



The Cooper School, Bicester

Where 'Learning Matters'



Science

Issue No. 3

July 2006

FROM THE HEADTEACHER



As the end of the academic year approaches, I have spent some time reflecting on what has happened throughout this, my first year as

headteacher at The Cooper School. I have to say, firstly, that I have thoroughly enjoyed the year and working with students, staff, parents and all other members of our culturally rich and diverse community and would like to acknowledge the support of the overwhelming majority of people who have a vested interest in what happens on a daily basis at the school. That, of course, includes you as parents who I have found to be both supportive and appreciative of the school whilst quite properly expecting a high standard of service in terms of the educational opportunities that your son/daughter receives.

What you will read in the rest of this newsletter (the celebration of a range of student successes and achievements; improvements to our facilities; changes to the catering provision; increasing student and staff security) in many ways encapsulates what I believe The Cooper School is all about; putting the student first.

I would like to end by wishing all of you a safe, restful and enjoyable summer vacation wherever that may be and look forward to the start of another exciting academic year in September.

B J Baxter

SPECIALIST SCHOOL STATUS

Two of our laboratories have been refurbished to the high standard shown in this photograph. Two more will be completed ready for September. The extra injection of cash into the school has also meant improvements in every department in the school, and to the school environment. The community has also benefited by injections of cash into our partner primary schools to buy basic equipment and to fund school trips. Launton and Finmere Primary Schools have also held Science Theme days which we have supported by loan of equipment and extra teaching staff on those days.

Thirty five adult members of the community are currently enrolled on an ECDL computer qualification course which is provided free of charge. We have just had positive results through for some of the successful candidates. We have also been able to introduce some new ideas such as 'free' breakfasts on GCSE days for Year 11 students and access to water during the examinations to help boost results. Each year group are to have achievement days with valuable prizes being given to students who value their education whatever their ability and talents. We are trying to develop through this a more positive attitude towards their education in the widest sense.

Mr M Rees



CONGRATULATIONS!

To the following students who had 100% attendance from 1/9/05 to 30/6/06

Year 7

Michael Koltermann
Daniel McCarthy
Sophie Pendrey

Year 8

Hannah Greenhalgh
Alice King
Rebecca North
Adam Swain
Nancy Thomas
Abbie Warner
Daniel Williams

Year 9

Christopher Allen
Lauren Corcoran
Daniel Jordan
Andrew Tracoshas

Year 10

Candice Ashmore-Harris
Martin Cross
Wednesday Denty-Smith
Victoria Dixey
Christopher Green
Jordan Nixey
Kimberley Stanford
Matthew Woods

Year 11

Amanda Carreras
Lewis Harrison
Kristine Koranteng
Lucy Richardson
Martyn Royce
Gemma Williams

To the following students who had 98-99% attendance from 1/9/05 to 30/6/06

Year 7

Joshua Allen
Emily Allington
Lauren Allison
Lewis Beck
Craig Brighton
Emily Bunce
David Byrne
Cally-Anne Cronin
Kathryn Dover
Kyle Flanagan
Storm Goodwin
Kara Gregory
Charles Hall
Mia Jakeman
Matthew Jordan
Bethia Keen
Joshua Keith
Carl Marchant
James May
Christopher Moore
Philip Nunes
Alexander O'Sullivan
Mulan Peart
Sophie Peck
Natalie Perry
Charlotte Peterson
Jemma Potter
Jasmin Reeve
Zoe Rowlinson
Carla Steadman
Emma Strong
Jack Walter
Brandon Wheatcroft

Year 8

Hayley Anderson
Hannah Aspley
Robert Atkins
Thomas Bond
Richard Cadle
Gemma Cross
Jessica Croucher
Joseph Dixey
Clare Dodds
Christopher Gill
Jessica Gray
Kirsty Hines
Jack Horwood
Daniel Howlett
Daniel Jackson
Sam Kelly
Kirstie Nixey
Liam Phipps
Alexander Price
Joshua Smalley
Lauren Stanford
Jamie Swanson
Jack Warner
Jessica Warner
Katie Williams
Amelia Withers



