



CNS Newsletter

D of E at CNS

This year we have record numbers of students doing the award at all three levels, with 110 students working on their bronze award, 49 doing silver and 20 doing gold.

The students are working on their volunteering, physical and skill sections outside of school and the activities they have chosen include cooking, swimming, orienteering, helping with primary school clubs, coaching younger year sports teams, art, drama and citizen science projects to name a few.

They are now preparing for their expeditions and as part of their training for this the bronze students are doing first aid training this week before we go off on our expeditions next term.

If you are in year 8, 9 or 11 and are interested in doing a DofE award next year, watch out for information in September!

Miss Richmond:
D of E Lead



Wendy & Peter Pan: Neverland comes to CNS

It was a genuine pleasure to see so many families and friends enjoy this year's stage production of *Wendy & Peter Pan*. We are immensely grateful to Mr Moss for his dedication, generously giving of his time over countless evenings of rehearsals to ensure that all the students enjoyed a truly wonderful experience, culminating in such an impressive production. Through a delightful blend of humour and imagination, we were treated to a truly beautiful performance, by turns amusing and whimsical, and then incredibly moving and poignant.

Joseph Daymond, as Peter Pan, and Megan Benney and Isla Hayes, as Wendy, were perfectly cast, delivering commanding central performances. Junior O'Callaghan, in the role of Mr Darling, was simply hilarious; his comic timing and stage presence were quite exceptional. Lizzie Motley and Lucille Blake, as his wife, ensured that their on-stage relationship was as amusing and touching as in the original book and films. The Darling children, the Lost Boys, and pirates filled the stage, each contributing to the captivating illusion of peering into a genuine fantasy world.

My final commendations, however, must go to Morgan Houlton, who played Smee, and Harri Houzet, whose portrayal of Captain James Hook was as villainous as any I have ever witnessed. Their on-stage interaction, combining both loathing and devotion, was wonderfully humorous.

I know that Mr. Moss would be disappointed if I did not also acknowledge the invaluable contributions of the other staff members involved in the production. These include Mrs Du Crôs, Mr Brown, Mrs Faulkner, Miss Richmond, Miss Johnston, Mr Hood, and Mr Gent. We are also indebted to two former students, Emily Cutter, for her support during rehearsals, and Toby Jones, for his technical expertise.

Mr Doherty: Headteacher



Book Week 2025



Every March we hold a week of book activities to tie in with World Book Day. During tutor time students explored all the positive reasons to read, discussed the use of books as a material for art installations, and listened to an interview with book blogger, Simon Thomas. Teachers shared readings from some of their favourite books, students took part in competitions to identify books from emoji and object clues and entered a 'My favourite book' raffle.

Our brilliant reading club filmed themselves reading a collection of picture books to share with younger students from the CNPS primary schools and also raised £60 for Read for Good, a charity that supplies books and storytellers for children in UK hospitals, by selling homemade cakes.

At the end of the week, we were delighted to host talks and creative writing workshops with award-winning author, Jo Cotterill. Jo spoke about her writing processes and our students loved having a go at using her techniques to create their own stories. Great fun was had by all!

Ms Bovington: Librarian

Physics Trip to Diamond Light Source



Mrs Eakins and Mrs Craig took twelve aspiring physicists and engineers to get a peek inside the guts of Diamond Light Source – UK's synchrotron facility and one of the world's biggest x-ray machines!

Diamond host investigations that have contributed to knowledge of the atomic structure of SARS-CoV-2, the development of a potential vaccine for foot-and-mouth disease, and the study of T-cells for cancer treatment. Outside the field of medicine, this remarkable tool has shed light (pun intended!) on cannon balls from The Mary Rose, fossils, coins, and more.

Our students had the opportunity to talk to beamline scientists on the physics behind their work as well as the work behind their career. They were able to get up close to magnets that shape the beam of electrons and wiggle and jiggle it to produce the x-rays used to probe specimens.

A highlight for one group was experiencing the density of tungsten as each was given a turn to hoist a chunk from one of the shutters. Meanwhile, the other group journeyed to the eye of the synchrotron, the very centre of this massive doughnut shaped building, to experience the architectural awe of what is Diamond.

