



Cooper News

Issue No. 45

December 2002

FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Sad News

It is with great sadness that I must inform you of the death of Trevor Goodridge, former teacher and Deputy Head of Cooper School.

Trevor joined the school when it was still the lower school for Bicester School. In 1974, on the formation of The Cooper School he joined as Head of PE in the new school. He contributed massively to the development of the school over the years and generations of pupils and parents will remember him for his energy, enthusiasm, integrity and complete commitment to the pupils in his care. He rose to the position of Deputy Head and worked in this position until he left the school in 1998 for pastures new. Both Trevor and his family have always been synonymous with service to the school. His wife Jean was a science teacher and Head of Year at Cooper School until Christmas 2001, and his son Matthew was a pupil at the school and has been working in the Learning Support Department since graduating from University in September 2002.

A memorial service will be held at 3.00pm on December 22nd at St. Edward's School Chapel, Oxford. The family have expressed an open invitation for as many people who would like to attend to do so to express their appreciation of Trevor. On your behalf I have sent flowers to the family expressing our sadness but also our gratitude for his life and the work he did for our community.

Here John Brodley, Head of P.E. and Chair of the Staff Association, remembers a good friend and colleague:

"Trevor was an advocate of all sports and was never more proud than in

the early days when, on a Saturday morning the school field was full with pupils who had made a special effort to play inter-school fixtures. He epitomised the Sport for All slogan and included in his teams and clubs boys for whom sport was their only success.

If pushed, Trevor favoured rugby in the winter and cricket in the summer and enthused others around him to such an extent that the likes of Mr Evans, Hoyland and McGill regularly competed in the staff versus ex-pupils rugby re-union game and in the Trysports league for the staff cricket team. The cricket match everyone wanted to play in was the one against the Bicester Garrison when we were so royally entertained in the officer's mess. It was a fitting tribute to Trevor that so many pupils and staff wanted to play in the game, which marked his retirement from Cooper. Once again that night Trevor's oversize, heavyweight Duncan Furnley bat connected to send the ball to all parts of the field.

Trevor was totally respected as a Deputy Head by pupils, parents and staff. He was a man who got things done then talked about them. He was never wrong or at least would never admit to it. He managed to smooth over troubles and deal with the most difficult of situations with a quick reply and wit, which left his adversary floundering and almost always smiling. For those staff fortunate enough to be in the staff room at the end of a year they were always treated to Trevor at his best. Along with his accomplices he presented prizes and awards to staff with great humour and sympathy but with a sharp wit. For those and many other times he will be remembered and never replaced".



STAFFING NEWS

At the end of this term we will sadly be losing the services of some staff.

- Ms Claire Francis (MFL), in post since September on a short-term contract, is leaving to take up a teaching post in an Oxford primary school: we wish her well in this change of phase.
- Mrs Sam Straiton (TA in LSD) is leaving us to take up a TA post at Chesterton Primary School and we wish her every success in this change of phase.
- Ms Diana Archer (Technology) is leaving to take up a part-time post at Chipping Norton: we wish her well though she is continuing her association with us as outlined overleaf.
- Mrs Val Neame (Finance Secretary) is leaving to extend her work in her other areas of interest. In a short newsletter it is impossible to do justice to the service that she has offered and the qualities she has demonstrated. I would simply like to thank her for all the effort and hard work she has generously ploughed into the school for the sake of our staff and pupils. We wish her every success and enjoyment in her extended endeavours.

At the start of next term we will be



happily gaining the services of additional staff to maintain us at a full staffing complement and provide additional services.

- Mrs Val Westwell (Maths) is returning from maternity leave, on a reduced timetable.
- Mrs Madeleine Goldman (MFL) a highly qualified teacher of French and German is joining us part-time to cover the gap left in languages by Ms Francis' departure.
- Ms Diana Archer is continuing with us but on a reduced timetable to cover some Technology and some supply work.
- We will be looking to appoint replacements for Mrs Neame and our Art Technician, Mrs D Wood, who left earlier in this half-term, as soon as we are able.

