



# CNSNewsletter

**Alexandra Okosi (10TCH)**  
at Smart Tots Day  
Nursery.

"It has made me be more confident in what I would like to do in the future because I really enjoyed being with kids".

**Billy Rickard (10TW)** at  
The Cotswold Farm Park.

"After my placement, I am even more certain that I would like to do something with animals, so I can help and treat them".

**Cameron Ramsay (10TW)** at Airbus  
Helicopters.

"My placement has helped to narrow down which aspect of Engineering interests me most".

**Annie Spicer 10TW** at  
Active Oxfordshire.

"I may feel differently about what I want to do, but have definitely learned a lot and grown in confidence".



## Year 10 Work Experience



We are pleased to celebrate another successful work experience programme for CNS students. This year 155 Year 10 students participated in work experience from the 30<sup>th</sup> June to the 4<sup>th</sup> July.

87% of students found places in Oxfordshire businesses with many going to small local businesses. These businesses have been fantastic and continue to support the school, year on year offering great opportunities for our students.

Again, we had some generous employers who took more than one student, including Active Oxfordshire, Ross & Ross Events, Abingdon & Witney College, Bradley Saul Solicitors, Hook Norton Primary School, Atmos Technology Ltd, Cotswold Sweet Shop, Kingham Lodge, Chipping Norton Preschool, Daylesford Organic Farm Shop, Chipping Norton Leisure Centre, The Old Mill Café and Bistro Chipping Norton, The Ace Centre and Preschool, Hook Norton Primary School, The Branch Chipping Norton, Charlbury Primary School, Wheelers Chipping Norton, Cotswold Farm Park and Prodrive.

This year we had students placed as far afield as London, Plymouth, Nottingham, Devizes and Feltham.



## Y10 Work Experience (contd...)

Chipping Norton School would like to thank all those employers who gave their precious time and kindly offered work placements for our students. It gives our students an invaluable insight into the world of work and we really appreciate their support.

What some of the employers said:

**Jeremy Griffiths** at Cotswold Cycles Ltd about **Jude Lockhart (10TW)**.

"Jude was a bright engaged individual who was a pleasure to have in the workplace. He took to the tasks he undertook with ease, very proactive. I guess the ultimate complement to Jude is we have offered him a Saturday job".

**Sean Daly** at Solid Structures Ltd about **Milo Hughes (10CSB)**.

"Milo, you have the courage and the curiosity to try new things, which is a really good place to build from. It's easy to underestimate your own ability when you are starting out, but you will be surprised where you end up with perseverance. Keep going and we will see you in a few years".

**Lauren Bond** at Lauren Bond Coaching about **Poppy Claridge (10TCH)**.

"I was very impressed with Poppy's desire to learn and willingness to engage in whatever task was asked of her. She was incredibly diligent and adaptable and applied herself with determination. She would be an asset to any workplace as her skills are exactly what are needed to promote a cohesive working environment".

**Hannah Charles** at Hannah Charles Art & Interiors about **Kira Hamilton (10TCH)**.

"Kira listens well and works to the brief given. Her creativity and natural good eye for design and aesthetics stand her in great stead for any potential career in art / design. I look forward to seeing her continue to grow in confidence in her abilities".

**Hannah Brown** at Owen Mumford about **Chester Poon (10TCH)**.

"Having spoken to colleagues, all Owen Mumford staff have been impressed by how Chester presented himself his week. If Chester continues to apply himself, he has potential to succeed in a chosen career. Chester is welcome to contact Owen Mumford if he would like a reference in the future".

Again, we have had a number of companies who have already offered a job / apprenticeship to our students. What an amazing outcome! Well done Year 10!

Finally, can I thank Mrs Matthews for all her hard work with the administration side of the process, making sure that work experience happens so smoothly for so many of our students.

**Mr Parker: Careers Lead CNS**





## SPORTS NEWS



### Cricket

It has been another successful year of cricket with over 20 games played between the girls' and boys' teams. Year 7 have had a chance to play both pairs cricket and 20/20 with a great win against Cokethorpe School being one of the highlights.

The Year 8 team have had an outstanding season and remain unbeaten. Their recent cup win over Lord Williams School in the County Finals at the wonderful setting of Wormsley; a brilliant occasion and one where the boys rose to the challenge. After batting well and scoring 139 (A Taylor 45), Lord Williams started well in their pursuit reaching 55 before a wicket was taken. Once we got one, the wickets tumbled and a brilliant performance in the field meant we bowled them out for 95.

