



CNSNewsletter



HEAD'S LINES

The snow has now all but melted and it seems to be a little warmer as we move towards the shortest day of the year. It has been a momentous year for Chipping Norton School and has fittingly ended with Ofsted judging the quality of education offered as 'Good' with an 'Outstanding' sixth form and 'Outstanding' personal development and welfare.

The Ofsted visitors were quick to recognise what we know: that the quality of learning is firmly rooted in what happens in the classroom. This has always been our focus and we are determined to make sure improvements are thoroughly embedded. All students are now very clear about the meaning of "working harder on harder work". Year 11 GCSE mock examinations have now been marked

continued over

CNS rated 'Good' with an "Outstanding" Sixth Form



Students, parents, staff and governors are celebrating Chipping Norton School being recognised as a "Good" school with some "Outstanding" areas following its latest Ofsted inspection.

The Ofsted report recognises the many exceptional characteristics of the school: the high expectations set; the high quality of teaching and learning; a school where uniqueness is nurtured and bullying incredibly rare; and where students are well prepared for the next stage of their lives. The inspectors noted that "teachers are firmly focussed on helping pupils achieve their best" and that "a rich seam of tolerance and respect runs through the school".

Ofsted rated the school's sixth form as "Outstanding" with students benefitting from very high quality teaching and assessment. The school's work to promote all students' personal development and welfare was also judged to be "Outstanding".

Headteacher Mr Simon Duffy commented "We are really pleased that the hard work of students and staff has been acknowledged in this way and we are now determined to make our school outstanding. It is very clear that the message about "working harder on harder work" is getting through as students strive to be the best that they can be. I am hugely grateful for the relentless support of students and parents who have always recognised the great qualities of Chipping Norton School, qualities that the Ofsted team saw in abundance."

and Year 13 A level mock examinations are in early January. These give important pointers of where work needs to be sharpened and focused in order to emulate the success of the 'class of 2017'.

As this Newsletter clearly shows additional learning opportunities remain a key part of our work at school. Any teacher will tell you that the more involved students are in the life of the school the more likely they are to succeed. It is this work that Ofsted described as adding to the "aspirational fabric of the school".

As 2017 comes towards an end and as 2018 is on the horizon, I wanted to take this chance to formally thank three groups of people in helping to secure such a successful year for Chipping Norton School. I want to thank our teachers for their relentless hard work and effort; I want to thank our students for all of their endeavour and commitment to their studies; and I want to thank our parents and whole community for their unwavering support of our great school.

Have a wonderful Christmas.

Simon Duffy:
Headteacher

UK Space Design Competition



On 11 November eleven pupils from Years 11-13 took part in the Oxfordshire heat of the UK Space Design Competition. The event incorporated schools from across Oxfordshire and beyond and took place in The Andrew Wiles Building at Oxford University.

Working in a team of twenty three the pupils were charged with the task of designing and

costing structures to house a human colony on the moon. The team had to contend with radiation, lack of atmosphere, lower gravity and moon dust covering equipment, all whilst providing a plan for the base in just eight hours.

For the second year running we were the only school who had Year 11 pupils in the team, showing the

strength of our Year 11 students. Indeed the team were praised by the judges for innovative suggestions that were proposed by our Year 11 team members, that the judges had never heard before despite many years of experience in the competition.

The team did an excellent job and although they were pipped to first place on this occasion, they will have gained a great experience of working with a large group and attempting an impossible task to a very tight deadline.

Dr Hagan: Assistant Curriculum Lead (Science)

Millie Scott represents Team GB in New Zealand



Millie and four other riders from England were privileged to be selected to represent their country at the Under 17's Mounted Games World Championships in New Zealand. The Championships were showcased at Equitana, which was the biggest equestrian competition

in the Southern Hemisphere for the last 17 years.

The competition was tough as all teams were riding borrowed ponies apart from the New Zealand team. Millie was incredibly lucky to ride one of the best mounted games

ponies in New Zealand. Unfortunately Millie's pony got an injury during the final part of the competition which meant she was unable to compete in the final. However, even with a pony injury, the England team managed to secure 5th place.

It was an incredible experience for Millie to be able to ride against riders from New Zealand, Australia, Canada, America and Europe. She has made many new friends and her team are 5th in the world, which is an amazing achievement!

Mrs Scott

The Hockey Report

Year 7 have had a brilliant start to the season. Numbers at training have been fantastic and over 30 girls have represented the school.

Particular highlights

Year 8s came 3rd in West Oxfordshire at the WOssp tournament.

Year 9s won all of their games and were runners up in West Oxfordshire at the WOssp tournament.

