

THE
COTSWOLD
SCHOOL

A Term to be Proud!

Christmas is a time for celebration and reflection and I would like to take this opportunity to thank our whole school community for the hard work and generosity that I see everyday.

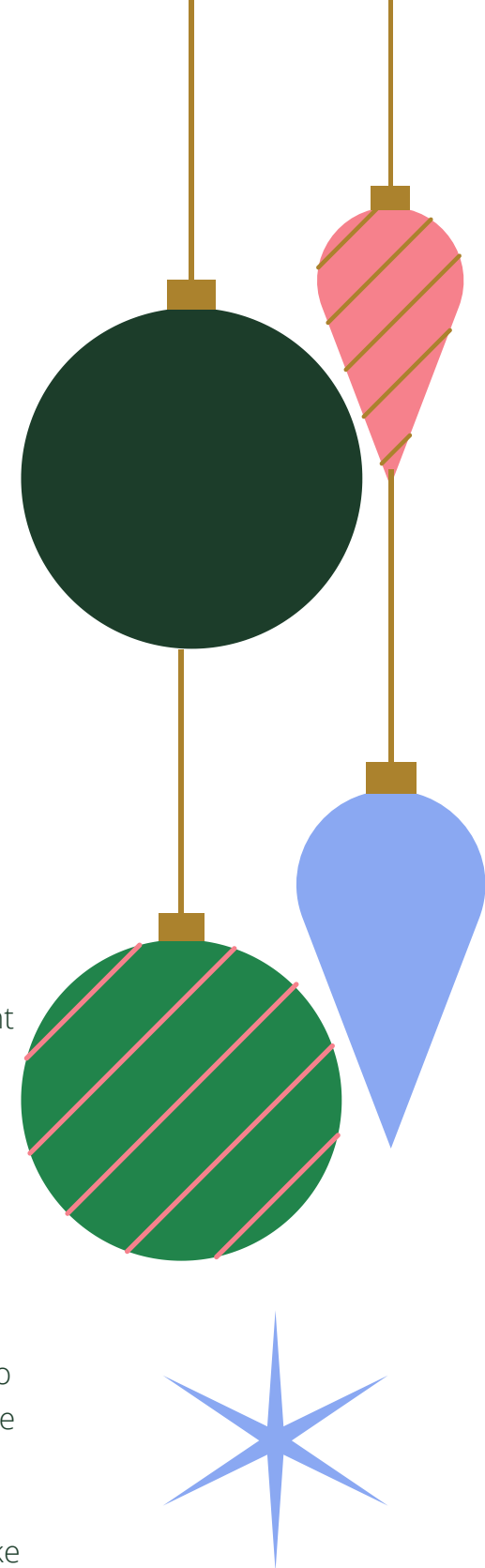
I am extremely proud of everyone at school who has embraced this term with enthusiasm and a smile. This includes our Year 11 students who sat their GCSE mock examinations, and the staff and families who have supported them.

I would like to start by remembering Jenny Illingworth. Jenny was a much loved member of staff and since her appointment in 2010, Jenny was a very dedicated member of our SEND Department, her work making such a difference to so many pupils. A book of condolence was opened up at school and passed onto Jenny's husband and sons.

I hope you have enjoyed some of our events, such as our Christmas Concerts and the fantastic PTA Christmas Wreath Making Workshop. Over the next few pages you will be able to read about some of the incredible achievements that both the school, groups and individuals have made.

It is a pleasure to work at The Cotswold School and I would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and I look forward to seeing you in the New Year.

Will Morgan
Headteacher



Southwest Comprehensive of the Year

We are delighted to announce that The Cotswold School has been named Southwest Comprehensive School of the Year in the 30th edition of Parent Power, The Sunday Times Schools Guide 2023.

The award, published annually, identifies the highest-achieving schools in the UK, ranked by examination results from 2021/2022 - based on the percentage of A-Level results at A*-B and GCSE's at 9-7.

