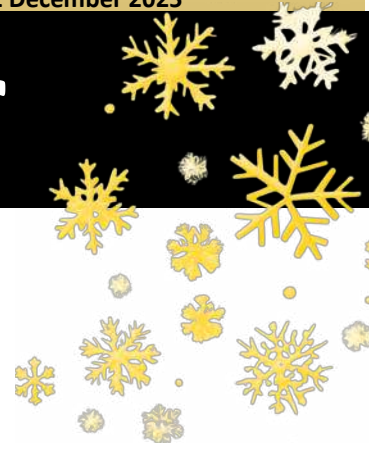




CNSNewsletter



"I learnt that this era was so harsh and children had a lot of responsibilities. Houses were small and living conditions were difficult especially for big families."

"I learnt that the women worked 12 hours a day, 6 days a week and the men worked less time and got 4 times more money!"

"I learnt that the chain on the Titanic was welded together so well it would still work today. It took six men six hours to make one link and each link was five inches thick."

"The mines were my favourite thing because it was dark, out of the ordinary. They are no longer a thing now so to go back and see them really made me think how nasty the job was, especially for children my age."

"The school lesson was my favourite thing because it was interesting to see how different school was to our modern day school."

"My favourite thing was the sweets because they were nice to eat."

Year 8s Step Back in Time

In November, the History department took fifty Year 8 students to the Black Country Living Museum in Dudley. The trip transported students back in time to the Industrial Revolution which we have been studying this past term. Braving the cold and the snow, students experienced an old-fashioned school lesson where they were drilled in the three Rs, without any of the benefits of High-TEMPO! They then visited a variety of Industrial era buildings including houses, an ironmonger's, a blacksmith's, a sweetie shop and a replica of Newcomen's engine, with historic characters based at each site to tell its story and explain its historical significance.

The big finish came with an underground mine tour, requiring real courage from many of our students to enter the dark and cramped tunnels. The trip brought to life the living and working conditions students had learnt about in lessons and they took away a new appreciation of just how challenging life was as well as shocking and thought-provoking facts.

All of the museum guides who worked with our students praised them for their manners and behaviour and it was a pleasure for us as staff to spend the day with them out and about.

Miss Stokes: History Department



SPORTS NEWS: Outstanding Successes in all Sports

Netball: The Year 11s were outstanding at this year's WOSSP Netball Tournament, held at Bartholomew School in Eynsham. Playing against six other schools from across West Oxfordshire, the girls showed determination, skill and teamwork – and their efforts were rewarded as they finished joint first!



The U14 girls travelled to St Helen's and St Katharine's to compete against state and independent schools in a netball tournament. They won all their pool games, then their quarter and semi-finals, before losing to a very strong Didcot Girls' School side to finish a fantastic 2nd overall.

This term we hosted the WOSSP U14 Netball Tournament, and our squad were outstanding! They won every game, scoring an incredible 50 goals and conceding just 4 throughout the afternoon. This team continues to go from strength to strength — they are the netball champions of West Oxfordshire!

Congratulations to our Sixth Form Netball team who finished a very respectful 3rd place in the West Oxfordshire School Sports Partnership U18 Netball tournament! Your skill, teamwork, and sportsmanship made us proud.

Football: The Oxfordshire U16 County Football Rep team played a friendly against our U15 side. Our team played brilliantly to secure a 2-1 win.

The Year 9 boys beat The Oxford Academy in the third round of the National Cup 5-2 at home with goals from Lincoln, Dylan, Fenton and Borys capping a competitive and battling performance from our boys. Up next we will travel to either Lord Williams or King Alfreds in the fourth round!

The Year 11 Football team made the long trip across to Lord Williams's in the Quarter final of the U16 Football County Cup. After going 1-0 down the boys responded brilliantly with 3 unanswered goals to end up deserved winners 3-1 and book a place in the semi-finals against Wood Green School.