Girls have had wonderful games against Burford, Woodgreen, Bartholomew School and we hope to continue to build on this next year, increasing the number of girls playing school cricket and then signposting them to local clubs to continue to learn the game.

### Rounders

Our girls have had lots of chances to put into practice their rounders skills with the tournaments always being the highlight of the year. They performed really well in all their matches and the results are below:

Year 7 - 3rd place

Year 8 - runners up

Year 9 - runners up

Year 10 - 3rd place

### Athletics

We have had some great athletics matches this season :

West Oxon @ Horspath - 4th place in West Oxfordshire

CNS v Cokethorpe - Winners!

Quadkids - Year 8 winners and then 5th place in the County Finals @ Tilsley Park

**Mr Thomas: Head of PE**

## Music Department: A Year in Review



This year has been another busy time for the Music Department. It can always be a little daunting starting back up in September, having said farewell to various Year 11 and 13 students. Our Choir, Concert Band, Folk Group and Flute Ensemble have spent many lunchtimes rehearsing pieces, working towards our Christmas, Spring and Summer concerts. I sometimes forget that we only meet for around 15 minutes every week, and our outcomes are still really good – it makes me proud that our young people can apply themselves. This year, we also had the KS3 and KS4/5 solo evenings, with plenty of new performers, rising stars and wonderful surprises. Mr Goodson also had some students DJing, and two Year 7s entertained the KS4 dining hall one Friday lunchtime! Concert Band and the Flute Ensemble also performed at the Chipping Norton Music Festival, as well as a large number of solo performers across many classes.

We begin again in September, with some new groups starting up. A Brass Ensemble, co-run by the Oxford County Music Service and the Music Department, will start up on a Tuesday after school. A Keyboard Group will also be a 'fresh face' to the department on a Friday lunchtime, open to all in KS3.

I wish to also thank all colleagues who have supported me throughout the year, be it within ensembles, or attending concerts. It means a huge amount to the students, who see us in a different context other than as their classroom teacher.

Hopefully, all parents received a letter in early July explaining our individual music lessons, and what music groups we offer. I hope you are able to encourage your children to get involved, be part of the music making at CNS and enjoy what we have. If you have any questions, please email me on [cbrown@chippingnortonschool.org](mailto:cbrown@chippingnortonschool.org)

**Mr Brown: Head of Music**



## German Exchange: Experiencing New Cultures, Lifestyles and Language



On Sunday 29th of June, 33 students and 3 brave teachers set off on a coach trip to Germany. About 18 hours later, we arrived in the little town of Nördlingen, in Bavaria, for the German exchange.

On Tuesday, we visited the Reiskrater museum, a historic building in which we learned all about the meteor that formed the 25km crater in which the town of Nördlingen lies. We also got shown a chunk of suevite - the rock formed by the meteor!

On Wednesday, we went to Legoland Germany! It was an incredibly hot day, so water fights were a must. We soon discovered that Miss Johnston is a bad enemy to make at 'Pirate School'!

On Thursday, we walked all around the town of Nördlingen and did some shopping in the centre, some of us getting the lovely German Spaghettieis, a delicious type of ice cream.



On Friday, we drove to Munich! One of the highlights of the trip, we had some time in the city centre, in the famous square of Marienplatz. We then had a tour of the Allianz Arena, home of Bayern Munich and took many, many photos.

After a weekend spent with our exchange families, doing various activities such as seeing cities or German castles, we began the long journey back home. We were all exhausted after a long week of tanning (or burning), lost phones that were soon found, and lots of laughter. Another 17 hours on the bus was a challenge, but it was worth it for seeing our actual families again.

**Isla Hayes: 10TW**





## CNS and The Branch



We have been very lucky to continue our link with The Branch this year, which has afforded some of our students different opportunities to experience cooking, gardening and even an airport simulation.

The Branch allows our students opportunities to engage with different life skills, mentoring, CV writing and to engage with the wider Chipping Norton Community. This year a few students even helped prepare and serve food at a charity event at Ditchley Park and for a separate event were able to prepare food and meet HRH Prince Edward. We are excited to see what next year brings!