To be the top performing comprehensive in the Southwest, and to feature as one of the very best schools in the UK this year, is an incredible achievement for all involved in our school.



As a school, our ethos is to provide exceptional teaching for every student where they can thrive, academically and socially, in an inspiring, caring and inclusive community. We know that these outcomes are a product of students feeling happy, supported and well taught in an enriching environment. This will enable us to create the brilliant futures our students deserve.

Progress Success



We were extremely pleased to receive our latest set of data from the Government, revealing that the GCSEs achieved by our students in the summer were amongst the very best in the country!

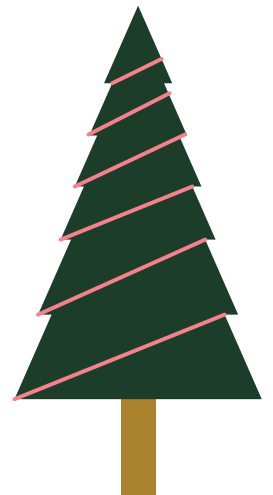
Our 'Progress 8' score, a measure of how much each student has improved since leaving primary school, at +0.51, showed that each qualification achieved by our Year 11s was, on average, more than half a grade higher than those of their peers from across the country. Furthermore, for over a quarter of our students, outcomes were more than a whole grade better than the national average. Every student contributed to this success, not just those who achieved Grade 8s and 9s. It is a huge accolade for our school and our students, whose hard work clearly paid off.



These accolades show what can be accomplished by a great school community, with fantastic students, supportive families, and brilliant teaching. Well done to all!

Awards Evening

One of the early highlights of the new academic year was the recognition of progress, effort and achievement that we celebrated at The Cotswold School Awards evening. We were delighted to welcome Baroness Jan Royall of Blaisdon, Principal of Somerville College, Oxford, as our inspiring guest speaker.



Congratulations

It has been wonderful to hear about individual successes so far this year; sporting, creative or academic. Congratulations to all of those students, you should all be very proud. You can read more about these achievements, and more, in our **Latest News** section.



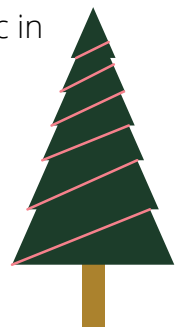
Well done to Year 12 student, Jonas, who has been awarded an Arkwright Engineering Scholarship - the Scholarship is the most prestigious one of its type in the UK.



Congratulations to Sixth Form student, Isla, who has been awarded 3rd prize in the Sir Martin Gilbert History Prize 2022. The competition received a high calibre of entries and Isla was commended for her excellent essay.



Following auditions, Sixth Former Emily is now part of the National Youth Harp Orchestra of Great Britain. Emily will perform across the UK, including at the Royal College of Music in London.



Are you proud of something that you have achieved? Do you have an interest or hobby you'd like to share?

Please email marketing@thecotswoldschool.co.uk

Macmillan Fundraising

Thanks to the fantastic generosity of staff, students, parents and carers, we have raised over £3000 for Macmillan Cancer Support.



OVER
£3000



North Cotswold Foodbank

A massive thank you to everyone for their generosity in donating to the North Cotswold Foodbank - your donations make a real difference to people in the local community!



Thank you to our school community, we appreciate all of your support!

PTA Funding & Volunteering

We would like to say a huge thank you to members of the PTA who generously volunteer their time to organise wonderful events such as; tea and cakes at Chastleton House teas; Summer car parking, and the fabulous festive wreath making workshop. Thank you to all of our parents, carers and staff who support these events, the PTA couldn't do it without you!



Last year, the PTA raised an amazing **£16,000!**

Car parking, over **£6,000** raised across 10 car parking days

Chastleton Teas, over **£2,000** raised across 7 days.

Christmas Wreaths, over **£1,000** raised on one night of wreath making.

Christmas Raffle, over **£1,000**.

Car Boot Sale, over **£1,000** raised on one day of car boot fever!

