



The Cooper School, Bicester

Where 'Learning Matters'



Science

Issue No. 5

July 2007

FROM THE HEADTEACHER



Welcome to the 5th edition of The Cooper School newsletter. This academic year at school has again been a year of sustained change building on the improvements noted in 2005-2006 as we seek to embed systems and practices to improve the standards of achievement for all students in the school.

The provision for students at both Key Stages has improved with a further widening of the curriculum offer at Key Stage 4 with students able to opt for a greater range of subjects and courses tailored to individual needs and abilities.

Added to all of our other achievements including continued improvements to the site, we launched new Parent Council and Student Council groups from September both developing a role in school improvement. The development of our school website (www.cooper.oxon.sch.uk) has been a significant feature of work this year with our aim for it to become a virtual learning environment in the near future. The website has many relevant features and news including important forthcoming events and dates. It is updated on at least a weekly basis and it is our plan that, over time, it will become our chief means of communication with parents and guardians.

As we approach the end of term it is time to say farewell to the following staff: Sally Harvey has been promoted to the position of Second in Maths Department at a school in Milton Keynes; Val Westwell is going with her family to Australia; Emma Simpson is relocating with her family to Cornwall; Isabelle Hichens is going to a school in Abingdon. We thank them for all that they have done for the students of Cooper School and wish them and their families all the very best wishes for the future. In September we will be joined by the following teachers: Ivan Hore as Head of the Design and Technology Department; Sarah Gilbert and Joseph Lancaster-Burley to the Maths Department; Megan Underwood (History) and Lydia Douet (Modern Foreign Languages).

Finally, I would like to wish all students, parents, staff and governors of the school a fantastic, safe and enjoyable summer vacation whatever you will be doing and wherever you may be going and I look forward to working with you again come September.

B Baxter

SCIENCE STATUS

The highlight of this year's work for Science Status has been a whole week of Science activities in conjunction with Langford Village Primary School. A number of our Year 7 students acted as classroom support for Year 1 & 2 pupils throughout the week at Langford. Year 1 & 2 visited Cooper to study how materials change when they are cooked. Mrs Martindale bravely supervised them making jellies and cakes for a party back at their own school. Year 3 pupils visited Cooper to grow crystals, Year 4 worked on electric circuits and microscopes, Year 5 worked on forces, Year 6 also worked on electrical circuits and microscopes. In addition there were numerous activities held at Langford Village supported by our staff and students. I would like to thank all staff involved in both schools for their hard work and giving up their time so freely to make the week a resounding success.

Launton, Langford Village, Finmere, Fringford Primary Schools and Bardwell Special School have also benefited from the purchase of equipment to enhance the teaching of science to their pupils. We have also purchased data logging equipment available for loan to our partner primary schools.

We have also been invited to join a select number of schools in Oxfordshire and Yorkshire in a pilot scheme organised by the Institute of Physics to encourage more students to study Physics. A number of Year 10 students have already visited Sharp Electronics, Crowcom Ltd and Norbar in Banbury to see how Physics relates to the workplace.

The extra funding has also allowed us to organise trips to Didcot Power station for a Year 9 study visit for their GCSE course. Trips to The National Space Centre in Leicester and Think Tank in Birmingham will take place in the final week of this academic year for Years 8 & 9.

On July the 11th Science Technicians from all over Oxfordshire will take part in a full day of training at Cooper.

Mr Rees



PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON THE FUTURE OF SECONDARY EDUCATION IN BICESTER

Why is there a need for more provision?

Basically because Bicester is, and will continue to be, a growing town. Currently 3,400 houses are scheduled to be built by 2016; then a further 2,000, including south west Bicester and Upper Heyford. That will lead to an estimated 800 additional 11-16 places needed plus 400 additional places post-16.

What are the proposed choices in terms of Secondary Education Provision?

Option A: New Secondary School

Purpose built – 850 places

Option B: Expand Existing Schools

Provide 850 places by new build at existing school sites

Option C: New 14+ Learning Centre

Purpose built new educational learning centre as an 'extension' of the existing schools on a new site. Cooper School becomes 11-18 school offering joint 'A' Level provision Post-16 with BCC.

What are these new Specialist Diplomas that are mentioned as being offered post-14 and post-16?

