



Cooper News

Issue No. 53

June 2005

SPACE ROCKET AT THE COOPER SCHOOL

TV cameras and press crews descended on the School as the largest rocket ever launched from the UK mainland visited on 26 April 2005. One of Cooper School's pupils writes as follows:

"Is it a bird? Is it a plane? No, it's Starchaser4, Britain's largest flown rocket. On 3rd May, the Starchaser team came into Cooper School to talk about the Nova rocket which was launched on 22nd November 2001. The Nova rocket stands 11 metres tall and weighs in at 800kg.

One pupil said "I actually found out that Britain has launched and builds rockets".

Over the day many pupils and teachers visited the rocket asking questions like "How fast does it go?", "Can people sit in it?" and "Can I sit in it?". The day it launched it reached 31 miles high, half way to space. The Starchaser team also spoke to every pupil about what being a part of Starchaser is like. If you would like to learn more about the rocket or become a part of Starchaser, visit:

www.starchaser.co.uk

James Peverill (10.7)



NEW HEADTEACHER VISITS COOPER

The new head of Cooper School will be Mr B Baxter who takes up post in September. Mr Baxter joins the school from Mandeville School, Aylesbury where he is currently Deputy Head. He has been in teaching for over sixteen years and has worked in schools in Northamptonshire and Leicester City.



A family man with a young son, he is a keen golfer and cricketer and also enjoys foreign cooking. On his new role Mr Baxter says, "I am very much looking forward to working with everyone, students, staff and parents at The Cooper School to help move the school even further forward. There is a vibrant, friendly atmosphere around the place and I have been made to feel most welcome."

The new Headteacher will be giving his views regarding the future in the next Newsletter.

"TURNING BLIND EYES"

As reported in our March 2005 newsletter, proceeds from the above performances were donated to 'Child Line'. A total of £300 was raised.

A pupil writes as follows:

"Being in this year's school play was lots of fun. It was also hard work at times: learning lines; facial expressions; body language and even costumes, they all took time, but it was worth it in the end. The adrenaline rush when we were up on stage was amazing. I think we were all shocked at how well our two nights of performances turned out. I would definitely do it again.

Gemma Greenall (9.8)



FROM THE ACTING HEADTEACHER

Summer Term Successes for Cooper

The summer term got off to a most pleasing and eventful start at Cooper as we succeeded in appointing a new headteacher and featuring prominently and positively in the press and television news all in the first few weeks of returning to school.

In week one the Governors were successful in appointing a successor to Andrew Hamilton in the person of Mr Baxter currently Deputy Head at Mandeville School, Aylesbury. Mr Baxter is a very experienced senior manager and is looking forward to leading Cooper at this exciting time in the School's history.

Week two saw the School featured on the television news when the United Kingdom's largest rocket to be launched from the UK mainland, Star Chaser, arrived here as the ultimate teaching aid for the day's Science lessons and as a visible sign of our commitment to Science and to our bid to become a Science and Maths college. Thanks go to Mrs Ellard and the Science department for the imagination and organisation they devoted to setting up such a wonderful experience for our pupils. As we go to press we are pleased to report that the written part of our bid for specialist status has been successful and the school's side of the finances are all in place. We are now eagerly waiting to hear whether we have got through the final stage and been approved by the assessor who visited us earlier in the term.

In week three the country went out to vote and so did the pupils of Cooper School in their own mock election. This was a marvellous example of preparation for citizenship in action as, thanks to the hard work and organisation of Mr Burton and the year 10 campaign teams, every pupil in the school was able to get a very real sense of being involved in the democratic process. Again both television and press recorded the day's events for posterity and we were told by one reporter, who had been covering the election for her newspaper all day at polling booths all round the county, that she was extremely impressed with our pupils' involvement and interest as they displayed the most enthusiasm about the election than she had seen all day.

