



CNS Newsletter

At the end of Term 3, we raised £924 for the British Heart Foundation by holding a non-uniform day and selling roses in honour of Valentine's Day.

For Comic Relief, our House Captains organised a thrilling game show, bringing together our Senior Leadership Team, an array of House Captains and a willing panel of Year 7s. The quizmaster, Toby Ball, interrogated the senior leadership on questions from the Year 7 curriculum, which they thankfully answered correctly. We would like to thank everyone who took part.

We also held a bake sale, raising a wonderful £121 in our first cashless event. Thank you to all of our wonderful bakers.

Finally, we raised £773.40 on our non-school uniform day for Red Nose Day. Thank you to all the students, parents and carers who supported us.

House System: Everyone Belonging



So far this year, Stour are leading the house point challenge with a slight margin over Windrush. Glyme and Evenlode are in 3rd and 4th positions. The top five house point winners from all the houses were invited to a lovely cream tea hosted by Mrs De Bruyn and Mr Robinson to celebrate their achievement.

The library hosted a Year 7 Chess competition. Well done to Frankie (winner) and Benedict (runner up). We look forward to the Year 8 Chess competition next term.

The Maths department challenged students to take part in the Pi Day Art Gallery Challenge. Students were asked to imagine that they are owners of an art gallery and that they need to install some security cameras to protect the artwork from theft. The challenge was to determine the minimum number of cameras needed to protect the entire art gallery. The overall winners of the competition were Otto (Year 7), Jonathan (Year 8) and Cameron (Year 9).

Lots of students took part in an Easter Egg Hunt at the end of Term 4. Questions were posted around school and the first 5 students to hand the correct answers to the house captions received a chocolate Easter egg.

We look forward to some exciting competitions from Design and Technology, Business Studies and Sixth Form Sports.

The Business/ICT competition is a great opportunity for students to learn how to invest in the American stock market (unfortunately there isn't a version for the British market). The competition is currently up and running. Everyone starts with \$100,000 and by the end of the game, which for the school ends on the 28th June, the person with the highest return on investment wins. The website is Investopedia.com in the simulator section. The name of the game is Chipping Norton School and the password is CNSSCHOOL2024. May the best investor win!

Mr Robinson: Head of Student Engagement and Leadership

SIXTH FORM NEWS

Ellie Newby was given the opportunity to join the community selection panel for Chipping Norton's first ever local area coordinator.

The local area coordinator's role is to get to know local people and families (including those accessing services such as health and social care) and to help people regain and maintain control of their lives, while staying strong, contributing, and connected members of their own communities.

During the experience, Ellie was able to meet all the potential candidates who were running for the role and got to chat with them about the area and what they thought about it.

Ellie commented, "It was a great experience as I enjoyed meeting all the people involved, including the other people taking part as members of the community and hearing about their roles within Chipping Norton. It was also very interesting to hear everyone's different perspectives on what a coordinator would bring to the town as everyone had different ideas. Overall, it was a great experience and I am very glad I got to take part and represent the school at such an important event."

Library News: Book Week @ CNS



At the beginning of March we celebrated authors, illustrators, books and the joy of reading with a week of book-related activities at school.

During tutor time, students read extracts from a number of Sci-Fi books and debated the ethics of human colonisation of other planets. They also discussed why reading is beneficial and came up with a list of 'Reasons to Read'. There were lots of competitions and quizzes and the week was completed with a visit by award-winning author, Stewart Foster.

Stewart delivered talks to our Year 7 students and also to Year 6 pupils from the CNPS primary schools. He also hosted a Creative Writing Workshop for a group of Year 9 students. It was a great week for reading at CNS!

Ms Bovington: Librarian

Youth Speaks Competition



We are so proud of six of our fabulous students who took part in the Rotary Club's Youth Speaks competition this year.

At the regional heat the Year 12 team (Toby Ball, Florence Pearce and Ellie Knobel) debated the motion 'It is unethical for healthcare workers to strike' and beat Bloxham School and The Cooper School with their fantastic speeches to bring home the cup.