**Mrs Chard: SENCo**

## Code-breaking at Bletchley Park



It was the highlight of the year to take the A Level Computer Science students on a trip to Bletchley Park. We had an excellent day that included a lesson about encryption and breaking the Lorenz Machine. We then had an opportunity to view the displays in the main house and codebreakers huts, before seeing the

## Anthea Bell Prize for Young Translators



Well Done to James Johnson (7CJ) who has been awarded a commendation for his German entry in this year's Anthea Bell Translation Exchange. Over 22,000 students participated in the competition with almost 5000 entries going forward to the official judging stage, so this is a fantastic achievement.

James translation of the poem 'Snowflakes' struck a great balance between creativity and accuracy.

**Mrs Brocklebank: Head of MFL**

### Level 1 German 2025

#### Snowflakes

It's snowing, hooray, it's snowing!  
While the Crystal Flakes are coming and going!  
A cheery fleet, yet imprecise,  
that each come from a winter paradise.

What a way to be alive!  
they merrily dance and dive.  
They swoop and glide in flight,  
the wind bellows through the sky with delight.

After their journey has ended,  
they settle on land, city streets befriended,  
from the highs of the rooftops to the streetlamp that glows  
and even rather cheekily on your nose!

Enigma Machine - created by Alan Turing and his team to decipher the German Army's messages during World War 2.

The work carried out at Bletchley Park reportedly shortened the war by 5 years and saved many lives.

In the afternoon, we travelled to the Red Bull Racing Team Headquarters, where my brother is a software developer. We were allowed to see all the trophies, a Formula One car and the students were gifted a can of Red Bull!

It was a great day and very informative. The students are now planning their next trip for next year.

**Mrs Faulkner: Head of Computer Science**



## Languages Festival



Our fabulous language leaders, under the guidance of Mrs Brocklebank, welcomed the Year 4s from the primary schools to take part in a languages festival. They learned new vocabulary in French, German, Spanish and Dutch and took part in the very popular cheese tasting.

## Family Focus



In the final week of Term 5 we held a series of Family Focus workshops for pupils to come to CNS to learn together with their adult in the evenings. They could choose to come to workshops in Tennis, Greek Theatre techniques and 'No Fear Shakespeare' looking at the very gory story of Titus Andronicus. There was a great turn out for all three workshops.

## Sports Events with CNS Sports Leaders



The summer term gives an opportunity for Sports Leaders from across the school to assist at events. We held a Tennis Festival for the Year 3s at which the students who attend the ExtraTime tennis and/or do GCSE PE helped. The U10s Rugby, held at the Rugby Club, was assisted by the GCSE PE students and at the Athletics Championship the Year 7s had a chance to help. The cricket events were helped by students who play cricket outside of school. Thank you so much to all these CNS students for making the events so much fun for the primary school students.

A new event was added to the calendar this year; an Orienteering Competition. The Year 5 pupils took part in a variety of activities that taught them the skills required, then they were sent off around the huge space of the school field to find the various information points.

## After-School Primary Creative Writing Club



Pupils from Years 4 and 5 attended a 3-week Creative Writing Club with Mr Long. They looked at playscripts and found out how to adapt a story for a script. They acted out some Roald Dahl scripts, wrote their own and then had a chance to share these with the group, choosing others to join their cast. The group had a great time getting to know other creative children from other schools and working together.

## Maths Quiz Final

This year the inaugural Maths Quiz was held. Schools each sent two teams of 3, one from Years 3/4 and the other from Years 5/6, who solved questions to compete against the other primary schools. This year



## Maths Quiz (contd...)

Middle Barton came out on top, winning the trophy! Many thanks to Miss Allemann from Kingham Primary School and Ms Kearns for organising this much enjoyed event.

## Music Visits to Primary Schools



Mr Brown went on tour with his GCSE music group to visit some of the primary schools. CNS students individually performed a short piece on their instrument, then helped a group of Year 5s to compose a piece of music based on the theme of 'Dancing Dinosaurs'. This was a great experience for all involved, a good chance for our musicians to perform and lovely for the primary pupils to see what they could learn when they come to CNS.

## Kids in the Kitchen



Twelve nominated pupils from the primaries were given the opportunity to use the kitchen at CNS to make pizza with our ExtraTime cookery coach, Liz Jones. They prepared, cooked, ate and cleared up with new friends made at the workshop. Fantastic pizzas were made and lots of fun and conversation was had.

