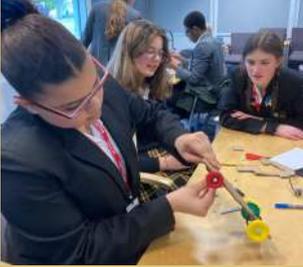




Careers in STEM Day



On February 28th, ten of our students made their way with Mrs Eakins and Mrs Craig to Rutherford Appleton Laboratory to spend a day learning about careers in STEM.

We were first hosted by Abbott Diabetes Care where our students were able to use the latest technology to test their preconceptions of foods and drinks most likely to lead to spikes in blood sugar. We then changed gears to build solar cars (pun intended!). Chipping Norton students stole the show by earning first place with their "Strawberry Racer"!

The Careers Fair over lunch showed just how many STEM opportunities there are in our local area.

Last, but not least, we were given a tour of the world-class facility, Diamond Light Source; a synchrotron which produces high energy X-rays used to image objects spanning from architectural artefacts to the coronavirus!

Mrs Eakins:

WWI Battlefields

On Friday 17th March, 40 History students departed Chipping Norton to visit the WWI Battlefields of Belgium and France. We left around 9am and after a fairly calm ferry journey we arrived at Flanders Youth Hostel that evening. After dinner and a much needed night's sleep we left early the next morning for Northern France, making our first stop at Vimy Ridge.

The museum and memorial at Vimy Ridge commemorate Canadian soldiers who lost their lives. We walked to the Vimy Ridge memorial, designed by Walter Allward, and much to our surprise we were greeted by lovely sunshine. Later, we visited the small museum before having a guided tour around the reconstructed trenches on site.

Throughout our visit to Ypres, Belgium, we visited many cemeteries, like Essex Farm, and what struck most of us deeply was the sheer amount of unmarked graves for fallen soldiers—we saw hundreds through our weekend. Later on Saturday there was a short stop at Sanctuary Wood where we got the opportunity to walk into preserved trenches and see many WWI relics in situ. In the evening we had a little free time in the town itself, much of this was spent in the chocolate shop, this being where most money was spent! We then watched the Last Post ceremony, which happens each evening in the city.

On Sunday we made a stop to the Passchendaele Museum, which was filled with different memorabilia and reconstructions as well as being home to a lovely gift shop and cafe with the most amazing teapots. We made two last stops and these were the most moving of them all, we stopped at Langemarck German Cemetery and the Tyne Cot British Cemetery. What was so memorable about these places was how different they were from each other. The German headstones were flat, containing around six names per headstone, as well as being small in size compared to Tyne Cot where standing headstones individually marked for all 11,000 buried there. Men from both sides lost their lives so to see them buried in such a different way was striking.

The journey home was calm and we arrived in Chipping Norton shortly before expected and although very tired from a packed weekend it was a very moving trip and one I shall never forget.

Heidi Rowsell: 12SLH



Women in Astronomy Workshop



On Friday 3rd of March 2023 twelve girls from CNS had the opportunity to go to Oxford's History of Science Museum to learn more about women in astronomy. The first activity we participated in was a presentation about dark matter, in which we learnt about what is involved in being a dark matter astronomer, and opportunities you could have when working in that area of astronomy. We then proceeded to participate in a workshop about coding and how it can benefit astronomy, we did two different activities, the first one involved sorting pieces of code back into the order in which they would have been programmed. After finishing that activity we began to use code to figure out a pathway that a rocket would have had to take in order to avoid certain obstacles.

We then went on to do an activity on spectroscopy in which we learnt about what spectroscopy was and how it helped in astronomy. We did a small activity in which we had to identify gases from their spectral lines using a spectroscope. We then proceeded to go and learn about Galileo and how he used the telescopes he designed to further advance science. We did a short activity in which we used a replica of one of Galileo's telescopes to try and look at a picture of the moon. We then proceeded to learn about Caroline Herschel and her significant influence on astronomy, through her discovery of 560 new stars.

Next we saw a more modern telescope and learnt about what it was like to work with the telescope and what it was like to work as an astronomer. We learnt about modern breakthroughs in astronomy such as the James Webb space telescope and then got to use an infrared



camera to see how much infrared was around us and to see what could affect that.

Finally, we had the opportunity to talk to current women in astronomy and see what it is like to work in that profession and what helped them get into their chosen careers.

Lilly Jakeman: 10JF

International Women's Day: F1 Alpine Racing



On Saturday, 4th March a group of Year 7 students accompanied Mrs Faulkner on a fantastic trip to the Headquarters of F1 Alpine Team in Enstone to celebrate International Women's Day. Throughout the day the company highlighted some of the women that work at BWT Alpine F1 Team.

