



The Cooper School, Bicester

Where 'Learning Matters'



Science

Issue No. 10

March 2009

FROM THE HEADTEACHER



Welcome to the latest edition of the Cooper School newsletter.

By now you will be aware that approval has been given and funding guaranteed for setting up a sixth form at our school. The County Council has pledged the funding for the capital build programme. This means that

planning can now begin for the many areas needed to introduce the plan into reality. This includes not just the obvious of where to build the new block but also all the other details including deciding what subjects will be taught here, what teaching staff will be needed, how many additional support staff the school will need, etc etc etc. At the moment only some high level artist impressions have been drafted and no decisions have been taken on any of the above. However progress needs to be made in a structured fashion as work on the new sixth form block is expected to start later this year.

This is fantastic news and a huge boost not just for The Cooper School but for the whole of Bicester. I believe that the expansion of sixth form education in Bicester will benefit everyone including local firms and businesses that will be able to employ more locally educated young people. This funding will allow us to build a new block which will provide the accommodation required to educate these students. In terms of continuity of education it will allow the students who, at the moment, have to travel throughout Oxfordshire for post 16 education, to remain in Bicester. There are also benefits in terms of reduced carbon emissions into the environment and safer travel to and from school. These are exciting times for The Cooper School, Bicester Community College and Oxford & Cherwell Valley College as, through working in true collaboration and partnership, we will be able to offer more local choice to our students. The provision of a world class education is paramount to the aspirations of the young people of Bicester both now and in the future.

I promise to keep you informed of decisions and progress made over the next two years and, if all goes to plan, look forward to seeing our current Year 9 students becoming the first through the door in September 2011.

As we break from school for the Easter Holidays our Year 11 students are fast approaching that most difficult of times, GCSEs! The GCSE Exam period starts on May 11th and it is vital that students make the most of the break by working hard on those last minute areas of revision. We have just started the round of Saturday Revision Classes and I urge all Y11 students involved to make the most of the opportunity to attend and

make that extra little bit of effort which can pay such huge dividends in May and June. The teaching staff are giving up their Saturdays to provide the classes and it will give students that extra opportunity to take onboard those seemingly small details which can make the difference in terms of what grade a student achieves in any given subject.

Although Spring is very much in the air it is only six weeks ago that the whole of Oxfordshire was covered by a blanket of snow for over a week. The decision to close the school at the start of February was not one which I took lightly and I hope that you will appreciate that the Health & Safety of everyone who were due to come onto the site was paramount. Although our catchment area is relatively compact, many of our staff – both teaching and support – have to travel from further afield and many found it impossible to get to work.

As you read further into this news letter you will read of our work towards becoming an Eco School. One of the obvious ways to help the environment is to reduce the amount of paper we use. If you wish to receive the next copy of this new letter via e-mail or alternatively be notified of its inclusion onto the school website rather than receive a paper copy please let me know by completing the return slip on the back page.

B Baxter
Headteacher

*** STOP PRESS * STOP PRESS* STOP PRESS***

Please see the school's website

www.cooper.oxon.sch.uk

for more information regarding the public notice and formal consultation process on the school's change of school status. The public notice will be displayed on the school gates from 26th March - 24th April 2009.

Lunchtime Passes

We are seeing an increasing number of requests for the issue of lunchtime passes allowing students off site during the lunch hour. The sole purpose of lunchtime passes is to allow students to go home during the lunchtime to have their lunch there. They are not intended to allow students freedom to roam the streets or visit local fast food outlets and supermarkets.

We are seeking to tighten the ruling of the issue of lunchtime passes over the coming months and reserve the right to withdraw this privilege should we feel it is being abused.

If you have any concerns over this issue please write to the school expressing those concerns.

100% ATTENDANCE!

Congratulations to the following students who had 100% attendance up to 20.3.09

Year 7

Emily Benfield
Charlotte Bowden
Reece Bowden
Tara Burdett
Rebecca Cheesman
Ryan Collins
Ben Cooke
Jenna Grimwade
Robert Hart
Stuart Ironside
Maja Jani
Shernice Kailla
Katie McLernon
Hannah Morrison
Lewis O'Driscoll
Catherine Perkins
Samuel Savin
Alastair Sawyer

Year 8

Ross Arrowsmith
Benjamin Hart
Danielle Megarity
Adam Sapnik
Jack Sheppard
Antoni Szczepanik
Georgia Taylor
Chloe Yau

Year 9

Daniel Bowden
Charlotte Buckley
Jennifer Howse
Alice Newman
Helen Oldham
Anita Tafirenyika
Kelly Tang
Claire Worsfold
Katherine Worsfold
Roberta Worsfold

Year 10

Joshua Allen
Lewis Beck
Daniel Lawrence
Jake Murray
Daphne Peart
Samuel Plummer
Robert Powell

Year 11

Sarah Greenall
Matthew Hanbury
Daniel Howlett
Rebecca North
Jamie Swanson
Andrew Whitehouse
Daniel Williams

ENGINEERING STUDENTS

BMW visited The Cooper School on Thursday 19 March to talk about apprenticeships and work experience. They also conducted work experience interviews and gave feedback to the students on their performance.