Rugby: This term we hosted our first ever Year 10 B team Rugby game against Cokethorpe School. It was a brilliant opportunity for the 23 boys representing the school, with many doing so for the first time. We came out as 41-7 winners with tries from Arlo, Harry, Will and Ethan. Well done to all involved!



Year 10 girls visited Banbury RFC to participate in a training session with Scottish World Cup Scrum Half Caity Mattinson. It was a T1 Rugby session and the girls loved it and appreciated the fantastic opportunity to work with such an experienced player.



Hockey: We took Year 7 Girls to Burford School for a Hockey tournament earlier this month. Despite having only had one Hockey lesson, the girls were brilliant and came 4th overall. Player of the tournament was Olivia, who showed excellent footwork skills in goal for the first time ever. Mrs Tandy and Miss Collett were very proud of the team.



Swimming: The amazing Amber in Year 11 competed in the British Down Syndrome Swimming Championships in Sussex. She placed 1st in 25m Breaststroke, 2nd in the 50m Breaststroke and 3rd in 25m Backstroke. We are so proud of this unbelievable achievement to have one the best swimmers with us at CNS!



Boxing: Chris Taylor made his England Boxing debut competing against the Scottish and Three Nations Champion, Taylor McMahon. Despite losing to the more experienced McMahon, Chris fought with grit, skill and determination.



Motorcycling: Bill Harris competed in the last round of the 2025 Motorbike racing season in the Mini Twin class at Donington Park with the British Motorcycle Racing Club. He is the youngest competitor in the class and finished 5th in the championship.



Hovercraft: Lily Elston competed in both the National and European Hovercraft Championships. After winning every race of the year she was crowned the winner in both Junior Championships.



Jiu Jitsu: Congratulations to George Pietruszkiewicz in Year 7 who competed at the NOGI Jiu Jitsu British Open last week.

This is an international tournament open to both adult and junior competitors from all over the world.

George won all his matches for his weight and level. Well Done George!



Mr Thomas and Mrs Tandy: PE Department

House News

School Council - Sustainability

The focus of this term's student council meeting was on the topic of 'Sustainability'. Our wonderful student council, standing at around 70 members strong, listened thoughtfully to an introduction from Miss Smith then discussed a range of ways in which our school could become more sustainable. Each house (Glyme, Stour, Windrush and Evenlode) was assigned an area to focus on, which included food, waste, student engagement and travel. All groups collaborated effectively to identify different strategies to tackle any identified problem areas.

Students pointed out that proper recycling is hard because there are no mixed bins in the dining hall, so all lunch rubbish goes in the main bin. They felt that eating green food was not popular, and people did not know where their food came from. For travel, students noted that driving is too common, and they wondered why local students and staff do not walk more. The council agreed that to fix this the new ideas must be exciting and stop students from feeling embarrassed about taking part.

Visit from Sean Woodcock, MP



We were delighted to welcome Sean Woodcock, MP, to Chipping Norton School for a visit that really mattered both to us and to him personally, having grown up in Banbury. He spent time with Mr Richter and Mr Ward discussing ways to improve the school bus provision and access to education in our rural community, which we know will benefit many of our students and families.

Afterwards, Mr Woodcock joined a lively question-and-answer session with students. Our younger pupils were quick off the mark – Year 8 students asked about making buses easier and more affordable for young people, while others wanted to know how the school could improve its approach to attendance.

Older students brought a wide range of thoughtful questions. Bee in Year 11 asked about inheritance tax and family farms, while Year 12s also tackled some big issues: Oscar on the cost of living, Thomas on

immigration and asylum, Lucille on the rise of populism, and Fraser on climate change. Questions also covered apprenticeships, digital safety, and youth voice, with Millie asking how young people can have more influence over decisions affecting their lives.

Throughout, Mr Woodcock spoke candidly about public speaking, being heard, the best and the most challenging aspects of being an MP and the often little-known ways cross-party discussion can shape consensus in Parliament.

We would like to thank Mr Woodcock for making time to engage with students across all years during what was a truly valuable visit for our community.