- A new kind of qualification developed by employers and educators together to broaden the curriculum to raise participation and achievement.
- Diplomas will be offered in ICT; Health and Social Care; Engineering; Creative and Media; Land-based and Environmental; Manufacturing; Hair and Beauty; Business Administration and Finance; Hospitality and Catering; Public Services; Sport and Leisure; Retail; Travel and Tourism; Construction and the Built Environment.
- Diplomas at all levels: equivalent to range of GCSE grades (Levels 1 and 2) and one level (Level 3) equivalent to 'A' levels.
- Can be taken with existing qualifications e.g. GCSEs and 'A' level.
- Combines theoretical and practical learning, some of it work based.
- A new pathway to higher education.
- By 2013 all diplomas at all levels will be available for all young people 14-19.

- No school or college will offer a diploma alone – they must collaborate.
- Government wants up to 40% of young people to take a diploma eventually as part of their curriculum.

Which Option does the school prefer and recommend?

Option C

Why?

It is clear that the proper education of students 14-19 is at the top of the national agenda. It is really important to have appropriate opportunities and challenges for all of them and that means good qualifications and a range of skills. Students will need to be increasingly flexible to meet the demands of new work and leisure patterns of the early 21st century; they are likely to take several different career paths in their lifetime. We want to ensure that we have a forward-looking exciting education for all the young people in Bicester; one which will provide a wide range of courses, appropriate for different abilities and talents. We want to provide for all our students who should be able to see clearly continuity and progression from Pre-16 to Post-16 without having to find it elsewhere.

A new 14+ Learning Centre will provide a greater range of courses and options available to young people at age 14 and 16 across all three sites. Running a joint Sixth Form on The Cooper School and Bicester Community College sites will give us greater flexibility and an enhanced curriculum offer at Advanced Level for the students.

The Learning Centre will provide Level 1 through to Level 3 and foundation degree programmes in a range of accredited courses (such as the Specialist Diplomas) where currently students have to travel elsewhere. This will enable young people to take a combination of vocational, applied and academic programmes to equip them with transferable skills as required by employers. Students will have a clear sense of progression – they will see the role models ahead of them. They will have aspirations to taking higher courses i.e. following a clear line of progression through Level 1 to 2 to 3 courses either within one establishment or across the three units (but all within a reasonable geographical area).

In summary, Option C is a proposal designed specifically to-

- Provide new opportunities at all levels of ability.
- Raise aspirations and the number of learners progressing to Higher Education via a number of different learning pathways.
- Increase the provision of Level 3 and 4 courses.
- Develop sufficient flexibility to include new programmes and qualifications as they come on stream and revise the curriculum to meet economic and individual needs.
- Review the provision available at foundation and Levels 1 and 2 and identify and develop progression pathways to improve outcomes and increase lifelong learning.
- Ensure local delivery of the learner entitlement.
- Provide enhanced opportunities for learning for adults.

We think that this is what Bicester has needed for a long time now and this is a really exciting opportunity for all the young people of the town, and indeed for everyone- this will really put life-long learning for all on the map in Bicester. To that end we would urge you, as parents or guardians, to take part in the consultation process and support the views of the professional educators in the town and area (Option C) by returning your completed response form to Oxfordshire County Council by the end of the public consultation period (July 20th).

AWARDS FOR ALL BID



The Physical Education department has been successful with an Awards for All bid that has granted us £9,700. This grant has been awarded to convert part of the gymnasium into a cardiovascular centre with provisions for box exercise equipment, rowing machines, exercise bikes, fitness equipment and gym instructors. The bid will allow us to offer more extra-curricular provision and increase participation across a multitude of fitness sessions. We are hoping to launch the new cardiovascular centre in September through a healthy schools week which will promote the new centre and the opportunities on offer through a 'Commit to get fit' project.

MATHEMATICS BRILLIANCE AT COOPER SCHOOL

The results of the Key Stage 3 Standard assessment Tests (SATS) published this week brought excellent news for 43 Year 8 students from Cooper School. The gifted students took the Maths tests a year earlier than scheduled. In order to proceed with the fast tracking course a target of a high level 6 had been set. All achieved this, moreover 76% achieved a level 7 or 8 (8 being the highest level possible).

Head of KS3 Mathematics, Zoe Schmidt who teaches the students said, 'I am absolutely delighted with these students. They have excelled and totally exceeded all expectations. They are a credit to themselves and Cooper School.'

Headteacher Ben Baxter said, 'Well done to all these Year 8 students. They are now already preparing for their full GCSE exam in mathematics and will complete the course one year early, in Year 10. If successful they will then take the AS examination in mathematics in Year 11.'



MATHS CHALLENGE

The UKMT Maths Challenges are lively, intriguing papers designed to stimulate interest in maths in large numbers of students. They are tests of reasoning and mental agility which can be taken without any special preparation or revision. The three levels cover the secondary school range 11-18 and together they attract over 600,000 entries from over 4500 schools and colleges.

