



Cooper News

Issue No. 47

April 2003

COOPER ROCKS TO THE CHALLENGE

In March, our pupils took part in the Global Rock Challenge for the third year running.

To the uninitiated, the Rock Challenge is an international dance-drama competition. The aim is to deter young people from substance abuse by providing a healthy and enjoyable alternative during their free time. The team of youngsters involved in running the challenge have to choreograph and teach the dance to all 100+ dancers involved. They also have to design and paint the set, make the costumes, record a CD, organise rehearsals and coaches, complete a mountain of paperwork, design lighting and makeup effects and deal with all the logistics of the props and set. All this without help from teaching staff. If that wasn't enough, the team leaders also needed to raise the £1,500 required to fund this event.



To their great credit, the Year 10 leader team have given up 3 lunchtimes and one evening a week for the past six months. Nearer to competition day, the team stayed at school until 17:30 every night. (Thank you very much to those parents who were willing to give up their time, collecting their children from late night sessions.)



To date, the Cooper team have won; 3rd Place, Most Entertaining Performance, Best Costume, Best Drama Skills and, this year, Best Hair & Makeup. This year we also received a special mention due to the quality of standard of our set – thank you Mr. Minney. For the third year running, the judges have singled out our pupils for their enthusiasm and cheerful attitude.

As liaison teacher, I am always both impressed and proud of the way our pupils behave on competition day, particularly the way they supported the other teams. One of my highlights of the day this year was when staff from several of the other schools involved came up to me to congratulate me on the behaviour and atmosphere created by the Cooper School.

I would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to all the pupils who took part this year, the staff who gave their precious time, the parents for their support (and gravestones) and a special thank you to **SIDDALLS**, our sponsors, without whom we would have had no set.

Finally I would like to award "Man Of The Match" to Leanne Blossom who injured herself during rehearsals but showed great courage and team spirit by continuing to dance.

Miss Roddis

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SUMMER TERM ENDS ON FRIDAY 18TH JULY AT 12.35pm

2003-04 SCHOOL YEAR BEGINS ON:

Tuesday 2nd September for Year 7

Wednesday 3rd September for Years 8-11

FROM THE HEADTEACHER

The last half term saw us complete many of the exciting events that had been planned by pupils and staff. There were, of course, the successful carry through of events identified in the last newsletter, viz. a 'Top of the Pops' event, the 2003 Rock Challenge programme mentioned overleaf, the 'Cooper Live' events, multiple team competitions in the local leagues, sponsored marathon running for cancer relief and live talent contests. In addition there were many new and exciting activities that included the:

- amazing performance of our students in the Rock Challenge competition
- school History expedition to the battlefields and trenches of Belgium
- equally challenging, but more leisurely, expeditions to the 'battlefields' of Euro-Disney
- highly successful local primary schools football festival tournaments run by our older pupils - Cherwell District Council roundly commended our pupils for their superb help, maturity, skill and organisation
- successful and highly competitive interform soccer competition likewise run by our older pupils
- many girls' soccer tournaments run and/or participated in by our girls' teams
- continuing and refreshing commitment being shown by our pupils to the Befrienders scheme
- participation in the world record attempt to create the 'largest lesson'
- generation of our recycling project
- all the sporting activities provided and participated in

- highly enjoyable and successful drama trips and the involvement of two pupils in a national production

You have the opportunity to read about all these and more in this newsletter: please take the time to do so as it emphasises the really excellent pupil involvement in high level activities that have been created for them by the hard working and dedicated staff that work at Cooper School. I would like to thank all the staff who have given of their time, energy and commitment to enable these, and all the other events and activities not mentioned here, to take place: it is a testament to their professionalism and dedication, making it a pleasure to work in this school.

STAFFING NEWS

Whilst it is traditionally a quiet time for staff changes there have been several staff changes during last half term:

- Mr Colin Cluness and Miss Tina Stojko joined us as Teaching Assistants
- Mr Philip Smith, Head of RE left us at Easter for foreign pastures
- Miss Emma Howley joined us just before Easter as our new Head of RE

BUDGET NEWS

You might have read in the local and/or national press about the difficulties all schools in Oxfordshire are facing with the budget this year. You might even have seen the comment that some of this might be because Heads have been too optimistic or planned to spend too much on staffing and/or resources for the education of the children. If only that were possible: it might be a pleasant position to be in!

