



GROWING SUCCESS STORIES

It is my pleasure, as Principal, to welcome you to our first edition of Cotswold News for the new academic year – a chance for me share some of our priorities for the coming year and to celebrate this fantastic school with you too.

The summer results at both A Level and GCSE were simply exceptional. After a year during which we achieved so many accolades (culminating in the 'outstanding' Ofsted ranking in March) it was wonderful to start the new academic year on such a high, with both our GCSE and A-Level attainment levels even higher than last year! To us, this is a clear demonstration of a school that is always looking to improve.

At GCSE, the percentages speak for themselves: over 90% achieved 5 or more A*-C grades; while a spectacular 78% achieved those grades including Maths and English. 38% achieved A* or A grades and nearly 50% attained their Ebacc. The Department for Education has stated that statistically, there is no better performing school than ours within 75 miles.

At A Level, with 71.4% of all grades at A*-B, our Sixth Form now ranks 14th in the Daily Telegraph's league table for comprehensive schools nationally. Once again, our Sixth Form is 1st in Gloucestershire and furthermore, it outranks comprehensive Sixth Forms in Oxfordshire, Warwickshire and Worcestershire.

As Mr White, Head of our Sixth Form said: 'To exceed 71% of grades being A* to B for the first time in the school's history is very satisfying, but it's the individual stories behind these figures that makes these results so exceptional. Students don't achieve high grades without having to overcome some challenges along the way. This cohort of young people can look forward to beginning their university courses and careers as more resilient, more mature, more confident individuals.' Through hard work and dedication from

students and staff, with support from families, we are clearly building upon our successes. The hard task ahead is to continue building.

To assist us in this we have our School Development Plan each academic year. The Plan helps us focus—and continually re-focus - on our priorities as we proceed through the coming year.

Student progress will continue to be a focal point, ensuring our students graduate from The Cotswold School with grades that reflect even stronger individual achievement. This will start with a pupil's transition when they join the school and their transition at each critical stage of their secondary education.

As well as the high quality of teaching delivered by a very talented and dedicated team, we believe the quality of marking and assessment given to students must be equally high. Over the last 2 years, much work has already been undertaken in this area of learning and we will continue to imbed it: we want students to learn from the feedback received and we want them to really respond to it to inform their future work. The experience of taking on advice and guidance and putting it into practice in work is a fantastic lesson for our young people to learn now which will help secure their successes in the future.

Always critical to student progress is behaviour. Only with appropriate behaviour can our excellent teaching and students' effective learning take place. As a result, we have further developed our 'Behaviour for Learning' policy to deliver a clear and consistent approach ... Continued on page 8