As will be clear from this newsletter staff and pupil involvement in and commitment to all manner of school and community activities have continued and flourished throughout the term; and we are very pleased to be able to use this opportunity to celebrate achievements such as those of our most talented and entertaining dancers at Rock Challenge, all the many and varied sporting successes including those of our unbeaten Year 10 football team and the charity fund raising initiatives in which many of our pupils have become involved.

All this, of course, has gone alongside the usual work of the school in which this term, of course, public examinations feature prominently. This year we have planned carefully and invested heavily, both financially and in terms of staff time, so that our Year 9 and Year 11 pupils have had the best possible preparation for their examinations. In addition to the usual after school revision classes, revision materials and mentoring scheme we have also invested in revision technique sessions from a highly recommended motivational team - MAD (Making a Difference). We have also introduced SAM- learning, an E. learning revision tool, which has been made available to all our pupils. A special thank you to Miss Roddis for training all our exam pupils in its use in addition to running our first ever Flying Start Easter revision day. To support Year 9 preparations for N.C.T. examinations, the English Department organised a Shakespeare revision day (which included workshops with and a performance by professional actors); the Science department ran a similar event with input from the LEA advisor and professional scientists and the Maths department ran booster groups for borderline level 4 /5pupils as well as a whole day for our most gifted mathematicians targeting level 8.

Welcome to new Support Staff

Cooper School has always been most fortunate in its excellent support staff; those people who, often behind the scenes, ensure the smooth running of the administration and finance, the sites and building, the technology and technical assistance which all support and enhance the learning of our pupils.

As reported in the last newsletter, we said a sad farewell to Mrs Cumming last term but were delighted she was able to stay long enough to ensure a smooth handover to our new Senior Receptionist, Mrs Baker, who is already proving to be a worthy successor in her role as the face of the front of house at Cooper School.

This term we were also delighted to welcome Mr Cook to the staff. He became Cooper's first ever Strategic Finance Manager and amongst his many responsibilities, he has taken on the publicity/promoting of the School - an aspect of his work which is clearly proving invaluable as testified by our frequent recent appearances in the local media.

So all that is left now to say to our Year 11 pupils currently in the midst of the exams is it's over to you and the very best of luck to all of you!

Mrs P Wainman



ICT DEPARTMENT

ECDL Module Certificates passed.
Well done to the following students:

Roman Volkavich *Modules 1 & 2*
Bradley Coomber *Module 7*
Bobby Ashmore-Harris *Module 7*
Lorna Reeve *Module 7*
Andrew Ingram *Module 7*
Tom Quartly *Module 7*
Rachel Brown *Modules 1, 2, 3 & 7*
Oliver Payne *Module 7*
Jordan Wood *Module 1*
Karl Freeman *Modules 1, 2 & 7*
Lucy Richardson *Module 1*
James Setterfield *Module 1*
Joanne Beazley *Module 7*
James Keen *Module 7*
Kelsey Grieve *Module 1*

Congratulations to these students. They are on their way to obtaining their European Computer Driving Licence -an internationally recognised IT qualification.



Mrs N Bedford

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

The English Department are taking Year 7 to Stratford-Upon-Avon on 19th July to enhance their English studies. Planned activities include 'The Falstaff Experience' Shakespeare's birthplace and the Butterfly Farm.

NOTE TO PARENTS

With the onset of warm weather it is particularly important that your child has adequate fluid intake during the day. We are experiencing a large number of pupils complaining of headaches, stomach aches, etc. who on investigation have not had any food or drink before leaving for school.

Could you please ensure that your child comes to school in the morning having had a suitable breakfast and a drink. It is also advisable if they could bring an extra drink to school with them for morning break.

YEAR 10 FREE SUMMER SCHOOL (SOUTH EAST ENGLAND)

Free places are available for any pupils in Year 10 who would like to attend Higher Education Summer Schools. The courses are residential and sound great fun - especially if you go with a friend.

If you are interested in a FREE Summer School place, please see **Mrs Hickman** as soon as possible.

