

Spring Newsletter

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

During the last term we have been fortunate to celebrate the achievements of many students and the activities they have taken part in - representing their passions and ambitions in sports, leadership, creativity and academia.

Thank you to all of our students who have been working hard over the past term. Well done to Year 11 and 12 students who have recently completed mock exams, and to Year 13s who are preparing for mock exams in April - this is in addition to the plenty of practice of exam questions they are doing throughout April and May, in preparation for public exams. You should all be really proud of your hard work and mature approach, I know I am.

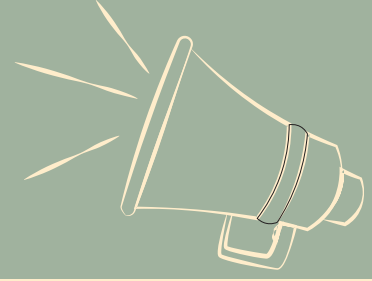
To staff and the wider community, thank you for often going above and beyond to support students both in school and in extra curricular activities.

Wishing you a peaceful and restful Easter.

Will Morgan
Headteacher



Updates



Year 9 GCSE Options

Year 9s have chosen their options over the past couple of weeks - thank you to students, parents and carers. We will be in touch if there are any problems with options fitting into the proposed timetable blocks. If you do not hear from us, your child will be able to study their first choice combination.

Parent Survey

Thank you to everyone who responded to the recent annual parent survey, your feedback is much appreciated. We use the results of the survey, as well as the regular feedback we receive, to support future planning of the school. We are delighted that many of you are pleased with a significant proportion of what we are doing – 91% of parents and carers would recommend The Cotswold School, and 91% agree or strongly agree that their child is happy at school. Although the majority of you are happy with the aspects of school life that were surveyed, we are aware that there are some areas that we could further improve on. We are keen to address these in order to ensure that everything we do here is positive and inclusive. Full survey feedback will be available soon.

Governor Update - April News

In February, the Full Governing Body had its fourth meeting of the year. Other committees met regularly too. All Governors received presentations from key staff (and also from the Sixth Form students on School Council), reviewed policies and asked challenging questions of the leadership on a range of topics; from academic progress for all pupils to curriculum updates; performance management to staffing updates; financial and building progress to wellbeing; safeguarding and pastoral care; plus much more.

Our two new Governors, Mr Burgess and Captain Evanson, joined the Teaching and Learning Committee and had their first committee meeting this month; they have also just completed their Governor training. We said goodbye to Dr Emsley, who we have had the privilege of being on the Full Governing Body for two full terms, eight years in total. Mr Backhouse now takes over chairing the Finance Committee.

The next Full Governor Meeting in May will be looking at the School Self Evaluation Document, which feeds into the next School Development Plan.

Governors are continuing with subject visits around the school. These visits enable Governors to see the school day in progress and are able to monitor actual results against predictions, and to discuss with Heads of Department. It's also a good opportunity to talk to students and get a feel for how they respond to their learning. Visits are such an important part of the role, each Governor is assigned a department and reports back to the Full Governing Body on their findings, thereby allowing everyone to have a good understanding of the departments.

On behalf of the Governors, may I wish you all good wishes for a very Happy Easter.

Andrew Parker
Chair of Governors



Next Steps



The Cotswold School sent off a fantastic 128 university applications by the 25 January UCAS deadline – mostly from current Year 13s and some from those who left the school in the past two years.

Mr White, Head of Sixth Form and Deputy Head at The Cotswold School, said "we're pleased to see the university offers that are coming in for all our students – it is a real boost for them as they approach the final few months before their summer exams.

Likewise, it's a pleasure to support those applying for Art Foundation courses, Apprenticeships or planning their gap years."

Well done to all of those that applied and undertook rigorous interviews for Oxford and Cambridge Universities. This year, four students from The Cotswold School have received offers to study their chosen subjects. Congratulations to Tori, who received an offer to study at Oxford and to Annabel, Ethan and Ella, who have offers from Cambridge.

