



Our annual trip to the Christmas markets in Cologne this year coincided with Storm Darragh, which made for an interesting journey across the English Channel on the ferry. However, this did not dampen the excitement and enthusiasm of the 55 students and staff who travelled to Germany and, once again, we had a wonderful time soaking up the atmosphere of this centuries old traditional Christmas event.

German Christmas markets, or Weihnachtsmärkte, date back to the late Middle Ages, with origins in Dresden's Striezelmarkt (1434) and Nuremberg's Christkindlesmarkt (1530). Initially, they provided townspeople with winter supplies, but over the centuries they have evolved into festive gatherings. Today, these markets are magical celebrations of the Christmas spirit, featuring wooden stalls adorned with lights, selling handcrafted ornaments, toys, and seasonal treats like Lebkuchen (gingerbread) and Glühwein or Kinderpunsch (mulled wine or non-alcoholic mulled wine). Beautifully decorated Christmas trees and twinkling lights add to the charm. Each year, they draw millions

It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas!



of visitors to experience the heart-warming blend of history and holiday cheer.

We started our trip at the cathedral Christmas market – the backdrop being 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 the largest, most artistically significant of the Middle Ages. We climbed the North tower - the second highest building in Cologne at 516 feet before heading to the old town market.

Our outdoor ice-skating visit had to be slightly postponed due to Storm Darragh but in the meantime we enjoyed the chocolate fountain at the Lindt chocolate museum. Ice skating over, we headed to Aqualand for fun in the swimming pool and on the many slides and whirlpools.

On our final day, we enjoyed the ferris wheel at the harbour Christmas market before setting off for home, exhausted but happy.

Thank you to the staff Mrs Cottrell, Mrs Huddleston, Miss Johnston and Miss Richmond for accompanying the trip and to the 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

Trips and Visits: *A Christmas Carol*, The Highlights of Amsterdam and *Paddington in Peru!*



On the 6th of November, over 40 Year 12 and Y13 students attended a wonderful production of *Othello* at the RSC. The students loved the performance, which showcased some really innovative stagecraft techniques that brought the tragedy to life. The students behaved maturely, and were a credit to the school.

It's becoming an annual thing to take our KS4 students to see *A Christmas Carol* at the theatre - not only is it a really festive trip to run, but Dickens' classic is one of our set texts for the Literature GCSE, and so experiencing the novel dramatised on stage is an excellent enrichment opportunity for our students. This year, we went to the Birmingham Rep to see Mark Gatiss's acclaimed re-telling, which was full of festive, Dickensian and spine-tingling effects. The power of a good story is that it never fails to please, no matter how many times you hear it, and this was certainly true of this production which kept the audience hooked whilst retaining the central messages of compassion and social responsibility, which never seem to become any less relevant to us today.

In October a group of 20 students from Years 11, 12 and 13 went on the **Art Trip** to visit the beautiful city of Amsterdam in the Netherlands.

This was an amazing trip and the students and staff had a fabulous time. We visited some of the wonderful galleries that the city has to offer such as the Rijksmuseum, the Stedelijk Museum and the Van Gogh Museum. There was an opportunity to see the city by boat on a picturesque canal cruise which allowed us to absorb the atmosphere and enjoy the views.

There is an abundance of culture and history in the city. We went to the Jewish Quarter and visited the National Holocaust Museum and the Portuguese Synagogue which was thought provoking for many of us. Our students were described by the staff at these venues as knowledgeable and respectful.

Students had time in the city to enjoy it. Some



shopped, visiting thrift stores, small boutiques and larger chains. Some hired bikes to travel the traditional way as many of the locals do. We had the opportunity to be able to try some of the traditional Dutch food that the city has to offer such as savoury pancakes, stroopwafel, cheese, frikandel and apple pie.

It was a very successful and extremely valuable trip for all who went, being able to experience a different city and culture. The students were an absolute delight and were impeccably behaved throughout. We would also like to thank Miss Dunn and Mrs Brocklebank for accompanying the trip and giving up their weekend to do this.

The Year 7 students had a fantastic reward trip to The Living Room Cinema last week to see *Paddington in Peru*. The students were selected for showing excellent courage and curiosity in their learning.

Thanks to local charity Thrive for helping to cover the costs of this trip.

Mrs Duffy: Assistant Head of English

Mrs James: Head of Art

Mrs Faulkner: Head of Transition



SPORTS NEWS: Sports tour to Malta and Lots of Sporting Successes

On Friday 25th October 53 students and 5 staff made the very early 6.30am start from Chipping Norton to Malta for our latest Sports Tour. Under strict instructions to only bring small bags you would be forgiven for thinking some students were planning to stay there for the winter to escape the British weather given the size of the bags they actually brought! A 2.5 hour delay at Heathrow didn't dampen their spirits and armed with Haribo and chocolate we eventually made our way onto the plane for our 3 hour journey.

