



Cooper News

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CHILDREN IN NEED 2003—OVER £1000 RAISED!

It has been said that every picture tells a story and these certainly do as staff and pupils pulled out all the stops to raise over £1000 for Children in Need.



Tony Doherty in Year 11 deserves special mention as he endured the pain of a leg wax at Belle, but was rewarded by raising £210. Well done to all who took part and thank you to everyone who contributed money.



Contents

Pg 1	Children In Need 2003
Pg 2	Headteacher's Report
Pg 3	Interactive Open Evening/School Lunches
Pg 4	Drama/History/Science/Poetry
Pg 5	Future Events
Pg 6	Cross Country
Pg 7	Rugby/Step Aerobics
Pg 8	Soccer
Pg 9	School Uniform Consultation/Review
Pg 10/11	Summary of OFSTED Inspection Report

An A4 copy of this Newsletter is available from the School Reception.

HEADTEACHER'S REPORT

OFSTED Inspection of Cooper School (1 - 4 December 2003)

I am delighted to enclose a summary of the formal Report on the Inspection that took place during December 2003.

I am even more delighted to say that the inspectors found during their visit what we experience every day: a vibrant school seeking to develop every child to their full capacity.

Education is a partnership. The success of the inspection reflects the success of students, parents, staff and Governors in creating a learning community.

Quotes from the Inspectors' Report are shown in *italics*.

Overall Evaluation

This is a good school with many very good features.

The quality of education is effective, standards in examinations meet expectations and pupils' attitudes and behaviour are good.

The school is well led and financial control is secure. It provides good value for money.

First Rate Teaching

Teaching and learning are good.

A large proportion of lessons are very good and a couple are excellent.

The curriculum is good overall and very good in Years 10 and 11. It is very well organised and managed.

Teachers and senior staff promote enthusiasm for learning through the inspiring curriculum provided, their own enthusiasm and their quality of teaching.

Learning and Achievement

Pupils' progress through the school is sustained and rapid.

In 2003, in statutory tests, standards were the highest ever.

The headteacher has established a clear direction for the school. Pupils' achievement has risen as a result of such clarity and determination to make good staffing a number one priority.

When compared with pupils' previous attainment results were well above average in Years 7 to 9 and above average in Years 10 and 11.

A Caring School

Pastoral support is very good. Pupils are cared for well.

Pupils' personal qualities are good in Years 7 to 11.

The provision for pupils' care, welfare and health and safety is very good.

Pupils with learning difficulties achieve well because they are supported well.

Very good relationships coupled with good attitudes provide a very good foundation for learning.

Pupils respond well to the care, dedication and commitment to high achievement of their teachers.

Excellent Extracurricular Activities

The school offers a wide range of enriching experiences for the pupils. These include lunchtime and after school revision classes, sporting activities, musical and drama activities and performances, visiting speakers, educational visits and residential trips overseas.

Clear Leadership

Leadership and management by the headteacher and key staff are very good.

Governance is very good and management is effective.

The headteacher has a clear vision for the school and has established a clear direction for the school.

The monitoring of teaching and learning by senior managers is good and has contributed towards the raising of standards.

Finally ... Next Steps

The school welcomes the many positive comments in the report but we are not complacent. We look forward to making even more improvements as recommended by OFSTED: watch this space!

INTERACTIVE OPEN EVENING 2003

In October, the 'secret garden' of Cooper School was open to the public for an interactive evening of information and fun for future pupils and their parents. The sheer range of events was a delight to behold and showed that with imagination and enthusiasm a school could grow and blossom into a display of colour and activity.

The evening was undoubtedly a great success and all the efforts that were made by staff and pupils were widely appreciated by all the visitors. The action was unremitting as the visitors were guided from their cars and through the school by a host of well-mannered, articulate and proud Cooper pupils.

As they entered the sports hall they were met with challenges in athletics and basketball and the expectation was that all would take part. The central area in Languages was a stage play and the classrooms in English were transformed into small interactive games. The visitors passed through a drama production, a trampoline demonstration, work on the key-boards and into humanities where the competition between Geography, R.E. and History for "interactive department of the night" was fierce. Geography had wonderful displays and R.E. tried bribery with goodies from the religions of the world but History took the prize with bows and arrows and a stage play about medicine, brilliantly performed by Year 11 pupils.

