



THE COTSWOLD SCHOOL

Issue 4
October 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for all of your support during this first half term. Our new Year 7s have settled in well and it has been wonderful to see the school buzzing with energy with Awards Evening, Open Days, events, talks and trips, as well as seeing so many students engaged with extra-curricular activities.

Having recently received our latest data set from the Government, we are extremely proud to announce that the exam results of our Year 11 students in the summer were in the top 8% in the country. Our 'Progress 8' score, a measure of how much each student has improved since leaving primary school, at 0.68, showed that each qualification achieved by our Year 11s was, on average, over two thirds of a grade higher than those achieved by students nationally. Furthermore, as one of the top-performing schools in the county, our results exceeded those of many grammar and independent schools. This is particularly pleasing as Year 11s of all abilities contributed to the success revealed by these measures, not just those achieving grades 8 and 9. With results across all abilities being significantly better than those of their national peers, these results show what can be accomplished by a great school, with great students, supportive families, and great teaching; a real advert for comprehensive education. Well done to all.

Our Sixth Form Open Evening is on 9 November, this is a great opportunity to discuss the courses you may be interested in, and to see the range of qualifications and support that we provide to help Year 12 and Year 13 throughout their time in the Sixth Form. We look forward to seeing you there.

I hope you all have a good half term and look forward to welcoming students back to school on 6 November.

Best wishes,

Will Morgan
Headteacher

Save our Pitch!



SAVE OUR ASTRO

VISIT WWW.SPACEHIVE.COM/SAVE-OUR-ASTRO TO BACK OUR FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN



Many thanks for your continued support
www.cotswold.gloucs.sch.uk



Can you pitch in and help?

A huge thank you to everyone who has supported our 'Save Our Pitch' project, we now have a fabulous 123 'bakers' for our project. To date we have raised an amazing £2,820, via Spacehive, towards the £10,000 target required to receive match funding via the Cotswold District Council Community Fund.

At the end of October our project will be assessed to ensure that we have enough support. If we have enough backers, we then have until 31 March 2024 to raise the £10,000 required. We are calling on parents, carers and the local community to visit **Spacehive** and back our project by donating as little as £2. Can you pitch in and pledge £2 to help us achieve our target?



If you would like any further information, please contact Mrs Tye at mtye@thecotswoldschool.co.uk.

Many thanks for your continued support. Please share with family and friends and spread the word!

For more information visit our **website**.

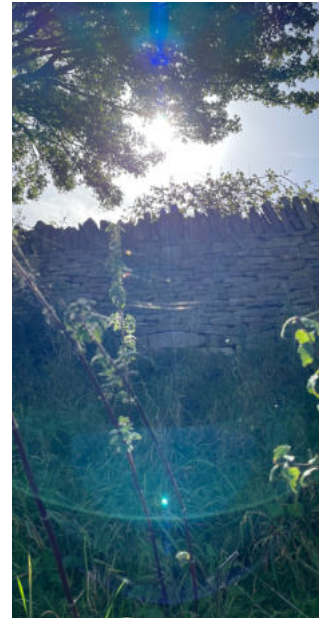
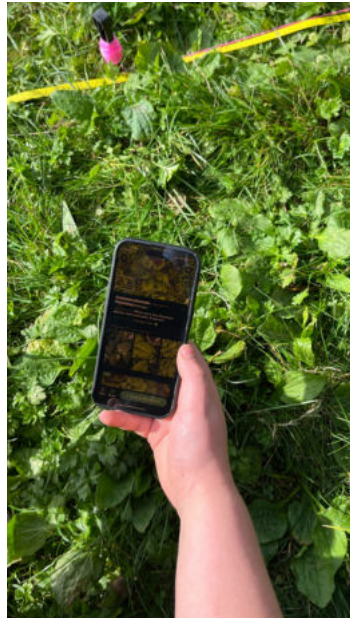
News

Macmillan Cake Sale

Thank you again to everyone who supported the Macmillan Cake Sale, a fantastic £1200 was raised for Macmillan Cancer Support!

Year 11 Geographers head to Greystones

Y11 Geographers recently visited Greystones Farm Nature Reserve in Bourton to investigate the impact of visitors, measuring footpath erosion, species diversity and environmental quality.



Rotary in the Rissingtons



A huge thank you to Rotary in the Rissingtons for the kind donation of 12 laptops, provided by DXC Technology. The laptops will be distributed to help to ensure that students have access to the technology they need.