The Year 10 team took the last place on floor for their first ever debate and argued that 'All PE lessons in school should be mixed gender'. They completely smashed it in front of an audience of about 40 people, despite having to first sit through three very strong sixth form teams, who they were up against.

All the students were keen to participate from the outset and did all of the planning, writing and rehearsing themselves. They were so impressive, and such a credit to the school.

On Thursday 7th March our Year 12 debating team travelled to Reading to take part in the District Final of the Rotary Club Youth Speaks Debate Competition. There were five other schools and the standard was very high, with the topics being debated ranging from whether or not space exploration can be justified to the questionable benefits of Artificial Intelligence. Ellie, Florence and Toby performed exceptionally well again, but they were pipped to the post by Luckley House School and their debate - Is Goldilocks a villain? Well done to the team and many thanks to all the parents who travelled to Reading to support us.

Mrs Duffy: English Department



MFL News: Ukrainian Translation Workshop

The MFL department were delighted to host a Ukrainian translation workshop earlier this term. Funded by the Stephen Spender Trust - an organisation which aims to celebrate multilingualism and literary translation - we welcomed Ruth Ahmedzai Kemp to our school to run two workshops for our students.

Ruth is a freelance literary translator from Arabic, German and Russian into English, focusing on children's and young adult fiction. The students spent two hours with Ruth culminating in them translating a children's book from Ukrainian into English.

In the evening Ruth also ran a Family Focus event and some families from our primary schools were also able to try their hand at translating the same Ukrainian story into English. It was great to be able to share this with some of our future linguists and the translations produced during the day were fabulous.

Continuing with the translation theme, our students have once again been taking part in the Anthea Bell Prize for Young Translators, a national competition which sees students translate poems or fiction from German and French into English. The standard of entries was really high this year and the best five entries at each level have now been submitted to the University of Oxford's Queen's College Translation Exchange to represent the school in the South East regional competition.

German Level 1 (Year 7)

Sophie Moss and Jessica Ferguson
Poppy Lawrence and Bonnie Davis-Batchelor
Joshua Carter, Margot Cameron, Evie Arzberger

German Level 2 (Years 8 and 9)

Honour Nolan and Modge Knight
Orly Skinner
Ben Muller and Billy Rickard
Lily Johnson
Darcey Davis-Batchelor and Evie Southall

French Level 1 (Year 7)

Ingrid Clayson Ward, Evie Arzberger, Thomas James
Nellie Cameron, Adaline Mitchener

French Level 2 (Year 8 and 9)

Eva Townsend, Anna Drysdale, Enya Baxter
Anushka Pednekar, Ananya Pednekar

French Level 3 (Year 10 and 11)

Joe Walsh and James Price
Lizzie Denby
Oliver Henderson and Henry Roberts Gant
Niamh Hewitt-Gray

Good luck everyone!

Women in Astronomy workshop



On 7th March Mr Turvey and Mrs Craig took 11 students to Oxford's History of Science Museum for a 'Women in Astronomy' event, showcasing the work of previous astronomers and also introducing the current University of Oxford's women astronomers who led workshops on programming and telescopes.

Emily in Year 10 commented:

"The trip was great! First we spent some time learning about the amazing original women in astronomy and how they shaped the sector today. Then we looked at spectroscopes in the museum and learnt about the different infrared spectrum. We also went up into one of the domes with a telescope and learnt about all the different types and how they all work. It was very interesting and I learnt a lot of stuff I never knew about them.

Afterwards we did some tricky programming trying to figure out the route the telescopes would take on the maps. The organizers were amazing at trying to help us and it was exciting seeing that we could actually do something so complicated. Finally we had a Q&A with some amazing women who are currently studying or working at Oxford University in the astronomy sector. This was my favourite part as it was so inspiring to see how they felt and how encouraging they were towards us. Overall the trip was amazing and I'm so lucky to have gone on it."