YEAR 10 ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

There will be a presentation ceremony for Year 10 pupils on 8th July to mark their many academic achievements this year. This will be held in the Performance Hall after lunch-so don't be surprised to find your son or daughter bringing home a mark of their achievement!

I wish all Year 10 pupils a successful two weeks work experience and look forward to visiting them in their placements.

Mrs P Hickman

YEAR 10 RIVERBOAT CRUISE

The Year 10 Riverboat cruise is planned for 8th July this year. Tickets available from Mrs Hickman.

(Remember when choosing outfits-it gets cold on the river! Pray for a heatwave!).



Mrs P Hickman

YEAR 10 AIM HIGHER

Earlier this term, 40 of our Year 10 pupils went to Oxford Brookes University for a day in order to gain first hand experience of University life.

"We arrived in the morning and were split into six groups. We then all took part in group activities such as "Who wants to be a student millionaire?" for which each table worked with their own Student Ambassador. After taking part in more activities we were then given a £2.50 voucher for the University canteen and could choose from a range of things from pizzas to baguettes. Once we had finished our lunch we were taken on a tour of the Campus by our Ambassador. This was the last thing we did at the University and I think we all really enjoyed ourselves."

Sam Houlihan and James Pearson (10.7)

ROCK CHALLENGE

On Wednesday 4th May 35 pupils from Years 7 - 11 competed in the Oxford leg of the 2005 Global Rock Challenge competition at the New Theatre, Oxford. The Rock Challenge is a performing arts competition for secondary school students – each school team creates and performs an original piece of work involving dance and drama. The students are entirely responsible for choreographing their piece, choosing the music, designing and making the sets and costumes and raising funds for the production – all in their own time! The Rock Challenge concept is focussed on young people being the best that they can be without the use of tobacco, alcohol or other drugs. The Cooper team chose as their theme this year the challenging issue of peer pressure and teenage pregnancy. Their piece told the tragic story of a teenage girl whose decision to experiment with drugs and alcohol sparked a series of events that left her feeling that she had no-one to turn to and only one way out. The team wanted to put across a message that you always have choices in life and that nothing is ever as bad as it seems. We won the special award for the “Most Entertaining Performance” of the night – a fantastic achievement for the team led by a group of Year 10 students (pictured with their award) who created the piece themselves with no adult or professional assistance. For more information about The Rock Challenge, check out the website:

www.rockchallenge.co.uk



PRINTER CARTRIDGES

Please could we again ask you to bring your old printer cartridges into school. We are then able to send them for recycling which generates cash for the school. Please bring them to the Finance Office opposite Reception.

Mrs N Jeacock

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

Two teams from the Cooper School took part in the SCIENCE RACE 2005. Pupils from all over the United Kingdom compete over the internet at the same time. The competition took place in April with the majority of schools participating coming from the independent and grammar schools sector. The Cooper School Year 7/8 team came 140th out of 404 schools nationally and 29th out of 79 schools in the South East. Our second team participated valiantly and came 49th out of 73 schools in the South East and 226th out of 372 nationally. Lots of fun was had by all. Many thanks to Mrs Patel and Mrs Atoyebi for organising it and to Matthew Downer, Staff Sansome, James Durrant, Andy Head and Sam Thomas (Year 8) and to Craig Potter, Steven Boucher, George Neves, Hannah Giles, Amy Taylor, Jordan Nixey, Amber Fields, Eleanor Mullins and Charlotte McConville (Year 9) for giving up their lunchtime and for the fantastic contribution.

MATHS CHALLENGE

Around 60 Year 8 students competed in the UK Maths Challenge competition in April. The test is made up of a series of logic Maths problems with multiple choice answers. There is a catch though - if you answer a question wrongly, points are deducted so there is a risk involved in just guessing the answers! Pupils can be awarded Gold, Silver or Bronze certificates and the top students are invited to compete in the second round.