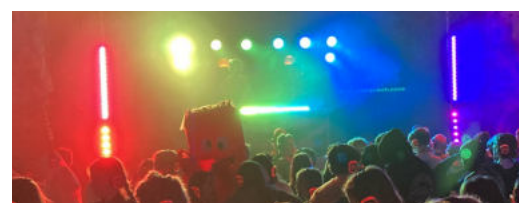
Thank you so much, your support is very much appreciated.

Pictured Keelin McLeman, Rotary in the Rissingtons and Mr Powles, Inclusion Manager.

Year 7 Halloween Silent Disco

Huge thanks to our Year 12 BTEC Business students for organising a fantastic Year 7 Halloween Silent Disco last night, it looked like great fun! We hope that everyone enjoyed the evening.

Thank you to Jamie (Y13) for the fantastic lighting and to all staff who supported the event. To read more, [click here](#).



News

Rotary Youth Leadership Awards



Well done to Ellie (Y13) who, having taken part in the Rotary Young Leadership Programme during the summer, presented to the North Cotswolds Rotary Club last week.

Ellie went through a rigorous selection process, including a panel interview, as well as showing immense resilience whilst undertaking the team building course.

Rotary Club Young Chef Competition 2023/24

Putting their culinary skills to the test, students at The Cotswold School took part in the Rotary Young Chef Competition during our recent Open Evening. Well done to everyone that took part, you were all amazing! Congratulations to overall winner Esme and to runner-up Jasmine who both impressed the judges with their mouth-watering menus. To find out more [click here](#).



Arkwright Scholarship

Year 12 student Blake has been successful in securing a prestigious Arkwright Engineering Scholarship.

Attracting thousands of applications a year, the **Arkwright Engineering Scholarships** programme is the most esteemed scholarship scheme of its type in the UK. The highly competitive selection process involves the creation of a project, an online application and virtual interview, designed to assess students' engineering knowledge, as well as key life skills like leadership and creative thinking.

Congratulations Blake, we look forward to seeing where this opportunity takes you!

Sports News

It has been wonderful to see so much energy and enthusiasm in lessons, extra-curricular sports clubs and fixtures. There have been some fantastic matches played throughout the term, with recent wins for the Year 8 A and B rugby team against The High School Leckhampton (9-3) and Year 9 hockey team winning 3-0 to Burford. To view the Match Reports, [click here](#).

Finn competes in National County Team Championships

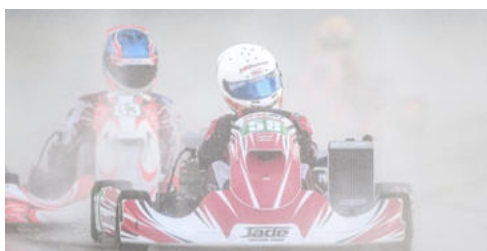


Finn (Y11) recently spent the weekend in Sheffield having been selected to swim for Gloucestershire in the National County Team Championships. Winning his individual 100m freestyle race with a good personal best, Gloucestershire came 7th in Division 2. Well done to Finn!

Sam celebrates Rookie British Kart Championship Award win



Sam (Y10) has been awarded the British Kart Championship rookie award, which he will be presented with at the British Motorsport Awards night in November at Silverstone. Sam also achieved a personal best at the best kart circuit in the UK, coming 7th in the Grand Prix.



Orla wins Team Managers Choice Award



Well done to Orla (Y9) who was presented with the U15 Team Managers Choice Award at the recent Cheltenham Harriers presentation evening. As well as being part of the Cheltenham Harriers, Orla is a valued member of our school sports teams, representing the school in hockey, netball and athletics.

To view the Match Reports and Sports Fixtures, [click here](#).

Combined Cadet Force

It's been a successful first term for our Combined Cadet Force (CCF) squadron. September saw around 28 Year 9 students kitted out in their green Multi-Terrain Pattern (MTP) uniforms, with lessons on beret moulding and static drill, before launching into October with security lessons and the history of the RAF.

October also saw our CCF teachers, Mr Ind, Miss Trott and Mrs Lewis complete their Combine Initial Course (CIC) at RAF Cranwell's Combined Leadership Course (CLS). Over five days, trainee RAF Air Cadet (RAFAC) Officers were put through numerous challenges including leadership, safeguarding, drill assessments and uniform inspections. All three passed, with Mr Ind achieving 'best in class' on his course!



Well done to Mrs Lewis' whose Course Report comments included, "There is no doubt Pilot Officer Lewis has the qualities to be an effective Cadet Force Adult Volunteer (CAV) Officer, Contingent Commander and undoubtedly an asset to the Organisation. Fully deserving of their graduation from the CLS."



