



THE COTSWOLD SCHOOL

The autumn term has flown by and the end of term our pre-Christmas schedule has been full of buzz and activity - well done to our Year 11 students who sat their GCSE mock examinations last term, supported by staff and families.

I am delighted that The Cotswold school has been named as one of the top three schools in the South West in the 31st edition of The Sunday Times Parent Power Guide.



The accolade recognises the hard work of our students, our inspiring and committed staff, and the ongoing support of our parents and carers. I couldn't be more proud.

I hope you have enjoyed some of our events, such as our Christmas Carol Concert at Christ Church, Cheltenham and the fantastic 'Christmas Bonanza' music concert which was held in school last night.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our whole school community for the hard work and generosity that I see every day.

Wishing you all a very happy Christmas and, as always, thank you for your ongoing support.

Will Morgan
Headteacher

Thank you!

North Cotswold Foodbank

A massive thank you to everyone for your generosity in donating to the North Cotswold Foodbank - your donations make a real difference to people in the local community! 58 boxes filled with a fabulous 900kg of donations were delivered to the North Cotswold Foodbank last week. The North Cotswold Foodbank said,

"The generosity from The Cotswold School is mind blowing, we are so grateful. Merry Christmas to all of you, but most of all - Thank You, from the bottom of our hearts. This will help many families have a wonderful Christmas at a difficult time of year."



Macmillan Fundraising



We raised an incredible £1134.98 for Macmillan - thank you for all of your support!



Awareness

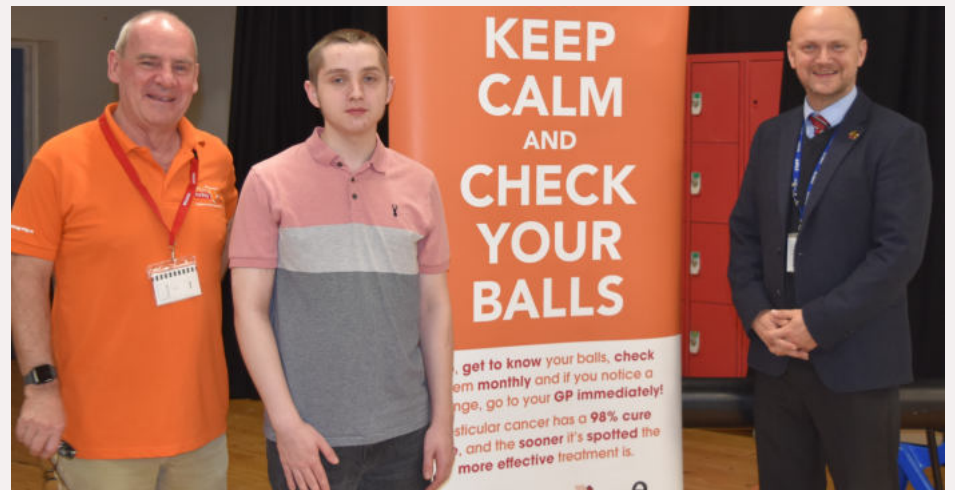
Awareness



Following our Year 12/13 assembly to raise awareness of testicular cancer, Dr Pearce, Mr Marshall, Mr Sweetlove, Mr Smith, Mr Hughes-Jones, Mr Kelly and Mr Ockleston sported fantastic facial hair for 'Movember'.

This week, Mr Smith and Jakob were joined by Richard Bullard, Trustee and Awareness Lead from the South West charity, 'It's in the Bag' who delivered an assembly to students in Year 10 and 11s to raise awareness of testicular cancer.

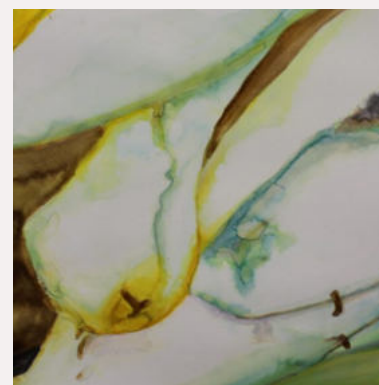
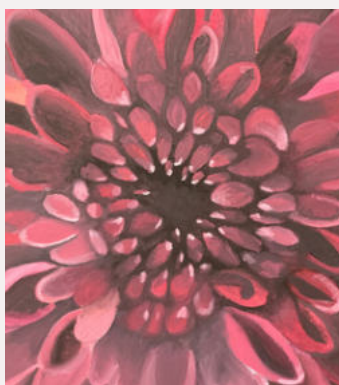
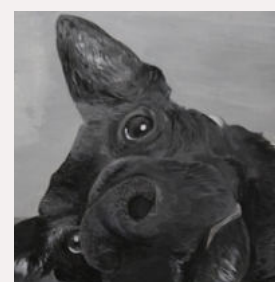
A huge thank you to Jakob, Ben, Richard and Mr Smith.



