



COTSWOLD NEWS

MARCH 2017



BILLY ELLIOT THE MUSICAL



Cotswold School students brought the 'electricity' of *Billy Elliot* to the stage in their annual school production. Sell-out audiences were treated to fantastic dance and music against the dramatic, emotionally charged backdrop of the 1980's pit closures – all delivered by a cast, crew, choreographers and musicians of over 80 pupils from Years 7 to 13.

Mrs Miriam Monk, the show's director and Head of Performing Arts said *'In an educational climate when we can become lost in target grades and statistics, a school production gives our students the chance to explore who they are and express themselves as individuals. They gain an understanding of what commitment means, they collaborate across all age groups and abilities and what is more, they learn that having fun and working hard aren't mutually exclusive. During 'Billy Elliot' I have watched Sixth Formers give up lunchtimes to run lines with Year 8s; boys work together for hours to perfect their choreography; and students spend their breaks in rehearsals and to create sets and props. It is an absolute pleasure to direct a school production - we will genuinely never tire of the enjoyment and reward that we get from*

seeing students grow in confidence, truly express themselves, create long-lasting memories, and, as 'Billy' would say: feel "Free!"'

The title role of *'Billy Elliot'* was split between two Year 8 students: Henry Norden (13) and Toby Hayward (12) giving both young stars the opportunity to rest between shows and give the demanding role their energetic best across the 4 performances. Violet Crude (17) of Year 13 made Billy's no-nonsense but kind-hearted dance teacher, 'Mrs Wilkinson' her own while Dolly Forrester (13) played flamboyant dance class accompanist, 'Mrs Braithwaite'. Billy's family of 'Dad' (Will Young, 17), brother 'Tony' (Hal Pett, 15), 'Grandma' (Sarah Corless, 18) and the ghost of Billy's mother (Kristen Smith, 18) gave mature performances, capturing the love, humour and loyalty of family amidst the anger, violence and frustration of the times. Year 11's Alex Skiros (16) was excellent as boxing coach and fellow miner, 'George,' while George Furniss (13) brought superb comic timing to the role of 'Michael,' Billy's best friend. The troupe of girl ballet dancers, led by Thea Pett as 'Debbie,' brought terrific, squealing energy to their performances

and the hugely versatile chorus, playing the parts of boxing boys, police, miners and women, brought the whole production together.

The technical and backstage crew worked hard to make the whole production run smoothly while 1980's fashion was showcased thanks to the hard work of wardrobe manager, Mrs Lynn Rasdall. Miss Catherine Thomas, as Music Director, ensured that the cast delivered powerful performances from a challenging score and the live band, made up of pupils and staff, was expertly conducted by Head of Music, Ms Suzie Buckley.

Mr Morgan was in the audience for the final matinee performance: *'Our school's production of Billy Elliot has been simply superb. Performing Arts at The Cotswold School have never been stronger and I, like the numerous people who have seen this show, am so impressed. Everyone who has taken part in Billy Elliot should be extremely proud of this show. It is a considerable achievement and testament to hours and hours of work, commitment, dedication and the extraordinary talent of our students and our staff.'*



BILLY ELLIOT

THE MUSICAL



More pictures from *Billy Elliot the Musical*, will be available soon on the News & Events section of the School website.





So Bourton, Any Questions?



The Cotswold School was delighted to host BBC Radio 4's hugely popular Friday night topical debate programme *Any Questions?*

Lead by Jonathan Dimbleby, the guests panellists, providing lively debate, were Jacob Rees-Mogg MP, Diane Abbott MP, Xenia Wickett (Director of the US Project at Chatham House, the Royal Institute of International Affairs) and Lionel Barber (Editor of the Financial Times).

Questions, posed by members of the audience centred around the inauguration of US President Donald Trump, impacts of Brexit, and concerns for the country's future. Serious debate led to much cheering and boo-ing from an enthusiastic 400-strong Cotswold audience, reflecting the split opinions felt across the

country. The final question posed was regarding the likelihood of future 'celebrity' style leaders. Mr Patrick Sanders, founding Head Teacher of The Cotswold School, asked

the panellists if they would join him in 'a flutter' as he offered odds that the future President of the United States could be a Kardashian. Two of the panel refused to gamble, Ms Abbott said she would happily join Mr Sanders in his flutter, while Mr Barber said he would consider backing Kanye West! Jonathan Dimbleby ended the evening with a warm farewell from *'the finest secondary school in the land!'* raising a cheer from the local audience.