Mrs Eakins: Head of Physics and AAHT

Firewalking for CNS



Four dads, Steve Palmer, Dan Houlton, Chris Gascoigne and Dom Rickard all braved a Fire Walk in aid of our School's PTA, on Friday 28th March at Glyme Hall.

Not only did they walk barefoot over 6 metres of burning embers at a temperature of 1237 Fahrenheit,

but they all did it 3 times! They did a fantastic job and have raised £1680 for the PTA.

This money is going towards the new community kitchen and is the start of the fundraiser for the huge outdoor covered area.

The PTA have a regular donation site where you can set up monthly payments for as little as £2. Just follow the PTA link at the top of the school web page.

Or use this link <https://chipping-norton.oxon.sch.uk/chipping-norton-school-pta/#donation>

It's quick and easy and all goes to enrich the school.

Teresa Casey-Palmer: Joint Chair of CNS PTA

SPORTS NEWS



On Thursday, 20th March, ten of our Year 8 students set off to St Helen and St Katharines School in Abingdon to participate in the Oxfordshire Schools Group County Netball Finals. The sunshine-filled afternoon spurred our girls on, filling them with energy and determination.

The competition was fierce, with teams from across the county showcasing their talent. Our girls played with incredible spirit and teamwork, winning 3 out of the 5 games they competed in. Every pass, interception, and goal demonstrated their dedication and skill.

Despite the tough opposition, our students remained resilient, pushing through every challenge. Their hard work paid off as they achieved an impressive third-place finish overall in the county rankings for Year 8, losing to Didcot Girls School and Cherwell.

Well done Year 8, we are very proud of you!

Miss Miles: PE Department



On a rather drizzly afternoon, I took 13 intrepid hockey players to Wood Green School. Following Mr Thomas'

excellent instructions, we parked up and headed towards the amazing blue AstroTurf, which is also home to Witney Hockey Club.

We played as two smaller teams to allow everyone the best opportunity to show-off their hockey skills. The Wood Green students have played several matches and this showed in the first half of both games. Jools was excellent in defence for Team X with some great moves from Joe, Fin and Henry but the hosts were up 3:1 at half time. Team Y showed excellent defence from Tobi and Thomas but they were also 3:1 down at half time. Hugo had a goal disallowed as the whistle had been blown before the ball could hit the backboard.

After a quick pep talk the two teams changed direction for the second half. Team X had excellent opportunities from Felix, Edward and Ruben and definitely had the upper hand but the game ended at 3:1.

Team Y came out fighting in the second half with excellent attacking play from Otto and Hartley which enabled Benedict to score a hat-trick! The final score for Team Y was 4:4 - an honourable draw. All players were impeccably behaved and we have been invited back for another match!

Mrs Faulkner: Key Stage Lead (Y7/8)

Tahlia Davidson-Wright and Elin Pereira-Morey competed for Team GB in the U18 Women's World Ice Hockey Championships in Riga, Latvia in January. Team GB won gold, winning all their games! Both girls played an important role in this incredible achievement. Tahlia scored six points and received Players' Player and Team Spirit awards. Elin and Tahlia commented "We are so proud that we got to share an incredible experience in Latvia surrounded by a great group of people." We are incredibly proud of them and their team who are now promoted to the elite league of ice hockey nations.

Twin brothers Johnny and Chris Taylor continue their brilliant form in the boxing ring. Chris was recently crowned Home Counties 63kg Youth Champion. Both brothers competed at the finals of the England Boxing National Youth Championships in

February, with Johnny winning bronze in the 63.5-67Kg class and Chris winning silver at the 60-63.5Kg class. A fantastic result! Chris has recently been selected for the prestigious England Boxing Youth Development Phase of the National Performance Pathway and will receive specialised training from England Boxing coaches.



Sixth Form Rugby Success at Kingham 7s



On Wednesday 26th March CNS took two teams to the annual Kingham Hill 7s rugby tournament. On a glorious sunny afternoon 10 schools competed in the competition which was played in an excellent spirit throughout.

The B team was composed of Year 11 and 12 students who competed magnificently scoring some great tries against very difficult opposition without securing the all-important win. Huge credit to the boys for never giving up.