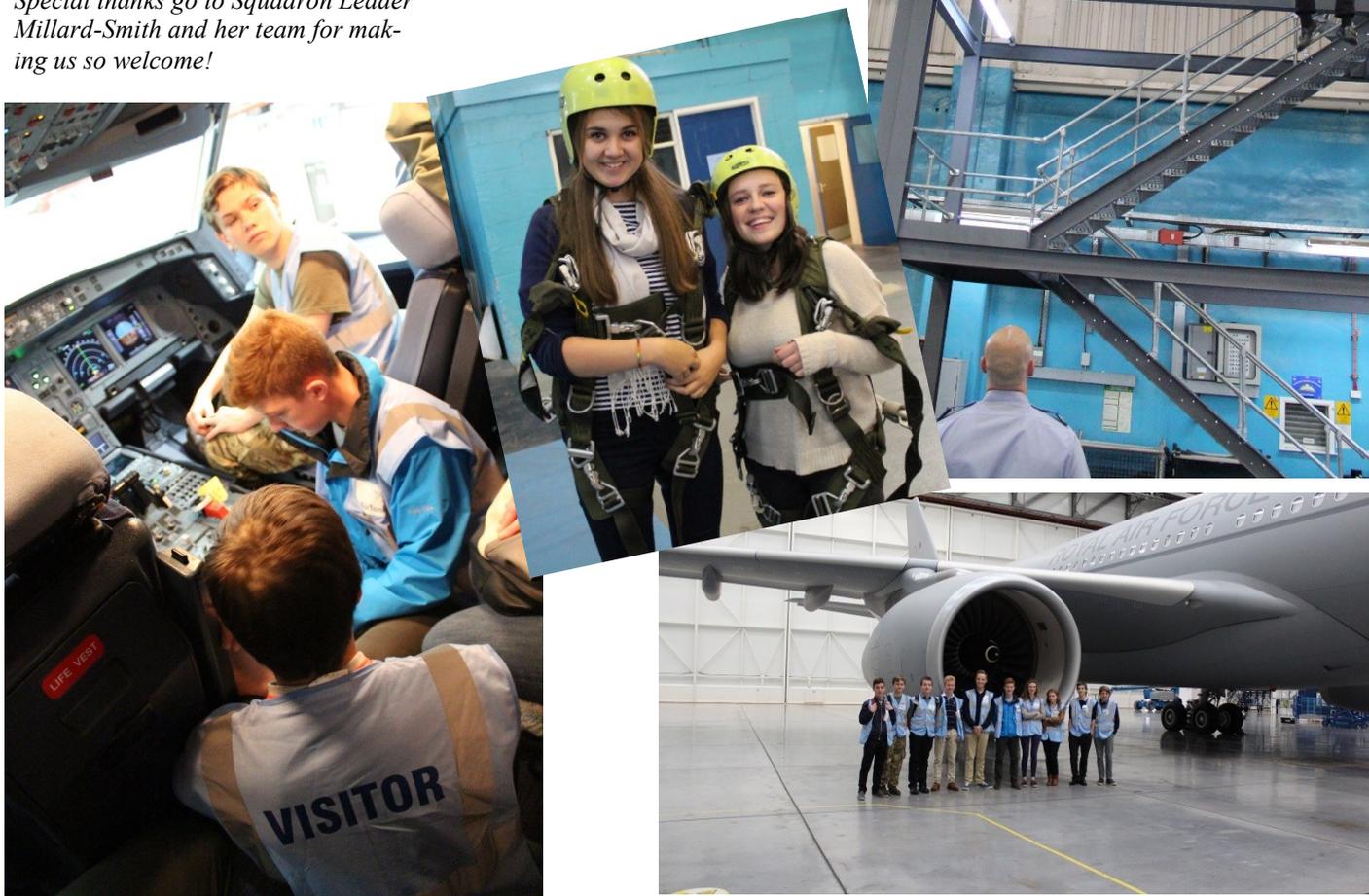
RAF FAMILIARISATION DAY

Twenty students from Years 11, 12 and 13 enjoyed an incredible day of tours, talks and activities at RAF Brize Norton, learning about just some of the careers and training opportunities available with the RAF.

The group thoroughly enjoyed their tour of Voyager – the air-to-air refuelling aircraft and passenger carrier. The air and cabin crews and engineers gave students a fantastic tour and insight into their lives and work. We also met with personnel from IT and communications, catering, physical training, the paras (who provided an opportunity to take ‘a jump’) and memorably, a survival training instructor who would give Bear Grylls a run for his money!

Our students were terrific Cotswold School ambassadors. Squadron Leader Millard-Smith, who coordinated our visit, has offered to be a direct link to the RAF for Cotswold School students interested in careers or wanting to find out more about what the RAF has to offer. If any students are interested in finding out more, please see Mrs Monteith in the courtyard office.

Special thanks go to Squadron Leader Millard-Smith and her team for making us so welcome!



SAFETY CONCERN: Parents and carers are respectfully asked not to stop, pause or park on the school's turning circle at any time and to please be mindful not to block our neighbours' drives and access roads. Whenever possible, please drop pupils off outside school grounds and allow them to walk onto the premises via one of the footpaths available.

COTSWOLD

CRICKETERS EXCEL!

Congratulations to all our talented cricketers who have been amongst those selected for Gloucestershire County and also District Level Winter Training Squads.

Amongst those selected are Milo Wills who has been selected for the U14 District Squad and also Theo Hayward for the U15 County Squad.

Particular congratulations must go to Max Shepherd who has been selected not just to join the U13 County Squad for Winter Training , but



who has also been named the **County U12s Player of the Season for 2015 .**

Congratulations, Max!