www.itsinthebag.org.uk

Art Gallery

Visit our virtual **Art Gallery** to view more fantastic new artwork from Years 11-13.



Events

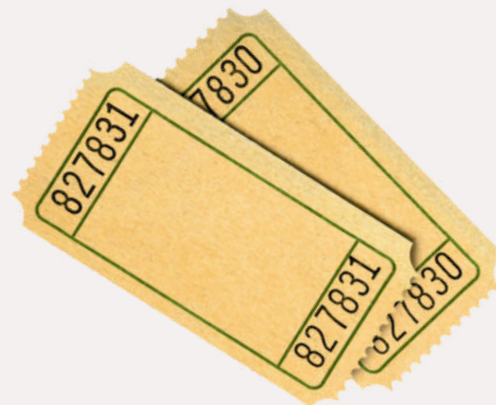
High School Musical

Rehearsals are in full swing ready for our February production of High School Musical! Tickets can be purchased through TicketSource from Monday 8 January.



**The Cotswold
School Theatre**

7-9 February 2024



Book your tickets from Monday 8 January!

Events

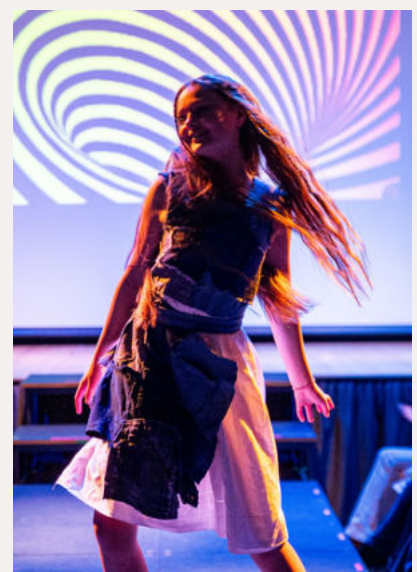
The Cotswold School Fashion Show

Thank you to everyone who came along to The Cotswold School Fashion Show. Showcasing fabulous collections, created and modelled by our talented students, the evening was full of fun and fashion! A packed school hall applauded and cheered as the models took to the catwalk, with each collection designed with a focus on the environment and upcycling, creating wonderful and thought-provoking designs.

Well done and thank you to all of the designers who have spent months designing and making their outfits, and to all of our students who took to the catwalk to model the collections.

Thank you to our judges George Davies, Katherine Jones and former Cotswold School student and Fashion Show winner, Emily-Jane Bayliss.

To find out more visit [Latest News](#).



Events

Christmas Musical Celebrations

Thank you to all of our talented musicians, singers and staff for putting on two wonderful evenings; our wonderful festive carol concert at Christ Church, Cheltenham and the 'Christmas Bonanza' music concert.

Christmas Music Bonanza



Christ Church Carol Concert



Achievements

Gliding to success



Having aspired to fly planes from a very early age, Noah (Y10) is well on his way to fulfilling his career aspirations!

As a member of the Stratford upon Avon Gliding Club (SOAGC) on their Junior Sponsorship Scheme, Noah has amassed 100 individual flights - over 20 hours in the air. In October, a day after his 15th birthday, Noah flew solo for the first time, successfully flying three flights while his instructors watched from the ground.



Foyle Young Poets of the Year Award



The Foyle Young Poets of the Year Award is the biggest poetry competition for 11-17 year olds in the world. More than 6,600 poets submitted over 15,800 poems into this year's competition. Young people from 119 countries entered the competition from as far afield as Romania, New Zealand, Trinidad and Tobago, and 94 percent of postcodes in the UK!

The awards ceremony took place at The Globe Theatre in London. With 15 winners and 85 commended poets, Jack (Y11) was commended for his poem 'Moth'.

