



# Cooper News

Issue No. 43

June 2002

## **FROM THE HEADTEACHER**

### **Highlights of A Year at The Cooper School**

This is the final newsletter of the academic year 2001-02, a year that has seen the staff of the school working really hard to undertake new initiatives and manage the major changes taking place in the school.

Not the least of those changes was the change to the school day where we have been working with new one hour long periods, a short day on a Wednesday, a



fortnightly timetable and a changed structure for registration and pastoral time within the school.

The general response to these changes has been positive and the reduced movement around the school has had consequent benefits, particularly at times of inclement weather.

Just a few highlights from other events that have taken place include those below:

The school has begun the process of applying for Specialist School status in Science;

Year Councils and a whole School Council have been put in place to enhance our response to pupils;

Two new classrooms and a servery have been added to the school buildings, enhancing our dining and class provision;  
We have continued our large

programme of developing our classroom facilities with improvements in teaching spaces, decoration programmes, whiteboard replacement, furniture replacement/refurbishment and external works;

A high level of staff turnover with many staff leaving (having gained promotion or deciding to change course in their careers) and many new staff joining us to develop their careers;

The school has once again retained its IIP status;

The school ran a highly successful programme for teachers returning to the classroom, gaining sponsorship to do this from the TTA; the school has been asked to run a second such Returners' Project this year because of its success;

The new school day was introduced in September following consultation with all concerned bodies and has worked well;

We planned and implemented the major development of our ICT provision with the generation of two new ICT network rooms and a major £200,000 investment in hardware and building work;  
The replacement of our whole telephone system to improve the facility and enhance our communications with parents.

### **Staffing Changes**

We will be losing a number of staff at the end of term, including many who have served the school with distinction for many years: **Annette Stachowiak** has worked at Cooper School for 5 years and is leaving to join Adult Education as a Training Co-ordinator and Tutor. We wish her every success

in her new role.

**Philip Stonehouse**, English teacher, has worked at Cooper School for 27 years and is now retiring. He has taught generations of pupils and been a caring form tutor to many. He will be greatly missed in the department and we wish him a long and happy retirement following his many interests.

**Jean Culmer**, Design Technology teacher, is leaving to take on a post at Sir Henry Floyd Grammar School. She leaves us following 6 years where her contribution to the development of her subject and her care as a form tutor, even when she was part-time, has been outstanding. We thank her for all her hard work and contributions to the development of Cooper School.

**Tracy Eggleston**, English teacher, is moving on to teach at Warriner School. We wish her well in her new school and thank her for her caring and dedicated contribution to Cooper School.

**Rebecca Coward**, English teacher, is moving on with promotion to becoming second-in-English at John Mason School. We thank her for her excellent contribution and hard work at Cooper School whilst wishing her well in her new position, hoping she makes the most of her promotion.

**Linda Donnelly**, Head of English, is moving to a school in Bradford to take on the role of Head of English. Linda is moving North for family reasons and we wish her every success in her new school. We also thank her for her work in moving English forward during her time with us at Cooper School.

**Julie Ronksley**, Geography teacher, is leaving to move to Durham where her husband has gained a new position. We will be sorry to lose Julie and her skills and wish her well in finding a suitable position in the area.

**Mike Hill**, Head of Design Technology, has worked at Cooper School for 17 years but is now moving to take on a role at Winchester House. Generations of pupils from Cooper School have valued and respected the work that Mike has done with them and he has been an inspiration to them in their work. He has been an excellent and caring tutor, always putting his pupils' interests to the fore. We would like to thank him for his enormous contribution to the school and wish him well for the future. He will be sorely missed.

**Alex Ford** leaves after 4 years to join Greendown Community School in Swindon gaining promotion as second-in-Maths. We thank her for her contribution to the school and hope that she makes a great success of her promoted post.

We will be welcoming many new staff to the school in September to complete the staffing complement. Kate Ford (English), Ken Kolb (Science), Sally Lewis (Mathematics), John Rendle (Technology), Tracey Edmonds (PE), Clare Francis (Modern Languages), Nicole Dingwall (English), Gabrielle Coton (Geography), Diana Archer (Technology), Dianne Pearson (Technology) and replacement Teaching Assistants to be appointed as soon as possible.

