



CNSNewsletter

Christmas Concert



In the last week of term, the Music Department held the Christmas Concert. It was the first music event in the newly refurbished hall, and also the first concert since January 2020.

Our ensembles of Concert Band, Brass Ensemble and Choir all performed new pieces. These included 'Polar Express', 'Africa' by Toto, a Beatles Medley and the theme from Avengers. We also included several soloists, Jessica Bradford, Emily Cutter and James Homer to name just a few. The support from students to each other was wonderful, with lots of cheering and clapping - something very special throughout the evening.

In the New Year, we look forward to a KS4/5 Solo Performance, the KS3 Solo Performance evening, as well as the Performing Arts Showcase.

Mr Brown: Head of Music

Matilda: Musical Magic

December saw the eagerly awaited return of Chipping Norton School opening their doors for the school musical. This year saw the production of Dennis Kelly and Tim Minchin's, 'Matilda' - a fantastical story about a young girl who fights for education under the tyranny of an evil headmistress and the ignorance of her own family.

The students involved have been working incredibly hard since September, dedicating three nights a week to learning songs, choreography and theatrical blocking to create one of the most enjoyable shows I have taken part in. This is on top of a very talented group, led by Mr Stromanis, who created the integral set and props needed to bring the show to life.

The matinée performance to some local primary schools and the three show nights went as perfectly as we could have wished for. The students gave everything to each performance and the rapturous applause received every night was a testament to that. I would personally like to thank everyone who came but also say how proud I was to see many other students there to support their friends.

So many other members of staff have been involved, from creating tickets and seating plans to building up the costume for the legendary Trunchbull. Thank you to all of you who helped.

The money received from the ticket sales will go on to develop our performance capability in the future. For this production we begged and borrowed equipment from the head mics, to the wood for the set. We hope to now be able to purchase our own set of radio mics and a new, fit for purpose lighting desk.

There are plenty more events that are coming up from the Performing Arts team and it would be great to see even more people from the community supporting our wonderful students.

Mr Franklin: Drama Department



RISING STARS: Tahlia Davidson-Wright, Roman Jones, Amber Davis and Harriet Pike



We are often impressed when we hear about the incredible things that our students do outside of school hours. We would like to congratulate a number of our students who have demonstrated our key values: courage, creativity, compassion and curiosity.

This term Tahlia Davidson-Wright made her Team GB debut, playing in the Four Nations Ice Hockey championship in October for the U18 Women's team. Despite securing a strong win over Iceland, the Under 18s narrowly missed out on a silver medal at the tournament with narrow defeats to the teams from Spain (the overall winners) and Poland (3-2 on penalties).

Tahlia played brilliantly and despite being the youngest player on the team she got plenty of ice time, gave 100% each shift and had over twenty shots on goal. We are all very proud of her achievements.

We are delighted to hear that Tahlia has been included in Team GB for the Ice Hockey World Championships. The championships will take place in Dumfries at the end of January. Good Luck, Tahlia!

We have also heard about the amazing charitable fundraising that Roman Jones (Year 10) has been doing this year.

Roman recently completed a Remembrance Day march up Pen y Fan in the Brecon Beacons with a small group of Special Forces Operatives and raised £475 for MyTime Young Carers, Reorg and Rock2Recovery



(charities who support injured military and emergency service personnel) and The Dorset Children's Foundation.

He followed this up by taking part in a gruelling 21-mile trek, involving a total climb of 1866m in pouring rain and gale force winds! Roman was one of the first 10 people to finish this challenge and raised over £1250 for the Movember Foundation. Well Done Roman!

Amber Davis (Year 8) competed at the British Down Syndrome Swimming Championships in Sussex in November. She competed in three races; 25m freestyle, 25m backstroke and 50m breaststroke. Although Amber did not place this time, she was awarded a gold participation medal and was rightly proud of her achievements. She hopes to compete again next year.



