



# The Cooper School, Bicester

Where 'Learning Matters'



Science

Issue No. 4

December 2006

## FROM THE HEADTEACHER



Welcome to this, the Autumn Term edition of The Cooper School newsletter. As ever this has been a busy time within our school community. The school year started with news of very successful examination results at both Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4/GCSE. The KS3 results in the core subjects (English, Maths, Science) were very pleasing, exceeding demanding targets with the percentage of students achieving Level 5 or above higher than the National Averages in all of these subjects. At GCSE 47% of students achieved 5 or more A\*-C grades with 99% gaining at least one or more A\*-G passes. These results bear testimony to the sustained hard work on behalf of the students themselves, the staff who taught and supported them and the encouragement and support of the students' parents.

We have continued to improve and upgrade the premises and facilities at the school. The refurbishment of some Science Laboratories has been completed to a very high quality specification; external doors to Modern Foreign Languages classrooms and one Science room were installed to improve student movement and access around the site. We have significantly increased the number of lockable wall display cabinets around the school so that areas look more attractive and can more effectively celebrate the work of our students. We have also appointed a new Facilities Manager; Mr Arthur Kennedy has joined the school and he and his facilities team do an invaluable job in keeping the site as clean and presentable as possible.

In our commitment to enhance learning opportunities for our students via the use of new technologies, we have continued to upgrade equipment in teaching areas throughout the school. Some 14 additional new digital projectors have been installed into classrooms (bringing the current total to 43), making for some 90% coverage in all classrooms. Work has also started on producing our own Cooper School website and it is our intention for this to be up and running in the new year (further

information to follow...).

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will read of the launch of our 'Parent Voice' – as Headteacher I am also committed to involving our young people in the life of the school. To that end a new Student Council has been launched which includes representatives from all Year Groups coordinated by Mrs C Roberts. The group have already shown themselves to be an active body within the school and I will be pleased to meet with them to discuss their ideas, concerns and (most importantly) their proposed solutions to these issues and concerns. It is their school.

I would like to end by wishing parents, students, staff and all people in the community who support the work of our school a fantastic Christmas and a prosperous New Year. Have a wonderful, safe vacation.

**Mr Baxter**

## SCIENCE STATUS NEWS

The extra money brought into school from achieving Specialist School status has allowed us to refurbish 4 laboratories and a preparation room during the summer. These are now in use and have made a big difference to the working environment for both staff and students. This is their first makeover since the school was built in the early 70's and were looking very old and tired. One quote passed on by a parent whose daughter was comparing schools with a friend from a private school said "You should see our new labs - they will blow you away"

From September we have increased the use of qualified Science teachers to give our more able students the opportunity to study the separate sciences, Biology, Chemistry and Physics, and are one of a very few Oxfordshire schools to offer this opportunity. We have also introduced setting into year 7 and have been able to support our partner primary schools in their Science teaching by purchasing specialist equipment for them to use and staff support for special events. New courses for Year 11 are fully resourced and up and running.

**Mr Rees**

# CONGRATULATIONS!

To the following students who had 100% attendance from 4/9/06 to 24/11/06

## Year 7

Keri Allen  
Giles Baldwin  
Shannen Bannister  
Tegan Berry  
Chantelle Billson  
Charlotte Buckley  
Geoffrey Clargo  
Amanda Cole  
Jack Cooper  
Joshua Dunn  
Hollie Edmans  
Adam Ford  
Ellen Giles  
Sakinah Hamidi  
Rebekah Hanmer  
Tasmin Hanmer  
Christopher Hart  
Joseph Hayes  
Samantha King  
Antonia Kissias  
Tiffany Lappage  
Grace Lochrie  
Jacob Mackie  
Harold Magnay  
Jonathan McCarthy  
Kirsty Mills  
Jack Murray  
Rebecca Nolte  
Bradley Olah  
Helen Oldham  
Lorraine Palmer  
Charlie Paviour  
Hollie Roberts  
Matty Sewell  
Aidan Starr  
Jack Stone  
Anita Tafirenyika  
Ka Yi Tang  
Ellis Townsend  
Rebekah Veasey  
Rebecca Waddup  
Heather Watt  
Alice Webb  
Ryan Williams  
Claire Worsfold  
Katherine Worsfold  
Roberta Worsfold

