Fantastic production of The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe delights sell-out audiences

Last week saw the culmination of weeks of hard work when audiences flocked to see The Cotswold School’s magical winter production of ‘The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe’.

The adaptation of the classic wartime children’s tale by C.S.Lewis ran for three nights on the 17th, 18th and 19th of November. 200 local primary school children also attended the dress rehearsal and had great fun.

Matching the excellence of the Lion and the Witch was the Wardrobe! This was one of many wonderful props made by Gareth Davies, our school caretaker, along with the all-important lamppost and a truly magical sleigh. Special mention must also go to Mrs Lyn Rasdall who kitted out the cast in 1940’s style – with some of the clothing being the genuine vintage article. Thanks go to Mrs Sue Dee, to the back stage team, to the lighting and sound crew and the excellent Front-of-House support.

The superb cast of thirty-three pupils, drawn from all year groups across the school, gave memorable and enchanting performances that brought the story to life.

Particular mention goes to Luke Ellis (Peter), Tess Simpson (Susan), Beci Start (Lucy) and James Lovett Turner (Edmund), together with Jack McHenry (Mr Tumnus), Ben Pearson (Aslan), Abi Ratcliff (the White Witch), Matt Cook (Mr Beaver) and Camille Smith (Mrs Beaver).

Mrs Rachel Steckbeck, Head of Drama, who directed the production (with the assistance of Mrs Laura Sewell from the English department) deserves a massive thank you for all her hard work, dedication and inspiration.

Mrs Steckbeck was delighted with the hard work of everyone involved and how wonderfully all elements had come together in three great performances. Well done to all who helped in so many ways and thank you to all those who came to support.
Fabulous fashion hits the Cotswold catwalk

This year’s Charity Fashion Show, organised by Sixth Form students Naomi Cull, Lucy Holland and Georgia Loveridge, raised almost £2000 for local charity Kate’s Home Nursing. The charity, based in Stow-on-the-Wold, supports patients with terminal illnesses in their own homes, providing vital respite for their families and carers.

The evening began with cocktails. Live jazz was performed by Sixth Form student Conrad Godfrey and Will Ingram. Sixth Form band Sid Trigger rounded off the evening. The creative talents of students of all ages were demonstrated through themes ranging from Lady Gaga to the work of Impressionist painter Claude Monet.

Prizes were awarded to Conrad Godfrey and Jim Dee for Best Male Models and Katie Lilywhite for Best Female Model. Camille Smith won the prize for Best Overall Collection and Alice Bayliss for Best Design.

Enormous thanks go to the judges—local businesswoman Emma Goodman, dressmaker Jenny Edwards-Moss and teachers Miss Amy Minchin and Miss Julie Franklin. Guests, who were each presented with a white rose as on the charity’s logo, enjoyed a wonderful evening with one comment-ing ‘I could have been in Paris watching a show; it was so thoughtfully put together’.

The Cotswold News

Congratulations to:

- Molly Birchmore, recently selected as Captain for the Gloucestershire County U15 Rugby team.
- Finlay Stanton, selected for the U13 Cheltenham Schools F.A District Squad
- Harry Lewis, Jay Taylor, Gavin Haseler and Joe Boote, selected for the U14 Cheltenham Schools F.A District Squad
- the Public Speaking Team who came 2nd in the first round of the Mace Public Speaking Competition, beating Balcarras and qualifying for the next round on 8th February 2011. Well done to Becky Bowran, Jessica Honnor and Niamh Fisher, who also won the Award for the Best Questioner.
- Jack Stevens on achieving his Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award and to Jess Dawes, Emily Dopson and James Outhwaite on attaining their Bronze Awards.
- Ex-pupil Lizzie Aldridge and her team who did a splendid job working on a new play area for the benefit of the children of Bledington

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News from the Music Department

“Piano Circus”
The world’s only permanent six piano ensemble was in the area on 11 November and two members of the group visited us in the morning. A group of piano and keyboard pupils rehearsed and performed two pieces with them, and later in the day 12 of us travelled to the evening concert in Cheltenham. Maximilian Stout said “The workshop was fun but when I heard them all playing together live it sounded really cool”.