Non-School Uniform Day - Raising money for Thrive

Thrive is a charity that aims to provide education, enrichment, and mentoring for young people living in extremely challenging conditions. Thrive provides workshops and youth clubs to give kids constructive use of their free time and guide them in the right direction for their futures.

We raised money on the last day of Term 1 for Thrive and were pleased to raise £948 in our continuing efforts to support the local community. Thrive supports many of the children that attend schools in Chipping Norton and it was our pleasure, with the support of parents, carers and students, to gift them this money.

Christmas Jumper Day - Raising money for Aspire

On 11th December 2025, with help from the House Captains, Chipping Norton School held a Christmas Jumper Day to help raise money and awareness for the Oxfordshire charity Aspire.

Aspire has now been tackling the most complex social issues in Oxfordshire for over 20 years. They support local people into and towards

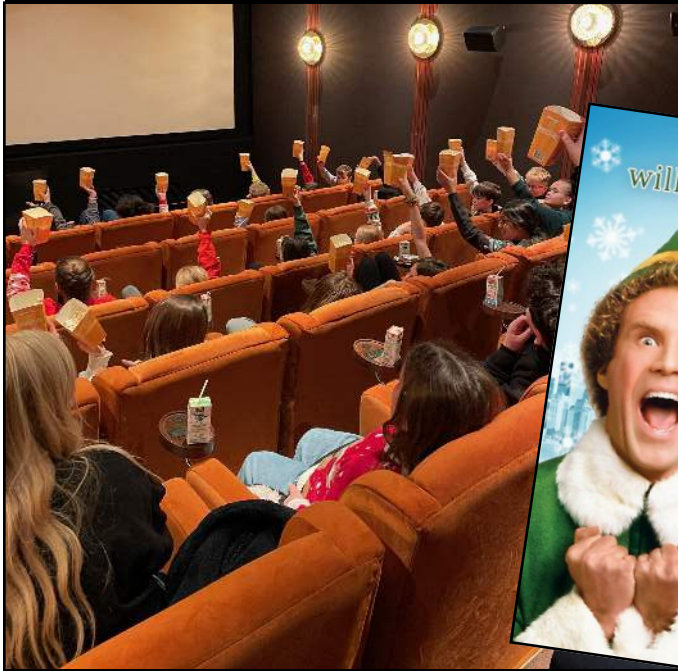
employment and housing, as the most powerful way to break the complex cycles of homelessness, re-offending and poverty.

We helped to raise £998 for Aspire through the Christmas Jumper Sale and the Non-School Uniform Day. We will be continuing this work next year, and are gladly taking donations of pre-loved Christmas jumpers!



Miss Skill: Head of Character Education & PSHCE

Year 7 Trip to The Living Room Cinema



On Christmas Jumper Day, Thursday 11 December 2025, 35 lucky Year 7 students were treated to a trip to The Living Room Cinema in Chipping Norton to watch the Christmas movie *Elf*!

The trip was supported by local charity Thrive and included a drink and popcorn for each student.

The students commented that they loved the film and they really enjoyed visiting The Living Room Cinema with its plush seats and sofas! One student said "I feel very Christmassy now!"

Mrs Faulkner: Head of Transition

Sixth Form News:



Over forty Year 12 students joined the Anthony Nolan register at our recent donor event. This followed on from a presentation from the Anthony Nolan charity promoting the Hero Project. The Hero Project educates students about blood, organ and stem cell donation and encourages new potential donors to join the Anthony Nolan register. The volunteers who ran the

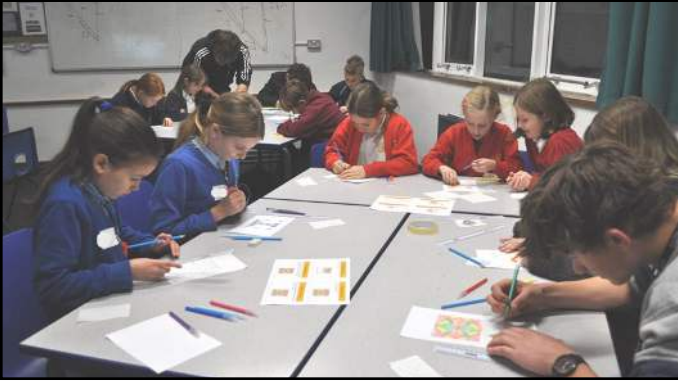
donor event were amazed at the number of students who registered and wanted to pass on that "Your students are a real credit to your school." We couldn't agree more!