## Year 8

Joshua Allen  
Emily Allington  
Robin Aris  
Lewis Beck  
Megan Benfield  
Sasha Bowen  
James Brockwell  
Thomas Clanfield  
Kathryn Dover  
William Dunn  
Tiago Freitas  
Tayla Hurlock  
Abigale Lappage  
Daniel Lawrence  
Daniel Mccarthy  
Christopher Moore  
Demi Nolan  
Melissa Parker  
Chloe Payne  
Sophie Peck  
Natalie Perry  
Charlotte Peterson  
Kieran Read  
Mitchell Roberts  
Zoe Rowlinson  
Thomas Smith  
Emma Strong  
Jack Walker  
Harriet Wall  
Jack Walter  
Carly Waters  
Brandon Wheatcroft  
Marisa Yearwood

## Year 9

David Aslett  
Robert Bone  
Charlie Bull  
Richard Cadle  
Jodie Childs  
Gemma Cross  
Joseph Dixey  
Dorya Djebbar  
Clare Dodds  
Stacey Evans  
Rebecca Gambrell  
Connor Gibson  
Hannah Greenhalgh  
Imogen Groves  
Marko Grubnic  
Samual Jones  
Alice King  
Benjamin Lambert  
Hayden Nolan  
Liam O'Hara  
Elliott Payne  
Liam Phipps  
Alexander Price  
Andrew Pryde  
Ellaura Riley  
Sophie Trinder  
Jamie Underwood  
Abbie Warner  
Daniel Williams  
Thomas Young

## Year 10

Christopher Allen  
Scott Bagley  
Christopher Birch  
Patrick Burden  
Connor Butler  
Andrew Clack  
Samantha Crow  
Lauren Davis  
Sophie Elliott  
Katie Evans  
Ryan Fullerton  
Liam Hadley  
William Hagan  
Nathan Hallam  
Yusri Hamidi  
Erin Hedges  
Kirsty Henderson  
Yasmin Hennessy  
William Hickey  
Kelly Houlihan  
Ryan Hyett  
Matthew Ingram  
William Jones  
Claire Jordan  
Jessie Keen  
Sarah Keen  
Gary Lawson  
Joshua Lyons  
Katie Martin  
Joshua McGregor  
Simon Mead  
Thomas Muddle  
Clay Munday  
Victoria Munger  
Amber Nelson  
Martin Oldham  
Danielle Plummer  
Kirsty Rigby  
Stafford Sansome  
Daniel Savin  
Chantelle Shone  
Iain Shorter  
Adam Steadman  
Samuel Thomas  
Andrew Tracoshas  
Samuel Veasey  
Stuart White  
Laura Willia  
Annie Zhou

## Year 11

Candice Ashmore-Harris  
Jennifer Beasley  
Nichola Beasley  
Ashley Bird  
Ian Bone  
Jessica Bull  
Daniel Butcher  
Darren Cain  
Emma Carroll  
Holly Carter  
Martin Cross  
Joshua Cussell  
Wednesday Denty-Smith  
Ben Ford  
Matthew Frost  
Nathan Gibbard  
Christopher Green  
Gemma Greenall  
Sebastian Groves  
Rachel Harris  
Stella Harrison  
Leanne Hobbs  
Grace Johnstone  
Simon Jones  
Michael Keith  
James Kempster  
Harvey Kent  
Sarah Knight  
Hannah Lamburn  
Charlotte Landy  
Aiden Mckeran  
Cassie Moorton  
Kelly Mortimore  
Adam Murphy  
Alexandra Ninkovic  
Jordan Nixey  
Craig Potter  
Lauren Rushby  
Daniel Smith  
Kimberley Stanford  
Natalie Swain  
Daniel Thomas  
Robert Thorne  
Philip Walton  
Alec Warriner  
Amanda Wilkins  
Kirsty Williams  
Hannah Winman



## COOPER SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

Feedback from the first meeting.

