



child of war
by Bella Brown (Year 10)

in you I have seen
ignorance, disregard
unwillingness to notice
while your guilt bubbles
just behind the eyes
lump in your throat
pain in your skull
pit in your stomach
always there
always aching

'If it doesn't concern me
I don't care"
your reply drips with
shallowness, ignorance
is blindness not bliss
scroll away from crying
child
plug your ears while
bombs erupt
forget about the video
burnt into your memory

like flesh burning under
rubble
a son, a daughter
a family like your own
are trapped in webs of
smoke
be thankful when you
eat
and when you rest
and when you live
that it is out of comfort
and not fear

at least you are not a
child of war
lulled to sleep by bombs
kissed goodbye by
mother fire
safety is a shaky dream
brought up on terror
raised on death
fed with gunfire
be thankful
this isn't you.

The 'Wonderfully Wicked' Addams Family

Our students and staff have been working tirelessly for months to produce this year's wonderfully wicked musical, *The Addams Family*, and what a joy this year's CNS production proved to be!

The musical, based on the famous macabre cartoons of Charles Addams and the later 1960s TV show, is a comic tale about Gomez's worst nightmare - the recognition that his daughter, Wednesday, has grown up and become engaged to a very normal boy. Worst still, the boyfriend's respectable and dull family are coming to dinner and Gomez has promised to keep the secret of Wednesday's engagement from his beloved wife, Morticia, until after the dinner party. What could possibly go wrong? Plenty!

The show was full of great humour, memorable songs and fantastic performances by all the main actors. The chorus of Ancestors supported the cast brilliantly and the students responsible for stage management, backstage crew, lighting, sound, and make up carried out their roles like professionals. It was a real team effort and the school is very proud of everyone involved in this remarkable achievement.

Thank you to all the parents and teachers who made this production such a success, especially Mrs Du Crôs, Mr Brown, Miss Miles, Mr Moss and Miss Johnston.



Weihnachtsmärkte: an enchanting seasonal spectacle



Germany's Christmas markets, or "Weihnachtsmärkte" are enchanting seasonal spectacles, and are a tradition dating back to the fifteenth century. These markets feature twinkling lights, festive decorations and stalls offering handcrafted toys and ornaments, spiced drinks, roasted chestnuts and gingerbread, as well as other hearty German dishes. The air resonates with carols as visitors immerse themselves in the magical ambiance, making Germany a quintessential destination during the festive season.

Our school trip to the Christmas Markets in Cologne, now in its tenth year, is a

journey filled with cultural immersion, festive enchantment, and the spirit of togetherness. Our students were transported into a winter wonderland as they explored the markets against the backdrop of the iconic Cologne Cathedral. We visited five of the six festive markets and students were able to put German learned in the classroom into practice, strengthen friendships and forge memories that will last far beyond time at school.

There were many highlights of the trip but ice skating at the outdoor ice rink, an evening at Aqualand, a water park featuring slides and a pool disco and laser show, and sampling Lindt chocolate at the Chocolate Museum were particularly popular with students.

Thank you to the staff – Mrs Cottrell, Mrs Huddleston and Miss Richmond - for accompanying the trip and to the students, who behaved impeccably whilst away. The trip, which is open to students in years 9-13, will run again next December and letters will go out in March for any students interested in taking part.

Mrs Thomas: Modern Foreign Languages Department

'A Christmas Carol' GCSE English trip

On Wednesday 13th December the English department took 64 wonderful Year 10 and Year 11 to see a festive production of *A Christmas Carol* at the spectacular Alexandra Palace in London.

The production (written by Mark Gatiss) starred Keith Allen in the famous role of Ebenezer Scrooge. It was a brilliant version of this classic seasonal tale which was enhanced by fabulous sound and lighting effects, projections, puppetry and holograms.

Despite a long coach journey, the students were impeccably behaved throughout the play, with one member of the public commenting: "What beautifully behaved teenagers. They're a credit to your school." It certainly put us all in the Christmas mood!

Ms Millar: Head of English



House News: House Matches



Well done to all the students who represented their tutor groups and house in our end of term House Rugby and Netball competitions. All the matches were highly competitive and played with great skill and sportsmanship.