The facts are that despite the promise of a 'standstill' budget from the Government this has proved to be categorically not the case. Whilst the LEA do appear to have passported the funds to the schools, as required, there have been many misunderstandings and misconceptions at Government and local level. This has led to the, by now traditional, double and triple counting of the 'new' monies that are being given to us, a lack of understanding of the impact on budgets of the changes to superannuation, National Insurance, the narrowing of the Teachers' Pay Spine and the effects of the upper pay spine payments. If you add to that the government reneging on the agreement to fund 85%+ of the UPS2 payments by only providing approximately 60% of the funding required and the removal of many of the larger direct grants to schools and suddenly it starts to become clear why Oxfordshire Secondary schools are saying that there is on average a £114,000 hole in their budgets for 2003-04. In primary schools the deficit budget picture is similar.

Despite this, the good news is that I am intending to continue with the development programmes in the school ensuring that the environment and the resources continue to be redeveloped and augmented. We can do this due to the additional programmes we run to bring in additional finance and the hard work and efficiency of the staff in the school. We will continue to seek Specialist School Status in Science and obviously this would alleviate and enhance our ability to provide the best possible resources and environment for your children.

Mr Hamilton

BELGIUM TRIP TO THE TRENCHES

Yet another fantastic day in Belgium! At 4.15am 170 (wide awake) students arrived at school for a fun-packed day including visits to Langemark and Tyne Cot Cemeteries, the Menin Gate, Hill 62 Sanctuary Wood Trenches and Ypres town centre as well as (of course) the hypermarket outside Calais. We were very impressed by the students' punctuality throughout the day and their mature attitude to the sites we visited – in particular, their behaviour in the cemeteries was excellent. Many thanks must go to all the staff and parents whose help was invaluable and who contributed splendidly to the success of the day. Mr Jordan merits a special mention for his expert commentary!



Miss Dalton

“We left Cooper at 4.40am. Everyone was tired but didn't want to go to sleep, as they were too excited! We eventually arrived in Customs at Dover. The Customs men were scary, but it was interesting. First we headed for Tyne Cot British Cemetery. When we got there the number of graves shocked us. We got on the bus and headed for Hill 62. It was great as we could get muddy and dirty. The tunnel was scary as it was dark. Everyone wanted to get Miss Dalton muddy but no-one succeeded! Everyone got cleaned up then we set off for Langemark German Cemetery. It was totally different – it was dark, spooky and plain. It was also shocking as there were so many names here too. Next we went to Ypres and had time to shop. Most people bought chocolate! We also had a group photo by the fountain. We walked down to the Menin Gate. Everyone looked to see if their name was on the wall. There were so many names, it made you think of how many bodies weren't found. We got back on the bus and travelled to France. We went to the hypermarket, then back to the ferry. When we reached Dover, we got on the coach and everyone was tired and fell asleep. We arrived home at 12.15am. It was a great day! We all enjoyed it. It's a great way to have a break, but importantly it makes us realise how many people gave their lives for us in WWI” **Katharine Wilkinson and Laura Sollis (9.7)**

ROAD SAFETY AND FIRE PREVENTION TALKS

As part of their PSHE and Citizenship programme, Year 7 were involved in a drama workshop - 'Why did the chicken cross the road?' - and are currently attending fire prevention courses run by the local fire service.

VISIT TO EURODISNEY (Saturday 22nd March)

As a reward for their hard work, 56 Year 11 pupils visited EuroDisney just outside Paris. We left Cooper School at 10pm on Friday night and travelled through the night to arrive at 8.30 in the morning at the park. After a fun packed day involving rollercoasters, space ships, teacups and Peter Pan, plus numerous hotdogs and burgers, a weary and strangely attired group of pupils and staff (stupid hats!) drove through the night to arrive back at Cooper at 3am on Sunday morning. A fantastic day was had by all and I would like to thank the pupils for their excellent company and the staff - Mr Duncan, Mrs Harris, Miss Roddis and Mr Hutchinson - for all their help. Just don't mention disco dancing!