A fantastic achievement Jack, well done!

To read more visit **Latest News**.

Achievements

Blake awarded prestigious Arkwright Engineering 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.

To find out more visit [Latest News](#).



Hatchards Writing Competition



On Tuesday evening, staff, students, families and friends spent a festive evening at Hatchards Bookshop in Cheltenham, celebrating the winners of The Cotswold School writing competition. There were a fantastic 96 fiction, non-fiction and poetry entries, which were judged by the English Department on fluency, creativity and quality of expression.



Well done to all of those that entered the competition and congratulations to our winners and runners up.

A huge thank you to Hatchards for providing such wonderful hospitality. We look forward to next year's competition!

Bebras Computing Challenge

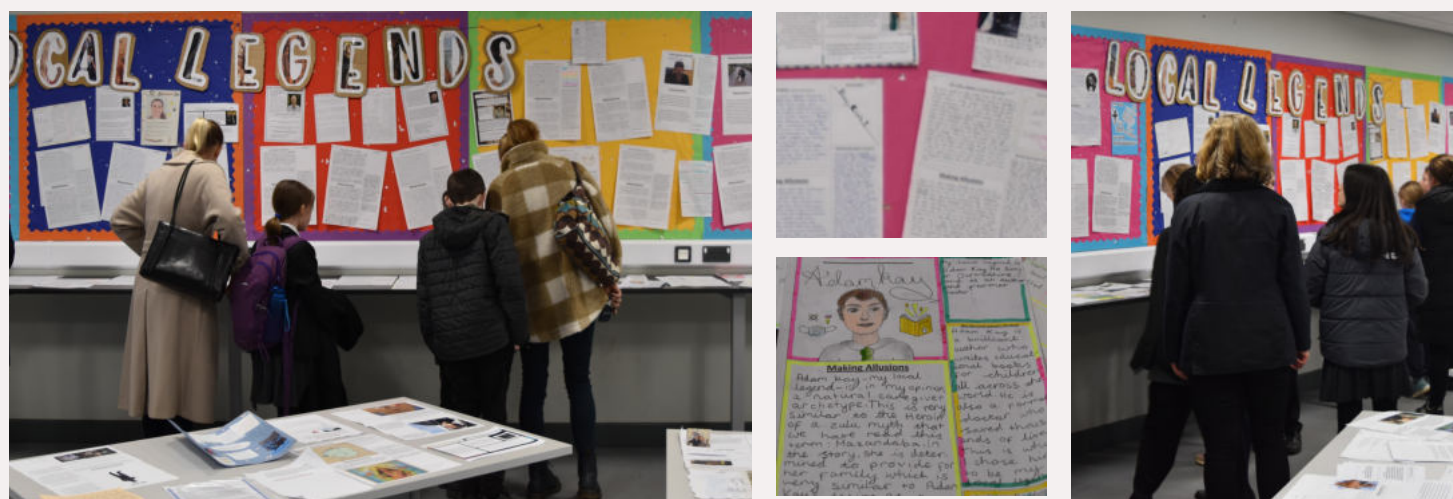
This year's Bebras Computing Challenge, run by the University of Oxford along with Raspberry Pi, is now complete. We have an excellent set of results with an impressive 74 students through to the next round, the 'Oxford University Computing Challenge (OUCC)', which they will sit mid January. Well done to everyone that took part.

Achievements

Year 7 Local Legends

Who is your 'Local Legend'? Year 7 students have written about some of the people who inspire them and what makes them special, and last week we welcomed families into school to view their wonderful work.

Year 7's Local Legends include grandparents and carers; mums, dads, siblings and pets; nurses and doctors; people who work for charities; and those in the public eye.



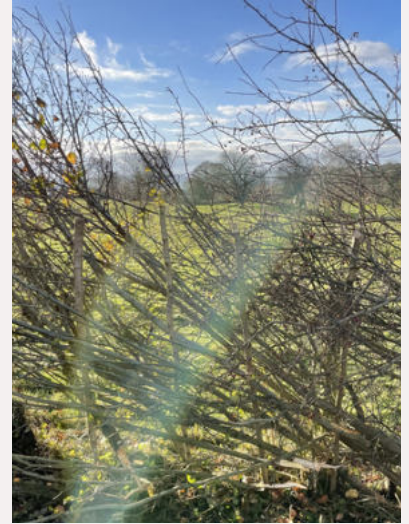
The Great Cotswold Bake Off

Thank you to all of the students that entered the 'The Great Cotswold Bake Off'. Through to the finals this week were Ruby, Izzy, Jack (Y7); Bo, Josh, Violet, Emilia (Y8); Jemima (Y9) and Kitty (Y10) who all made shortbread dipped in chocolate. Well done to everyone that took part and congratulations to Kitty who was announced overall winner!