The Year 10 Hockey team had a fantastic season, coming second place in the tournament. No one person can be singularly credited as the students worked and played well as a team, supporting each other and scoring goals. The competitiveness with which the girls played was compelling to watch and their sportsmanship made me as a teacher very proud

of their conduct. It was a pleasure to be the coach of such a determined and friendly team.

Many smiles were to be seen throughout the season, especially en route to fixtures as the bus was filled with a cacophony of musical talent! I must say a special thank you to Beth Blackwell and Evie Sokol, who organised and captained the teams.

The senior hockey team has had a very positive season this year. They began the season with an away game at Lord Williams, which we came away from with a reassuring 5-3 win. We came 2nd overall in the tournament after drawing 0-0 with Henry Box, 2-2 with Bartholomew and finishing with an amazing 3-1 win against Burford.

Lydia Harding: I2E
Miss Pinfold: PE

The Rugby Report



As we approach the end of term it has been another good season for our Rugby teams with well over 100 boys representing the school in inter school fixtures this year. All boys have done their absolute best to uphold the rugby values of Teamwork, Respect, Enjoyment, Discipline and Sportsmanship and we must say well done to them all.

to end up unbeaten.

Year 9 reaching the county cup Semi Final before losing out to a very strong Bloxham School.

Year 10 reaching the County Vase Semi Final losing to Matthew Arnold .

Senior boys have played 10 games this season, winning 8 and drawing one including victory over Burford in the County Cup Final and the District Final to become the first CNS team to win both competitions in the same season. Along the way they recorded some incredible wins, notably over Warriner, Cotswold and Lord Williams. In the County Cup final the score was 14 points to 7 and in the League final they went one better by winning 20 points to 7.

Mr Thomas:
Head of PE

Particular highlights

Over 20 boys playing their first competitive school rugby for Year 7 with wins so far over Henry Box and Woodgreen .

Year 8 winning a number of the West Oxon friendly matches, finishing 3rd in the District Tournament and then ending their season fantastically well by winning both of their pools at the County Tournament

U13 Girls' Football



The final was a fantastic game against Wood Green and by the end of play the teams could not be separated as it finished 0-0, and into the second

Congratulations to our U13 girls' football team who came second in the West Oxfordshire tournament. After finishing top of a challenging group, the team went through to play a well contested semi-final finishing 0-0 and taking them through to the first penalty shoot-out of the day, and it was a successful one!

shoot-out. It went down to a sudden death penalty where Wood Green came out on top. Fantastic performances and superb attitude was shown by all. The girls now go through to the School Games next April.

Miss Pinfold:
PE Department





Festive Fun at the Christmas Market

Each year Christmas Markets (Christkindlmärkte or Weihnachtsmärkte) spring up around Germany in the weeks before Christmas, signalling the beginning of Advent. They originated in Germany as far back as the late Middle Ages with the first markets being held in 1384. Those first Christmas Markets were little more than winter markets that lasted a couple of days and instead of the cosy stands that line Christmas Markets today, traders in some cities laid their goods out in the streets accompanied by traditional singing and dancing. The centuries-old tradition reaches back to a time when regular seasonal markets took place throughout the year. Christmas Markets were a welcome occurrence during cold-weather months, joyful occasions for weary villagers and they added a bit of light to long winter nights.



Today, German Christmas Markets serve much the same function that they have for centuries — as a festive meeting place for locals and a market for homemade Christmas ornaments and decorations. Some of the most traditional German handicrafts can be found here — nutcrackers, wooden figurines, straw stars, cookie tins, glass balls, toys, and tin tree ornaments. Despite the widespread belief that Christmas has only recently developed into a feast of commercialism, you may be surprised to learn that, as early as the 17th century, gift-buying at Christmas Markets had already become a popular activity.

The Cologne Christmas Market attracts over 2 million people and this year that number included 45 pupils from Chipping Norton School. With six markets to visit and a host of other activities planned,

it promised to be a whirlwind 3 days of cultural highlights – and we were not disappointed. Emerging from the underground on the first evening, our senses were overwhelmed: delicious smells of bratwurst, raclette and glühwein; the twinkling lights set against the backdrop of the imposing cathedral; sounds of music and laughter; the crisp cold only added to the atmosphere.



On the second day, we climbed the 533 steps to the top of the cathedral tower, with amazing views, followed by a tour of the Lindt chocolate museum, with tastings at the chocolate fountain and lunch in the harbour Christmas market. We skated outdoors at the Altstadt market and then finished off at the oldest Christmas market in Cologne at Neumarkt; a magical market with stars in the trees surrounding the market. In the evening, we went to Aqualand – a new destination for this trip but it proved to be the highlight of the trip for many students. We arrived to a pool disco and laser show, followed by time on the many slides and whirlpools.