We are very proud of all our Sixth Form Ambassadors who help to improve links and positive relations between sixth form and Year 7 students. The older students meet up with the younger students regularly to encourage and guide the younger students. The sixth form students also gain the opportunity to develop their leadership and communication skills.

Mrs Davison: Assistant Head of Sixth Form



After-School Primary Maths Club



Pupils from the primary schools were invited to attend two maths sessions after school, on the theme of Mathematical Artistry with Mr Thrower and other Maths department staff.

They looked at number sequences, symmetry, rotations, and polygons to produce beautiful images provoking awe, curiosity and wonder. They produced a Rangoli stained glass window and pictures using curves of pursuit. The pupils had lots of fun while learning and also enjoyed meeting like-minded students from other schools. It was supported by our Year 12 students, who seemed to enjoy the workshops as much as the Year 4 and 5 pupils.

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.

Some of them went to Holy Trinity this term to deliver a dance workshop on the theme of 'The Mr Men'. We have also welcomed the primary schools to Chipping Norton School to take part in a Netball Tournament, a Sports Hall Athletics festival and a Ball Skills festival during Term 2. This last festival gave the Year 11s an opportunity to host an event which they really enjoyed. These partnership sports events are aimed at a variety of age groups in the primary phase from Year 1 to Year 6 so that the pupils become familiar with CNS long before they transition to us at Year 7.

Able, Interested and Motivated Workshops



During the year we invite students selected by their primary school to attend workshops in eight different subjects. These students have shown interest in the subject and are achieving at an above average level. During Term 2 we held two workshops, the first of which was English. They looked at the language used, characters and story of 'A Christmas Carol' by Charles Dickens with Mrs Duffy and her Year 12 assistants.

The other subject this term was Art, where Mrs Dunn showed them how to make a monoprint on the theme of 'The Circus'. They composed a picture then rolled ink onto the table to make the marks transfer to the page to show their images. They all concentrated really well because they had a great time!

Literary Quiz



It was great to welcome the primary schools back to the library to compete for the Literary Quiz cup. Ms Bovington and Mrs Blundell quizzed the teams on a variety of literature, and we were very impressed at the knowledge of these young readers. Two of the students from Reading Club, Sienna Seccombe and Elsie Winter, were fantastic assistants at the event, marking papers and escorting the schools, making everyone feel very welcome at CNS. The winners this year were Hook Norton.

Extratime Clubs at CNS

The ExtraTime programme at CNS continues to grow and grow. Next term we are pleased to be introducing ¡Hola Spanish! with Carrick Cameron. He has been running language clubs at a variety of primary schools in the area and we are extremely pleased that he will now be offering a club to our students too. The club participants will learn cafe-style language through looking at the culture, food and music of the various areas of the country.

Our students will also have the opportunity to sign up to another style dance club next term as the popularity of our two dance clubs already on the programme continues to grow. Mrs White will add 'Tap' to the programme on Thursdays in addition to 'Commercial' and 'Contemporary' on Wednesdays. All other clubs will continue to run, with the exception of Origami which will take a break for the Spring Term, returning in the Summer.

Our clubs are extremely popular with many of them oversubscribed each term, so now is the time to get your bookings in on MCAS. The deadline is the morning the students return to school, Tuesday 6th January. Names will be pulled from a hat if the club is oversubscribed.

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 and Badminton at the moment.

