

THE OCELLUS

The termly newsletter of the School

From the Outgoing Editor

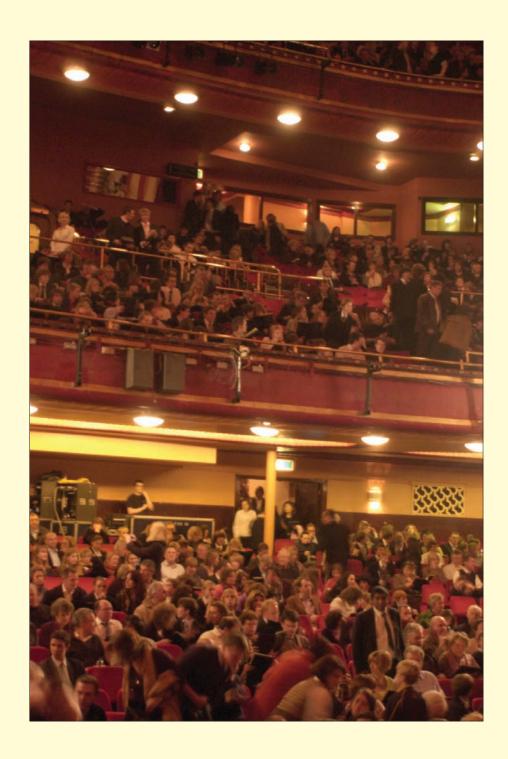


It is extremely generous of the Headmaster to relinquish his front page slot to me. I am saying goodbye with some considerable sadness but confident that the School is flourishing, full and fulfilling all expectations.

This also gives me a chance to reflect on the last four years. There is rarely a minute to do so during 'normal' school days (is there such a thing at Cokethorpe?), every one of which seems to add another half dozen exciting projects to the list. This is a wonderful School and it has been inspirational to work so closely with the Headmaster and others, especially the Foundation Office team.

Almost half the pupils in the School were 'mine' in the admissions stages before they started. I have enjoyed the friendly 'Hello Mrs Rutland' from the Juniors as they hurry past (I was going to say run but they shouldn't!), and also my contact with Senior School pupils, especially the Sixth Form during various scholarship and other processes. I shall miss the whole community.

I shall retain close ties with the School and watch its continued progress with interest and just a little personal pride. I shall be extremely busy in the immediate future, but closer to home, and I am most certainly not retiring! I have stayed considerably longer than I originally intended but I simply could not tear myself away.



ACADEMIC

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Sri Lanka Tourists Simon Atkinson **Charles Bartlett** Elliott Bennett Oliver Berger Tom Biggs Daniel Breslin Hannah Brown Hannah Brownrigg-Gleeson Christopher Cassettari Sarah Davey Nicholas Duffy Rubehn Enjily Francesca Ferrier Louise Ford Eleanor Frearson Jake Geekie Victoria Gibson Brinley Gleeson Edward Gottfried Patrick Grant **Thomas Green** Harley Griffiths **Emily Highton** Adam Hopcroft Megan Hope Robert James Marc Johnson Victoria Jones Peter Jones Joshua Kim Charlotte Krol **Emily Landon**

Alexander Mayhew Emelie Metcalfe Amy Minch

Isobel Landon

Daniel Le Coyte

Sarah Lockver

Adam Lodowski Christopher Lord

Adam Maskery

Chervl Matson

Tom Lewis

Chris Langhorne-Cox

Zachary Latcham-Ford

Christopher MacKinnon

Front Cover: A Celebration of Advent at the New Theatre, Oxford



Golden Jubilee Tour

On 14 July, following 18 months of planning and fundraising, a party of 85 pupils and staff departed for the exotic island of Sri Lanka. The party consisted of two distinct groups; 50 pupils participated in a series of sporting fixtures against local schools and district sides while 21 pupils were engaged in a wide variety of Geography fieldwork activities.

In total the sports group played 15 fixtures in four sports. Throughout the tour the quality of the competition was good, while the hosts were always welcoming and cordial. With the exception of one netball match, which was played on a rough grass pitch, the standard of the sporting facilities was high with the rugby fixtures all taking place in excellent stadiums.

Throughout the tour the group were fortunate to stay in a series of wonderful 4 and 5 star hotels, with friendly staff that ensured they enjoyed a warm welcome and experienced a real flavour of the nation's culture and cuisine.

Sri Lanka is a wonderfully diverse island which has a rich cultural heritage, aspects of which were enjoyed in a varied enrichment programme which included visits to various temples, markets and an elephant orphanage. Another highlight of the tour was a whitewater rafting trip down the Kelani River which provided real entertainment and thrills. Probably the one thing that will remain in everyone's memories were the thrills and spills of travelling by coach between the various venues.





The geographers had the opportunity to appreciate the diverse physical and human environments in Sri Lanka.

One of the highlights for the geography group was the visit to Nuwara Eliya. They had a guided tour of the tea factory, sampled the local brew and stayed at the nearby, unique Tea Factory Hotel. Sinharaja tropical rainforest was another memorable experience not only because of the amazing virgin forest but also because of the ubiquitous leeches. In Udawalawe National Park the geographers stayed in a tented camp and spent three days viewing game animals from open-top jeeps.

In all the tour to Sri Lanka was a truly amazing experience and will hopefully encourage pupils to explore and appreciate this diverse world. For all who took part this was an exciting and wonderfully life enriching experience.

There is a Golden Jubilee Tour Brochure available with more photos and further information on the tour. Please contact the Marketing Officer for a copy.



July Flooding

The School did not escape the weather as Oxfordshire experienced the summer's torrential rain. The grounds were quickly saturated, creating fast-flowing streams down the driveways and the Ha-ha was turned into a moat as it filled with water. None of the buildings were affected but unfortunately the children attending the Activities Week got very wet before finally retreating to shelter.

Examination Results

Cokethorpe re-emphasised its deserved reputation as a first choice school this summer when the Year 11 pupils scored 90% grades A*–C at GCSE and the A Level pupils a wonderful average points score of 267, equivalent to grades of BCC, and subsequent entry to first class



Year 9 Pre-Test

A pre-test in Year 7 for entry in Year 9 is now firmly established as part of the admissions process, and a record number of Prep School candidates visited the School this term. Tests and activities ranged from an arduous Maths paper to fun and games (with a purpose) that challenged the candidates to create three-dimensional structures from spaghetti and marshmallows.



Lunchtime Lectures

September's inaugural Lunchtime Lecture by the Headmaster was a fascinating tale of entrepreneurism, honesty and bagels. More recently the Director of Studies gave an illustrated guide to three great photographers and a little of his own work, urging that in this digital age the message should be 'think before we shoot'. The Shed was packed, challenged and inspired on both occasions.

universities across the UK. The School will continue to strive for the very best added value – across the board, not just in examinations – for every child, and look for further improvements in 2008 and beyond. Watch this space!



New Reception Class

The youngest additions to the School have settled in well; the class will be growing (in numbers!) in January and is already almost full for next September.



The atmosphere was very welcoming as the new scholars entered the Mansion on 12 November, greeted by a raging log fire, music playing in the background, and scholars' parents socialising whilst enjoying a glass or two of wine. The Corinthian Room was the perfect venue as rival tables pitted their wits against each other in a competitive but jovial quiz, complemented with a selection of food and drink. The evening was a tremendous success. All credit goes to organisers Callum Staff and Gerard Smith, and musician Joshua Gale.

Michael Staples (Swift)

ilicnaei Stapies (Swiπ)



ISCO and Yellis

The annual careers profiling sessions have taken place this term, the ISCO Futurewise profiling and interviews for Year 11 and the Yellis tests for Year 10.

Maths Challenge

The Lower Sixth took part in the UKMT Maths Challenge at Highdown School on 26 November and are eagerly awaiting the results.

Rock Band Competition

Christopher Lord and Joshua Gale made it through to a National Rock Band Competition with their band *Silverchain*. They were one of 12 bands that reached the final from over 200 entries.

Pantomime Performers

Saskia Kovandzich (Harcourt) and Jacob Yolland (Gascoigne) have both starred in the Christmas pantomime Aladdin at the Oxford Playhouse.

Warthogs Return

The warthogs that mysteriously disappeared during the term have been returned safely to their home in front of the Mansion House. They have also been joined by four beautiful peacocks that appear to be roaming around on the lawn.

Sri Lanka Tourists Continued

Nicola Morris Harriet Mullins Benjamin Neal James Newman Jessica O'Shea Alex Pearson Josephine Pilling Olivia Plummer Patrick Plummer Darrell Porter Carys Protheroe Jack Reardon Francesca Roberts Graham Roberts Suzanna Russell Hugo Shellard Oliver Shellard Tom Shellard Emily Stafford Andrew Stallard **David Wells** Morgan Wigham **Daniel Wollner** James Wood Clara Young

14 members of staff also accompanied the tourists.