The first meeting of the new Parent Council was held on October 19<sup>th</sup>; it was well attended (about 25 parents including 3 of the Parent Governors), very positive and very supportive of the school. The meeting took the form of a brainstorming session in 3 groups to sound out parent opinion on what they appreciate about the school; what improvements they would like to see in the school and what more they think parents can do to support the school.

Some of the things parents really appreciated about the school included – in random order:-Praise Postcards; good luck and well done cards at exam time; the merit schemes; letters in the post; in general communication is good (teachers return calls); Parent Evenings; Interim reports; the SEN team; staff on the school gate; the Attendance officer; Form tutors staying with forms; Religious Education year planner, e.g. homework tests.

Parents' suggestions for improvements included: more/better use of planners for communication; early warning of problems; more chances to meet teachers e.g. target setting days for all; website/Email for communication; more information about Behaviour Policy and practices; more curriculum advice (especially for Maths); workshops on subject areas for parents; use of internet guidance; Parents evening organisation review; review of school uniform for outdoor clothing.

Parents suggestions about how they can help the school included getting involved with school as experts, as the extra adult or as ambassadors and making themselves known as source of information for other parents.

Feedback from the Parent Council Lunch!

At the suggestion of parents we also held an information meeting about the Parent Council at lunchtime for any parents who find evening meetings difficult. A very small but select group enjoyed an excellent school lunch and there was a particularly useful discussion on how the school could improve our Open Evening.

**The next Parent Council meeting will take place from 7.00 to 8.00pm on Thursday December 7<sup>th</sup> in Science ....All parents are invited to attend.**

The format will again be small group discussions which will enable everyone to have their say. In view of the considerable concern expressed by many parents at the first two meetings about the apparently hostile press the school seems to be attracting from the Bicester Advertiser and parents' wishes to explore how they can help promote a fairer and more positive image of the school in the community the main item for the next agenda will be **Cooper in the Community**.

**Please do come along and support your child and your school.**

## MATHS CLUB – YEARS 7, 8 AND 9

We have now started using an exciting new piece of Formula 1 simulation software in the Thursday after school club. Club members have to program their racing cars to enable them to go round the particular grand prix circuit we are competing on that week in the quickest time possible. They also have to calculate fuel, pitstops and tyre type depending on the number of laps and the weather conditions (which can change during the race!). It is a fun and competitive way for students to improve their Maths skills. New members always welcome, see me for a letter.

Mrs Harvey



## FREE SCHOOL MEALS

Many government statistics and funding mechanisms for the school are based on the percentage of our students who are eligible for free school meals, eg. the level of funds we get or as a basis for such things as comparing our academic progress with other schools. Whatever we feel about the validity of this method, it is still going to be used. It is therefore essential that our information on this measure is as accurate and precise as possible.

As in previous years, to ensure that this is the case, we are requesting that parents inform us **in complete confidence** if they are in receipt of one of the following:

**Income Support (IS).**

**Income Based Jobseekers Allowance (IBJSA)**

Support under part VI of the **Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.**

**Child Tax Credit, PROVIDED** that Working Tax Credit is **NOT** included, and that your 'annual income for tax credit purposes' does not exceed a threshold figure (currently £14,155).

The Guarantee element of **State Pension Credit.**

**PLEASE** contact me if you think you are eligible, even if you are not going to claim the free meals, as it **WILL** help our funding and therefore the education of your children.

Many thanks.

Mrs N Jeacock  
(Finance Office)



## COOPER SCHOOL Y11 PRESENTATION

Cooper School celebrated the achievements of the class of 2006 when former students returned to the school to receive their GCSE Examination Certificates. The Chair of Governors, David Dunne, welcomed the students and parents and the evening began with musical entertainment by their former classmates lead by Sam Mather and Beckie Steele whose lively interpretation of Eric Clapton and Band Aid numbers was warmly received.

Mrs Pamela Hickman, their Head of Year then regaled her former charges with special memories of their school days.