SPORTS NEWS



Wembley Trip

On Friday 1st December 50 students and 5 staff made the return to Wembley for the first time since the pandemic. Due to the cold weather many layers were needed and we all set off from the bus park excited to watch the England Women's v Netherlands Nations league international. Unfortunately Friday traffic meant we missed the first few minutes of the game but once we settled into our seats we quickly saw two Netherlands goals to put them 2-0 up at half time and England facing a mountain to climb in the 2nd half.

After some refreshments (both the players and the

students) the second half started well for England and they quickly got back 2 goals to level the game. With the game seemingly heading for a draw Ella Toone popped up at the back post to send the 70,000 plus fans wild as England completed the comeback to win 3-2. A welcome return to Wembley for CNS and we hope it won't be so long next time before we get back.

Football update

The Under 13 County Cup competition is one of only two year groups that starts before Christmas as the winners feed into a national competition which takes place after Christmas. The Year 8 boys have had a wonderful series of games meaning they go into January's final against the winners of Warriner or St Birinus School.

In round 1, a home tie against a spirited Carterton side saw a great result of 10-0 to CNS. In round 2, a tough looking fixture away at last year's winners Cherwell (who we lost to 6-1 last year) brought out an excellent performance in the team to win 4-2. Round 3 was a tie against Cheney school at home. An excellent early performance meant CNS went 3-0 up and 4-1 up early in the second half but Cheney never gave up and the game went right down to the wire with CNS holding on for a 4-3 victory.

The semi final was against a strong Burford team. A couple of brilliant saves from goalkeeper Finley Ashworth looked like it was going to be 0-0 at half time until CNS popped up with a goal right on half time to lead 1-0. A rapid start to the second half meant it was clear CNS were on top and with some excellent football being played the second half meant CNS won 4-0 and a final at Oxford City FC awaits.

Sports Tour

Fifty very excited Year 9 and 10 students are looking forward to our next Sports Tour to Malta in October 2024 to play Netball and both girls' and boys' Football. We are looking for sponsorship of any aspect of this trip so if you can help please contact Head of PE, Mr Thomas on jthomas@chippingnortonschool.org.

Mr J Thomas: Head of PE



Alumni News: Lydia Harding



I spent my entire secondary education at CNS, starting Year 7 in 2012 and leaving the Sixth Form in 2019. Throughout this time, my career plan was always to become a teacher and I knew that university was the route for me upon leaving school.

After having visited Loughborough University on an open day, I quickly became sure it was the right place for me to continue my education. I made an initial application for Sport and Exercise Science and put all my eggs into the Loughborough basket by also having them be my insurance choice with another sports-based course. About halfway into Year 13, however, my passion for English grew and, after some research, I found out that Loughborough offered a combined degree in English and Sport Science. After a few phone calls with the admissions office - and having to write a new personal statement – I was given an offer which I gladly accepted.

Change also came during my third year. Unfortunately, my initial plan to study abroad was unable to happen due to the Covid-19 pandemic and so I instead chose to take a placement year in industry here in the UK, finding work as a Classroom Assistant at Magdalen College Junior School in Oxford. Here, I was able to utilise my existing skill set by supporting the delivery of both English and PE lessons on a daily basis, whilst also improving my versatility across other subjects and taking on responsibilities including marking books, doing break / lunch duties and

accompanying school trips. It was the most wonderful, rewarding but also eye-opening year, both proving that teaching is definitely the route I want to pursue whilst also prompting my decision to take a year out between my undergraduate degree and PGCE (teacher training) to experience life away from education for a while.

This July, I graduated from Loughborough with a first-class degree in English and Sport Science alongside the Diploma in Professional Studies gained from my placement year. And as I now take a temporary step away from education and have the time to reflect on my uni experience, I truly believe that it was made all the better for having the freedom to continue studying two subjects that I enjoyed. My studies remained varied and interesting throughout and I benefited hugely from being able to meet peers and lecturers alike from both sides of the course. During my time at CNS I was very much someone who thrived on having a plan and sticking to it, but my uni experience has allowed me to better embrace change and the potentially positive outcomes that can come as a result of things 'not going to plan'.

Lydia Harding

Reading Club News



It has been wonderful to see so many Year 7 students join our established weekly Reading Club this year. We are looking forward to a year of exciting events and activities including shadowing various book awards in 2024, Book Week, and taking part in the National Literacy Trust Reading Champions quiz.