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Trip to Blackwell's Bookshop

Some of the 76 books chosen:

- 1 The Trenches, Jim Eldridge
- 2 Ghost Ship, Dietlot Reiche
- 3 Wildfire, Chris Rvan
- Gulliver's Travels, Jonathan Swift
- A Stain on the Stone, Emily Smith
- Out of the Ashes, Michael Morpurgo
- Peter Pan, J M Barrie
- 8 Winnie-the-Pooh, A A Milne
- 9 Lionboy, Zizou Corder
- 10 Tanglewreck, Jeanette Winterson
- 11 Hood, Stephen R Lawhead
- 12 Stoneheart. Charlie Fletcher
- 13 Titanic 2020, Colin Bateman
- 14 The Frog Princess, E D Baker 15 Wilderness, Roddy Doyle
- 16 A Winter Book, Tove Jansson
- 17 Nightrise, Anthony Horowitz
- 18 Windersmith, Terry Pratchett
- 19 Jinx, Meg Cabot
- 20 Silverfin, Charlie Higson
- 21 Life of Pi, Yann Martel
- 22 Breathe Cliff McNish
- 23 The Lost World, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle
- 24 Feasting the Wolf, Susan Price
- 25 Eldest, Christopher Paolini

Politics in Action

The Cokethorpe Year 11 team proposed the following to improve recycling in the District

- lobby local business to cut down on packaging – fine for over packaging
- provide communal bins and community compost areas
- use a mechanical process for sorting out recyclable materials
- put pressure on Government for
- more recycling facilities - burn waste for energy
- use more recycled materials for new products
- give rewards for good recycling efforts
- use publicity to enforce the public's awareness

Dragons' Den

The 'Dragons', Mr Fenton, Mr Walton, Mr Walwyn, Mr Williams and Mrs Landon, were all impressive, enthusiastic and suitably intimidating.

Tom Swann (Swift) and Louis Taylor (Feilden) were selected as the overall winners with a very slick presentation.

Jessica Wulff (Harcourt) and Marcus Quint (Harcourt) were awarded prizes for the most impressive individual performances.

English Civil War, 1642-1651

This was between the Royalists (to King Charles I) and the Parliamentarians.

Year 7 Trip to Blackwell's

The Harry Potter series did not feature in purchases made by Year 7 pupils when they visited Blackwell's, the renowned academic bookseller in Oxford. They instead chose from a 'wedding list' of nearly 200 suggestions, ranging from the classic to the contemporary.

The trip was organised by Mr Cornelius-Jones to help fill the new Cranham Library and also improve pupils' independence in reading as well as foster a love of literature. All pupils now have their names on labels inside the front cover of their chosen texts, for which they are also writing reviews.



Politics in Action

Cokethorpe was one of eight schools at the Witney Council's 'Politics in Action' event on 1 November, promoting democracy and engagement to young people. School teams were tasked with spending a fictional £1m on council services, each then giving a short presentation explaining their ideas. Witney MP David Cameron spent time with each team before addressing the group on the theme of making difficult political decisions.

Year 9 Dragons' Den

Cokethorpe recently hosted the first Dragons' Den in which all the Year 9 pupils produced an advertising campaign for a new product. An immense amount of effort went into the research, design. marketing, and eventual presentation. Two groups from each class presented their ideas to the 'Dragons' to persuade them to invest in them. It was hugely successful with each pitch inventive, creative and highly persuasive.



English Recitals

Literary recitals in the Cranham Library now feature during the longer lunchtime. The Head of English, Mr White, opened the half-termly cycle of readings, with a personal review of poetry from the American Beat Generation which influenced him as a student. He included his own work, some written as a teacher in Kenya, where he worked in remote village schools. The next recital was given by Miss White who talked about poetry from Yorkshire. Staff from Blackwell's bookshop in Oxford also visited the School to give their own lunchtime recital entitled From Writer to Bookshelf.





Civil War Time Traveller

As part of their unit on the English Civil War, Year 8 were visited by a member of the Sealed Knot Battle Re-enactment Society. He was dressed as a Royalist Captain, and talked to pupils about how the Civil War developed, showing them the weapons and armour used. Some pupils tried on authentic costumes, and everyone had the opportunity to hold the various items. This, alongside the gruesome stories told by the 'Time Traveller', made the topic come to life and enabled pupils to gain a better understanding of the Civil War.





Chemist of the Year

Jay Amin (Gascoigne) was nominated as Cokethorpe's Chemist of the Year when the University of Oxford marked National Chemistry Week. 23 other schools took part and Hugo Brunner, Lord Lieutenant of Oxfordshire, presented the awards.

Sixth Form Socials

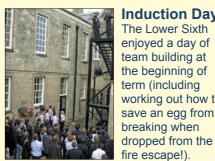
This term the Sixth Form has enjoyed Christmas shopping in Birmingham and a Christmas dinner at Freud's of Oxford.



General Studies

How do aeroplanes stay up? Why did Robert Frost write about a road not taken? These were two of the questions asked – and hopefully answered – by visiting lecturers in the Sixth Form General Studies programme during the Michaelmas Term. Engineering Professor Martin Oldfield of Keble College gave the first talk of the season. his presentation including Airforce film of fighter aircraft breaking the sound barrier and a behind the scenes look at the new Airbus Superjet in assembly. New York writer and editor Linda Hart revealed secrets about the road not taken in a lecture dedicated to the late Mr Peter Cranham, the former organiser of the General Studies programme.





Sixth Form Trips

The Sixth Form has benefited from a number of trips this term. These included an English trip to London, an Art trip to Compton Verney Gallery, a DT Product Design course in London, a Law trip to the Old Bailey and Royal Courts of Justice in London, a Drama trip to see A Midsummer Night's Dream at the Oxford Playhouse, a Photography trip to Cornwall and a Politics trip to a Youth Question Time with David Cameron.

Induction Day The Lower Sixth

enjoyed a day of

team building at

the beginning of

term (including

breaking when

working out how to

save an egg from

Young Enterprise

As part of the Young Enterprise scheme at Cokethorpe, a number of Sixth Form students have formed Blue Ice. So far, the business has sold a number of products including personalised hoodies and Christmas cards. These have both been a great success and Blue Ice will be creating further products with an aim to gain hands-on experience in business. Daniel Blackwell (Feilden)

Options Evening

The Sixth Form Options Evening was more popular than ever as pupils from Year 11 and many external candidates visited the School to learn more about how the Sixth Form is suited to them.

Business Sponsorship Lunch

The School's Business Sponsorship Scheme, the first scheme of its kind in the country, allows Sixth Form students to gain a greater appreciation of the work ethic within businesses. On 5 October, students met with their business managers, such as those from STL Communications and Data Plastics, to report on their progress and prepare them for the next sponsored placement. Charlotte Krol (Queen Anne)



University Destinations

L Beardsell Drama, St Mary's, London

O Berger Law, UWE

A Bradley Applied Biology, Nottingham

Marketing & Management, T Burpitt

Southampton Solent

T Chung Mechanical Engineering, Kings J Cull Drama Teacher, Stage Coach

F Davidson Bio Medical Sciences, UWE

R Enjily Public Health and Nutrition,

Sheffield Hallam K Ferrier Law, Cardiff

P Gardom Teacher of English, Spain

Fashion Merchandising

Management, Westminster P Grant

Law, Surrey

D Hagues Geology, Cardiff History and Politics, T Hatzis

Warwick

T Howard Placement at the BBC

E James Dental Nurse E Jennison Medicine, Kings

L Jezzard Drama, De Monfort

L Keegan Music & Sound Design, Hull

M Kynaston-Pearson Architecture, Portsmouth

O Malins Medieval and Early Modern

History, Winchester

A Sayers Accounts Manager M Simpson Sales Consultant, Hong Kong

A Stallard Sports Management and

Coaching, UWE

H Swailes Officer Training, Royal Navy

J Tohill Fashion Merchandising Management, Westminster

V Tuck Genetics, UWE

S Walton Art Foundation, Coventry

O Wenman Graphic Design, Gloucester

M Winkler International Business,

Regents Business School Mathematics & Economics, LSE

General Studies Lectures

D Yip

Thursday 7 February 2008 Dale Le Vack. News Editor: 'How to get ahead in television and newspapers: My 40 years in the Media.

Thursday 28 February 2008 Janice Meek, Arctic Explorer: 'Through the ice and back: A view of the North Pole and our climate's future.

Tuesday 15 April 2008 James Holland, Pilot and Expert in World War II Military Conflict: 'The Battle of Britain: So few, so very much.'

Young Enterprise Members

Daniel Blackwell (Managing Director) Simon Atkinson (Company Secretary) Chris Langhorne-Cox (Finance) Michael Staples (Operations & Sales) Andrew Tucker (Marketing) Jack Frith-Powell (HRM) Jake Ireland (IT)

Teacher Adviser: Mr Hughes External Adviser: Mr Mike Newman

Cast of Voices in the Street

Actors Zoe Cantley Olivia Poole **Huw Williams** Guy De Vos Victoria Goulder Luke Saunders Alex Lawson

Musicians Tom Goodger Joseph Grant Jack Bakker James Metcalfe Max Williamson

Cast of Laughter in the Dark

Gripe **Gerard Smith** Alathea Budgett Emily Highton Herbert Budgett Darrell Porter Belinda Budgett Francesca Roberts Cyril Carraway **Bunny Tucker** Thundercloud Gosforth

Toby Pugh Clara Young Dominic Cannon Patrick Plummer Mr Walwyn Lydia Prentice Bronté Coppock-Cudd **Robert James**

Aunty Emily Budgett

Spectres

Alec Ogleby

Ellis Sargeant-Long Louis Taylor Rose Parker Alex Lawson Huw Williams

Nebkheperure Tutankhamun

Nebkheperure Tutankhamun (1341 BC - 1323 BC) was a pharaoh of the Eighteenth Dynasty during the period of Egyptian history known as the New Kingdom. He ruled between 1333 BC - 1322 BC; he was only nine years old when he became pharaoh and died nine years later, at the age of 18.

