

# A Silver Jubilee Year in the Life of The Cotswold School Academy

## Academic Results



In GCSE **80%** achieved 5 or more GCSE grades at A\* to C, with **72%** achieving 5 or more A\* to C grades including English and Mathematics. **Over 40%** of students achieved the English Baccalaureate

Henry Yates	12 A*s	2 As	1B
Josceline Munro	12 A*s	1 A	
Eleanor Wigg	10 A*s	3 As	
Tom Panter	10 A*s	1 A	1 B
Beth O'Brien	9 A*s	1 A	1 B
Claire Coulthard	8 A*s	4 As	
Abbie Lane	8 A*s	3 As	1 B
Emily Weller	7 As	6 As	
Pete Andrews	7 A*s	3 As	1 C
Alice Gee	7 A*s	3 As	
Tegan Saunders	6 A*s	2 As	1 B
Tom Butler	5 A*s	6 As	1 B
Will Cleaver	5 A*s	4 As	2 Bs
Ryan Hart	5 A*s	3 As	1 B
Daisy Harris	4 A*s	6 As	1 B
Eliot Quevedo	4 A*s	6 As	1 B
Jack Aitken	4 A*s	5 As	2 Bs
Adam Franks	4 A*s	5 As	2 Bs
Ella Forster	4 A*s	5 As	
Rachel Heming	4 A*s	3 As	2 Bs

At A level records have been broken again this year, with **69.4% of all grades being at A\*, A or B**, which is up from an already strong 63% over the previous two years. **34.6% of examinations were awarded A\* or A, with 10% at A\***. **Eighteen percent of Cotswold School A Level students achieved three or more A\*s or As! On average each student gained 354 UCAS points**

Jonathan Roberts	4A* 1A	Warwick University to read Physics
Eleanor Mottram	2A* 1A	Oxford to read Japanese
Laura Dean	3A*	Durham to read MFL
Josh Francis	2A* 3A	Bristol to read Geography
Rupert Miles-Marsh	2A* 2A	Exeter to read Medical Sciences
Charlie Meyrick	1A* 3 A	Bristol to read Maths & Economics
Flora Pringle-Paterson	2A* 2 A	Edinburgh to read French and History
Sophie Martin	3A*	Art Foundation before University
Beth Bullock	2A*	Art Foundation before University
Anna Dahlke	2A* 1A	East Anglia to read International Relations

## Whole School



As we celebrated our **Silver Jubilee year** we welcomed **several new staff** and said **'goodbye' to other colleagues** including 4 who have clocked up nearly 150 years of loyal service between them – Mrs Kempson, Mr Thomas, Mr Derek Cox and Mrs Paish. We celebrated **two staff weddings, two engagements** and the arrival of **ten staff babies!** **Geography moved into a new block** and **Art space doubled** as they moved into the vacated rooms. The **PTA** continued to **raise valuable funds** for curriculum projects while **Governors** have been very active **visiting departments** and seeing **presentations** from different areas of school life. We welcomed **221 Year 7 pupils, 15 Year 12 pupils** and other new pupils **taking our roll to 1248**. We introduced **new online systems for parents' evenings and performance management** and achieved our **e-safety accreditation**. We introduced **Sociology** and **Critical Thinking** and planned **more BTEC courses** in the sixth form.



## English

In English **Accelerated Reading** continued to be a huge success with students devouring books, reading an average of 16 a year. All students were able to participate in the **wide-ranging theatre and cinema programme** including trips to outdoor theatres, London theatres, cinema showings not forgetting our very own **Cheltenham Literary festival** in which the primary school participated too. **Book Week** was a big success again with speakers, book exchanges, Book Bingo and Twitter competitions. There were some creative characters on **Dress up day!** Mr Ellis organised **Year 6 primary link lessons** to facilitate the transition process in English. Intrepid junior reporters worked on **the BBC School Report** throughout the year interviewing the chairman of the parish council. **Debate club** continued to flourish and Adam Ellison was awarded **Best Speaker at the ESU Public Speaking competition**.



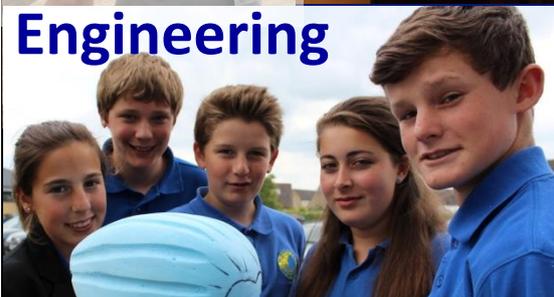
## Mathematics

The new **maths block was officially opened** by Lady Dunrossil and our local MP. Many pupils sat **Maths challenges** winning **bronze, silver and 17 gold awards** (top 6% nationally). Two pupils progressed to do **the prestigious Pink Kangaroo**. A year 9 group were 6<sup>th</sup>/27 in the UK Team Challenge. Mrs Ashworth led our own **Team Maths Challenge day for local primaries**. 447 pupils took part in Mrs Moyne's **monthly mathematical puzzles** that also go out to local primary schools. She organised **Numeracy Week** with guests from GCHQ and Oxford University. Mr Marshall coordinated our **primary link programme** and Mr Goold took pupils to **masterclasses on varying topics** and held in GCHQ.