The Headteacher, Ben Baxter welcomed special guest Peter Rhoades-Brown, Football in the Community Officer at Oxford United who presented the certificates and prizes. In his warm, witty and well received speech to the former students, Peter used examples of his own career as a player with Chelsea and Oxford United to emphasise the importance of being positive throughout the highs and lows of life and to have a Plan B. He outlined his experience of going from an all time high by beating Aston Villa in the semi final of the League Cup and looking forward to playing at Wembley to his all time low just three weeks later when he was ruled out through injury and missing the experience of a lifetime. David Dunne gave a vote of thanks at the end and presented Peter with a small gift. Prize winners were:

Art		Sam Spinks
Business Studies		Charlotte Gray
Drama		Hannah Raynor
Electronics		Sam Houlihan
English		Martyn Royce
Food		Lucy O'Neil
French		Clair Cross
Geography		Matthew Evans
History		Declan Holbem
German		Lucy Richardson
Graphics		Michael Taylor
ICT		James Gambrell
The Jan Charman Award		Kimberley Hickey
Leisure & Tourism		Kirstin Bardwell
Mathematics	Higher	Rachel Brown
	Intermediate	Ben Hookham
	Foundation	Chanelle Jones
Music		Sam Mather
Physical Education		Jamie Hall
Youth Award		Kirsty Peaper
The Progress Prize		Kevin Wills
Religious Studies		Leanne Blossom
Resistant Materials		Ben Ancil
The Chair's Prize for Service to the School		Adam Goddard
Textiles		Lewis Harrison
Applied Science Awards		Gemma Williams
		Rebecca Turner
		Stefanie Crow
Science Double Award		Jordan Wood
		Kelsey Grieve



*Pictured are Ben Baxter and Peter Rhoades-Brown with prize winners Jordan Wood and Kelsey Grieve.*

## ECDL NEWS

Results to date.

Congratulations to Carl Rowlinson Yr10 who has passed an amazing 3 Certification tests already in his ECDL qualification! Other Yr10 students who have passed one Certification test: Stafford Sansome, James Durrant, Danielle Plummer, Rebecca Digman, Sophie Elliott & Robert Bailey.

Congratulations to Alice Parkinson who passed the Word Processing Certification test. Adam Hedges, James Dickety, Carl Byrne, Emma Carroll & Tomas Lelli have all passed 2 Certification tests this term. Alex Ninkovic and Candy Ashmore-Harris have both passed 3 Certification tests.

Well done to all these students!

**Mrs Wordsworth**

## ECDL Club

After school every Wednesday  
2.30pm – 3.30pm in S1

Yr11 only – Wednesday lunchtime  
12.40pm – 1.05pm in CA14



## SENIOR STUDENT UPDATE

Our 20 Year 11 Senior Students have had a busy start to the year. As well as doing regular lunchtime supervision in the Study Centre's Homework Club or the activity-based CCC (Cooper Community Club), they have set up committees for the production of the Yearbook and the organisation of the Leaver's Ball. Other responsibilities have included acting as tour guides at the Year 6 Open Evening, organising and running Jeans for Genes day and a lunch with the Senior Leadership Team. After all that hard work we thought we deserved some fun so on the Sunday before half term, Sarah and Jasmin helped to organise a day trip to Alton Towers, which was great fun even though some of us ended up soaked by the rapids! Senior Students have an important role to play as ambassadors for the school, role models to younger students and organisers of important events. It is also a very rewarding job and looks great on your CV. The position will be advertised to the current Year 10 in the summer term.

**Mrs Harvey**



## RETURN TO TEACHING COURSE

The School is currently recruiting for its highly rated Return to Teaching Course which starts in January. Please do tell anyone you think might be interested in applying for a place as it is a unique opportunity to study locally and on a part time basis.

The course is aimed at both Primary and Secondary School teachers who have stopped teaching for whatever reason and now wish to return to the fold and is supported by Oxfordshire Local Education Authority and the Teachers' Development Agency. Previous courses have proved very popular, particularly with teachers who have taken time out to raise children and are now looking to refresh their skills. The school has been running the Returners' Course since 2001 with 136 successful participants to date. The aim of the project is to bring former teachers up to date with the latest educational developments and to boost their confidence and skills in preparation for returning to the profession. The modular structure of the course which involves one day a week (Monday) attendance at a taught course and a 12 day school placement as well as distance learning is ideal for returners with family commitments. Another incentive is the payment of a training bursary and child care costs to all successful applicants.

