number of interesting items to the School Archives and was presented with a memento of his visit by Mr Fenton.

Henry Purdy (OC 2012, Queen Anne) started on the wing for Leicester Tigers on 15 November in their 21-18 win over Worcester Warriors.

Mr Daniels recently met up with several former Cokethorpe Clay Pigeon Shooting team members **Will Goodhew** (2008), **James Nettlefold**, **Morgan Wigham**, **Josh Atkins** and **Jordan Gillies** (all 2010) at the Ginge Shoot in East Hendred.

Ave

Cokethorpe is pleased to welcome the following members of staff.

J C Stevens (Deputy Headmaster)

'I join Cokethorpe from Eastbourne College where for the last nine years I have been a boarding Housemaster. I am enjoying the challenges that come with this role and have found the welcome from pupils, parents and colleagues to be full of warmth and good humour. I am delighted to be a part of such a busy and thriving institution as Cokethorpe and take great pleasure in witnessing the extraordinary achievements of our pupils.'

E S Bailey (Design Technology)

'I was previously at King Alfred's College in Wantage, after working in architecture for three years. I completed an Engineering Design degree at Harper Adams University and in my spare time I thoroughly enjoy rowing, climbing, travelling and enjoying the outdoors.'

S G Carter (History and Politics)

'After serving as an officer in the RAF I am extremely fortunate to be teaching at Cokethorpe as a second career. I enjoy activities with my family in my spare time; I am also a mountaineer and climber and I like cycling, kayaking and keeping fit.'

T J Evans (Design Technology)

'Having previously worked in Finland and Kenya, I felt it was time to return to the UK. In Kenya was Head of Design Technology, Science Teacher and Deputy Boarding House Master. It is great to be back on home soil at Cokethorpe School.'

P A R Goulding (Classical Civilisation)

'I have the pleasure of starting up and developing a Classics Department at Cokethorpe, teaching Latin and Classical Civilisation. I've loved my first term here and am also enjoying the chance to coach rugby at such a prestigious sporting school.'

Miss E L Ladell (Physics)

'After studying Physics at Oxford University and teaching English in Kyrgyzstan, I began my teaching career in an Academy on Old Kent Road, London. I am enjoying the fresh air of Oxfordshire and outside of school I enjoy singing, lindy hop and jazz music.'

A Lamb (Music)

'Having left Lingfield Notre Dame School in the rolling Surrey hills in July, Witney has proved to be a delightful place to live. A Director of Music's first term will always be a busy one, and mine has been no exception. Thankfully I have been greeted by a talented and supportive Music Department, a friendly Common Room and, most importantly, a fantastic group of students.'

Mrs J E Homewood (School Nurse)

'As a dual-qualified Adult and Paediatric nurse I hope to bring a wealth of experience to my role as School Nurse. Having experienced the Crawford Relay, Inter-House Music, Pre-Prep Nativity and Junior School Concert, I am slowly orientating myself to this fascinating new world. I would like to give a heartfelt thank you to staff, pupils and parents for making my first term so enjoyable.'

Ms L A Mountain (English)

'I have been a teacher of English for over a decade. For much of that time I worked in the beautiful city of York before recently relocating to Oxfordshire. Joining Cokethorpe School has been a delight and I was thrilled to be asked to coach our Public Speaking and Debate teams. Outside of school I am a keen gardener.'

Miss K J Rogers (Psychology)

'After graduating from Reading with a first in Psychology and having completed my PGCE, I am delighted to be working at Cokethorpe in such a wonderful environment. My outside interests include walking, cooking and reading.'

Open Morning

Saturday 1 March: 9.30am – 12 noon

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

Headmaster's Addresses:

10.30am and 11.30am

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

Contact Information

Headmaster

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

Senior Management Team

Bursar: Mrs S A Landon
sal@cokethorpe.org
Deputy Headmaster: J Stevens
jcs@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
ejf@cokethorpe.org
Head of Sixth Form: G J Sheer
gjs@cokethorpe.org

Housemasters and Housemistresses

Lower House: Mrs J L Pratley
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Gascoigne: Mrs E Semenzato
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Harcourt: W G Lawson
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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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