North Cotswold Music Centre
Every Wednesday evening the school is alive with the sounds of young people making music, because the North Cotswold Music Centre has resumed after its summer break. Run by Gloucestershire Music Service, this is a great place for children to enjoy playing in ensembles and to get extra coaching from the experts. It runs from 6pm to 7.30pm - to find out more, please contact Mr Briggs.

Remembrance Day
Congratulations to Matt Lewis who played the bugle for the special Poppy Day church service in Aldsworth. He did a great job and got many compliments from members of the congregation.

Christmas is coming…
… and that means our end of term events are approaching fast. Back in Black perform in Bourton-on-the-Water on Friday 3 December; the concert at Gloucester Cathedral is Thursday 9 December; we sing Carols on the Green in Bourton on Saturday 11 December and the annual School Carol Service takes place at St Edward’s Church in Stow-on-the-Wold on Monday 13 December. We look forward to seeing you on one of these dates – the only event you need a ticket for is the Concert in the Cathedral : £10 for adults, £5 for children, available from pupil reception.

“Cotswold Music 2010” CD - Out Now
Our compilation CD features some of the school’s best ensembles performing favourite numbers from the past year, including: Back in Black, The Avenue Boys, the Saxophone Quartet, the Senior Clarinet Quartet, Chamber Choir, and The Chinese Violin Trio. 16 tracks for only £6. Reserve your copy by phoning 01451 812977 or by e-mailing Briggs@cotswold.gloucs.sch.uk
Science College News

Royal Society Chemistry Lecture
16 enthusiastic Chemists from Years 12 and 13 attended an Evening Lecture and Demonstration at the University of Gloucestershire. The event, delivered by two Lecturers from the University of Bristol, combined some Atmospheric Chemistry Theory with spectacular demonstrations including exploding hydrogen balloons and evaporating dry ice. Students were given the opportunity to smell some volatile organic compounds including chemicals derived from whale vomit and parts of a cat you’d rather not think about! This was an excellent opportunity for the students to see some familiar ideas from Chemistry in a real world context.

GCSE Revision Guides
Revision guides are now available from the science prep room for Year 10 & 11 GCSE Science students. One guide covers both years at a cost of £4. The science technicians will be selling the books over the next few weeks and pupils can call at the prep room during breaks or lunchtimes to purchase their own copy.

Year 8 show their talent in superb OXJAM Music Showcase

The event was a part of the school’s annual support for Oxfam. The total raised for Oxfam by the Showcase this year is £660 – how fantastic is that? - and further money is still coming in now. Well done Year 8 – we are proud of you.

Language College News

We are thrilled to have collected nearly 150 shoe boxes for Romanian children which far exceeds our target of 100. Many thanks to all families who contributed so generously and especially to Miss Rodda who organised lunchtime clubs. Congratulations to 7CJ who did the most for us with 26 boxes, though they were hotly pursued by 7SHA who came a close second!

Our French exchange has been with us recently and we are thrilled to have welcomed 23 pupils and two teachers from Lannion. These are now an established part of our school calendar and it was excellent to have record numbers wanting to take part. Everyone was warmly welcomed in the families and at school. We had an enjoyable joint trip to London and other ventures included Stratford, Warwick, Bath, the school play and a cream tea. They also experienced an Assembly and sampled a School Dinner courtesy of Mrs Wrightson and her team. We were pleased to welcome Monsieur Siche, the Deputy Head of our exchange school, who came over to compare the way the two school systems work. Thank you to all the families, to Mrs Hudson for organising it and also to Pulhams for driving us around.