Tutankhamun's tomb was discovered by the British Egyptologist Howard Carter in November 1922: it was almost completely intact. He is the only pharaoh still residing in the Valley of the

The cause of Tutankhamun's death is unknown and is the root of much speculation. X-rays of his mummy have revealed a dense spot at the lower back of the skull, which would have been caused by a blow. Such an injury could have been the result of an accident, but it has also been suggested that the young pharaoh was murdered. If this were the case, there are a number of theories as to who was responsible. One popular candidate is his immediate successor Ay and other candidates include his wife and chariot-driver.

Voices in the Street

On 30 October, the Music and Drama departments presented 'Voices from the Street'. The stage was alive with buskers, shoppers, harassed adults and cheeky children to name but a few! The original script and music was devised by





Laughter in the Dark

From the haunting portraits to the stuffed cat, the set created a perfectly eerie atmosphere. The repellent butler brilliantly played by Gerard Smith greeted the unexpected guests to Creeching Cheyney Manor where they were subjected to some frightening and hilarious experiences. It was an excellent festive comedy with exceptional performances from the cast, including the terrifying ghosts and Toby Pugh as the funny dim-witted Cyril.

Knife Culture in the UK

The Year 11 GCSE Drama pupils presented their work during three lunchtimes in The Shed in November. Through various drama techniques, they highlighted the devastating effect the growing problem of knife culture in the UK has had on some families and communities. There were some poignant moments in these hard-hitting pieces which explored real-life experiences.



Mrs Hooper, Mr Heaney and the Year 10 performers. The constantly changing characters and non-stop music and action proved a visual and aural treat. It was a multi-sensory experience to send shivers down the spine!





Secrets and Lies

On 14 and 15 November, the A2 Theatre Studies students performed their devised dramas based on Secrets and Lies. These two original productions were created and developed by the students themselves and utilised the medium of drama to maximum effect. The first looked at the death of Diana, Princess of Wales and asked the question 'accident or murder?' The ensemble piece was outstanding, with some excellent and moving performances asking what really happened to one of the world's most dominant female public figures on that fateful evening ten years ago. Then the audience was transported back in time to Ancient Egypt where the mystery surrounding the death of Tutankhamun was explored. Howard Carter and Lady Carnarvon were cleverly portrayed as Indiana Jones and Lara Croft whose journey into the unknown unleashed the tragic curse that was buried with the murdered King.



Art and Photography Trip

The October half term saw the A2 photography group set off to Cornwall for three days of intensive shooting. They visited the Tate Gallery in St Ives, followed up with hours of seascapes, landscapes, architectural and nature observations till the natural light gave up.

The next day the group visited the Eden Project, followed by a trip to Penzance and Marazion, studying the sunset over Saint Michael's Mount.

The final day offered an opportunity for a spectrum of visual potential ranging from the candid tourist shots to insightful

Bodleian Competition



As part of the restoration work on the Bodleian Library, the University of Oxford held a design-a-gargoyle competition. Alfie Turner (Feilden) was one of ten winners that will

see his design of Sir Thomas Bodley interpreted as an actual gargoyle.

Print Making Workshop

In a continuing effort to produce an ever more varied portfolio, a productive and creative weekend was enjoyed by a selection of Art students. The workshop was run by the Art Department in collaboration with the Oxford based printmaker Susan Moxley. A large variety of collographs and etchings were produced and are now on proud display in the foyer of the Art block.



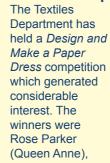
Headmaster's Concert

Senior School staff and pupils were treated to a fantastic concert in the Upper Quad from the Oxford University a cappella male voice choir Out of the Blue. They gave an energetic and entertaining performance, with a different take on well-known songs such as Coldplay's Fix You. Their enthusiasm and enjoyable recital took everyone's minds off the chilly day.



harbour views in Newquay. The group returned with a sense of achievement. adventure, success and exhaustion. It was an excellent trip, the students were brilliant, the images fabulous and the added depth of vision treasured by all.

Textiles Competition



Luciana Dimascio (Gascoigne) and Gabriella Evans (Swift)



Art Trip to Cotswold Park

The Year 11 Art and Textiles pupils visited the Cotswold Wildlife Park as part of their GCSE courses. The day began with a talk on colour and camouflage. followed by a question and answer session. The group were then taken on a guided tour of the park, during which they saw a whole range of animals as well as colourful flowers and other flora.



Sir Thomas Bodley

Sir Thomas re-opened the Bodleian Library, as it is now known, in 1602 after it had seen a period of decline. It was originally founded in the 14th century by Thomas Cobham, Bishop of Worcester. It is one of the oldest libraries in Europe, and in England is second in size only to the British Library.

Young Musicians' Platform

This year, for the first time, Year 11 GCSE Music candidates presented their assessed solo performances in a public evening concert. Parents, friends and families filled The Shed to hear a range of polished performances. There was a variety of classical and jazz performances on woodwind instruments, brass instruments. saxophones, piano, quitar and voice.

The performers:

William Lawson Louis Wulff Tom Johnson Charles Asbridge Paul Tyrer Sian Keegan Louis Armstrong-Jones **Emily Sayers** Michael McLoone Hugo Harrison Laurie Gibson Tom Barclay Louise Ford **Robert Wishart** Alex Pearson Toby Pugh Bronté Coppock-Cudd

Staff Music

The staff choir has gone from strength to strength as it has entered its second term. It performed to the whole School at the end of term assembly which was greatly enjoyed by all. A staff orchestra has also been established and the members joined the School Orchestra at the Celebration of Advent service in the New Theatre, Oxford.

Lunchtime Music Recitals

Thursday 20 September Mr Henderson and Mr Belassie: Dichterliebe by R Schumann.

Thursday 16 October Instrumental runners up from the Inter-House Music Competition.

Thursday 15 November Louis Armstrong-Jones (Queen Anne), Ross McKee (Gascoigne) and Amy Williams (Swift).

Judo Success

Alice Bird in Year 7 Gascoigne is the County Champion in Judo at the under 36kg category and has been selected to compete in the national championships which take place next term.

Rugby Results

First XV	
King's Gloucester	W 29-24
MCS County Cup Semi-Final	L 10-6
St Edward's, Cheltenham	W 20-10
Hereford Cathedral School	W 24-5
Burford School	W 43-0
Shiplake College	L 21-16
Dean Close School	L 22-8
Bartholomew School	W 84-7
Akeley Wood	W 62-3
Rendcomb College	W 32-18
Pangbourne College	L 21-31

\\\ 40 7
14/ 40 7
W 43-7
L 30-0
W 38-0
W 8-3
L 25-10
L 22-17
L 29-12
L 19-7
W 29-14
W 58-0
D 7-7

W 31-0
D 12-12
L 10-3
W 39-0
W 39-0
D 10-10
W 48-5
W 19-0

Colts B	
Magdalen College School	W 20-19
Shiplake College	W 20-0
Dean Close School	W 33-7
Carterton U16	L 27-0
Akeley Wood School	W 60-17
Pangbourne College	W 19-14

Junior Colts A	
Shiplake College Cup Final	L 24-0
Abingdon School	W 38-7
Lord Williams School	W 27-12
Stowe School	L 20-22
St Edward's, Cheltenham	W 38-5
Hereford Cathedral School	W 57-0
Warriner School	W 17-7
The Oratory School	L 30-17
Shiplake College	L 24-7
Dean Close School	W 53-7
Park House School	W 20-15
Carterton	W 53-0
Akeley Wood School	W 52-0
Pangbourne College	L 24-12

All the term's sports results can be viewed on the School website and are undated weekly

www.cokethorpe.org.uk



Rugby

This has been a very successful year for Cokethorpe rugby – the summer was started by hosting and playing the USA U17 team and in July five of the six matches played were won on the Golden Jubilee tour to Sri Lanka.

The season itself has also seen many firsts. Six matches were played on Open Morning, a successful initiative following the reinstatement of Saturday fixtures. A total of 106 matches were played with no fewer than 12 sides being fielded on Wednesday 17 October (a record).

Overall the A teams have enjoyed a 66% win record – very creditable considering the fixture list has improved yet again; it is pleasing to note the number of schools requesting fixtures and many traditional matches are now also contested by the 2nd XV or B teams.

The Terriers (U12) have proved to be very competitive despite their tiny stature; they played nine fixtures and won seven. The Foals (U13), with influential players such as Joshua Poole and Thomas Wells, lost only two of their

Kayaking

The Cokethorpe Canoe and Kayak Club hosted its first official British Canoe Union race on a beautifully sunny 4 November, with 45 paddlers competing from clubs in the southern region. The overwhelming response from the visiting competitors included, 'best divisional race this year', 'a refreshing change of format', 'really enjoyable day out', not to mention the praise for the 'parent caterers'. For the members of the club it was an honour to have the participation of so many top divisional paddlers.

Cross Country

Cross Country at the School is going from strength to strength, not only as part of AOB but this term three pupils have been representing the School by taking part in the first two rounds of the Oxford Mail Cross Country League. Others will be joining these pupils for the



13 fixtures, averaging over 30 points a game. The Yearlings (U14) deserve great credit for some battling performances and their great team spirit, winning 4 of the 13 matches.