There have been fantastic offers received by many students. Offers include;

Architecture - Rudy (Glasgow School of Art and Sheffield) and Millie (Nottingham and Reading);
Chemistry - Daniel (Imperial College London);
Animation - Verity (Falmouth University);
Medicine - Annabel (Angela Ruskin University).



Individual Success



Maya and Bishop Rachel

Maya (Y12), a member of the UK Youth Parliament for Cotswolds and Stroud, recently visited the House of Lords with the Bishop of Gloucester, Rt Revd Rachel Treweek.



DofE Volunteering

As part of his DofE volunteering, Rufus (Y9), has joined the Evenlode Catchment Partnership (ECP) as a citizen scientist.



Joss' hard work pays off

Joss (Y11) competed in the NSEA Gloucestershire County SJ Qualifier, West Wiltshire and is now Gloucestershire County Champion, qualifying for The Oliver Bonas County Show Jumping Finals, held at Hickstead in May.



Harpist Success

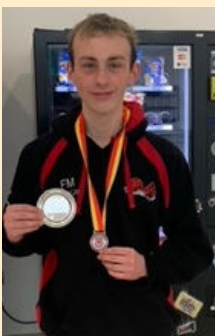
Well done to Reuben (Y12) who will be rehearsing with the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain during the Easter holidays.



Having only taken up harp lessons in September, Bo (Y7) won the Grade 1-2 category at the Bristol Festival of Music and Drama Harp Classes 2023.

Racing to the top

Sam (Y9) came 4th out of 26 of the top UK driver competitors in the UK at the Junior Grand Prix Final at Sherington Kart Racing Club.



Well done to swimmers Fin and Immie (Y10) who have had a great start to the year. Congratulations also go to Isaac (Y8), a Stratford Boat Club adaptive member. Isaac recently joined nearly 2000 other young people at the Copper Box Arena in London for the National Junior Indoor Rowing Championships, setting a new PB in the Y8 boys (able-bodied) category and also finishing fifth in the Y8 SEND category.

Visit [Latest News](#) to read more.

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



Year 13 Mud Run



Our annual Y13 mud run was a huge success. Blue skies, fantastic costumes, lots of mud and plenty of laughs! Thank you to everyone who organised the event and made sure that the course was suitably wet and muddy.



Fundraising



The Cotswold School is often at the heart of village events. Our sporting facilities benefit the local community and are used every day, seven days of the week, by many local clubs.

Built in 2005, our Astro turf is entering its eighteenth year and is in desperate need of resurfacing. Our goal is to replace the Astro over summer 2024 and, as such, we are looking to raise £200K towards the project, ensuring our Astro pitch is fit for purpose and that it remains accessible to all.

With our fundraising already underway, we have been overwhelmed with the initial response, with families purchasing 1m² Astro squares, as well as raising over £3,000 at our PTA Bingo and Quiz Nights! Going forward, we will be pitching to the Community Fund for match funding via Spacehive and the PTA will be running more events - our next event is **'The Cotswold School Grand National Race Night'** on Friday 28 April.

We know that this is an ambitious target, but we are confident that together we can achieve it. If you are an individual or local business that would like to help, please get in touch with Mrs Tye mtye@thecotswoldschool.co.uk

Visit our [website](#) for more information.

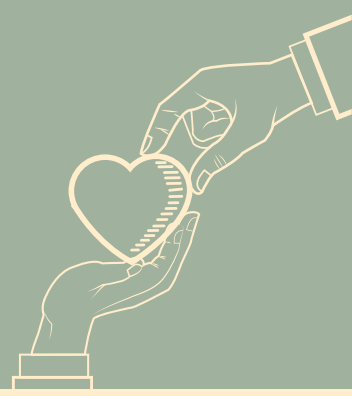
Thank you to everyone that has helped in our fundraising efforts so far, to school staff, our fantastic PTA and to the wider community - we couldn't do it without your support!