## Science & Engineering

Although **Science Week** is a focal point there is always plenty to do! KS3 pupils competed in the Crest Awards, **World Science Games** and the **Big School Birdwatch**. A Year 9 team entered the Oxford Salters competition. Year 10 did the **Biology Challenge**, a **Warwick University lecturer came to do experiments** with senior Chemists who also took part in the new **Chemistry Week**. Add in several **visiting speakers including Robert Llewellyn**, a **Christmas lecture on "The Science of Obesity"** by our former Head Boy, a **"Science is Fun for Parents Too"** evening, **Year 5 Science Day**, a **Year 9 Science fair** and **Science Club** – new this year are **Gardening Club** and **a primary Science programme!** **STEM** continues to flourish. Year 8 went to a **regional IET challenge** and we hosted a **STEM challenge day** for years 7 & 8 for local schools with support from the **Royal Academy of Engineering**. Year 8 and 9 pupils entered the **Engineering Challenges at the Cheltenham Science Festival** and the **International Air Tattoo (meeting Prince Charles!)**. A level students **visited Dowty Propellers** and the **Smallpeice Trust** offered four pupils **a week long work placement** after the **National Grid Challenge** for Year 10. We held a **Careers in Engineering event** for Year 9 with experts on hand to advice about job opportunities. A team of year 9 girls took part in **Girls Get SET at GE Aviation**. And of course **STEM club** runs every week too!



## MFL

This year Modern Foreign Languages (MFL) **organised 7 trips abroad**, a **German market day** (in Birmingham!) and a **Spanish cinema day** in London. This involved **28 pupils on exchanges** and nearly **150 on our residential**. The two **exchanges incorporated work experience** for the first time. As well as **so many pupils** on all our trips it has been a busy year in other ways for MFL. We ran **twilight groups** in Russian and Italian GCSE! In October we celebrated the **European Day of Languages** with quizzes, taster languages and a quiz show with celebrity staff contestants! This was followed by enthusiastic performances in the **VocabExpress Championships** with record numbers of points scored and all KS3 pupils did the **1000 word challenge**. Years 10 and 8 did another great **cross curricular work exchange** with our Brittany exchange school. KS3 had a **Japanese culture day** as we hosted **33 pupils from Japan** for a day. Senior linguists developed media skills providing **year round international current affairs displays** for our TV screen. **Rachel Hawkes, a nationally recognised expert, visited school** to train 30 local colleagues in the latest phonics and target language requirements. **Sixth form linguists gave weekly lessons** at a local business.





## Drama

This year's **production Coram Boy** combined music and drama from over 100 pupils to showcase some wonderful talent including 2 younger pupils in starring roles. **GCSE and A level performances** excelled and many pupils enjoyed a huge variety of **theatre trips** – new this year was a **KS3 trip to a Christmas production**. Senior pupils participated in **New Views** and over 50 younger pupils **attended drama club**. KS3 classes had a **series of taster lessons** in the **newly refurbished black box drama studio**



## Music

In **Music** we hosted a **master class** in string playing. Many pupils enjoyed **success in instrumental and theory exams** and local **music festivals**. Year 7 and Year 8 each staged their own **Showcase concerts**. "**Back in Black**" played at the **Cheltenham Jazz Festival**. The **summer term concert** was the culmination of "**Music on the Move**" programme. As usual lovely **Christmas performances** took place both at school and in the community including **Gloucester Cathedral, Carols on the Green** and the **carol service in Upper Slaughter**. **Ensembles performed** at various local venues and **recorded for the local BBC** at Gloucester Cathedral. Exam groups enjoyed trips to **professional concerts** and events. Our musicians collaborated with the acting cast to produce **Coram Boy**.



## Art

In Art pupils participated in a variety of competitions - **The Big Draw, Young Artist, Charity Christmas Card and Young Photographer**, all of which showed off impressive talent, reinforced by fantastic **Art exhibitions of exam work** throughout the year, which is now on permanent display. The usual **trips** ran including visiting some **local art exhibitions** as well as the big **London galleries**. Younger pupils enjoyed a **printmaking club** and **sculpting 60 rats for a local show** whilst older pupils participated in **ARTiculation**. 60 pupils attended **primary workshops**. The highlights though were the **trip to Italy** to see art history at its best and moving into **greatly enhanced accommodation!**



## History

As well as organising a moving **trip to the World War 1 battlefields** there was much happening at home in History. All of year 7 went on a **castle trip** and Year 8 were entertained by a **Civil War re enactment** with a genuine 17<sup>th</sup> century musket being fired! The traditional **cross curricular French revolution project with MFL** for our partner school was undertaken. In the classroom the department witnessed some **fantastic enquiries** on terrorism, the Blitz, 1066 and many more subjects.