Over half term 25 of our Italian and senior History of Art students had a fabulous 5 days in Tuscany. Despite dire weather predictions, we only got wet once. We went to Pisa and Lucca, (including a pizzeria experience and a trip up the Leaning Tower.) We saw beautiful Sienna and San Gimignano (the medieval skyscraper town). We went to Florence by train where we visited the Uffizi gallery, the famous street market, covered market and the Boboli Gardens. We also found time to climb up to the top of the Cathedral to inspect its renowned Dome at close quarters. The sixth form History of Art group visited several other famous churches and galleries and said that this had really helped with their A Level studies. Thanks to Mrs Hudson for organising and leading the trip and to Miss Rodda, Dr Cox and Miss Minchin for their support.
Cotswold School Association News

Our first Family Quiz night was a great success, and thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended. The Scrambled Eggheads won the prize for the best name, with the overall Quiz winners being the School Owld Scots (can you spot the anagram?). Winners of the wooden spoons were the Beadle-Burghs. Our thanks go to the Marchant family for devising and running the Quiz, which raised nearly £220.

Cadbury World visit gives students a boost

38 OCR National and GCSE Business Studies students in Years 10 and 11 recently enjoyed a valuable and fun-filled marketing trip to Cadbury's World, Bourneville, Birmingham. The visit focused on a range of topic areas crucial to students’ courses, including Market Research, Branding, Promotion, Customer Service, Consumer Law and Health and Safety in the Workplace. Did you know that:

- 500,000 litres of milk are used each day to make Cadbury's chocolate.
- Kraft, the US food giant, bought Cadbury for £11.9 billion in January 2010! Did you own shares before the take-over? Is this good for our UK economy?
- A kilogram of Cadbury's Dairy Milk contains a staggering 5250 calories.
- Cadbury's Dairy Milk is the nation’s number one favourite chocolate bar, bringing in £450 million in sales per year!
- Market research tells Cadbury's that males want to fill up in three chomps and want a big bar packed with nuts and fruit such as Yorkie, (Nestle) Boost, Snickers (Mars), whilst females like to taste and enjoy something, like a Flake, Twirl (Loretta’s favourite) or Galaxy (Mars). Is this true?

School Christmas Lunch

This year’s school Christmas Lunch is on Wednesday 1st December. The cost of the tickets is £3.20 and must be purchased from the canteen. There will be no snack bar at 11.30am and no other food will be served at lunchtime, so all pupils not having a school Christmas lunch must being sandwiches. Pupils will not be allowed to leave the school site to purchase food.

Outstanding Academy Status Recognised

Mrs Holland attended 10 Downing Street on Wednesday 17th November to meet with Rt. Hon David Cameron in recognition of the school's status as an Outstanding Academy.

Save Money and Save the Environment!

If you are thinking of installing some form of alternative energy in your home (eg solar panels, wind generator etc) or are just interested in getting information we will be having an ALTERNATIVE ENERGY EVENING on Wednesday 1st December from 5.30 pm to 6.30 pm in room S8. Pupils and parents are most welcome to attend and refreshments will be provided. There will be short talks and displays on:

- the history of alternative energy
- modern developments, including types of available systems, installation costs and grants available.
- energy conservation and alternative energy used in The Cotswold School

For more information please contact Mr T. Kemp at the school (tel:01451 820554) or email: tkemp@mail.cotswold.gloucs.sch.uk

DIARY DATES — December 2010

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| Wednesday 1st December | School Christmas Lunch  
Alternative Energy Evening, 5.30pm, S8 |
| Friday 3rd December  | Back in Black performing at Bourton Victorian Evening  
Year 9 Grade Card to parents |
| Wednesday 8th December | Year 11’s Senior Citizens’ Christmas Party |
| Thursday 9th December | ‘Spirit of Christmas’ concert at Gloucester Cathedral |
| Friday 10th December | Non-Uniform Day (in support of Tommy’s’s) |
| Saturday 11th December | Carols on the Green—11.00 am |
| Monday 13th December  | School Carol Service, 7.30pm, St.Edward’s Church, Stow-on-the-Wold |
| Wednesday 15th December | ‘Warhorse’ Theatre trip, departs 4.15pm |
| Friday 17th December  | Year 12/13 2nd Grade Card to parents  
School finishes for Christmas holiday, 2pm (Return: Wed 5th January) |