Congratulations are also due to Harriet Pike (Year 9), who was a finalist in this year's Got2B's West Oxfordshire Youth Awards, in the activism category. Harriet embodies that goal for our young people to shape their world and not be shaped by it. Harriet is passionate about the future of our planet and campaigns to raise awareness and encourage collective action to steer our planet to safety.

Harriet's achievement came as we work towards the creation of a sustainability team at CNS. Harriet has been asked to chair this team, alongside Mr Doherty, our site manager, school business manager, catering manager, several curriculum leaders, and a further six student representatives. We will agree, together, our terms of reference, but the broad goal will be to reduce our carbon emissions and raise awareness.



HOUSE NEWS: Castles, Curries and lots of Jolly Santas!



The History Department challenged the Year 7s to make models of Norman castles this term. We had some fantastic Motte and Bailey castles made by our Year 7 pupils. It was a difficult decision as the standard was so high but the winners were:

1st: Caleb Lake (7CH)

2nd: Evie Corfield (7RB)

3rd: Alex Jessett (7RB)

Mrs Walker: Head of History



The Sixth Form and Staff Curry and Quiz Night, that took place at the end of last month, was a really enjoyable way for students to socialise within the school community, giving us the opportunity to test our knowledge against the staffing body, and eat great food provided by Cafe Le Raj at the same time! After enjoying our plate of curry, (and seconds), the students were ultimately victorious, albeit in dubious fashion, with Fred Hammond's team besting Mr Baker's in a close run race. Well done to Fred, Aaron, Ellis and Lewis! The night was a great success, and we are sure that staff and students alike can't wait to sign up for next years event!

Will Porter (13SPJ)



At the beginning of December CNS students completed a 5km fun run in their PE lessons, raising money for Katharine House Hospice. The hospice is a place where people near the end of their life can receive medical support while being in a more relaxed environment than a hospital with their families around them. Everyone ran around the school field, each lap was 1km and some students, including myself, achieved 5 laps. The students from each year group who finished in first place received 50 house points, the second received 25 and the third received 10. All the students that participated in the run also received house points for participation. The event may have been cold, but it was great fun too and the school has raised over £750 for an excellent cause.

Due to poor weather condition and frozen ground we have had to sadly postpone the house Rugby and Hockey matches until January.

Florence Lutman (7HKS)

SPORTS NEWS: CNS go to Twickenham



On Saturday 12th November 5 teachers and 47 very excited students made the annual trip to Twickenham to watch the England v Japan Autumn International Rugby match. It was a great match with a huge crowd of over 80,000 people. England scored 7 tries to win 52 points to 13. Overall it was an excellent trip and well done to all the students involved.

Violet in Year 10 said 'It was a very good match and I'm very grateful for the opportunity we got to see some great tries and my favourite was the one by Marcus Smith'.

Mr Thomas: Head of PE

Family Focus Workshops



In October we were happy to host three workshops for pupils from Years 4, 5 and 6 from our Chipping Norton Partnership of Schools and an accompanying adult learn something new together. These included a Dance workshop with the theme 'Cartoon Creations' led by Mrs Du Cr s, the ever-popular 'Build a Trebuchet' challenge with the Design & Technology department and our ExtraTime coach, Eddie Roofe, held a workshop to work with families to help them learn some Table Tennis skills enabling them to play a game together and with other families.

These workshops are great to give families valuable one-to-one time whilst learning a new skill together. The children also gain a lot of confidence in the CNS setting

CNPS Sports Events



Well, what a busy start to the year! We have welcomed our primary schools to take part in eight different sports events. Some Year 5s came to CNS to undertake training to lead sports activities in their own schools. The following week all 10 of our partnership schools took part in the U11s Football tournament. Our Year 12 Dance Sports Leaders visited St. Mary's to deliver a Dance workshop to Year 3s and then also hosted Holy Trinity at CNS for the workshop. We have held a Boccia tournament for SEND children from the primary schools, then most schools brought a boys' and girls' team to the U11 Hockey tournament. Our Year 12 Sports Leaders have also assisted with the Sports Hall Athletics and a Ball Skills Festival. Last but not least, we facilitated a Street Dance instructor from Step2Dance to visit all the primary schools to lead a workshop in November.