DEVELOPMENTS AT COOPER SCHOOL

I am pleased to inform you of the continuing developments that we have undertaken in order to enhance our provision for the pupils in our care. These developments include our:

- massive investment in ICT
- conversion and design of two new network rooms
- implementation of a complete 'blackboard to whiteboard' replacement programme
- new access facilities to many areas of the site
- new lighting/ceilings in many areas
- continued and extended decoration/carpeting/tables/chairs/general furniture renewal programme
- additional catering/dining/

function facilities in the new PE areas

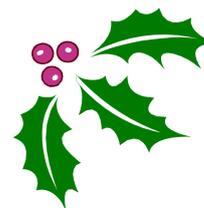
- second year of lockers provided to new Year 7 pupils
- ongoing, extended Year/School Council programme
- extended extra-curricular provision for pupils.

These are all aimed at enhancing the educational environment and provision that we make for the pupils of Cooper School, helping them to make the most of the opportunities that are offered to them. It is our hope that we will be able to continue with this developmental programme and I would continue to encourage you to help us to avoid wasting our resources responding to the negative responses of a minority of our community.



The

ongoing drive to improve the environment around the school has been based on the determination that we should all take lead responsibility for the state of the site. This includes an ongoing drive to improve the state of litter around the site by utilising pupils to collect litter on an infrequent basis. We would ask for your support both in encouraging your child to utilise our enhanced litter bin system and in not sending them into school with snacks/lunches that multiply our litter problem.



COLLECTING AND DELIVERING YOUR CHILDREN BY CAR

I would like to thank all the parents who are thoughtfully using the car park at the right of the main entrance to the school to collect and deliver their children. In doing so, you are protecting the life of your own children as well as the other pupils at the school.

At the same time, I wish to appeal to all parents who park in the service road, in front of Reception along the double yellow lines. To quote from our February 2001 newsletter - "The conjunction of cars, with the school buses, and children on foot and on bicycle is an accident waiting to happen."

Please don't let that accident happen to your child. Please follow the example of other parents and pick up your children from the car park area to the right of the main entrance - this is a much safer option for them and all the other road users.

LOCKERS - LIMITED OFFER

Those of you with younger pupils at the school will know that we have purchased lockers for the use of our Year 7 and Year 8 pupils.

The lockers have been available for pupils in years 7 and 8 since the beginning of the school year. However, there are some lockers that have remained unused. Some older pupils have expressed an interest in having a locker for their books and kit. The school would like to offer the unused lockers to pupils in Years, 9, 10 and 11 on a first come, first served basis. The lockers are available for an annual donation to school funds of £8.00 for the rest of the year. Padlocks are available from school (£2.00) or may be brought into school.

Lockers will be allocated on a 'first come, first served' basis, confirmed by the receipt of £8.00. Requests and money should be handed to Mrs. Munro, Headteacher's Secretary.

**HELP US ON FREE SCHOOL MEALS**

As is usual at this time of year, the Government will utilise the percentage of our pupils who have free school meals to assess our funding for the coming year and the standard of our performance over the last.

The higher the percentage of our children who are eligible for free school meals, whether they take them or not, the better it is for the school in terms of our funding. It also enables us to be compared accurately and appropriately with similar schools rather than those with lower actual percentages of free school meals. Therefore, we need our figures to be accurate and, the more accurate our figure is, the better.

We would therefore ask you to respond positively if your children **are eligible** for free school meals, whether they take them or not, by **completing the form at the end of this newsletter**, or that on the letter which your child will bring home **immediately after Christmas**.

END OF TERM ARRANGEMENTS

School will close at 12.30 p.m. on Friday 20 December. Buses will leave by 12.45 p.m. Free school meals and snack lunches for those who want them will be available for those who want them. **THESE SHOULD BE COLLECTED FROM THE DINING ROOM AT MORNING BREAK.**

School will resume for all pupils at the normal time on Tuesday 7 January 2003 as 6 January 2003 is set up as an In-Service Training Day for teaching staff.

NEW FAX NUMBER

**Please note Cooper School's new fax number:
01869 362693**



May I take this opportunity to wish all our pupils, parents and staff a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



BODYZONE

Cooper School would also like to tell you about an important service that will be available to students in Years 7-11 from the start of next term.

As a direct result of Government funding, a team of local health professionals is able to support a whole range of health issues as they affect young people. Most secondary schools in Oxfordshire are involved in this programme.

Many young people encounter difficulties of one sort or another as they grow up. Frequently they feel the need for help or advice about their relationships, health or other personal matters but find it hard to ask. Sometimes these difficulties become so significant that they interfere with a student's ability to get the best out of his/her education.