We have a visit planned to BMW at some point in June, so all the eng students can experience a manufacturing production line first hand.

The Engineering Diploma and our STEM club have collaborated and funded the purchase of a new Boxford CNC Vertical Milling Centre. This will expand our capabilities to CNC machining in steel and raise the level of provision to our students.

**G Frogley
Technology Teacher**

YOUTH AND SCHOOLS POLICE OFFICER

I have been a Police Officer for 28 years and have lived in the Bicester area most of my life. I attended Cooper School as have both of my children. I have been working with Cooper School since September 2001 and part of my remit is to promote and raise awareness of social responsibilities and community safety among young people.



In September 2005 I took responsibility for Bicester Community College.

My main aim in working with young people is to keep them out of the criminal justice system. I work closely with the heads of years and use restorative justice to deal with incidents that happen within the school community. I am constantly being approached by students with various issues which are dealt with on a personal basis.

My hours of work are normally 8am until 4pm Monday to Friday. I am first point of contact regarding police issues and I can be contacted via the school or on my mobile 0781 369 5733.

PC Payne

SCIENCE SHOW

On Tuesday 16 September Year 7 watched a science show. We were taught 3 rules about gravity by Sir Isaac Newton. After each rule we learnt about how he discovered these rules. Some of the Year 7 students volunteered to try some of these experiments for themselves. We all really enjoyed the show.

Matthew Waddup (Year 7)

TAKE A LOOK AT THE SCHOOL WEBSITE!



www.cooper.oxon.sch.uk

KRAKOW TRIP



At 2am on a cold February morning 35 Year 10 and 11 history students embarked on a remarkable experience that will remain with them for a very long time. The focus of

the trip was to experience the impact of the Holocaust upon at least 6 million Jewish individuals who perished at the hands of the Nazis. On arrival at Krakow the students dealt extremely well with the -4 degree temperatures to embrace the experience of walking around Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp; where it is estimated that 1 million people died from the many countries that they were transported from on the pretence that they were going to a better life. Many of these people had paid for the train tickets to escape the persecution in their own countries. As part of the tour around Auschwitz, the students saw a snapshot of the many suitcases that had been kept by the Nazis after the owner's death, one of which was pointed out to us belonged to a 3 year old child. As we walked around the first part of the concentration camp named Auschwitz I by the Nazis, we saw the incredible lengths that the Nazis went to in order to avoid any waste. Many of the students were particularly shocked at the exhibitions of artificial limbs that were recycled as well as human hair that was removed from its owner before being escorted to the gas chambers and used to keep Nazi soldiers warm on the front lines in the form of blankets and pillows. The tour ended with students being able to walk through the only crematoria that remains standing at the camp, where thousands of bodies were burned by the Nazis.

After a guided tour around Auschwitz I we moved the tour to Birkenau where students saw the tower filmed in Spielberg's Schindler's List. As we walked around Birkenau the impact of the snow made us realise just how awful conditions were for the prisoners especially in winter. Where we had ensured that students were sheltered from the elements with layers of clothing, the realisation of prisoners dealing with those conditions in little more than thin cotton became more obvious. Molly Jackman in Year 10 commented that 'once you have seen the conditions they lived in; you really get a true understanding'.

We walked from the prisoner huts along the railway lines used by the Nazis to transport prisoners to the camp and stopped at the selection post where prisoners were lined up and their fate was decided on their use to the Nazis. As we walked to see the remains of the gas chambers at the camp after being blown up by

the Nazis as the Soviet soldiers surrounded the camp to liberate its prisoners, we lit a candle at the memorial that has been created to remember the estimated 1 million prisoners that were murdered at the camp.

With a solemn trip back to the hotel, the students were then able to experience the beautiful city that is Krakow as we walked to enjoy an authentic Jewish meal in Krakow's Jewish quarter Kazimierz. At the end of a very long day, students had gained some remarkable experiences.

The following day we set off early to travel to the Wieliczka Salt Mines where students travelled up to 90 metres underground to see the incredible workmanship of the miners.



Molly said that 'the salt mines were really pretty and they were a nice way to end the trip'. After the tour we managed to squeeze in a surprise hour of shopping for the students before travelling back to the airport to come home. We had achieved a lot in a very short space of time and despite the cold and how tired students were at times, they behaved impeccably. We were all incredibly proud of them as they should be of themselves and we hope that the experiences gained will remain with our students for many years to come.

Mrs Y Roberts-Ablett
Mr R Hiscock
Ms M Underwood

DRAMA DEPARTMENT

There will be no full scale, whole school, drama production this academic year. Having done 6 in a row Mrs Ramsey is having a breather! It is so refreshing to go to the Performance Hall and just be entertained by another department!

We **are** still going on our usual theatre trips: 'Billy Elliot' in December; 'Othello' with the English department is coming up and for KS3 we have managed to get tickets for the breath taking production of 'War Horse' set on the battlefields of World War I, this will be a joint venture with the History department.

The year 10's did a joint evening performance with the students from Bardwell who showed their version of 'Hamlet' in the Autumn term.

Who knows what the summer term will hold.....

Mrs J Ramsey

GOING 4 IT!

“Going 4 It was a really educational experience, I learnt a lot from the day.”