CNS Literary Quiz



Ms Bovington and Mrs Blundell invited the primary schools to attend our school library to take part in a Literary Quiz. The schools were sent a set of questions to do to help select their team for the final. It was a very close competition, with all schools scoring over 50%! The winning team this year, for the second time in a row, was Kingham who have won a cup for their school cabinet and a book each to read at home.

Able, Interested and Motivated Workshops



Over the Autumn Term we have held 3 workshops for pupils, nominated by their primary school, who are Able, Interested and Motivated in particular subjects.

Mr Brown and the CNS Concert Band hosted an afternoon of music making for pupils who play an instrument, culminating in a concert for the families. It was wonderful to see these young, talented musicians taking part in an ensemble helped by our own students.

At the Design Technology workshop, the students made their very own LED torch. There was much excitement as the pupils used the large machines to help cut, drill, and piece bits together to make a working torch keyring which many proudly attached to their bags or coats.

Mrs Duffy based the English workshop on 'The Tempest'. The pupils looked at how theatre companies create effective settings and costumes, and how to use Shakespeare's language.

After-School Primary Maths Club

We are very grateful to the CNS Maths department who led a very popular 2 week Maths club for the CN Partnership - 'The Mathematical Olympics'.

In the first week the students played various solo strategy games from various periods of history including Nine Men's Morris, Fox and Geese, and Exchange Kono. In the second week the pupils worked as teams to solve problems involving garden designs and surviving in the Rockies!

Extratime

ExtraTime Clubs at CNS



We have continued to run a varied programme of ExtraTime clubs this year. Some of the favourites continue to run such as Hockey, LAMDA, Cookery, Table-tennis, Trampolining, Origami, Squash, and Art. We have also welcomed new clubs this term including 'Keep Calm and Meditate' for which the attending students have given very favourable feedback. Jack Heritage has joined us to deliver the 'Ultimate Martial Arts' club, at which it is great to see such a wide range of age groups taking part. We have a new coach for Dance, Megan Watkins, who has been working with students to create exciting contemporary routines. Digital Music Production, which is running for the second term, has record numbers booked on and they are producing some amazing music.

Criminology ran again this term for the Year 10s and included some very exciting sessions. Miss Skill also ran a short club during National Novel Writing month at which students have worked on novels of varying lengths. We have started a Pottery club for which we have purchased two pottery wheels; we are very grateful for the assistance of the PTA and 'Sculpture at Kingham Lodge' who have helped with the funding.

The clubs have had very good numbers this term and are enjoyed by lots of our students. We would love to welcome even more. What will you try next term?

Mrs Bissett: Community Learning/CNPS Administrator

CSLA Christmas Fun

The Year 12 students who are currently participating in their Community Sports Leaders Award (CSLA)



enjoyed a session of fun and games to celebrate Christmas at the end of term. This as a just reward for their commitment to running so many wonderful sporting events for young primary school pupils in the local area.

The Year 12s enjoyed competing against each other in house teams in Christmas-themed races such as the three legged reindeer race, candy cane relay and everyone's favourite 'the minced pie race'. The Year 12's had a great time and the winners this year were (insert drum roll here) STOUR earning a huge 400 house points towards their overall total.

Mr Robinson: Head of Student Engagement and Leadership

GSCE Textile Workshop



Jason Johns, a fashion lecturer from the University of Gloucestershire, came to give all of the GCSE Textile students a workshop all about design and the fashion industry.