If you know any teachers who want to return to the profession and wish to take advantage of the opportunity to brush up your skills please ask them to contact the course administrator **Beverley Munro at The Cooper School on 01869 242121** for further details.

## STUDENT COUNCIL

We are your new School Council. Altogether there are 20 of us from each year group. We meet every Wednesday Week A and already we are getting together ideas for Year 9s 'Going For It' and ideas for fund raising days. We do need the help of other students. If you have any ideas or suggestions, please use the surveys being sent to your OCN email or use the suggestion boxes in the Canteen, Music Block or in the Library.

### Your Council



## CHILDRENS' UNIVERSITY

Children in and around Bicester have been taking part in the only Children's University in the county. Run by the Bicester Learning in Partnership group (BLiP) the Children's University offer a unique opportunity for young children to try out varying courses throughout the year ranging from Art & Drama to DJ Skills and Soft Toy making.

The sessions are held at many of the schools in Bicester and surrounding villages after school and run for six weeks. At the end of each module each child is presented with a certificate and over a period of time they can be awarded Silver and Gold certificates as they complete more modules.

Helen Graham the Bicester Children's University Project manager said, "The Children's University has been running in Bicester for five years now and is the only one still running in the county. Each module provides different learning opportunities and allows the children to take part in subjects which are outside the normal school curriculum offering a wide range of new and challenging experiences. By drawing on the skills of existing teaching staff and other expertise within the community we are able to offer a wide ranging series of modules including Judo, Film Making, Cooking with fruit, World Art, Knitting and Cross Stitching and pottery. The first modules are now complete and the next series will start in February next year. Anyone who is interested can contact me on 07868 521502."



**TWITS Club**  
**Teenagers With IT Skills!**  
**CiDA students & those who wish to**  
**improve their IT skills**  
**Thursday lunchtime**  
**1.40pm – 2.05pm in CA14**



## CONFISCATED ITEMS

All students should wear the correct uniform and we would appreciate parents support in this matter. In terms of jewellery and other items of value, the policy states that, '...except a watch and two piercings per ear – studs only, no other jewellery or accessories are permitted.' Accessories including mobile telephones, i-pods, cd players etc. should not be brought onto school site. If students are found using these items in school the item(s) will be confiscated and placed in a secure area. These can then be collected after the end of the school day on the Friday of that week from Reception. A record of the item will be kept.

If a student does need to use a mobile telephone on a specific day for a specific reason then that telephone can be left securely with the school receptionists. These items can cost a great deal of money and the upset that is caused when items are damaged or go missing has a huge detrimental effect on learning – which is, after all, the core function of the School.

Mr Baxter

## BICESTER SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP



A new initiative was launched in Bicester this week aimed at helping parents of school children in the area. Parents who may be having difficulties in the home and are concerned about the possible effects on their children can have a confidential meeting with a trained mediator free of charge at the sessions held at the Family Centre, next to Glory Farm School. Run by the Oxfordshire Family Mediation and the Bicester Schools Partnership the sessions are available between 1pm and 5.30pm with the next series on 13<sup>th</sup> November.

The sessions are the first in a series of initiatives arranged by Naomi Hillman, the extended School Manager for the Bicester area. Naomi said 'It is possible that parents who are separated or divorced and are arguing over their children may be affecting the children in some way. These sessions do not seek to preach or apply pressure; they offer an impartial, friendly, professional ear who can listen to the issues. This presents an opportunity for them to talk either individually or together to a trained mediator who may be able to offer support. There is no reporting back at any time and the sessions are totally confidential. As well as offering support they can also provide more information on other choices open to them and where to go for help.'

Anyone interested can book a session by calling Gwen or Sam (pictured) on Bicester 249604.