The A team, made up mostly of Year 13 students, started well with big wins against Kingham and KES Schools before facing Cotswold. 19-0 down in no time they turned it around in the second half to win 26-24. This set them up for a group decider against Cokethorpe School and thanks to some magnificent handling in the backs another strong win ensued. The team rightfully then took their place in the cup final against also unbeaten Warwick School. CNS were 19-14 up at half time but instead of settling for the win they continued with more excellent tries to finish winners of the tournament by a score of 38-21. A well-deserved win and the only school to go unbeaten across the tournament. The day was capped off in fine style when Turner Jones, Chippy's captain was named player of the tournament. Well done to all the boys across both teams who should be proud of themselves.

Football updates

As we come towards the end of the season it has been another good year for CNS football teams with well over 100 boys representing the school across the teams. Year 7 have had their first taste of football with very good matches against Kingham, Carterton and a narrow loss in the cup. Year 8 finished top of their group in the league and now face Henry Box in the play-off final. Year 9 also won their league and play against Henry Box. Year 10 are doing well in both the league and cup competition. They have had great wins against Bicester and Gosford Hill in the cup and now eagerly await a semi-final. Just like the Year 8 and 9 teams they also won their league and face Henry Box in the play-off final.

Mr Thomas: Head of PE

SIXTH FORM NEWS

Sixth Form Applicant Event

We were delighted to receive unprecedented levels of interest in joining our sixth form this year. More than ever, students from other schools are seeking to join us and so on Wednesday 19th March we hosted our first ever applicants' event. This was designed to give interested Y11s from other schools a taste of what life at CNS is like and so senior staff led small groups of students on a tour of the school, visiting departments of particular interest, before being interviewed. This was followed by refreshments supplied by our school catering team and informal conversations with current Y13 students. We look forward to welcoming lots of new faces to our school in September 2025!

Youth Speaks

With the cup freshly engraved from last year's win, our two debating teams returned to this year's Youth Speaks competition to defend their title. Held at Bloxham School, in conjunction with Banbury Cherwell Rotary Club, the teams faced stiff competition from Bloxham School and Bicester's Cooper School. The Year 11 team took on the weighty debate of 'Justice is more important than Peace', whilst the Year 13s debated the equally controversial topic of 'Wealth being a hindrance to the pursuit of happiness'. Both teams spoke with great passion and eloquence, and all the students dedicated hours to perfecting and practising their speeches despite the rigours of being in exam years. We were delighted when the Year 13s were awarded the cup again.

Our wonderful sixth form debating team travelled to Reading at the beginning of March to take place in the Regional Final of the Rotary Youth Speaks competition. They had worked extremely hard to perfect and polish their speeches around the debate - 'the pursuit of wealth hinders happiness'. All three speakers put on a fantastic performance, engaging the audience with compelling arguments, convincing facts and well-placed humour. The competition from other schools was really strong, and although we made a big impression on the judges, we were pipped to the post by St Joseph's College with their debate about tourism. If only the team were here for another year, they'd be raring to go again!

Huge congratulations to Ellie Knobel, Florence Pearce and Toby Ball, and a big thanks to the team of supporters who came to watch.

Mr Gent: Deputy Headteacher

Mrs Duffy: AAHT and 2nd in English Department

HOUSE NEWS



School Council Meetings

In January, we held a Student Council meeting on the Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) of our school and how it could be improved. There were a number of themes that came up such as creating a two-way interaction with charities we work with, the school toilets being an issue, more education needed, and feeding back on the improvements that we make to the school based on their opinions. In March, we met about the school site, ways to make it better for everyone and started designing a school map that will help guide our new students - big and small - through the hallways of our school. We learnt a lot about where students feel the safest and the reasons why. We look forward to sharing the map with everyone very soon.

Team Tasking 3 - Perform a Nursery Rhyme

This term students took part in our third team tasking challenge of the year! Their task was to sing a nursery rhyme of their choice for the house captains to judge. The students in third place sang Humpty Dumpty and were recognised for their brilliant costumes and their comedic fall off the wall. In second place, the students sang Polly Put the Kettle On using Sylvanians to create an awesome stop motion video. And finally, in first place, Ethan Gascoigne and Alex Payne sang Twinkle Twinkle Little Star whilst running in a field! This was a great video and undoubtedly deserved the win.