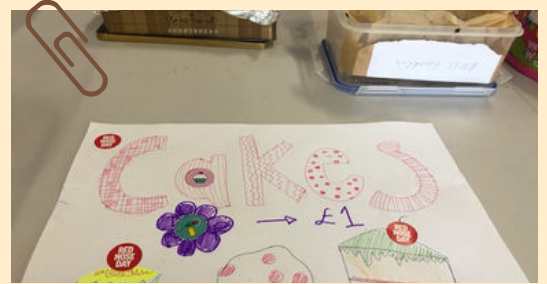
Can you bake and sell? Can you spare a couple of hours to help on car parking duties? If you can spare an hour or two this year, please email thecotswoldschoolpta@gmail.com



Fundraising



Where's Wally', cake sale and a Staff vs Sixth Form football match! Thank you to Sixth Form students for organising and to everyone that has supported us to raise £1700 for Comic Relief.

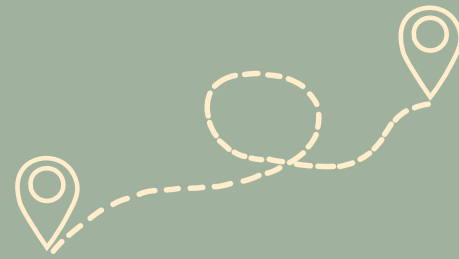


Climbing High

Well done to Ellie (Y12) and Sam (Y10) who climbed the O2 and raised just over £1150 for Heart Heroes!



Trips and Activities



We have been very fortunate to welcome a variety of visitors to school and to have enjoyed many external trips and activities. To view our upcoming trips, please view our [Trips Overview](#).



AlterEgo - County Lines play



German Exchange with Staatliche Realschule Miesbach



ZeroAvia



Year 9 and 10 Aspire Groups - Ruth (speaker), Robinson College, University of Cambridge



Women in Economics



Speakers for Schools



Ski Trip



Relics of War



Bryony Pearce, author

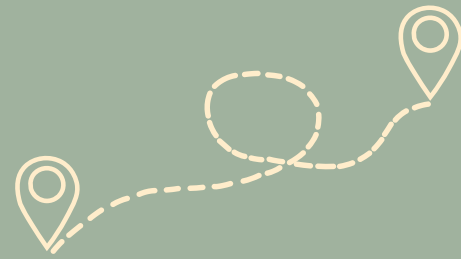


Year 13 Madrid Work Experience

To find out more, visit the [Latest News](#) section on our website.



Careers Programme



Each Spring, as part of our Careers Programme, guest speakers from a range of industries come in to talk to our students. To date, students have been given the opportunity to listen to careers talks from Sophie Taylor a Sustainability Consultant at ClimatePartner UK Ltd; Dan Goren, Source Music Services, the core work of which is to deliver the publishing enterprise 'Composers Edition' which serves contemporary composers and musicians; and Ruth Collier who is in her sixth (and final) year of training to be a psychotherapist.

Upcoming talks include; outlining tax, auditing and financial services from KPMG Director John Theis; and trade apprenticeships from Oliver Schofield at JTL.

Year 11s also took part in practice interviews, allowing them the opportunity to talk about their achievements and aspirations for the future.



Thank you everyone that has given their time to provide careers talks and to those who helped with the Year 11 practice interviews. Your time and support are much appreciated.



Combined Cadet Force



The Cotswold School **Combined Cadet Force** (CCF) RAF Section has moved one step closer to launch with Mrs Lewis, Miss Trott and Mr Ind all passing their Board Interviews.

CCF is an educational partnership between The Cotswold School, the Ministry of Defence and the Royal Air Force section. There are CCF groups in over 500 secondary schools over the UK, offering a range of exciting, challenging, educational and adventurous activities to young people. It will be launched to students in the summer term, ready for our first parade in September 2023. Opportunities offered to students will include glider flying, marksmanship and CCF Camps.

Initially, the programme will be open to those students who start Year 9 in September 2023. If students are cadets outside of school, they will still be able to apply. We also welcome cadets in Key Stage 4 who would like to become Non-commissioned Officers (NCOs).