## Geography

In Geography all year 7 pupils went to **Cheddar George exploring the caves** and all year senior geographers went on residential fieldwork **trips** – 4 in total - to Devon and Wales. Year 13 went to a **geo hazards conference and** our second **trip to Iceland** took place! Geography is now in its very own purpose built new block.



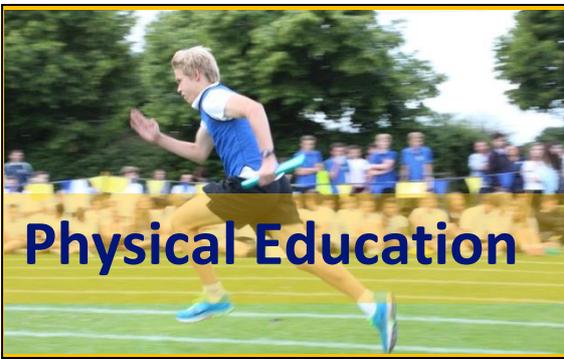
## Religious Education

In Religious Education (RE) a record **third of the A level cohort went on to study Philosophy** at university, inspired no doubt by an **evening with AC Grayling** discussing philosophy and their **conference trips** to Peter Vardy. **GCSE conferences** included a **LASAR trip to Oxford University** and a **G&T day in Oxford with Julie Arliss**. The department organised **RE days for KS4**, with speakers from the **Philosophy Foundation, RE Today, the Holocaust Trust and Janine Webber, a Holocaust survivor**.



## Design & Technology

There were some superb **displays of work** produced by the exam classes in Design & Technology. We once more hosted **Chefs on Tour** and the **Rotary Young Chef** competition with our own Adriana Dzalbe getting through several rounds. Our A level students organised a fantastic sell out **Fashion Show** which raised record amounts for charity and the department participated in the **year 5 Science and Technology day** which saw 150 pupils in school. A level students visited London and **New York** as part of their studies.



## Physical Education

PE had their usual busy programme including **house competitions** in a wide variety of sport, culminating in an excellent **sports day**. All pupils participated in **National School Sport Week, Sport Relief and Race for Life** raising money for charity and both school teams and individuals enjoyed **success in fixtures and competitions at all levels** from local to national. Community link clubs gave **speciality coaching** on site, **primary festivals** were hosted and **Sports Leaders were trained**. There were many **day trips** and the annual **Year 7 Adventure Trip**. **Extracurricular clubs** abounded and the **equestrian team** achieved great success.



## Enterprise & Business & ICT

Business highlights included a **trip to at Cadbury World** to see the theory in practice. Our junior **Enterprise Club, mentored by Year 13**, saw pupil managed businesses making healthy profits by selling products at school events and **training Year 6 pupils in ICT**. This culminated in a first ever **Enterprise Fayre**. In ICT **Lego robots club, Hour of Code and Coding Club** were big draws. **Year 5 pupils enjoyed ICT** on the Science & Technology day. Year 10 pupils and some older pupils all completed a **week of work experience**. Senior pupils went on the **New York trip**.



## Social Sciences

**The Social Sciences department** was born as Psychology, Health and Social Care and the newly introduced Sociology joined forces. Students took part in an **Oxford University Social Networks Study** and willing **volunteers will now have brain scans** to follow up their questionnaire! Psychology visited the Science Museum and enjoyed the **brain exhibition**



## International

International events go from strength to strength - two more of our staff visited our **Zambian link school** and we **hosted two teachers** back in return. Our **Outlook Expedition group** had lifechanging experiences during their **month in Nicaragua**, trekking up volcanoes, working on community projects and staying with home stay families in isolated communities. We once more **welcomed Chinese pupils** from our link school in China. As a school we ran **13 trips abroad** including one expedition, two exchanges, one work experience, one history trip, one geography trip, one PE adventure trip, one business, one science and 4 MFL residential as far afield as **France, Germany, Spain, Belgium, Italy, Iceland, USA and Nicaragua!**



## Student voice & Citizenship

Pupils of all ages participated in range of activities including our **specialist PSHE days** in which many outside speakers were involved. Following elections our **Student Council** worked with SLT on school policies. Year 7 went on their first ever **residential trip** to help them bond and 20 Year 6 students enjoyed **a week long summer school** culminating with a day in London. RE organised Holocaust **Day** and Geography continues to spearhead **recycling**. Year 11 organised the traditional **Senior Citizens Party** for 100 guests and over **100 shoeboxes** were sent over to Romanian orphanages for Christmas. Fundraising continued with **non uniform days** for different causes. **Interact** raised money for charity and participated in local community projects. The **year 8 charity fete** is now a fixed calendar event and **Year 7 Karaoke** and the **year 8 OXJAM events** both raised money for good causes. **Poppies were sold** in school, and many pupils participated in **local Remembrance Day services**.



## Outdoor Activities

The **D of E Award** continues to prove extremely popular. Last year there were **ten** weekend expeditions involving **over 100 students, 28 full Bronze Awards** and **four full Silver Awards** have been achieved. DofE students have been involved in **volunteering**, with over **430 hours** of certified **community service** undertaken, **physical activities** such as rugby, hockey and badminton in local clubs and **skill based activities**, for example learning an extra language after school.