He started off by explaining his career, which was very inspiring. He told us how he has covered approximately 30 catwalk shows, including London, Paris and New York Fashion Week. We were then told about how designers would normally have to do around 50-100 designs each time before they find a perfect one, this means they would have to be very quick sketches. We all then had to

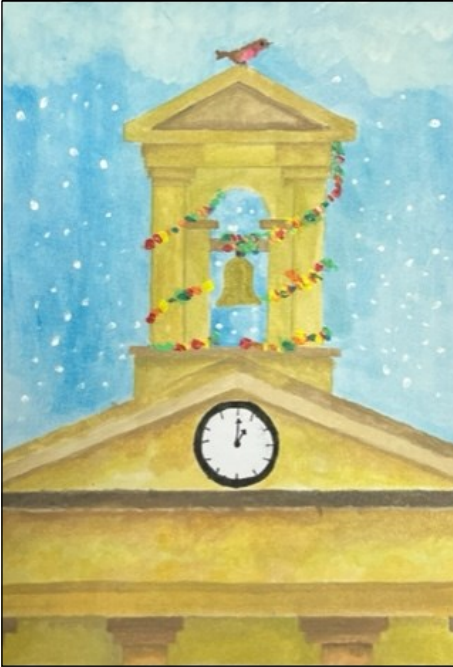
draw many designs based on a theme but we would only have 2 minutes to do this meaning that we didn't have time to think too much about what we were doing and worry about how neat it was. This really helped with my designing ability because it allowed me to be much more creative and I think it will really help throughout my GCSE project.

Finally, we were given a design where the dress was cut out from the piece of paper and were told to go around the room and take pictures while holding the design in front of anything interesting. This allowed me to see how different the same dress looks with different colours, patterns and textures.

I found this workshop both incredibly interesting and helpful; it changed my way of thinking about designing.

Erin Massey (11SJB)

ART DEPARTMENT NEWS: Design a Greetings Card Competition



The Art Department is very pleased to announce the winners of two competitions ran in partnership with the Mayor of Chipping Norton. The standard of entrees were amazing and therefore the Mayor chose three winning designs for each of the competitions - there was also a 'special mention' for some students for the Christmas Card competition!

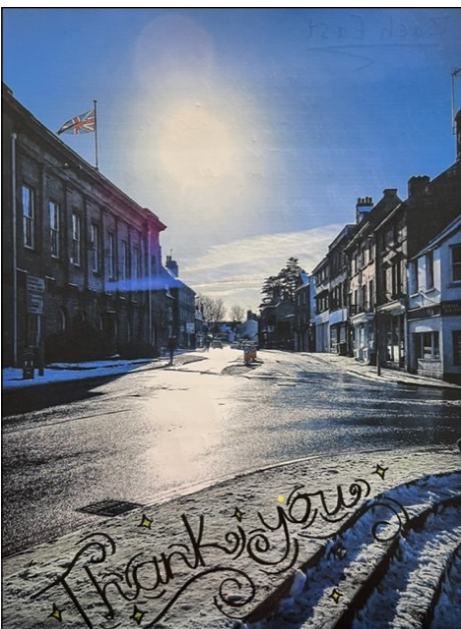
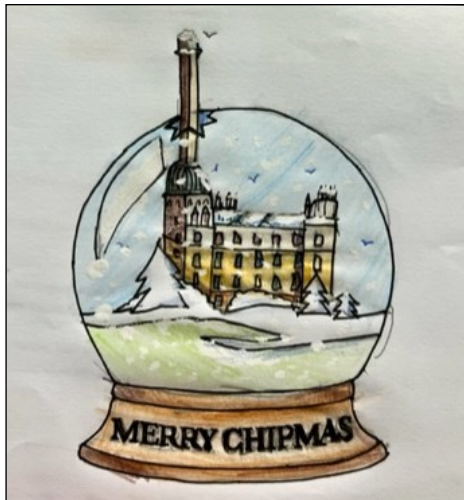
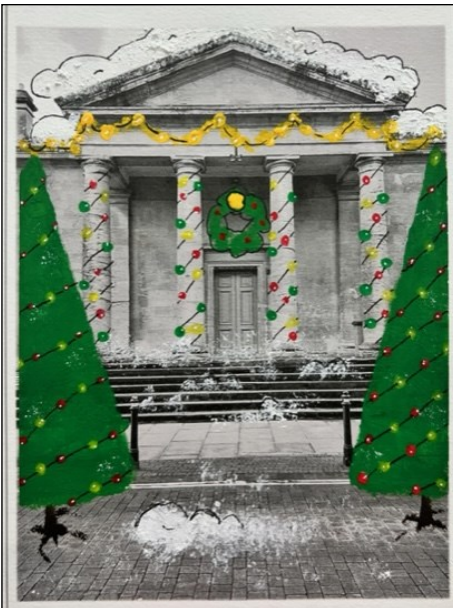
Winners for the Year 9 'Thank You Competition' are Grace, Daisy and Zach, and winners for the Year 7 'Christmas Card Competition' are Taylor, Max, and Jack.