71.4% A*-B in 2015
RANKED #1 COMPREHENSIVE SIXTH FORM
IN GLOUCESTERSHIRE & 14th NATIONALLY
(Daily Telegraph, August 2015)

SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING
Thursday 5th November 2015
6.30pm – 8.30pm

6.30pm: Sixth Form Presentation, School Hall
followed by the opportunity to visit departments around the school, and meet teachers and current students.

Our Head of Sixth Form, Mr White, and the Sixth Form Management Team are pleased to invite you to The Cotswold School's Sixth Form Open Evening.

Should you be unable to attend for any reason and would like further information, please contact the Sixth Form Administrator, Mrs Jane Tanner, on sixthform@thecotswoldschool.co.uk



This year's blockbuster school production will be OLIVER!
The cast has been auditioned and rehearsals are well underway. Meanwhile preparations are being made for the show itself.

Featuring a dramatic cast, dancers, crew and musicians of over 100 pupils of all ages, *Oliver!* promises to be a sell-out on each of its four performances in February 2016, attracting a total audience of over 1000 members of our local community. The show's programme therefore offers a fantastic opportunity for advertising your business to the local market.

We are pleased to offer a range of advertising options - from raffle prize donations to print adverts of a variety of sizes, and full show sponsorship too. Our students would greatly value your support particularly as without it we simply could not afford to meet the costs of this production.

If you would like to advertise, please contact Helen Monteith via hmonteith@thecotswoldschool.co.uk for more information.

When our students look back on their years at school, it will be events like this show that will stand out in their memories. Your support helps make these events – and those memories - happen. On behalf of the students – thank you.

Mrs M Monk, Director (Head of Drama)





A PASSION FOR FASHION

Fashion guru George Davies flew in especially for the 2015 Cotswold School Annual Charity Fashion Show. Mr Davies, straight off the plane from Italy was joined on the judging panel by his daughter and designer, Alex Miskin, celebrity designer Jade Holland Cooper and The Cotswold School's own founding Textiles teacher, Mrs Helen Kempson.

As always, our fashion show is a highlight of the school calendar and this year was no exception. The catwalk show of student designed and modelled collections were applauded and cheered by a packed house and by the esteemed judging panel also.

Each year, George Davies generously supports our Fashion Show through the *George Davies Charitable Trust*. He said of the evening 'Each year I come to The Cotswold School I am impressed all over again by the imagination and abilities of these fantastic young designers. It is wonderful to meet young people who, like me, have a passion for fashion!'

Mr Davies was joined on the panel by his daughter, Alex Miskin, who is also a designer for Mr Davies' collections.

Also new to our judging panel this year was Jade Holland Cooper—founder and owner of luxury British brand Holland Cooper Clothing Limited as worn by



David Beckham, Duncan Bannatyne, Cheska Hull, Oliver Locke, Amanda Holden and event rider Laura Collett. 'I am very impressed by the school and the students.' Ms Holland Cooper said, 'I wish they'd had opportunities like this when I was a student! I would definitely have got involved.'

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Following the catwalk show, the judges went back stage to meet the designers and models and look at the garments at closer quarters.

Unlike many school Fashion Shows, The Cotswold School's requires that students design and make their own collections. Students also produce the show, market it and, having chosen a charity to support, fundraise as well. It is an event that encourages community involvement, commercial acumen, design and technological skills and it nurtures creativity.

'This year, our wonderful team of Sixth Form coordinators have chosen Pancreatic Cancer UK to benefit from the funds raised by the show. It is a charity that means a great deal to me personally,'

explained Mrs Franklin, introducing the hard-working team who co-ordinated the event: Abby Sammons, Annabelle Wheeler, Cara Wareing and Caitlin Yates.



Mr Morgan said: 'The organisation, production and quality of work produced by all the students involved is simply phenomenal. It is an enormous pleasure to attend this show each year. Everyone involved and Miss Franklin are to be congratulated. We are very grateful—and so fortunate—to have the support of Mr George Davies and



'Birds' collection which featured flowing chiffon and feathers.