On our final day we took a boat trip along the Rhein, with a farewell tour of the cathedral market before heading home, exhausted but happy.

Thank you to Miss Johnston, Miss Richmond and Mrs Cradock for accompanying the trip and to the students, who behaved impeccably whilst away.

The trip will run again next December and letters will go out in June for any students interested in taking part.

Mrs Thomas: Languages Department

Sixth Form on top of the world

"Outcomes are impressive, establishing a tradition of high academic achievement." Ofsted Nov 2017

After receiving a glowing Ofsted report where the Sixth Form was judged as 'Outstanding', the achievements just keep coming.

Four students in Year 13 have been successful in the next stage in their quest to study at either Oxford or Cambridge receiving offers of interviews in December.

In the same week the schools 1st XV Rugby team defeated Burford School 14-7 to be crowned Oxfordshire County Champions.

If you are interested in joining our "Outstanding Sixth Form", please apply online at <http://www.chippingnortonschool.co.uk/Joining-our-Sixth-Form>

Baroness Bloomfield visits CNS



On 1 December, Baroness Bloomfield visited Chipping Norton School to talk to a selection of Sixth Form and Year 11 students about her experience in the House of Lords. She became a member one year ago when David Cameron resigned and included her in his honours list.

A full Lecture Theatre listened to her presentation as she spoke about the rules in the House of Lords, the role it plays in making and assessing bills and how she came into the field of politics. Her own journey resonated particularly well with the audience as many of them are currently making decisions about their own future.

It was interesting to hear about her path into politics, from focusing on geothermal energy in Iceland, to being a governor at a school, to fundraising for the Conservative Party campaign. It served as a reminder for the audience about the importance of diversity in your career.

Max Mazower: 12G
Maisie Green: 12S

CNS win "Democracy Challenge"



Sixth Form students Georgia Jukes, Alicia Ross-Vergara, Hettie Gardner and Luke Briggs triumphed at the first 'Democracy Challenge' debating competition held at the West Oxfordshire District Council Offices in Witney.

They were up against stiff competition from Bartholomew School, Burford School, Henry Box, The Marlborough School, Wood Green School, Cokethorpe School and Kingham School. The teams were challenged to debate the topics "West Oxfordshire is a better place to live than London" and "Lifting the ban on new grammar schools".

Chipping Norton School faced a team of students from Henry Box School in the final round when the motion up for debate was "Social Media has had a negative impact on society." Our team had to debate as if they agreed with the motion.

The judging panel was comprised of local MP Robert Courts, Conservative Peer Lord Robert Hayward and retired judge Charles Harris QC.

Mr Courts commented that "Chipping Norton School were well deserved winners, but they were pushed hard and everyone who participated made some really excellent and thought-provoking contributions."

As well as receiving a trophy, the students have been invited by Mr Courts to visit both Houses of Parliament to watch live debates.

A big congratulations to Georgia, Alicia, Hettie and Luke and also to Miss Millar, for her fantastic mentoring.



Dennis Victory Dance Workshop



on Dennis' enthusiasm and motivational skills. It is so fantastic that everyone feels they can take part, and at a level that suits them.

We were pleased to welcome Dennis Victory to our Partnership again this year. Dennis visited our ten primary schools to teach Street Dance to the Year 6 pupils during the week of 6 November.

Dennis always makes sure that his dance sequences are fresh and age and ability specific. Our primary teachers really embrace the opportunity for their pupils to work with a professional dancer and commented

Every year, our Year 12 Dance Leaders are delighted that Dennis teaches a class devised especially for them. His expertise, talent and originality really inspired our talented students. He demonstrated that hard work and practice does lead to success. The students were pushed to really work hard and benefitted so much from this important part of their Dance

U11 Hockey Tournament



event for all who took part. The event takes a lot of planning and dedication, and our students were all fabulous ambassadors for Chipping Norton School. Mrs Fisher led the festival, and was really impressed by everyone.

Ten boys and ten girls teams braved the fog and cold to take part in this annual tournament. It was obvious that so much time and effort had been put in by both the children and their teachers to prepare for the event.

The tournament was run by our Year 12 Sports Leaders, who refereed, mentored and took on all of the roles required to make sure the tournament was well run and a great

Big Schools Girls Winner - Kingham
Big Schools Boys Winner - Charlbury
Small School Girls Winner - Enstone
Small School Boys Winner - Enstone

Congratulations to everyone who took part, and a big 'Thank You' to all teachers and parents who came along to support us.