The judges were also impressed by the Christmas card designs of Isabel, Jin, Honey, Velvet, Darcy, and Anushka.

The winners for the two competitions will be getting prizes soon from the Mayor. Congratulations to everyone who entered and especially to the Winners and 'Special Mentions'.

The Christmas designs were printed and distributed to tutor groups for students to write their 'Seasons Greetings'. The cards were then sent to local residential care homes for the elder citizens of our community to enjoy.

Mrs Corley: Head of Art



Fröhliche Weihnachten from the Modern Languages Department

For centuries, Christmas markets brought cheer to weary villagers and added a touch of light and colour to the long winter nights. The precursor to Christmas markets is thought to be Vienna's Dezembermarkt (December Market), dating back to around 1296. Emperor Albrecht I granted shopkeepers the rights to hold a market for a day or two in early winter so that townspeople could stock up on supplies to last through the cold months and Wintermärkte (winter markets) began to spring up all over Europe.

Over time, local families started setting up stalls to sell baskets, toys, and woodcarvings alongside others selling almonds, roasted chestnuts, and gingerbread. These were often bought as gifts to give away at Christmas.

It was the winter markets that eventually became known as Christmas Markets—the earliest of which are claimed to be in Germany: Bautzen in 1384, and Frankfurt in 1393. But Dresden's Strietzelmarkt may have been the first real Christmas Market, dating from 1434.

Today, during Advent, most towns in Germany have a Christmas market and visitors can try a range of delicious foods such as Raclette (melted cheese on bread), gebrannte Mandeln (candied, toasted almonds), freshly-grilled Bratwurst, Christstollen (Stollen) and Lebkuchen. Many other handmade items, toys, books, Christmas tree decorations and ornaments can also be found at a Christmas Market.

Having been unable to travel to Germany since 2019, we were very excited to return this year to the Christmas markets in Cologne – not once but twice. Such was the demand that we decided to run two trips this year, giving 100 students the opportunity to sample this festive cultural experience. Arriving in Cologne, we headed out in the early evening to the first Christmas market at the cathedral. A Christmas market at night time is the most magical experience, the air filled with a feast of smells and the glowing lights and sounds of Christmas music a delight to the senses.

The following morning, we returned to the world-famous Cologne Cathedral, one of the most iconic buildings in Germany with an incredible history and a world UNESCO World Heritage site since 1996. We toured the cathedral, admiring the **Shrine of the Magi**, a reliquary said to contain the bones of the Three Wise Men and climbed the North tower - the second highest building in Cologne, at 516 feet. We walked to the oldest Christmas market in Cologne at Neumarkt, an enchanting market with stars in the surrounding trees. At the Altstadt market we went ice skating at the outdoor rink and finished off at the Hafenmarkt, with a trip on the ferris wheel. In the evening, we went to Aqualand – a highlight of the trip for many students. After the pool disco and laser show, we spent time on the many slides and whirlpools.

On our final day, we had a guided tour of the Lindt chocolate museum, learning about the history of chocolate and how it is made today, ending with tastings at the chocolate fountain. After lunch, we set off for home, exhausted but happy.