Just when the visitors could take no more they went into Mathematics and then Science. What a transformation to these areas! The number of mathematical games, scientific experiments and demonstrations, including the dissection of a heart, was just breathtaking. The tour ended on a high note in Art and Technology. Being interactive is nothing new for these departments who regularly hold massive displays of G.C.S.E. work and throw open their doors to the public.

The visitors arrived back at the Performance Hall tired, impressed and convinced of what we already know: that Cooper is a GOOD SCHOOL.

PARENTS OF YEAR 10 PUPILS

Your son/daughter will be offered their 5th dose of Tetanus/Diphtheria and Polio in a school based immunisation session on 27 January 2004. Each pupil will bring home an information leaflet and form to be completed and signed by a parent. Please return these to school as soon as possible. If you have any queries/concerns, you can contact Barbara Side, School Health Nurse on 01869 324496.

IMPROVED ARRANGEMENTS FOR SCHOOL LUNCHES

After the redecoration and installation of new furniture in the Dining Room, we have reviewed the provision of space provided for pupils to eat lunch. Pupils currently use the Dining Room for school lunches, the Lecture Theatre for packed lunches. Another area, PE5, a new multi-use classroom, has been functioning as a Year 11 cafeteria.



From the start of the Spring term, we intend to operate a slightly different provision which will release more space for lunchtime activities. All pupils will now be encouraged to use the Dining Room at lunchtime, including the Year 11 pupils. Year 11 pupils will have priority over other years. Pupils who bring a packed lunch will be encouraged to sit and eat their lunch with their friends in the main Dining Room as well. PE5 will remain as a lunchtime venue but the food on sale will be sandwiches, baguettes, cakes and drinks only. Pupils who bring packed lunches may also use this area.

The proposal will reduce the number of areas where food is consumed and make lunch supervision easier, as well as encouraging more social contact amongst pupils. The Lecture Theatre will be available for extra curricular activities.

The School also provides a food service both before school starts and during break. The breakfast service is available to all pupils; however, the break time service has been restricted to Year 10 pupils and Year 11 pupils only. From January 2004, Year 9 pupils will be permitted to use the break time Dining Room service as well for a trial period.

The School is also planning to widen the range of food available at lunchtimes. We will be introducing more pasta based meals with choices of sauces as well as baked potatoes with a variety of hot and cold fillings. Several themed food days are planned through 2004 starting on 4th February with a Curry Day, followed in March by an Irish Day. One more piece of news: proper ice cream will be on sale from the end of March!

These changes to locations and the dining service will be in place through the Spring term and the success of the scheme will be reviewed at Easter.

DRAMA

'Bleak House' with Oxfordshire Touring Company and Oxford School of Drama was a great success. Thank you to all who attended, it was the best house we have ever had for an outside production and the company would love to return to our performance space.

The Year 10 GCSE production of 'Down The Line' in conjunction with Oxford University Drama Society was a great success. Our students were involved with every aspect of the show from video to music, set design, lighting and publicity, oh—and a lot of acting too. The Burton Taylor Theatre is a wonderful venue for small scale and experimental theatre. It gave the students a real taste of the theatre and university life. The producer invited the entire cast and crew to her hall of residence to pig out on pizza after the show. We hope this is a link that we can develop.

Mrs Ramsey

FUTURE EVENTS

31 January

Trip to London to see 'THE WOMAN IN BLACK' - a brilliant play in the horror genre. 35 seats have been booked and places are going fast. Priority is given to GCSE drama students who have to write about live performances seen.

After February Half-Term 'REEL FANTASY'

A film/animation project funded by C.D.C.

This will take the form of an after-school film club aimed at Year 9s. They will produce a 5-7 minute film based on a genre or theme devised by the students. They will be working with a professional script writer and animation director.

**BUGSY MALONE
DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

**Tuesday 16th
Wednesday 17th and
Thursday 18th March
Tickets on sale after
February half-term.
It's going to be GREAT!**

HISTORY

26th March 2004—WW1 Study Trip to Belgium (Year 9).

Yes, it's that time again—the famous Trenches trip is back! We will take a maximum of 160 Year 9 students to Ypres. If you like the sound of tunnelling through genuine WW1 trenches, making a moving visit to Tyne Lot Cemetery, finding your name on the Menin Gate and doing plenty of shopping, then start saving now! It's only £40 and tickets go fast, so keep your eyes open for the letter. Good Luck!

Miss Dalton

SCIENCE

A group of pupils and several members of staff will be attending "Heroes of Science and Inventions", a performance by Adam Hart-Davis, the presenter of Science Shack and Local Heroes.