Year 11

James Allison	Sam Mather
Gemma Anderson-Gear	Thomas Miles
Allan Bagley	Craig Naylor
Kirstin Bardwell	Ryan Naylor
Katherine Buckley	Daniel Neal
Lloyd Cassidy	Daniel Oates
Christopher Chapman	Lauren Potter
Amy Coutin	Caroline Reid
Clair Cross	Nathan Richmond
Daniel Douglas	Daniel Ruiz
James Gambrell	Andrew Smith
Emma Gray	Stephanie Sparks
Kelsey Grieve	Samuel Spinks
James Hall	Rebecca Steele
Kimberley Holcombe	Michael Taylor
Mark Honour	Lewis Todd
Benjamin Hookham	Ryan Warner
Amy Hopcraft	Jason White
Daniel Horwood	Joanna Williams
Sam Houlihan	Kevin Wills
Jason McGladdery	Emma Winman
Mikaela McShea	Jordan Wood

Year 9

Michael Bamford
Dale Bannister
Christopher Birch
Emily Bowden
Connor Butler
Daniel Cobb
Neil Davies
Lauren Davis
William Hagan
Nathan Hallam
Erin Hedges
Kirsty Henderson
Matthew Horton
Kelly Houlihan
Matthew Huntley
Ryan Hyett
Matthew Ingram
William Jones
Claire Jordan
Sarah Keen
Gary Lawson
Joshua McGregor
Ashley McIlrath
Katie Martin
Max Morgan
Thomas Muddle
Daniel Nappin
Amber Nelson
Thomas O'Sullivan
Martin Oldham
Emma Patchett
Mark Peterson
Hannah Perks
Kirsty Rigby
Stafford Sansome
Iain Shorter
Nathan Sinclair
Adam Smalley
Samuel Thomas
Samuel Veasey
Samuel White
Ashleigh Whitehead

Year 10

James Andrews
Ashley Bird
Carl Byrne
Holly Carter
Joshua Cussell
Bianca Donohoe
Daniel Dyer
Shauna Fowler
Matthew Frost
Sam Grieve
Adam Hedges
Stuart Herriott
Ria Houlihan
Simon Jones
Michael Keith
Sarah Knight
Charlotte Landy
Thomas Lelli
Charlotte McConville
Benjamin Mitchell
Harriet Montague
Kayleigh Newbold
Ryan Peterson
Stephen Pilbrow
Craig Potter



ECDL

WELL DONE

Congratulations to Gemma Williams (11.4) who passed Unit E and has now gained IT User Part 2. This qualification is equivalent to GCSE Grade B. Well done Gemma!

Congratulations to Nabilah Hamidi (11.8) who has passed her ECCL qualification.

Mrs N Bedford

Cooper Ball & Award Ceremony

Kings End in Bicester resembled a scene from an opening night of a film recently when the students of the Cooper School held their annual Leavers Ball at the Littlebury Hotel. Travelling in a wide range of transport including stretch limos, horse and cart, vintage cars, quad bikes and even a Fire Engine the waiting crowd of proud parents, relatives, friends and staff applauded the students as they arrived. A stunning display of evening wear was on display as these 16 year olds celebrated the completion of their GCSE exams and the end of their days at Cooper. The girls were resplendent in a wide range of evening gowns, whilst the boys looked positively handsome in their bow ties and dinner suits.

Head of Year 11 Pamela Hickman said, "It was a wonderful sight, seeing all the students in their finery and having a good evening. The dresses were absolutely beautiful and the boys in their dinner suits looked so grown up. Their parents and teachers are very proud of them. They have all worked hard this year and I am sure their efforts will be rewarded in their exam results."



Students arriving at the Ball

Student Electra Goodwin aged 16 said "Wow, what a great night. We all had so much fun and it was nice to be able to show the teachers how good we looked. The teachers have been great this year and have also worked hard organising tonight's Ball, we owe them a huge vote of thanks."

All the students enjoyed a buffet and disco at the hotel and concluded their school year by attending a Leavers assembly and barbeque where individual award winners were presented with trophies and certificates. The prize for Outstanding Academic Achievement was awarded to Rachel Brown.