The Junior Colts (U15) reached the County Cup final, but with an under strength team lost to Shiplake College. They played 14 fixtures winning 9, losing only to major rugby-playing schools. The Colts (U16) ran an A and a B side independently for the first time this year - the A team only losing once. Few will forget Paul Tyrer's drop goal to secure a last minute victory for the B team. They played seven, won four and drew two.

The 2nd XV enjoyed competing against many teams that two years ago the 1st XV were playing, including a victory over Henry Box School. They won 5 of their 11 fixtures, drawing 1.

The 1st XV had a competitive season; they won 7 of their 11 fixtures and reached the semi-final of the County Cup narrowly losing 10-6 to Magdalen College School in the final minutes.



Staff vs 1st XI Hockey

This entertaining match resulted in a 5-0 victory to the staff.

last three rounds of the league which take place next term. Beth Stanley is currently 4th in the U11 age group and Shona Stanley and William Wallace are both showing considerable commitment and stamina with some impressive results in each race.

Hockey

There were 65 hockey matches played, with 46 won, 7 drawn and only 12 lost. A total of 224 goals were scored and only 68 conceded. Taking into account the five tournaments entered there were 90 games played in total (with a number cancelled by the opposition resulting in a shortfall from the potential 100 fixtures), illustrating how hockey is flourishing in the School. This resulted in an 82% success rate for the season.

The 1st XI had an exceptionally productive season, winning eight and losing three. A goal difference of +15 is testament to the attacking manner in which they approached every game.

The 2nd XI won seven of their ten fixtures, and came first at the West Oxon tournament, showing remarkable progress from last year. The U15 side



Badminton

A short-lived badminton season so far for the U19 boys team with only two games being played. With one win and a narrow defeat the squad can confidently look forward to some success next term with the remainder of the fixtures.



Under 17 Oxfordshire

Congratulations to Isobel Landon (Harcourt) and Laura Sensecall (Gascoigne) who were both part of the U17 Oxfordshire team that won the South of England league, winning all but one of their games and beating other counties including Hampshire (1-0) and Berkshire (7-3). They now go on to represent the South of England at the Regionals in April.

showed considerable development both as a team and as individual players throughout the season, winning three, drawing four and losing two as well as coming second in the West Oxon Tournament.

The U14 team had a brilliant season, winning an impressive eight of the nine matches, and the U13s continued to build on last year's successes by winning six, drawing three and losing three of their games. Poppy Abdolrazaghi was awarded most improved player.

The U12s had an outstanding season with 14 wins and no defeats. The A team also won the West Oxon Tournament convincingly. Special mention to Lizzie Ferrier for her captaincy and for scoring six goals against the King's School Witney in the only 11 a-side game.



Sports Dinner

The termly sports dinner for the members of the rugby and hockey first teams was enjoyed once again in the Corinthian Room. Appreciation was shown to the team coaches as well as the captains, vice-captains and players.

Congratulations to Timothy Muller and Fred Reif (both Vanbrugh) who were selected to represent Great Britain in France for the U16 K2, twenty mile race on the Loire River at the end of September. This was a five day trip with a race on the last day. Despite falling in at the start of the race, the pair made their way up through the field and managed to secure first place by over two minutes!



Sports Colours

Н	alf Colours	
	Hockey	Hannah Brown
	Emily Landon	
	Rugby	Marc Johnson
	Chris Langhorne	-Cox
	Robert James	
	Patrick Plummer	•
	Badminton	Timothy Forrest

ı	uii Coloui s	
	Hockey	Amy Minch
	Megan Hope	
	Rugby	Thomas Shellard
	Tom Biggs	
	David Wells (re-	award)

Sports Dinner

The following awards were presented at the Sports Dinner on Wednesday 5

JE	ecember:	
	Coach's Player:	Amy Minch
		Thomas Shellard
	Most Improved:	Jessica O'Brien
		Marc Johnson
	Players' Player:	Suzanna Duccoll

Tom Biggs

Hockey Results

First XI	
Tudor Hall School	W 4-1
Rendcomb College	W 2-0
Bartholomew School	W 4-1
Oxford High School	L 4-2
Burford School	W 5-2
Akeley Wood	W 2-1
Henley College Mixed	L 8-1
St Helen and St Katharine	W 3-2
St Edward's, Cheltenham	L 5-3
Bloxham School	L 5-1
West Oxon Tournament	3rd
Gosford Hill School	W 9-0
King's Gloucester	W 3-2
Second XI	
Kingham Hill School	L 2-0

Kingham Hill School	L 2-0
Blessed George Napier	W 5-0
Bartholomew School	W 1-0
Burford School	W 3-0
St Helen and St Katharine	W 3-2
Oxon Tournament (U16)	5th
St Helen and St Katharine	D 1-1
Our Lady's Convent	D 0-0
St Edward's Oxford	L 3-0
Oxford High	L 1-0
Carterton School	W 3-0
West Oxon Tournament	1st
Bartholomew	D 0-0
Wood Green School	D 0-0
Henry Box	W 1-0
Carterton	W 1-0
Burford	D 0-0
Bloyham School	I 1_0

See www.cokethorpe.org.uk for all the hockey results from this term.

L 6-0

St Edward's Cheltenham

THE HOUSES

Most Recommendations

Year 7: Connie Manning (Swift)

Year 8: Amy Williams (Swift)

Year 9: Jenna Gordon (Gascoigne)

Year 10: Amy Hewes (Harcourt)

Year 11: Rebecca Fellows (Vanbrugh)

Year 12: Isobel Landon (Harcourt) Year 13: Clara Young (Swift)

Overall winner: Amy Williams (Swift)

House winner: Gascoigne

Inter-House Music Winners

Electronic Music Class

Chris MacKinnon (Harcourt)
Band Class

Divin' Duck Blues (Harcourt)

Guitar Solo Class

William Lawson (Gascoigne)

Piano Solo Class James Winkley (Gascoigne)

Instrumental Solo Class

Rebecca Truman (Feilden)
Instrumental Ensemble Class

Swift (She's Leaving Home)

Solo Singing Class
Bronté Coppock-Cudd (Swift)

Ensemble Singing Class

Swift (*California Dreaming*)
Whole-House Singing Class

Gascoigne (Cabaret)

Crawford Relay Results

1st Harcourt

2nd Gascoigne

3rd Vanbrugh

4th Queen Anne

5th Feilden

6th Swift

Vanbrugh Sixth Form Trip

On Wednesday 3 October, Mrs Pratley, Mrs Copeland and Mr White took Vanbrugh Sixth Form to Bowlplex. The evening began with an enjoyable meal at Frankie and Bennie's and finished with a competitive yet good natured game of bowling. Winner Fred Reif was named captain of the Vanbrugh team in the Inter-House Sixth Form competition.

Jessica O'Shea (Vanbrugh)

Inter-House Bowling

A new event this year, Harcourt won the Sixth Form Inter-House bowling.

Feilden Barbeque

Feilden made the most of the last of the summer's weather and held a barbeque before their House Jubilee Lecture.

Did you Know?

Freddie Gascoyne is currently the youngest pupil in the School and is in Gascoigne House. When he finishes his A Levels it will be the year 2021!

Inter-House Music

It was a day of great excitement and very close competition, starting with three new classes: Music Technology, Band and Guitar Solo, after which Harcourt was in the lead. The remaining instrumental classes were performed to a select audience in The Shed; following the Instrumental Solo class there was a three-way tie between Feilden, Gascoigne



Crawford Relay

On 12 October, the eagerly awaited Crawford Relay took place. This year three staff teams, made up of both Junior and Senior School staff, joined the six Houses competing for the trophy. The race was tight with some impressive performances across the board but with strong legs from Jamie Amer and Sam Miller, Harcourt retained their title with a time of 11.34 minutes.

Inter-House Hockey

The girls enjoyed a friendly but competitive afternoon of House hockey – organised as two round robin tournaments split by age group. Gascoigne came away winners of both the Upper Senior and the Lower Senior age groups, being declared victorious in the whole competition, with Vanbrugh and Swift following respectively.



Vanbrugh Grand Day Out

The bus journey to Thorpe Park was full with anticipation. The first thing tried out was Stealth; 205 feet high, 0-80 in 2.3 seconds – great fun and Nemesis Inferno was good too! Tidal Wave was by far the best water ride. It was fantastic and we got soaked – the teachers decided to skip that one! Overall, a great time was had by all.

**Molly Williamson (Vanbrugh)*

and Harcourt, but by the end of the morning Gascoigne had taken the lead. First places in both the Solo and Ensemble Singing classes took Swift ahead, but Harcourt caught up again and finished on level points with Swift. According to the competition rules Swift, having won three classes to Harcourt's two, took the title once again.





Inter-House Rugby

This term's House rugby was also impressive as over 200 boys competed in the event allowing the teams to grow from 7 a-side to 9 a-side. Once all matches had taken place Gascoigne, Harcourt and Queen Anne were equal on points but Queen Anne were declared the winners based on results across the whole competition.