The performance is on 6th February and is part of Oxfordshire's Science Festival. At the time of writing, tickets are still available, price £10 (including transport), from Science staff.

Mrs Ellard

**PRINTER CARTRIDGE
RECYCLING**

Please bring in used printer cartridges to Nia Jeacock, School Bursar, so these can be recycled for cash to boost the School's funds.

**FURTHER HELP FROM
BARRUS**

Our Year 11 Applied Business group have visited E P Barrus twice to attend presentations about how the company operates. The group is using the information in their Business Portfolio which makes up the majority of the assessment. The Barrus presentations were excellent and we are very appreciative of their help in this matter.

The Applied Business group is looking for similar help from other companies. For further information please contact **Andy Sceeny** on **01869 242121**.

POETRY CONFERENCE

On 11th November the English Department took 50 students to the GCSE Poetry Conference in Milton Keynes. Poets, whose work appears in the English/Literature anthology, performed their work and explained their ideas. The GCSE Chief Examiner advised students on how to approach the poetry questions on the exam. A good time was had by all at this annual event.

Mrs Stones

**OXFORDSHIRE COMMUNITY
JAZZ ORCHESTRA**

Do you play a brass instrument (trumpet/trombone), saxophone, electric guitar, bass, piano or drums? Would you like to join a new group being set up at Bicester Community College? Rehearsals take place on Monday evenings at 7.00pm in term-time in the College Lecture Theatre, starting Monday 12 January. For more information, contact Graham Ablett at Bicester Community College on 01869 241532.



FUTURE EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY



TERM DATES



SPRING TERM

Tuesday 6 January - Thursday 1 April

Half term: Monday 16 February - Friday 20 February

Easter Holiday: Monday 5 April - Friday 16 April

In Service Training Day, pupils not in school:

Monday 5 January

Friday 2 April

SUMMER TERM

Monday 19 April - Friday 16 July (Lunch-time)

Half term: Monday 31 May - Friday 4 June

In Service Training Day, pupils not in school:

Friday 18 June (pm only)

Friday 9 July (pm only)

*PROVISIONAL DATES FOR SEPTEMBER 2004

Year 7: Back in School on Thursday 2 September

Years 8-11: Back in School on Friday 3 September

SPRING TERM 2004 PARENTS' EVENINGS

Year 11:

Tuesday 3 February

Year 9: Options Evening

Wednesday 25 February

Parents' Evening:

Tuesday 23 March

Year 8:

Thursday 1 April

30th March 2004 BITESIZE THEATRE COMPANY

Will be holding work-
shops with Year 9 on
'Macbeth'.

They will focus on the
scenes for the KS3
exam in a fun approach
to learning Shakespeare!

GCSE PE PRACTICAL MODERATION DATES

Wednesday 24 March

Thursday 25 March

YEAR 7 INTER- FORM MIXED SOCCER TOURNAMENT

Wednesday 31 March

'GOING FOR IT' —13 FEBRUARY 2004

During the morning of 13 February, Year 9 pupils will be missing some of their usual lessons so they can attend the annual 'Going for It' careers event. At the event, local and regional businesses will be taking part in the careers exhibition. The point of the exhibition is to encourage pupils to think about their careers and to be aware of local opportunities. The main unanswered question is ... Which celebrity will officially open the event? Last year it was Tim Foster the Olympic rower. Who will it be this year?

SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS

School photographs for Years 8, 9 and 10 will take place on Wednesday 28th January.

FRIENDSHIP PHOTOGRAPHS

Any groups of pupils who would like a group friendship photograph taken at lunch time on the same day should collect an envelope from Mr Brodley.

CROSS COUNTRY

All boys in Years 7-10 ran the School cross country course and ranking positions of the top 20 in each year are printed below. The Oxfordshire County Schools Cross Country Championships will be held at Radley College on Tuesday 21 January 2004.