Family Focus Week @ CNS



Chipping Norton School takes great pleasure in offering Family Focus Workshops to parents and children from Years, 4, 5 and 6 from our partnership primary Schools. This term we offered two workshops - Build a Trebuchet and Art Challenge which were run by our D&T and Art Departments respectively.

We are very grateful to our teachers for giving up their time to run these workshops. Although it is hard work, our teachers get a lot of pleasure working with potential students of Chipping Norton School and engaging with parents.

This year we decided to offer a modern take on Art and use Damien

Hirst as our inspiration. Families created their artwork around a piece of work called 'In and Out of Love' which is based on butterflies. Hirst showed his original piece in the Tate Modern. Everyone created a small segment of one of his butterfly pictures which when pieced together created a vibrant completed picture. The effect of everyone's own individual style and choice of colour meant that we had a very diverse picture, and one which everyone was proud of. At the end of the workshop everyone was able to take their own small masterpiece home with them.

Building the Trebuchet is always a very popular workshop. Parents and children love the

opportunity to use tools and learn some practical skills. We had some very conscientious parents as well as children who take this very seriously and really were proud of their own mini weapon of mass destruction. At the end of the evening there was a very popular competition to see who could fire the furthest missile and the winners won a well-deserved bar of chocolate!

Thank you so much to everyone who came along to Family Focus, and of course a big thank you to our fantastic teachers.

Flyers will go out to schools in January for our events in February. If you want to take part, fill in the form and return it to the Community Learning Team.

Mrs Fisher: Community Learning Lead

Year 5/6 Literary Quiz



On November 30th, the school library welcomed Year 5 and 6 pupils from nine of the partnership primary schools to take part in the first CNPS Literary Quiz. The teams consisted of four children who had been selected by their own schools as their top readers. The children arrived at CNS full of enthusiasm and competitive spirit – many teams brought cuddly mascots and even bobble hats to bring them good luck.

The pupils were challenged to answer five rounds of ten questions. Subjects included fictional cats (big and small), heroes and villains, pot luck, books by David Walliams and Harry Potter (of course). Each team were allowed to select a favourite round to play their joker card and double up their marks. Between each round the children were asked questions that anyone could have a go at answering to win a

packet of Haribo sweets.

Ms Bovington, the librarian and quizmaster was assisted by Mrs Blundell, Library Assistant, and students Aidan Hergt, Katherine Brock, Chloe-Marie Warren and Holly Evans (all students from our popular book club). The students did a fantastic job of marking the answer sheets and recording the scores during the competition.

The competition was very tight, with different schools being in the lead at the end of each round. The final 'Pot Luck' round ended with two schools, Charlbury and Great Rollright, tying for first place. The tie breaker question "What colour is Toothless the dragon in Cressida Cowell's 'How to train your dragon' book?" was won by Charlbury School (by the way the answer is "green" not "black" as suggested in the movie version).

All the pupils went home with a certificate

Oxfordshire Book Awards 2017

Members of the school Reading Club enjoyed a fantastic afternoon of author talks at this year's Oxfordshire Book Awards ceremony held at The Oxford High School.

Over 40 infant, primary and secondary schools in Oxfordshire participate in these unique book awards, with the students nominating, judging and voting for the best picture book, primary and secondary novels.

The winning books were 'Nibbles the Book Monster' by Emma Yarlett (Picture Book), 'The Person Controller' by David Baddiel (Junior Novel) and 'A Library of Lemons' by local author, Jo Cotterill (Secondary novel).

Both David and Jo were present at the ceremony to accept their trophies and talk to the audience of over 400 children. Other guest speakers included authors Pam Smy, Ian Johnstone, Ellie Irving, and new author Nikki Thornton. Video messages were sent by winner Emma Yarlett and highly commended authors Katherine



Felix Webb (Year 10) and OBA winning author Jo Cotterill.



Tristan Peissel.

Rundell, Kiran Millwood Hargrave and Julia Donaldson. It really was a wonderful opportunity for so many young people to hear from such a wide variety of authors.

Year 10 student Tristan Peissel wowed the audience and guests with a brilliantly written and presented review of 'The Wolf Wilder' by Katherine Rundell. He was a real credit to our school!

Ms Bovington:
Librarian

and bookmark and the winning team and runners up chose a book to keep to mark their success. Charlbury went home with a shiny new cup to display in their school for the next 12

months.

We look forward to next year's exciting rematch!