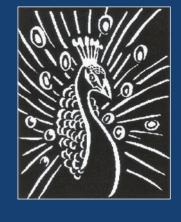






Cokethorpe









A Supplement to The Ocellus

January



The National Youth Jazz Orchestra Workshops and Concert

Jubilee Lecture: John Tolson

February



Jack Gibbons Piano Recital



Movie Night: Jailhouse Rock

March

Jubilee Lecture: Michael St John Parker



Senior School Production: Grease

April



Jubilee Lecture: Bryan Cowgill National Youth Hockey Festival



May



Jubilee Lecture: Dr Martin Holmes



Corinthian Dinner



1957–1966 Reunion Dinner (One of Five)

June



Jubilee Lecture: Michael Walsh



1997–2006 Reunion Dinner



Witney Jazz Festival

July



Prize Giving



Sri Lanka Golden Jubilee Tour

July Continued



God's Golden Acre Zulu Warriors

Jubilee Lecture: Tim Furniss CPA Golden Peacock Ball

August



Jack the Musical

September



The Headmaster's Birthday Party



Whole School Open Morning

Triathlon Day

September Continued



The Garden Opera Company: La Bohème

Jubilee Lecture: Janice Hadlow Movie Night: The Pure Hell of St Trinians

November



Jubilee Lecture: Lord Hurd of Westwell

December





Jubilee Midnight Lecture: The Headmaster

Senior School Production: Laughter in the Dark





A Celebration of Advent at the New Theatre, Oxford

From the Headmaster



This supplement
to The Ocellus will,
I am sure, be a
welcome memento
of a very busy,
eventful and magical
Fiftieth Year.
The Foundation

Office team are to be congratulated on coordinating a programme that surpassed all expectations – spearheaded by Felicity Rutland, the Foundation Director, implemented by Abi, the Events Manager, and publicised by Katherine, the Marketing Officer, it was supported magnificently by parents, staff, pupils, former pupils and many other friends of the School. Thank you all. Now for the next fifty!

Looking Back but Moving Forward boarding school for senior boys with less than 40 pupils and a small number of staff. Since then it has seen a number of significant changes. In particular girls were introduced in 1992, the Junior School was established in 1994 and boarding ceased in 2003. Between 1994 and 2002 the numbers in the School grew significantly, from 194 to 547, and the site has seen a number of new or refurbished buildings that make the facilities rival any other. Numbers are now at a steady 650, covering the full 4 to 18 age range, and competition for entry is increasingly fierce. With the development of the new Dining Hall and Sixth Form Centre Cokethorpe is looking

Project 2007

From the Headmaster's letter in January 2007: 'We intend the year to be far more than simply a milestone in our history. We hope it will raise our profile and enhance our image locally, thus helping the recruitment of pupils and the maintenance of a full school, with benefits to our financial position for everyone. With a need to maximise income for the sake of moderate fee increases we are also launching *Project 2007*.' This has been so successful that the intended fund-raising campaign will now begin in earnest

The Foundation Office

The Foundation Office, based on the upper floor of the Round House, was Celebrations, with its role expected to change thereafter. It has indeed become firmly established as a hub for many different activities. The Box Office has been highly successful and will continue as the point for ordering tickets for all the marketing activities such as The Ocellus and the website. It is also the administrative centre for the Cokethorpe Society as well as for external events and links with the wider community. In addition, and in the light of their success, a number of the events inaugurated in the fiftieth year will continue, and many other activities and projects can now start.

foundationoffice@cokethorpe.org























THE JUNIOR SCHOOL



Shakespeare Week

The educational drama company Shakespeare4Kidz visited once again to give workshops on *The Tempest* as part of the Shakespeare Appreciation Week. The children also visited the New Theatre, Oxford to watch a performance of *Hamlet* by the same company, which used songs and story-telling in updated language to present the tale.

Trip to Buckinghamshire

On 14 November, Year 4 visited Aylesbury. First they went to the County Museum for a Mathematics Trail. They worked in groups searching for the coloured numbers and answering questions based on the displays.

After lunch they went to the Roald Dahl Museum. They crawled through Fantastic Mr Fox's tunnel, explored the inside of James's giant peach and experimented with the BFG's sound table. They also acted out part of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* where Augustus Gloop got swept away in the chocolate river!

Christingle Service

The annual Christingle service was taken by Reverend Sarah Sharp from the Church of St Giles in Standlake. This included a mixture of poetry and readings. Year 2 had made the Christingles and the two children from each class that were chosen to hold the Christingles spread across the Chapel to fill the church with beautiful candlelight whilst the whole of the Junior School sang *Silent Night*. This created a magical atmosphere as the afternoon darkened outside.



Junior School Council

The House Captains and Vice Captains make up the Junior School Council and there are 13 members who meet once every two weeks with Mr O'Connor and Mrs Cook. The Council has made a suggestion box for each House and has designed slips for children to make comments. Once any changes have been agreed, the Council report to the whole School at a weekly assembly.



Finally they tried out lots of Science experiments involving mirrors and cameras. The children were 'shrunk' and their teachers were made 'invisible'! It was an exciting and educational day.



Day of Languages

For the Junior School's Day of Languages each class had a lesson in a different language and found out about the country and the people who speak its language. These were from all around the world, from Maori and Kiswahili, through Russian, German, Spanish and Italian, to Irish, Welsh and British Sign Language. After an international themed lunch, all the classes gave presentations about what they had learnt; these included mini plays, conversations, costumes, songs and even the Haka.



Captains and Vice Captains

Feilden

Ellen Garbutt and Jason Cardy

Gascoigne

Harry Austin, Melanie Severn and Vanessa Blake

Harcourt

Oliver Cookson and Christian Ettinger

Queen Anne

Francesca Donovan-Brady and Ben Mendoza-Sharman

Swift

George Grime and Katie McLachlan

Vanbrugh

Fraser Logue and Annabelle Hulewicz

Cheltenham Literary Festival

On Friday 12 October Year 5 travelled to Cheltenham to listen to children's author Michelle Paver talk about her *Chronicles of Darkness* adventure series.

Fundraising for Charity

Children in Need Cake Sale
Congratulations to Henry Grimwade
in Year 5, who made £41.50 for the
Children in Need appeal, with the sale
of some delicious home-made cakes.

Modern Day Harvest Appeal
This year's Pound-a-Poem competition
was on the theme of *Dreams*. A cheque
for £103 has been presented to the

Thank you to all the children who submitted their excellent poems. The prize winners were:

Pre-Prep: Ruby Plumridge 2LO Lower Juniors: Eloise Fraser-Paterson 4JD

Upper Juniors: Charlie Tobin 6MO

Operation Christmas Child
The 170 colourful boxes brought into

charity The Nasio Trust.

school by the children and are now on their way to Eastern Europe. Very many thanks to everyone who helped with this appeal. A special thank you to Mrs Daphne Smith, who knitted a large rainbow selection of stripy hats to go in the boxes.

Snowman Raffle

Also donated by Mrs Smith, this raffle raised a total of £70, which has been presented to The Nasio Trust charity. The winners were:

1st prize: Luisamae Lisi 4MM 2nd prize: Jamie Langford 4MM 3rd prize: Melanie Severn 6MO

THE JUNIOR SCHOOL

Cotswold Wildlife Park

'I loved all the snakes and crocodiles!'

Alexander Wilde

'The penguins were funny.'

Michaela Logue

'Some scorpions are blue and they glow in the dark!'

Tabitha Pavitt

Prize Winners for the Term

George Langford Michaela Logue 3RO: Jennifer Wells 4.JD: Laura Fiedorowicz 41/11/1 **Thomas Smith** 5HI · Frika Davies 5MC Charlie Dunmal 6GM· Laura Cardy 6MO: Oliver Cookson

Year 4 Cocktails

Year 4 have been planning, making, tasting and evaluating their own 'Caribbean cocktail' recipes. Some of the cocktails invented were: Mango Tango, Trinidad Tang, Caribbean Sunset, Tangtastic Tropical, Barbados Breeze and Tropicalicious Banana Boat.

ICT connects to New Zealand

Year 4 have made a link with a primary school in New Zealand. Their contact teacher is Mrs Spiers who teaches a class of Year 3 and Year 4 children at Maungatapu School in Tawanga on the North Island. The children in Mrs Marchbank's and Mrs Dow's classes have been emailing and sending attachments to New Zealand as part of their ICT curriculum.

A Cokethorpe teddy bear, an issue of The Ocellus, newsletters and photographs have been parcelled up in a shoebox and sent to Maungatapu School. A copy of this edition of The Ocellus will also be sent to New Zealand... 'Hello' to all the readers in other countries!

Bristol Docks

The Year 5 children visited the Bristol Docks on Wednesday 31 October when they explored the *SS Great Britain* and the *Matthew*, a replica of the first 15th century boat. They also enjoyed a workshop on John Cabot, the navigator and explorer that landed the *Matthew*.

Movie Afternoon

The Junior School enjoyed the penultimate afternoon of term by watching *Happy Feet* in The Shed.

Cotswold Wildlife Park

In November, Reception and Year 2 children visited the Cotswold Wildlife Park on a trip to enrich their work in Science. They have been studying animals and their habitats and this was the perfect opportunity to see many different types of animals, some local and some rather more exotic. It was great fun and the group had enough time to go right around the park. They found out that some zebras are actually brown and white and penguins do occasionally live in hot places. They were also lucky



Father Christmas

The Pre-Prep children were visited by Father Christmas at the end of term and were thrilled to receive some presents early this year!

PSHE Focus Week

The focus of PSHE Week last year was 'Bullying Awareness' and this year it was 'Taking Part'. The aim was to develop the children's communication and participation skills. Each year group chose a theme covered in lessons, assemblies and form time. These included Making Choices, Working Together, Listening Well and Developing Communication Skills.

Inter-House Hockey

This took place over two afternoons with great enthusiasm and determination, well-supported by parents and staff.

The team spirit and energy levels were tremendous and there were some expert goals scored. Gascoigne were declared the winners, with Vanbrugh as runners-up.