In April, 60 top set Year 7 and 8s competed in the Junior Maths Challenge test. Year 8s Nick Waugh, Charlie Hall, Jamie May, Matthew Jordan and Michael Northcott all achieved Gold certificates and Year 7s Amanda Cole and James Allen achieved Bronze certificates. Congratulations to all who took part.

In March I took 4 students from Year 8 to Oxford to take part in the Team Challenge – a series of 4 rounds where Maths skills and team work have to be used to compete against teams from other schools. The team (Mitchell Roberts, Charlie Hall, Jamie May and Sam Plummer) gave the competition their all and achieved a creditable score. Thanks for your company boys, I really enjoyed the day.

Mrs S Harvey

CONGRATULATIONS!

To the following students who had 100% attendance from 4/9/06 to 29/6/07

Year 7

Giles Baldwin
Samantha King
Antonia Kissias
Lorraine Palmer
Jack Stone
Heather Watt
Claire Worsfold
Katherine Worsfold

Year 8

Joshua Allen
Jake Murray
Chloe Payne
Jack Walter
Carly Waters

Year 9

Pitchipong Juiwong
Liam Phipps
Daniel Williams

Year 10

Christopher Allen
Connor Butler
Lauren Corcoran
William Hagan
Kelly Houlihan
Matthew Ingram
Gary Lawson
Thomas Muddle
Martin Oldham
Thomas O'Sullivan
Danielle Plummer
Kirsty Rigby
Adam Steadman

Year 11

Nichola Beasley
Ian Bone
Stella Harrison
Simon Jones
Craig Potter
Kimberley Stanford
Adam Wilkinson

To the following students who had 98-99% attendance from 4/9/06 to 29/6/07

Year 7

James Allen
Keri Allen
Michael Atkins
Jordan Barber
Tegan Berry
Daniel Bowden
Charlotte Buckley
Lewis Butler
Matthew Clark
Amanda Cole
Charlotte Elgar
Emma Elkington
Ellen Giles
Blythe Grieve
Sophie Grose
Rebekah Hanmer
Lewis Harwood
Joseph Hayes
Liam Hillsley
James Hobden
Grace Lochrie
Michael Scaysbrook
Anita Tafirenyika
Chloe Berry
Chantelle Billson
Sakinah Hamidi
Christopher Hart
Jonathan McCarthy
Ashley Mortiboys
Helen Oldham
Charlie Paviour
Oliver Smith
Emily Spittle
Aidan Starr
Ka Yi Tang
Rebekah Veasey
Alice Webb
Lauren Webb
Matthew Webb

Year 8

Ashley Adams
Emily Allington
David Byrne
Samuel Cooper
Matthew Dodds
William Dunn

Year 8 cont'd...

Kara Gregory
Charles Hall
Tayla Hurlock
Matthew Jordan
Bethia Keen
Joshua Keith
Daniel Lawrence
Georgina Leach
Rebecca Long
Carl Marchant
James May
Robert McGregor
Dale McMillan
Christopher Moore
Robert Muddle
Shawn Newton
Alexander O'Sullivan
Sophie Peck
Melissa Parker
Natalie Perry
Charlotte Peterson
Jemma Potter
Zoe Rowlinson
Holly Savin
Thomas Smith
Lewis Szczepanik
Calum Warriner

Year 9

David Aslett
Sophie Beard
Robert Bone
Amy Britton
Richard Cadle
Edward Coulling
Anna Coutin
Caroline Cresswell
Dorya Djebbar
Joseph Dixey
Stacey Evans
Rebecca Gambrell
Hannah Greenhalgh
Imogen Groves
Marko Grubnic
Adam Hall
Matthew Hanbury
Jack Horwood
Daniel Howlett
Sam Kelly
Sophie Lakner
Jamie Leonard
Ryan McCloskey
Kirstie Nixey
Hayden Nolan
Rebecca North
Liam O'Hara
Ryan Paton
Elliott Payne

Year 9 cont'd...