The students were allowed to test their reaction times and train on a racing simulator which is used by the Formula-E drivers. Sophie, our host, commented that our students were faster than many of the trainee drivers.

We were given an Alpine hat which all the students wore throughout the afternoon.

The students learnt about the different parts of the F1 racing cars designed and manufactured on site. The use of lightweight materials for the F1 car such as the titanium exhaust was fascinating. Chipping Norton student Aimee, who is interested in design, commented that she would love to design racing cars in the future.

We were treated to pizza, burgers and chicken dippers before watching the qualifier for the Bahrain Grand Prix in Alpine's superb cinema. Henry quizzed the team about the bright pink colour on the F1 cars (due to BWT their main sponsor) and we learnt that it takes 12 weeks to build and test an F1 engine. Lachlan added that he definitely would like to be a racing driver in the future!

**Mrs Faulkner: Head of Transition
and Head of Computer Science**

Alumni News: Alternative Post-18 Career Pathways



I was at a crossroads during the final year of my A levels at CNS. Toying with the idea of following in the path of many, if not all, the people around me in applying for university, studying a course which I didn't feel passionately about, and quite frankly having no real idea about what career path I wanted to take.

After a brief mentioning of an apprenticeship opportunity at Evenlode Investment at the end of a sixth form assembly - which I took little notice of - I spoke with Mr Parker, the Careers Advisor at CNS. He, along with people familiar with Evenlode as a company, urged me to apply for this opportunity and I thank them for pointing me in a direction which I don't think I would have ventured into otherwise.

The basis of my apprenticeship was a 2-year fixed contract, where I would complete a Level 4 Operations Specialist accredited qualification, as well as working as a young professional under the management of the firm's Equity Dealer (managing the trading and execution of stocks for the firm). This came with the potential for full time employment afterward. My working week consisted of some of the following - daily communication with stockbrokers ensuring best execution of our orders in the market, putting together management information packs (which included targets set out by the board), and putting together performance data for our funds versus a relevant benchmark for the investment team and clients.

I would also be allocated two afternoons per week to study for 3 exams which I would take during my 18-month apprenticeship programme - so my weekends and evenings weren't consumed by revision. I was also assigned a mentor by Fitch, the external learning body which I did my apprenticeship with, who I had regular check-in's with on my progression. The aim was to produce a handful of written documents reflecting on my progress and development; for example, with communication skills within the company and clients, presentation skills, and leadership ability within my team.

I completed my apprenticeship qualification at the end of the 18-month period with Distinction, after a final assessment in the form of an interview with an industry professional discussing my experience and what I had learnt from the programme. During my 2-year contract I was offered a permanent position at Evenlode, as well as given the opportunity to complete a secondment in the investment team as an Investment Analyst - which is now a position I have taken on permanently as of the beginning of the year.

Establishing myself as an apprentice over the last 2 and a half years has enabled me to build a foundation which I couldn't have built if I had chosen to study at university. I think it's so important that more sixth formers consider options in becoming an apprentice rather than automatically applying to university. Not only has completing my apprenticeship given me the necessary education for the start of my career, but it's also enormously benefited me personally in becoming a more well-rounded, determined, and forward-thinking individual (with zero debt!). I understand schools, and particularly CNS, are good at publicising apprenticeships, but perhaps students think of apprenticeships as a lower-achieving, less exciting post sixth form pathway (I was guilty of being one of them), when really, it's quite the opposite.

Sam Ratcliffe

I left CNS in 2018 and was in a predicament as to whether to go down the traditional university route, or try a degree apprenticeship. I chose the latter and haven't looked back since. As a degree apprentice at Santander UK, I have had the opportunity to gain invaluable academic and professional experience.

During the last 4 years, I have gained a degree in Digital and Technology Solutions, as well as being embedded within a global business and developed my understanding of the financial industry. I have received great career mentorship, whilst being paid a competitive salary.

Additionally, my time at Santander UK has provided me with numerous opportunities for personal and professional growth. I have worked on challenging innovative projects, taken on new responsibilities, and developed my leadership skills - which enabled me to accept a job offer as a programme manager.

I would highly recommend a degree apprenticeship to anyone about to leave school. The past 4 years have been amazing, I have learnt so much and experienced some great benefits which I wouldn't have received anywhere else.



Max Green

Alumni News (continued...)



Despite being accepted into some of the universities I applied to, I could tell it wasn't really where I wanted to go before even finishing the UCAS application. I believe university is a fantastic option for those that know what they wish to do for a career, not just what they like to study. For students like me, that have several options but no idea what they want to do, apprenticeships, traineeships or just a first-time job is a good place to begin.

My first job didn't go according to plan and I spent a long time during the pandemic trying out different things, volunteering in different places and trying to meet new people. You don't have to get it right the first time and (in my admittedly limited experience) very few people do. All that matters is that you learn from what you have done and then you go on to try the next thing.