Outdoor Learning

Run by the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE), students at The Cotswold School are currently involved in a project to lay one kilometre of hedgerow in The Cotswolds. On a cold and sunny day earlier this month, a group were taught hedgelaying skills and given the opportunity to put the skills into practise. They will be heading back to Lower Hampden in February - enjoy!



Pupil Leadership Groups



Our Pupil Leadership Groups; Environment; Equality, Diversity and Inclusion; Learning Life; Wellbeing; Careers and Futures; and Charity and Community, have been set up to look at the development and improvement of these sections of our school life, taking into account student voice and developing leadership skills.



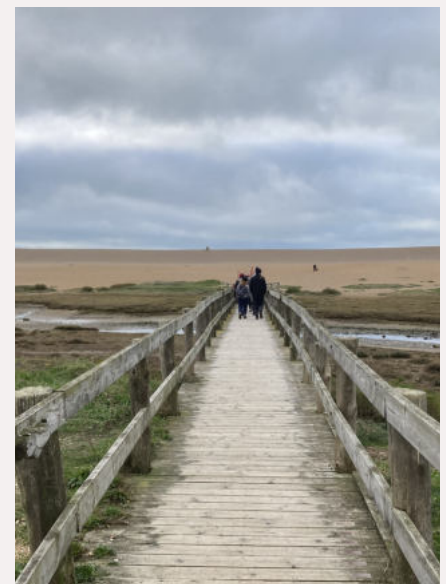
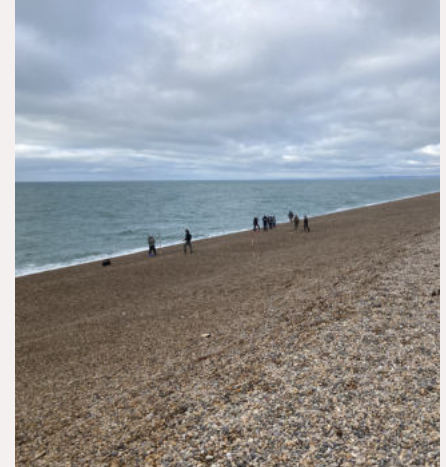
The Pupil Leadership Group, 'Equality, Diversity and Inclusion', recently met to discuss priorities for the year ahead.

'We believe in a school where everyone feels like they belong, they are included, they are understood and they are valued.'

Thank you to Maxine (Y12); Lincoln and Amelie (Y9); Kathleen (Y8); Eli, Summer, Aimee, Anna and Ava (Y7) who held an assembly on 'worth' and 'value'.

Year 12 Geography Trip

Year 12 Geography students travelled to Dorset this term to conduct fieldwork on the stunning Chesil Beach, Durdle Door and Lulworth Cove.



The Cotswold School 1st XI football team



Well done to The Cotswold School 1st XI football team who won 3-2 in the 5th round of the National Cup. The team were in the last 32 (out of 364 teams!). The team narrowly lost 4-3 in their last match against Lord Williams School, with goals from Henry and Fin. A great effort and a stepping stone for the district competition in the New Year

Year 11s play for Gloucester RFC

On Sunday 3 December, Harry, Wilf and Jake (Y11) represented Gloucester RFC U16 against The Boys Club of Wales in Neath. The Boys Club of Wales forwards dominated the game in very challenging conditions and ran out winner, 33-7. However, The Cotswold School students performed exceptionally!

Charlie, Harry, Will, Wilf and Owen also played for Gloucester U16s against Bath last Sunday, playing at Kingsholm Stadium.

An amazing achievement for these students who have showed outstanding commitment to Rugby throughout their time at The Cotswold School.



1st XV Rugby team unbeaten season



The Cotswold School 1st XV Rugby team completed an unbeaten season recently, with a comprehensive 40-7 victory over Burford. The team has played outstandingly all season, showing fantastic skill level, effort and knowledge of rules and tactics, scoring a total of 177 points and conceding 70.