Comic Relief and Red Nose Day

For Comic Relief in March, we did many fundraisers and fun activities throughout the school to celebrate. In the spirit of Comic Relief, students and staff filmed jokes to be put in our assembly to be shown to the entire school! It added a little giggle to the start of our day.

We also ran a bake sale, with all the cakes provided by the generous school community - including some donated from M&S! Not just cakes, M&S cakes. The cakes were sold by student leaders and House Captains

Year 9 Geography Challenge



Year 9 geographers were tasked by Mr Hood with making an accurate cone volcano or Minecraft volcano to tie in with their tectonic hazards topic and the response was superb. Mr Hood, Mrs Jones and Mrs Williamson were inundated with beautifully crafted and annotated volcanoes that looked as impressive as they were deadly! We would like to congratulate all the students who submitted quality work and give special congratulations to the winners: Violet, Caleb, Anushka, Henry, Evan, Freddie, Flis, Lily Rose and Isabel for their absolutely fantastic (and eruptive) models!

Mr Hood: Geography Department

for 2 days at the end of March.

Finally, we ran a non-school uniform day to raise money and the whole school community was able to donate.

Overall we raised... £1533! This is our biggest charity donation in recent years and shows the power of community coming together!

British Heart Foundation - Love was in the air

The school participated in a charity event to raise money for the British Heart Foundation on 14th February by selling roses for Valentine's Day and having a non-school uniform day. The event was very successful as we raised £1221 and very kindly received a letter thanking us for our efforts. A big well done and thank you to everyone who took part, including students, staff and parents.

Miss Skill: Head of PSHE

Family Focus Workshop



Pottery Workshop



We are very grateful to Cotswold Art through Schools who sponsored another week of pottery workshops for the Chipping Norton partnership Year 4s. Across the week each of the ten schools came to CNS Art rooms to work with two local potters, Cally Bond & Alison Townley, to produce coil pots and then also made and decorated clay hand prints which have been made into a school sculpture. This will be displayed at the Sculpture at Kingham Lodge exhibition in May, then given back to each school. The pupils were also lucky enough to be given a piece of delicious flapjack from our school kitchens, thanks to Marie and the kitchen team.



Able, Interested and Motivated Workshop



Over the Spring Term two AIM workshops have been held, in drama and in PE. Pupils who are particularly interested and/or achieving well in the subject are selected from their primary schools to attend a session to stretch their interest even further. In drama they learnt about mime and how to tell a story without words. They worked with children from other schools and made some new friends. Collaboration was also the theme in the PE workshop where they were concentrating on teamwork and tactics. The session finished with a game of rollerball, an exciting new game to many.



We were thrilled that the skies, for the first time in many years, were clear enough for Chipping Norton Amateur Astronomy Group to be able to use the telescopes at the Family Focus workshop. They were able to show the families Venus, Mars, Jupiter and the moon! The families also enjoyed talks from Dr Hall and Mr Turvey about space. That same week we also held workshops in music, where groups created music on a colour theme, and Table Tennis for the KS2 pupils who bring an adult to learn alongside them. All workshops were well attended and loads of fun was had.

Sports Leaders and the CNPS Sports Events



The Year 12 sports leaders are currently finishing off their practical assessment for the course which culminates in a Community Sports Leadership award. The primary school children love coming to CNS to work with our young leaders. During the Spring Term the sports events have included the Swimming Gala, together with 4Shires Swimming Club, Hockey Tournament, a Ball skills festival, 2 Dance festivals and 2 Multi-skills festivals. It has been another very busy term!

ExtraTime Clubs at CNS

We have a few new coaches joining the team for the Summer. We are very pleased to be bringing back Pottery and Art clubs for the Summer Term while our intern, Mrs Tucker, is finishing her placement at CNS. We can also now reintroduce dance to the programme with Mrs White, a trained dance coach. She will be leading two clubs, one using Commercial dance choreography and the other based on Contemporary dance. Mrs Bate, Head of Psychology, will be offering an Introduction to Psychology club to give the Year 10s a chance to find out what the subject is all about. The Young Writers club will be focusing on poetry next term, exploring lots of different styles while LAMDA will be accepting new students, focusing on drama skills and games. There are lots of 'old favourites' on the programme too. The Summer Term is a great time to get outdoors so why not try Tennis, Orienteering or Hockey?

