



The Cooper School, Bicester

Where 'Learning Matters'



Science

Issue No. 15

July 2010

FROM THE HEADTEACHER



Welcome to the final newsletter for the academic year 2009-2010. As I reflect back on the year I feel very positive about the direction that the school is going in. Next year will bring new challenges and opportunities – the building works associated with our change of status to be an 11-18 provider being the most obvious example. As a

school we are well advanced in the planning of the curriculum that we will be offering Post-16 and in the staff training and development needed to deliver these new courses. This will be the focus of staff development and training throughout next academic year. A new sixth-form prospectus will be available early on in the new academic year so that students and parents can see just what will be on offer at The Cooper School at Post-16 level starting in September 2011.

At this time of the year we prepare to say farewell to staff that are leaving us. Ruth Blackmore (Art) and Andrew Hoyland (Maths) are retiring from teaching. However, we are delighted that they will continue to work at the school next year delivering the 1:1 tuition that was initiated this academic year and which continues into next. Jade Nowland (PE) is leaving to work in another part of the country and Deborah Morris (Design Technology) is retiring from teaching. Rachel Mooney (TA) is leaving us to start a PGCE Primary course in September and Hilary Spink, who has been covering for maternity leave in English, History and Music, leaves the school at the end of this term. Peter Lepper (Vocational Studies) is leaving to work more days at The Warriner School, Bloxham. I would like to thank all of these colleagues for their work at the school and their commitment to the young people that they worked with and wish them all the very best for the future.

In September we welcome Cate Mallalieu-Needle as Assistant Headteacher/Director of Post-16 Studies to the school. She will have a key role next year in planning for the first cohort of Post-16 students in 2011. Also joining the staff are Sarah Pantall (PE), Val Stoner (Design Technology), Ian Flynn (Art) and Jill Glynn (temporary teacher of History).

You will note elsewhere in this newsletter the amendment in the school's policy on Holiday Absence. The increasingly modular nature of GCSE examinations in almost all subject areas throughout Years 10 and 11 makes it all the more imperative that students attend school. I do understand why parents sometimes book holidays during term time because of the reduced cost. However, I feel that I would be failing in my duty as Headteacher of this school if I did not make, as policy, the priority of learning in school time for each and every student. I would hope that parents can appreciate this. The same is true of uniform; I know that a letter detailing as a reminder our policy on uniform has gone out to all parents (a copy can be found on our school website). Please support us in our agreed standards as to the dress code for the school.

I would like to finish as I started, by reiterating my belief that the school continues to make significant progress in terms of the quality of education that we provide for our learners throughout the school. The sustained commitment to investment in new technologies to enhance the way that students learn best is having a large impact on approaches to learning throughout the school. I wish you all, parents and students at The Cooper School, a safe and restful summer and look forward to an enjoyable and exciting September.

Ben Baxter
Headteacher

ECO TIP

Choose loose fruits and vegetables instead of those in packaging



Best in Bicester Award

The Cooper School scooped a prestigious award recently in recognition of its support for the local community.

At the 'Best in Bicester' Business Awards Gala Dinner held on St George's Day the school won the Bicester Vision Community Project Award for the Senior Citizen's Christmas Dinner and Christmas Hamper distribution.

The award was presented to the school's Business Manager, Steve Cook and Finance Officer Nia Jeacock by the Mayor of Bicester James Porter, Bicester Vision's Rachel Faulkner and Oxford United Chairman Kelvin Thomas.

The initiative involved many staff and students in the school including Support Staff, the Catering Team, the Facilities Team, the school's singing group, Senior Students & Befrienders.

Headteacher, Ben Baxter, said, 'This award highlights the school's involvement in community issues and we are very proud to have received it.'



YEAR 10 RIVER BOAT CRUISE 2010



Friday 9th July 2010 saw the Year 10's setting off from Folly Bridge for their much anticipated River Boat cruise. The array of colour from their stunning attire could be seen as the party sailed along the Thames dancing and singing in the beautiful summer sun.