Our students were superb and no doubt in the years to come will be leading some of the very workshops we attended!

Mr Turvey: Physics

If you feel inspired to try your hand at some creative poetry translation, the Stephen Spender Prize 2024 opens on 1 May. The prize is the leading annual prize for poetry in translation, with categories for pupils, teachers and individual young people in the UK and Ireland, as well as an open category for adults. Simply translate into English any poem from any language to win publication and prizes. <https://www.stephen-spender.org/stephen-spender-prize/>

Miss Richmond: MFL Teacher

ALUMNI NEWS: Katie Blundell, forging a career in Engineering

I have lived and studied in Chipping Norton all my life. We looked at other schools both for primary and secondary education but felt that the Chipping Norton schools would offer a great education.

I have always preferred Maths and Science over English and my options reflected that in Year 9. Originally, I took Art and D&T with a view to doing Architecture but this soon changed after my work experience placement. I had a really interesting week at BMW Mini which a friend of the family helped arrange. I visited most departments in the Oxford plant and came out with a much stronger idea of what I wanted to do in the future. Engineering was my goal with a preference for Mechanical Engineering. My A level options (Maths, Further Maths, Physics and D&T) reflected this career choice.

Due to Covid restrictions, my university search for courses was all on-line as were presentations, walk throughs and student interviews on student life. The first time I entered Southampton University was Fresher's Week. By this time, I had been tested for dyslexia and knew exactly why reading and spelling weren't my strong point.

My course, Mechanical Engineering, originally had 250 students in the first year and only 15 girls! I played for one of the Hockey teams, joined the climbing club and attended SSAGO (Student Scouts and Guides Organization).

For my first-year accommodation I had one year in halls, sharing a kitchen with a trainee midwife, marine biologist and a fellow scout doing Computer Science; 8 of us in total. It's a good way to get to know people outside of your own course. In my second year I lived much closer to campus, so there was no need to buy a bus pass,



which is free in the first year.

Scouting has played a massive part of my life so far. I have enjoyed endless camps, hikes, climbing and much more. The friendships I have from Scouting are lifelong ones. Through Scouting I have visited the USA, Korea, Norway and Bosnia several times. I am off to Windsor in April for my Queen's Scout Award celebration. Scouting doesn't stop at 18 so when at university I am leader at the local Scouts and have lots of socials with SSAGO. This year I am back living in Chipping Norton for a work placement, so I help lead the local Explorers, Grimsby Scouts and have a role as North Oxfordshire Youth Commissioner for the county.

This year, I have a placement/internship with a company called YASA in Yarnton (they do have other sites in Bicester and Welshpool which I have visited.) They produce axial flux technology motors that are up to 4x more powerful than those being currently used in electric vehicles on the road today, whilst being 50% smaller and lighter. My role is testing the motors before the next phase. It is quite hands-on. I have loved it, it's really interesting work, my colleagues all make me feel welcome and are happy to help train me in the necessary procedures.

Next year I will be back to Southampton for my final year. I have a house share with friends very close to campus again. I am hoping to help out at the local scouts (if they will have me) and continue to climb with the local club. I will also be applying for jobs for after I have completed my degree. Ideally, I would like to work in Formula 1 but definitely in the automotive industry. It is quite a competitive world but now I have a bit more experience to add to my CV.



SPORTS NEWS: U12 Oxfordshire Netball Champions 2024

Girls continue to represent the school in Netball and this term we have had great matches against Kingham School and Cotswold School. Our U12 team recently competed in the West Oxfordshire competition at Marlborough School and threw, ran and jumped incredibly well to finish the event in 1st place! On March 21st the team represented West Oxfordshire at the Oxfordshire School Games Finals at Oxsrad. They played teams from other Oxfordshire districts. The first game against Rye St. Antony was a close 3-2 win but after nerves were settled they went on to play North Oxford Academy and Fitzharry's taking confident and convincing wins making them unbeaten all season.