## COOPER SCHOOL ATTENDANCE POLICY PARTNERSHIP IN PRACTICE

### PARENTS

#### If Your Child Has To Miss School

- Contact the school by telephone, fax or Email if possible on the first morning of the absence, so we are aware of the problem.
- If your child is ill, it is helpful if you can give us some idea of how long the absence might last.

#### When a Student Returns to School

- On the first day back they should have a signed and dated note of explanation for their absence (use their Planner for this).

#### Prolonged Absence

- If you know your child will be absent from school for a prolonged period let us know as soon as possible.
- If the absence can be supported by a medical certificate the school may be able to arrange some home tuition. Currently Oxfordshire will provide home tuition after the first month of medically certificated absence.
- Parents may be asked to provide a medical note to explain prolonged or spasmodic absence.

**COOPER SCHOOL, Churchill Road,  
Bicester. OX26 4RS**

**Telephone: 01869 242121**

**Fax: 01869 362693**

**E-mail: [Headteacher.cooper@cooper.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:Headteacher.cooper@cooper.oxon.sch.uk)**

### STUDENTS

#### When You Return to School After An Absence

- Remember to show the absence note in your Planner to your Form Teacher on the first day back.
- Ask your subject teachers about the work you have missed and make arrangements to catch up.

# YEAR 8 RUGBY

The Year 8 rugby team this year managed to play several fixtures against other schools including an RFU 12-a-side tournament. The boys trained hard this term and applied themselves following on from their rugby experience in Year 7 very well, with over 30 boys at different times representing the School:

V Gosford - Lost 28-17  
V Chenderit - Won 32-5  
V BGN - Won 28-5  
V Wheatley Park - Won 7-5

Mr Hutchings



## SKI TRIP 30th MARCH—7th APRIL 2007

I still have up to 5 places left on this fantastic trip next Easter. We are off to Austria again – to Salzburger Sportwelt this time. Previous trips have been an amazing experience for all involved and this year will be no different. I am already in the process of booking the bowling, skating, swimming and other evening entertainment in what will be a fun-packed, non-stop week. The cost is £545 and this includes EVERYTHING apart from hiring/buying ski clothes (skis and boots are included). If you are interested in your son/ daughter snapping up one of the final few places, contact me at school ASAP.

Mrs Harvey



## RECYCLING

We are in the process of trialling a clothing recycling scheme with a company called Ragtex UK Ltd who are working with schools to collect unwanted clothing and shoes for redistribution to developing countries. We as a school will then receive a payment based on the current market value. The scheme therefore helps our school, helps the environment and helps developing countries. Further information will be sent home with students in the near future.

A reminder that we also send printer cartridges for recycling which also brings a small income into the school – please send your used cartridges to the finance office.

Many thanks.

Mrs N Jeacock

## SWITCH OFF AND SAVE

If you are collecting a student by car after school, please help maintain the air quality around the School by switching off your engine while you are waiting. Not only will it help the environment, it will save you money as well!!

## LOCAL FIRM SUPPORTS SCHOOL SOCCER

The Clearview Traffic Group, based in Bicester, is supporting one of the football teams from a local school. The company which specialises in traffic safety and traffic management systems has provided a brand new football strip to the Year 10 Football Team from Bicester's Cooper School and handed the strip over recently. The Cooper School's Business Manager, Steve Cook, said; "As part of an initiative to gain more involvement with local businesses I wrote out to many local businesses seeking involvement in a variety of ways, including advertising in our school publications, sponsorship of notice boards and football kits, awards days and sports days. Clearview Traffic Group kindly agreed to sponsor our Year 10 football team and paid for a brand new kit including shorts, shorts and socks. We are delighted for the support received from the Clearview Traffic Group as our old football strips had become rather tatty over a period of time. The team now look very smart as they turn out to represent the school and hopefully this will be reflected in the way they play."

Mr Cook added; "Further sponsorship was received from local firm Trophies and Kits Direct for which we are equally grateful and we still have other strips available for sponsorship if any firms are interested."