“Going 4 It was a brilliant opportunity that I took full advantage of. I learnt a lot about how businesses work and communicate between each other.”

“It was a good day, the cars were great and the R8 was really nice.”

At the end of last term the annual Going 4 It saw over 350 Year 9 students from both BCC & The Cooper School given the opportunity to experience at first hand what their future may hold.

Over 50 exhibitors from local and national businesses set up displays in the school's Sports Hall and Performance Hall to offer students a hands on view of what they do. These ranged from the Army to the British School of Racing, from midwifery to bricklaying and from food catering to golf!

The event is organised each year in conjunction with Bicester Village Retail Outlet and is designed to help Year 9 students make up their mind about the options they will be choosing for Years 10 and 11.



'Mystery Guest' Max Somerset with students

Opened by a 'mystery guest' who encourages the students to make the most of the day, this year's event was opened by Max Somerset who is a magician who has several TV shows. Max explained that when he was at school he was bullied and used magic to combat the bullies as well as entrancing the audience by producing a goldfish from a post-it note and successfully performing card tricks.

One of the exhibitors, Bicester street warden Tim Davies, believed the event was worthwhile. He said: “It was also about promoting what we do. A lot of the kids were talking to us and we know a lot of them by name.”

Another exhibitor, Paul Bradbury, of BDA in Murdock Road, said: “For a lot of the young people it's just making them aware this is the time to start making decisions about their lives. “If they don't make careful career choices they may end up doing something they hate.”

Co-ordinator Miranda Markham, of Bicester Village, which sponsored the event, said: “I am delighted to report that Going 4 It is continuing to receive strong support from the business community and that both headteachers and students find it so valuable. It is exciting to see a business and education partnership providing such a positive impact on everyone who attends the event.”

“It was very interesting and some of the stands handed out free samples.”

“It was a great day, I tried everything. I especially liked the mechanical horse. Everyone thought I was funny.”



“Going 4 It was extremely informative and fun. I really enjoyed it because I got to explore a range of different jobs.”



PAN AND MARKO BATH TRIP

During the first week of last summer holidays we went to a Salters chemistry camp at Bath university. There was a wide choice of universities to choose from but we opted to go to Bath as the dates suited us well. It was a short drive down there and we were beginning to feel a bit nervous of who might be there and what we were going to be doing but once we got there we were immediately introduced to the other students during an ice breaker exercise. This gave us a chance to relax a bit and get to know the other students a bit better. After a spot of lunch we were assigned to groups and introduced to our group leaders. You would stay in these groups for all practicals as we found out on the way to the lab. Our first experiment involved looking at how Paracetamol worked and even making some of our own. This was good as we would never do stuff like this in the classroom. Following on from that we were given keys and shown to our rooms where we would be staying. By that time we were all a bit tired and hungry, so we went to the cafeteria where we were provided with a 3 course meal all provided by the camp. Once everyone had finished their meal we went up to the lounge area where a quiz was held. It turned out to be a long day and a good night's sleep was needed for the day ahead.

The next day we got up nice and early and went straight to the lab after we had eaten our breakfast. We were given a brief intro on Benzocaine and then set off to make our own. We learnt various techniques over the course and used equipment which we had never heard of. Although we spent long hours in the lab it was all good fun. Once this was over they gave us some free time and later that evening we went to a local bowlplex and took part in some bowling. This was great fun and allowed us to spend some time with the other students. We got back very late and went straight to bed. We were then interrupted by a fire alarm where we had to go outside and wait for everybody. It was all a bit hectic but we had a good laugh about it in the morning. Our final day began with a fun exercise including making our own pictures from a mixture of chemicals. We then went to another lab where a professor conducted various funny experiments where some vegetables may have been harmed. He set a gherkin on fire and made it disintegrate; we all had a good laugh with that one. After all this we sat in a hall where some thanks were made for everybody who took part and the students were given a complimentary gift from the camp organisers. Our final farewells were said and everyone went back to normality. We both really enjoyed the trip to Bath and thought of it as a worthwhile experience. We would recommend the trip to anybody who is interested in science. We would like to thank the people who made the camps possible for us to come and especially Mrs Ellard for giving us the opportunity to go.

Panayioti Kissias/Marko Grubnic (Year 11)

CATERING DEPARTMENT

As the department moves into 2009 the talk within the Catering Sectors in all senior schools is about the new implementation of the Nutritional Standards, which comes into force in September 2009. I have attended a few of the seminars that have been hosted by other schools in the area, and also one which was organised by the Food School Trust.

In addition, I have updated my knowledge by completing a Nutritional and Health course. So with this increased knowledge, I intend to update the menus during the summer holiday. It will be a busy period for me and because the menus have to be verified by a Nutritionist, there is also a cost element, to have them approved.

The Christmas Meal proved to be a success and the numbers are growing yearly for this fun event. We had Christmas music playing, tables were laid out with; Tablecloths, Napkins and Crackers. Cutlery was also on the tables, which allowed those eating to be served and make their way to the tables and enjoy themselves.

Once again, along with the rest of the school, we were able to contribute to a successful 'Go For It' in February. It was enjoyable to be able to provide the food for the exhibitors and know that they appreciated all the hard work by everyone that went into making the event a success.