Alexander Price
Andrew Pryde
Ella Ryder
Joshua Smalley
Adam Swain
Jamie Swanson
Abbie Warner
Jessica Warner
Andrew Whitehouse
Leanne Woods
Thomas Young

Year 10

Christopher Birch
Emily Bowden
Rebecca Brockwell
Richard Cooper
Samantha Crow
Lauren Davies
Neil Davies
Rebecca Digman
Sophie Elliott
Hannah Fraser
Nathan Hallam
Yusri Hamidi
Kirsty Henderson
William Hickey
Matthew Huntley
Ryan Hyett
Claire Jordan
Emma-Jane Lees
Adam Leonard
Joshua Lyons
Katie Martin
Joshua McGregor
Simon Mead
Victoria Munger
Amber Nelson
Mark Paterson
Emily Pettit
Lucy Ryan
Daniel Savin
Jack Seger
Megan Steele
Samuel Thomas
Andrew Tracoshas
Samuel Veasey
Mark White
Samuel White
Stuart White
Laura Willis
Bonnie Worth
Annie Zhou

Year 11

Oliver Adams
James Andrews
Candice Ashmore-Harris
Stephanie Bennett
Stephen Boucher
David Buckley
Daniel Butcher
Melanie Cadle
Emma Carroll
Holly Carter
Martin Cross
Joshua Cussell
Victoria Dixey
Bianca Donohoe
Kirsty Evans
Matthew Frost
Nathan Gibbard
Christopher Green
Gemma Greenall
Sam Grieve
Amy Hamilton
Rachel Harris
Adam Hedges
Leanne Hobbs
Ria Houliahn
Oliver Hurlock
Grace Johnstone
Sarah Jones
Michael Keith
Leanne Kelly
Harvey Kent
Hannah Lamburn
Charlotte Landy
Thomas Lelli
Charlotte McConville
Aiden McKeran
Cassie Moorton
Lisa Nicholls
Alexandra Ninkovic
Jordan Nixey
Ryan Peterson
Lauren Rushby
Benjamin Smith
Curtis Smith
Daniel Smith
Gemma Sollis
Natalie Swain
Daniel Thomas
Michael Timms
Philip Walton
Alec Warriner
Sinead Webster
Kirsty Williams
Hannah Winman
Matthew Woods

ECDL CONGRATULATIONS

Candice Ashmore-Harris and Joanna Janko in Year 11 both successfully completed their ECDL qualification.

Carl Rowlinson in Year 10 successfully completed his ECDL qualification in record time! So a specially big well-done to him!

Mrs Wordsworth

HISTORY TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD 2007



Launched in September 2006 to find Britain's most inspirational history teacher, the award is the first of its kind in the UK. Backed by the DfES and Historical Association, BBC History Magazine received 500 nominations from students all over the UK, for over 100 teachers. The award was presented to Daniel Burton by Greg Neale, Founder Editor of BBC History Magazine, at the Historical Association's Secondary History Teachers Conference in Liverpool on Saturday 17 March 2007.

If Daniel could time travel he would go back to around 1740 when the 'Age of Reason' had begun. "One of the things I enjoy about teaching history is that you can expand your own knowledge all the time," says Daniel. "It is great to win any award, but I was particularly delighted because the nominations came directly from the students themselves. That so many voted for me speaks volumes for the continuing power of history to intrigue, motivate and enthuse students. A good history lesson needs an interesting question that young people can engage with on an emotional level. They want to know why the world is like it is today and history helps them to unlock that puzzle."

One of his students wrote: "At the beginning of every history lesson, Mr Burton rolls up his sleeves as if to dive right into the vortex of history and take us back to the period we are studying! His use of rhetorical questions gets us thinking and helps us to unravel the mysteries of history."

Ben Baxter, Headteacher at The Cooper School, said: "Daniel is a rare person who has the ability to understand how to bring his subject to life for his students. He understands how to inspire young people but, as importantly, he understands how to get them to be successful as well. He is unrelenting in his efforts to provide stimulating, engaging and active lessons."

COOL RIDE TO SCHOOL



Tyler Derrick arrived at school on Tuesday morning this week in style. Tyler (11) was brought to school by the Fox FM Roadrunner crew in their customized 4x4 as part of their 'Cool Ride to

School' campaign. Tyler was nominated by his mother who contacted the radio station after hearing about the campaign of Steve Penk's Breakfast Show. As well as arriving in style Tyler was also given a variety of goodies including posters, badges and a laptop bag. Tyler is pictured with Lucy and Helen, the Fox FM Roadrunners.

MOBILE PHONE POLICY

A reminder of the school's policy:

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.

