



The Cooper School, Bicester

Where 'Learning Matters'



Science

Issue No. 6

November 2007

FROM THE HEADTEACHER



Welcome to this Autumn edition of The Cooper School newsletter. Over the summer a number of major works were undertaken by our Facilities team in addition to the general and ongoing maintenance of the site. Significant works included: the refurbishment of the English Department; the

conversion of one of The Design & Technology classrooms to an Engineering Workshop; 30 new flip desk computers in one ICT suite and the upgrading of another room with 30 computer stations.

The school celebrated excellent exam results both at Key Stage 3 and GCSE. In Key Stage 3 the results in all three core (English, Maths & Science) were very pleasing. The demanding Local Authority targets for the percentage of students achieving level 5 in Maths, English and Science were largely met or exceeded in all three core subjects and, in fact, the number of students achieving that crucial level 5 was above the national average in all three subjects. The school is delighted having achieved its best ever examination results at GCSE. 52% of students achieved 5 or more A*-C grades, a 5% increase on the figures for last year and 11% improvement on 2005. In addition, 96% of students achieved 5 or more A*-G passes with 100% gaining at least 1 or more A*-G grades. These results are a significant improvement on the figures achieved in previous years and bear testimony to the sustained hard work of the students themselves, the staff who taught and supported them and the encouragement and support of the students' parents.

The school also welcomed new staff to the school from September 2007:

- Ivan Hore as the new Head of Design & Technology;
- Lydia Douet as part time teacher of French;
- Sarah Gilbert, Joseph Lancaster-Burley and Megan Underwood as Newly Qualified teachers (NQTs) in Maths (2) and History;
- Tracey Plowman as the Data Systems Manager;
- Gabrielle Heffernan, Alison Graham, David Reynolds, Tracey Plummer, Julie Wise and Beata J Jachym-Bujoczek as new Teaching Assistants;
- William Butler as Assistant Site Manager; Susan Groves as a Cleaner and Joanne Bown as a Catering Assistant.

In addition, Charlotte Roberts (English) left at the end of Term 1 and is now on maternity leave and due to give birth to her second child in December 2007. We wish her well. Mrs Roberts has been very active in establishing and promoting the role of the School Student Council. Mr Ben McCarey will be taking over this role during Mrs Roberts' maternity leave.

The Parent Voice is now well established, meeting once every half term with members of the Senior Leadership Team. All sorts of issues are discussed and new parents are always welcome to attend. For further information please contact Pauline Wainman, Deputy Head at the school, if you would like to come along to a meeting.

B Baxter

SCIENCE COLLEGE STATUS

Towards the end of the summer term a small number of year 11 students visited Bardwell School to work alongside their students during a full day of Science activities.



The students from both schools were delighted to have the opportunity to work together.

To celebrate 50 years of particle physics 24 Year 11 students were invited to the Rutherford Appleton Laboratories to attend a lecture given by Professor Demerell, a veteran particle physicist. The students found the lecture very stimulating.

On the 5th November 15 Year 10 students again visited the Rutherford Appleton Laboratories to be introduced to "Big Bang Blogs" sponsored by the Institute of Physics. The purpose of the visit was to meet and talk to young physicists about their careers and the relevance of physics to modern life.

On the 28th November 40 applied Scientists will be visiting a careers fair at the John Radcliffe Hospital to look at opportunities within the Health Service as part of their GCSE coursework.

Mr M Rees

100% ATTENDANCE!

Congratulations to the following students who had 100% attendance in Term 1

Year 7

Ellie Andrews
Rhian Bartram
Hayley Beck
Jake Best
Malcolm Billson
Francois Blin
Sarah Bond
Laura Bosher
Jamie Bowes
Alexander Brown
David Brown
Nina Brown
Edward Burgess
Corey Butler
Abbie Caldwell
Charlotte Cannon
Anthony Carlisle
Lewis Carpenter
Paige Carpenter
Daniel Chamdal
Katie Cheesman
Harry Clanfield
Bethany Clark
Daron Coaker
Neil Cole
Macaulay Crook
Georgia Croucher
Alessio D'Addabbo
Fern Davis
Nathalie Deeley
Georgie Donohoe
Liam Duggan
Victoria Dunlop
Holly Finlay
Zoe Fowler
Lizzie Fryer
Phoebe Gee
Charlotte Golder
Stephen Green
Benjamin Hart
Shannon Hastings
Pollyanna Henshall
Libbie Hooper
Daniel Howley
Dominique Hurley
Alexander Jacques
Amelia Jones
Grace Julier
Rachel Long
Sophie Loverock
James Macquarrie
Thomas Mann
Laura Mansell
Ileasha Matthews
Jordan Matthews
Danielle Megarity
Owen Mitchell
Ryan Mulvany
Jasmine Nash
Chancey Nolan

Year 7 cont'd..

Kathryn Oates
Ryan Pearce
Gemma Pugh
Toni Purnell
Matthew Raven
Alec Reynolds
Adam Sapnik
Molly Seger
Jack Sheppard
Sam Skellern
Bethany Smith
Nicola Stead
Kilian Stenning
Isabella Sturgess
Daniel Sutherland
Ka Wai Tang
Ruth Thomas
Antony Tracoshas
Alice Walker
Brandon Walsh
Leanne Walsh
Beth Waters
Andrew Waugh
Lucy Waugh
Sophie West
Luke Whittaker
James Wilson

Year 8

Michael Adamberry
James Allen
Kerri Allen
Sophie Anderton
Jordan Barber
Chloe Berry
Chantelle Billson
Daniel Bowden
Lewis Butler
Geoffrey Clargo
Amanda Cole
Kiara Isabel Delos Santos
Hollie Edmans
Christopher England
Andre Garrick
Louis Gascoigne
Ellen Giles
Blythe Grieve
Sophie Grose
Lewis Harwood
Joseph Hayes
Liam Hillsley
James Hobden
Jasmine Hobson
Laura Jenkins
Rebecca Jones
Samantha King
Antonia Kissias
Robert Lacey
Kerry Lenihan
Ryan Livermore
Harold Magnay
Jonathan McCarthy

Year 8 cont'd..

Lewis McConville
Zane Murray
Bradley Olah
Helen Oldham
Rebecca Orr
Lorraine Palmer
Scott Richings
Hollie Roberts
Matty Sewell
Aidan Starr
Anita Tafirenyika
Ka Yi Tang
Ellie Vickers
Rebecca Waddup
Brendan Walsh
Heather Watt
Lauren Webb
James White
Ryan Williams
Claire Worsfold
Katherine Worsfold
Roberta Worsfold

Year 9

Joshua Allen
Amy Atkins
Jessica Beasley
Lewis Beck
Megan Benfield
Samuel Bosley
David Byrne
Siobhan Chicken
Thomas Clanfield
Lucy-Ann Clark
Samuel Cooper
Bethan Eeley
Leon Etchells
Amy Gahan
Charles Hall
Ryan Howley
Molly Jackman
Mia Jakeman
Bethia Keen
Abigale Lappage
Georgina Leach
Rebecca Long
Peter Mansell
James May
Alice McGeever
Robert McGregor
Dale McMillan
Christopher Moore
Robert Muddle
Shawn Newton
Michael Northcott
Alexander O'Sullivan
Chloe Payne
Max Payne
Sophie Peck
Samuel Plummer
Ben Rees
Jasmin Reeve
Mitchell Roberts

Year 9 cont'd..

Zoe Rowlinson
Holly Savin
Abby Seger
Darrell Skinner
Thomas Smith
Lewis Szczepanik
Daniel Timms
Rachel Walden
Jack Walker
Jack Walter
Carly Waters
Michal Wende
Stuart Wickens
Artur Zolenski

Year 10

David Aslett
Hannah Aspley
Autum Beavers
Dominic Blossom
Thomas Bond
Robert Bone
Hannah Burgess
Richard Cadle
Leanne Carlisle
Caroline Cresswell
Eleanor Deeley
Joseph Dixey
Katarina Galic
Thomas Gambrell
Mark Golby
Sarah Greenall
Luke Grinstead
Marko Grubnic
Matthew Hanbury
Thomas Heasley
Steven Hood
Jack Horwood
Daniel Howlett
Pitchipong Juiwong
Jessica Kempster
Sophie Lakner
Katie Lodge
James Marriott
Ryan McCloskey
Andrew McLachlan
Catherine Meers
Victoria Mullane
Kirstie Nixey
Rebecca North
Liam O'Hara
Charlotte Orr
Samuel Perry
Liam Phipps
Alexander Price
Bryony Price
Jemma Richmond
Ella Ryder

Year 10 cont'd...

Edward Scott
Joshua Smalley
Jamie Swanson
Gemma Thomason
Andrew Whitehouse
Daniel Williams

Year 11

Christopher Birch
Emily Bowden
Victoria Bull
Connor Butler
Lauren Corcoran
Samantha Crow
Neil Davies
Jonathan Dover
Katie Evans
Ross Goodman-Brown
Liam Hadley
William Hagan
Matthew Harris
Kirsty Henderson
Jenna Hobbs
Amy Hornett
Kelly Houlihan
Ryan Hyett
Matthew Ingram
Jessie Keen
Sarah Keen
Gary Lawson
Emma Macleod
Katie Martin
Joshua McGregor
Simon Mead
Thomas Muddle
Grace Newby
Martin Oldham
Thomas O'Sullivan
Mark Paterson
Jack Paviour
Hannah Perks
Carl Rowlinson
Stafford Sansome
Daniel Savin
Jack Seger
Adam Steadman
Samuel Thomas
Andrew Tracoshas
Elizabeth Vaughan
Samuel Veasey
Ashleigh Whitehead
Laura Willis
Kimberley Wills
Bonnie Worth
Annie Zhou

CONGRATULATIONS!

MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT WORLD'S BIGGEST COFFEE MORNING



Students and staff from Bicester's Cooper School joined in the fun by taking part in the World's Biggest Coffee Morning on Friday 28 September.

During the day students bought iced cakes and also had the chance to see the school's own special 'Macmillan' nurse as Science Teacher Ian McMillan dressed up as a nurse to help raise money. After school staff were treated to coffee and cakes served by staff dressed as waitresses including Science Technicians Lyn Holdsworth, Julia Nethercot & Christine Morton together with teachers Linda Ellard, Maggie Burnand, Nyky Wordsworth and Jean Ramsey and secretary Hayley Greer. Additionally there were raffle prizes including three hampers, chocolates and toiletries.

Lyn said, 'It is amazing that simply enjoying a cup of coffee and having the chance to chat



with colleagues after work can make a difference to people affected by cancer. Every cup of coffee drunk at events like ours in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support has helped raise money that will go towards providing practical, medical, emotional and financial support to people living with cancer. We will be sending a cheque next week for the sum of £820 which is a wonderful effort and I would like to thank everyone who has helped. Special thanks to Nash's bakery who donated freshly made scones for our coffee party.'

11 year old Holly Roberts said, 'It was great fun seeing Mr McMillan dressed up as a nurse but I don't think I would want him to look after me, he looked a bit scary!'

Ciarán Devane, Chief Executive, said; 'I'd like to say a massive thank you to the school for joining the World's Biggest Coffee Morning for Macmillan Cancer Support. Cancer affects us all and simply having a cup of coffee is a great way to help Macmillan be there for more people with cancer.'

JEANS FOR GENES

Students and staff at The Cooper School in Bicester helped raise money for the 'Jeans for Genes' charity recently by forgoing normal school trousers for jeans. The charity 'Jeans for Genes' is organised by four national charities and raises funds for research into serious genetic disorders affecting thousands of children such as cystic fibrosis, hemophilia and sickle cell. Funds also provide laboratory equipment and facilities, as well as valuable advice and support for families. In the UK, one baby in every 33 is born with a genetic disorder or birth defect... that's one born every 30 minutes whose life could be affected. There are over 4,000 recognised genetic disorders, some of which have no current treatment.

Pioneering research to develop such treatments, plus vital advice and family support services are being funded through Jeans for Genes to bring great hope to many families.

Head of Senior Students at the school Zoe Schmidt said, 'Wearing jeans for the day is a simple way to raise funds for this charity which we have supported for many years now. This is the charity's twelfth Jeans for Genes Day and they are aiming to raise around £3million, hopefully we can help them achieve that target.'



YEAR 11 MOCK EXAM TIMETABLE

Week A	Mon 10/12	Tues 11/12	Wed 12/12	Thrs 13/12	Fri 14/12
Reg	Outside SH/PH	In form rooms	Out side SH/PH if doing Tech	In form rooms	In form rooms unless doing MFL exam
Period 1	<u>English Lit</u> SH 200 students. 1 HR	<u>German, French Higher</u> PH + SH 70 students 2 hrs	<u>Technology – all subjects</u> SH 200 students 2 hrs	<u>Drama</u> PH 2 hrs 50 students	<u>German and French Foundation</u> PH + SH 54 students 1 hr 15 mins
Period 2	<u>English Lang</u> SH 200 students 1HR	<u>German and French</u> contd	<u>Technology</u> contd		Normal lessons
Period 3	<u>Triple Science</u> SH 60 students 2 hours	<u>PE Long Course</u> PH 50 students 2HR	<u>Business Studies</u> PH 32 students 1 HR	<u>Geography</u> 50 students + <u>Environmental Science</u> 27 students SH 2 HOURS	<u>Maths</u> SH 200 students 1HR 30 MINS
Period 4	<u>Triple Science</u> continued	<u>PE Short Course</u> SH 1 HR 150 students	LUNCH.....		(Delay entry so both p3 and p4 used)
		<u>PE Long Course Continued.</u>	<u>History 2</u> SH 150 students	<u>Geography + Environmental Science</u> <u>continued...</u>	<u>Maths continued....</u>
Reg	Form rooms	Outside SH/PH if doing Hist		Outside SH/PH	Outside Lecture Theatre
Period 5	<u>Science Applied & Additional</u> only SH 140 students 1 hour	<u>History 1</u> SH 150 students 1 hour		<u>RE</u> SH 200 students 1 hour	<u>ALL YEAR 11s in CRAG RATS performance</u>

Music exam to be arranged in the Music Room. Catch up exams will be organised for the last week of term.

YEAR 11 STUDENTS - YOU MUST ATTEND NORMAL LESSONS WHEN YOU ARE NOT IN AN EXAM

REVISION TIPS

- ◆ Short Bursts of revision (30-40 minutes) are most effective.
- ◆ Find a quiet place to revise and refuse to be interrupted or distracted.
- ◆ Make sure you don't just revise the subjects and topics you like. Work on your weaker ones as well.
- ◆ Make your own revision notes because you will remember what you have written down more easily.
- ◆ Rewrite the key points of your revision notes; read them out loud to yourself.
- ◆ Use different techniques:
 - learning maps
 - post-it notes
 - flash cards
 - notes on tape and listen to them back on your walkman
 - friends and family to test you
 - highlighter pens.
- ◆ Practise on past exam papers or revision tests.
- ◆ You will need help at some stage, ask parents, older brothers or sisters, teachers or friends. **Don't get stressed out!** Eat properly and get lots of sleep!
- ◆ **Believe in yourself and be positive.** If you think you can succeed you will; if you convince yourself that you will fail, that is what will probably happen!

DOS AND DON'TS

DO:

- ◆ Make a list of all the topics you need to revise.
- ◆ Create a realistic schedule.
- ◆ Plan ahead by working backwards.
- ◆ Revise using your preferred learning style.

DON'T

- ◆ **Just keep going!** The body and the mind need regular 'time outs'. When you're tired, concentration is more difficult, you get distracted much easier and learning and memorisation is less effective. There comes a point in an evening study session when it is counter-productive to stay at the desk - nothing is going in and you are only tiring yourself further. Use breaks effectively, particularly after completing a task.

The first and most important step towards success is the feeling that we can succeed.

A man is not finished when he is defeated. He is finished when he quits.

COOPER SCHOOL PARENT VOICE

Autumn Term meetings

Both Parent Voice meetings have been well attended this term. In September the focus was new developments for the new academic year. Mrs Wainman presented the School Improvement plan for 2007-8 and Mr Rees outlined the improvements to the school's facilities carried out over the school holidays. Parents then toured the school so they could see for themselves the beautifully redecorated English department, the new Engineering room and Cooper's very own Cardio Centre.

At the parents' own request one of the main items for the November meeting was the School's policies on Rewards and the Celebration of success which was led by Mr Hiscock. He and Mrs Wainman then outlined new proposals for tracking and reporting student progress. As has become the tradition the meeting then broke up into small groups so all parents had their chance to give their opinions on these two important items. There was a useful combination of positive feedback and suggestions for improvements which are fed back to the relevant school committees. Fuller descriptions of both meetings can be found on the Parents' section of the school website.

The date of the next meeting is **Thursday January 31st – 7.00p.m – 8.00p.m** in S5- drinks and nibbles will be served - all parents are welcome to come along. Please do join us so that we can all work together to improve our school.

Mrs P Wainman

CATERING DEPARTMENT

It is that time again when this forum gives the opportunity to inform everyone of the progress the department is making towards the Government Food Standards for Schools.



It was mentioned in the last newsletter that from September 2007 we would have to implement the food criteria covering all food consumed in Schools. To be fair the response from the students has been very supportive, though we suspect they would like some sugar fix at Break time if we were honest. However, that is now behind us and we move on providing a balanced diet that will contribute to the well being of our students. This progress is made easier with the continuing support of the students, teachers, governors and most importantly the parents. So from the catering department, we thank you for this support and would welcome any constructive views you may have in improving the food service we supply.

Within the next week or so, it is intended to produce a Christmas Menu for our meal prior to the Xmas break, it will have to be pre-booked and paid for. The cost of the meal will be £2-50p and the date will be on Tuesday 4 December 2007. The closing date for bookings will be on Tuesday 27 November 2007. Last year it went very well and all those who booked had a really good time and an excellent lunch.

Mr C Epathite
Catering Manager

A Thank you to Parent Voice members

One excellent development from the Parent Voice initiative has been to strengthen parental involvement in school developments and events. Over the last year Parent Voice representatives have welcomed and canvassed opinions from parents at all parents consultation evenings. They have also been involved in many other advice booklet for Parents of our new Year 7 students, proof-reading a new maths homework guide for parents, leading a drive to improve cycle safety and giving invaluable feedback on many important issues such as how to improve the school website. We are very grateful to members of the Parent Voice who have given their time to support us in all these different ways – it is much appreciated.

Mrs P Wainman

STUDENT TEACHERS AT COOPER SCHOOL

Cooper School has a very successful partnership with Oxford University's Education Department which results in the training of 9-10 student teachers ("Interns") at any one time. The student teachers are completing a Post Graduate Certificate in Education before embarking on a career in teaching.

All student teachers from Oxford University are required to carry out a school-based investigation that may involve seeking Cooper students' views. Examples of such research might be looking at how helpful marking is to Cooper students or how students choose their options for GCSE. Cooper students may be asked to fill out a short questionnaire or answer some questions in pairs or small groups. All students at Cooper will be told the purpose of any research and, of course, they may choose not to be involved. Any parent who would like their child not to take part in any such research may complete the opt out form available on the school website and return to reception. Further copies are available from Miss G Merritt, Assistant Headteacher.

This information conforms to the British Educational Research Association guidelines for all research in education.

ECDL NEWS!

Year 11

Congratulations to Carl Rowlinson on passing the extra Unit E in the ECDL course, thus gaining IT User Part 2 qualification. This is equivalent to a grade B at GCSE. Also, Kirsty Henderson who has completed her ECDL qualification. Well done!

Reminder to all other Year 11s trying to complete their ECDL qualification that Ca14 is open at Wednesday lunchtimes and after school for catch-up time.

Year 10

Congratulations to Andrew Whitehouse who has passed two modules.

Also, big congratulations to Andrew Pryde who has now passed 4 modules! A terrific start to the course! Well done!

CiDA course

Reminder to all Yr11 students who have not quite finished their first e-portfolio – Ca14 is open at lunchtimes on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday for you to finish them off!

Mrs Wordsworth

THE ANNUAL KEELE SURVEY OF PARENT OPINION

The School is very keen to seek the views and enlist the support of parents and students in raising achievement. We have therefore decided once again to use the very highly rated parent and student survey devised by the Centre for Successful Schools at Keele University in order both to seek parental and student perspectives on priorities for school improvement and to determine how we can improve information to and communications with parents.

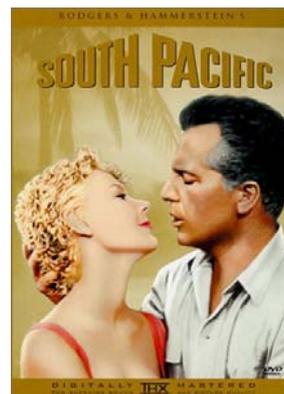
The study requires a random sample of 25% of our parents and students to fill in a survey on all aspects of school life. As an objective outside agency Keele University will then analyse the responses to our survey and provide us with a report on and an analysis of their findings. *Can we remind parents in the sample group that we would ask you to complete and return the survey 30th November at the latest.*

It is very important to us that parents who have been selected to participate do complete this survey as we will not get a full and meaningful picture of parents' views and wishes unless the vast majority of the parents in the sample do reply.

The results of the survey will be shared with parents at the Parent Voice meeting next term and in the next newsletter.

CREATIVE ARTS

To tie in with the up coming production of 'South Pacific' an enthusiastic group of students and staff went to see a professional production at the New Theatre in October.



We were impressed by the clever cyclorama and costume but of course our production during the last week of the Spring Term or term 4 in new speak will be much more energetic and lively! Following the huge success of West Side Story many more pupils are clamouring for parts! Lookout for news about auditions as soon as the scripts arrive.

This term most year 7 groups went on an inspirational visit to the Botanic Gardens in Oxford. They did drawings and took photos for their Impressionist project.

Mrs Ramsey

BROADWAY COMES TO BICESTER

**Wednesday 19th and
Thursday 20th
December 2007**

**7.30pm in the
Cooper School
Performance Hall**

Great music from great musicals performed by students and staff

Tickets on sale from beginning of December

Congratulations!

Two Cooper School students, Matthew Huntley and Jonathan Walker, took part in the Masonic fishing days during the Summer holidays.



Supervisors at the event have emailed the School to praise the behaviour of the two boys who they found to be polite, well mannered and enthusiastic.

ECO SCHOOLS



The Cooper School is taking part in the Eco Schools programme which is a growing community of schools throughout Europe who are committed to the continuous improvement of their environmental performance.

The Eco Schools process is holistic. It works by involving the whole school - students, teachers, non-teaching staff and governors - together with members of the local community - parents, the local authority, the media and local businesses. It will encourage teamwork and help to create a shared understanding of what it takes to run a school in a way that respects and enhances the environment.

Initially, the activities will be organised and co-ordinated through the Year 10 COPE class under the guidance of Mr David Hall. If you would like to be involved, please contact either Mr David Hall or Mrs Eleanor Williams.

CONFISCATED ITEMS

All students should wear the correct uniform and we would appreciate parents support in this matter. In terms of jewellery and other items of value, the policy states that, '...except a watch and two piercings per ear – studs only, no other jewellery or accessories are permitted.' Accessories including mobile telephones, iPods, cd players etc. should not be brought onto school site. If students are found using these items in school the item(s) will be confiscated and placed in a secure area. These can then be collected after the end of the school day on the Friday of that week from Reception. A record of the item will be kept. If a student does need to use a mobile telephone on a specific day for a specific reason then that telephone can be left securely with the school receptionists. These items can cost a great deal of money and the upset that is caused when items are damaged or go missing has a huge detrimental effect on learning – which is, after all, the core function of the School.

Mr Baxter

COOPER SCHOOL ATTENDANCE POLICY PARTNERSHIP IN PRACTICE PARENTS

If Your Child Has To Miss School

- Contact the school by telephone, fax or Email if possible on the first morning of the absence, so we are aware of the problem.
- If your child is ill, it is helpful if you can give us some idea of how long the absence might last.

When a Student Returns to School

- On the first day back they should have a signed and dated note of explanation for their absence (use their Planner for this).

Prolonged Absence

- If you know your child will be absent from school for a prolonged period let us know as soon as possible.
- If the absence can be supported by a medical certificate the school may be able to arrange some home tuition. Currently Oxfordshire will provide home tuition after the first month of medically certificated absence.
- Parents may be asked to provide a medical note to explain prolonged or spasmodic absence.

**COOPER SCHOOL, Churchill Road,
Bicester. OX26 4RS**

Telephone: 01869 242121

Fax: 01869 362693

E-mail: Headteacher.cooper@cooper.oxon.sch.uk

STUDENTS

When You Return to School After An Absence

- Remember to show the absence note in your Planner to your Form Teacher on the first day back.
- Ask your subject teachers about the work you have missed and make arrangements to catch up.

THE CYCLE OF TIME
Friday 30th November 2007

5.30pm School's procession at Bicester Village
6.30pm to 7pm Pyrotechnic Display, Pingle Field

Enjoy an illuminating procession performed by Bicester school children, followed by an exciting pyrotechnic display in Pingle Field.

Don't miss the show's spectacular fire pictures, stilt walkers and fire eaters.

For further information, please call the
Bicester Village Visitor Centre
Tel: 01869 369055

FREE ENTRANCE

All students and their families are welcome

The Cycle of Time is part of Winter Light, a series of events in five towns across the county designed to light up the end of Oxfordshire's millennium year.

LOVE FASHION
LOVE PEOPLE
LOVE BICESTER VILLAGE

Would you like to be part of the growth of an exciting retail and tourism destination? Do you want to work in an international environment with some of the world's most recognised luxury and fashion brands? Are you passionate about fashion and retail?

CHRISTMAS PART-TIME AND WEEKEND SALES ASSISTANTS

Please stop by to pick up a full job vacancy list from the Bicester Village reception office or alternatively, go onto www.BicesterVillage.com and upload your CV or apply directly to jobs online!

To join us you will need to be energetic, flexible, versatile and passionate about customer service. We are looking for people who can build strong relationships with the brands and can evolve within an internationally diverse team.

If you are ready to grow and be challenged in a fast paced but unique retail environment apply by uploading your CV and a covering letter onto:
www.BicesterVillage.com.

CARDIO CENTRE



October 1st saw the launch of the Schools Cardio Centre, which is an exciting project to create a better health and fitness culture throughout the school. As a result pupils have had many chances to participate in extra-curricular activities in the centre including Boxercise lessons led by fully qualified staff, Breakfast clubs, cheerleading and open fitness sessions. The Cardio Centre is a great facility to have and is growing by the week with more equipment to come. There is also more activities planned including step aerobics and yoga, so there is no excuse, 'Commit to get fit!'



Mr M Hutchings
PE Department

KEEP BURGLARS AT BAY

The majority of burglaries to houses, bungalows and flats in Bicester and surrounding villages are described by police as "opportunistic". This means that criminals do not set out with the intention of burgling a particular property.

Instead they are prowling around looking for unlocked doors and open windows which allow them the opportunity to enter without using force. And even if there is somebody at home, they may try the front, side, back or patio doors to see if any are insecure.

Then they will snatch anything to hand (a purse, wallet, cash, laptop, mobile phone, shopping or keys maybe) and be out again within seconds.

Many burglaries take place during late afternoon and early evening.

So now the clocks have gone back, please ensure that burglars operating under cover of darkness cannot easily get through an insecure door or unfastened downstairs window.

Please also note that distraction burglars often target the vulnerable. These bogus callers arrive on the doorstep with fictitious stories aimed at gaining entry. Claiming to be from "the water board" and asking residents to run their taps to check water quality is one method. It is aimed at getting through the door while the occupant is distracted doing other things. If you have doubts about the identity of strangers on the doorstep - do not admit them under any circumstances.

The number of burglaries to homes in the Cherwell district has fallen by 17% this year. With your help we can improve on that.

Any questions?
Contact your local Crime Reduction Advisor via
0845 8 505 505

TRAINING DAY FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL TEACHERS



The Cooper School hosted a training day for Primary School teachers on 21 September 2007. Delegates participated in three workshops run by School Sport Co-ordinators from Oxfordshire

School Sport Partnerships and a Regional Golf Development Officer. The workshops provided practical introductions to three innovative programmes aimed at enhancing educational provision and learning through physical activity. The event, organised by the North Oxfordshire School Sport Partnership, was highly successful and was well attended by teachers and support staff working in Primary Schools throughout the North Oxfordshire area. Schools represented at the training, which sign up to the programmes, will be able to access Big Lottery funding resources, equipment and further training to support the implementation of the schemes.

Mrs G Allen
School Sports Co-ordinator

RUGBY

The Year 7 team have done very well so far this year remaining unbeaten, beating Wheatley Park School, Waddeson School, Chenderit School and also Gosford Hill.

The Year 9 team have had a mixed season so far beating Gosford Hill, Chenderit and Wheatley Park comfortably but losing to Waddeson and BCC. They are however in the quarter final of the county cup but face a tough game against Lord Williams School on the 13th November.

The Year 11 team in their final year of representing the School at Rugby beat Wheatley Park School in their opening fixture but narrowly lost to Waddeson with the last kick of the game. They consequently also lost to Chenderit School with a depleted squad.

Mr M Hutchings
PE Department

BICESTER ATHLETIC CLUB

A number of students from Cooper School are members of Bicester Athletics Club and the Club supports athletics events organised for The Cooper Family of Schools. Please see information below provided by Bicester Athletics Club. We encourage you to offer the Club your support in their mission to upgrade sports facilities in the town for the benefit of the whole community.

On Thursday 29 November, Bicester Athletic Club, will be going head to head with Bullbrook Community Centre, Bracknell on ITV Central News at 6pm. £71,000 in lottery funding is at stake. Whoever gets the most votes will win the money. If Bicester win, it will be used to provide superb UK athletic standard facilities at Bicester Community College for use by all of the local schools. This will include 140 square metres of all-weather run ups, 2 top grade long jump pits, an all-weather high jump facility and an improved javelin run up.

The Club need everyone to vote. Having got to the regional finals, this is an opportunity Bicester schools can't miss - Bicester is already halfway there. With your support we can do it!

Lines will open at 9am on 29 November and close at midnight. The winners will be announced the next day. Voting will be via a local rate telephone number or online but details will not be released until 29 November. You will be able to find them in:

- ◆ Daily Mirror
- ◆ Bicester Athletics Club website at <http://www.bicesterac.co.uk>
- ◆ Big Lottery Fund website at <http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk>
- ◆ Or on ITV Central news at 6pm.

CROSS COUNTRY

On Thursday 4th October the School entered the first round of the Sainsbury's English Schools cross country cup competition. The Junior Boys came eighth and the intermediate boys came fifth, with the Junior girls and Intermediate girls both coming in eighth position also. This was a tough competition with a very good field of runners but special note must go to Richard Cadle who finished ninth overall out of 32 runners and Edward Burgess, Jamie Wilson and Ryan Pearce who are all Year 7's competing against Year 8 boys. Well done to all.

Mr M Hutchings
PE Department

DIARY DATES

TERM 2

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

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS:

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

TERM 3

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

HALF TERM HOLIDAY:

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

TERM 4

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

EASTER HOLIDAYS:

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

TERM 5

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

HALF TERM HOLIDAY:

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

TERM 6

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

Connexions Fair Processing

Data for all students is passed through to Connexions. Basic data (name, address, school attended, date of birth and gender) is automatically provided to Connexions under the expectations set out in the Learning and Skills act 2000.

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

HOME-START

Home-Start is a home visiting service for families in the Bicester area, where there is at least one child under five. Home-Start volunteers offer families friendly and confidential support at times of stress or loneliness. Their approach is to respond to each family's needs and to work towards increasing the confidence and independence of parents. Please telephone 01865 779991 for further information.

SCHOOL COUNSELLOR

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

PHOTOGRAPHS POLICY

The School is very active on publicity and publish photographs of students in the press. If you do not wish your child to appear in any press releases please inform the School in writing.

YEAR 10 PARENTS' EVENING

Thursday 29 November 2007
5pm-7pm

BICESTER SCHOOLS JOINT CAREERS CONVENTION

Is your child due to leave Cooper School or Bicester Community College? Come along to the Convention for information about further education and employment.

Thursday 17 January 2008 - 6.30-8.30pm
At The Cooper School

CHILDREN IN NEED - 16 NOVEMBER 2007

As in the past, Cooper School fully support this cause and a series of events will be taking place on this day:

- ◆ A Talent Show on Wednesday 14 November and Friday 16 November
- ◆ 'Soak the Teacher' event on Tuesday 13 November along with a cake sale at lunchtime
- ◆ Friday 16 November itself will be a non-uniform day.

However, we would like to make the following key points:

- ◆ Cooper School is primarily a place of learning and as such students, whilst enjoying the day, must behave in an appropriate manner. Our clear expectation is that all students must bring in the correct equipment for the day and be prepared to work to the best of their ability in all lessons;
- ◆ In terms of non-uniform students should be aware that whilst the majority of clothing is suitable, attention needs to be paid to health and safety in terms of footwear and the student's personal comfort. From a Duty of Care perspective it is also imperative that staff are able to identify the students! Therefore a decision has been made that **no student may hire a costume** since we believe this distracts from the fund raising element and does not actually add to the money raised for this worthy cause;
- ◆ We appreciate that Year 11 have historically made the greatest effort in terms of fancy dress and their imagination is commendable but GCSE Mock Examinations, Speaking Tests and coursework should remain their priority and as such they can ill afford to miss out on a day's teaching and learning.

The normal procedure for charitable collections will be in place on Friday 16 November. Students are requested to bring in £1 to school in return for the privilege of wearing non-school uniform.