We in the Catering Department would like to thank all those who continue to support the work we do in these difficult economic times.

C Epathite.
Catering Manager

MATHS WORKSHOP

As part of a project to aid the transition between primary and secondary education, The Cooper School ran a maths workshop late last year.

The event was supported by over 60 parents and students from both The Cooper School and the primary schools of Bicester. The purpose of the evening, led by Zoe Schmidt, Head of Mathematics at The Cooper School, was to allow parents access to the ideas and methods happening in the maths classroom today.

Zoe Schmidt commented "We fully appreciate the support that parents give to their children, but also recognise that many feel worried that their own methods could add further to their child's confusion. It was encouraging to see so many parents and children attend."

Parents also received a booklet written by Zoë Schmidt and Irene Waller, (a lead intervention teaching assistant at Cooper School at the time) "Helping your Child in Mathematics". The booklet gives detailed advice on the methods used in the classroom and also advice as to how to get the ideas across to the child.

All lower school students at Cooper School will receive this booklet which was funded by the BLIP project (Bicester Learning in Partnership).

NEW MINI BUS

Students at Cooper School can now be transported in luxury thanks to the recent delivery of a brand new 17 seater minibus. The new minibus was delivered to the school by Castle Vehicle Leasing of Telford Road, Bicester complete with a shiny new livery depicting the school logo.

The school's Business Manager, Steve Cook, said, "We have been looking at the most viable options for a replacement as our old minibus was approaching its sell by date. Castle Leasing approached us as a potential supplier and carried out all the evaluations for us. At the end of the day we opted for the make and model as recommended by them which in the long run made it much easier for us. We use the minibus to transport our students to sporting fixtures at other colleges."

Chris Maynard, Sales Director of Castle Leasing said, "As a local company we are pleased to be able to supply the school with a replacement vehicle. Having both of my children attend the school in the past I am aware of the difference a reliable vehicle can make."



Pictured giving the new minibus the vote of confidence are (left to right) Samantha Barker, Robert Lacey, Holly Roberts, Jasmine Hobson, Harry Carter and Sophie Gross together with Chris Maynard of Castle Leasing.

ECO SCHOOLS STATUS

As you will have read in the Headteacher's introduction, the school is expanding to include a sixth form block. One of the impacts on this will be to increase our usage of gas and electricity as well as using more paper and other materials. That, together with building on what is likely to be a green area will have a detrimental effect on the school's carbon footprint.

This comes at a time when environmental issues are rising higher up everyone's agenda and coincidentally the school has just started working towards gaining Eco School Status. Gaining Eco School status comes in three stages, Bronze, Silver & Green Flag and is not just about recycling paper. It covers many areas including recycling but also reducing energy costs, saving water, keeping the school litter free, eliminating the use of aerosols, closing windows and doors when the heating is on, using recycled products and creating areas for wildlife to flourish. One thing parents can do immediately is to switch off their car engines when waiting to pick up students after school.

In order to progress we have established a working group comprising staff, students, governors, parents and local businesses and have identified 11 areas for action which cover the topics above. Our aim is to gain our Bronze award by Easter, our Silver award by the end of the current school year and the prestigious Green Flag award by July 2010.

If you want to get involved in this worthwhile project please contact Steve Cook at the school.

UK MATHS CHALLENGE AND WORLD MATHS DAY 2009

UK Maths Challenge

40 of our top students in Y10 & Y11 were entered for the Maths Challenge in February. Congratulations go to Hannah Greenhalgh who achieved the best mark in the school and a gold certificate. Gold certificates were also awarded to James Hillman and Michael Northcott. Silver certificates were awarded to Marko Grubnic, Alex Price, Jamie Swanson, Andrew Pryde, Kayleigh Harding, Chloe Payne, Daniel Derrick, Nick Waugh, Robert Muddle & Sam Plummer. Finally, Bronze certificates were awarded to Elliott Payne, Jess Tuffrey, Andrew Whitehouse, Charlie Hall, Jamie May, Michal Wende, Mathew Dodds & Artur Zolenski.

Well done to everyone who took part!

World Maths Day 2009

All KS3 students were entered for the World Maths Day challenge on Wednesday 4th March. During the practice rounds, Cooper School students answered a total of 85,620 maths questions correctly. Congratulations go to Punit Sevak and Jack Sheppard who both managed to be in the daily World Top 50 performing students.

On World Maths Day itself, Cooper School students answered an amazing 43,050 questions correctly. Top scorers included Punit Sevak, Jack Sheppard, Francois Blin, Charlotte Bowden and Charlotte Buckley who scored over 1000 points on the day.

Congratulations to everyone who took part!

S Gilbert

BEATLEMANIA

'It was 20 years ago....' (July 11th and 12th to be precise) that Music@Cooper put on a concert of music by The Beatles entitled BEATLEMANIA. To celebrate this anniversary we would like to do the whole thing once again. If you took part in the original concerts and would like to take part in next year's concerts on July 7th and 9th (full dress rehearsal on 6th) please contact David Hall at The Cooper School (242121) or email Hayley Greer (whose sister Julia Kitching sang 'Oh Darling' (hg4296@cooper.oxon.sch.uk). A list of some of the other names who took part in the original concerts will be put on the School website. If you are still in contact with anybody on the list who you think might like to be involved then please pass on all necessary information. Apologies if your name is not on the list. Please contact us if this is the case.