- If a student is attending an after-school club or revision session or is representing the school at a sports fixture or on a school visit which means that they will be returning to school later in the school day than the normal end of day time, then parents often would like to be able to be contacted by their sons/daughters in order to pick them up on their return to school. In that instance students can have their mobile in school on that day but it should be stored out of view and switched off throughout the school day. Again students can leave their mobiles in reception for the time that they are in school, collecting them before they go on the after school visit, sports fixture etc.
- Mobile phones are not permitted to be used during breaks and lunchtimes.
- They are not to be used in lessons.
- If a student needs to contact home for any reason during the school day, then they go to the reception area to make the call from the school telephones.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

B Baxter



SHAKESPEARE DAY

Summary by Nycole Scourfield (9.8)

Firstly, Year 9 went to watch two SAT scenes from the play, Act 1 scene 1 and Act 2 scene 1 in the performance hall performed by the Bitesize Theatre Company. The actors were great, they got people involved and gave a lot of information about the characters and the play, they showed us what it would have been like to have gone and seen a play in the 1600's. This lasted for about 2 hours. Once that had finished we went to our English classes where we studied the scenes in even more detail. I got a lot out of the experience and it's helped me understand some of the relationships between characters.

Thank you to all the teachers involved in organising it!

Summary by Chris Gill (9.7)

On Tuesday 19th April Year 9 took part in a Shakespeare day. We went to the performance hall for 2 hours and we watched some scenes from Much Ado about Nothing, which was performed by the theatre group. They let us take part in the plays and they showed us what it would be like to go and watch a play in the 1600's which was quite interesting but also quite disgusting. The theatre group was very funny and interesting. We then went into the classroom and looked at the play in more depth. Overall the day was fun and we also learnt a lot from it. So we would like to thank all the teachers that played a part in organising it and also the theatre group.



GCSE ART EXHIBITION



Year 11 students showed off their art work as they prepared to take their final exams. A record number of people came to view the exhibition on 19 June including parents, family, friends, staff and the deputy

town mayor.

Each of the 100 students displayed a piece of their work which included sculptures, pottery and paintings. The work, as ever, is well above the county average reflected not only in an exciting and diverse exhibition, but in the grades achieved in GCSE.

Caroline Butler, Head of Art, said: "This was our annual celebration to show off all the excellent work our students have done and offers a unique opportunity for members of the public to see first hand the wonderful display."

Cllr Pauline Liddington, deputy mayor, said she was particularly impressed by an ornate toy box and a black and white painting of a lily. She added: "It was an unbelievable exhibition, the school has an amazing wealth of artistic talent."

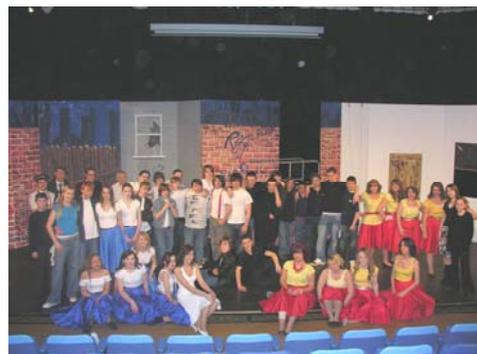
WEST SIDE STORY

West Side Story, portraying the agonies of teenage love and the struggle to retain a personal identity in the face of gang culture is ideal for a school production. The cast of Cooper School in its recent performance fully appreciated these qualities in a lively and sensitive production over three evenings.

But another aspect of the musical is that it gives plenty of opportunities for boys to be – well – boys! This, the lads grasped eagerly yet retained control and discipline. One of the strengths of the production was the choreography of fights as well as dance – difficult with a large cast and handled well in somewhat crowded conditions particularly in the dance at the gym when nearly forty dancers are on stage at the same time. (This, by the way, is another advantage of West Side Story in that it allows a huge number of children to become involved, always a plus!) The physicality of the Jets and Sharks came over well to the audience, notwithstanding the youth of some of the boys. The girls' dance perhaps lacked a bit of oomph particularly in conveying the difference between the Americans and the Puerto Ricans but full marks to Anita for keeping the show going with an injured knee. The girls were more convincing in "America", always a show stopper. The actors gamely attempted American accents but clarity was sometimes sacrificed in an attempt to sound authentic. The singers also had some difficulty in making themselves heard against the soundtrack but the girls' five-part "I feel pretty" was delightful and the "Tonight" reprise at the end of the first half, moving.

A few individuals deserve special praise. The Jets were well led by a convincingly "macho" Riff with a strong voice and confident movement. In contrast, Baby John was a delight, if that does not disqualify him from being a member of such a gang of toughs! The Puerto Ricans swaggered but Bernardo could have done with some of his girl Anita's charisma to be a match for Riff. Tony with his good looks and sweet voice certainly made an attractive young hero who stood out in contrast to the aggression of the others who were blind to his vision of "Something coming, something good". The "Tonight" love song, and the whole balcony scene with Maria, as well as "One Hand, One Heart" touched the audience. The final death scene was also moving but the return of the cast backstage made it difficult for the audience to hold the tragic mood.