We see it as part of our responsibility at Cooper School to help students find their way through such difficulties and the Governors have given their enthusiastic support to the establishment of an advisory service for students. The service is known as **Bodyzone**.

Oxfordshire Health Authority, Oxfordshire Youth Service, local General Practitioners and other health professionals, and a number of school staff are sharing in the planning of the service. It will be based at Cooper School.

The service will be available one lunchtime per week and, although a number of details have yet to be finalised, it will offer help and advice on topics such as smoking, exercise, diet and weight, contraception, skin care, personal relationships, drugs, alcohol, stress management, money management, homelessness, benefits and citizens' rights.

It will not replace the service available to you from your Family Doctor and Bodyzone will be working closely with General Practitioners in the area.

We are sure that this service will be of benefit to our students and we hope that it will have your support. It is a voluntary service, open to those students who wish to make use of it.

COOPER SCHOOL REUNION 2002

Cooper School held their annual prize giving and reunion on Thursday 28th November 2002 with David Dunne, Chair of Governors, welcoming the returning pupils. The Performance Hall saw proud parents, governors and staff gathered together to applaud the achievements of the class of 2002.

As our guest speaker, Trevor Goodridge, was ill, we were very pleased that Mrs Honor Hollis, former SENCo, with many years of service to the school, presented the certificates and prizes. The pupils' valued her input and we would like to thank her for standing in at short notice.

The prize winners were:

Examination Certificates

Students from last year's Year 11 who were unable to attend the Annual Reunion Evening should collect their certificates from Reception during normal school hours as soon as possible. Please note that these must be collected in person as a signature is required.

<i>Art</i>		<i>Mark Castle</i>
<i>Business Studies</i>		<i>Amy Jenner</i>
<i>D & T</i>	<i>Food</i>	<i>Claire Ford</i>
	<i>Graphics</i>	<i>Hannah Auger</i>
	<i>Res. Materials</i>	<i>Hannah Perkins</i>
	<i>Systems</i>	<i>Gareth Thomas</i>
	<i>Textiles</i>	<i>Michaela Gattward</i>
<i>Drama</i>		<i>Daniel Sears</i>
<i>English</i>		<i>Tina Matthews</i>
<i>Geography</i>		<i>Sarah Hamidi</i>
<i>History</i>		<i>Danielle Prpa</i>
<i>Mathematics</i>		<i>Chris Raynor</i>
<i>Modern Foreign Languages</i>	<i>German</i>	<i>Sean Freeman</i>
	<i>French</i>	<i>Michael Shipton</i>
<i>Music</i>		<i>Simon Hughes</i>
<i>Physical Education</i>		<i>Russell Johnson</i>
<i>Science</i>		<i>Lisa Belton</i>
		<i>Iain Sawyer</i>
<i>Jan Charman Prize</i>		<i>Emma Looms</i>
<i>Chair's Prize - Service to School</i>		<i>Stewart Sharp</i>
<i>John Cutforth Prize</i>		<i>Nicola Orchard</i>



BOYS' SOCCER

The soccer season begins after the New Year for Years 7-10. We hope they are as successful as Year 11 who reached the semi-final of the County Cup and are in the final of the Banbury and District Cup. Well done Mr Duncan, team manager.

SOCCER FIXTURES 2003

The Year 9 and 10 teams are in the County Cup and their fixtures have to be arranged. The Banbury and District league fixtures are:

Opposition	Date	Years	Date	Years
Warriner	28/1	10(A) 9(H)	30/1	7(A) 8(H)
Drayton	4/2	7(H) 8(A)	6/2	9(H) 10(A)
Magdalen	11/2	7, 8, 10(H)	13/2	9(A)
Chenderit	25/2	7(A) 9(H)	27/2	8(A) 10(H)
Banbury	4/3	7(H) 9(A)	6/3	8(H) 10(A)
Blessed George Napier	11/3	7(H) 10(A)	13/3	8(A) 9(H)
B.C.C.	18/3	7(A) 9(A)	20/3	8(H) 10(H)

Friendly fixtures have been arranged against Lord William's and Gosford Hill. Trials will take place for all teams during the week of 13 January 2003.

RUGBY SEASON

The rugby season has now finished and the boys have been a real credit to the school. Their success on the field matched their enthusiasm for the game and their behaviour off the field.