There will be 2 rehearsals each week starting after the Easter holiday:-

TUESDAYS (starting April 21st) from 3.30 – 4.45pm (mainly for students and staff currently at the school) and

WEDNESDAYS (starting April 22nd) from 7 – 9pm (for former students and other adults who would like to be involved).

Both rehearsals will take place in the music block.

Hoping very much that as many of you as possible will be able to join us in what promises to be another brilliant musical event – just like the first time around.

All together now!

D Hall

STARS SHINE AT THE COOPER SCHOOL

The best of Cooper School's talent performed to a packed Performance Hall recently as the very first 'STARS' contest took place. Over 35 acts took part in auditions and eventually 18 of them were chosen to appear in the final. They performed song and dance routines covering modern day hits such as 'Patience' to classics like 'Nothing Compares (to you)' and songs from musicals including 'Wishing you were somehow here again'. After giving a special matinee performance in the afternoon to local primary school children all the acts gave polished performances resulting in huge rounds of applause from the audience on the night.

The evening was the first of its kind to be held at the school and was organised by Sharon Beckett, Music Teacher. A judging panel which included special guest Keith Thompson from Jack FM awarded prizes to the winning entries from the Lower and Upper school before deliberating over the overall winner. The panel which also included Deputy Headteacher Tony Rushworth, Head of Creative Arts Jean Ramsey, students Matthew Sherwood and Jess Tuffrey finally agreed on Poppy Cooper, Laura Nellis and Laura Hobden who sang 'The man who can't be moved'.

The winners of the Lower School award were Chloe Coleman and Jenni Sowerby whilst the Upper School award went to Suzannah Shalom. A further award, voted for by the primary school children during the afternoon matinee, was presented to Mollie Fowler.

Presenting the prizes, Keith told the audience that the school can be justifiably proud of the talent on show. He praised the acts for the enthusiasm and professionalism commenting on how difficult it was to perform in front of audiences, especially for this age group.

After a final performance by the winning act the audience went home still singing songs which they had heard during the evening.
Mrs S Beckett



Jean Ramsey & Tony Rushworth (front), the winning act of Laura Hobden, Laura Nellis and Poppy Cooper with Keith Thomson from Jack FM at the back.

BARDWELL BUDDIES

The Bardwell Buddies programme, which enables young people of all abilities to work and learn together, was re-launched recently for the 2008-9 school year. 29 Year 9 students from The Cooper School were joined by a group of students from Bardwell School for a training session held in The Cooper School Sports Hall. Training was provided by teachers from the two schools and was offered in conjunction with the North Oxfordshire Schools Sports Partnership.

Students were all involved in a variety of enjoyable play and sports activities which were aimed to develop their leadership skills. Great fun was had by all and new friendships were forged. The Cooper students in the programme have volunteered to attend Bardwell School for one lunch time per week to assist with leisure activities and share social time.

As part of the programme, further joint activities are planned for later in the year.

Mrs G Allen
School Sport Co-ordinator

C Lashley
Bardwell School



COOPER FAMILY TAG RUGBY FESTIVAL 2008/9

One hundred Year 5 & 6 children participated in the Cooper Family of Primary Schools Tag Rugby Festival held at The Cooper School on October 21.



The event was organised by Cooper School on behalf of the North Oxfordshire School Sport Partnership and was run by KS4 Sports Leaders from The Cooper School. The fourteen Year 11 students were central to the delivery of the event, leading warm up and practice activities for the younger children and refereeing the matches.

Ten teams from Langford Village, Charlton-on-Otmoor, Glory Farm, Fringford and Finmere Primary Schools played in a series of competitive and skilful games. Representatives from Bicester Rugby Club minis section were on hand to offer advice and encouragement to the youngsters and to present the trophy to the winning team, The event was won by Charlton-on-Otmoor School, for the second successive year, having defeated Langford Village School in an exciting and closely contested Final.

The Festival proved to be a highly successful event and great fun for all.



The Leaders were: **David Aslett, Chris Gill, Marko Grubnic, Tom Heasley, James Hillsley, Jack Horwood, Daniel Jackson, Samuel Jones, Sam Kelly, Hayden Nolan, Jayraj Panesar, Alex Price, Jamie Swanson, Tom Young.**

Mrs G Allen
SSCo

THE COOPER FAMILY MULTI-SKILLS FESTIVAL 2008

More than 120 KS1 children participated in the inaugural Cooper Family of Primary Schools Multi-Skills Festival held at The Cooper School on November 28. The event was organised at The Cooper School on behalf of the North Oxfordshire School Sport Partnership and was run by Year 9 Sports Leaders from The Cooper School. The 29 Leaders organised warm ups for the younger children, showed them the activities, helped them to improve their performance and ran competitions.