Last month, Reading Club members attended the Oxfordshire Book Awards ceremony. Children across Oxfordshire voted for their favourite children's books published in 2022. Our students read the shortlisted secondary novels and were rewarded with a trip to see the winning and highly commended authors collect their trophies in Oxford. Our Reading Club are looking forward to reading the books shortlisted for OBA 2024 and discussing the merits of each of the fantastic books.

Ms Bovington: Librarian

Sixth Form News:



On 24 November, several sixth form students had the opportunity to visit FarmED - a local not-for-profit organisation that focuses on agro-ecological practices. The students embarked on an informative tour led by staff member Abi; she explained how the farm is using innovative practices to preserve fragile ecosystems. From rubbing soils to testing water pollution, the students learnt how to identify characteristics of healthy farmland. With the progress that had already been made on the farm since 2013, it was fascinating to observe the team's impact on the environment, as demonstrated by ecological surveys showing a massive increase in biodiversity.

After the captivating tour, the sixth formers met Caroline Lucas MP. Listening to Caroline's different perspectives gave the students an insight into challenges that conservationists face. She then discussed systematic changes that need to be made to reach affordable environmental goals. Finally, Caroline stated that FarmED is a template that can be replicated across the UK and is a window into future balancing of profits and sustainability.

Boru Blayney: 13SGD

Following on from an inspiring and heartfelt presentation by Jonathan, one of the volunteers at **The Anthony Nolan Trust**, we held a donor registration event on 27 November where sixth form students were given an opportunity to be added to the stem cell donor register. This involved a simple swab on the inside of the cheek to collect cell samples.

We were delighted that 34 sixth form students volunteered for this register.



House News: History Competition



The Year 7s were challenged by the History Department to make models of Motte and Bailey castles. Mrs Walker was very impressed with the standard of modelling and awarded first place jointly to Alana Avison and Faith Bloy. Second place was awarded to Niamh Boddy and third place to Amelia Mulley and Dexter Noble.



Family Focus Workshops



Our Family Focus workshops provide a fabulous opportunity for students from our local primary schools in Years 4,5 and 6, together with an adult partner, to try something new and have the chance to become familiar with CNS and some of the teachers. In October the Design Technology department hosted the very popular 'Build a Trebuchet' workshop culminating in a very competitive 'Treb Off' to see whose trebuchet could fire the furthest and with most accuracy. The following evening Mrs Du Cr s hosted a dance workshop with the theme of 'Dancing Hands & Feet' where child and adult choreographed their own dances, then to round the event off Mrs Kearns led a fascinating workshop about Pi and Probability.

Literary Quiz



Eight of the partnership primary schools brought a team of four of their most knowledgeable and well-read students to the Literary Quiz final in November.

The standard was incredibly high with all students showing so much enthusiasm for books and reading. This year the competition was closer than ever, with Great Rollright taking the cup back to their school trophy cabinet. Ms Bovington and Mrs Blundell were also very proud to be able to use the brand new interactive screen to display the scores.

Able, Interested and Motivated Workshops



Students are nominated by their primary school to attend the Able, Interested and Motivated workshops at CNS which are led by our very own teachers.

Mrs Drinkwater and the D&T department helped the students to make LED bracelets that light up when the popper is connected. Mr Brown and the Concert Band helped musicians who play an instrument to learn two pieces in an afternoon which they then all performed together to the parents and families of the students involved. Mrs Duffy, assisted by some Year 12 leaders, looked at the story of 'A Christmas Carol' and helped the pupils to understand Dickens' writing and then use it to create their own work. They especially enjoyed dressing up and being trapped by the paper chains! Mrs Dunn, again helped by her Year 12 artists, allowed the students at her workshop to get the tables messy with printing ink to create monoprints on a theme of The Circus.

The students really enjoy the opportunity to work with other like minded students from other schools, and make some new friends.

After-School Primary Maths Club



Mr Thrower and the maths team provided a very popular two week after school maths club for Years 4 and 5. This year they looked at how to make wonderful pieces of art using mathematical concepts such as symmetry, sequences, enlargement and stretches. The students were proud to produce such attractive patterns.

CNPS Sports Events



As always we have held many different sports events for the partnership schools over the term assisted by CNS sports leaders. These have included Dance workshops, a Football Tournament, a Boccia Festival, Cross country, Netball Tournament, Ball skills Festival and Sports Hall Athletics, and students have taken part from Year 3 to Year 6. Our young leaders from CNS have really enjoyed working as a team with the primary children.