With its previous production of "Romeo and Juliet" and this "West Side Story", the production team have done a valuable job in making theatre relevant to the cast and to an appreciative audience.



CATERING DEPARTMENT

A big welcome from the Catering Department. My staff and I are enthusiastically working towards the new food criteria and have had the alterations required to improve our service. We now supply a range of different foods and even allow tasters, so students can assess whether they want to buy the product.

As September 2007 approaches, so does the implementation of the new standards for food other than lunches. This will include the Breakfast Meal as well as the Break Time Snack. Studies show that students who eat Breakfast have a better concentration, mood and memory level. We supply a varied selection of foods to meet these meals and are always looking out for a healthy option that is suitable.

Why, you may ask, do we need these standards? The estimate is that by the year 2020 half of the nation's children will be either overweight or obese and this can bring massive health problems like diabetes and heart disease in later life. Not only that, it is also estimated that for the first time, parents could be outliving their children because of this risk to health.

It will take the good will and input of the Parents, Students along with Head Teachers and Governors if we are to succeed in providing a healthier way ahead within a budget that is sustainable.



The School Food Trust is an organisation set up to review and recommend food served in schools. It is a very good organisation and has a website which can be visited by you on www.schoolfoodtrust.org.uk. If you get the time, please have a look at the site, it has a wealth of information concerning school meals.

It is hoped that the hard work achieved will result in a large take up by students of the food we provide and for those who do not, please give it a try. We welcome any feedback to improve the service, in doing so you will have a say in the health of your children.

I am very aware that some parents would prefer to provide meals for their children and therefore feel that the provision of school meals is not for them. To those who do provide a meal for their children to take to school, it is hoped that in the interest of those who already use our facility, the food provided could be along the lines that the government want us to achieve. I would be more than happy to discuss this with you if you have any queries.

Colin Epathite
Catering Manager

LUNCHTIME ARRANGEMENTS

As from September 2007, arrangements for leaving the school site to go home for the lunch period will be changed.

It is hoped that students remain on the school premises throughout lunchtime as the lunchtime period is relatively brief at only 50 minutes. However, if you wish your son/daughter to go home for lunch can we please request that, **in the interests of your child's safety**, it is established that your son/daughter does actually go home to their residential address for the lunch period. We do not expect them to go to someone else's home or indeed 'hang around' the local shops/streets.

As a reminder the lunchtime periods are as follows:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday

1.20pm returning for afternoon registration at 2.10 pm

Wednesday

12.20pm returning for afternoon registration at 1.10 pm

If you would like your son/daughter to go home for lunch, could we please ask you to discuss arrangements for each day with your son/daughter and fill in the relevant page in the planner, indicating which day/days they have permission to go home and signing it giving your consent. Your child should then present their planner to Reception for validation purposes, where the school will stamp the relevant days indicated by yourselves, thereby confirming they are correct, and will contact parents confirming that this has happened. It is hoped that with this new process of validating planners, passes will not be so easily lost, destroyed or fraudulently passed from student to student. New passes will only be validated once new planners have been purchased and parents have signed the relevant page giving permission, and validation procedures have been implemented again.

Lunch passes may be revoked at any time by parental request or by teaching staff if they are found to be being used fraudulently or inappropriately.

If the lunch pass page of your child's planner is not shown at the gate at lunchtime, they will **not** be allowed out of school grounds.

We hope that this new system will be helpful to parents, students and the school.

YEAR 11 BALL 2007

After months of hard work, the Year 11 Ball was a big success on Friday 22nd June. The new venue of the Holt Hotel, Steeple Aston



Gemma Greenall, Marc Cullen, Leanne Hobbs

looked fantastic bedecked in burgundy, gold and cream and the rain just about

held off for the arrival of our students in a variety of vehicles including limos, a stretch Hummer, a fire engine and a Target rental van! It's always amazing to see how grown up our students look and the glam factor was particularly high this year. A huge thank you to

Leanne Hobbs and Gemma Greenall, the Senior Students who did the majority of the organising, Keely Guest, Marc Cullen and Kirsty Williams who helped with the decorations and Sinead Webster who helped to bake all those yummy chocolate fudge cakes!



Sam Barker, Clinton Bamber, Heather Grundy, Jon Dempsey, Laura Gambrell, Dan Scourfield

Mrs S Harvey



COOPER SCHOOL YEARBOOK

The new school Yearbook has arrived and is full of fantastic memories for our Year 11s as they leave Cooper this summer. Congratulations to the Senior Student team who have made it one of the best Yearbooks ever. Special mentions for the Editor, Candy Ashmore-Harris, for her dedication to the project and to Nathan Blatcher and Kirsty Evans who, along with Candy, gave up a day of their holiday to make sure deadlines were met. COPIES

ARE STILL AVAILABLE FROM MRS JEACOCK FOR £15 EACH.