Ms Bovington and
Chloe-Marie Warren
(9EG)

Year 11 Citizenship Day



Our first talk was by James, a drug awareness expert from INFORMED. It was very informative and he explained to us the risk of drug-taking. It was an interactive talk which made it more engaging for us. James also made his talk very funny which helped us better understand the dangers of drugs use.

Our second talk was led by Mrs Earnshaw, our School Nurse, who spoke about the topic of 'Safe Sex', STIs and contraception. This was also an interactive session as she warned us about the risks associated with 'unsafe sex' and stressed how important it is that a relationship is strong and supportive before it becomes sexual.

Our final talk was by Cameron from the mental help charity MIND, who is a mindfulness expert. He explained to us ways in which we can cope with the past, present and future. He made us concentrate on breathing using the 7/11 technique (breathing through your nose for the count of 7 and out through your nose for a count of 11). He explained 'self repair' and left us with a quote from Alice Herz-Sommer, a 109 year old Holocaust survivor who said...
"I see beauty everywhere."

Daisy Bartlett: IIEG

WOLP Apprenticeship Event



The West Oxfordshire Learning Partnership (WOLP) held its 4th Apprenticeship Event on 19 October at Witney Lakes Resort.

Over 500 students and their parents/carers from all the schools in West Oxfordshire (and beyond!) came along to find out more about Apprenticeships from the forty employers and training organisations that attended. Current apprentices were also available to chat about their experiences and Chloe Penniston, a Legal Apprentice at local Law Firm, The Burnside Partnership, gave a series of presentations on why she had chosen that particular career route.

Most students found the event very informative and being able to talk to employers and other apprentices gave them an insight into what life as an apprentice would be like.

Beth Coombes, an ex-CNS student, has just successfully completed a Business Administration/HR Apprenticeship with Owen Mumford. During her last year at school, she wasn't

sure what she wanted to do, "everyone else was applying to university but I couldn't find a course that appealed to me. Mrs Dix suggested I go to an Apprenticeship Evening and, after speaking to a few apprentices there, I knew an apprenticeship was the best thing for me as I was going to be starting a career and earning while also learning and developing my skills".

This year, the exhibitors included: Airbus Helicopters, Air Tanker, The Army, Blenheim Palace, BMW, Clarkson Evans, Darke & Taylor, Hunts, Ignite Sport, Owen Mumford, Navy, NHS, Oxfordshire County Council, RAF, Royal Navy, Thames Valley Police and UKAEA among others.

If you missed this event, don't worry, WOLP are arranging an "Apprenticeship Fair" on 22 March at the Enterprise Centre in Woodstock where students will have another opportunity to meet employers offering Apprenticeship opportunities, information and advice.

Mrs Cradock: Professional Learning Administrator

What's on at CNS

TERM 3
JANUARY 2018
Wk 16 A

Weds 3 Staff Training (no students in school)

Thurs 4 TERM BEGINS
Fri 5 Deadline for Sixth Form Applications

Wk 17 B
Mon 8 Y13 Rehearsal exams begin
Extra Time Clubs start
CNPS Hock/Netball Tournament with CSLA 3:15-6:00 pm

Y12 trip to Oxford
Brookes—this week
Tues 9 CNPS Y4&5 Science Extra Time 4:45-5:45 pm

Weds 10 Y11 GCSE Art trip to London
Thurs 11 Drama Panto Workshop

Wk 18 A
Mon 15 Y11 Business trip to Hook Norton Brewery
Wed 17 CNPS Swimming Gala with CSLA 1:00-3:30pm
Fri 19 Y13 Rehearsal exams end Y7,8,10,11,12&13 Progress Report Home

Wk 19 B
Thurs 25 Stop and Read Y11 PTC
Fri 26 School Council non-uniform day Y9 Progress Report Home

Wk 20 A
Mon 29 CNPS A,G&T Art 3:30-5:00 pm
Wed 31 CNPS Netball Tournament with Y12 CSLA 3:00-4:45pm

FEBRUARY
Thurs 1 Tudor Hall French Play Y9,10&11 Intermediate Maths Challenge Family Focus Astronomy 6:00-7:30 pm
Fri 2 Y9 Enterprise Day (Provisional)

Wk 21 B
Mon 5 Y11 Internal sixth form Interviews
Tues 6 Family Focus 'No Fear' Shakespeare 6:00-7:00 pm
Wed 7 CNPS Y3/4 Ball Skills Festival (Y11 Leaders) 3:00-4:45pm 6th Form external applicants' interviews
Thurs 8 Family Focus First Aid 6:00-8:00 pm
Fri 9 END TERM