Year 7 - As always the Year 7 season began with small sided games and the year group showed their potential by beating Waddesdon 10 tries to 0. They then defeated Banbury School and Chenderit School in similar fashion and were ready for a 15-a-side game against Lord William's Sports College. This match, played at Chinnor Rugby Club as part of their Rugby in the Community Scheme, was played under floodlights. The boys were inspired winning 15-5. They finished the season winning the South Oxfordshire District tournament without conceding a try.

Year 8 - The Year 8 team were also victorious, 24-0 over Lord William, and beat every other school they played except for Chenderit, losing narrowly 15-10. The team played in the County Championships and won through their group stage only to lose in the semi-final to the eventual winners Wallingford. Many of these boys play at Bicester or Chinnor Rugby Club which is good news for the future.

Year 9 - The Year 9 team won all their matches except one where they lost heavily to Lord William. This is the most improved side in the school and their enthusiasm for the game was shown by their desire to play an inter-group game 9F against 9G. This was billed as the Varsity Match and won by 9G 20-10 - who were Oxford of course. Several boys have now joined the Bicester club and Ollie Cross has been selected for the County team. All in all, an excellent year - played 7, won 6, lost 1.

Year 10 - There was some concern about Year 10 as they lost their first game to Waddesdon. The defeat must have spurred them on as they won all their remaining games. They had a thrilling encounter against Lord William's Sports College, winning 27-26 with the last kick of the game.

YEAR 10 NETBALL

The Year 10 netball team has completed the Banbury League fixtures. Performances and results showed a marked improvement on last year and this was largely due to the commitment and good team spirit of the girls involved. Congratulations to: Leigh Honour, Lianne Forbes, Jess Lovell, Katie Dunn, Shelley Austen, Jo Brimble, Kat Forster and Lisa Mott.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Kayleigh Gaul (9.6) took part in an eight week project at The Courtyard and sold a photograph in a show held on 23rd November. Kayleigh donated her £25.00 prize back to The Courtyard. Well done Kayleigh!



DIARY DATES

Spring

Tuesday 7th January - Friday 14th February

Half term: Monday 17th-Friday 21st February

Monday 24th February - Thursday 10th April

Staff Training: Monday 6th January and Friday 11th April (No pupils in school)

Summer Term

Monday 28th April - Friday 23rd May

May Day Bank Holiday: Monday 5th May

Half term: Monday 26th-Friday 30th May

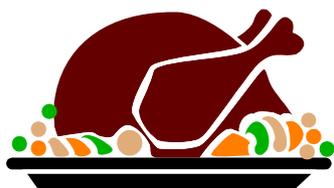
Monday 2nd June- Friday 18th July

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.

CHILDREN IN NEED

A total of £913.84 was raised for Children in Need. Well done and thank you to everyone who contributed.



ADULT EDUCATION

New courses start in January. There is a range of computer courses and digital darkroom. Arts and crafts including painting, drawing, patchwork, beginners darkroom and pottery. Keep fit - circuit training, line dancing, tap dancing and golf. Families - First Aid, Red Cross Babysitting and Teaching Assistant. General studies including local history, philosophy, wine appreciation and wine tour of France. Health - Just for Men, Aromatherapy, Lip Reading, Pilates, Reflexology, Reiki and Yoga. Languages - Chinese, French, Spanish, German circle, Latin, Holiday Spanish. Practical - cooking, garden design, map reading, interior design and creative woodwork.

Spring Workshops

Saturday 1st March at Cooper School

Cooking with friends, Alexander Technique, Willowwork for the Garden, Spring Flower Painting, Making Birthday and Thank You cards, Furniture Restoration, Map Reading for Walkers.



Saturday 22nd March at Bicester Community College

Furniture Restoration, Photography, Desk Top Publishing, Cross-stitch, Drawing, Creative Canvaswork, Breadmaking, Stenciling, Pruning.

For more information please telephone BACEC on 01869 241532

FREE SCHOOL MEALS FORM

Please return to A S Hamilton - Headteacher before 10th January 2003

My child/ren listed below is/are eligible for free school meals as the family is in receipt of income support and/or income-based job-seeker's allowance.

Name(s) of child(ren):

I would/would not like a form to enable my children to take up free school meals (delete as appropriate).

Signed _____

Parent/Guardian