Mrs S Harvey

From left to right: Nathan Blatcher, Sinead Webster, Kim Turner, Shauna Fowler, Candy Ashmore-Harris, Kirsty Evans

EURODISNEY

On May Bank Holiday weekend, around 60 Year 11 students and staff set off on an "all nighter" to Eurodisney, Paris. The trip was a reward for the Senior Students, Befrienders and other Year 11s whose attendance, attitude and behaviour over the past 5 years had earned them a treat. Despite a few grey clouds we had a fantastic day. The students did us proud, showing us all just why they were considered the pick of the year group. Big thanks to Miss Dingwall and Mr Hiscock for organising the trip, and to the Year 11s for your enjoyable company.

Mrs S Harvey



BEFRIENDERS



As always the Befrienders have been an exemplary group of Year 11 students to work with and the extra time they have willingly given to the Year 7s has been much appreciated. We will miss them and wish them luck in the future.

Selecting Befrienders for 2007/8 from the large number of Year 10 students who were interviewed was a difficult process, but we are pleased to name the successful applicants below. They have completed their training day and will be assisting with Year 7 from Wednesday, 5 September.

Rebecca Brockwell, Connor Butler, Erica Cavender, Rebecca Digman, Lauren Frost, Amy Hornett, Matthew Horton, Chloe Lewis, Grace Newby, Jack Paviour, Hannah Perks, Emily Pettit, Chantelle Shone, Maria Tkachuk, Mark White, Michaela Wickens, Kimberley Willis.

Mrs S Williams
Student Welfare Manager

GOLF TOURNAMENT

Three Year 11 students from Bicester's Cooper School won the recent Oxfordshire County School Golf Qualifying Tournament at Hadden Hill Golf Course near Didcot. The three, Aiden McKeran, Clinton Bamber and Joe Sheen beat teams from six other Oxfordshire Schools and go through to the national finals to be held at Coventry in July.



FINNISH AND SPANISH VISIT TO THE COOPER SCHOOL

Two Spanish and Five Finnish teachers came to England as part of the current Comenius 2006 – 2009 project. The project is aimed at fostering a boarder understanding of our European neighbours. Details of the project so far, what it involves and students' work can be found at www.cooper.oxon.sch.uk. Click on 'our school' and 'international projects.' For more information you can also see the international notice board.

The visit was a great success. Our European colleagues had the opportunity to observe a number of lessons at Cooper School and they were very impressed by the teaching/learning techniques employed. They also spent time in the SEN department and the JCC where they were interviewed by COPE students as part of their curriculum requirements. Colin our catering manager laid on a traditional English roast dinner.

The remainder of the visit included a meeting with the Mayor of Bicester and cultural visits to Stratford-on-Avon and Oxford. This November two teachers from Cooper School intend to visit Spain to begin the next part of this 3 year project.

Miss L Hewitt
International Links Co-ordinator

ATHLETICS

Well done to the Year 10 Boys and Girls Athletics team who won the Banbury & District athletics event. The boys won their section comfortably by a 40 point margin, with the girls coming in second place, giving Cooper School an overall win for the meet.



The Year 10 boys also won the North Oxfordshire English Schools Athletics Association meet, which meant that they qualified for the South-East regional finals held at Corby, Northants. Although competing against some

very tough opposition the boys did not disgrace themselves and performed very well on the day, with many producing personal best performances.

Some boys also performed well at North-Oxon trials meaning that they represented Cooper and North-Oxfordshire at the county trials including: David Aslett, Jack Horwood, Daniel Murphy, Josh Cussell, Alec Warriner, Nathan Hallam.