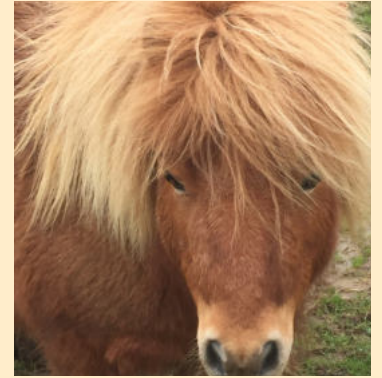


Outdoor Learning



Each week groups of students take part in activities including practical outdoor skills, as well as visiting Bourton Vale Equestrian Centre to gain hands on experience with ponies.

Outdoor learning activities enable students to try new skills, measure and take risks, enhance problem solving skills, whilst developing confidence and social skills.

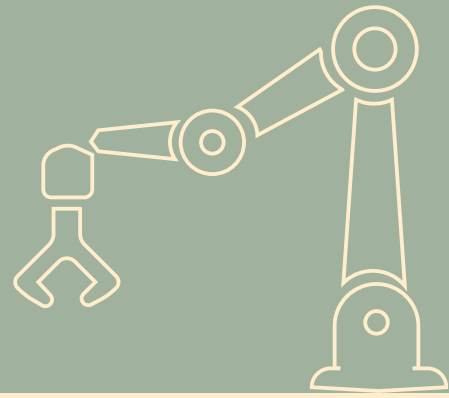


Gardening Club

Earlier in the term, Gardening Club had fun planting seeds; carnations, foxgloves, poppies, nasturtiums, cosmos, basil and tomatoes. With raised beds, planters and pots, our school is set to be a real splash of colour this summer!



Vex Robotics National Championships



Our Robotics teams have had a great start to the year! Well done to our Year 8 teams who did really well at the recent championships. Thank you to Mr Kelly for running the Robotics Club, passing on his expert knowledge and enabling our teams to have these opportunities!





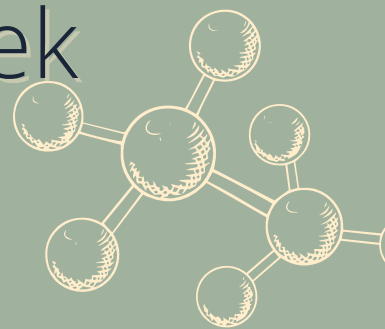
Car Challenge

24 Year 9 Design and Technology students took part in a school car challenge, supported by former student Ralph Dale who now works for the Maclaren Formula One Team. Pupils had to design and build their cars, test them for strength and stability, and then prepare them for the series of races to decide the overall winners.



Visit [Latest News](#) for more information.

Pi Day, British Science Week and Green Fortnight



Pi Day 2023! Pi Day is an annual opportunity for enthusiasts to recite the infinite digits of Pi. Congratulations to Ben (Y7), Theo (Y8), Rufus (Y9), Joey (Y10) and Luca (Y13), you were all phenomenal! Well done to Joey, who recited Pi to 265 decimal places!



Our science labs were full of Year 7 parents, carers and children enjoying activities in British Science Week!

To view more [click here](#).

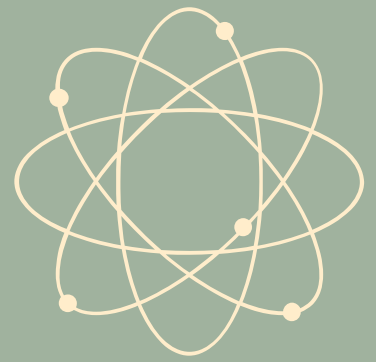


The school's Eco-Council is working towards achieving the Green Flag Award - we are aiming to reduce our energy and waste; promoting biodiversity in school and launching a new system to simplify and promote recycling in school. March 13 - 25 was Green Fortnight and the Eco-Council organised a variety of events including; assemblies, careers talks, crafts; and the launch of the inter-house sunflower competition.

Make a pledge. What is one small thing you could do?
Create less waste, reduce energy consumption, reuse and recycle?