### **The New School Day**

The introduction of the new school day (where each day began at 8.40 a.m. for students and then finishes at 3.15 p.m. every day except Wednesday when we finish at 2.40 p.m.) has

been very successful. One slight amendment will be needed for the coming year where pupils will need to be at school by 8.35 a.m. being in, and ready for starting, by 8.40 a.m. for assembly/registration. All other timings should remain the same.

### **Specialist School Status**

Parents are aware that we have started preparing our bid for Specialist School Status in Science. This is a particularly important endeavour for the school as it will bring in significant amounts of funding ~~and expertise if we are~~ successful. We have previously sent a letter to all parents about the bid for Specialist Status along with a form for parents to help sponsor us in our bid. This sponsorship, along with that of the local business community has to reach £50,000 for our bid even to be considered as viable.

We really need to make a success of this bid and for that we need your help. Specialist Status will enable us to significantly enhance the quality of education and facility that we can provide for your children. Please assist us to gain Specialist Status by taking part in our attempts to raise these funds by any and all means. We have included a copy of the original letter/sponsorship form in case the original is languishing at the bottom of your child's bag!

Well done to Leigh Honour (9.3) and Mark Honour (7.1). They spent three weeks doing odd jobs for the local community and raised £280 which they have

donated towards Specialist School Status.

### **Stunning Displays of pupil talent!**

I was privileged earlier this half-term to be invited to the exhibitions of pupils' work in the Art and Design Technology departments. The evening is an annual event to show off the work that students in Year 11 have completed for their GCSE examinations. This year I was particularly pleased to see the very high numbers of parents, pupils, staff and other visitors who came to see the exhibitions throughout the evening: and what a treat they had.

What stood out to me more than anything this year was not just the exceptionally high quality of some of the pieces, as is usually the case. Rather, it was the sheer depth of the quality of the work and just how many of the pieces of work fell into this category. Students had created large numbers of pieces that were simply wonderful work, doing themselves and their staff huge credit. All the visitors were commenting on the colours, vibrancy, design, style and quality of the work undertaken in the highest possible terms. I thoroughly enjoyed the evening and am currently attempting to beg, borrow or commandeer several of the pieces for longer term display in the main areas of the school. I hope that these students take great pride in their work and the success that they have had with it. It gave me great pleasure to see it and the response of all the visitors was the icing on the cake. I would like to thank the pupils and the staff for all their patience and hard work that has produced such superb work and given them such credit.

**DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY  
THE DESIGN COUNCIL/DATA  
DESIGN IN EDUCATION WEEK 2002**

There were three elements in Cooper School's contribution to this annual event.

**Exhibition of Students' Work**

GCSE coursework from all areas of Design and Technology were on display, alongside Art on 12<sup>th</sup> June. Another impressive exhibition of Year 11 work from Food, Textiles, Graphics, Resistant Materials and Systems and Control.

**Bicester Market Place Refurbishment**

A Year 7 class has been part of the evaluation process for designs for a refurbished Bicester Market Place. 7.8 played host to Anna Francis of the Courtyard and Anne Wilson, the Town Clerk, who presented four possible designs. The group's comments and suggestions will form part of the Council's decision making process.

**Designers Into Schools**

Product Designer, Paul Bradbury, again gave freely of his time to work on a design project with a group of Year 10 Product Design students. The project gave them an insight into how designers work in the real world. An excellent opportunity for potential designers, they designed and modelled an MP3 player and presented their proposals to the rest of the group.



Mike Hill  
Head of Technology

**The GCSE Art Exhibition on**

Wednesday 12th June was a huge success. The standard of work by students was very high and all of the four rooms looked excellent. Many parents, students, governors, staff and the press came and were all impressed. Many thanks to the students for working so hard to produce the show and to all who supported us.

**WILD ART** - We have been invited to put the amazing 3D withy fish which Year 11 3D art group made into a county wide exhibition called Wild Art. This is to be held at Cotswold Wildlife Park. There is a special *free entrance* evening to view the exhibition on 10th July from 6.00-8.00pm. It will be well worth a visit.