The five day trip was excellent and one we know all staff and students thoroughly enjoyed. Two wins out of two for the boys football teams while both the girls football and netball teams also won their first matches. The trip included a guided tour of the capital city Valletta, a boat cruise to Comino Island and the Blue Lagoon, laser tag, ten pin bowling and the trip was finished off with a visit to the Point shopping mall and a chance to buy presents for those back home. The weather was excellent, the food was great, the students behaved impeccably and we were very proud of each and everyone of them.

Well done to all those who took part and a huge thanks to the staff for giving up part of their half term. As students would say 'Up the Chip' !! Keep an eye out for details of our next tour during October 2026 for those students currently in Years 8 and 9.

On Saturday 14th September, 46 students and 5 staff members once again made the journey to Twickenham Stadium to watch the Red Roses v New Zealand international. On a glorious sunny day the conditions were excellent for running rugby with England eventually overcoming New Zealand scoring 4 tries with the score of 24-12 in front of over 41,000 fans! Well done to all students who were a credit to the school.

Despite the variable weather for a lot of Term 2 we have managed to give plenty of opportunities to students to represent the school in sporting fixtures!

Rugby

Our Year 7 Rugby team have had their first taste of contact rugby with an excellent win against Kingham School and a narrow loss against a strong Wood Green School team.

Our Year 8 team have had an excellent season in 13-a-side rugby playing 6 games with 5 wins and a loss only against Shipston School in their first game back in September!

Our Year 9 team continued their excellent form from last year with 5 wins out of 6 with the most notable being scoring over 50 points in their win over Burford School

Senior rugby started after half term with fantastic wins against Wood Green and Chipping Camden schools and a narrow loss against a very



physical Lord Williams team. They look forward to their end of season tournament at Stow RFC against local schools on the evening of Friday 7th February.

Football

Some year groups started the football cup competitions early. The Year 10/11 girls' team lost to a very strong Didcot Girls School in the County Cup Semi Final recently. The Year 8 boys are still in the County Plate competition after a nervous 7-6 win on penalties over Blessed George Napier School recently.

Netball Updates

Well over 50 girls have represented the school in netball this term. The Year 8 team won the West Oxfordshire tournament back in October and it has been great to see the attitude and determination the girls have displayed.

Mr Thomas: Head of PE

House News: Encouraging Courageous, Compassionate, Creative and Curious Hearts & Minds



Team Tasking

This year, we have been doing some tasks in teams! As part of the Taskmaster Education programme, students at Chipping Norton School are competing in teams for a variety of different tasks.

The first two terms tasks for 'Using only things found outside, recreate an international landmark' and 'have the most fun'. We have had some brilliant submissions for both so far. Team Tasking 1's winners were Noah and Toby (7LP) with 'Mount Spudsmore'. We look forward to awarding Term 2's prizes in the near future!

Ambassador Programme Launch

After two very successful years of the Ambassador Programme, we are proud to have launched it once again. The ambassadors are Year 12 and 13 students who take part in a mentoring programme with students from Years 7, 8 and 9. They are paired with a student and will meet once a fortnight to read, talk and enjoy time together. We look forward to many wonderful mornings with the sixth form students sharing their time.

New House Captains

We have had four wonderful Year 12s join the House Captain team. Poppy Driver, Felix Keeling and Albie Lawson - who have been students at the school since Year 7 - as well as Layla Williams - who joined us this year! They will be supporting Holly Carter, Toby Ball, Jonty Duffy and Orla McArdle with raising money for charity, leading the student council and supporting the school towards our shared goals.

Shoebox Appeal

This term, we collected shoeboxes for families for the charity Teams4U. The shoeboxes are going to be given to vulnerable children in Eastern Europe and contain basic necessities alongside fun Christmas gifts. Students around the school made, wrapped and donated over 60 shoeboxes.

A massive thank you to everyone who took up the time to create a shoebox for these families.

Christmas Jumper Day at CNS

Towards the end of term, we asked families to donate Christmas jumpers to help us raise funds for Aspire, a local charity which supports vulnerable people with their housing and employment needs. The sale of the jumpers and non-uniform day, when students and staff were encouraged to wear something festive, raised almost £900 for this worthy cause.