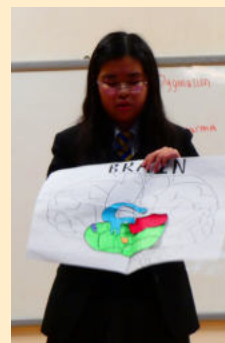


FameLab 2023



Well done to all of our Year 9s who took part in the school FameLab Academy Final, preparing three minute presentations to explain a scientific project of their choice. Flavia, Sid, Eillen, Lorna, Ava and Guy gave fantastic speeches to our judges on a variety of subjects ranging from 'why do we have freckles?', 'how are rainbows formed?' to 'unlimited energy' and 'animal allergies'. Each student demonstrated real knowledge about their chosen topic and were judged on the three Cs; content, clarity and charisma.

Eillen was announced overall winner with her presentation 'how does music affect us' and, at the end of March, she was invited to the Regional Famelab Finals at the Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury. Eillen gave an engaging three minute talk, without notes, on the subject of 'how the bilingual brain works'. Although not victorious this time, Eillen was highly commended by the organisers of the event. Congratulations!



Rotary Youth Competitions 2023



Our young people have been wowing judges with their talents and skills. Well done to all of those who took part, and to those who were awarded certificates in the club stages of the competition. Entries were strong in all three competitions - in the District Finals, huge congratulations to artists Meredith (Y7) who came second and Stella (Y10) who was awarded first place and to writers Freya (Y7) and Phoebe (Y10) who both came first place.



Rotary Competition winners with Bob Hadley and Diane White, North Cotswolds Rotary

Congratulations to Izzy (Y10) who took part in the District Final of the Rotary's Young Chef Competition 2023. Izzy impressed the judges with her three-course meal and was announced overall winner, qualifying for the Regional Final in Cardiff on 1 April. Good luck!



We look forward to hearing how the winners get on in the next stage of the competitions.

A huge thank you to Rotary in the Rissingtons and the North Cotswolds Rotary Club who generously donated scientific calculators, maths sets and food vouchers to help ensure that everyone has access to the resources they need. Your support is very much appreciated.



'Strangers Like Me'



Well done to everyone that took part in the school production of the National Theatre Connections play 'Strangers Like Me' by Ed Harris. If you missed out, you can still catch the performance at the North Wall Theatre, Oxford on 30 April, 3pm. To view more, visit the [Latest News](#) section on our website or book tickets for the North Wall Theatre [here](#).



Sports



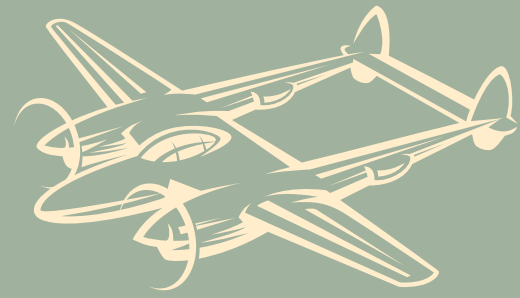
We have had a busy term of sports, with fantastic matches played and some great wins! It has been wonderful to see students working together on courts and pitches, showing great team spirit throughout. Visit our website to view **Match Reports** for this term.



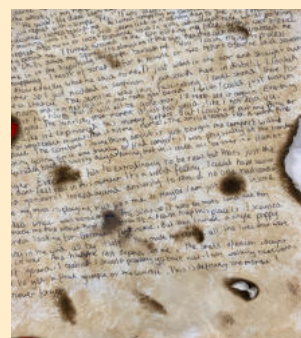
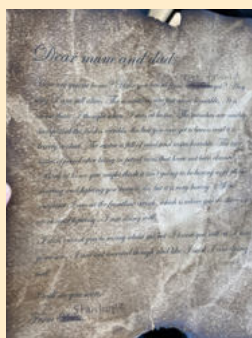
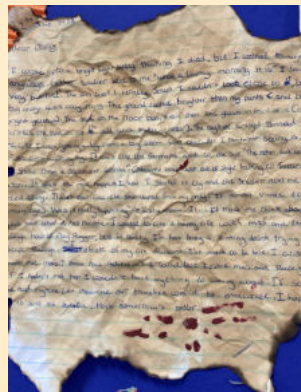
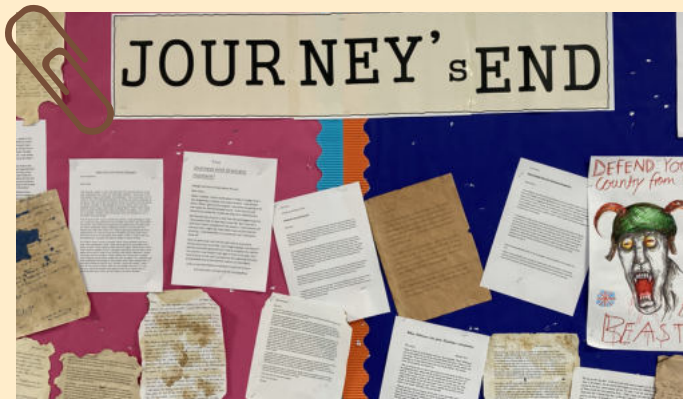
Well done to the girls football teams who have been playing some fantastic matches, with the U13 girls winning their cup match against Faringdon this term.



