



# Spring Newsletter 2024



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Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to you at the end of a short but busy and productive term. Firstly, I would like to say a massive thank you to our school and local community for your generosity, I am pleased to tell you that The Cotswold School has met its Astroturf fundraising target on Spacehive. We cannot thank you enough for all of your support and we look forward to replacing the Astroturf carpet later in the year.

Well done to students who have sat their exams this term, demonstrating maturity, resilience and determination. To our Year 11 and 13s, as well as your revision, please do make sure that you have a break and recharge over the holidays.

We have so much to be proud of at The Cotswold School and I hear and see so much positivity everyday. I would like to thank every department and member of staff who work tirelessly to support our students both in and out of the classroom.

Our recent High School Musical production showcased the talents in drama and music, showing how our performing arts departments continue to flourish.

Thank you to the Science department who put on a great variety of events to celebrate Science Week last week. The recent FameLab finals in school saw five of our Year 9s deliver a three-minute presentation on a science subject of their choice - well done to Archie who took part in the Gloucestershire FameLab finals yesterday.

Students across the school took part in the Maths Challenge and we had a very impressive 108 students achieving Gold, Silver or Bronze with nine through to the final. Eleven students took part in Pi day, impressing an audience with their memory skills, reciting Pi up to 477 decimal places.

Our Life Skills group students took part in National Hedgelaying Day, learning some valuable countryside management skills. The students who took part were a real credit to the school.

Robotics teams went through to the National Championships and performed brilliantly, well done. I look forward to watching their progress next year.

There have been a number of incredible performances on the sports field this term - you can read more by visiting our [website](#).

We have had visits to Berlin and Krakow, French and German exchanges, as well as theatre and geography fieldwork trips.

As always, thank you to our parents and carers for your ongoing support and to our wonderful PTA. We are also extremely grateful for our school and local community volunteers for supporting our careers programme with talks and interview practice, thank you.

And finally, I hope that all of the students heading off on the ski trip have a great time. Good luck to Jasmine (Y10) who is taking part regional finals of the Rotary Young Chef competition this weekend, and to students doing their gold and silver DofE practice expeditions.

I hope you have a restful Easter break.

**Will Morgan**  
Headteacher



# Updates



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## Astro fundraising

We have hit our target! Thanks to the generosity of our school and local community, The Cotswold School has met its Astroturf fundraising target on Spacehive. We cannot thank you enough for all of your support and we look forward to replacing the Astroturf carpet later in the year.

## Year 9 GCSE options

Thank you to our Year 9 students for submitting their GCSE options and to parents and carers for your support. The deadline is today (Friday 22 March). We will work out the options subject blocks and be in touch with anyone whose reserve choices were needed. 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. With over 500 responses, we are delighted that 96% of people were happy with the range of extra-curricular activities available, 93% of those who took the survey would recommend us to another parent, 92% were happy with the range of subjects the school offered, and 91% said that their child was happy and does well at The Cotswold School. The results for every question are at least 10% better than the national figures for secondary schools, which we were delighted to see.

Thank you for all your feedback. Please be assured that we are addressing areas upon which we can further improve. We will write to you next term to summarise our actions.



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## Six students receive offers for Oxford and Cambridge

Huge congratulations to six Cotswold School Sixth Form students who have received offers to study at Oxford or Cambridge this September.

We are proud of all of our Oxbridge applicants, challenging themselves through a highly competitive selection process.

Mr White, Head of Sixth Form and Deputy Head at The Cotswold School, said: "I am delighted for these students; a testament to a phenomenal amount of hard work and deep interest in their subject area, and the great support given to them by their teachers, other staff, Cotswold School alumni – who help every year with practice interviews – and their families."

The school's support for all applicants is thorough and challenging with encouragement established back in Key Stage 3 and 4 as part of our Aspire programme.

It has been wonderful to see so many applications for university, Art Foundation courses, degree apprenticeships, apprenticeships or employment. As well as the Oxbridge offers, many students have received university offers and are on track to achieve the requirements, including: Liberal Arts at the University of Leeds; History at the University of Liverpool; Biomedical Sciences at the University of Southampton and Archaeology at the University of York.