Junior School Hockey

In the U11 team, the top scorer was Alexandra Cross and player of the season was captain Beth Stanley. Unfortunately the U9 team had many of their games cancelled by the opposition.





enough to be given a talk from a keeper, and now the children themselves all want to be keepers!

Honk. Watermill Theatre

The Watermill Theatre is a tiny venue perfect for a cosy theatre experience. At the beginning of December Reception and Year 2 went to see *Honk* which is a version of *The Ugly Duckling*. The children were enthralled by the performance and really enjoyed the way the actors were so close and interactive with them. It was a great way to get in the spirit for Christmas.

Open Days

There were two Introduction Days for those hoping to join the Reception Class and an Open Morning for those interested in Year 3 and 4 during the course of the term.





Junior School Rugby

The U11 teams had an up-and-down year but ended winning 7 of the 15 games played. The highlight was the fiercely-contested Cokethorpe tournament where they finished runners-up in the Shield competition. Players of the season were Edward Mordue and Kieran Husband with Cameron Hughes achieving a 100% conversion record. A second unbeaten season for the U9s shows the determination and ability of the players. Captain Alastair Grime led the team well with Thomas Smith, Joseph Wilde, Matthew Roche and Dickie Turner also being key players.



Christmas Productions

Year 3 to Year 6 based their plays on the theme Past, Present and Future. The choir charmed the audience with the catchy Sheep, sheep! and beautiful Carol of the Children. Year 3 went back to the past with an adaptation of Baboushka, a traditional Russian folk tale complete with fur hats, and Year 5 came back to the present with On Top of the Christmas Tree, a comedy play written by Mrs Hooper. Year 4 concluded this part of the performance by blasting off with Christmas in Space! where parts varied from astronauts and robots to aliens complete with green wigs. The finale was an amazing interpretation of the classic Dickens' tale A Christmas Carol. With two Year 6 classes sharing the roles it worked seamlessly. The acting was truly outstanding and the summer performances are eagerly awaited.



Once again the Junior School excelled

productions. Pre-Prep performed Mary's

Knitting and with only 14 children in the

cast it was wonderful to see a variety of

angels and stars. It was amazing to think

that some of these children are still only

four, as every word was spoken clearly

and their acting and singing was superb.

parts, from jumping sheep to beautiful

themselves with their Christmas

Pre-Prep Play







Hockey Results

Under 11 Chandlings A W 7-1 Chandlings B L 4-2 Our Lady's Abingdon W 10-0 Rupert House School W 3-1 L 4-0 (U10s) Rupert House School Standlake Primary W 1-0 St Hugh's Prep A L 3-1 St Hugh's Prep B L 3-0 Hatherop Castle A L 3-1 Hatherop Castle B L 3-0 King's Primary School W 5-0 Under 9

W 3-0

Rugby Results

Chandlings

Under 11 Hatherop Castle A W 21-7 Hatherop Castle B W 20-10 Sibford School W 56-7 New College School W 21-0 St Hugh's Prep A I 14-7 St Hugh's Prep B L 21-7 Rendcomb L 33-7 Prior Park Prep L 56-7 Akeley Wood A L 28-21 Akeley Wood B L 46-12 Cokethorpe Shield Runners-Up

Under 9
Sibford School W 40-0
St Hugh's Prep D 10-10
Rendcomb W 40-25
Prior Park Prep W 40-20
New College School W 30-20

Inter-House Hockey

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

Inter-House Rugby

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

Maths Challenge

George Grime and William Sayer, and Fraser Logue and Constantin Patt paired up to take part in the Oxfordshire Schools Year 6 Maths Challenge at St Edward's School where they made a respectable impression amongst the 35 schools competing.

ADVENTURES AND EXPEDITIONS

ADVENTURES AND EXPEDITIONS

Duke of Edinburgh

The following pupils have started their Bronze Award this term:

Matthew Anderson

Alex Avery Nicholas Baboolal

Paris Baneriee

Paul Berry

Danny Burford

Henry Daniels James Francis-Barrie

Joel Gascoyne Oliver Godwin

Alex Grout

Edward Hall

Kieran Holliday

Daniel Humphrey George Kerr

Jack Kovandzich

Alex Lawson

James Metcalfe Philip Quadri

Toby Raban

David Ratcliffe

Luke Saunders

Richard Stevens

Julian Watkins Jacob Wilson

Thomas Wood

Shona Stanley

Olivia Poole

Tom Goodger Max Williamson

Sam Dyde

William Draper

The following pupils have recently gained their Bronze Award:

Rebecca Truman

Peter Jones

Megan Hope Charlotte Yules

Patricia Birmingham

Tom Billings Luke Vecchione

Ben Green

Gerard Smith

Mark Thompson has recently gained his Silver Award.

Rubehn Enjily is being presented with his Gold Award by the Duke of Edinburgh in January. He completed his Bronze, Silver and Gold whilst at Cokethorpe.

Bronze and Silver Awards are presented by the Headmaster in Assembly.

Museum Workshops

Year 9 pupils visited the Oxford University Museum of Natural History to take part in a workshop on rocks and fossils, where they learnt about the rock cycle and interpreted clues from the prehistoric work. They also took part in a workshop that looked at the great debate of Darwin's theory of evolution.



CEW Trip to Spain

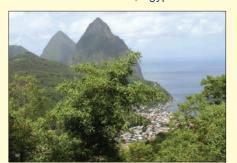
For Curriculum Enrichment Week at the end of the Summer Term, a group of 12 students spent a week in Tarragona, Spain. They attended lessons at the University taught by Spanish teachers and they stayed at families around the area. The days were spent visiting Tarragona and its surroundings and the beautiful city of Barcelona.

Duke of Edinburgh

The small but enthusiastic group of Silver and Gold Award pupils practised camping skills, navigation and leadership through tough terrain and bitterly cold weather. Dense hill fog made navigation challenging and the cold weather kept the pupils moving. However, with great determination, all the pupils successfully survived the weekend in the Black Mountains.

Biology Trip to St Lucia

The summer tour to St Lucia was a remarkable success. Eight students travelled to the island to learn to dive and then sample some of the local marine biology. The diving course was exceptionally tough going with two days of above water tuition followed by two days of underwater training. All the students coped admirably and passed the course with ease. The remainder of the time was spent exploring several of the local reefs and wrecks, and visiting the Soufriere Marine Reserve. Even though it was the wet season, there was an abundance of marine life including invertebrates and vertebrates, as well as numerous brightly coloured fish and even a very timid leatherback turtle. This summer the Science department plans to travel to the Red Sea, Egypt.





The trip enabled the pupils to experience at first hand the Spanish culture and they are now much more enthusiastic about learning the language.

It was a very enjoyable experience for all and the School looks forward to future trips to Spain with those pupils that are learning Spanish.



Year 7 Trip to Malvern

Year 7 spent three days at the Malvern Hill Outdoor Education Centre at the beginning of term. A fun and fantastic time was had by all and everybody was challenged in new ways. Jumping 30ft out of a tree and free-falling was a challenge for some, whilst others found balancing on a small, wobbly platform at the top of a telegraph pole just that bit too scary. A night walk with stunning views over the Severn Valley and the King Swing over a smaller valley added to the fun. The low ropes course and command tasks developed team skills, and some found it a challenge just hoovering and making their own beds. The food and accommodation was excellent and everybody behaved impeccably. It was a highly successful



Year 7 Trip to Warwick Castle

Year 7 pupils visited Warwick Castle this term, building on their work done on life in Medieval England. As well as having a tour around the castle and clambering up and down the castle walls, pupils spent some time learning about various aspects of medieval life. They looked at what people would have eaten, how criminals would have been punished and how illnesses would have been cured. It was a very enjoyable and effective learning experience.

CEW Trip to Lanzarote

That heady mix of exhilaration, exploration and good old-fashioned fun was promised

and Lanzarote 2007 certainly delivered. Mr Harker and Mrs Pratley joined 16 pupils in a week of scubadiving, surfing and windsurfing. They were awe-





struck by the National Park, a landscape suspended in time, were intrigued by their Tapas experience and of course very much enjoyed the sun, the sea and the sand.



Warwick Castle

In 914 AD a 'burh' was created to protect the hill top settlement of Warwick from Danish invaders. In 1068 William the Conqueror established a timber motte and bailey fort: it was not until 1260 that stone replaced wood. The de Beauchamp family were responsible for the majority of the additions (1268-1446). It was sold to The Tussaud's Group in 1978.

Term Dates for 2007–2008

Lent Term 2008

Start of Term Half Term

End of Term

End of Term

Monday 7 January Monday 18 February -Friday 22 February Wednesday 19 March

Summer Term 2008

Start of Term Thursday 10 April May Bank Holiday* Monday 5 May

Monday 26 May -Friday 30 May INSET day* Friday 4 July

* pupils do not attend School on these days

Friday 11 July

VISITORS

Open Morning

The autumn Open Day was once again a very busy and happy occasion, with the busking jazz musicians outside Costa Coffee creating a festival atmosphere. There was standing room only for The Headmaster's talks. and an unscheduled third session to accommodate the overflow. The Sixth Form Options Evening shortly afterwards also saw record numbers of external candidates.

A Taster Day for a class-full of girls and boys from one of the School's principal feeder schools was also a new innovation and enjoyed by all concerned.