Spaces are still available - if any Year 9s are interested in joining, please email ccf@thecotswoldschool.co.uk

The Cotswold School PTA

Be part of the PTA

The PTA are currently recruiting!

Are you friendly, approachable and enthusiastic? The PTA is looking for a Chair to join their great team, to lead meetings and steer the committee towards its aims. Outgoing Chair, Chris Bowen, is very happy to discuss ideas with anyone who is interested in taking the Chair role on. Please contact Chris on **Bowen-c@sky.com** if you would like to find out more. A new Chair will be voted in at the AGM on **7 November**.

Volunteering

Did you know that the PTA contributes £25,000 to £30,000 per year to the school? These donations fund additional classroom resources, extra-curricular and sporting clubs, and contribute to major school projects like the Aird Library and Astro replacement.

Could you be the lead organiser on an event? Can you volunteer to help get ready for an event? Are you able help on the day of the event? By volunteering just a few hours of your time throughout the year, the PTA can spread the workload and earn lots of much needed money. Could you help out by helping to organise or supporting one or more of the following events?

Christmas Craft Event (14 December)

Christmas Raffle (November/ early December)

Quiz Night (February/ March) Bingo (March)

Car Boot Sale (Second Sunday in July)

Ongoing Events

Car Parking (new lead volunteer required, Easter to September). Can you spare a few hours on an occasional Saturday or Sunday?

PTA Bar (lead volunteers Ian Alyn-Jones and Sarah Clarkson)

Chastleton Cakes (lead volunteer Fran Kirk). Would you able to bake a cake for the event? Could you help serve cake and tea on the day?

Upcoming Events

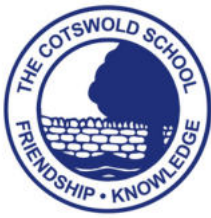
14 December Christmas Craft Event (Macrame Decoration). More details to follow.

To contact the PTA, email **PTA@thecotswoldschool.co.uk**



As always, thank you to the PTA for their amazing support.

www.cotswold.gloucs.sch.uk



Relationships and Sex Education Information Evening

Thank you to everyone who attended the Relationships and Sex Education Information Evening on Monday. Relationships and Sex Education is a statutory element of the national curriculum. At The Cotswold School we have introduced a fortnightly 1 hour lesson entitled 'Personal Development' which deals with age appropriate topics such as healthy relationships and friendships, consent, online safety, exploitation and harassment.

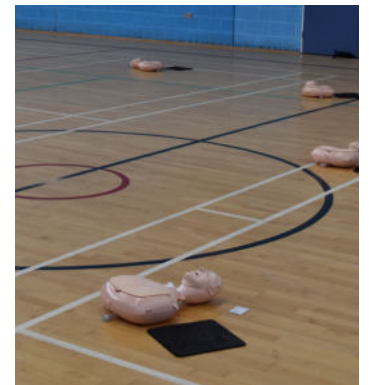
Mrs Carter spoke about the implementation of this new lesson, how it is taught and how the curriculum is arranged, as well as sharing the most up-to-date information about the challenges and rewards of being a teenager in 2023, and how we teach them to keep themselves safe. If you were unable to attend the evening, but would like more information, click to view the **Presentation** and **Handbook** given during the evening. If you have any questions or comments please get in touch jcarter@thecotswoldschool.co.uk

Reading Buddies

We have recently set about pairing our Sixth Form students with younger students to create 'reading buddies'. We believe in this powerful strategy and recognise the impact peer-assisted learning and cooperation through reading, listening, and responding can have. The aim is to encourage students to work together to increase the reader's fluency, a bridge from word recognition to comprehension which is a vital tool for learning in KS3.

Life Skills

Year 11s have been learning valuable cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) skills with Mr Jones. CPR is part of Y11 PSHE - this term students have been focusing on basic first aid, learning how to put someone in recovery position, CPR and how to use an AED (defibrillator).



To view Latest News [click here](#).

Governor News

As always, the start to the 2023-24 Academic year has been busy and no less so for our Governors. We are delighted to welcome new Parent Governors – Philippa Worne and Brett Townend-Jowitt, both of whom will join the Full Governing Board and also the Welfare & Wellbeing Committee and the Teaching & Learning Sub-Committees respectively. We are also very pleased to welcome Geraint Thomas and Sam Brown as Staff and Support Staff Governors; we are very much looking forward to working with all of them. We would like to express our thanks and appreciation to the outgoing Governors - Mrs Birrell, Cath Lamb and Felicity Peake, and to our current governing body for their continued hard work and commitment.