I work as a trainee accountant in a fairly large practice with offices in Oxford and London. I have received practical training

from colleagues and I am currently studying towards my AAT qualifications. The AAT is the 'Association of Accounting Technicians' and it has multiple levels which allow for students to train up to a sufficient level so that they may proceed on to chartered accountant level qualifications. It is an incredibly rewarding and satisfying job for those that enjoy problem solving and interacting with people. The maths is not especially complicated at my current level and the profession involves a lot more social intelligence and effective communication skills than I think many realise.

Truthfully, the best part about the non-university route is that it's the real adult world. It is beneficial to pick a well organised company to work for but ultimately, in the real world, your hard work will get you where you want to go. If you put the effort in, you can achieve what you set out to do.

Ewan Graham

Sixth Form News: Looking Forward

We are delighted to share the news that three of our Year 13s were successful in their applications to join The University of Cambridge. Rebecca and Aaron both applied to study Natural Sciences, whilst Lewis will be studying History and Politics.

We are all extremely proud of every student in our school but also wish to acknowledge the particular achievement in this instance and congratulate Rebecca, Aaron and Lewis. Furthermore, we would like to thank Mr Ward and Mr Dye, in particular, for their support of all students in their pursuit of different post-18 pathways, including those with the ambition to submit Oxbridge applications through our Spires Programme.

During one of our fortnightly Speaker Period sessions, Year 12 students learnt how to write a professional looking CV that showcased their individual skills, talents and interests. Emma Goodman, an experienced recruitment consultant, and regular contributor to the school's careers programme, delivered a CV Writing workshop. The students were given a resource pack of tips on writing a good CV and examples to help them. Following this session all Year 12 students were asked to write their own CV and prizes for the 'most professional' and 'most promising' CVs will be awarded at our Interview Challenge event being held in April.



Mrs Davison: Assistant Head of Sixth Form

After-School Primary Science Club



Our fabulous Science department led an after-school club for the CN Partnership primary schools with the theme of 'CSI Chippy'. Over the three sessions the students explored techniques underpinning crime scene investigation to solve the mystery of 'whodunnit'! This included chromatography, where students investigated the components of a mixture by separating them using filter paper, flame tests using a Bunsen burner, and dusting for fingerprints and the use of microscopes. We have found some budding forensic scientists who can't wait to get back into the Chipping Norton laboratories again.

Able, Interested and Motivated Workshops



Pupils selected by their primary schools were invited to CNS to take part in Able, Interested & Motivated workshops in Art and PE during the Spring Term.

In the Art workshop Mrs Dunn showed the children how to paint a work of art in the style of Marc Allante. They chose an animal to depict using paint and ink on a wooden canvas and the results were bright, imaginative and very creative.

During the PE workshop, the PE department gave the children the opportunity to have a go at Lacrosse. They learnt skills such as scooping the ball and throwing using the lacrosse stick, and took part in team games.

CNPS Sports Events



As always, the calendar has been busy with the primary schools coming to CNS to take part in a variety of sports activities.

We have welcomed children in Year 1 for Dance Festivals, Years 2 and 3 for Multi-skills Festivals, Year 4 for a Ball Skills Festival and Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 for a Cross Country event and Swimming Gala. Congratulations to Hook Norton who won the 'Big Schools' and Enstone who won the 'Small Schools' swimming galas.

We have been so proud of the CSLA students from CNS who have helped at and led these events. They have shown great organisational skills, worked brilliantly as a team and been so enthusiastic when working with the younger children. Many thanks to the CNS students involved and also to the PE and Dance staff who have guided them through the process.

Pottery Workshops in partnership with Sculpture at Kingham Lodge



We were thrilled to be able to repeat the pottery workshops again this year with funding from Sculpture at Kingham Lodge. All ten of the partnership schools were able to bring their Year 4 children to work in the CNS Art department with Alison Townley and Cally Bond, two local potters.

The children made two pots using the pinch pot and coil pot methods. It was great to see how their creativity flourished throughout the session resulting in many different outcomes, and most importantly every child enjoyed the workshop and had a real sense of achievement. It was also lovely to see how inspired the younger children were by the fantastic artwork done by our students on display in the department.

Extra Time Clubs at CNS



This term has again been almost as busy after the end of the school day as during it with 13 different clubs on offer in the Extra Time programme and over 200 places being taken up.

We are very proud of our Year 8 and Year 10 LAMDA (Drama) groups who performed their plays at the Chipping Norton Music Festival last week and all received fantastic feedback from the adjudicator. We are sure that they, and the Year 7 and 9 groups of whom we are equally proud, will do brilliantly in their LAMDA exams next week. Next term we will accept new students into the LAMDA Extra Time club, and the term will focus on drama exercises and games with no exam preparation.