Annabel Williams and Lauren Griffin (Year 11) writing about the visit:

“What a good weekend it was! We arrived at school at 9.30pm and by 10pm everyone was on the coach and had finished their food supply (partly due to Mr Hiscock's craving for chocolate)! The overnight ferry crossing went well and we arrived in France at the un-godly hour of 4 o'clock IN THE MORNING! It was then back on the coach for a further five hours of thrilling travelling. At long last we arrived at Euro Disney at 8.30am. The teachers were getting more and more excited at the thought of not having to see us for a whole nine hours. The weather was gorgeous and so were the French hotties!! With passes in hand we walked through to see Sleeping Beauty's castle. What a sight it was, we're sure there was a tear in Luke's eye! We spent the day going on as many rides as we could. One of the best rides was 'Space Mountain', a very, very fast roller coaster that is in the dark, it had loops and the lot! By the end of the day, the tiredness had overcome our enthusiasm and everyone was looking forward to getting on the coach. We set off for Calais at 6pm and we were on the ferry, slumped in chairs by 10pm. Just as we thought everyone's energy had run out, someone discovered a dance machine. We had to hold Mr Duncan and Mr Hiscock back but their passion for dancing had overcome them! They leapt around to the banging sounds of "I will survive" all the way home.

It was a fantastic day and everyone had a well deserved sleep on the way back to Bicester. We can't thank the teachers enough for organising the trip and giving us great memories of a wonderful day. Huge thanks to Mr Hiscock, Mr Duncan, Mrs Harris, Miss Roddis and Mr Hutchinson”.

BEFRIENDERS WERE GREAT!

I just want to say a big thank you to all the Befrienders who have done a superb job with the year 7 pupils. They have supported their forms from day one, helping them to find their feet and their way about the school. They have been available to each and every one in the Little Room at lunchtime and they have organised two superb discos. They have been a pleasure to work with and I, together with Molly and Sharon, would like to wish them the very best of luck in their exams and the future. **Thank you!**

Linda Ellard

COOPER SCHOOL WORLD RECORD ATTEMPT

As part of the Global Campaign for Education, on Wednesday 9th April all pupils in Years 7, 8 and 9 were involved in a World Record attempt at the largest simultaneous teaching of a lesson. The aim was to:

- raise awareness of the current numbers of people who have no opportunity
- to attend school
- raise awareness of the fact that education is everyone's right and of the importance of education for both girls and boys
- explain the particular difficulties girls face in getting a good education.

Great fun was had by all! Many thanks to all staff and pupils involved - watch this space for news of the success of the world record attempt.

Mr Hiscock

DRUG EDUCATION

On 8th and 9th May all year 7 pupils will be involved in a drama production and workshop by the ADAD theatre company.



RECYCLING.....BE PART OF IT!

The Cooper School is now part of the Cherwell Business run where office paper and cardboard is collected every two weeks to be recycled.

- 14 recycling boxes for office paper (not newspaper) are now situated around the school. If any department who doesn't have a recycling box would be able to make good use of one please see David Hall.
- If any department has cardboard that can be recycled please flatten it and bring it to the Upper School Office, hand it to David Hall, or get pupils to bring it to the Music Department.
- We can make money for the school/charities by recycling used printer cartridges. Please put used cartridges from school or from home in David Hall's pigeon hole.
- We can also make money by recycling aluminium cans. Groups of pupils will be scouring the school site for such cans, but if you have 'alu' cans at home and are prepared to bag them up and bring them into school then please hand them to David Hall or get pupils to bring them to the Music Department.

Thank you in anticipation for all your support.

David Hall

SCHOOL COUNSELLOR

If you have any worries or concerns, our School Counsellor is happy to discuss them with you in private. A form is available from Reception if you would like to book an appointment.

UNIFORM REVIEW GROUP

In September this year the school is going to review the type and style of uniform and the physical education uniform pupils wear along with enforcing any policy decisions which are made. We are very keen to consult as widely as possible with present staff, governors, pupils and parents before any final decisions are made. Please note no change will be made before September 2004.