Cotswold School students Grace Foakes (15) played a key role as student event coordinator for the evening, with Lucy Ottaway (15) and Hattie Jackson (14) assisting as runners. Sam Jones (14) worked on the mixing desk providing sound and lighting and working alongside the BBC production team. Meanwhile, Cotswold Sixth Formers, Sophie Price, Lucy Kitching, Rachel

Davies, Joe Salf and Joe Harper oversaw Front of House duties on the night. Principal Mr Morgan said, *'We are a school that encourages debate and challenges perceptions so we were especially pleased to be able to host the Any Questions? programme. Cotswold School students were not only in the Any Questions? audience but also involved in the production behind the scenes. It has been a fantastic experience for us all.'*

Right: Sam Jones with Jonathan Dimbleby



Below L-R: Xenia Wickett, Diane Abbot, Hatty Jackson, Jacob Rees-Mogg, Jonathan Dimbleby, Mr Morgan, Grace Foakes, Lucy Kitching, Lionel Barber, Lucy Ottaway, Joe Harper, Joe Salf and Sophie Price



Samuel Oram: Opera Star

Award-winning British baritone, Samuel Oram, is taking time out of his busy schedule to teach our pupils how to sing!

Samuel, who is currently studying at the Welsh International Academy of Voice whilst preparing for various concerts, holds a weekly A Capella group in the Music department every Tuesday lunchtime. The beautiful harmonies were a testament to Samuel's enthusiastic and engaging teaching style and of course, the pupils natural talent!

As well as the A Capella group, Samuel also teaches Classical Singing to male pupils. If you are interested in having lessons or joining the A Capella group, please contact: musicadmin@thecotswoldschool.co.uk or pop into the Music department.



Don't miss this unique chance to train with one of Britain's top young baritones!

THE COTSWOLD SCHOOL PTA ANNUAL QUIZ NIGHT

FRIDAY 10th MARCH 2017 at 7.30pm
at The Cotswold School

- * TEAMS OF UP TO 4 * £15 per TEAM * LICENSED BAR & RAFFLE *
- * FREE SNACKS AND SANDWICHES *

Please contact Anita Torris on anita.zantor@yahoo.co.uk to enter a team
ALL PROCEEDS GO TO BENEFIT THE SCHOOL!



Chemistry Week

The week beginning November 21st saw Year 7 students invited to take part in lunchtime practical activities with Dr Bettington and the Sixth Form Chemistry subject ambassadors to celebrate Chemistry Week.

Students studied the chromatography of sweets and enjoyed removing the coloured dyes from skittles using paintbrushes and water and discovering that several different coloured substances are often found to make up the colour of a single sweet.

David Walliams' Gangsta Granny's favourite food—yes, cabbage! - was also used to make an acid-base indicator.

Students mashed up the vegetable and extracted the deep blue-purple liquid to test on acids and alkalis, producing pink, purple and blue solutions.

In the third session, students made bouncy custard balls and enthusiastically competed with each other to make the bounciest one.

In the final session pupils made bath bombs and Sixth Form subject ambassador, Alex Darwent, demonstrated the 'Screaming jelly baby' reaction. The large amount of energy stored in the sugary sweet was made very clear by the violent reaction that ensued along with purple fiery sparks!

Overall, students thoroughly enjoyed the sessions and commented on how 'fun and exciting' they were.



Kellogg's Boosts Breakfast Club Again

We are delighted that our school Breakfast Club has once again been awarded a much needed boost to its coffers, in the form of a £1000 grant from Kellogg's breakfast cereals.

Mr Hunt, a prominent member of the Breakfast Club, has recently completed an online training course with Kellogg's, designed to enhance this extremely popular service. The free training course, developed by Northumbria University, gave practical support and advice on how to run an effective breakfast club covering aspects such as child nutrition, food hygiene, advertising and how to access other sources of funding.

This is not the first time Mr Hunt has received equipment funding from Kellogg's, having also been lucky enough to win £600 after entering three of the company's national competitions, including his recent £200 Christmas boost, a total now of £1,600!

