



# Cooper News

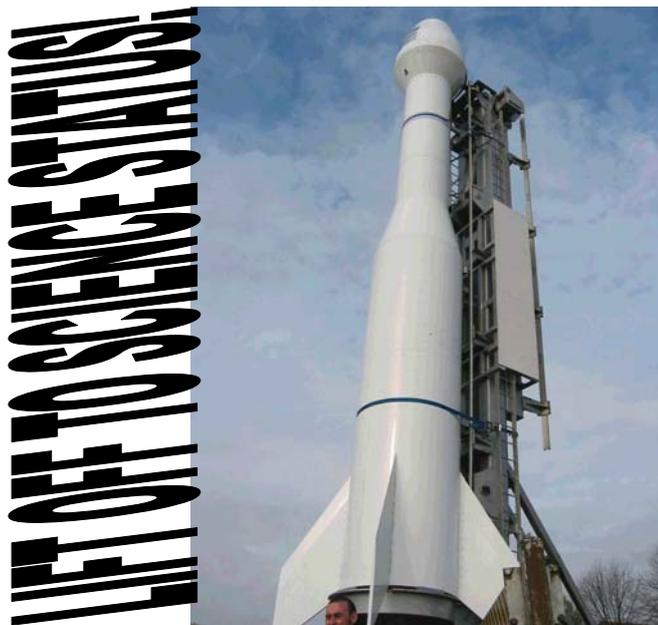
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## COOPER SCHOOL- SCIENCE COLLEGE

We have at last been granted Specialist School Status in Science by the Department of Education. This will mean that along with new courses being made available we will be in a strong position to move into the 21st Century for science teaching at Cooper.

Most of our laboratories are 30 years old and in much need of modernisation. We will be able to spend £150,000 on refurbishment. On top of this we will have an extra £129,000 each year, £43,000 of which will be used to support the local community.



We are currently in negotiations to bring Café Scientifique to Cooper- this is an international organisation to make science more popular and exciting. We will also be able to give more support to our partner schools, as well as working with local and national businesses to help our students be better prepared for the world of work.

This is a very exciting time in the history of Cooper and a wonderful opportunity for current and future students.

**Mr M Rees**

## FROM THE ACTING HEADTEACHER

### Science College Status

The term continues to be an eventful and exciting one for Cooper School. First and foremost we are all absolutely delighted with the news that Cooper School has gained Science school status; this will provide a marvellous opportunity for us to improve the provision for our pupils and to raise their aspirations and attainment. Mr Rees is to be thanked for all the hard work and determination he put into leading this initiative and I would also like to pay tribute to the invaluable support given to him by Mrs Ellard and Mrs Westwell in preparing the bid.

### Examinations

We are also very happy with the Maths and Science N.C.T. results which arrived in school last week; 79.3% of pupils gained level 5 or higher in Maths and 77% in Science; these are the best ever key stage 3 results for Cooper School; both departments having met, or exceeded, their targets. The English NCT results will not be available until August 25<sup>th</sup>. I would like to congratulate our pupils on their achievements and record our appreciation of the hard work of their teachers in preparing them so well for their exams. The GCSE examinations ran very smoothly this year. We were visited by an Inspector from the exam board who found the arrangements we had in place to be faultless. Thank you to Mrs Allen for her excellent organisation and to Mr Richmond and his team of invigilators for their very professional conduct of the examinations. Year 10s have now also completed their annual examinations and are now looking forward to two weeks of work experience at the end of term. Mr Smith and Mrs Denial have put in an enormous amount of work to ensure placements for all 193 Year 10s and are grateful to parents who have helped with this mammoth exercise.

### Farewell to Year 11

Our Year 11s have now left us and I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Burnand, Mr Hiscock, Mrs Bedford and all the Year 11 Pastoral team who ensured that the class of 2005 had truly memorable leaving rites of passage; befrienders and senior students were taken on a trip to Disney Paris and a barbeque for all pupil on their last day before study leave was followed by an excellent assembly rewarding the achievements and celebrating the talents of the year group. The Art and Technology departments held a wonderful exhibition of their work and it was a pleasure to see the obvious pride in their achievements of pupils and their families; it was also gratifying that both the town mayor and Tony Baldry M.P

found time to attend. Finally on Friday June 24<sup>th</sup> the most keenly anticipated event of all – the formal leavers' ball – took place at The Littlebury Hotel and it was a pleasure to see our pupils arrive resplendent in their finest evening attire and enjoying a most memorable evening together.



### Curriculum Plus

Members of staff have continued to seek ways of enriching the curriculum and developing and celebrating the gifts and talents of our pupils. A highlight of the year for Year 9 has been their trip to the world war on battlefields in Belgium. Again thanks is due to Mr Burton for making the history they are studying really come alive through this most thought-provoking experience. Thank you too to Mrs Schmidt for providing the opportunity for our more able Year 8 mathematicians to take part in the National Maths Challenge and 29 of them were amongst the top students and were awarded with certificates. Currently we are participating in the BBC's Hard Spell; pupils have participated enthusiastically in the school heats organised by Miss Duddridge and Mrs Howell and 4 of them have now gone forward into the next round. Mr Frogley arranged for our gifted Year 10 technologists to compete in Oxford Brooks Multi-storey challenge and was immensely proud of what they achieved. I would also like to congratulate Miss Roddis and the Year 10 ICT team who have just been awarded a certificate of merit in the Oxfordshire Schools' website design competition. Miss Roddis is also organising a Gifted and Talented summer school for years 6, 7 and 8. Following on last year's successful Greek theme this year's odyssey will be into space.

Year 10 did us proud again at the Army challenge day when their A team were clear winners beating 30 schools from Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Buckinghamshire; thank you to Mr Brodley for arranging this opportunity for them. Mr Brodley and the P.E. department are also to be congratulated on a most successful Sports Day; there were some fantastic individual performances and Year 9s and 10s displayed real team spirit and enthusiasm in their Rounders and Tug of War events.

I am also pleased to report the efforts of our pupils in charity fund raising continue. Key Stage3 pupils have held a cake sale and Fun Run to raise money for cancer research and Mr Hall and the musicians involved in the Live at Cooper event are also donating the money they raise to Cancer Research.

The latest Live@Cooper was held over two days and showcased the talents of 14 local bands; Mr Hall and the staff volunteers who give up their weekends to supervise this event are owed an enormous debt of gratitude for giving these young musicians the venue and opportunity to gain the invaluable experience of performing in front of a live audience.

### Staff News

We are very sorry indeed to be saying goodbye to several much valued members of staff at the end of term. Mr Sceeny is retiring at the end of term after 32 years at Cooper School. As a core and vital member of the School's leadership team for over three decades Mr Sceeny has made a huge contribution to the development of Cooper School and I am sure parents and pupils will join me in thanks and appreciation for all he has done for the school.

Ms Stones, who has led the English department so well, is leaving to do a Masters degree in Shakespeare studies. We also say goodbye to another highly respected English teacher, Miss Ford, and thank her particularly for all the extra work she did in running a most successful skiing trip for our pupils during the Easter holidays. Dr Tsigikou will be much missed by her department and pupils and we wish her every happiness as she moves to Italy. Mrs Brown, a much valued member of our Maths department, is also leaving as she, too, is moving from the area. We also are greatly indebted to Mr Buckle, Mr Hennessy, Miss Warburton and Mrs Ball who all did such sterling work in providing temporary cover for teaching staff. Mrs James, our Facilities Manager, is leaving to take up an exciting new post at Oxford Brookes University and I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to her for all the hard work she has put in to creating a better environment for the pupils and staff of Cooper School. We are also sorry to say goodbye to a super Teaching Assistant, Miss Folgate, but pleased that her experience at Cooper has inspired her to go on to train as a teacher.

I am very pleased to report that we are fully staffed for September. We have appointed Ms Stiles as Head of English; Mrs Whiffen will be joining the Modern Languages Department and as Head of Year 8; Miss Tossell is returning to the Science department, Mr Hutchins is joining the PE department and, of course, Mr Baxter, will take up his Headship at a most exciting time in the school's development.

**Mrs P Wainman**



## GCSE ART EXHIBITION



Some of the many visitors to the exhibition

The annual GCSE Art Exhibition at the Cooper School attracted over 200 visitors as students brought along friends and family to see their work recently.

Head of Art, Caroline Butler, said "All the students are rightly proud of the excellent work they have done and this is a unique opportunity for them to show their work to friends and family. The standard has been very high again this year."

The Banbury and Bicester Member of Parliament, Tony Baldry, came along to support the exhibition as did the Mayor of Bicester, Dan Sames, and the new Headteacher, Ben Baxter. Mr Baxter said "I am very impressed with the high quality of the work produced and am pleased to be coming to a school with such high standards"



MP Tony Baldry, Mayor Dan Sames and Ben Baxter

## YEAR 9 WW1 TRIP TO THE BATTLE FIELDS

### YEAR 9 WW1 TRIP TO THE BATTLE FIELDS

The Cooper School year 9 pupils arrived at school at 4am ready to leave at 4.30am for a long day. There were three coaches and 140 pupils going on the trip. We then drove to Dover to catch the ferry to Calais. To get to Dover it took approximately three hours. On the ferry it took an hour and a half to travel across the channel to Calais. By the time we had travelled a few hours, everyone was wanting to get outside and experience Belgium. Therefore, we went to see the history of the Menim Gates! We were given a booklet by our teachers and it had a few questions about the Menim Gartes and the Cemetery. We had to find a local regiment of Bicester or Oxfordshire and our own surname.



After we explored the Menim Gates, we went to the famous Belgium chocolate shop in the town centre of Ypres. After we had spent a few hours in Ypres shopping, we went to the “TRENCHES” (the highlight of the day). We arrived there and walked through a small museum linked with the trenches and information about the weapons used in the war. We went outside and explored the life of the soldiers in the war. Everyone had great fun running through the dark never ending trenches. Our legs and feet were covered in brown smelly mud.

Next we visited the English cemeteries which was very depressing as there were so many soldiers dead that had fought in the war for us. Two pupils from Cooper School read out a poem to show their respect for the soldiers and another pupil placed a wreath of poppies at the Tyne Cot cemetery. We then moved to a German cemetery which was much duller and more depressing. There were mass graves and no individual gravestones.

Finally we made our way back to the Ferry Port after a very long and exciting day. The visit made us think how terrible war is and what a waste of life and time.

**By Charley Newlands, age 14**  
**Sarah Knight, age 14**  
**Cooper School, Year 9**



## SUMMER BALL SUCCESS



This year's Summer Ball for Year 11 Leavers was held at the Littlebury Hotel on 24th June. The weather stayed fair as the tuxedoed boys and the girls in very splendid evening dresses arrived in a fleet of stretch limos, although someone arrived on a fire engine and another caused a great scene by arriving on a Harley Davidson motorbike.

The annual event was organised by Year 11 staff and is always greatly appreciated by the students and is a fitting end to all the hard work put in over the years.

Both staff and students had a very enjoyable evening and danced the night away well into the early hours. A buffet meal was enjoyed and a prize draw was organised as well as having a professional photographer to ensure that the special moment can be remembered for years to come.



## ICT DEPARTMENT

**Congratulations** to Rachel Brown (10.8) who has completed the ECDL course. Well done, the first student to be certificated with her European Computer Driving Licence!

## MULTI-STOREY CHALLENGE 2005

On 23rd and 29th June, four Year 10 pupils went on a technology day in which they had to design and build a model skyscraper. This skyscraper had to withstand a weight of eighteen kilograms while being able to endure high wind speeds.

The first day was spent on planning how the skyscraper would look and other variables that would help achieve their goal in succeeding. The second day was spent building the actual model which for many of the pupils taking part was the most stimulating and best part of the whole experience. One of the participants, Kelsey Grieve said: "As soon as it got hands-on, we felt that it really got exciting". Another pupil, Lucy O'Neill, said: "It is very good experience for those who are thinking about a career in trades work, it is also a good teamwork activity and even though the four of us are friends, we feel this has brought us even closer".



In the end the Cooper model stood tall even after 44 kilograms being stacked onto it, the prototype was reckoned to hold even more but the organisers ran out of weights.

Cooper School won the prize for *Preparation and Sustainability*.

**Stewart Garland (10.6)**

# Congratulations

Well done to Kelly Teall (11.3) who was among ten entrants shortlisted in a competition to invent a new character for Harry Potter.

Kelly invented "Lucia di Borghes", a feisty Italian who is the girlfriend of Charlie Weasley. She is smart and doesn't like being told no!

Kelly loves reading Harry Potter and is always drawing, designing and writing stories. She intends to study Art & Design at College in September.

## 'ON YER BIKE' FOR CHARITY

Two pupils from Cooper School took part in the Jewson Skoda Sponsored Cycle Ride in June in aid of the Anthony Nolan Trust.

Victoria Dixey (14) and her brother Joseph (11) were signed up for the ride by their dad Simon who didn't tell them until afterwards!

The pair and their father completed the fifteen mile ride in one and a half hours and between the three of them raised almost £350.



## COOPER FUN RUN



Bright skies greeted around 250 students on Friday 1st July for the very first Cooper School Fun Run.

Running in two groups the runners completed as many laps of the athletics track as possible in an hour. Sponsor monies raised will be presented to Cancer Research UK.

The event, suggested by a group of Year 7 students, originated following the recent press release about Kylie Minogue's breast cancer story and as well as the run there has also been a cake sale which raised almost £50.

The circuit also included a drink station with bottled water available for the runners kindly provided by Pow Wow water depot in Bicester.

By the looks on the faces at the start the students were clearly looking forward to it, although the expressions at the end of the run suggested otherwise!



## SPORTS DAY

Following the Fun Run in the morning, the sun continued to shine into the afternoon for this year's Sports Day.

The Track Events and Tug-of-War took place on the Sports Field whilst the inter-form Rounders Tournament was held on the astroturf.

In the Tug-of-War, it was form 9.1 which caught the eye as they dressed up as 118 118 runners (although in truth they looked more like anaemic Samurai warriors!). However, the team which drew the most cheers was the one made up of teachers who at the end of the day foolishly challenged about 50 pupils to a tug-of-war - and ended up on their backsides!



Going



Going



Gone!

There were some outstanding achievements on the track, especially considering that some of the runners had done up to 20 laps in the morning Fun Run.

There were plenty of thrills on the Astroturf as well, although from the picture below some of the bowling was erratic to say the least.



At the end of the day  
Mr Hennesey presented the  
trophies to the winning forms  
which were  
7.5, 8.5, 9.6 and 10.3.



The key to the day was that both the students and those parents who came along all enjoyed the day.

## DIARY DATES

### ACADEMIC YEAR 2005-2006

#### TERM 1

**INSET Day:** Thursday 1 September 2005

**Year 7 Pupils only in school:** Friday 2 September 2005

**All pupils in school:** Monday 5 September 2005

#### October Holiday:

Monday 24 October-Monday 31 October 2005 inclusive

#### TERM 2

Tuesday 1 November-Friday 16 December 2005

#### Christmas Holiday:

Monday 19 December 2005-Monday 2 January 2006

Inclusive

#### TERM 3

**INSET Day:** Tuesday 3 January 2006

Wednesday 4 January-Friday 10 February 2006

#### February Holiday:

Monday 13 February-Friday 17 February 2006 inclusive

#### TERM 4

Monday 20 February-Thursday 30 March

**INSET Day:** Friday 31 March

#### April Holiday:

Monday 3 April-Monday 17 April 2006 inclusive

#### TERM 5

Tuesday 18 April-Friday 26 May 2006

**Bank Holiday:** Monday 1 May 2006

#### Whitsun Holiday:

Monday 29 May-Friday 2 June 2006 inclusive

#### TERM 6

Monday 5 June-Friday 21 July 2006

### REMINDER

#### 15TH JULY AND 22ND JULY CLOSURES

15th July is our second Performance Management Day and school ends for pupils at 12.30pm. School will also end at 12.30pm for pupils on the last day of term, Friday, 22nd 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.

### YEAR 6 PARENTS' EVENING

**Thursday 14 July  
7.00pm**

### \*PROVISIONAL DATES\*

### YEAR 11 MOCK EXAMS

**5-16 December 2005**

### "TALKING POINTS" INFORMAL SEN ADVICE SESSIONS

The Parent Partnership Service runs informal SEN advice sessions as a drop-in, in your area every term.

The next session will be held on Wednesday 13 July 2005 between 10.00-11.30am at the Methodist Church, Sheep Street, Bicester.

### YEAR 9

Mrs Burnand is now Head of the current Year 9 as Mr Simms is taking responsibility for Year 6's who will be joining Cooper School in September. He will then become Head of Year 7.

### NCT KS3 RESULTS

We have been informed by the DFES that the National KS3 English results will not be available until the end of August. We will therefore send out the formal statutory individual reports on results in all three core subjects in September. However, KS3 Maths and Science results have already arrived in school and pupils have been told their individual results. We are delighted to report that 79.3% gained level 5 or more in Maths (21% gaining level 7 or more in Maths) and 77% gaining level 5 or more in Science - the best ever KS3 results for Cooper School.

**Mrs P Wainman**