Best model: While the Judges commended several of this year's student models, the prize for outstanding performance was awarded to Georgia Lock, wearing a purple and black design complete with padded carapace/bustle in the 'Insecta' collection.

The Best Collection Winner: Sophia Bayliss' 'Spanish Bullfighting' took the top prize of the evening. Her collection in fiery red, orange and gold was, designer Sophia explained, inspired by a friend in Spain. Sophia's garments were well made and beautifully embellished with extensive applique work—work that received particular praise from the judges. The collection was modelled by Sophia herself along with sister, Emily Bayliss, and friend Sophie Taylor.

Sophia was warmly congratulated by all the judges and won the coveted *George Davies Prize*.



his Charitable Trust. With his input, and that of the other judges—not to mention all the talent coming through the school—our fashion show's future is very secure indeed.'

Best Show: Wonderfully modelled by: Katie Edgerton, Georgie Lock and Immy Sneath, the 'Insecta' collection was designed by Freddie O'Sullivan and Immy Sneath. Who were inspired by the textures and colours of detailed drawings of insects. George Davies brought the team onto the stage and having met designer Freddie, told the audience: 'I am really delighted to be joined here by another male designer. Well done, to this young man! Keep it up!'

Best designs: went to gifted designers Maddy Kettlewell and Charlotte Bowles for their exquisite



We are delighted to confirm that Fashion Show 2015 has raised £2000 for Pancreatic Cancer UK. Thank you to all those who attended the show and to all those who generously donated prizes or purchased advertising in the evening's programme.—Caitlin, Abby, Annabelle and Cara (Sixth Form Show Coordinators)



Duke of Edinburgh's Award



tainment as they presented their Expedition projects to a very appreciative audience. Many thanks to the Forest of Dean DofE Expedition panel assessors Nigel Hosken, Phil Cluley and Ian Bird who gave the groups a very thorough assessment and to Mr Philips, Mr Walker, Mr & Mrs Webb, Mr Ellis, Mr Matt Smith & Mrs Neale for supervising the students over the two weekends. Participants are now finishing off their physical, volunteering and skills sections to gain their full Bronze DofE Award.

The DofE team would like to express their thanks to the PTA for making a very large contribution towards our annual DofE licence fee.

- Dr B Major



Congratulations go to Year 12 students Alessandra Vuolo and Gayatri Gulati on finally completing their very well deserved Bronze DofE Awards.

Over the summer holidays Henry Yates, Charles Gregory, Alexander Woodd, Callum Brown, Ed Miles-Marsh, Luke Pawley & Dan Mountain tackled a 4 day assessed silver expedition in the New Forest. They had some close encounters with New Forest ponies whilst camping and also overcame a continuous day of rain and a flooded campsite. Many thanks to Tony Harris from the New Forest Assessor Area Network for assessing the students.

A record number of fifty-four of Year 11 students completed their Bronze Assessed Expedition in some very pleasant September sunshine. The teams then provided a very enjoyable evening of enter-

Year 12 have also started their expedition training for the Silver Award with groups undertaking a 25km day walk around the Crickley Hill area in some fine autumnal conditions.

A record number of Year 10 students have also registered for the Bronze DofE Award and will shortly be starting their Bronze DofE Award expedition training, as well as starting their volunteer, physical and skills sections of the award.



You are warmly invited to...

the PTA AGM

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We will be forming a new committee, as well as planning events and enjoying refreshments too.

See you there!

WHEN: 6.30pm, 18th November 2015

WHERE: School Library

For more information, please contact: cotswoldpta@outlook.com

We are the MCCF regional hub for North Cotswolds!

Following a very successful first year we are extremely proud to have again been appointed to run the MCC Foundation Cricket Hub serving the North Cotswolds.



MARYLEBONE
CRICKET CLUB
FOUNDATION

Mr Turner (Boy's PE and Hub Manager) explains: 'The programme we are running is aimed at the development of the most gifted and talented players – boys and girls who attend state schools in three age groups U/12, U/13 and U/15. I am pleased to announce that we have begun our recruitment programme.'