With the winnings, the Breakfast Club team has already purchased a new six-slice toaster and branded mugs to help speed up breakfast production, setting the pupils up with a nutritious meal for the day ahead. With this most recent £1000 grant, Mr Hunt says, "We are aiming to improve catering equipment as well as buying much needed items to meet the demands of the ever growing Breakfast Club (e.g. new mugs). In addition, I would like to use the money to continue the schools view on healthy eating and promote this more, and to look into more healthy food and drink options".



The Oxbridge Six

We are delighted that six of our students from The Cotswold School are holding offers from Oxford and Cambridge Universities.

Mr White, Head of Sixth Form says, "They have all worked tremendously hard over the years to put themselves in a strong position from which to apply, backed by great teaching and amazing support from parents and friends. It is wonderful that their enthusiasm and talent has been recognised by these prestigious universities.

This continues an enviable record of Oxbridge successes from Cotswold students in recent years, including last year, when five of our students began their degrees at Oxford (3) and Cambridge (2). I am so pleased for these students and for all our Sixth Form leavers who secure excellent places at universities or in apprenticeships or employment. With the current debate about selective education, The Cotswold School shows that students of all abilities, including the most able students, can gain an outstanding education at a comprehensive. And we'll continue to strive to improve on our previous best."



Henry Yates
Reading Natural Sciences at
Churchill College, Cambridge



Kyla Bentinck-Hinton
Reading Bio Chemistry at
St Anne's College, Oxford



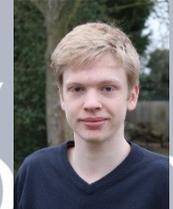
Joe Salf
Reading Medicine at
Somerville College, Oxford



Luke Milner
Reading Earth Sciences at
St Anne's College, Oxford



Sophie Taylor
Reading Geography at
Worcester College, Oxford



Theo Godfrey
Reading Engineering at
Brasenose College, Oxford

Alex Barter - Cipher, so Good!



Alex Barter, Year 13, has finally achieved his four-year ambition - to be crowned National Cipher Challenge champion 2017.

The National Cipher Challenge is a

nationwide, online, codebreaking competition with competitors from over 700 UK schools and colleges taking part each year.

Alex has previously had success with his cryptography teammates, the Grizzly Armadillos, coming second in last year's competition. This year he entered as an individual and came 1st with maximum points, winning the Gold Award and the GCHQ prize of £1000!

He says of the decoding Challenges, "The last challenge was the hardest, as it is meant to be. I completed it in about one hour and 20 minutes. The person who came second completed it somewhere between one hour and 20 minutes and five hours as he too got maximum points. It looked like this:
10200 20020 12002 11120.00210 02010
21012 10021 10201 12011 20002 00101
11210 10011 21... but was much longer

- 32,000 characters." Alex then had to decipher the code which translated into a lengthy letter. He has written a codebreaking programme which he has used in past competitions, but unfortunately this was little help to him this time.

Alex is quoted on the Cipher Challenge website, "Challenge 8B came as quite a shock, I was expecting a cipher which had a known algorithm and its strength coming from the vast key space. Enigma, 3x3 Hill and playfair cipher were some I was preparing for. However, 8Bs complexity did not come from a large key space but from that the algorithm was unknown."

"I am very happy to have won!!", says Alex.

So are we - CONGRATULATIONS!

Electronic Questionnaires

In a new development we are trialling the annual questionnaire for each year group on Survey Monkey (hard copies available from reception upon request). Year 8 parents are the trailblazers and they should have received a link in a separate email at the time of notification of the Parents' Evening itself. Please do take few minutes to complete - the feedback we get is extremely helpful and enables us to improve our practice. If you can't find the link it may well be worth checking your spam or junk folder in case the email has gone astray in there. We will also be undertaking a revamp of the questionnaire to be more key stage specific in future.

- Mrs Hudson, Assistant Principal



Rotary News

Rotary Young Chefs

The District semi-final of the Rotary Young Chef competition was held at The Cotswold School this January.

The Rotary judge was very impressed with the high standards of this year's competitors and we are delighted that two of our Year 10 pupils have gone through to the District Final at the end of February—Lucas Butler, who came first and Grace Francis, who came second.

The Lucky Onion Group were gracious enough to provide two professional chefs from No. 131, Cheltenham to help with judging.

Lucas and Grace went on to the next round, the District Final on 26th February, with professional chefs David

Kelman (Great British Menu) and Wayne Sullivan (finalist on Masterchef the Professionals) judging the competition.

Ms Lamb says, "The competition was extremely high and Lucas and Grace were pitted against students studying catering at college.