The enthusiasm was shared by the many members of the public walking along the river banks, who showed they were enjoying the celebrations by dancing along too!

Students reach the final

Four students from The Cooper School have reached the final stages of a talent contest.

Diamanté, a group of singers, is made up of Sarah Strong, Laura Boshier, Kayleigh Harding and Tara Slade from The Cooper School together with Yasmin Wren from North Oxfordshire Academy.

They have been together since the beginning of March, starting out as individual singers but then getting together as a group. They went on to do a show at a family festival at MOAT College in Leicester and recently heard about a talent contest called 'Talent Oxford' for 5-18 year olds, deciding to enter to have a taste of an actual audition. The audition was held on 9th May along with another 200+ acts, and on the 10th May they found out they had got through to the final 16 Acts for the grand final which is taking place on Saturday 2nd October 2010.

As finalists they also performed at this year's Cowley Carnival which attracted crowds of over 30,000 on the 3rd/4th July.



GREEN CORNER

This new area will give an Eco Friendly Tip at regular intervals during the school year. Driven by the Eco Working Party we are committed to reducing our carbon footprint, saving money and helping the school achieve Eco Status.

Purchase re-manufactured toner cartridges



The Cooper Family Kwik Cricket Festival 2010

The annual Kwik Cricket Festival for The Cooper Family of Primary Schools took place at Bicester and North Oxford Cricket Club at Chesterton on 28 May 2010. This event was organised by The Cooper School on behalf of The North Oxfordshire School Sport Partnership. 159 Year 5 and 6 children participated enthusiastically in the tournaments. Many of the Primary School children have been receiving cricket coaching during curriculum time, provided by the Community Sports Coaches from Bicester and North Oxford Cricket Club, and the Festival provided the perfect opportunity for the skills learnt to be put into practice in a competitive but fun environment.

Year 9 students from The Cooper School took responsibility for umpiring the matches and also ran warm up activities for the younger children.

8 girls' teams and 8 boys' teams from Longfields, Langford Village, Glory Farm, Finmere, Fringford, Charlton-on-Otmoor and Launton Primary Schools played in the Festival, with Langford Village winning the girls' competition and Glory Farm the boys' event. The winning teams have qualified for the County Kwik Cricket Finals to take place in June. Jay Joynson, the Youth Development Officer at Bicester and North Oxford Cricket Club, was on hand to offer advice and encouragement to the youngsters and to present the certificates and trophies.

Mrs G Allen
School Sport Co-ordinator
The Cooper School

Year 9 Leaders

- 9.1 Lottie Thurlow, Lucy Waugh
- 9.2 Katie Bull, Ruth Thomas, Jack Timms, Ben Dawe
- 9.3 Alec Reynolds
- 9.4 Emily Hill, Amy Digman
- 9.5 Grace Julier, Sarah Strong, Charlotte Cannon, Ed Burgess, Neil Cole, Anthony Tracoshas, Matthew Nolte
- 9.6 Iain Grant-Casey
- 9.7 Misha Staples, Thomas Mann, Jordan Matthews



Olympic medallist visits the school

Olympic Badminton Silver Medallist from Athens 2004, Gail Emms, visited the school recently. As part of Lloyds TSB National School Sport Week, working in partnership with the Youth Sport Trust, Gail delighted students with stories from Athens and Beijing and showed her Silver Medal.

Gail visited students in the school gym where they were taking part in a five minute rowing challenge and also saw students playing Boccia, a form of Boules played mainly by less able bodied people.



ECO TIP

Save water, and make plants stronger and healthier, by watering in the morning



The Cooper Family Summer Athletics Festival 2010

The annual Summer Athletics Festival for The Cooper Family of Primary Schools took place at The Cooper School on 28 June 2010, during National School Sport Week. 204 children in total took part. 180 of these were Year 3 and 4 children from Langford Village, Charlton-on-Otmoor, Launton, Glory Farm, Finmere and Longfields Schools. They were joined by a further 24 Key Stage 3/4 students from Bardwell School. All took part enthusiastically in the event, in very hot conditions.