Gold certificates were awarded to: *Stafford Sansome, Adam Smalley, Alex Brown, Erin Hedges and Samuel Thomas.*

Silver certificates were awarded to: *Daniel Robinson, Claire Jordan, Matthew Downer and Katie Evans.*

Twenty others received Bronze certificates. Congratulations to all who took part.

In Year 9 two schemes were in place this year to support two specific groups of pupils. A one day “Level 8 booster” session was run for those students who were hoping to go for a level 8 in their KS3 SAT exams in May. There was also a series of lessons over a 3 week period to boost the core skills of those students who were considered to be borderline level 5 students. Both schemes appeared to be very successful and we hope to run them again next year.

Mrs S Harvey/Mrs Z Schmidt



WORK RELATED LEARNING

On 25 May 2005 Oxford and Cherwell College held an Award Ceremony at Mill Theatre, Banbury.

Cooper School pupils were awarded as follows:

Pupil	Award
Amy Draper (11.8)	100% attendance
Amy Draper (11.8)	Most improved student of the year-hairdressing
Nathan Wheatcroft (11.2)	Most improved student of the year-catering

It was an excellent evening, I was delighted to attend and was very proud of all the students achievements.

G Martindale

WELCOME BACK!

This term we are pleased to welcome back Mrs Simpson, Mrs Roche-Ali and Mrs Harris from maternity leave. They are pictured below with (from left to right) Jack, Kayan and George. Also, welcome back to Ms Rawson after the birth of Alice.



COOPER SCHOOL PUPILS 'GO DISNEY'

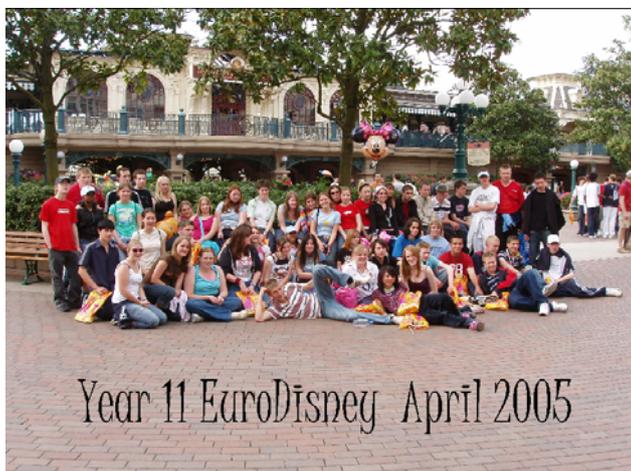
As a reward for outstanding behaviour in which students had achieved all targets and had taken on extra responsibilities a group of around 50 pupils enjoyed a trip to Eurodisney in Paris over the Bank Holiday weekend.

Accompanied by several teachers the group left Bicester at nine o'clock Friday evening and travelled overnight via coach and ferry arriving at the theme park on Saturday morning.

Pupil Laura Sollis said ' Even though it was a very long and tiring trip it was well worth it. The weather was great and many of us returned home very pink. We crammed in as many rides as we could and even Mrs Bur-nand, our Arts Teacher, conquered her fear of roller coasters by the end of the day. The teachers were great and we owe them all a big vote of thanks for taking us there'

Senior Teacher Mr Hiscock said "These pupils had not only worked very hard during the year but had taken on tasks such as mentoring new pupils, helping with Parent Evenings and assisting students having difficulties with their own studies. It is pleasing to be able to say that although it was a very long and tiring trip their behaviour was exemplary throughout and they were a credit to the school"

After a long journey home the bus arrived back safely at 2.30 on Sunday morning and they all had the benefit of Bank Holiday Monday to get over their lack of sleep.



LIB DEMS WIN COOPER SCHOOL'S OWN 'GENERAL ELECTION'

As Tony Blair, Michael Howard and Charles Kennedy battled it out for votes in the General Election, Year 10 pupils at Cooper School, Bicester were holding their own 'mock' Election on the same day.