Fourteen teams from Langford Village, Charlton-on-Otmoor, Glory Farm, Fringford, Finmere and Launton Primary Schools participated in a circuit of activities designed to develop different aspects of skill. For most children this was their first experience of inter-school sport. The children have been receiving Multi-Skills coaching sessions in their schools, provided by The North Oxfordshire School Sport Partnership, and the Festival provided an opportunity for the youngsters to put their skills to the test. The event proved to be highly successful and great fun for all.



The leaders were: **Amanda Cole, Jack Cooper, Pieter De Wet, Luke Dickety, Charlotte Elgar, Alice Elliott, Adam Ford, Louis Gascoigne, Ellen Giles, Lauren Kerwin, Samantha King, Antonia Kissias, Elizabeth Lee, Marcus Linfoot, Laura Jenkins, Megan Mackay, Cassandra Mulhall, James Nellis, Bradley Olah, Charlie Paviour, Erin Propert-Lewis, Hollie Roberts, Charlotte Sammons, Jack Stone, Kelly Tang, Naomi Ward, Georgina White, Claire Worsfold, Katherine Worsfold.**

Mrs G Allen
SSCo

NOSSP SPORTSHALL ATHLETICS FINAL 2009

The Cooper School hosted the North Oxfordshire School Sport Partnership Sportshall Athletics Final on Tuesday 10 March. The event was run by KS4 students from The Cooper School. It was the culmination of the Big Lottery supported Sportshall Athletics programme, organised by the North Oxfordshire School Sport Partnership, which has involved around 400 children.



Teams of Year 5 & 6 children from four schools from across the North Oxfordshire area contested the Final. The teams from North Kidlington, Launton, King's Meadow and the Grange Primary Schools had qualified for the competition by winning their local Festival. The events proved to be exciting and great fun. Launton School were the eventual winners, in a close competition, and the team members were presented with the trophy and individual medals by the North Oxfordshire School Sport Partnership Development Manager, Carl Hamilton.

Mrs G Allen

School Sport Co-ordinator

BEFRIENDERS AND SENIOR STUDENTS

The Befrienders and Senior Students will be organising an assembly in the near future to explain their roles and responsibilities to Year 10 students who may be interested in applying to work with either group next year. Both roles require commitment and students who feel that they have a little extra to offer to the school community are encouraged to apply. Application forms will be available from the Student Welfare Office from 1 May 2009.

"Being a Befriender is a great experience and a great opportunity to get to know the Year 7s really well. It's possible to organise events with the Year 7s, such as the Talent Contest we ran to raise funds for Children in Need. It's a fantastic experience".

Tom (11.5)

"Being a Senior Student gives you great responsibility and enables you to be involved in organising events such as Jeans Day and Children in Need. I find the best bit about being a Senior Student is organising the Leavers Ball".

Jess (11.4)

"I decided to become a Befriender in Year 11 as I wanted to help the Year 7s to settle in to Cooper School during their first year and I have found the experience very rewarding. I have really enjoyed working with the Year 7s and helping to organise the Talent Contest".

Jenny (11.8)

"Being a Senior Student has brought out qualities that I didn't know I had. Sometimes it's been hard work meeting deadlines for the Yearbook and Ball, with so many other things happening, but I've enjoyed working in a group with people that I don't usually mix with".

Hannah (11.3)



BICESTER HOCKEY CLUB Working in Partnership With Schools

Coaches from Bicester Hockey Club, Andy Walkey and Stuart Morton, have been working with Year 8 students, offering advice and coaching support to the Year 8 Girls' Hockey Team and provided coaching for boys during lessons. Bicester Hockey Club is also providing a series of coaching sessions in a number of the Primary Schools in the Cooper Family.



Following on from these sessions, Bicester Hockey Club is organising a **free** Hockey Fun Day for students in Years 3 to 8, during the Easter Holiday. It will take place on Tuesday 7 April from 10.15 a.m. until 4 p.m. on the Astroturf at Cooper School. For further information about the Fun Day, telephone 01869 320866. For further information about Bicester Hockey Club and its junior section, contact foxcubs@bicesterhockeyclub.org.uk or

ICT MARK

The Cooper School is pleased to announce that it has just been awarded the Becta ICT Mark. The ICT Mark is a nationally recognised accreditation scheme which recognises schools achieving a good standard of mature and effective use of technology. It is awarded by Becta and administered by the National Association of Advisers for Computers in Education (NAACE). Schools holding the ICT Mark have demonstrated that they are committed to using technology to improve their overall effectiveness and efficiency. The Cooper School is only the second school in Oxfordshire to be accredited with this award.

In order to apply for the Award, the school had to complete a very comprehensive Becta Framework (questionnaire) on areas such as Leadership & Management, Curriculum, Teaching & Learning, Assessment, Professional Development, Extending opportunities for Learning, Resources and Impact on Pupil Outcomes.

Once the School had met the standards, an assessor visited and spent the day interviewing the Headteacher, a selection of parents, school governors, staff, students and also the Head of ICT. Nyky Wordsworth, Head of ICT, said that "the day was quite



Cllr. Michael Waine, Ben Baxter and Nyky Wordsworth

stressful, trying to ensure everyone got to the assessor interview on time. I felt as though I was being interviewed for a new job, but less in control of the outcome! Once we were given the successful verdict, I was extremely relieved, happy and exhausted! The School is proud of how ICT is used to enhance teaching and learning across all areas of the curriculum."