**[Click here](#)** to hear from some of our students who received Oxbridge offers.



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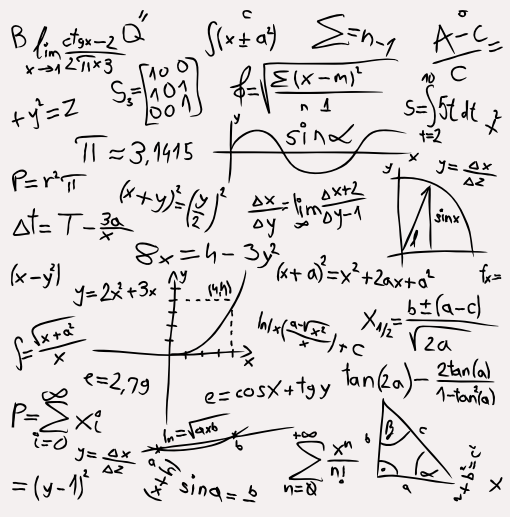
## Senior Citizens Afternoon Tea

What a wonderful afternoon! Thank you to everyone that came to our Senior Citizens Afternoon Tea; for the brilliant raffle donations; the fabulous entertainment; staff and students for their support; and a special thank you to our Y11 Prefects, and to Mr Jones for facilitating the afternoon.





### Intermediate Maths challenge



Congratulations to the 246 students who took part in this year's UK Maths Trust (**UKMT**) Intermediate Mathematical Challenge. We recently received the results and are pleased to share that 108 students achieved Gold/ Silver or Bronze, and 9 students will go through to later rounds of the challenge; Matthew (Y9); students Sam, Eillen, Louis, Rufus, Ziv (Y10); and Michael, Theo and Sean (Y11).

### Y10 geographers visit Greystones

Y10 geographers went to Greystones reserve to investigate human impact on the grassland ecosystems.





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## National Hedgelaying Day

Well done to our Y9 and 10s who took part in National Hedgelaying Day at Hampen Farm. Students that took part were a credit to the school and learnt some valuable countryside management skills.





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## Gloucestershire Young Musician 2024



Well done to harpist Reuben (Y13) who recently took part in the Gloucestershire Young Musician of the Year finals, held on Sunday 3 March, at Cheltenham College Big Classical.



## Emily performs with the National Youth Harp Orchestra



Emily (Y13) performed with the National Youth Harp Orchestra at the Yehudi Menuhin concert hall in Surrey last Sunday. It was the culmination of months of work on various pieces of music, ranging from Debussy and Satie, to Traditional Irish pieces and the Portuguese Love Song from Love Actually! The concert included a piece the orchestra had worked on in a Summer School in August 2023 with composer Paul Lewis and Artist Lin-Marie Erasmus - three completely new movements composed around the colours red, yellow and blue/purple. This was a wonderful experience, enabling the members of the orchestra to collaborate on the music together.



### CCF students visit RAF Benson

Students in our Combined Cadet Force (CCF) recently visited RAF Benson for an Air Experience Flight (AEF) in a Grob Tutor plane - one of the aircraft used by air cadets.

Cadets were issued with flight suits to wear and undertook emergency training drills before taking to the skies, with some students taking the controls and flying. Staff and cadets are looking forward to another AEF trip planned in June.





# Robotics



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## Robotics teams shine at National Championships

The 2024 competitive robotics season came to a close with a bang with four of our teams qualifying for the National Championships, our biggest number ever. The robotics club asks students to overcome a series of difficult engineering challenges by working as a team to design, build, programme and drive a robot against other teams. It really is the pinnacle of STEM education. Our younger teams, TCS Army and TCS VEXtreme made incredible strides and finished as the top two comprehensive school teams in the country. TCS Army ended up fifth, which is an incredible achievement given that there are over 300 teams in the UK and that this is their first season. They are more determined than ever to come back next year and become UK champions.

Well done to everyone who took part and thank you to all the staff who have supported them.



Thank you to The Cotswold School robotics sponsors Solid State Group and the Bugatti Trust.



# Science Week and World Book Day



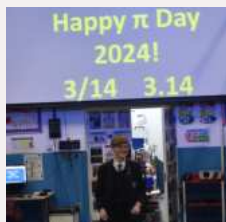
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## British Science Week 8-17 March 2024

A fantastic week of activities and experiments for British Science Week 2024 including a chemistry countdown challenge and flight extravaganza.

Pi Day 2024 was the annual opportunity for enthusiasts to recite the infinite digits of Pi. A huge congratulations to Joey (Y11); Rufus, Emily and Amelia (Y10); Theo (Y9); Ben and Hammond (Y8); and Grace, Eva, Anna and James (Y7) - you were all phenomenal. Well done to Theo who recited Pi to an amazing 477 decimal places!



## FameLab Finals



Congratulations to Year 9 students Daisy, Amy, Stef, Grace and Archie who recently took part in The Cotswold School FameLab Academy Final, delivering fantastic talks. Students prepared three-minute presentations to explain a scientific topic in a dynamic and engaging way to an audience and panel of judges.

Presentations included; 'Is there a way out of the universe?', 'Pareidolia', 'Zeno's Dichotomy Paradox', 'Dreaming' and 'Human Emotions'.