Remembrance Day

Gordon Hollis from the Woodstock British Legion and other standard bearers from a variety of branches, including Nick and Ann Clack, visited the School for this vear's Remembrance Service.



Term Dates for 2008–2009

Michaelmas Term 2008

INSET days* Monday 1 and Tuesday 2 September

Wednesday 3 September

(Year 7 and Year 12) Thursday 4 September (Rest of School)

Half Term Thursday 23 October -Friday 31 October

INSET day* Thursday 23 October End of Term Friday 12 December

Lent Term 2009

Start of Term Monday 5 January Half Term

Monday 16 February -Friday 20 February End of Term Friday 27 March

Summer Term 2009

Start of Term Monday 20 April May Bank Holiday* Monday 4 May

Monday 25 May – Friday 29 May INSET day* Friday 3 July

End of Term Friday 10 July

* pupils do not attend School on these days

WIDER COMMUNITY

Tutor Group Charities

Year 8 were set the challenge of identifying, researching and fundraising for a charity of their choice as part of their PSHE programme. This engaged students in the process of thinking about their responsibility as citizens and how they can 'give back' to society. As a result, the School has been a hub of frenzied fundraising. The charities chosen include Helen and Douglas House, Mind, Downside Up, Children in Need and Funsami – an organisation based in Abingdon working with Aids orphans in Africa. The outcome has been incredible, and, with money still coming in, each tutor group has done remarkably well.

Helen and Douglas House

The Year 8 Gascoigne pupils took part in a sponsored silence on Monday 26 November. They had whiteboards and pens so that they could still participate in lessons

James Ellacott played his tenor horn outside Sainsbury's for four hours and raised over £600. Zachary Bamford raised £100 on a sponsored walk and Matthew Barkham raised £150 by kayaking between Abingdon and Oxford. All three pupils are in Feilden House and were also raising money for Helen and Douglas House.

Downside Up

Zoë Mace (Harcourt) released her third album on 19 November. Whilst this was the first album not solely for charity, she made one of her singles. Tears In Heaven, available on the Downside Up website, a charity that improves the quality of life for children with Down Syndrome in Russia.

Mr Hughes raised over £600 for Downside Up when he was sponsored to have his hair cut on the penultimate day of term.

www.downsideup.org

Children with Leukaemia

In October Mrs Jarrett completed the Great South Run in the rain in 1hr 37min and raised over £300 for Children with Leukaemia.

SeeSaw

SeeSaw provides grief support for bereaved children throughout Oxfordshire. Cokethorpe was delighted to support this courageous undertaking by these parents with funds raised from the local businesses Triathlon Day. www.seesaw.org.uk

Lesotho

During July a group of Sixth Form students, and Mr Uglow and Mrs Copeland, visited Lesotho. The trip was the culmination of efforts from across the School to raise funds for the provision of secondary education in a rural area of the mountainous country.

The students spent a week in the village, being looked after by members of the community. This experience was particularly rewarding, and all were struck by the incredible hospitality shown by an area that had, in financial terms, so little. The students all taught in two schools, and, even though time was short, made a massive impact upon the lives of the children they worked with.

After a rousing visit to Church the group departed into the mountains, and the more relaxing confines of Malealea Lodge. Here, they took a two-day pony trek, spending the night in a remote



Junior School Fundraising

See the Junior School pages for information on their fundraising campaigns this term.

Children in Need

Year 8 Queen Anne organised and carried out a series of fundraising activities for Children in Need, including a cake sale, a FIFA PlayStation 2

Leukaemia Research

Paris Banajee (Feilden) successfully raised £180 for Leukaemia Research over the summer when he climbed Mount Fuji in Japan with his family, a magnificent achievement.





village before heading back along the narrow tracks, up and down gorges and through villages full of curious children.

Leaving Lesotho, the group visited the Ushaka Marine World in Durban, stopping en route to visit God's Golden Acre, the orphanage from which the 'Zulu Warriors' came. They then headed north to Hluhluwe Umfolozi Safari Park, spending two early mornings spotting animals.

The trip was a great success. Plans are under way for a repeat visit.



tournament and a sale of raffle tickets to staff. Money is still being collected, but this initiative, driven and executed by the pupils themselves, has raised in excess of £150.



SeeSaw

Two Cokethorpe parents undertook a sponsored cycle ride in Cuba in aid of SeeSaw. Doctor Peter Grimwade (a Witney based GP) and Andy Grout (a director of Wallingford-based MMR

Research Worldwide) cycled 350km over 5 days. The journey began in the capital of Havana and ended in Trinidad on the Caribbean coast. They hope to have raised in excess of £3,000 between them



Business Triathlon Day

This annual event raised a total of £2,180. £1,200 is going to reinstate the previously omitted names of war-dead on the Ducklington parish war memorial. The bulk of the remaining funds has gone towards researching, compiling and producing six bound copies of the circumstances of death and full bespoke page of history for each of the parish fallen. A copy of each bound history will be available in local parish churches including one here at Cokethorpe.

On this day, the Cokethorpe team of two former pupils and two current members of the School Gun Club came third overall but were clear winners in the shooting category.

Elite Rugby

This season saw the start of Cokethorpe School as the focus for elite county and national rugby training. The handpicked squad, including Cokethorpe pupils, has now been condensed to 20 of Oxfordshire's most promising players. They use The Shed for lectures on sports psychology and tactics, and then train with national coaches, including Mr Rees, to improve skills and prepare the players for eventual competition at the very highest level. There is a programme of hosted dates throughout next term.

County Hockey

The School is now recognised as an established host for girls and boys inter-county hockey, with a number of tournaments taking place throughout the term.

Scouts Camp

The Oxfordshire Sea Scouts, including the Cokethorpe and Standlake contingent, enjoyed their three day annual camp on the beautiful grounds of Cokethorpe. The 80 or so girls and boys pitched their own tents, developed their scouting skills and even cooked all of their own meals. Amongst other varied and exciting activities, over 50 youngster enjoyed their introduction to clay pigeon shooting.



Tennis Academy

Professional tennis coaches from North Oxford Lawn Tennis Club (head coach Seth Dixon) offered summer tennis courses for pupils from Cokethorpe and the wider community. Once again, this was a highly successful fortnight, only slightly dampened by the inclement weather.



Church Golf Social Day

Members of the local churches met for their annual golf day and social on Sunday 9 September here at Cokethorpe. Under a cloudless sky and the wing of Bob Edey, the Ducklington vicar, it was a well contested if not over-competitive family day's sport, with welcome picnics.

Summer Activity Holidays

This year 146 young people (pupils from Cokethorpe, their siblings and friends, and some from other local schools). enjoyed a varied programme of events at the School and at Hardwick Parks for the afternoon watersports. In stark contrast to last year's unbroken sunshine, this was the wettest two weeks since records began but, to a child, levels of spirit and participation were remarkable. The School is expecting to repeat the holiday activities over the first two weeks of the next summer holidays.



Forthcoming Events

- Wychwood and West Witney hockey matches
- Elite Rugby trainingU16 England Rugby training
- Standlake and Cokethorpe Scouts
- Windrush Valley Rotary Club Annual Cheese and Wine Evening
- PSHE seminar for Oxfordshire maintained schools
- National Hockey Festival: 19-20 April

Business Charity Triathlon

Some of the businesses that took part in the Charity Triathlon Day:

The Bell Inn Local builders Baker's Butchers

Local beauty salon Fisher Landscaping

Catering company Garden equipment company Local nightclub

The participating Cokethorpe team: Michael Staples (Swift) Henry Wenman (Vanbrugh) James Godden (2007)

West Oxfordshire District Council

National demolition & land reclamation

David Harvey Antiques

George Millin (2007)

David Harvey, a local antiques specialist and friend of the School, once again used the front entrance hall and Corinthian Room as the location for photographing for his annual catalogue.

Church Ride and Stride

The School Church was open for the annual Ride and Stride on Sunday 8 September. Over a dozen people visited the church as they cycled the course through the local parishes. Mr Harker kindly greeted them by playing the School organ.

New Theatre, Oxford

Cokethorpe were delighted to be able to support The Arts in Oxford by offering a range of sporting props for a two-week music workshop which culminated in five sold-out performances of Disney's High School Musical at the New Theatre in August.

Soccer Coaching Course

Russell Osman, an ex-England international footballer, visited the School on Monday 12 November to lead a teacher-training course on soccer coaching. Staff and Sixth Form students also had the opportunity to participate in this session.

NEW DEVELOPMENTS

THE COKETHORPE SOCIETY

Website

As announced in the Headmaster's letter to parents in October, all letters sent home will now be available on the secure area of the website. Over 400 registrations have been received so far, with many using the online forms as a means to complete reply slips.

Website Statistics

Between 24 May and 12 December the following statistics have been gleaned from the School website:

- 29.844 visits in total
- 16,866 first-time visitors
- 126,298 pages viewed
- Most viewed pages: Latest News, Calendar and Sri Lanka Tour Diary
- 90.35% of visits from the UK; rest from 102 other countries

Go Ahead for New Building!

The School is delighted to announce that planning permission has been granted for the new Dining Hall and Sixth Form Centre. More details in the New Year.

The Cranham Library

The conversion of the ground floor of the former LRC to the Cranham Library has been a considerable success. It is bright and cheerful with plenty of space for reading or working as well as English lessons, book club meetings and lunchtime poetry recitals. There was much excitement amongst the Year 7 pupils as they went by minibus to Blackwell's Book Shop in Oxford to choose an additional book each, despite the quid pro quo of then writing book reviews.