Look out for new Lower School art exhibitions around the school!

Caroline Butler (Head of Art)  
Maggie Burnand, Ruth Blackmore

**DRAMA NEWS**

As always the department has been very busy and actively involved both in and out of school.

The GCSE groups were encouraged to go to see "Creaking Shadows", a play about Edga Alan Poe produced by the mask company Trading Faces. We had an amazing time and were allowed a very privileged viewing backstage to see how all the special effects were achieved.

This has been followed up by a six week Physical Theatre Workshop at The Courtyard with Mark Barnam from 'Taking Part'. This was great fun and I learnt lots of new drama games and techniques.

There have been theatre groups working in school for other curriculum areas, Drugs Awareness and Road Safety.

Colleagues in English have organised trips to see "Macbeth" and "An Inspector Calls", both fantastic. A very select few were able to take up the offer of very cheap tickets to see "Top Girls" at The Playhouse in Oxford.

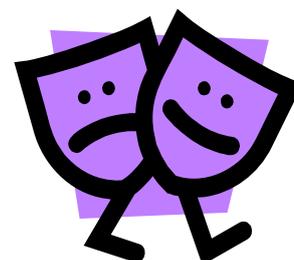
Mrs Ellard and I went to a special teachers' preview of "Men in Black". We will take a party to see it early in the New Year.

Performance wise, the Year 11 GCSE drama groups performed their devised pieces and the audience really lifted their performance. We are looking forward to the Year 10 GCSE performance of "Teachers".

We also have many students involved in dance, drama and music outside school - many performing to a very high standard and learning so much about the theatre along the way.

Thank you for all your support from home! Hope to see you at a performance.

Jean Ramsey  
Head of Drama.



## P.E DEPARTMENT

### ATHLETICS

The Summer term began in a blaze of sunshine and continued through a wet and windy May. The weather has not deterred our athletes who have recorded excellent performances. In the recent TSB County Championships the junior boys became Oxfordshire champions. They repeated the feat at the North Oxfordshire championship and were joined in victory by the intermediate boys. The junior girls were second and the intermediate girls fourth.



### SOCCER

The Year 11 boys who took the Football Association Coaching Award were successful and rounded off the year in style by organising a terrific six-a-side competition for Year 7 pupils.

#### Banbury and District Results

Year 10-11 Girls - Winners  
 Year 7-9 Girls - Fourth  
 Year 7 Boys - Winners  
 Year 8 Boys - Runners Up  
 Year 9 Boys - Winners  
 Year 10 Boys - Runners Up

John Brodley  
 Head of P.E.

### WANTED!

Food Technology would be really grateful for any yoghurt makers you may have and no longer use. Please contact Food Technology teachers if you can help us.

Jean Culmer

### SCHOOL COUNSELLOR

Mrs. Warburton is available to discuss any worries or concerns in private. If you would like an appointment, please ask for a form at Reception.

# DIARY DATES

**Summer Term:** Monday 10th June-Friday 19th July (a.m. only)

**Year 7 Parents' Evening -** Thursday 4th July  
 6.30 - 8.30 pm in the Sports Hall

**REMINDER:** School will close at 12.15pm on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> July. Buses will leave at 12.30pm. Sandwich lunches will be available for pupils who have free school meals.

#### 2002-2003

Year 7 (new intake) will return to school on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September at the new time of 8.35am.

All other Years will return on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September at the new time of 8.35am.

AT

## P.T.A. CAR BOOT SALE

COOPER SCHOOL  
 Churchill Road, Bicester  
 ON

SUNDAY 7TH JULY  
 1.00-3.00P.M

Pitches £5.00 in advance (£6.00 on the day)

To book please phone  
 Marion 01869 248871

OR

Please bring any unwanted items into school for us to sell by Wednesday 3rd July

### ~~COOPER SCHOOL PROSPECTUS~~

At present we are currently revamping the School Prospectus. We would like to include some brief quotes from parents about the things you like and appreciate etc. about Cooper School. If you could take a few minutes to write something down or telephone with a quote about positive aspects of Cooper School (as general or specific as you like) the Prospectus Working Group would be very grateful. Please contact Pauline Wainman or Erica Denial if you can help.