Mr Turner has contacted local Cricket Clubs to ask for player nominations with the aim of increasing the numbers from our area of the county achieving representative honours. If you would like to know more about the programme, please contact your local cricket club or Mr Turner through school.

Focus on Futures

Our School Careers Team coordinated a number of events this half term which we hope will reap rewards for our students in the future.

Our first PSHE Day was dedicated to taking students through application and CV writing as well as interview techniques and job searching. Meanwhile, Mr Smith, as Teacher in Charge of Careers Related Learning, led a series of assemblies, ensuring everyone knows where to find all the careers advice and further education information available (on our intranet, in the library and via our school's website).

This was followed up with an information evening geared especially for parents—providing them with information and tips on how to guide and support students at home on careers and education decisions.

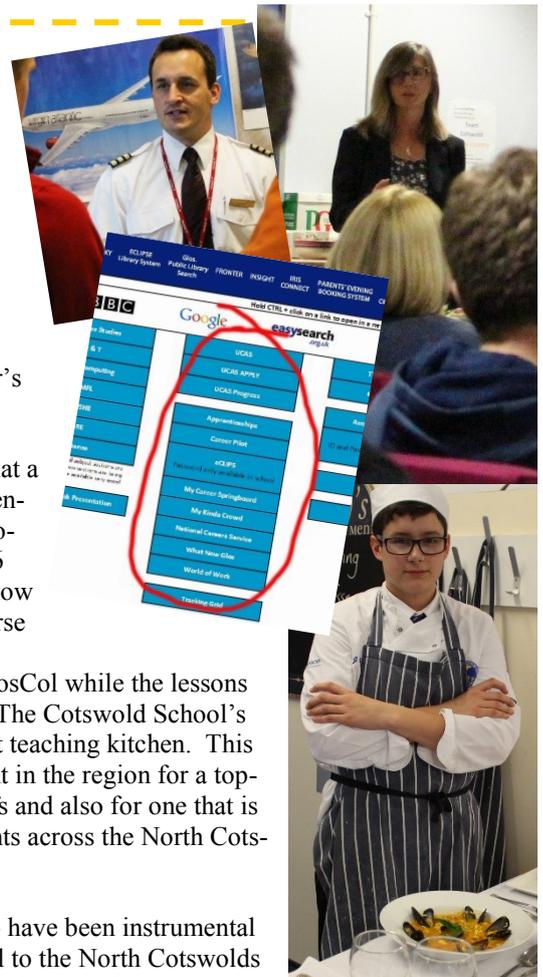
Years 9 and above were then invited to our annual Careers Evening which showcased a wide variety of career and educational pathway options designed to inspire and guide our students.

Representatives from engineering, marketing, media, real estate, aviation, medicine, teaching, publishing, car manufacture, entrepreneurs, art and design, our armed forces and more were all on hand to chat informally to students. Additionally, a number of colleges were also represented.

Our sincere thanks go to all the professionals who generously gave up their valuable time for the benefit of our students at this year's Careers Evening!

We are delighted that a Level 2 NVQ apprenticeship training programme for post-16 student chefs has now launched. The course and qualification is administered by GlosCol while the lessons are delivered from The Cotswold School's own state-of-the-art teaching kitchen. This fills a long-felt want in the region for a top-line course for chefs and also for one that is accessible to students across the North Cotswolds.

We are delighted to have been instrumental in bringing GlosCol to the North Cotswolds and hope it is the beginning of more courses—and more choice—being available and easily accessible to young people in the area.



Growing Success Stories

Continued from page 1...

across the school. We have also invested in the online system INSIGHT so that, for the first time, our parents and carers have visibility of their own child's or children's progress and rewards on a daily basis. We hope this will help all of us concentrate on individual progress and achievement, continually ensuring each student is happy and secure, focussed and engaged.

Our final over-arching aim is that ALL students develop personal skills and qualities that will see them graduate from this terrific school as effective, global citizens. Our work in this area comes under the title of SMSC (Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural) development and while already established, we are always growing it.

Taking place both in the classroom and beyond, we provide PSHE Days (that's Personal, Social and Health Education to the uninitiated), as well as opportunities for our students to work with charities and fundraise—which they do so well!