The Reference Library

The conversion of the LRC also enabled the upper floor to become an area



dedicated to the burgeoning Sixth Form. It combines a reference library with ICT facilities and a quiet study area.

ICT Suite and Classrooms

The new library arrangements have also had considerable benefits for ICT throughout the School. A new ICT Suite has been installed in part of the former library and has been completely re-fitted. The remaining space has become two much-needed classrooms, and the computers from the former LRC have been distributed throughout other departments where computing facilities and internet access have also been urgently needed.



COKETHORPE PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

CPA Committee

Chairman: Diana Cannon (dianacannon@miltonhouse.fsworld.co.uk) Vice Chairman: Ruth Wigham Treasurer: **David Highton** Linda Mace Secretary: (lindamace@skymarket.org, 01993 883805) Mark Booty Damian Ettinger Sue Furneaux Julie Grime Valerie Krol Teresa James Jane Le Coyte Peter Lodowski Bernadette Mitchell Sarah Plumridge Siobhan Sargeant Caroline Taylor Jonathan Taylor

Future CPA Dates

Junior School Talent Show: Saturday 1 March 2008

Money Raised

During this last year, CPA events have raised sufficient funds to buy a complete music system for the Music and Drama departments and to purchase the new catering trailer. This may be seen serving tea and coffee to those who brave the cold, wind and rain to support their teams on sports days. Thanks to everyone who attend the CPA events and make this possible.

Murder Mystery Evening

Thankfully not everyone was glued to the Rugby World Cup final on the night of the Murder Mystery, as members of a committed audience took their parts as sleuths very seriously. Thank you to the cast whose excellent performances made the evening so enjoyable and to Paul Bradford and his team of caterers for a delicious dinner.

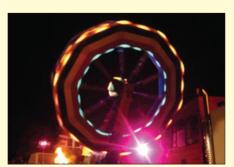
Even though there were, as always, a limited number of seats available for this intimate but hilarious event, the effort and time that was given by the staff involved allowed the CPA to raise muchneeded money towards its funds.



Fireworks Extravaganza

The final CPA event for the Golden Jubilee Fiftieth Anniversary year went off with a bang at the Fireworks Extravaganza evening on Friday 2 November. In line with the spectacular events of the year a throng of parents, pupils, teachers, friends and neighbours enjoyed a magnificent display while devouring four pigs and a barbeque from Foxbury Farm and gallons of mulled wine and hot chocolate.

The perfect crisp, cold weather, the roaring bonfire and the ever popular fairground rides helped to raise a record amount for the School.



Triathlon Success

Congratulations to Joe Reid (2002), Oliver Reid (2002) and Stuart Homewood (2003), who took part in the Cokethorpe Triathlon Day on 30 September and came first! They teamed up with current parent Mike Hallett to show excellent skill in golf, archery and particularly shooting. They have promised to return next year to try and retain the title.

Apology

Apologies to Hugh Coles (2003) and his family and friends for wrongly announcing his untimely death in issue 6 of The Ocellus. Hugh is alive and well – and most generously and exceptionally forgiving of the error. The information had come from several independent sources and was printed in good faith. It is hoped that not too many people who knew Hugh saw the notice before it could be put right.



Charity Help

Chris Thornton (2004) was one of the firefighters that helped load the lorries with the Operation Christmas Child Christmas boxes donated by the Junior School.



From the Archives

Many thanks to Richard Porter (1984) for lending us his photos from his days at Cokethorpe. Here is one of the photos that has been scanned and returned. Please do keep sending in any photos, other memorabilia or just stories from your School days. Some might be printed here in The Ocellus but all are invaluable to building up a comprehensive archive for the School.



Clay Pigeon Shooting

The School was delighted to welcome James Binning (2004), Jeremy Cale (1994), John Binning (former parent), Peter Smith (former parent) and John Kitto for a shoot against the Cokethorpe Clay Pigeon Shooting Team. There were 380 clays shot in total, but the Cokethorpe School team were victorious, winning by only one clay. It was a very enjoyable afternoon.



Congratulations to Paul Derow (1996) on his marriage to Michelle Webb on 8 September 2007. Tom Nelson (1997) was Paul's Best Man and Kieran McLoughlin (1996), Ed Eyers (1996) and Ian Moore (1999) were all ushers!





Mark Girling

Mark (1977) has raised over £1,700 for a small autistic charity in North London by completing his fifth Vattern Rundan (a cycle event in Sweden) – 17,000 competitors and 186 miles non-stop! (He says only a Harcourt ex could do that!)



The Committee

Chairman: James Whittenbury (1992)
(james@whittenbury5064.freeserve.co.uk)
Treasurer: Tony Baker (1964)
Secretary: Simon Lancaster (1992)
Warwick Daniels (current staff)
Peter Green (former staff)
Mike Hilder (1967)
Alex Whittenbury (1994)
Philip Vaughan-Fowler (1976)

Contact Details

To contact the Society please email society@cokethorpe.org or call the Foundation Office on 01993 892339. An update form is also available on the School website.

Update of Database

If any former pupils are in touch with others that are not receiving the Society mailing, they are asked to encourage them to update their contact details (see above).

Society News

Simon Lancaster (1992)
Congratulations to Simon and Louise
Lancaster on the birth of their third
daughter, Grace.

Martin Aires (1977)

The Society is very sad to report the recent death of former pupil Martin Aires. Martin passed away suddenly on Friday 12 October 2007. He had been living in Israel for the last 20 years and was married with four children.

Becky and Angus Nicholson
Becky and Angus (former staff 2005
and 2006) have been appointed as
Houseparents at The Dragon School,
Oxford.

Roger James

The Society is also sad to report the recent death of former member of staff Roger James who passed away in his home in Ducklington on Friday 14 December 2007.

Central England Counties

James Godden, George Millin and Thomas Maslen (all 2007) took part in this clay pigeon shooting competition to good effect, despite the poor weather.

Facebook

The Cokethorpe Society now has its own profile on the social networking site Facebook. The profile is named Katherine Rutland and all former pupils and staff are welcome to add the profile to their 'friends'.

TAIL FEATHERS

Ave Atque Vale

Miss M H Davis

American Miss Davis (Biology) has quickly made a big impression in the department and as a Year 7 tutor.

Dr C Flaherty

Dr Flaherty joins the Chemistry department and brings a particular interest in the use of ICT in science.

Mrs H M Kenworthy

The new physicist Mrs Kenworthy was formerly at Burford School and joins a rapidly growing Science department.

M M Mullin

The last time Mr Mullin, Head of Jazz, played at the New Theatre, it was to support The Kinks.

Mrs P J Starr

Mrs Starr joins from Wood Green School and has already proved a great addition to the staff.

Miss A M Woodcock

Miss Woodcock is teaching both PE and Sociology and has made a big impression on games at all levels.

M J Baldwin

Mr Baldwin joins the Geography and Business Studies departments bringing diverse experiences from industry, education and in sailing.

Miss G R Ringham

The English and Drama teams welcome Miss Ringham, who joins the School via Cambridge and RADA and is a keen hockey player.

M Schofield

The introduction of Philosophy to the curriculum is being masterminded by Mr Schofield. Sixth Form numbers are already strong.

Mrs D Sheppard

Mrs Sheppard has covered capably for Miss Lapper's maternity leave and quickly became an essential sports teacher.

T J Walwyn

Mr Walwyn (Drama) has already directed and acted to capacity audiences in The Shed. His daughter Theodora was born in September – a busy term!



Vale

Felicity Rutland

(Please see the introduction from the Outgoing Editor on the front cover.)

Selina Bedward

The School says goodbye to Selina after



an impressive 36 years at the School. She will be greatly missed by her many friends in the Common Room, Maintenance and Catering teams and Sixth Form.

Staff Congratulations

Congratulations to Mr Adlington on his marriage to Leigh on 28 September 2007.

Congratulations to Mr van Zyl on coming 85th out of 6,500 finishers – and 1st in

his age category – at the Amsterdam marathon in October.

Congratulations to Miss Lapper and Mr Bown on the birth of their twins, Edie Florence and Leo Joseph.



Open Day

Saturday 9 February: 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. Headmaster's address: 10am and 11am.

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

Key Admissions Dates

24 January: Assessment and Activities Day for Junior School entry 26 January: Assessment and Activities Day for Year 7 entry September 2008 21-23 January: Sixth Form Scholarships 10-12 March: Year 9 Scholarships

Contacts

Headmaster

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

Senior Academic Staff

Second Master: K Walton

kw@cokethorpe.org
Director of Studies: D H Williams

dhw@cokethorpe.org

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

Housemasters and Housemistresses

Feilden: Miss P S M Townsend

psmt@cokethorpe.org

Gascoigne: C Maskery

cm@cokethorpe.org
Harcourt: G J Rees

gjr@cokethorpe.org

Queen Anne: Miss F M M Hamon fmh@cokethorpe.org

Swift: J E Bown

jeb@cokethorpe.org
Vanbrugh: Mrs J L Pratley

jlp@cokethorpe.org

Photographs

For digital copies of photographs in this newsletter contact the Marketing Officer, Katherine Rutland on 01993 892339 or email ksfr@cokethorpe.org

This issue of **THE OCELLUS** was edited by the Registrar, Felicity Rutland (registrar@cokethorpe.org) and typeset by the Marketing Officer. It is published by Cokethorpe School.

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