In June an independent External Review of Governance was undertaken. Our paperwork, systems and processes were all audited, Governors and the Senior Team were interviewed. We received an excellent report – the overall assessment being that governance at the school is very strong and effective. There were also a few recommendations for further improvement which have already been actioned. To that end, we also add Bernie Finnimore and Catherine Chapple to the team as Minutes Clerks for the Finance, Risk & Premises and Welfare & Wellbeing Committees – welcome. A further change as a result of this review is the way in which Governors will carry out assessments – linking their visits to the year’s priorities not just to a department. As well as visits to the school, the board review statutory information and school policies; this task has begun in earnest at the meetings that have already taken place this academic year – one meeting for each of the sub-committees and two meetings of the Full Governing Board.

If you want to find out more about the role of the Governing Board and their duties, please do not hesitate to contact Rosie Moser at clerk@thecotswoldschool.co.uk, or look out for a member of the Board at various Parents Evenings throughout the year where you can chat to them in person.



The Cotswold
Teacher Training
Partnership

Would you like to find out more about a career in teaching? Is teaching for you?

The Cotswold School offers secondary teacher training placements working in collaboration with the **Gloucestershire Initial Teacher Education Programme** (GITEP) and the University of Bristol.

We are delighted to be able to offer teacher taster visits. If you would like to see a school in action and get to know more about the day-to-day job, this is a great opportunity. You will be able to observe lessons, speak to current trainees and teachers and get answers to your questions about training, the career and anything else. If you would like further information or would like to book onto a taster day, please contact Ben Edwards at bedwards@thecotswoldschool.co.uk

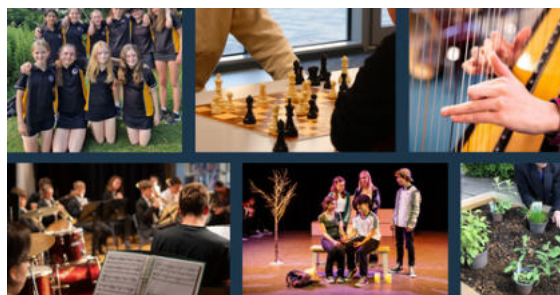
Verifying parent email addresses on Satchel:One

Satchel:One is in the process of ensuring all email addresses on their system for parents are accurate and up-to-date. Hopefully by now you will have seen Satchel:One messages about this and will have been able to verify your account. The deadline is **31 October 2023**. Some parents have had some technical difficulties - the email verification works best on a laptop/computer rather than on a mobile phone as it can not be completed on the Satchel:One app. If you continue to have problems, please feel free to get in touch. Please do not worry if you miss the deadline as no student data will be lost.

GCSEPod

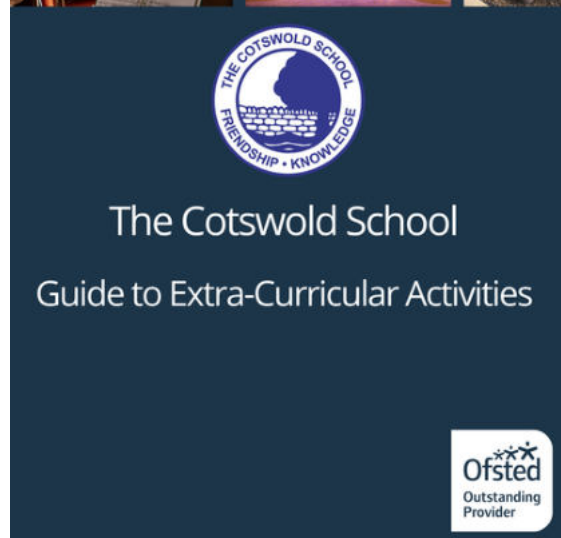
As our Year 11 students begin to revise and prepare for the mock examinations, we would like to remind everyone of GCSEPod. This is an excellent resource which has short videos (called pods) that cover all of the topics in practically all of our GCSE subjects. Students can make playlists of topics they need to revise, or parents can watch the videos to help better understand topics and support their children. Students login to GCSEPod by clicking the 'sign in with Office 365' button and then by entering their school email address and password.

The Cotswold School Guide to Extra-Curricular Activities



The response to our extra-curricular activities has been brilliant, with many students signing up for clubs.

To view all Extra-Curricular activities available, please **click here**.



Visit our **Latest News** to read more.

Events

Thank you to everyone who came to the 'Understanding your Perimenopausal and Menopausal Journey' talk this term, helping to raise money to support the school. Next term we have more events planned, including our Fashion Show on 16 November and Christmas Craft Evening (Macrame Decoration) on 14 December.