Almost 150 boys have represented the school in football this year and all should be very proud of their efforts. Our Year 8 Boys' Football team recently played St Birinus in the County Cup Final at Oxford City. The score was 0-0 at half time and both teams would have felt they had chances to go in front. Midway through the second half St Birinus took the lead but CNS didn't give up and with 15 minutes to go, we drew level via a well taken left foot shot from Izzy Hunt. With the game seemingly drifting into extra time St Birinus pulled ahead with a goal scored from a free kick. With only 2 minutes left CNS threw everything forward and Izzy popped up unmarked in the box and was very unlucky to see her shot hit the post and roll away from the goal line. Overall, the team had a tremendous run in the cup and we are very proud of their success.

In March, all year groups have had notable results in particular the U12 boys 5-a-side team who won the Vale and District competition at Faringdon School recently. Our U16 team is still in the cup competition but our U19 team lost to Warriner School recently in a high-quality game, 9-8 on penalties! There are still more matches to go against Kingham and Burford School and we will also take part in the league play offs with our opposition still to be decided.

Girls' football continues to go from strength to strength with teams of all age groups playing regular fixtures. At the start of the year, our Under 13 Girls' Football team finished 3rd in the West Oxon tournament. Our U15 team recently lost in the 3rd round of the National Competition to a strong Chenderit team and both our U12 and U13 teams continue to play really well and grow together as a team.

At the end of February, we hosted Rendcomb School in our first ever home lacrosse fixture. It was an excellent occasion with CNS unlucky to lose 7-6 at the final whistle—an excellent result from a very talented team of players.



We have introduced some of our students to bowls by hosting a series of taster sessions at school. We were delighted to hear that Freddie Hergt and George Crane –Lupton (junior players at Charlbury Bowls Club) had been selected to play for England under 21s. We wish them every success.

Tahlia Davidson-Wright in Year 12 competed as part of Team GB at the 2024 Ice Hockey World Championship Division II in The Netherlands in January. Team GB won Silver, winning 5 out of 6 matches and narrowly losing out on Gold to China (4-2). Well Done, Tahlia - we are very proud of your achievements.

Mr Thomas: Head of PE

CNPS News: Enriching Young Lives

In January we were pleased to welcome the ten partnership primary schools to a swimming gala run in collaboration with 4 Shires Swimming Club. The standard was very high with many pupils being invited to trial for the club. Kingham came out on top in the big schools and Great Tew in the small schools.

We also hosted a hockey tournament on the AstroTurf for the first time; Great Tew again won the small schools, with Holy Trinity winning the girls in the big schools and Hook Norton the boys. We also welcomed the Year 4s to a Ball Skills festival at the end of Term 3. Thank you to the Year 12 sports leaders who helped with these events.



During Term 4, the Year 1s have their first chance to visit CNS to take part in a Dance Festival led by the Year 12 Leaders. They all had so much fun! We then had two Multi-skills festivals for Years 2 and 3; two very active afternoons led brilliantly by the Year 12 sports leaders. Well done to all the Year 12 sports leaders this year who have all worked so hard towards their qualification and given our primary school pupils such great opportunities.



We ran three Family Focus workshops in February in Ukrainian, Astronomy and Drama for pupils and

parents to learn together. Many thanks to the Stephen Spender Trust who funded the language workshops, to CNAAG (along with CNS teachers Mr Turvey and Dr Hall) for enlightening our young astronomers (even without the weather being on our side) and to Mr Moss from CNS for the Drama.



The Science department also put on a 3-week after school club to teach our budding scientists about 'Life on Mars' which gave the pupils a chance to use exciting secondary equipment such as Bunsen burners and microscopes. Well done to all those nominated by their school to attend the Able, Interested & Motivated workshops this term, which have included Drama & PE.



All ten of the Partnership Primary schools visited our Art department in early March to take part in a pottery workshop. Thanks to the generous donation by Cotswold Arts Through Schools we were able to give all Year 4s an exciting experience of working with clay. During the couple of hours that they were here they made two types of pot; a pinch pot and a coil pot. These workshops were led by CNS pottery and art coach Cally Bond, supported by other local artists.



For World Book Day this year Ms Bovington, our school librarian, arranged for our Partnership primary Year 6s to visit our lecture theatre to have a talk from the author Stewart Foster. He was fascinating and the children were very inspired.

Ms Bovington also organised for some of our students to film themselves reading a picture book for their old primary school which was sent to the school along with a copy of the book for their library to coincide with World Book Day.

We really appreciate the effort involved and are grateful to the Co Op for helping to fund these events.

Extratime

Three new coaches join our team



We are very pleased to welcome three new coaches to our ExtraTime team.

Cally Bond joins us on a permanent basis. She has taken over the Art club and is also still covering the Pottery club this term. Rod Haddrell is running a Table Tennis club which we are very pleased to be able to offer again in school, and Heather Delaney has started an 'Introduction to Fashion' club which is proving to be very popular.

Mrs Bissett: Community Learning Coordinator

"All the World's a Stage"



In mid January a group of Year 7 students, accompanied by Mrs Du Crôs, Mr Moss and Miss Fisher, visited Chipping Norton Theatre to take part in an exciting and inspirational Pantomime workshop. The workshop was led by professionals from the theatre and the students learned about the conventions of the theatrical style, explored the characters and created a scene using scripts from previous Chipping Norton Theatre pantomimes. Students had the chance to work with industry professionals with performance experience who they learned a lot from, using what they learned to portray characters like Cinderella, Buttons and The Ugly Sisters - they even had the chance to try on costumes and use Panto props in their own mini performances.

After lunch, the Year 7s were able to watch a matinee performance of the Theatre's brilliant Latin American take of the classic fairy tale, *Cinderella*. The pantomime was a riot of colour, music and fun from the start and our students had a wonderful time.

A smaller group of students from Year 7 also enjoyed an amazing Shakespeare Day at Broughton Castle. They took part in workshops delivered by professional actors from the RSC and explored the main themes and plot of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'.

We are very grateful to Banbury's MP Victoria Prentice and to High Sheriff of Oxfordshire Sally Scott for organising this brilliant event and to the Fiennes family for allowing their historic home to be used.



Music! Music! Music!



In February the Music Department once again hosted two memorable music concerts; Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 Solo Performance evenings.

The talent on show was obvious and drew the compliments of the audience and colleagues. The skill and confidence to play in public reflected so well on the perseverance and application of the students, but also Mr Brown and Miss Johnston.

At the end of this term our musicians entertained family and friends at the annual Spring Concert. Once again there was plenty of talent on show, with accomplished solo and group performances. It was wonderful to see our new Folk Group (led by Dr Hall and Miss Johnston) confidently perform for the very first time.

Special thanks must be given to Archie Bagnall, Theo Gater, Harvey McCallum, Henry James and Ben Price for volunteering and doing an incredible job with the sound and lighting.

The Flute Ensemble visited the Chipping Norton Music Festival this year. They played 'Flute Cha Cha' by Mike Walton, gaining a 'Distinction' for their performance from the adjudicator and a certificate as well. Many students took part in the festival in an individual capacity, and as part of groups, such as LAMDA.

The Music Department was delighted to host a free singing workshop to help promote the formation of the new Cotswold Youth Choir. Students from Years 7-9 enjoyed learning a selection of a cappella songs from Ben and Rowena. This new exciting choir for ages 10-18 will be take place in the Town Hall every Wednesday (5:30 to 7pm) from April 17th. For more details: <https://www.cotswoldyouthchoir.org.uk/>

Careers News : The Human Library



This year we had 35 guests from 23 companies 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.

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

The feedback from students after the event has been very positive, with some students now reconsidering their options for GCSEs 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



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