Mr Hiscock is in charge of the review and he is inviting parents to sit on a working group to discuss the issue. They will meet at a mutually convenient time after school on a maximum of three occasions. If you are interested in joining the Uniform Review Group please contact Mr Hiscock at school or leave your name with Mrs Cummings on reception.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

Navy blue uniform can be bought from many high street suppliers. The only company supplying uniform with a school logo is Smart Alec of Chippenham. Pick up a 2003-04 brochure from Reception.

ADULT EDUCATION

TEACHERS have you ever thought about tutoring adults? We are always looking to offer our students a wider range of courses and taster sessions. Interested? If you would like more information or an informal chat then please telephone Sue or Jo at BACEC on 241532.

BEAT THE RUSH TO ENROL

- Our new course details will be available on our website www.bacec.co.uk from mid-May.

1. Pick the course you want to do.
2. Download an enrolment form.
3. Fill it in and sent it, together with your cheque, to BACEC, Queens Avenue, Bicester, Oxon OX26 2NS.

EXAMINATIONS

The school is presently gripped within a vice of examinations – whether Year 9 CATS and SATS from May 6th, Year 11 GCSE's from May 19th or Year 10 internal examinations from June 16th. All pupils remember:

Failure to Prepare is Preparing to Fail.

If you revise properly and arrive at the examination on time with the correct equipment in school uniform you will be focussed and exude confidence which will give you the best chance of success.

Good luck to all our pupils – but as David Beckham once thought 'The more I practice the luckier I get!!'

YEAR 11 STUDY LEAVE AND LEAVERS BALL

The present Year 11 leave us on Friday May 15th to go on study leave. This is not an early holiday but an opportunity for intense revision and the final push towards achieving the potential GCSE grades they deserve. All pupils should use their time wisely, ignore Kilroy and day-time T.V. and stick to their planned revision schedule.

When examinations are over that is the time for enjoyment and reflection. Mr Duncan has organised the perfect vehicle for a grand Year 11 finale in the Leavers Ball. This takes place at the Littlebury Hotel on 27th June, a night when you cannot hire a limo for love nor money.

All Year 11 thank Mr Duncan for his efforts throughout the year. He has been a model of consistency, friendship, understanding and patience.

WORK EXPERIENCE 2003

On Monday 7th July life changes for all our Year 10 pupils as they join the world of work and experience the reality of being sent for A Long Stand, A Left Hand Shovel, A Sky Hook or a Bubble for a Spirit Level. They start their Work Experience programme, which runs for 2 weeks until the end of term. Many of them find it a challenge, some become very tired, some realise school is less boring than work but whatever experience they have we have always found all pupils benefit from the experience and do themselves utmost credit. For many it proves to be the highlight of their year.

If you are able to offer a Work Experience placement for future years or you are able to offer weekly placements for some of our vocational pupils please contact Mr Smith at the school.

A big thank you to Barrus of Bicester who have organised a work related day on Monday 19th May for 50 of our Year 9 pupils.



YEAR 7 PARENTS' EVENING

THURSDAY 26th JUNE

YEAR 10 PARENTS' EVENING

THURSDAY 3rd JULY

YEAR 6 PARENTS' EVENING

THURSDAY 10th JULY

ARMY DAY

The British Army which, is so prevalent in Bicester sponsors an Army Day for Year 10



pupils – boys and girls. It is a day of competitions for 25 schools organised by the various sections of the Army. Last year Cooper won the competition! The day this year takes place on Monday June 30th – any Year 10 who is interested in being part of our team should give their names to Mr Brodley.

CURRICULUM ENHANCEMENT WEEK

15th-17th July 2003

PLACES ARE STILL AVAILABLE

Day trips to:

**Warwick
Hill End (Year 7 only)
Stratford
Bristol
Portsmouth
Madame Tussaud's/
Planetarium
Waterworld, London
Thorpe Park**

Please see Miss Dalton as soon as possible to book your place

SUCCESS IN DRAMA

We had a great night out at the Playhouse when the GCSE drama groups went to see Michael Frayn's hilarious farce 'Noises Off' during half-term.



We had an extremely successful GCSE drama moderation on Monday, 24th March. The moderator complimented the students on their exemplary behaviour and supportive group work. Two groups were seen - one from Mr Simms' class who put on a farce based in a seaside boarding house and the group from Mrs Ramsey's class did a spoof of 'Bugsy Malone' called 'The Godmother'. It was set in the roaring twenties and Chris Reynolds choreographed it for us basing his dances on workshop sessions he attended with the cast of 'Chicago'. There may be a chance to see this show later in the Summer term.... watch this space!