Martin Wardhaugh CEO of the Clearview Traffic Group said; "The Clearview Traffic Group is the new name for the parent company of Golden River Traffic Ltd. that has been a recognisable and well known business in Bicester for over 30 years. Following on from our recent move to new premises within Bicester confirming our commitment to the town we are very happy to have been able to further our links with the local community by helping the Cooper School with a new football kit. We look forward to following the team's progress this season and wish them well in all their games."

Martin also presented the School with a HazLight Emergency kit, from its Astucia traffic safety products range, for use in the school minibus. The HazLight kit provides enhanced warning to oncoming drivers, superior to a standard warning triangle, should the minibus need to be stopped at the roadside for any particular reason.

Pictured is Martin Wardhaugh presenting the strip to Headteacher Ben Baxter and the team with the Banbury & District Under 14 Challenge Cup which the team won last year.



# DIARY DATES

## ACADEMIC YEAR 2006-2007

### TERM 2

Monday, 30 October            Students return to school  
 Friday, 15 December        End of Term 2 (12.30pm)

### CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS:

**Monday, 18 December 2006 – Tuesday, 2 January 2007**

### TERM 3

Wednesday, 3 January        INSET DAY  
 Thursday, 4 January         INSET DAY  
 Friday, 5 January            Students return to school  
 Friday, 9 February          End of Term 3

**HALF TERM : Monday, 12 February – Friday, 16 February 2007**

### TERM 4

Monday, 19 February         Students return to school  
 Thursday, 29 March         End of Term 4 for students  
 Friday, 30 March             INSET DAY

**EASTER HOLIDAYS: Monday, 2 April – Friday, 13 April 2007**

### TERM 5

Monday, 19 February         Students return to school  
 Thursday, 29 March         End of Term 4 for students  
 Friday, 30 March             INSET DAY

**EASTER HOLIDAYS: Monday, 2 April – Friday, 13 April 2007**

### TERM 5

Monday, 16 April             Students return to school  
 Monday, 7 May                BANK HOLIDAY  
 Friday, 25 May                End of Term 5

**HALF TERM: Monday, 28 May – Friday, 1 June 2007**

### TERM 6

Monday, 4 June                Students return to school  
 Wednesday, 25 July         End of Term 6 (12.30pm)

## YEAR 11 MOCK GCSE EXAMINATIONS

### WEEK COMMENCING 4 DECEMBER 2006

All Year 11 students will be sitting a variety of GCSE style examinations. These are vitally important in allowing the students to assess their own strengths and areas for development. Results will be published to you in January 2007 prior to the Year 11 Parents' Evening on 6 February 2007.

You can assist your son/daughter in a number of ways:

- Provide a quiet and isolated environment for them to revise and study
- Encourage the use of internet sites such as BBC Bitesize to assist their revision
- Encourage and cajole as much as possible for them to revise sufficiently, organise their notes and practice past papers if applicable

Please ensure your son/daughter is punctual to school and in correct uniform. These mock examinations are vital practice in preparation for the real exams in May.

### PARENTS' EVENINGS

**Year 11**  
 Tuesday 6 February 2007

### YEAR 9 PARENTS' & OPTIONS EVENING

Tuesday 27 February 2007

### CAREERS CONVENTION

**Thursday 11 January 2007**  
 at  
**Bicester Community College**  
**Lower School Hall**  
**6.30—8.30pm**

### 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.

### PHOTOGRAPHS POLICY

The School has been very active on publicity recently and have published several photographs of students in the press. If you do not wish your child to appear in any press releases please inform the School in writing.

## SCIENCE: EXAM DATES

### YEAR 10: 21st CENTURY SCIENCE EXAMS

Most students	B1 C1 P1	16 Jan
Most students	B2 C2 P2	18 June
Most students	B3 C3 P3	20 June
	Ideas in context	
Most students		7 June
Separate science students	B1, 2 & 3	20 June
Separate science students	C1, 2 & 3	21 June
Separate science students	P1, 2 & 3	25 June

### YEAR 11: MODULAR SCIENCE EXAMS

	modules 7 & 11	7 March
Double science	modules 6	7 March
Single science	module 10	16 May
Double science	module 4	16 May
Single science	all early modules	6 June
All students		
Double science	later modules	13 June