Parties represented were Conservative, Labour, Lib Dems, Green Party, Socialist Party and the Monster Raving Loony Party. Polling took place during morning break and at lunch time and after a heavy day's polling the results were announced at 3.30 on Thursday and the winner was the Liberal Democrat candidate with 40% of the vote with the Green Party a surprising second.

Key campaign themes include University Tuition Fees, the National Health Service and the War in Iraq. However the Monster Raving Looney Party Candidate's commitment to 99p coins and the expulsion of annoyingly clever pupils from lessons has attracted much attention!

The candidates prepared and delivered speeches outlining their manifestos to pupils from years 7 to 11 seeking support.

Teacher in charge of the initiative, Mr Burton, said 'The pupils have done an incredible job in putting together really persuasive election campaigns and it has created a lot of enthusiasm throughout the whole school. It has been fantastic to see so many young people at Cooper School take a real interest in issues which will shape the future. We have identified at least three future Prime Ministers at Cooper School! We fully expect all the main political parties to look out for our result as a benchmark against the way the country may be thinking'

RAISING MONEY FOR CANCER RESEARCH

Pupils at Cooper School in Bicester have decided to raise money for cancer research after they heard singer Kylie Minogue had been diagnosed with cancer. The children have come up with a number of ideas including a Pink Cake Sale, to tie in with the pink ribbons for cancer awareness, and a Fun Run, which they hope to hold on 1st July.

Acting headteacher, Mrs Wainman said: "The pupils were originally invited to create a display for the library and, as the latest breaking news was about Kylie, they decided that this would be the theme of the display. Following on from that, they wanted to do something else to try and raise some money.

GIRLGUIDING Local Volunteers Needed!

At the present time there are over 70 girls on waiting lists in the Bicester area, waiting to join in with the fun of being a member of Girlguiding UK. The waiting list is because of the popularity of guiding and a shortage of adult volunteers coming forward to offer a little of their time to help run a group. More volunteers in our local community would mean that the waiting list could be shortened.

Volunteering with guiding is as flexible as the individual wants it to be and many members job share so that they do not have to commit to giving their time every week. Our aim is for all groups to be run by a team of adults, who are all volunteers, so no one is on their own.

If anyone volunteers to become a unit leader there is a comprehensive training programme available to equip them with the skills they may need. Only female volunteers can become leaders but gentlemen may become unit helpers.

If any adult members of the local community are prepared to help out in this way, we will be able to offer more girls from the area the chance to take part in guiding.



If you are interested in getting involved call 0800 1 69 59 01 or email join.us@girlguiding.org.uk or visit www.girlguiding.org.uk

OTMOOR CHALLENGE

Two students from the Cooper School in Bicester took part in the recent Otmoor Challenge at Horton cum Studley on 4th June. Ben Ancil & Stewart Garland ran the 13.2 mile half marathon raising money for Asthma Research as Ben's mother suffers from Asthma. Ben's family did the walk in the morning whilst he and Stewart did the run in the afternoon. Although placings have not been confirmed Ben completed the course in one hour fifty four minutes and reckons he came about 200th with Stewart taking slightly longer finishing in two hours twenty.

Both of them did better than last year when unfortunately they took a wrong turning and finished up running about eighteen miles!

Ben said 'It was good fun this year and the rain at the start of the race helped although the sun broke through as we neared the end' whilst Stewart said 'We will definitely be doing it next year and will be training harder than we did this year. It makes a refreshing break from studying for exams.'

SPORT

COOPER SCHOOL BEAT CHELSEA AND MATCH ARSENAL!

The Year 10 Football squad at the Cooper School in Bicester went one better than Chelsea this season by finishing undefeated. Playing in the Banbury & District School Football League the squad won all but one of their games, drawing the other game. Led by captain Sam Houlihan they scored an average of four goals a game conceding only seven.