In his closing words Headteacher Ben Baxter said, "You will be inheriting a world in the early 21st Century with quite dramatic economic, social and cultural changes with new work and leisure patterns and with the rapid expansion of communications technology. Embrace change, be highly creative and innovative and maximise to its full potential whatever you choose to do. I wish you all well."

Other award winners were as follows :-

Applied Science	Matthew Essex
Art	Georgina Newell
Business Studies	Stacey Lyons
Drama	Hannah Raynor
Electronics	Roman Collyer
English	Gemma Williams
Food Technology	Amy Hopcraft
French	Kelsey Grieve
Geography	Sam Houlihan
German	Lucy Richardson
Graphics	Declan Holbem
History	Stewart Garland
ICT	James Gambrell
Leisure & Tourism	Will Clayton
Maths	Jamie Hall
Science	Charlotte Gray
Music	Sam Mather
PE	Jordan Wood
Pre-Voc	Kirsty Peaper
RE	Rebecca Turner
Resistant Material Technology	Ben Ancil
Textiles	Emma Gray
Most Improved Performance	Hannah MacLeod



Rachel Brown receiving her award for Academic Achievement

WORK EXPERIENCE 2006

All Year 10 students are undertaking work experience for the last two weeks of this term. Most of the placements are in the Bicester area, but some students have placements in Oxford and Banbury. A very small minority have placements outside Oxfordshire.

208 placements have been organised for the students, with the majority of these placements having been found by the School. All placements have been checked by the Work Experience Registration Scheme for insurance and health & safety. Following WERS guidelines, several placements have involved CRB checks.

All students will be visited while on work experience and a check carried out on the students well being in the work placement and any concerns of the student or employer.

We are sure that most students will have a very positive experience and will be asked for their reflections when they return to School in September.

Mr S Smith

ART DEPARTMENT



Sajit Bhart and Ben Baxter

This term saw again the annual GCSE Art and Technology Exhibition. The standard was exceptionally high and the exhibition was packed all evening by admiring parents, friends and staff. The Mayor, Sajit Bhart, was very impressed and stayed all evening looking around

and chatting to staff and students.

Year 9 students have been working with sculptor Phoebe Shaft to carve a 12ft totem pole. This is to be displayed in the grounds and has been a very exciting project.



Students work on display

Mrs C Butler

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

Forty-five dedicated Year 9 students gave up the first day of their Easter holidays, 1st April, to attend a SATs Focus Day. All students participated fully and enjoyed the day. One student commented, "the day was good fun as well as revising", another said "make the revision day longer".

Shakespeare Day was again a success for Year 9. The day involved a theatre company performing and analysing the set SATs scenes. Due to the popularity of this day the English Department will run Shakespeare Day next year in order to prepare students for the Shakespeare section of the SATs paper.

Ms N Dingwall

GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT

Year 7 were asked to make a volcano for homework. Congratulations to:

Matthew Duncalf (7.5)
Jemma Potter (7.1)
Alex March (7.7)
Tom Smith (7.1)
Daniel Timms (7.5)
Carl Marchant (7.5)
Emily Brown (7.1)
Matthew Perks (7.7)
Tom Clanfield (7.7)
Natasha Smith (7.1)
Megan Benfield (7.5)
Amy Bedford (7.5)

whose tutor groups nominated their volcanoes for entry into the Year 7 finalists competition.

Ms L Hewitt

PARENTS!

Do you know what your child is doing when they are online?
Do you know how to protect them from online dangers?

Follow these links to keep informed

<http://www.ceop.gov.uk/>

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/technology/5140634.stm>

COOPER CATERING

As a result of revised OCC policies we have recruited a Catering Manager to run all our catering functions in house. Colin Epathite joined us in April and here he introduces his plans for the school.



Colin Epathite

I have over 20 years experience in catering mostly in the Royal Navy where I organised feeding up to 2000 on a daily basis and special functions such as catering for Royalty.

I am very pleased to have joined the Cooper School and look forward to the challenges ahead. Having been here for a few months I have seen the catering facilities in operation and have been developing ideas on the way forward.