Me and My Girl

Congratulations to Stephanie Hall and Howard Grater of Year 11. Both appeared in the Musical ME AND MY GIRL at the Playhouse in Oxford in April. Stephanie played the Pearly Queen and Howard was The Hon. Gerald Bollingsbroke.

Mrs Ramsey

RAMSHEAD PRODUCTIONS
in association with
EWE 2 ENTERPRISES and MUSIC AT COOPER
present

'LIVE at COOPER 3'

In the Cooper School Lecture Theatre
(the other venue).

FRIDAY MAY 16th 2003
7.30—11.00pm

An evening of Rock, Pop, Indie, Punk and Metal

Featuring
ATN
FLAT RABBIT
NEXT TO NOTHING
SIX BITS
and
SOULPROOF

Tickets £2.50
Doors open 7.20pm

ALL AGES WELCOME

Letters giving all details and ticket application forms are available from the Music Department and the School Reception.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Tickets for all events are available from Mr Hall in the Music Department.

Tuesday July 1st

'An Evening of Music and Dance'

- work learnt in lessons performed by the pupils themselves.

Wednesday July 2nd

'Let's Dance'

- a celebration of creative dance choreographed by the pupils (including the award winning Rock Challenge).

Saturday July 12th

'Live at Cooper 4' - the Summer event. (Tickets £5.00)

- Eight live bands; two stages (indoor/outdoor) - Food and bar.

- Doors open at 1pm — Music from 2pm 'til 11.30pm

COMMUNITY SOCCER PARTNERSHIP WITH CHERWELL

A key event in the community programme is the primary school festival that took place on Wednesday 9 April involving 25 teams from Bicester primary schools. Many thrilling and enjoyable matches took place culminating in a superb final between St. Mary's and King's Meadow, which was won by St. Mary's.

The tournament could not have taken place without the tremendous effort and assistance of Mr Hencken and several of his FA Junior Football Organiser course students. James Tidbury, Tim Preen, Richard Moss, Lee Goodacre, Tom Jones, Daniel Dancer, Katie Hickman, Rachael Chicken, Kelly Dickson and Dan Horne worked very hard on organising the festival, refereeing, scorekeeping and ensuring all the 200 or more girls who played had a fantastic day. The majority of those listed above are continuing their development by taking the FA Club Coach Award course which will see them qualify as coaches and hopefully pass on their skills to the future footballing stars of Bicester as the community project continues to grow.

Matt Hill

**Sports Development Officer
CDC**

RUGBY

Congratulations must go to Year 7 and Year 8 boys both of whom were so successful in their respective Oxfordshire tournaments. Both were selected to represent the county in the Inter County schools tournament at Reading University. The Year 7 team came 2nd and the Year 8 team 4th in their sections. Well done.

TENNIS ATHLETICS



The school has entered teams in the Oxfordshire school leagues for Years 7 and 8 and Years 9 and 10 boys. Practices and matches will take place on a Tuesday and Thursday after school. They will play Wheatley Park, Bartholomew, St. Edwards and Magdalen College School, Oxford.

SPORTS DAY 2003

**FRIDAY 27TH JUNE AT
1.00PM ON THE SCHOOL
FIELDS**

**All parents very welcome as
spectators**

This term is very important for Year 9 and 11 pupils who are at the top of their age range for District and county athletics. We will enter large teams in the district trials on Wednesday 21st of May at Tilsley Park, Abingdon.

TSB sponsor inter-school matches for Years 7/8 and 9/10 teams. We will enter teams as defending champions during the week of May 13th again at Tilsley Park.