Well done to Archie who was announced overall winner with the presentation 'Human Emotions'. Archie went on to the Gloucestershire FameLab Academy Final – run by the Cheltenham Science Festival.

Thank you to our judges for their help and support.



## World Book Day

We were delighted to welcome author Rachel Delahaye yesterday who spoke to our Year 7 students about 'writing for the future', as well as signing her most recent books 'Day of the Whale' and 'Electric Life'.



# Sports and Fundraising



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## Sports news

The Spring term has been a busy and successful one for sport at The Cotswold School. We have seen fantastic results across all year groups in football and netball. Our girls football teams have gone from strength to strength with good numbers training regularly and numerous wins this season. Our boys hockey squads have competed in county tournaments and came up against some tough independent school opposition. They have shown grit and determination to hold their own against some well established hockey teams.

Every year we host and organise the Cotswold Cup netball tournaments for Y7 to Y10 and were fortunate to win the Y9 and Y10 tournaments.

As part of our fundraising efforts for the new Astroturf we have held Staff vs Sixth Form tournaments in football, hockey and netball! The staff were victorious in both the hockey and netball tournaments, however the Sixth Form put in a brilliant performance in the football match to win convincingly.

We look forward to a busy Summer term of cricket, rounders, tennis and athletics. Let's hope we have some fine weather!



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



# Sports and Fundraising



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## Staff vs Sixth Form sports matches

### Football

We had fantastic staff vs Sixth Form football match, with a 2-0 win for the Sixth Formers as well as raising over £100 towards our Astroturf fundraising project.



### Netball Results

PE - 7 points

6th Form Girls - 5 points

6th Form Boys - 4 points

Staff - 3 points



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



# Careers



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## National Careers Week

A huge thank you to Dr Elizabeth Threadingham - veterinary surgeon at Martin and Manifold Vets - who came into school and gave an interesting and informative talk about her career as a vet. Careers presentations are a great opportunity for everyone in the school to find out about different career paths.

If you know someone that has a career they would be happy to share with our students, please contact [mbock@thecotswoldschool.co.uk](mailto:mbock@thecotswoldschool.co.uk)



## Year 11 interviews

Well done to our Year 11 students took part in two days of practice interviews - many thanks to all of our volunteers who helped students with interview techniques and gave them the opportunity to talk about their achievements and aspirations for the future.





# Sixth Form Mud Run



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Blue skies, great costumes and lots of fun and mud! The annual Sixth Form mud run proved to be a great success again this year!

Thank you to everyone involved in organising the event.





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## Bingo Night

Thank you to everyone that donated prizes and came to support our bingo night. A huge thank you to our brilliant bingo team; Pam, Caroline, Carol, Mr Powles and the Life Skills group, 'bingo caller' Mr Morgan; to our fantastic PTA for running the bar; and the site team for all of their help.

Over £2,000 was raised towards the Astroturf fundraising.



## The Royal Academy Young Artists' Summer Show



The Royal Academy Young Artists' Summer Show is a free, open submission exhibition for young artists aged 4–19 years studying in the UK. It is a wonderful opportunity for participants to engage creatively in the making and sharing of a piece of artwork that truly expresses their own voice. As a school, we are registered - each student can submit one artwork and there is no theme.

Your artwork will be seen by a panel of judges and the selected pieces will be shown in the RA online exhibition. Some of the artworks will also be shown at the Royal Academy of Arts from 16 July – 11 August 2024.

The deadline to submit artwork is 27 March, 5pm. For more information, [click here](#).



# PTA News

## PTA volunteers needed

The PTA is looking for volunteers to help with car parking on the field during the upcoming spring and summer tourist seasons. The money raised from car parking comes from visitors (not from parents and carers) and is a significant portion of the annual fundraising. Last year, car parking raised nearly £16,000 for the school! It is an easy and fun way to volunteer, as well as providing a chance to meet other parents.

We are looking for volunteers beginning with Easter weekend, which raised £5000 over three days in 2023! Shifts are only 3 hours long and we welcome parents teaming up with friends to takeover a shift or a day.

Please use the link below to sign up to the [\*\*Cotswold School Car Parking WhatsApp Group\*\*](#) or email [\*\*thecotswoldschoolpta@gmail.com\*\*](mailto:thecotswoldschoolpta@gmail.com)

## The Cotswold School PTA

## PTA Quiz Night



The popular PTA Quiz Night is back on Friday April 19! Grab someone clever and book your place by emailing: [\*\*thecotswoldschoolpta@gmail.com\*\*](mailto:thecotswoldschoolpta@gmail.com)

Teams of up to six people, £5 per person.





# Reminders



## Term dates 2023/24

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

## The Cotswold School Quiz Night

Friday 19 April, 7pm

## Recruitment

**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 visit our [Recruitment](#) page.

### The Cotswold School

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