Head of Games and Team Coach Mr Brodley said "The team have done exceedingly well this year, retaining the trophy they won as Year 9s last season. They have all worked very hard on their game and shown tremendous commitment whilst still maintaining a level of fair play."

Pictured with the trophy are :-

Back – James Pearson, Daniel Oates, Jamie Hall, Daniel Douglas, Daniel Walters, Will Clayton, Ricky Auger.

Front - Daniel Coleman, Stuart Garrand, Will Cooper, Sam Houlihan (capt), Ben Hookham, Craig Naylor.



COOPER SCHOOL SPORTS DAY

Friday 1st July 2005
School Field
1pm start

All parents welcome
Bring a picnic!

RAMSHEAD PRODUCTIONS
 in association with
 EWE 2 ENTERPRISES and MUSIC AT COOPER
 present

'LIVE @ COOPER 10'
 In
THE VENUE

(Cooper School Performance Hall)

FRIDAY JULY 1ST
(7-11pm)
 and
SATURDAY JULY 2ND
(2-10.45pm)

First band on at 2pm.
 Last band off at 10.45pm

Doors open at 1.50pm

Refreshments will be available at both events.

Proceeds from Friday night's event will be donated to Cancer Research UK in memory of Carl and Richard Warner's father and other sufferers.

Ticket prices are as follows:

Friday night only: £4
All day Saturday: £7
Saturday only from 6pm: £4
Both days: £10

To order tickets please telephone
 01869 242121

DIARY DATES

SUMMER TERM 2005

Half term: Monday 30 May — Friday 3 June
 All pupils back in school: Monday 6 June
 Last day of Summer Term: Friday 22 July (Lunch)

Half Day INSET: Friday 24 June and Friday 15 July
 (Pupils leave school at 12.30pm after registration)

ACADEMIC YEAR 2005-2006

TERM 1

INSET Day: Thursday 1 September 2005
Year 7 Pupils only in school: Friday 2 September 2005
All pupils in school: Monday 5 September 2005
October Holiday:
 Monday 24 October-Monday 31 October 2005 inclusive

TERM 2

Tuesday 1 November-Friday 16 December 2005
Christmas Holiday:
 Monday 21 December 2005-Monday 2 January 2006
 Inclusive

TERM 3

INSET Day: Tuesday 3 January 2006
 Wednesday 4 January-Friday 10 February 2006
February Holiday:
 Monday 13 February-Friday 17 February 2006 incl.

TERM 4

Monday 20 February—Thursday 30 March
INSET Day: Friday 31 March
April Holiday:
 Monday 3 April-Monday 17 April 2006 inclusive

TERM 5

Tuesday 18 April—Friday 26 May 2006
Bank Holiday: Monday 1 May 2006
Whitsun Holiday:
 Monday 29 May-Friday 2 June 2006 inclusive

TERM 6

Monday 5 June—Friday 21 July 2006

YEAR 10 PARENTS' EVENING

Tuesday 28 June

YEAR 6 PARENTS' EVENING

Thursday 14 July

GCSE ART AND TECHNOLOGY EXHIBITION

Thursday 23 June 6.00-8.00pm

Wonderful and inspiring work
in a spectacular display.

All Welcome



PROVISIONAL DATES

YEAR 11 MOCK EXAMS

5-16 December 2005

TATE TRIP

The Art Department will be taking GCSE students to experience the Tate Modern Art Gallery in July. This is always an excellent trip and inspires work of a high standard.

“TALKING POINTS” INFORMAL SEN ADVICE SESSIONS

The Parent Partnership Service runs informal SEN advice sessions as a drop-in, in your area every term. The next session will be held on Wednesday 13 July 2005 between 10.00-11.30am at the Methodist Church, Sheep Street, Bicester.

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.

SCHOOL UNIFORM



Following several queries from parents, we are now hoping to operate a second-hand uniform service at School. If you have any outgrown uniform that is in reasonable condition and that you would be happy to donate, please bring it to the Finance Office.

Thank you.

Mrs N Jeacock