ExtraTime Clubs at CNS



We have had a really good number of students taking part in the ExtraTime clubs this term, probably because there is so much to choose from!

We have had a five week trial for 'Introduction to Fashion' with the older students and are really pleased at how popular it has proved to be. Next term it will run for the full 10 weeks and we are opening a second session for the younger students too. We have also had some trial sessions in Table Tennis and are pleased to be offering this sport as an ExtraTime club again next term.

We are pleased to have some new coaches on the team too. We have welcomed Miss Fisher who is leading the Dance Crew club, Ryan Fitz-John from Excel Tennis, Cally Bond who has been covering both the Pottery club and the Art club and we are pleased that she will continue with both next term too, and Mustafa Raee is back to take the Badminton club again

GCSE/A-Level Art trip to Florence



From 6th to 9th October, we took a trip to Florence in Italy with a mixture of GCSE and 6th form students. The trip was amazing and the weather was a balmy 28 degrees.

Students visited incredible art galleries including the Uffizi Gallery, Galleria Academia, Pitti Palace and Boboli gardens, Capelle Medici and the incredible Duomo where we climbed over 700 steps to reach the top of the dome and see the stunning views of Tuscany. Some of the priceless artwork we saw included Michelangelo's David, Botticelli's Venus and lots of artwork by Leonardo Da Vinci.

A lot of gelato was consumed to keep us cool and we walked the famous Ponte Vecchio bridge.

All the students were amazing and it couldn't have gone better. It was a fantastic trip!

Mrs Corley: Head of Art

after a short absence.

The Cookery club continues to produce food that looks and smells incredible, and the Origami club has been making some really interesting models. The Karate session aimed at Girls is growing from strength to strength with even more girls attending now than the boys. The Squash club has been so popular this term that we have four sessions and it is producing some very strong players.

Unfortunately we are saying goodbye this term to two of our long-term coaches, Kate Gregory and Carol Harvey, and thank them very much for the inspiration they have given to so many of our students. We are very pleased that both trampolining and Art will continue with new coaches though. So, what will you try in the Spring Term?

Mrs Bissett: Community Learning Coordinator

Chipping Norton PTA Fundraising Report 2022-2023



Chipping Norton School has a small but very active PTA Committee which organises year-round fundraising initiatives to help pay for things that fall outside of the school's budget remit. We rely on the wider school community to make these initiatives a success; for example, buying raffle tickets at Christmas, baking a cake or taking part in the annual 'Stranger in the Window' local retailer competition.

Thanks to the grant application skills of Treasurer and PTA Secretary, Natasha Whitmill, one of the most effective fundraising activities involves submitting requests to the local council and the community funds of local businesses. Over the last year this has generated:
 £1820 in grants from Chipping Norton Town Council
 £5000 from Evenlode Investments
 £750 for rugby shirts from Owen Mumford
 £500 from the Co-op.

If you know of a local business that could be approached for additional funding, please let us know.

We would like to say 'Thank You' to everyone involved in these additional activities:
 2 tearoom takeovers at Chastleton House raised £930
 £600 from hosting the bar for school music events
 £2662 from the Christmas 2022 raffle
 £54 from 'Stranger in the Window' competition
 £1134 from donations via the Stripe portal.

All in all, the PTA has raised an impressive £13,450 for the school. The PTA has given £12,350 to numerous departments to buy kit and equipment including a new lighting desk, new textbooks for GCSE Computer Science, food processors, paints, modelling tools and scenery for our new Warhammer Club, a replacement laser cutter, audio visual equipment for the school library, themed fiction to support Health & Social Care students, plants for the Sixth Form area, Chromebooks, and even a cloned sapling of Sir Isaac Newton's original apple tree, 'The Gravity Tree'!

Thank you to everyone who supported the PTA over the past 12 months. It really does make a huge difference to the resources available and some of the experiences that the school can offer. Please do carry on supporting the PTA in any way you can.

If you would like to donate money to the PTA, a link to the PTA Donation page can be found here:
<https://chipping-norton.oxon.sch.uk/pta-donation/>

Tanya Harrington (Chair)



Tel: 01608 544998
 Web: www.chipping-norton.oxon.sch.uk
 Email: office@chippingnortonschool.org