They both did fantastically well—highlights included Lucas' pan fried mackerel starter and Grace's smoky pepper roulade—but unfortunately, didn't make it through to the next round."

Well done to you both!



Rotary Young Writers

Young writers had their talents tested by the Rotary of the North Cotswolds, in their annual Young Writers competition.

Entrants were set the task of writing a 500 word piece based on the theme of 'Reflection'. Rotarian Mike Boyes said: "Several of the young writers composed short stories around the idea of a mirror as a reflection of life. Another highly original approach observed life through the prism of a drop of water. Then there was a beautifully descriptive piece about a peaceful meadow, a place for reflection, a place to consider promises made and promises broken."

Congratulations to the winners and runners-up in the Rotary Young Writer competition, held in December 2016. Standards were impressively high with many of the entries showing considerable imagination and some commendably fluent writing, on the theme of 'Reflection'. The Senior age group winner was Rosie Bowers. In the Intermediate age group the winner was Eleanor Plater, with Mariola Rosser second and Dolly Forrester third. Our thanks to English

Teacher Mrs Lindis Dobson for her help in organising the competition, and we wish good luck to the winners in the next round.

In addition, Eleanor Plater came second in the Rotary Young Writers District competition in January. She had previously won the local competition.

Well done, Ellie!



THE GYM CENTRE CHELTENHAM

GYMNASTIC DIRECTORS: MARTIN & KERWEN COLLETT

The Gym Centre Cheltenham has been running gymnastics classes in school for many years. They currently have a few places available to pupils in Years 7, 8 and 9 on Mondays from 3.30pm. If you are interested, please contact Martin Collett directly on: 01451 820015 or via their website.



Nick Key: Flying High

Flying helicopters since he was just 14 years old, Nick Key flew solo shortly after his 16th birthday. He was one of the youngest people to have flown the R22 helicopter in UK airspace.

Nick Key is currently a student in The Cotswold School's Sixth Form and as well as aiming to achieve some excellent A level results, Nick is working towards his Private Pilot's Licence [PPL(H)]. His next goal: to complete his Commercial Pilot's Licence. With that in hand, Nick wants to work for the Metropolitan Police, piloting their air support unit.

Learning to fly helicopters is an expensive business and Nick has funded all of his lessons himself – no mean feat when you have to find £400 for every hour of flying. Despite his best efforts,

however, funding is a struggle and to make things just a little tougher, the clock is now against him.

Nick has been offered the amazing opportunity to go for his Commercial Pilot's Licence (CPL) on a scholarship. However, in order to qualify he has to first complete his PPL by July 2017. The result is: Nick must find £2,500 to pay for what he needs in order to qualify for his PPL. No matter how hard Nick works in part time jobs that fit around school hours and his A Levels, this sort of sum is out of reach.

Resourceful and focused as ever, Nick has opened a crowd funding page www.rotaryflying.com. If you, or



Helicopter Pilots License

anyone you know can help Nick, we know this driven young person would be enormously grateful for any donations given. If you would like to contact Nick to ask further questions about his flying ambitions, request his CV or view references, please email: nicksflying2000@gmail.com

Oxford Rewards Trip

By Tisa Maunder-Bushell, Year 8

Before the Christmas holidays a group of around thirty students, from years seven to nine, went on a Rewards Trip to Oxford for working extremely hard during the first term.

The day started with a trip to the Pitt Rivers Museum of Art and Archaeology, where we got to see and learn about things from Ancient Cyprus to Western Art Drawings. Next we visited Christ Church College; here we got a tour of Christ Church Cathedral and saw the famous Harry Potter staircase (great excitement for all as you can imagine). We ended the

day by exploring the Covered Market and had a chance to buy souvenirs.

A highlight of the day came on the coach ride home as Mrs Newby was kind enough to buy brownies for everyone. We had clearly all been so well behaved...thanks Miss!! We all enjoyed the trip very much and it helped motivate us to carry on working hard.

My favourite part was visiting the Pitt Rivers Museum and seeing all the interesting exhibits on display. A special thanks to all the teachers who took us and I hope to be invited to the next Rewards Trip.

Powell Sisters Reign Supreme

Niamh and Bethan Powell got the new year off to a flying start by achieving a family first - both being officially named as Gloucestershire County Club Cross Country Champions in their respective age groups for 2017!