Street Dance Workshop

We organised a Dance Practitioner from Step 2 Dance Cassington to go into each of the 10 primary partnership schools in November to

work with the Years 5 and 6, teaching them some street dance moves and a routine. The feedback from the primary schools was outstanding!



Mrs Bissett: CNPS Administrator

German Christmas Market Trip



Every year, the festive season at Chipping Norton School begins with a trip to the German Christmas markets in Cologne, and this year was no exception. The visit combined festive fun, cultural discovery and time with friends.

Cologne's markets date back to medieval winter fairs and, by the 15th and 16th centuries, had become closely linked with Christmas, selling crafts ideal for gifts.

Each year, over two million visitors attend Cologne's Christmas markets, including 55 pupils from Chipping Norton School this year. With six markets to explore – such as the famous Cathedral Market, Old Town Market and Angel's Market – the three-day trip was packed with activities. On the first evening, emerging from the underground, students were greeted by the smells of bratwurst, raclette and glühwein, sparkling lights around the cathedral, music, laughter and crisp winter air.

The second day included climbing the cathedral tower's 533 steps for spectacular views, followed by ice skating at the Old Town Market. Students also visited the Lindt Chocolate Museum, enjoying tastings at the chocolate fountain, before exploring Cologne's oldest Christmas market, decorated with stars in the trees. The evening ended at Aqualand, a highlight for many thanks to its slides and whirlpools.

On the final day, the group visited the harbour Christmas Market and enjoyed a ride on the Ferris wheel before travelling home.

Thanks go to Miss Richmond, Mrs Huddleston, Mrs Lawson, Miss Collett and Mrs Blundell for accompanying the trip, and to the students for their excellent behaviour. The trip will run again next December, with letters sent in March to eligible students.

Mrs Thomas: MFL Department

Careers News



Mock Assessment Day with Enterprise Oxfordshire

With more and more businesses running assessment days to help them recruit young people into apprenticeships, CNS linked with Enterprise Oxfordshire and attended for the first time their Mock Assessment Centre Day at the Leonardo Royal Hotel in Oxford.

This was a truly fantastic opportunity for our students to gain invaluable, real-world experience in a professional setting. The day provided them with a safe and supportive environment to practise the essential skills needed to succeed in competitive recruitment processes.

On this first event, we took three Y11 students and two Y13 students who have expressed an interest in apprenticeships. We were incredibly proud of their involvement; all five students represented the school superbly, engaging enthusiastically with every activity and impressing the attending employers.

The format for the day was as follows:

- Introduction to local employers
- Top Tips session
- Team tasks
- Networking
- Online Assessment
- Individual Mock interviews
- Dos and Don'ts of CV writing / CV feedback

The students were very lucky to have so many local businesses supporting this event, with all the businesses currently looking to recruit young people this year. Companies that attended included Tokamak, Grundon, Morgan Sindall, Oxfordshire County Council, Blenheim, Nielsen, University of Oxford, OAS, Abbott, Leonardo and Bowmer & Kirkland.



Our students really engaged well and visibly enjoyed the whole process, particularly the challenging team tasks and the one-to-one mock interviews. The feedback from the students was very positive, with all of them recommending the event to others.

Furthermore, our students were very lucky to be offered work experience by some of the companies and also visits to their businesses to further their interest into a potential apprenticeship.

A big thank you also to Mrs Green for supporting this event.

Dream Job Competition

Congratulations to Stepan Shumanskyi who recently won the runners up prize (£50 Amazon voucher) in Abingdon and Witney College's T-Level Dream Job Competition.

Students in KS4 were challenged to think about what work will look like in 2040? Will we have Martian architects? AI therapists? Hologram teachers? The competition invited students to dream big and design a job that doesn't exist yet but could do so in the future.

Stepan's competition entry described what it would be like to be an Artificial Gestation Engineer; a scientist or engineer working on the development of technologies for ectogenesis, which is the artificial growth of a foetus outside the body.

Mr Parker: Careers and Enterprise Lead



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