Journey's End - Year 8



Thank you to Andy from 'Relics of War' who came in to talk to Y8s about his WW1 finds, which linked well to the their English study of 'Journey's End'. At the end of March, parents and carers were invited to an exhibition celebrating students work, including memoirs written from the point of view of a soldier serving in the trenches.



Music Department



Performances

On 7 March, the Music Department held their second Tea Time Concert of this academic year, listening to AS/A2 Level students, as well as violin, harp, piano and euphonium performances.

The Spring Concert took place on Wednesday 29 March at Bourton Church, with performances from the school orchestra, choir, saxophone, string and woodwind groups, with various solo performances from our A2/AS students; a celebratory performance following their recent exams.

'Back in Black' will be performing at Cheltenham Jazz Festival on Saturday 29 April, in the 'Jazz It Up' tent. Come along - this is a free event, no ticket required.

London Philharmonic Orchestra

Our A Level and GCSE Music students recently went to the Royal Festival Hall to watch the London Philharmonic Orchestra perform Beethoven, Prokofiev and Tchaikovsky. Students were awed by the stage, pianist and orchestra, and were moved to tears in a couple of places.

"It was a real eye opener to see thousands of people all in one place, of all ages listening to and appreciating classical music. I really want to go again. It has really inspired me." Tilly (Y11).



Radio Broadcasting



The Cotswold School is delighted to be working with Cotswolds Radio on an in-school Radio Broadcasting Club. Thanks to a grant awarded to Cotswold Radio from the MidCounties Co-operative Community Support Fund, the collaborative project is broadcasting shows, presented by students, directly from a dedicated satellite studio at The Cotswold School.



Head Girl, Loxie, is heading up the project - having joined Cotswold Radio back in early 2021 - and will be joined by Flora (Y11), Hannah and Lily (Y13). Students will have the opportunity to present shows every week in term time, 2- 2.30pm. Watch this space for launch timings.

"I wanted to set up a station at school because I feel it's important to share the valuable skills I have gained from doing my show, with students who otherwise wouldn't have had access to this." Loxie (Y13)



Senior Citizens Afternoon Tea



What a wonderful afternoon! Thank you to everyone that came to our Senior Citizens Afternoon Tea; for the brilliant raffle donations; the fabulous entertainment and art exhibition; staff and students for their support; and a special thank you to our Year 11 Prefects and to Mr Jones for facilitating the afternoon.





Dates to Remember



Term Dates 2023

Term 5	17 April - 26 May
Term 6	5 June - 21 July

Bank Holidays

1 May
8 May

Inset Days

24 & 25 July

Parents Evenings

4 May	Y10
17 May	Y8X & Y8Z
24 May	Y8Y
22 June	Y7X & Y7Z
29 June	Y7Y

Useful Information

18 May	STEM Fair
14 July	Cadence Festival
17 - 20 July	Y10 Work Experience
17 - 21 July	Y12 Work Experience

During the summer term, students will be able to wear the school blue polo shirt.
Visit the website to view our [Uniform List](#).

Please visit our website if you'd like to know more about [The Cotswold Teacher Training Partnership](#).

The Cotswold School

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