Bar takings, over **£1,000** raised from drink sales on various evening events at the school.



What is planned for 2022/23?

We will continue with our 500 Club, launched in November.

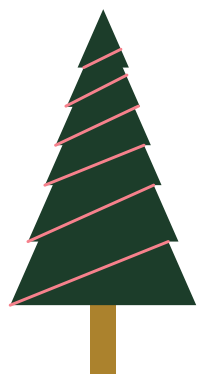
Last year's events will run again, but with more volunteers the PTA could put on extra days and raise even more money. The key project that we will be fundraising for in 2023 will be for a new astro turf pitch.



Can you bake and sell? Can you spare a couple of hours to help on car parking duties?

If you can spare an hour or two next year, please email the PTA.

PTA@thecotswoldschool.co.uk



VEX Robotics

It has been a busy few weeks for all of our fantastic robotics teams. In November, our Year 8 robotics teams competed in a schools' coding and robotics championship, VEX IQ Competition, held at The Cotswold School.

It is the first time the Year 8 teams have entered the competition and all of our teams were amazing, winning the design award and individual and teamwork awards. Congratulations to 'TCS Vextreme' who are through to the National Championships in March.



Rotary Young Chef

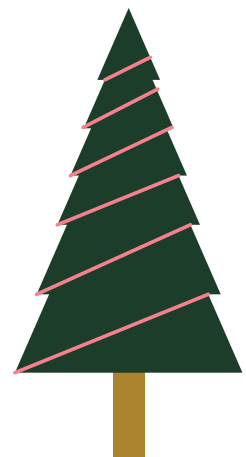
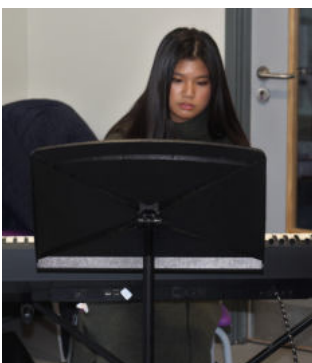
In November, Year 9 students Emily, Flavia and Lorna, and Year 10 students Izzy and Oliver, took part in the first round of the Rotary Club Young Chef Competition 2022/23, sponsored by Filippo Berio.

All of the menus were excellent, but there could only be one overall winner. Izzy will go through to the district final in February. Well done to all of our students - next stop Master Chef!



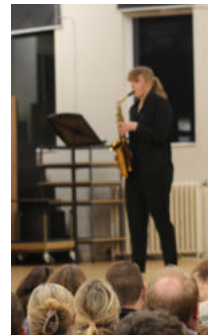
English Block Opening

In November, we were delighted to welcome Emma and Simon Keswick to officially open The Cotswold School English Block, unveiling a plaque in recognition of Emma and Simon's support for our school, and the newly named 'Keswick Room'. To read more visit our **Latest News**.



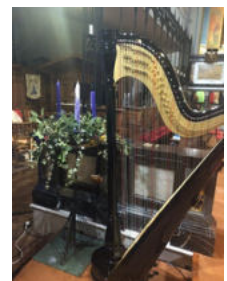
Music

It was wonderful to welcome Pete Woollard, Assistant Musical Director at Wicked, who ran a vocal workshop with our choir and students from local primary schools. A concert was held during the evening involving students from the daytime vocal workshop, Back in Black, other school groups and selected soloists. Thank you to all of those involved, you were amazing!