Ranking	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10
1	Jack Tobin	Lewis Clack	Craig Naylor	Anthony McGladdery
2	Ross Goodman	Josh Cussell	Adam Blaylock	Ian North
3	Adam Holland	Alec Warriner	Stewart Garland	Ollie Cross
4	Jack Hawes	Daniel Scourfield	Ben Ancil	Brendan Murray
5	Anthony Forbes	Mathew Walden	Jack Cooper	Bradley Coomber
6	Gus Warriner	Marc Cullen	Daniel Oates	Karl Freeman
7	Kris Matthews	Oliver Adams	Joshua Duggan	Daniel Huntley
8	Jack Seger	Karim Linnard	Alexander Russell	Martin Thompson
9	Neil Davies	Martin Cross	Sam Houlihan	Robert Honour
10	Thomas O'Sullivan	Ollie Hurlock	Ricky Auger	Stefan Weldan
11	Gregory Henshall	Craig White	William Cooper	James White
12	Liam Richards	Seb Groves	Lewis Harrison	Jameel Ahmed
13	Stafford Sansome	Jamie Gough	James Pearson	Michael Woodward
14	Daniel Savin	Daniel Dyer	Robert Seal	Shaun Dawson
15	Chris Clayton	Ricky Horne	James Walker	Jamie Holcombe
16	Khaleel Ahmad	Sean Murray	Jovan Govorusa	Luke Gray
17	Connor Butler	Nathan Gibbard	Thomas McCarthy	Alex Vukoman
18	Andrew Cannon	John-Michael Murray	Chris Russell	Tom Roberts
19	James Elliott	Arron Anderson	Travis Barden	Andrew Ingram
20	Jacob Green	Nathan Fry	Roman Volkovich	Darren Walden

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL SENIOR STUDENTS

Last term was very
successful—the
Yearbook is well in
progress

GIFTED AND TALENTED WORKING GROUP

This year one of the School's priorities is provision for gifted and talented pupils. We would like parental representation on the group working on this. If you are interested please telephone Mrs Wainman or the School.

CRAIG RATS COMMUNICATION SKILLS

Performance and
Workshop

DAVID GRAHAM POP IDOL

Drugs Awareness
Concert

Well done to
Years 7 & 8 for their
participation in the
above.

SCHOOL COUNSELLOR

Have you got any worries or concerns? Would you like to discuss them with the School Counsellor? If so, pick up a form from Reception to book an appointment.

WATCH THIS SPACE!

Why did the Chicken
Cross the Road?

Coming in February

BICESTER CAREERS CONVENTION

Held jointly with B.C.C.
at Cooper School on
Thursday 15 January
2004. Thank you to all
who attended.

RUGBY 2003

The proliferation of rugby balls being passed around school is clear evidence of the growth in popularity of the game at Cooper. The growth in interest was carried onto the field of play as the Cooper All Blues had remarkable seasons.

Back in September we all looked forward to the World Cup and began training on ground resembling the African Veldt baked hard by the unrelenting summer sun. Our first games were against Gosford Hill who were duely dispatched by all years in a clean sweep of victories. The Year 7 All Blues coached by Mr Duncan looked impressive and should carry our rugby tradition into the future. They continued after Gosford and were unbeaten in every contest they entered. In March they play the county tournament which we expect to win – only time will tell if we are good enough.

The Year 8 All Blues consisted of a hard core of 9 players and they found it difficult to recruit the extra players needed for 15-a-side rugby. They had an excellent win against Waddesdon and the hard core showed their mettle in the county tournament beating Burford, Warriner and Cherwell before losing to Chiltern Edge by a golden try in extra time to gain 3rd place.

As ever, Year 9 All Blues showed their tremendous all round sporting talent. They won all their friendly fixtures and reached the quarter-final of the county cup. In that game they played away at Magdalen College school in Oxford. Playing on fields over looking the dreaming spires they scored a try to take a 7-5 half-time lead and rattled the

home side who were firm favourites. Unfortunately as tiredness set in they could not compete in the loose play with Magdalen and were beaten by a couple of scores.

Year 10 All Blues emulated their Year 9 counterparts losing in the county cup quarter-finals to Lord William's Sports College. The game played at Chinnor Rugby Club as part of their Rugby in the Community initiative was nip and tuck for most of the time and finished 35 – 32 to Thame. The All Blues are the most enthusiastic year in the school and regularly sent 25 players to games. Several players have joined the Bicester club and we hope more follow their lead. Despite their cup defeat they had a good season by winning all their remaining friendly fixtures except a narrow one point defeat 25 – 24 at Chenderit.

Rugby in Year 11 is really popular as several players have joined Chinnor and Bicester. Next year those players at Chinnor will have to endure more of Mr Brodley as they move into Colts rugby and join the senior side for training. Some of them may join former pupil Adam White who at 17 plays for Chinnor 1st XV and regularly appears on Channel 6. Finding opposition for Year 11 All Blues is difficult but fixtures were played against Gosford Hill winning 26 – 12, Waddesdon winning 17 – 15 before losing 12 – 7 to Brackley in a thrilling match. Next term they will play Lord William's under lights at Chinnor.

STEP AEROBICS

One way to complete fitness is to exercise the cardiovascular system—the heart and lungs. An excellent form of exercise is step aerobics.



A group of pupils from across the years pound the steps on a Monday lunchtime with Ms Edmunds. There are still places available this term for anyone who wants to join in.

BOYS' SOCCER FIXTURES 2004 GIRLS' FIXTURES

Date	Competition	Opposition	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10
Mon 12 Jan	Cup	Wantage				Home
Tues 27 Jan	League	Warriner	Home	Away	Away	Away
Tues 3 Feb	League	Drayton	Home	Away		
Thurs 5 Feb	League	Drayton			Home	Away
Tues 10 Feb	League	M.C.S. Brackley	Home (ATP)	Home	Home	
Thurs 12 Feb	League	M.C.S. Brackley				Away
Tues 24 Feb	League	Chenderit	Away		Home	
Thurs 26 Feb	League	Chenderit		Home		Away
Tues 2 Mar	League	Banbury	Home			Away
Thurs 4 Mar	League	Banbury		Home	Away	
Tues 9 Mar	League	B.G.N.	Away			Home
Thurs 11 Mar	League	B.G.N.		Away	Home	
Tues 16 Mar	League	Bicester	Away	Away		
Thurs 18 Mar	League	Bicester			Home	Home
Tues 23 Mar	Friendly	Gosford	Away			Away
Thurs 25 Mar	Friendly	Gosford		Home	Home	
Tues 30 Mar	Friendly	Lord William's	Away	Away		
Thurs 2 April	Friendly	Lord William's			Home	Home

Date	Age Grp	Opposition	Venue
14 Jan	U13 U16	Drayton	Home
28 Jan	U13 U16	BGN	Home
4 Feb	U13 U16	Warriner	Home
TBA	U13 U16	Banbury	Home
24 Mar	U16	Tournament	Banbury
31 Mar	U13	Tournament	Banbury



Congratulations to the following pupils who have been selected to be representatives on the Cooper School Sports Council (CSSC)

JOLIE MATTHEWS (10.8)
SOPHIE GILES (10.8)
FLICK VIDLER (10.6)
KRYSTELLE ADAMSON (10.1)
SINNITTA SHORT (10.6)
NAOMI DIXON (10.6)

SHELLEY BAKER (11.5)
LAURA POOLE (11.3)

Last term the CSSC helped to run a Yr 7 girls' interform football competition. This term they aim to organise and run two interform competitions for girls in Yr 8. These will be for football and basketball.

Look out for future notices!!!

The Competition continues!!!

At the beginning of September a challenge was set for **all girls in Years 7-9.**

It was the chance to **win a fantastic stereo** just by taking part in the clubs offered by the Girls' PE Department.

All that is required is to go along to a club and get a participation card signed by the teacher.

The more signatures gained, the better your chances are of winning the stereo!

Participation cards available from Miss Boyne.

COOPER SCHOOL UNIFORM CONSULTATION/REVIEW

January 2004

Here at Cooper School we value our school uniform very highly. We feel it encourages a sense of shared identity and makes appropriate clothing a life skill. The principles of the uniform are that it should be:

- Smart in appearance.
- Easily obtainable
- Reasonably priced.
- Simple and straightforward.
- Easy to enforce.

Following recent discussions amongst some parents, governors and student councils it has been considered time to review the current uniform at Cooper School, with a view to implementing any changes for September 2004. This review is of the everyday uniform worn by pupils – it does not include the Physical Education wear and most jewellery issues are dictated by health and safety considerations.

Some areas of uniform will not be changed at this stage, these include footwear and trousers/skirts.

At Cooper School your opinion on school uniform is greatly valued and you are urged to spare a few moments to comment on the proposal stated below:

Daily School Uniform:

The following comprises the normal daily uniform for pupils and is compulsory for the duration of the school day.

- Blue Polo shirt with Cooper School logo
- Blue sweatshirt with Cooper School logo
- (Both these items are available from the school uniform supplier – Smart Alec)
- Black trousers or skirts
- Black shoes

Matters concerning jewellery and make-up:

- Only subtle (not noticeable) make-up is permitted.
- Jewellery is limited to ear studs and a watch.
- All other jewellery is not permitted.

Please make any comments in writing and hand in at the School Reception marked for the attention of Mr Hiscock/Mrs Martindale.