The Festival, organised by The Cooper School on behalf of the North Oxfordshire School Sport Partnership, was run by 24 Year 8 students from The Cooper School. The Sports Leaders led warm up activities for the teams before running competitions for the younger children in a range of track and field events which included the 50m, 200m, 600m, long jump, speed bounce, "howler" throw and relays. The winning team, which was from Langford Village School, has qualified for the North Oxfordshire School Sport Partnership Final which will take place on July 15.

The highly successful Festival provided challenge and competition in a fun environment. Lesley Newell and Steve Flynn from Bicester Athletic Club were on hand at the Festival, offering support to the student leaders and encouragement and advice to the young athletes. All of the participants were presented with certificates.

Mrs G Allen
School Sport Co-ordinator
The Cooper School

Yr 8 Leaders

- 8.1 Joseph Rowland, Jack Coates, Stuart Ironside
- 8.2 Sophie Berry, Ellie Speed
- 8.3 Lewis Hallam, Rikki King, Katie Cannon, Maja Jani, Diana Ward
- 8.4 Ian Kelly, George Richards, Jaden West, Poppy Cooper
- 8.5 Elizabeth Seal, Angharad Davies, Ellen Carder
- 8.6 David Treen, Holly Kennett
- 8.7 Mason Wick, Zoe Fullerton, Lucy O'Sullivan
- 8.8 Matthew Wright, Adam Phipps



Art Exhibition attracts record attendance

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

Present and former staff from the school and from surrounding schools came to enjoy the exhibition as did the Mayor of Bicester, Councillor Richard Mould and his wife.

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

Headteacher, Ben Baxter said, "I continue to be amazed by the high quality of the work produced and wish all the students every success when the exam results are published in August."



North Oxfordshire School Sport Partnership Celebration of Sport Day 2010

Twenty one Year 7 and 8 Cooper School students joined with young people in Years 5 to 8 from across North Oxfordshire to participate in a Celebration of Sport. The event organised by the North Oxfordshire School Sport Partnership as the finale to National School Sport Week, took place on Friday 2 July 2010.



A range of exciting sports and non-traditional activities delivered by North Oxfordshire School Sport Partnership Staff, Community Sports Coaches and Student Leaders, were available. The students from Cooper had great fun taking part in their taster sessions which included boxercise, Gaelic football, jump rope and rock-it ball.

At 12.20 p.m., all gathered to join with young people countrywide in a 2012 mass participation event. During the day our students were entertained and inspired by a range of performances by students and community partners of the North Oxfordshire School Sport Partnership.

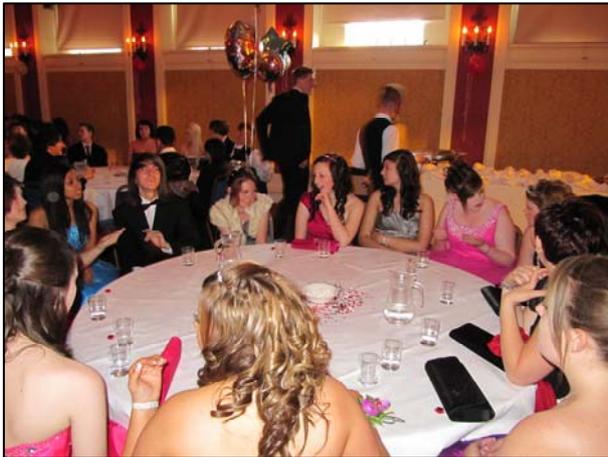


All our students joined in wholeheartedly with the "fun" run which concluded the activities for all schools.

In the style of the Olympic Games, the day of sport began and ended with inspirational opening and closing ceremonies, which brought participants from all the schools involved together in celebration. The Cooper School students demonstrated the Olympic spirit and values throughout the day and were excellent ambassadors for the School.