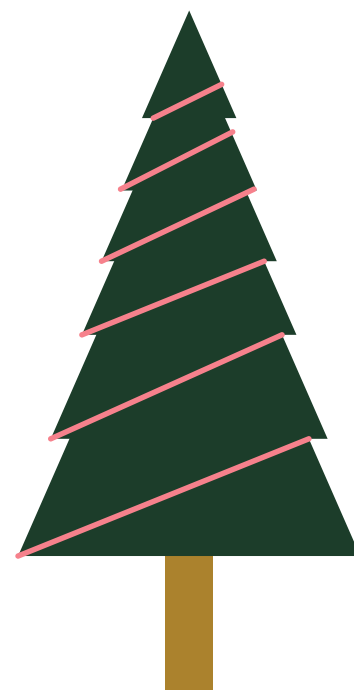
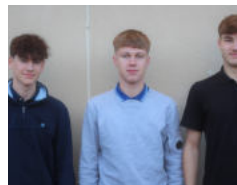
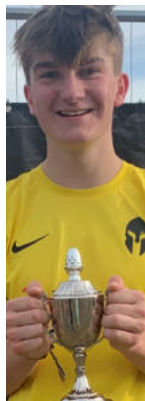
Christmas Concerts

It was fantastic to welcome our school community to our Christmas Carol Concerts at St Lawrence Church, Bourton and Christ Church in Cheltenham. Thank you to all those involved.



Sports Reports

Well done to all of our teams and individuals on their successes so far this year. You can read **Sports Results and Match Reports** on our website, and read more fantastic stories by viewing **Latest News**.



Year 10 Rugby

Well done to our Year 10 Rugby team who won 17-14 against St George's School, Harpenden, and are through to the 5th round of the RFU Vase competition next year. Great play from the whole team! We will keep you up-to-date with how they get on.

If you have a sporting achievement that you would like to share, email marketing@thecotswoldschool.co.uk

Visits and Trips

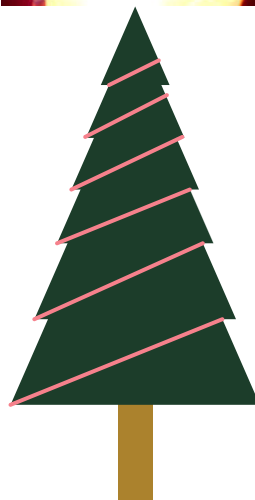
We have been very fortunate to welcome a variety of visitors to school. We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who has given up their time to support our students by giving careers advice and talks, and also for those who have entertained us. Students have also been on Art, History, Geography, Drama, English trips and many more! To view our upcoming trips, please view our [Trips Overview](#).



STEM Workshop

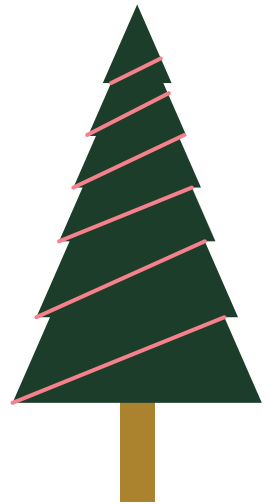
A pinch of wonder, a splash of STEM, mixed with a liberal dose of fun and engagement and you have Science here at the Cotswold School!

The term ends on a bang, literally, with a highly charged, explosive rocket show by Wonderstruck Science. Our Year 9 students watched in awe as the science of forces was demonstrated to them before their eyes. Thanks to Mrs Lewis who, with Ogden Trust funding, enabled the school to invite some of our local primary schools, with over 155 Year 5 and 6 pupils from 4 primary schools in attendance. Highlights have to be a CO2 rocket powered car, expertly piloted by a Stow Primary pupil and a human jet pack ignited by our very own Mr Ockleston!



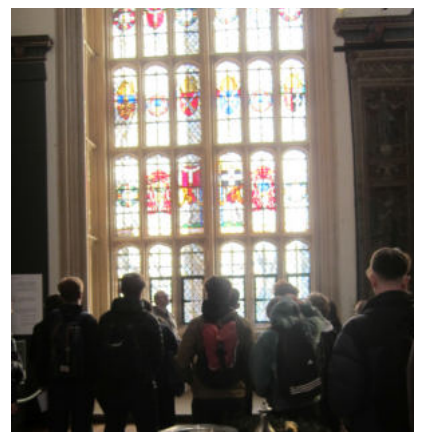
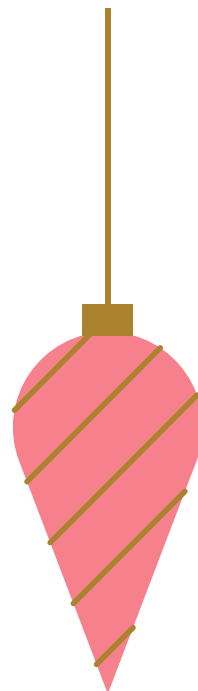
Bourton Vale Equestrian Centre