## Able, Interested and Motivated Workshops

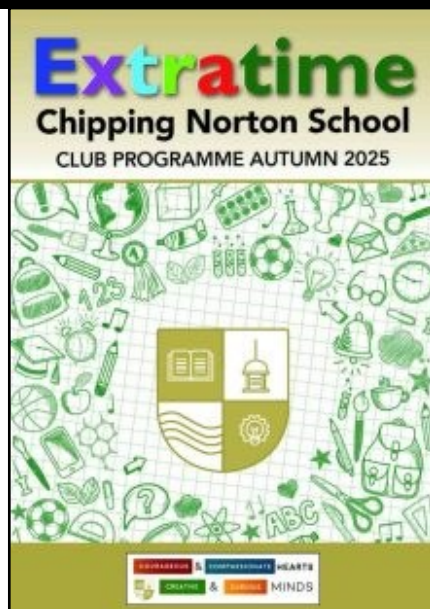


We have held AIM workshops in Maths and Science over the summer term. In Science, the enthusiastic young scientists looked under the microscope at Microorganisms and Disease. They learnt how disease spreads, how our bodies kill bacteria and even grew bacteria from their own skin! Our young mathematicians worked in groups to solve all sorts of mathematical problems and puzzles.

## Extratime Clubs at CNS

Extracurricular activities provide opportunities to try lots of new things in the convenient and familiar environment of the school. We are very lucky to have a well-qualified and dedicated team of coaches who come to the school, saving the effort of travelling to find

clubs in the bigger towns. Booking is open on MCAS for the Autumn Term clubs, and you can find more information about the clubs and the coaches on the school website.



<https://chipping-norton.oxon.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/CNS-Extra-Time-2025.pdf>

**Mrs Bissett: Community Learning Co-Ordinator**

## Raise the Roof - Ridge Challenge

Thirteen intrepid CNS staff members attempted a 13-mile circuit of the Pen y Fan peak on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> June, helping to raise over £1500 for our planned covered outdoor space. This route is used to train Royal Marines so it is certainly not a challenge for the faint-hearted!

A hot and hazy Friday afternoon braving the heat and the traffic, turned into a beautiful summer's evening as we were treated to dinner by Ms Fisher's family en route. Onwards to Glasbury and our bed for the night. We settled in and prepared for the big day ahead.

Saturday dawned misty and grey, and after some bacon and eggs (breakfast of kings) the command to "suit up" was heard and our avengers assembled. Mr Doherty arrived right on time, and we headed for the hills. A difficult minibus journey down tiny tracks was expertly handled by Mr Thomas, and by mid-morning we were ready to begin.

A long and muddy walk in through the forest ended with a steep climb to gain the ridge. All worries about fitness evaporated as we beasted it up to 650m - the training regimes had clearly paid off and no-one had skipped leg day. The wind and rain set in and so, heads bowed, we plunged into the mist for a couple of hours until the first peak, Corn Du (2864ft), came into view. A quick lunch, and we set out for the summit. Celebratory handshakes were cut short by the need to get down out of the 45mph winds.



Pen y fan (2910ft) and its long descent also came and went in an instant, Mr Doherty stopping only briefly and reluctantly for the publicity photo, and before long we were looking at the third ascent: the mighty Cribyn (2608ft). This ascent was tough on tired legs but the teamwork clicked in and everyone made it to the top safely.

With pounding knees, we descended Cribyn safe in the knowledge that ahead of us lay the final ascent - Fan y Big (2350ft). The mist had abated, only to be replaced by sporadic rain and some hints of sunshine. At one point, for a few seconds, we almost had a view!

Fan y Big bagged and despite the group flagging, we stayed true to our commitment and took the long path north, turning for home after more than five hours on the ridge. A slippery but uneventful descent led us back to civilisation via the Craig y Fan Ddu waterfalls.

A short road walk eased the cramp and blessed the knees, and finally we were back at the bus, 7 hours, 20km, and 1001m of ascent later.

It was a pleasure to share the hill with these wonderful colleagues, and the dogs just wanted to go around again! It was all smiles as we left the mountains behind us (if you ignore the groans, and noises made trying to unfold our limbs out of the minibus) and we were pleased to arrive back at Glasbury and its ice-cold showers, which Mrs Knight especially appreciated.

Thank you for all the support, sponsorship and well wishes. Thanks also to Woodlands OEC for hosting us and for all the brilliant work they do for schools.

Click the link (or scan the code) to donate if you can!

[https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/teachersmountainclimb?utm\\_medium=CA&utm\\_source=CL](https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/teachersmountainclimb?utm_medium=CA&utm_source=CL)

**Mr White: Mathematics Department**



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Printed on recycled paper  
CNS is an ECO School  
Editor: Judith Bovington