Banbury and District age group matches take place on the 4 Thursdays in June at Drayton School. The bus will return at 7pm

Thursday June 5th Year 10
Thursday 12th June Year 9
Thursday 19th June Year 8
Thursday 26th June Year 7

BICESTER ATHLETIC CLUB

Tues & Thurs 6.15pm

BCC Sports Field (Opposite Bicester Sports Centre)

Tel: 01869 244744 for details

Visit www.bicesterac.co.uk

For club information

SUMMER TERM SPORTS CLUBS		
	GIRLS ALL YEARS	BOYS
Monday 1.30-2.10	Gymnastics	Years 7 & 8 Softball All Years Tennis
	3.30-5.00	Athletics
Tuesday 1.30-2.10		All Years Tennis
	3.30-5.00	Soccer
Wednesday 12.40-1.20		All Years Tennis Years 9 & 10 Softball
	2.40-4.00	Tennis
Thursday 1.30-2.10	Trampoline	All Years Tennis
	3.30-5.00	Rounders

SOCCER GRIPS COOPER

The interest and enthusiasm for Soccer has never been higher at Cooper School. Last term Girls Soccer really took off with after school clubs, school teams and inter-form competitions.

Future interest seems assured as two tournaments for primary school girls from Years 3 to 6 were jointly organised by Cooper Year 11 Soccer Junior Organiser students and Cherwell District Council. The second tournament for Year 6 girls was featured on Central Television News. Coupled with interest there has been success with the Under 13 girls winning the Banbury and District tournament.

The boys from Years 7 to 10 had regular fixtures on Tuesday and Thursday after school in the Banbury and District league and games in the County Cup. A summary of their results and articles on all the other soccer successes feature in this Newsletter.

The Year 11 Soccer Junior Organisers also organised and trained Year 7 forms for an inter-form tournament. This exercise was part of the course requirements. The following pupils were successful in completing the course and they have been awarded the Football Association Certificate qualifying them to assist coaches and earn money for coaching soccer to primary school players.

Those who passed the course are: Daniel Brunt, Jovan Vukoman, James Tidbury, Tom Jones, Joe Stachoviak, Alex Marsden, Stuart Burlow, Rachael Chicken, Daniel Dancer, Lee Barrett, Kelly Dickson, Daniel Edwards, Mark Fullerton, Lee Goodacre, Lee Harris, Mathew Hillsden, David Horne, Jason Hotchin, Adam Robins, Darren Spinks, Sophie Van De Kerkoff, Mathew Armitage, Todd Auger, Steven Cain, Katie Hickman, Richard Moss, Paul O'Neil, Amman Panesar, Jenny Pink, Tim Preen, Chris Wagner. **Boys Soccer Season:**

	Played	Won	Draw	Lost	Goals For	Goals Against	
Year 7	8	3	-	5	11	23	3rd
Year 8	8	5	1	2	49	16	League R/U
Year 9	12	10	-	3	35	18	League Winners
Year 10	8	6	1	1	37	14	League Winners

Mr Brodley



BANBURY SCHOOL GIRLS' SOCCER TOURNAMENT 2003

Girls' football at Cooper School is on the increase - there has been a rise in the number of girls participating in extra curricular football, which has been so encouraging to see. Earlier on this year, a bid was made to 'Awards for All' for funding that would help to provide equipment and coaching for girls' football at Cooper. An extremely helpful £2,731 has since been awarded and this has gone towards coaching during curriculum time and after school.

This has already proved to be highly beneficial, with the U13 (Y7&8) girls' recent success in the Banbury School tournament. After drawing with Warriner 0-0 in the opening game, Cooper went on to beat Banbury B, 5-0; Gosford Hill, 3-0 and Drayton, 1-0; losing only to Banbury A, 0-1. Cooper then qualified to be in the final stage of the play-offs, for 1st and 2nd place overall. The other team in the final was Warriner - the tough match from the opening round. After full time, the score was still 0-0 and so extra time was played. The game was exciting and tense throughout, with both teams so close to scoring. Cooper even managed to have one shot bounce off the keeper *and* the inside of the post! The end of extra time came - as did the dreaded penalties. The pressure was on and this showed as Warriner missed their first penalty, but the Cooper players kept their cool and put three excellent penalties in the back of the net. What a tournament! Huge congratulations to all those who played - you made Cooper very proud.

Although the 'Awards for All' bid has helped us to provide a decent start for girls' football, we are still desperately seeking sponsorship for things such as kit, tours and further equipment. If any individuals or companies are interested in helping with this matter, please contact Miss H Boyne on (01869) 242121

Miss Boyne