GIRLS' PHYSICAL EDUCATION

From September to November we entered the North Oxfordshire Netball and Hockey leagues. Yr9s successfully played hockey and the year 8s greatly improved in the netball league.

In November and December we entered 3 Futsal tournaments held at BCC. The girls successfully came runners up in the yr7, 8 and 9 tournaments.

This term we have entered the North Oxfordshire leagues again, year 8s are currently playing hockey and won their recent game against BGN 0-1 with a player short! Year 7 are playing in the netball league and successfully won two games against BGN, 2-16 and 2-15.

The summer term will be bringing lots of athletics, cricket and rounders tournaments which we will be entering and will be looking for sportsmen and women in the school to enter these competitions.

TRAFFIC PROBLEMS ON AND AROUND THE SCHOOL SITE

During the winter months we experienced more traffic entering and leaving the site at the beginning and end of the school day. Motorists will have noticed the No Parking cones at the front of the school, these have been placed there to relieve congestion and to prevent a bottleneck around this area. Please help us by respecting the no parking request and also by not parking beyond the cones in front of the disabled parking spaces.

Perhaps now as the weather improves you can encourage your child to either walk or cycle to school if practical.

Additionally the school has been approached by residents of Somerville Drive who have been having problems entering and exiting their property due to cars parked across their driveways before and after school. Again we would ask you to observe proper road usage rules when parking in neighboring streets please.

THE COOPER FAMILY SPORTSHALL ATHLETICS PROGRAMME 2009



Launton Team with Cooper School Leaders

KS4 students from The Cooper School have been busy running a programme of athletics activities for Year 5 and 6 children from The Cooper Family of Primary Schools. The 14 Year 10 students led a taster session in which the younger children were able to learn about and practise the Sportshall

Athletics events. Following on from this, the KS4 Leaders ran two competitions for the young athletes. More than 80 children from Langford Village, Glory Farm, Launton and Longfields Primary Schools took part in this year's programme.

As ever, the competitions, held in the sportshall at The Cooper School, were hotly contested and great fun. The first, on 24 February 2009, was won by Langford Village School. The second, on 3 March 2009, in which the majority of the young athletes taking part were representing their School for the first time at an inter-school sports event, was won by Launton School. Lesley Newell and Steve Flynn from Bicester Athletics Club were on hand to offer advice to the young athletes and leaders and to present the trophies and certificates.

The Sportshall Athletics activities organised by The Cooper School are part of a programme of Sportshall Athletics events provided by the North Oxfordshire School Sport Partnership. The programme has received Big Lottery Funding. The winning teams have qualified for the North Oxfordshire School Sport Partnership Finals.



Langford Village Team with Cooper School Leaders

Mrs G Allen
SSCo The Cooper School

UNIFORM.

Lost that tie, badge ripped? You can buy replacement ties and badges from the school's Finance Officer, prices are £3 per tie and £2 per badge.

In July this year we will be holding another Uniform Purchasing Day when a local retailer will be on hand in the school to sell, blazers, shirts, trousers and skirts. Alternatively you can buy uniform items at many High Street outlets.

The uniform policy is displayed elsewhere in this newsletter but you can help by ensuring your child leaves home every morning correctly attired with shirts tucked in, ties fastened and skirts the right length.

Due to the cost of buying a blazer for one year only the current Year 11 were allowed not to wear blazers this year. As a point of clarification, next year's Year 11 students will be expected to wear full school uniform including blazers.

BUY AT.com

We are trialing a new initiative on our website called Buy At. If you look on the website (<http://www.cooper.oxon.sch.uk>) you will see the blue symbol shown here. By using this link to enter selected online shops the school will benefit by receiving commission. It costs you nothing extra and may provide valuable income for the school. Please have a look and feed back any comments you may have.



FREE SCHOOL MEALS

Students whose parents/guardians are in receipt of particular support payments and meet certain criteria may be eligible to receive free school meals. The relevant support payments include:

- Income Support (IS) – proof of entitlement is in the form of a Job Centre Plus letter or FF260 form
- Income Based Jobseekers Allowance (IBJSA) – proof of entitlement is in the form of a Job Centre Plus letter
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 – proof of entitlement is in the form of a Home Office letter
- State Pension Credit – proof of entitlement is assessed by the ‘Pension Credit M1000 Award Notice’. The ‘How Pension Credit has been worked out for...’ section of this form clearly shows details of any Guaranteed Pension Credit in payment
- Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) has been introduced to replace both Incapacity Benefit and Income Support- ESA(IR) will be an eligible benefit for free school meals - proof of entitlement is a letter or a statement from the Department of Work and Pensions
ESA (C) recipients are **not** automatically eligible benefit for free school meals
- Child Tax Credit with an annual income “as assessed by the Inland Revenue” that does not exceed £15,575 (the parents/guardians must not have Working Tax Credit) – proof of entitlement is assessed by the ‘TC602 Award Notice’ by viewing the information inside the box on the first page.

Application forms are available from the finance office and should be returned to Mrs Jeacock along with proof of entitlement as detailed above.