Alongside our annual Christmas jumper day, students and staff took to the streets to go carolling to raise money for Aspire. We are grateful to the Coop and town council for letting us use Withers Court and its brilliant free piano to sing a few joyful songs to the Christmas crowds in Chipping Norton.



House News (contd.)

Classrooms to Care Homes

This year saw our 4th annual 'Classrooms to Care Homes' initiative take place. Over the years, we have written and delivered more than 1000 Christmas postcards to care home residents in our community. All through the year, but especially in the depths of winters, we have made a commitment to reach out to others in our community with some festive cheer.

Students in every tutor group design and write their own postcards to care home residents. Some students submit their postcards to the yearly design competition run by the Character Education department and judged by the House Captains. This year, Evie Maunders (11MA) won for her 3d card with designs that could be seen from the inside and outside. A magnificent way to finish out the year.



Runners Up: Sam Fletcher (9CLR), Lizzie Motley (9CLR) and Velvet Orchard (10TW)

Miss Skill: Head of Character Education & PSHCE
Holly Carter: 13LME

Sixth Form News: Compassion in Action and Festive Fun



Chipping Norton School Sixth Form were once again delighted to welcome the Anthony Nolan Trust to school for their annual Donor Recruitment Event.

Anthony Nolan Trust is the charity that makes lifesaving connections between patients in need and incredible strangers ready to donate their stem cells.

This year 40 of our sixth formers signed up for the Stem Cell register.

In the final week of term, the Sixth Form got their skates on for a day of festive fun in Oxford City Centre. The day began with Ice Skating at Oxford Ice Rink. Having collected their skates, the students approached the ice with just the right amount of trepidation, the majority gripping the sides as they inched their way round. We enjoyed seeing how supportive the students were of one another and it wasn't long before they were whisking their way around.

The students then spent lunchtime in and around the Westgate Shopping Centre, purchasing presents for, amongst other things, the Sixth Form Secret Santa. At least one lucky student will soon be receiving a pink plastic ukulele from Primark.

Our afternoon ended with a trip to the Junkyard Golf - a crazy golf course in the basement of the Westgate. Much fun was had completing the courses with varying degrees of success - with Jonty Duffy securing first place on the Pablo Course and Kiera Williams first place on the course they call Gary. At the time of writing, it is unclear which tutor group 'won' the group competition.

For those travelling in and out of Oxford, the journey time for us was clear when we left just after 6pm. For those trying to pick up one of our very many happy sixth formers, the car park was jam packed. A great day was had by all - the trip was a perfect way for us to celebrate our sixth formers many great successes of this term.

Mrs Davison: Assistant Head of Sixth Form
Mr Gent: Deputy Head

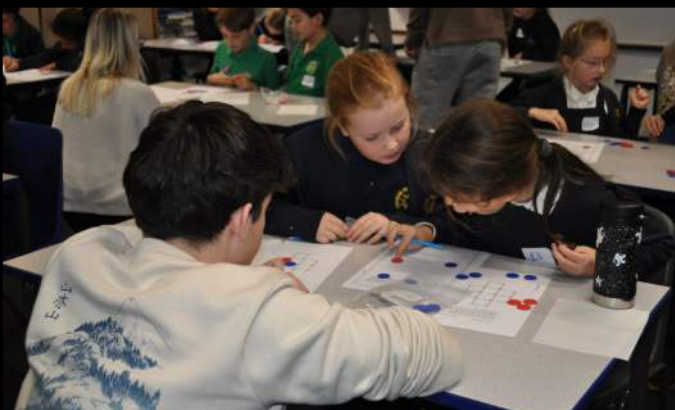
Family Focus Workshops



We are very pleased to host Family Focus workshop weeks for Years 4, 5 & 6 pupils with an adult three times a year. This allows students and their parents to come to CNS to learn something new and have some fun together.

In October the workshops available to choose from were Dance with Mrs Du Cr s, Netball with Mrs Fisher and Maths with Mrs Kearns and some families chose to come to all three! They made up dance routines on a theme of Heroes and Villains, learnt and practiced new netball skills and solved maths problems and learnt about the relationship between maths and trees! Most importantly they spent valuable time together having fun!

After-school Primary Maths Club



Unfortunately the Maths Club was a little scuppered by the unexpected snow this time around meaning that one of the sessions had to be cancelled, despite trying long and hard to find an alternative date in the very busy calendar. Mr Thrower and the maths team were still able to deliver one of the two sessions and the students enjoyed solving maths problems and working in teams to play maths games.

Literary Quiz



Seven of the partnership primary schools attended the Literary Quiz final in December. They were welcomed to the newly renovated library space by Ms Bovington and Mrs Blundell to compete for the trophy. They eagerly answered questions on a wide variety of topics, and showed great teamwork and knowledge.