Fashion Show

On 16 November, 6.30pm, we will be holding The Cotswold School Fashion Show, showcasing 13 fabulous collections, created and modelled by our talented students and judged by fashion gurus George and Melanie Davies.

Students have been busy designing and making their outfits, with the focus on the environment and upcycling. We cannot wait to see their final pieces!

We will also be holding a raffle during the evening, with tickets available on ParentMail or on the evening. Prizes include; Francesca Rossi Designs Jewellery. Vouchers for; Cotswold Motoring Museum and Toy Collection, Cotswold Farm Park, Duke of Wellington, Clifton Photographic and The Den. Smart Book Light, Chocolates, Candles, Gift Sets and more.

To book tickets, [click here](#).

Thank you to Francesca Rossi Designs, Cotswold Farm Park, The Den, Duke of Wellington, Cotswold Motoring Museum and Toy Collection, Clifton Photography, Bourton on the Water Post Office and Londis for the generous raffle prize donations.



Saturday 25th November
Friends of St. Andrews presents
An Evening with Flora Fiora



At Chedworth Village Hall, GL54 4NE
Doors & Bar: 6:00 to 9:00pm
Performance starts: 7:00pm
Tickets: £10 (Adult)
Free for children 10 years or below
with paying adult. Suitable all ages

SCAN HERE FOR TICKETS <https://linktr.ee/florafioramusic>

Talented songwriter, performer and musician Flora (Y12) will be performing at Chedworth Village Hall on Saturday 25 November, in aid of St Andrews Church. To book tickets [click here](#).

Canteen



We are proud of our excellent school meals, freshly prepared each day in our 5-star kitchen by our fantastic catering team. There is a breakfast club each day and freshly made gluten-free items are available (please do let the catering team know in advance if there are any food allergies). There are regular food themed days, with a recent curry day proving popular with both students and staff.

Students can choose a homemade hot meal at either first or second lunch break or select from our many menus and venues, including jacket potatoes, salads, soups, wraps and sandwiches. Hot meals cost £2.40.

Vegetarian, vegan and gluten-free options available.

Christmas dinners and paninis will be on the menu in December!

Click here to view our menus.



Reminders

We still have second hand uniform for sale, please contact Mrs Neale at cneale@thecotswoldschool.co.uk

Inset Days

24 November
22 December

Christmas Holidays

25 - 5 January

Parents Evenings

30 November - 9X
6 December - 9Y/ 9Z

Sixth Form Open Evening

9 November, 6.15–8.00pm

Fashion Show

16 November, 6.30 pm



SIXTH FORM
THE COTSWOLD SCHOOL

our paragraph text

Want to study at an outstanding Sixth Form?
Join us at The Cotswold School, Thursday 9th November, 6.15 - 8.00 pm

SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING

Welcome and introduction, starts at 6.30 pm
Mr Phil White, Head of Sixth Form

The students' perspective
Insights from current Sixth Form students

What do we offer?
Collect your Sixth Form Course Guide, 2024 entry

Visit our departments
Opportunities to meet subject teachers and discuss your options

Find out more at
www.cotswold.gloucs.sch.uk/sixthform



Consultation on school admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools (GCC Schools) Academic Year 2025/2026

The School Admissions Code 2021 requires all admission authorities to consult upon their admission arrangements if changes are to be made or if there are no changes, at least once every 7 years.

Gloucestershire County Council, as the admission authority for all Community (C) and Voluntary Controlled (VC) schools last consulted upon their admission arrangements in 2016, therefore we are now due a full consultation.

The current oversubscription criteria give priority in the following order:

1. A 'looked after child' or a child who was previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, child arrangements order or special guardianship order (1) including those who appear to the admission authority to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted.
2. Children who will have siblings attending the school at the time the applicant child is admitted.
3. Children with the strongest geographical claim, measured in a straight line from the Ordnance Survey address point of the child's home address (including flats) to the Ordnance Survey address point of the school, using the Local Authority's computerised measuring system, with those living closer to the school receiving the higher priority.

We will not be making any changes to these admission arrangements for the academic year 2025-2026 therefore the priority for admission to Community and Voluntary Controlled schools in Gloucestershire will remain the same as above.

The link to this consultation is

<https://haveyoursaygloucestershire.uk.engagementhq.com/school-admission-arrangements-2025-consultation>

One of our schools is also consulting on a reduction of their Published Admission Number for 2025. The link for this consultation is

<https://haveyoursaygloucestershire.uk.engagementhq.com/beece-green-primary-school-school-admission-consultation>

If you have any comments to make about the admission arrangements for 2025-2026, please do so via the consultation page.

Named points of contact;
Holly Ryland and Amanda Johns