ECDL

Ella Ryder & Hannah Burgess, both Year 11s, have completed the ECDL qualification.
Daniel Williams, Year 11, has successfully gained his IT User Part 2 award (GCSE equiv grade B). Well done!

N Wordsworth

PARENT VOICE

Next meeting: Thursday 14 May 6.30pm—S14

We would like new parents to join us!

MFL SPEAKING TESTS

MFL Speaking tests in French and German will take place from Monday 30th March until Thursday 2nd April. All candidates have to thoroughly prepare their presentation and topic questions for this test, as it constitutes 25% of the total GCSE Grade. Individual appointments have been posted on the school website and all candidates must report to L1 at the beginning of their session. Absences must be reported to reception in the morning so that an alternative appointment can be arranged.

Good luck to all candidates! (Hoping luck will not be required!!)

Mrs P Hickman

YEAR 11 STUDENTS

As part of our commitment to enabling Year 11 students to fulfill their true GCSE potential, the School will be running various Saturday revision classes for certain subjects from 21 April to 23 May. Students have been given details.

CHECK OUT THE COOPER SCHOOL HOME-PAGE:

www.cooper.oxon.sch.uk
FOR REVISION TECHNIQUES - BOTH GENERAL AND SUBJECT SPECIFIC.

Official leaving date for Year 11 is Friday 26 June 2009. This will involve a B.B.Q., special assembly and culminate in the Leavers' Ball that evening. More details to follow.

FAIRTRADE



Year 7 Students at The Cooper School took part in a world record attempt on the number of Fairtrade bananas eaten in one 24 hour period.

They were given a Fairtrade banana donated by

Tesco Store in Bicester as part of Fairtrade Fortnight. The initiative is part of Bicester's campaign to gain Fair Trade status for the town. As part of the scheme 1,000 Fairtrade bananas were handed out to passers-by in Sheep Street whilst Fairtrade fruit was also given out to commuters at Bicester North railway station.

Organiser Colin Cockshaw, of Bicester Fairtrade Group, said the bananas had been donated by Bicester-based Fresh Direct, Tescos and local branches of the Co-op.

DIARY DATES

TERM 4

Monday 23rd February Students return to school
Thursday 2nd April End of Term 4
Friday 3rd April INSET DAY

EASTER HOLIDAYS:

Monday 6th April 2009– Friday 17th April 2009

TERM 5

Monday 20th April Students return to school
Monday 4th May BANK HOLIDAY
Friday 22nd May End of Term 5

HALF TERM HOLIDAY:

Monday 25th May 2009-Friday 29th May 2009

TERM 6

Monday 1st June Students return to school
Friday 17th July End of Term 6

2009/2010 DATES

TERM 1

Tuesday, 1st Sept INSET DAY
Wednesday, 2nd Sept INSET DAY
Thursday, 3rd Sept Yr 7 & 10 students only return to school
Friday, 4th Sept Rest of students return to school
Friday, 2nd October INSET DAY
Thursday, 22nd October End of Term 1

HALF TERM HOLIDAY:

Friday 23rd October 2009 – Friday 30th October 2009

SCHOOL COUNSELLOR

If you have any worries or concerns, our School Counsellor is happy to discuss them with you in private. A form is available from Reception if you would like to book an appointment..

PHOTOGRAPHS POLICY

The School has been very active on publicity recently and have published several photographs of students in the press. If you do not wish your child to appear in any press releases please inform the School in writing.

CALLING ALL PARENTS AND GRANDPARENTS



Are you a good listener?
Do you enjoy being with young children?
Could you spare 2 – 3 hours per week?
Would you be interested in becoming a volunteer with Home-Start?



We offer support, friendship and practical help to local families in their homes

You can make a difference to a family in need of a helping hand!

For more information please call:

Oxford: 01865 779991

Bicester: 01869 349990

Witney/Carterton: 07894481332

Or view our website: www.homestart-oxford.org.uk

BICESTER AIR TRAINING CADETS

Expand your horizons - join the Air Cadet Organization

With nearly 1000 units in the UK and Squadrons in Germany, Gibraltar and Cyprus you are likely to be closer to the Air Cadets than you think. Bicester 2507 Squadron Air Training Cadets are looking for new cadets to join them. Air cadets are open to boys and girls aged 13 – 17 and meet at Duclos Hall, DE & S Caversfield, Skimmingdish Lane, Bicester on a Tuesday and Thursday evening 6.45 – 9.45pm throughout the year.

Flying, gliding, parachuting, climbing, shooting, expeditions, adventure training, competitive sports BTEC accredited, outdoor centres, overseas camps, visits to operational RAF stations, Field Craft, Duke of Edinburgh... the list goes on. Air Cadets across the UK take part in fun and challenging activities.

To find out more about your local unit Bicester 2507 Squadron or to come and have a guided tour and find out more, please ring Recruitment Officer - Stephen Crisp on 01869 249416 (answer phone) or email scrisp@bicester-atc.co.uk.

✂----- THE COOPER SCHOOL NEWSLETTER REPLY SLIP - TO BE RETURNED TO RECEPTION

I would like to receive copies of the newsletter via email

I would like to be notified of the newsletter's inclusion onto the school website

Email address:

Parent/Guardian of: Form/s:

Signed: