



The Cooper School, Bicester

Where 'Learning Matters'



Science

Issue No. 9

September 2008



I would like to begin this first newsletter of the new academic year by welcoming all of The Cooper School students back after the summer break, particularly our new intake of Year 7 students. Although August seemed to be wetter than

normal I hope everyone, students and their families, had an enjoyable and refreshing break.

September starts with a number of new initiatives and changes. Perhaps the most significant of these has been the new school uniform and I would like to thank both students and families for your support in this. All of our students look exceptionally smart in the new uniform of blazers, ties and skirts/trousers. I firmly believe in the maxim of 'Look smart, be smart' and hope that the obvious pride that the students are showing will express itself in their level of progress in their learning over the coming year. We will be actively monitoring the students' adherence to the new dress code and will contact individual parents should standards start to slip. The full uniform policy is included later in this newsletter.

In August we saw the end of an anxious wait for our Year 11 students as the GCSE results finally arrived. I am absolutely delighted, as are all staff at the school, at the high level of results attained. 60% of our students are leaving school with at least 5 GCSEs at A* to C standard which is the highest level ever achieved at The Cooper School and is the third consecutive year of increased performance in the key measures. This is a firm foundation for them to take forward into the next stage of their lives be it further education or into the working community and all of them carry our very best wishes with them.

Over the summer holiday the Facilities team have been hard at work improving our school site. We have completely refurbished the library into a state of the art 'Learning to Learn' Centre. In addition we have built and equipped another engineering workshop to deliver a Level 2 Diploma in Engineering as part of our 14-19 partnership in East Oxon. As part of our ongoing premises development plan we have redecorated and refurbished the Maths Block. Unfortunately the latter has been affected by a badly worn roof which has delayed the work as Oxfordshire County Council have now moved in to repair the entire roof over maths. Those of you who have visited the school this term will have seen the scaffolding being erected prior to repairs taking place.

A number of new members of staff have joined the school from September. I would like to welcome Tony Rushworth (Deputy Head); Yvonne Roberts-Ablett, (Head of History); Sally McMillan, (Second in Mathematics); Kate Stone, (KS3 Science Coordinator); Jane Carpenter, (PE Teacher); Jade Nowland, (PE Teacher); Esther Miller, (Science Teacher); Jefferey Simmonds, (PE Teacher); Monja Raekow, (Modern Foreign Languages Teacher); Victoria Cawood, (Geography Teacher); Sharon Beckett, (Music and Drama Teacher); Deborah Morris, (Textiles Teacher); Alison White, (Science Teacher); Hilary Spink, (Mathematics Teacher); Kathryn Nugent, (Science Technician); Julia Nethercot, and Emily Bedford, (Teaching Assistants) and David Martin (D&T Technician).

The school has also introduced a new Management Information System and some parents/guardians will already have received letters asking that the information currently held is accurate. This data gathering exercise will continue throughout the term and I ask for your help in maintaining our databases as up to date as possible by informing the school in writing of any changes to addresses, telephone numbers etc.

We have noticed during the first few days of term that the flow of traffic into and out of the site is causing congestion before and after school. One of the initiatives in our travel plan is to encourage car sharing wherever possible. If you know of any opportunities to share your journey with a friend or neighbour please consider doing so, not only will this ease congestion and help the environment, it will also reduce your motoring costs. Please take utmost care when bringing your vehicle onto the site, observing crossings and paying consideration to others.

There are some key dates in the first term, the first one being the school's Open Evening for prospective Year 7 students and their parents on Thursday 18th September. As a result of the preparation required the school will close to all students on that day at 12.30.

Other important term dates and Parents' Evenings are listed at the end of this Newsletter.

B Baxter

DIARY DATES

TERM 1

Thursday 18th September School closes at 12.30 for
Open Evening preparation
Friday 3rd October INSET DAY
Friday 24th October End of Term 1

HALF TERM HOLIDAY:

Monday 27th October 2008-Friday 31st October
2008

TERM 2

Monday 3rd November Students return to school
Friday 19th December End of Term 2

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS:

Monday 22nd December 2008-Friday 2nd January
2009

UNIFORM FROM SEPTEMBER 2008

GIRLS

- Black blazer with school badge on top pocket
- Plain white collared school shirt
- School tie
- Plain black skirt with pleats or tailored black trousers – full length
- Plain black socks or plain black or neutral coloured tights
- Plain black shoes with heel maximum of 2 inches/5 Centimetres
- Plain black V necked jumper (optional)
- Outdoor coat must be of a dark colour — no hoodies of any kind

BOYS

- Black blazer with school badge on top pocket
- Plain white collared school shirt
- School tie
- Tailored plain black trousers – full length
- Plain black socks
- Plain black shoes
- Plain black V necked jumper (optional)
- Outdoor coat must be of a dark colour — no hoodies of any kind

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.

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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.

PARENTS' EVENINGS

Year 7	
Settling in Evening	Thursday 6 November 2008
Year 10	Thursday 8 January 2009
Year 11	Thursday 5 February 2009
Year 9	Thursday 26 February 2009
Year 8	Thursday 26 March 2009
Year 7	Thursday 18 June 2009