I am sure everyone is aware of Jamie Oliver's campaign to improve school meals, he has brought the whole issue very much into the public eye and has got the attention of the government which cannot be a bad thing. Partly as a result of that the government has introduced new standards and guidelines (all 59 pages of them!) which come into effect from September. As with all schools we are governed by those guidelines on nutritional values which mean we will be providing a different range of food options. For example, we can no longer sell confectionery (chocolates, sweets and pop) and can only sell savoury snacks that do not have added salt or sugar. Similarly with drinks, we can no longer sell drinks with added sugar and will be limited to milk (skimmed or semi skimmed), water, pure fruit juice and yoghurts.

School lunches must include not less than two portions of fruit and vegetables per day, at least one being fruit. Red meat will appear at least three times a week and fish at least twice. Bread and bread products will be available daily.

On my part I have introduced a salad bar, at least one full roast dinner a week, a choice of pasta dishes, fresh fruit bowls, jacket potatoes with various fillings and strengthened the breakfast options. Your child can now get the day off to a healthy start with croissants, cereals, fresh fruit, yogurts and beans or spaghetti on toast.

I will be updating most of the catering equipment over the summer holidays and am looking for major improvements on the size of the dining area which I hope over time will match, if not better, those provided by large businesses for their workforce and have an area where staff and students can eat in a relaxing and pleasant environment.

I am lucky to have inherited a loyal and committed staff who will work with me on introducing the new government standards

My final thought is that you as parents or guardians should have an input into what we provide for your children so my request to you is that you provide me with any views, comments and feedback please. I will also be introducing a Suggestion Box so that students can give me their ideas as well.



Mr C Epathite

APPLIED SCIENTISTS WORKSHOP WITH RUTHERFORD APPLETON LABORATORY

Year 10 Applied Scientists had a glimpse of some of the work done by scientists at the Rutherford Appleton Research Laboratories during a two hour workshop in June. They had fun finding out about the science behind why chocolate melts in the mouth, and carried out experiments to mimic the production process carried out at chocolate factories such as Cadbury's. Not to mention making the most of the chocolate sampling!! Kirsty Williams (10.7) was particularly pleased to discover why 'Dairy Milk' was her favourite chocolate!

Mrs S Millar

STAFFING NEWS

WELCOME

Laura Hutchins started on 5 June 2006 as Examinations and Data Manager.

Penny Worrell started on 3 July 2006 in the Science Department as a NQT.

Jennifer Alder, NQT, has joined the Geography Department.

Benedict McCarey, NQT, has joined the English Department.

In September, the following staff will join Cooper School: Helen Boryeswicz will rejoin us after leaving the school 12 years ago as a part time Food Teacher.

Isabelle Hichens, an experienced MFL teacher.

Lesley Keen, Rachel Mooney and Neander Hill have been appointed as full time Teaching Assistants and Rachel Spilsbury has been appointed as a part time Teaching Assistant.

FAREWELL

At the end of the Summer Term the following staff will be leaving Cooper School:

Steve Smith, Geography teacher and Head of Careers, will be taking early retirement after 25 years' service.

Nik Roddis will be taking up a new post at Lord Williams School in Thame.

Marie Fremont is returning to France.

Sue Long will leave us to go to Aylesbury Grammar School.

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr Payne (Technology) and his partner Becci are the proud parents of their third son, Oliver Samuel Payne, who was born on 16th June.



Mr Frogley's (Technology) wife Anita gave birth to their first child, Isabella Jane Frogley on 26th June.

CCTv installed at Cooper

It has been decided to install Closed Circuit Television Cameras (CCTv) at certain locations within the school. Not only will it help keep the site secure during the evening, it can also be used during the day to monitor unexpected visitors coming onto the site.

The system is being installed by a company that specialises in the installation of CCTv in schools and has installed similar systems in Witney and Oxford schools. Not only do they install the system, they provide full training in its use and also assist with the correct signage which must be displayed by law around the site.

The cameras will cover the entire exterior of the site and also specific locations inside.