Thank you to the staff - Miss Richmond and Mrs Huddleston, who heroically went on both trips, Miss Johnston, Miss Hancock, Mr Hood and Mrs Brocklebank, who accompanied the trips and thank you also to our students, who behaved impeccably whilst away. The trip will run again next December; letters will go out in March for any students interested in taking part.

Mrs Thomas: Languages Department



Alumni News: Sophie Harvey



'If you can't fly then run, if you can't run then walk, if you can't walk then crawl, but whatever you do, you have to keep moving forward.' – Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

This quote feels apt because it's fair to say I crawled through my school career. Years of undiagnosed illnesses made it hard for me to attend school full time.

I was in and out of doctor's offices trying to figure out my health conditions. I finally received my diagnosis the month I sat my final A level exam. But let's rewind a bit, and I'll tell you how I got there and what has happened since.

My time at Chippy School began in Sixth Form, when my family and I moved to the UK. We had previously lived in Zambia, Zimbabwe, and Malawi. I started by taking A levels in Biology, Psychology and Food Technology. But after the first term, it was hard to attend school with my health issues.

The staff at CNS supported me through it though. They allowed me to continue school at a reduced timetable and we had regular meetings checking in on how I was managing. I couldn't have got through Sixth Form without this support.

After I finished school with one A Level, I took a gap year to learn to manage my chronic health conditions and to figure out what I was going to do next. In that year I dabbled, exploring lots of different topics. I took many short courses online. These included courses in Positive Psychology, The Importance of Play, Sports Psychology, Mindfulness, Autism, Film, Welsh, How Children learn English and more. I dabbled in every topic I could get my hands on, to see what interested me. It also revealed how I learned best – online and part-time.

During that year I also volunteered at a pre-school, on a farm briefly, and creating online content for a charity. Towards the end of the year, I took a volunteer position at a local theatre as a fundraiser for just one morning a month, and I loved it. At the end of that year, I started a part-time university course.

After a year, I decided that the university course wasn't quite right for me, so I left university. However, during my volunteering through the previous year, I had slowly fallen more and more in love with fundraising, so decided to

pursue that. I first took an Introduction to Fundraising course to dip my toe in, to see if I liked it, and I did! Then I went on to the Certificate in Fundraising (which is degree level) from the Chartered Institute of Fundraising and adored it.

Fundraising brought together so many topics. I learned about the history of charities, how people learn and take in information, design, copywriting, data analysis, empathy, how to talk to people about what's important to them, sociology, strategy and more. Fundraising was so multi-disciplinary and so rich in the topics it covered that the more I learned, the more I loved it. Once I finished the course, I was very fortunate to receive a job offer from the theatre I was volunteering at. I now work there part-time as a Fundraiser.

In conclusion, what I have learned through this whole process is it's okay to feel lost sometimes and not know where you are going. It's okay to dabble and try things, and take things at your pace. Even if you are going slow, crawling, like I did, the right people will find you and support you through it. That's what Chippy School did for me. They supported me and saw my potential and I will be forever grateful that they did.

Sophie Harvey

If you would like to talk to Sophie about a career in Fundraising, Theatre or advice on how to manage school/university with chronic health conditions, please email Ms Bovington (jbovington@chippingnortonschool.org) who will put you in touch with her.

'Movember' Moustaches and Men's Health

Over the month of November, Mr Brown and Mr Robinson have been growing moustaches to support the 'Movember' charity.



The charity tries to make men understand that it is important to talk and not to be embarrassed to seek help when it concerns your health. Especially when considering areas such as mental health, suicide, prostate cancer and testicular cancer.

We are proud to say that we have managed to raise £125 for the charity. However, this was never the main aim. We are even more proud to say that the abundance of conversations that the moustaches have provoked about mental health, have far outweighed the money raised and if even one of those conversations makes a difference in a young person's life than it has been a worthwhile project.

Mr Robinson: Head of Student Engagement and Leadership



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