Our new clubs, Pottery and Young Writers are proving very popular, with children eagerly awaiting the next session from week to week. Look out for some of the potters' work if you visit 'Sculpture at Kingham Lodge' at the end of May; they are working on pieces now that they hope to display at the exhibition. The Young Writers are putting together an anthology of work using the exciting different styles that they have learnt during the term.

We are pleased to be adding to the programme again next term. We are introducing a new club for our sixth formers - Eco Growth. Students will be able to learn about wildlife identification and discover ways to help the environment whilst gaining tips for a career in Ecology with experienced ecologist Katherine Holmes from Rediscover Nature.

Also on the programme will be a club to learn about building a computer led by our IT Technician, Will Chalstrey. He will teach students about the computer components, what they do and how to install them. On the sporting side we are introducing a tennis club in partnership with Excel Tennis just in time to brush up skills as the tennis season starts, and we are pleased to be able to offer Table Tennis again with a new coach, ex England player Tony West.

Mrs Bissett: Community Learning Coordinator

HOUSE NEWS: Hearts and Flowers



The CNS British Heart Foundation Appeal: In the run up to St Valentine's Day, students and staff raised funds to support The British Heart Foundation - a charity that funds medical research related to heart and circulatory diseases.

A week of fundraising started well with plenty of students and staff buying delicious cakes and biscuits from our Bake Sale. Each day a different house was responsible for supplying and selling the cakes. Well done to all the students who have helped and 'Thank you' to Miss Miles for organising these events.

Students were also invited to buy an artificial rose for a special person and the roses were delivered to tutor groups by a group of Sixth Form cupids!

Thank you to everyone who supported this campaign - we were delighted to be able to send over £1300 to the British Heart Foundation.

Red Nose Day: For this year's Red Nose Day we held a non-uniform day for which students were encouraged to wear something red. We also sold delicious cakes, muffins and biscuits.

We were pleased to be able to donate £870 to Comic Relief. Thank you to all the students and families who helped support our campaign and particularly to the students who baked and sold the cakes.

High Five Club: Each term we reward students who have achieved an outstanding number of House Points throughout the school year.

The top 5 students in each year group were invited to a special 'High Tea' in our new KS4 dining room where they were praised by senior members of staff.



Well done to all the students especially Olivia (8MJT) who is the first student to join the '1000 Points Club'.

Mr Robinson: Head of Engagement and Leadership

CAREERS NEWS: The Human Library



This year we had 30 guests from industry supporting our Human Library event for our Year 9 students in the school hall.

The 'Human Library' concept is to put students in front of experts in their field of work from many different sectors of business.

The students are able to quiz the guests about their roles, experience, employment, education / qualifications, and skills that are needed in their particular line of work.

The format for the event is a bit like speed dating where groups of students have four minutes to engage with each of the guests and learn about a whole range of careers, many of which they previously knew nothing about. Each of the employers bring along a prop to help the students work out the job being represented.

The following students were judged to have the best completed information worksheets for this event:

Susie Holiday 9MA

Isobel Pollard 9JHM

Martha Sim 9PRB

Marnie Conduct 9PRB

This year there was a great range of sectors that were represented including Engineering, Construction, NHS, Accountancy, Catering, Finance, Marketing, Publishing, Retail, Arboriculture, Web design, IT, Music Industry, PR, Business services and Forensic Science, to name but a few.

The feedback from students after the event has been very positive, with some students now reconsidering their options for GCSE's that take place in the next few months.

We would like to thank all of our guests who gave up their time to act as our Human Library and who, by doing so, have informed and inspired our students for their future.

**Mr Parker: Careers Lead and
Teacher of Design & Technology**

Chipping Norton Music Festival



On Monday 13th March, the school Brass Ensemble took part in the annual Chipping Norton Music Festival. They played 'Beatles for four', and gained some lovely positive feedback from the adjudicator. They were the only group in that category, and one of two ensembles that evening. It was also nice to see some ex-CNS students taking part in other categories.

On Wednesday, Concert Band took part in the festival under the 'Orchestras' class. Our adjudicator was very positive and mentioned our trombonist and drummers as standout performers, as well as being amazed at how well we played based on 20 minutes rehearsal once a week. They played 'Wellerman' and 'We don't talk about Bruno' from the film *Encanto* - and it was received so well, that we played it again!

Mr Brown: Head of Music

CHIPPING NORTON SCHOOL
NEEDS YOUR.....
PRE LOVED PROM DRESSES,
SUITS AND ACCESSORIES

Do you have any preloved formal wear such as dresses, suits and accessories that you would be happy to donate to school?

Any funds raised from the sale of these items will support school projects for our students.

Please take your donations to the school office or for more details please email Claire - cbudd@chippingnortonschool.org



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