There are strict legal guidelines applicable to the usage of CCTv cameras and the access to any films is strictly monitored and recorded. Images can be used as evidence in a court of law in some instances such as vandalism and trespass. Full training on all these aspects will be given to the relevant staff within the school.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

GIRLS' ATHLETICS

Congratulations to Georgina Newell and Clair Cross (Year 11) who represented North Oxfordshire at the County Athletics Championships. Georgina was the winner of the Inter Girls' 1500m.

Mrs G Allen



Sports Day—June

BOYS' ATHLETICS

Congratulations to Josh Lyons, Josh Cussell and Daniel Scourfield for representing the School and North Oxfordshire in the County trials. Further congratulations must also go to Josh Cussell for setting a new 400m record at the recent Banbury & District athletics competition.

Mr M Hutchings

SWIMMING GALA

For the first time ever the two secondary schools in Bicester have held a swimming gala which was organised jointly by Matt Hutchings (Cooper School) and Gemma Ianne (Bicester Community College). Year 7 & 8 students competed at the Bicester & Ploughley Leisure Centre Pool recently in an event which featured a series of races over different distances and different strokes. The overall event was won by Cooper with a score of 190 points against a score of 172 by BCC. Matt said, "I am keen to promote swimming as a sport and discussed the idea with Gemma, we both agreed to give it a go and were very pleased with the standards of the students competing."



DIARY DATES

ACADEMIC YEAR 2006-2007

TERM 1

Monday, 4 September	INSET DAY
Tuesday, 5 September	INSET DAY
Wednesday, 6 September	Yr 7 & 10 students only return to school
Thursday, 7 September	Rest of students return to school
Friday, 20 October	End of Term 1

HALF TERM: Monday, 23 October – Friday, 27 October 2006

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

SCHOOL PROFILE

The school profile is a short electronic document that replaces the governors' annual report and removes the requirement for schools to hold an annual meeting with parents. The profile for the academic year 2004-2005 has been completed (2004/5 because this holds the most recent validated examination data for KS3 and KS4) and can be accessed via the DfES website: <http://schoolprofile.parentscentre.gov.uk>. Alternatively parents can view the profile by logging on to the school's website at www.cooper.oxon.sch.uk and following the links.

STUDENT DETAILS

The School has just undertaken an exercise of sending home with each student a copy of the information held on the system about them, including parents' mobile numbers, medical details and doctor's details. Most of this information has been returned and has been input onto the system – so the student details should now be up to date! However, they are only as good as the last change and it would be appreciated if you could notify us of any changes in address, phone numbers etc. It makes it easier for us to contact you in an emergency.

NOTICE TO PARENTS

Would all users of the School site please respect the disabled parking spaces in the car park near Reception please. There have been instances recently of holders of disabled permits being unable to use these spaces and have suffered some discomfort in having to get from other areas of the car park onto the site. Your co-operation would be appreciated.

ECDL CLUB

Wednesdays Session 5 in S1 with Mrs Bedford
Catch up with work, sit Diagnostic & Certification tests

Launching the Cooper Parent Council

..... *To Represent the Parent Voice*

We are very keen to involve parents in our school improvement plans and one way in which we intend to do this is by setting up a new Parent Council which will be able to represent parents' views on every aspect of school life.

The survey of parent opinion we carried out last autumn suggested that parents are particularly keen to be better informed about teaching and learning and how parents can help their children learn and we would wish to consult with the Parent Council to determine how best we can meet this need.

We are therefore very keen to recruit Parent Council members from parents of every year group in the school so that the views of parents and students from every age and stage of Cooper School can be represented.

We are planning to hold a meeting in September to launch this initiative. The main purpose of the meeting will be to:

- Feedback to parents in detail the results of the survey of parent opinion
- Consult with parents about setting up the Council; its role and activities
- Invite attendees to become members of the Parent Council

If you are interested in attending the launch meeting please return the slip below via your son/daughter to Mrs Wainman who will send you more details when the date and time of the meeting has been agreed.

Cooper Parent Council Launch

I/We _____ (Name)

Parents of _____
(Student's Name/Form)

Would like to attend the meeting to launch the Cooper Parent Council. Please send me/us further details.

Please return slips via student to Mrs Wainman.

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.