Visit our website to view our **Match Reports**.

Year 11 Rugby win 13-10



Well done to The Cotswold School Year 11 Rugby team who won 13-10 against Sir Thomas Rich's School last week. A fantastic game where both teams showed outstanding commitment, skill level and passion in a hard-fought contest.

Hockey News

The Cotswold School Hockey teams have played really well this term, with wins for the Year 9s against Sibford (3-0), and 4-0 to the Year 10s against Bournside.

Well done to all of our sports teams who have played matches this term, the quality of play and sportsmanship has been amazing!



Visit our website to view our **Match Reports**.

Isaac wins gold!



Isaac (Y9) recently competed at the British Rowing Indoor Championships at the NEC, alongside over 1500 athletes representing schools and clubs from around the country.

He races in the PR3 Para-Rowing category and won two gold medals in the 4 min and 1 min races, also placing 30th out of 55 year 9 boys versus the mainstream category.

This followed 3 golds in his 5 races on the water in 2023, against competition who were all more than 5 years older than him.

While most of us are still enjoying our duvets over the winter weekends, Isaac will be on the river training for another great year in 2024!

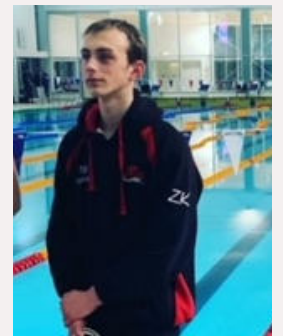
Elodie plays for Gloucestershire



Talented rugby player Elodie (Y12) who recently represented Gloucestershire in the Girls U18 team, winning against Cornwall! A brilliant achievement, well done!

Swimmer Finn qualifies for National Winter Championships!

With a qualifying time of 28.14, Finn (Y11) has qualified for the National Winter Championships in Sheffield for 50 backstroke. Congratulations Finn and best of luck!



Visit our website to view our **Match Reports**.

Combined Cadet Force

This term our new Cotswold School Combined Cadet Force (CCF) RAF Cadets took off with our first cohort of Year 9s. With the help from some senior students who already attend local Air Cadet squadrons, Cadets have learnt about the history of the Air Cadets, received a security briefing, been issued with the RAF blue uniform and green MTP uniforms - thanks to generous donations from other schools - and learnt some basic drill moves.

Miss Trott, Mr Ind and Mrs Lewis all completed their week Combined Initial Course at RAF Cramwell and earned the Cadet rank of Pilot Officer, with Pilot Officer Ind scoring the award for best student of the week!

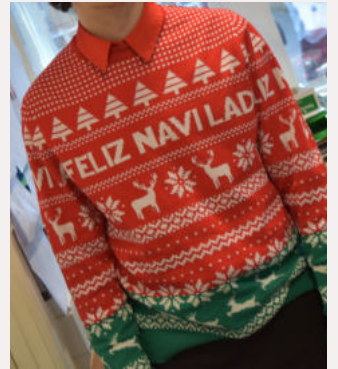
Next term the CCF have plans for an RAF station visit, air experience flights at RAF Benson and to learn first aid.

The CCF finished the term with a celebratory afternoon, showing newly learnt skills as well as being presented with their Junior Cadet CCF Awards.



Festive Fun

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas!



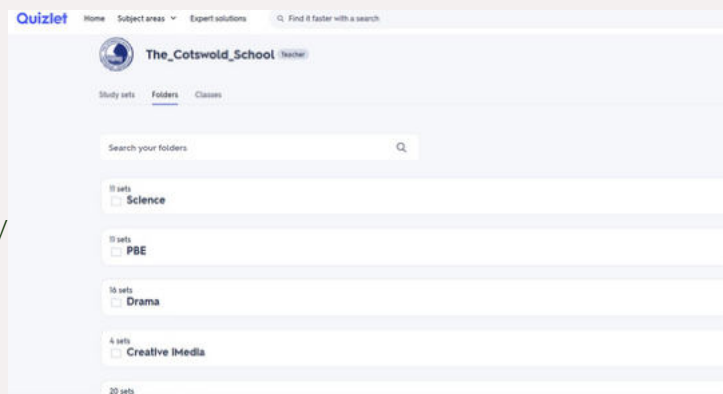
Reminders

Curriculum key words - Quizlet

Learning in all subjects at secondary school requires students to have a strong vocabulary. Key words will be taught in all subjects and students will need to become familiar with them to fully understand the topics being covered.