Y11 LEAVERS BALL

A great time was had by all at the Year 11 Ball 2010, held at Heythrop Park this year.



ECO TIP

Turn off water whilst brushing your teeth. Turning off the water between rinses can save at least two gallons in one brushing session.



LONDON MARATHON 2010

Congratulations to The Cooper School Facilities Manager Arthur Kennedy who completed the London Marathon recently in 5 hours, 37 minutes!! Arthur ran the marathon to raise funds for the Milton Keynes renal unit.

Just finished!



Wearing the T-shirt!



A very long 5 hours 37 mins!

READATHON 2010



In the Spring term, Year 7 students again took part in the annual Readathon event to raise money for children's charities CLIC Sargent and the Roald Dahl Foundation. All Year 7 students were tasked with reading as many books as possible and gaining sponsorship to do so. Last year's Year 7 raised an impressive £934.22 and so this year the students had a tough task to come close to this total. It is testament to the efforts of the students, and of Miss Humphris who organised the event, that they actually eclipsed the previous total, raising £1139.46! Not only does Readathon raise money for excellent causes but it also encourages our students to become proactive, enthusiastic and independent readers and, as such, it is becoming a valuable institution for Year 7 students at The Cooper School.

ECO Tip

Wash and reuse empty drink bottles



ECO TIP

Hang unwanted CD/DVDs in garden to scare birds off your fruit bushes!



DIARY DATES

2010/2011

TERM 1

Friday 3rd September Y7 & Y10 Students only return to school
Monday 6th September Rest of students return to school.
Friday 22nd October End of Term 1

TERM 2

Monday 1st November Students return to school
Friday 17th December End of Term 2

TERM 3

Wednesday 5th January Students return to school
Friday 18th February End of Term 3

TERM 4

Monday 28th February Students return to school
Thursday 7th April End of Term 4

TERM 5

Tuesday 26th April Students return to school
Friday 27th May End of Term 5

TERM 6

Monday 6th June Students return to school
Friday 22nd July End of Term 6

HELP RAISE MONEY FOR THE COOPER SCHOOL

If you are thinking of doing any shopping online you can help raise money for The Cooper School at no extra cost to yourselves using the 'Buy At' scheme.

If you are making an online purchase from any online retailer in the scheme, you can enter their website via the Cooper School website. The link is about halfway down the first page of the school website on the left hand side under 'Support Cooper School - Use Our Online Shop'. Retailers include Amazon, Game, M&S, Next etc and when you have entered the website of your choice you proceed in the same way as you would normally.

Each time anyone makes a purchase by entering via the Cooper website a donation is made to us without it costing you anything.

Your support with this scheme would be much appreciated as it helps raise some much needed funds for the school.

Many thanks
Mrs Jeacock
Finance Secretary



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.

APPLICATION FOR HOLIDAY ABSENCE FOR STUDENTS IN YEARS 10 AND 11.

The format of GCSE examination for students in Year 10 and 11 has changed. Many subjects are now of a modular type. Examinations, both practical and written, occur throughout the whole of the two school years. Students are also required to produce coursework at various times over the two years. It is vital if students are to reach their potential in the examinations that they maximise their school attendance in Years 10 and 11.

We are finding that holiday applications from parents for students to be absent from school are increasing and regularly clash with Examination dates and periods of coursework and study periods for the modular Exams.

If a student fails to sit an examination because of holiday they may not be able to sit the examination at a later stage. This will affect the final grade they achieve in the examination.

Because of the importance of student's final two years of schooling towards their success at The Cooper School we will adopting the policy from the start of the school year 2010-2011 not to authorise any holiday applications for any student during Year 10 and 11 during school time.

We hope that parents will appreciate that we have made this decision in the interest of their child's education.

Applications for students within Years 7 to 9 will continue to be considered in the normal way.

Mr K Clayton
Attendance Officer

ECO TIP

Napkins- Use washable napkins to reduce paper waste.



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..