Mr M Hutchins

KS4 SPORTS LEADERSHIP



KS4 Sports Leaders

More than 50 KS4 students have been central to the running of several sports festivals organised by Cooper School for children in our partner primary schools this year. The School, in conjunction with the North Oxfordshire School Sport Partnership, has provided leadership training for the students who, without exception, have risen to the challenge when called on to put their skills into practice. They have taken responsibility for running warm up activities, taster sessions and skills practices for the children as well as judging, refereeing and umpiring at the sports festivals. Many positive comments have been received about the mature contribution of the KS4 Leaders and they can be justifiably proud of the fact that their involvement has helped to provide opportunities for more than 300 primary school children to take part in inter school sports competitions. The KS4 leaders are: **Megan Steel, Holly Watts, Jack Hawes, Emily Mole, Danny Murphy, Matthew Walden, Ollie Adams, Jordan Royle, Charlotte Landy, Charley Newlands, Rebecca Strong, Sebastian Groves, Josh Cussell (Sportshall Athletics); Nathan Hallam, Tom O'Sullivan, Neil Davies, Sam White, Andrew Sapnik, Michael Bamford, Stafford Sansome, Dan Savin, Andy Head, Will Jones, Khaleel Ahmad, Craig Wilkinson, Ross Goodman-Brown (Tag Rugby); Vicky Bull, Gary Lawson, Katie Martin, Chris Allen, Kelly Houlihan, Adam Huckin, Yasmin Norris, Martin Oldham, Hannah Newell, Matthew Huntley and Danielle Wright (Kwik Cricket).** Congratulations to all of these students and good luck to the 20 members of Year 10 who will be assisting at the Summer Athletics Festival in July.

G Allen

SKI TRIP - AUSTRIA 2007

Cooper skiers enjoyed another great ski trip to Austria during the first week of the Easter holidays this year. Thirty nine students and five teachers endured the 24 hour coach journey to get to our resort of Wagrain and, despite a few minor injuries (including one from bowling!!) by the end of the week, each and every person had achieved success on the slope. Particularly impressive were Craig Brighton (who on day one had declared that he would never be able to do it!) and Miss Tossell (who as a beginner had to tackle a black run to help one of our injured students). Although, as many of you know, I am leaving the school this summer, Miss Tossell and Mr Hutchings will be carrying on the good work, with a trip to Italy planned for 2008. My thanks to everybody who has made the last four ski trips so memorable for me and if you're coming next year – I'll see you on the slopes!



Mrs S Harvey

DIARY DATES

2007/2008 COOPER SCHOOL

SCHOOL TERM AND HOLIDAY DATES

TERM 1

Monday, 3rd September	INSET DAY
Tuesday, 4th September	INSET DAY
Wednesday, 5th September	Yr 7 & 10 students only return to school
Thursday, 6th September	Rest of students return to school
Friday, 19th October	End of Term 1

HALF TERM HOLIDAY:

Monday, 22nd October – Friday, 26th October 2007

TERM 2

Monday, 29th October	Students return to school
Friday, 21st December	End of Term 2

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS:

Monday, 24th December 2007 – Friday, 4th January 2008

TERM 3

Monday, 7th January	INSET DAY
Tuesday, 8th January	INSET DAY
Wednesday, 9th January	Students return to school
Friday, 15th February	End of Term 3

HALF TERM HOLIDAY:

Monday, 18th February – Friday, 22nd February 2008

TERM 4

Monday, 25th February	Students return to school
Friday, 21st March	GOOD FRIDAY
Monday, 24th March	EASTER MONDAY
Tuesday, 25th March	INSET DAY
Wednesday, 26th March	Students return to school
Friday, 4th April	End of Term 4

EASTER HOLIDAYS:

Monday, 7th April – Friday, 18th April 2008

TERM 5

Monday, 21st April	Students return to school
Monday, 5th May	BANK HOLIDAY
Friday, 23rd May	End of Term 5

HALF TERM HOLIDAY:

Monday, 26th May – Friday, 30th May 2008

TERM 6

Monday, 2nd June	Students return to school
Wednesday, 23rd July	End of Term 6

CELEBRATION ASSEMBLIES

Year 7:	Friday 20th July - 2.20pm
Year 8:	Wednesday 25th July - 11.20am
Year 9:	Wednesday 25th July - 11.20am
Year 10:	Friday 13 July - 2.20pm

Shotokan Karate

Japanese martial art that instils what the ancient warriors valued:
Discipline, confidence, peak fitness and control.
Come and join in the first lesson is Free!

Bicester club instructor: Tony Grunwald
Mobile: 07837 210838

Wednesdays: Mixed 7.00pm - 8.30pm

Location: The Cooper School (gym), Churchill Road, Bicester
Saturdays: Children 10.00am - 11.00am Adults 11.00am - 12.30pm

Location: Southwold Community Hall, Holm Way, Bicester
www.freewebs.com/karate-bicester

Connexions Fair Processing

Year 8 data is being passed through to Connexions over the coming weeks. Basic data (name, address, school attended, date of birth and gender) is automatically provided to Connexions under the expectations set out in the Learning and Skills act 2000.

If you do not wish information on your child to be shared with Connexions please send written instructions to opt out to the SIMS Administrator.

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 is very active on publicity and publish 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.

SCHOOL PROFILE

The School profile for this academic year can be found on the School's website.