They will now go on to represent Gloucestershire County Club Squad in Loughborough at the Nationals on 11th March, which is covered by Sky Sports each year.

Both girls also competed for the Gloucestershire County School Squad in the South West Schools Finals in Truro

earlier this month, both, once again, placing first in their respective age groups! These exceptional results now qualify them for the English Schools Finals on 18th March.

Well done Niamh and Bethan on your incredible achievements, and Good Luck for the Finals!



The Cotswold School

AUCTION OF MOST MARVELLOUS PROMISES

FRIDAY 31ST MARCH
7.30PM (DOORS OPEN 7PM)

Guest Speaker **BEN SMITH**
"401 MARATHONS IN 401 DAYS"
Plus **LOTS** of Inspiration!

TICKETS £15 ONLINE

WWW.COTSWOLD.GLOUCS.SCH.UK



Governors' Corner

Governors have once more been busy and have spent this half term discussing various aspects of School life including safeguarding at School, e-safety, wellbeing of students and staff, and monitoring of the new Sixth Form build which is due to get underway in the near future.

At this point in the year Governors also undertake a mid-year review of the school's development plan. Are we on track with our proposed objectives for the academic year? These fall in to four broad areas:

- 1) Attainment
- 2) Teaching, Learning and Assessment
- 3) Personal Development, Behaviour and Welfare
- 4) Leadership and Management.

Thank you as always to the Governors who devote so much of their time for the benefit of our school.

- Mrs Hudson, Clerk to Governors

News from MFL

Christmas and New Year were a busy time in Languages as we explored the varying traditions of different countries and for many groups this meant food tasting in one guise or another.

On the other hand it is the quieter time of year in MFL with regard to trips but peak season is fast approaching with the German and French exchanges off at the end of March followed by the French, German and Spanish Key Stage 3 trips in May. Watch this space for a report on the exchanges in the next edition!

Pupils will soon be taking part in our Vocab Express Globe Challenge when they use our vocabulary learning software not only to improve their language skills, but also to compete against other schools from all over the world. The more words they learn the more points they score – the tension will rise as we monitor the leader board, not only to see who is in first place at The Cotswold School, but also to check how we are doing against other schools. We have had considerable success at this in previous years so we are looking forward to winning further certificates. The challenge is from March 1st-8th and we will report back in the next edition.

- Mrs Hudson, Assistant Principal

Car Parking Issues

Protecting and safeguarding our pupils is paramount at The Cotswold School, therefore, could we please reiterate to parents and carers that there is **no drop off** by car on School grounds in the morning.

Soul Space

As part of the national curriculum, schools are required to enhance students' Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) development. We enhance SMSC development through the curriculum itself (such as the study of Religious Education, Philosophy, Belief and Ethics) and through extra-curricular activities too.

We were therefore very pleased to host SOUL SPACE, an event designed to 'de-mystify' the concept of prayer and provide spaces for reflection and meditation.

Throughout the day, groups of students from years 7, 8 and 9 (and some sixth form students who begged to attend too!) visited the School Hall which was set up with a variety of stations - or Soul Spaces - each representing a particular issue or concept to consider. Students could choose to take part in the activities at any of the Spaces, as they felt comfortable.

The Soul Spaces included:

1. Big Questions: a space that gave students the opportunity to express their questions about ideas, beliefs, life and death, hopes and fears.
2. Being Sorry: an activity that encouraged us to consider things we might have said or done that we regret, and the opportunity to symbolically wipe the slate clean.
3. Reconciliation Zips: zips, with two sides that can be drawn back together, represented people or communities or countries where we hope to see reconciliation and peace.
4. Finger Printing: a place to celebrate and be grateful for our individuality.
5. Mirrors: an opportunity to see and think about yourself in a positive way.

6. Prayer Wall: similar to the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem, students could post their thoughts and prayers on the wall.

7. Fizzy Forgiveness: this activity was about forgiveness and letting go of hurt and anger.

8. Cardboard Home: an opportunity to reflect upon children and young people of a similar age who live in poverty.

We were very impressed with the maturity and thoughtfulness with which our students approached this event. Thank you to Mrs Holland, Head of Philosophy, Belief and Ethics and Head of SMSC provision, for organising this visit.



Sixth Form Extension

We are pleased to inform you that planning permission has been granted on our latest building project.

Building work will soon commence on the new Sixth Form block.

Watch this space for updates!