This year we found ourselves in a tie-breaker for first place which went back and forth, very tightly contested, with Kingham taking back the trophy this time around. Many thanks to Ms Bovington, who also kindly provided books for the winners to take home and bookmarks for all.

Able, Interested and Motivated Workshop



The ten partnership primary schools are invited to nominate Able, Interested & Motivated students to attend workshops at CNS in their best subjects over the year. During the Autumn term we have held four subject workshops.

Mr Newton and the D&T team helped pupils to make trebuchets, which they used to compete to throw a block the furthest. Mr Brown and the concert band gave talented musicians from the primaries a chance to work



in an ensemble situation, learning two new pieces to perform to their families at the end of the afternoon.

Mrs Duffy led a fun workshop looking at the storyline and the characters from *The Tempest* and Mrs Dunn guided our budding artists through producing a piece of wildlife art in the style of Marc Allante, teaching blending and dripping techniques using ink.

All students proudly took home a certificate after having a great experience meeting new friends who are also interested in their favourite subjects.

Sports Leaders and the CNPS Sports Events



The Year 12 Sports Leaders have enjoyed preparing for and hosting the variety of sports events that are on offer to the partnership primary schools.

The three groups of Sports leaders have worked on different sports events. They have created two different dance workshops which they then carried out in Holy Trinity and St. Mary's primary schools with their Year 3 pupils, and assisted in the festivals and tournaments held at CNS, this term including football, cross country, boccia, netball, sports hall athletics and ball skills. This gives the sports leaders a great opportunity to learn some leadership skills while the primary schools have a fantastic time at the festivals and tournaments.

Extra Time Clubs at CNS



CNS students have had some great Extra Time opportunities this term with a vast array of clubs to choose from after school.

We have lots of sports clubs run by qualified coaches including tennis, trampolining, Teen Fitness Training, Squash, Hockey, Table-Tennis, Karate & Self-Protection, and Orienteering. We also have lots of enrichment clubs run by experienced coaches such as Introduction to Fashion, Art, LAMDA, Cookery, Origami, Young Writers, Digital Music Production and Pottery.

We are pleased to be introducing a new club next term - Devising Drama - which will be run by our very own Mr Moss. Students will workshop using the styles of different drama practitioners, and a variety of stimuli to create original and unique performances.

Sadly, we are saying goodbye to Cally Bond who has been coaching the pottery and art clubs this year, and a temporary goodbye to the Fashion coach, Heather Delaney.

Taking part in Extra Curricular activities is a fantastic extension to the school day. Students can learn skills outside the main curriculum whilst spending time with their friends. And clubs are very reasonably priced, with qualified coaches. So, what will you try in the spring Term? Booking for the ExtraTime clubs, and payment, is now done on MCAS.

Mrs Bissett: Community Learning Coordinator

We are always on the look out for new and interesting opportunities for our ExtraTime programme so please let us know if you would like to run a club at CNS. We are particularly looking for new coaches for art, pottery and badminton at the moment.

Year 7 History House Competition



Over the past several weeks, Year 7 has been completing the annual History House Competition, a highlight of the department's calendar. Their challenge: to build a model Motte and Bailey castle using their knowledge from our lessons on Norman castles.

This year saw a record number of entries and we have been blown away by the standard of the models. It took the History department a very long time to settle on the winners, but we are delighted to announce the top three(ish):

1. Amelie Sainvet (7AHW)
2. Faith Salmon (7CET) / Henry Newnham (7LP)
3. Joe Stamp (7CRW) / Juno Merry (7CET).

Congratulations to all of the students that took part. They can look forward to many positive postcards and house points in recognition of their fabulous efforts!

Miss Stokes: History Department

Year 7 Chess Champions



The Year 7s were invited to take part in the annual Chess Competition. The first round matches were played over a number of weeks. The exciting final was keenly played out by Isaac and James in the last few days of term, with Isaac winning the match. Congratulations to all the contestants.

Next term, Year 8 will be given the opportunity to see who is their chess champion.

Drama Workshop with OSD



Mr Moss organised a visit from The Oxford School of Drama (OSD) for our Year 10 and Year 13 students. The students watched an adaptation of *Orpheus and Eurydice* by their second-year students and then participated in an hour-long workshop that focussed on mimicking animal movements which led to the visitors being highly impressed and left in hysterics. More importantly, it left a number of students more certain that they wanted to pursue a career in the performing arts and apply to OSD. Thank you to Mr Moss for arranging such an inspirational workshop.



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