Each week a group of students visit Bourton Vale Equestrian Centre to gain hands on experience with ponies. Students learn skills such as; bringing in, turning out and grooming, feeding, first aid, mucking out and tacking, so that at the end of the course every student will be confident and proficient in horse care.



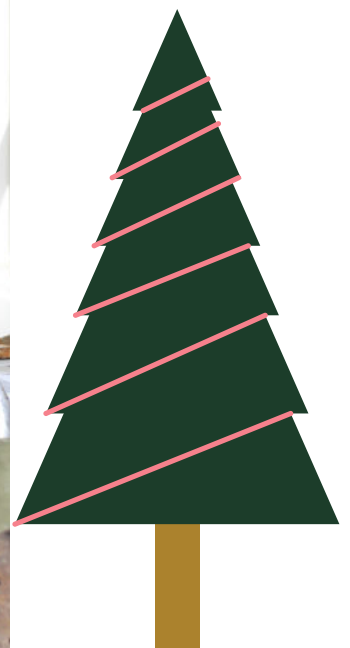
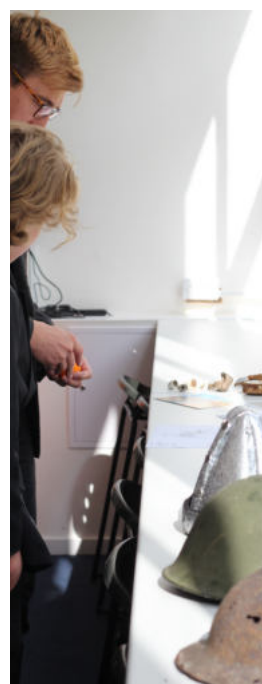
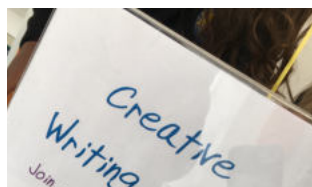
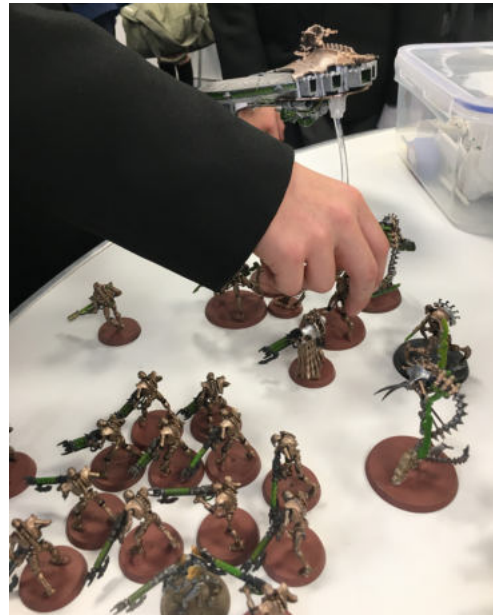
Hampton Court Palace

On 7 December, Year 12/13 historians undertook a very Christmassy (but informative!) trip to Hampton Court Palace.