Our students have the opportunity to hear an extraordinary array of guest speakers who enrich their learning and their outlook—from local politicians to Scientists broaching life's big ethical questions, to the humbling experience of hearing the life story of a Holocaust Survivor.

In preparation for life after school, we provide professional and varied Careers, Information, Advice and Guidance while we develop our links with further education providers and the local business community too.

We are so fortunate in the number of parents and businesses—and an increasing number of alumni—who assist students by providing internships, job opportunities, and apprenticeships as well as practice interview skills, mentoring or simply as a friendly professional to whom a student can turn and ask for a little advice.

It is an enormous privilege for us to see our wonderful young people flourishing while at The Cotswold School—winning those hard earned grades and also growing in confidence as individuals. We look forward to seeing them continue to grow as they leave us and go on to follow their chosen paths.

Best wishes,
Mr W Morgan
Principal

Did you know...?

There is a Breakfast Club every morning in the canteen serving a variety of breakfast options: sausage or bacon baps, fresh fruit, brioche, toast, cereals and yoghurt. The school canteen is open every morning (before morning registration) making sure students are fuelled for learning!

Shakespeare brought alive!

Year 10 were treated to a fantastic performance by the Young Shakespeare Company who provided students with a whole new take, and greater understanding of Shakespeare's 'Macbeth'.

The Young Shakespeare Company are an inspirational touring company of professional actors who tour schools around the country. Brilliantly entertaining, the actors performed various key scenes for our students, examining character motivation and translating the text while also letting our students in on some of the secrets of theatre combat.

Our student audience were gripped and came away with a whole new view of *Macbeth* and, we hope, a greater appreciation for Shakespeare.

Thank you to Mrs Sewell and the English Department for organising this event!



News from the Clerk to Governors

Governors have been as busy as ever – more visits to departments have taken place enabling governors to discuss with pupils and teachers alike. This is a really important part of a governor's role as they are then able to report back to the Full Governing Body as to how they can best support our teachers in their day to day work.

Governors have also had a full agenda in their two major meetings this term including reviewing the school's Self Evaluation Plan and how the school did against its targets for last year's Development Plan. The new Development Plan for 2015 - 2016 has also been approved and will be reviewed twice more in the coming year. They have discussed with our School Council representatives and approved an extended service proposed by our

school nursing colleagues.

The individual committees have also been busy – **Teaching and Learning** has revamped two major policies, heard presentations about e-safety, ICT strategy and from two Heads of Department and reviewed the literacy strategy. Premises has discussed building projects and **Sports and Recreational Facilities** has been busy developing the MCC Hub links. **Finance** has been working hard on the budget and introducing the School Fund and **Pay and Performance** has been monitoring Performance Management. All committees have reviewed relevant policies for approval by the Full Governing Body. The chairs of the main committees have also come together to form the **Strategy Group** which considers different aspects of future school life. Add into this the training that we put on for

our new governors, the various school events that have been supported and you will see that it has been a very busy term.

Finally I would like to welcome on board Rev'd Kristina Scott who is the new Area Dean of the North Cotswolds and the Vicar of several local parish churches. She has accepted our invitation to become a coopted governor, following in the footsteps of her predecessor the Rev'd Veronica James. We are sorry to say goodbye to Mrs Lisa Cartlidge and Mr Martin Read who have both stepped down recently. As a result there will be an election shortly for a parent governor and details will be coming out soon.

- Mrs F Hudson, Clerk to Governors

The school wishes to thank all our Governors for their hard work over the past academic year. Their tireless support and their time, so generously volunteered, are greatly appreciated.

Collect FREE donations for
THE COTSWOLD SCHOOL
with all your online
Christmas shopping!

 **easyfundraising.org.uk**
feel good shopping

Help out when
you check out
this Christmas

Join, shop and raise here:
easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/cotswoldschoolpta



We need you to...



1. Join

Head to easyfundraising, search for us to start raising.



2. Shop

There are nearly 3,000 retailers on board, so pick the one you want and start shopping.



3. Raise

After you've made your purchase, the retailer will make a donation to us at no extra cost whatsoever!