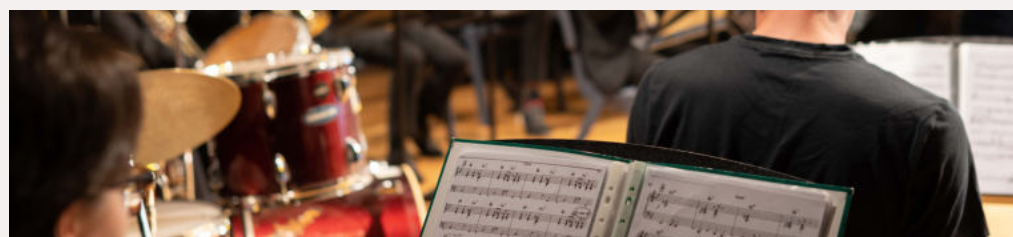
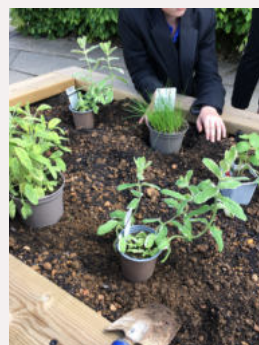
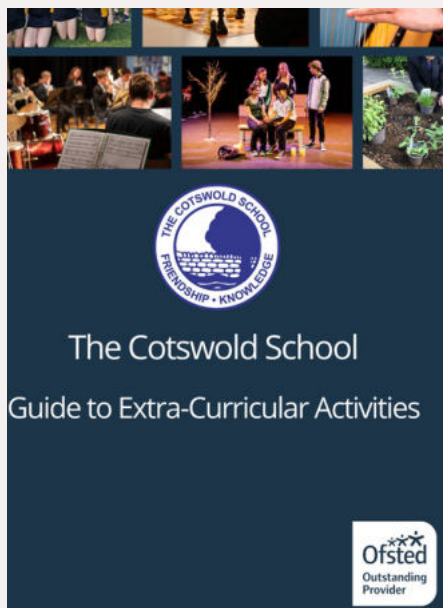
We have created a **quizlet.com** account to share key words and to help students learn and memorise them. Visit **Quizlet** for more information.

For more information on accessing the Quizlet resources, **click here**.



New year, new activity

To check out our extra-curricular brochure, **click here**. There's something for everyone to enjoy, from football and gymnastics to art and chess, plus lots more!



The Aird Library



Click here to find suggested reading lists for Years 7, 8 and 9.

Reminders

Save our Astro



A huge thank you to everyone that has contributed towards our Astroturf fundraising so far. The Astroturf is a hugely valuable resource to our school and wider community; our 1500 students, local football and hockey clubs.

In order to unlock the Cotswold Community Fund pledge, fundraising will continue until 31 March 2024. You can support our project for as little as £2 by visiting **Spacehive**.



The staff vs Sixth Form hockey match this week raised money towards the Astro. Watch this space for more fundraising activities in the New Year!

Many thanks for your ongoing support.



New Year, new career?

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

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

To find out more, or to book onto a taster day, please contact Ben Edwards

bedwards@thecotswoldschool.co.uk



The Cotswold
Teacher Training
Partnership

Visit our **Teacher Training** page for more information.

PTA Chair role

Are you friendly, approachable and enthusiastic? The PTA is still looking for a Chair to join their fantastic team. If you are interested in the position, either individually or as a shared role, please do get in touch **thecotswoldschoolpta@gmail.com**

Dates to Remember

Term dates 2023/24

Click here to view [Term Dates 2023/24](#).

Parents evenings

17 January 8X/8Y

24 January 8Z

Second-hand uniform sale

31 January 3.45-4.45pm

Recruitment

Examinations Officer:

Closing Date: Monday 22 January 2024, 9am

Chief Financial Officer:

Closing Date: Thursday 18 January 2024, 5pm

Cover Supervisor:

Closing Date: Monday 22 January, 9am

Exam Invigilators: Do you know someone who is looking for a flexible working role, who could join our team of exams invigilators?

For more information on both of these roles visit our [Recruitment](#) page.

The Cotswold School

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