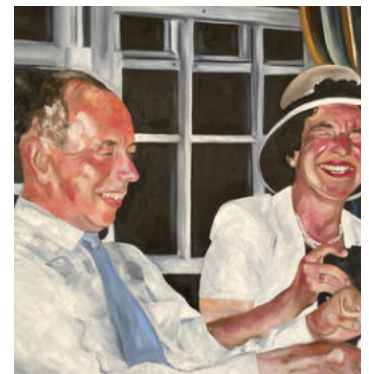
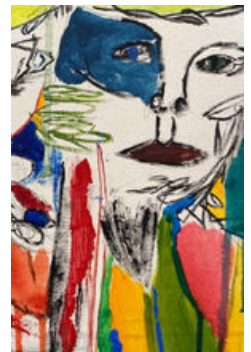
Clubs and Activities

We are very fortunate to be able to offer a variety of clubs and activities from sports clubs to green club, creative writing, orchestra, art, jewellery making, LGBTQ+ and debating club, plus many more! A full list of the clubs and activities that what is on offer is available on our website.



Student Art Gallery

Don't forget to view our art galleries to see students amazing work.



Drama Update

The Drama Department have had a busy term with lots of exam work, rehearsals and theatre trips.

Practical Exams (component 1 practical exams) Our GCSE Drama students completed one of two practical exams this term, with a scripted performance next February in front of a visiting examiner. Year 12s performed monologues and dialogues as part of their AS Level exam.



Theatre Trips 30 A-Level and GCSE students went to see a version of Othello by Frantic Assembly, Oxford Playhouse.

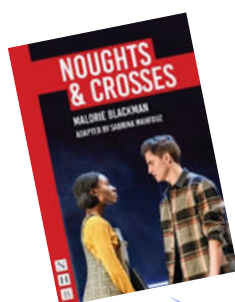
Year 8 Drama Club – The Christmas Carol

During the last week of term, our Year 8 Drama club, run by our Year 12 AS Level Drama students, put on an amazing version of The Christmas Carol in the school theatre



Connections Production – Strangers Like Me by Ed Harris

In conjunction with the National Theatre, the Drama department has had our first half term of rehearsals for our school show. During half term, Miss Lawrie-Plews and Mrs Roberts attended workshops at the National Theatre in London and met the playwright Ed Harris, who provided invaluable insight on how to navigate his play.



Information on tickets will be available soon.



Upcoming

26th January Year 10 GCSE Drama students - Noughts and Crosses, Belgrade Theatre, Coventry.

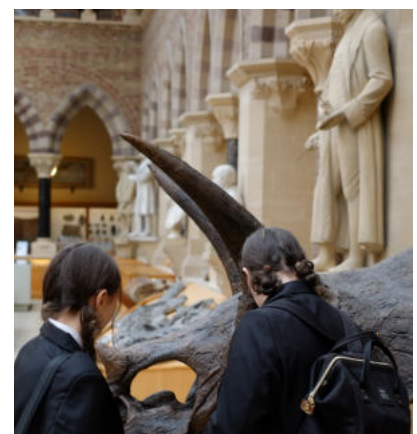
3rd February Year 11 GCSE students/ Year 13 A-Level - Harry Potter and the Cursed Child, Palace Theatre, London.

March 2023 Years 11,12,13 - Pride and Prejudice, Everyman Theatre, Cheltenham



Latest News Online

We have lots of news that we are really proud of; sports, trips, creativity and academic successes involving teams and individuals, plus much more! Click here to read our **Latest News**.





Dates to Remember

Term Dates 2023

Term 3 - 4 January - Friday 17 February

Term 4 - 27 February – Friday 31 March

Term 5 - 17 April – Friday 26 May

Term 6 - 5 June - Friday 21 July

Inset Days

3 January

24/25 July

Useful dates for this term – Parents Evenings

5 January Y12

19 January Y9X

25 January Y9Y

Second Hand Uniform Sale

School Hall - Monday 16 January, 3.30 pm

Recruitment

We are recruiting for a number of staff roles, including a Business and Economics Teacher, D & T Technician, Teaching Assistants, Catering Assistant and Exam Invigilators. Visit our **recruitment page** for further details.

Please visit our website if you'd like to know more about **The Cotswold Teacher Training Partnership**.

The Cotswold School

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