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 Summer Term? Booking for the ExtraTime clubs, and payment, is all done on MCAS.

We are always on the lookout 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 for the Autumn Term, and watch this space - we are hoping to start a crochet club thanks to a great idea from a CNS parent!

After-School Primary Science Club



Dr Hagan, Miss Smith and Dr Hall hosted forty Year 4 & 5s to three science sessions at the CSI Chippy Science club over the last 3 weeks. What a great chance for the enthusiastic young scientists to use Bunsen burners and microscopes, and find out how crimes can be solved using science in our well equipped laboratories.

Mrs Bissett: Community Learning Coordinator

Are you interested in becoming a teacher?

There can be few things as rewarding as making a difference in shaping the lives of young people and inspiring them to become the best they can be. As a teacher, you can have a positive impact on children and young people and there are amazing rewards of seeing children learn and improve. Teachers experience job satisfaction that few other jobs provide.

Nothing encourages you to continue to learn more about a topic than when you are teaching it! Children are inquisitive, often asking questions that you have never thought of and so teachers are lifelong learners, alongside the children they teach. Education is all about positive change and so a key part of being a great teacher is about being able to respond to challenges with creativity and flexibility. Really great teachers make their job look effortless, but of course, in reality, it requires a complex set of skills which are developed through practice, expert input and personalised support. Training programmes combine these factors to ensure that you are supported and nurtured through this challenging process and able to feel the positives as soon as possible.

Chipping Norton School hosts trainee teachers every year because we recognise the importance of developing the next generation of teachers and because having colleagues involved in mentoring trainees has a positive impact on teaching practice across the school. Reflecting on and articulating what makes effective teaching on a regular basis is highly beneficial for school improvement. Read on to hear about some of the experiences of current trainees in our school.



'My teacher training at Chipping Norton School has been an incredible journey. Having explored many paths—from sports to science to music—I have developed a deep love of learning that inspires me to teach. I believe every child deserves a safe, happy environment to explore the world around them, and this school exemplifies that ideal.

From day one, I was warmly welcomed and valued as part of a team committed to ensuring every child thrives. The staff's passion and dedication create a culture that mirrors the school's ethos of nurturing growth and success.

My students have been a constant source of inspiration. Their vibrant personalities and curiosity bring joy to every day. Their questions challenge me to grow, and their kindness reminds me why I chose this path. Although teacher training can be challenging, it is the best decision I have ever made. Chipping Norton School has given me a sense of purpose and belonging.' Miss Holby : RE Department



'Prior to training to be a teacher I worked in social services. Whilst I loved working with the general public, I really missed engaging with my subject. There is a lot of crossover between social services and education, but there is a higher chance that I will get to talk about Shakespeare whilst teaching!

The PGCE course includes a great blend of theory and practice. For the first term our weeks were split between school and university, whereas since Christmas we are now spending all 5 days a week in school. The learning curve feels steep at first when everything is new, however the support is outstanding. Alongside developing a personal reflective practice, you have a 'village' of professionals all invested in your development, and helping you become the best teacher you can be. I look forward to investing everything I have learned during the PGCE into my future classes and cannot imagine a more fulfilling career.' Ms Marks: English Department



'When I went to school, my teachers knew a lot about the curriculum, but seemingly little about how life really works. Questions about how to find the right direction in life and how to develop as a person could only be answered by a teacher who had been teaching their entire life. Therefore, I would like to become a teacher who not only helps students achieve in their subjects, but more importantly, who can guide teenagers through these formative years and answer their questions based on real life experiences. I am completing a one-year PGCE course that includes approximately 30% of the time at university and 70% of the time is hands-on teaching in placement schools. The course is tough - a lot of things are new, you have to learn to adapt very quickly and there are challenging situations. But there is no better feeling than ending a lesson knowing "yes, all that preparation worked!" and seeing students who were not filled like barrels, but enlightened like lanterns.' Mr Seiler: MFL Department

preparation worked!" and seeing students who were not filled like barrels, but enlightened like lanterns.'

If you have any questions about entering the teaching profession, please contact Mrs Thomas on

gthomas@chippingnortonschool.org.



Tel: 01608 544998

Web: www.chipping-norton.oxon.sch.uk

Email: office@chippingnortonschool.org