OLD COTSWOLDIANS

VOL. 04 | SPRING 2026

COTSWOLD NEWS

Discover the latest school, student and staff news from The Cotswold School.

ALUMNI VOICES

Alumni Voices interview with 2016 leaver Charles

UPCOMING EVENTS

Discover the exciting alumni exclusive events we have lined up for 2026.

Dear **Alumni**,

As we reach the end of a busy and highly productive Spring term, we are delighted to share some of the many achievements that continue to shape life at The Cotswold School. It has been a term defined not only by strong academic focus, but also by exceptional success across sport, the arts and enrichment, reflecting the same spirit of ambition and opportunity that many of you will remember from your own time here.

Our current Year 11 students have recently completed their mock examinations, marking an important milestone as they prepare for their GCSEs. They have approached this challenge with maturity, resilience and determination, qualities that will serve them well in the months ahead.

Beyond the classroom, students have excelled in a wide range of areas. Our Year 9 football team enjoyed an outstanding run in the National Cup, reaching the semi-finals after progressing from an original field of 568 teams, an impressive achievement at national level.

Sporting success has been a particular highlight this term. Our Year 11 netball team have enjoyed an exceptional run in the Sisters n Sport National Vase competition, travelling across the country and showing outstanding commitment since before Christmas. Their efforts culminated in a fantastic finals day performance in Loughborough, where they secured victory in both the semi-final and final to be crowned national champions, an incredible achievement and a fitting end to five years of playing together.

The arts have also flourished. Our Year 11 Drama students travelled to London to see Harry Potter and the Cursed Child at the Palace Theatre, an inspiring experience that brought their studies to life and showcased theatre at its very best. Meanwhile, our robotics teams achieved remarkable success at the National Robotics Championships finals, with four teams qualifying, our largest representation to date.

It is fantastic to see current students embracing the same opportunities to challenge themselves, pursue their interests and achieve excellence across such a wide range of disciplines.

We always enjoy hearing what our former students are doing next, and we would love to share more of your stories in future newsletters. If you have an update, whether personal or professional, please do get in touch.

Best wishes,
Will Morgan

Headteacher

Cotswold News

February

This term, our Sixth Form historians embarked on an unforgettable Winter History Trip to Berlin and Kraków, exploring key sites connected to dictatorship, division, resistance and memory in twentieth-century Europe. Throughout the visit, students demonstrated exceptional maturity, curiosity and respect, acting as outstanding ambassadors for the school.

In Berlin, students engaged with the complex histories of Nazi Germany and the Cold War. Visits to the Berlin Wall Memorial at Bernauer Strasse, the Palace of Tears and the Berlin Story Bunker brought into sharp focus the human impact of division and political ideology. At the DDR Museum, students gained insight into everyday life in East Germany, while a guided tour of landmarks including Checkpoint Charlie and Alexanderplatz highlighted Berlin's global significance during the Cold War. A visit to the Jewish Museum Berlin proved particularly thought-provoking, and ascending the Reichstag Dome offered a powerful opportunity to reflect on Germany's journey from dictatorship to democracy.

In Kraków, the focus turned to Nazi occupation and the Holocaust. A visit to Oskar Schindler's Enamel Factory provided a compelling insight into life under occupation and the impact of individual choices in times of moral crisis, while a guided tour of the Kazimierz district deepened students' understanding of Jewish life in the city. The visit to Auschwitz-Birkenau was a deeply moving and reflective experience. Students approached this solemn site with great respect and maturity, engaging thoughtfully with its historical significance and the human stories it represents.

March

Our Year 11 netball team have enjoyed a remarkable final season together, culminating in national success in the Sisters n Sport National Vase competition. Having competed since before Christmas, the team demonstrated outstanding commitment, travelling across the country to face strong opposition from schools including those in Cheshire and Bath. Throughout the competition, they consistently showcased their teamwork, resilience, and growing confidence on court.
Finals day in Loughborough provided a fitting stage for their efforts. A composed and assured 17–9 victory in the semi-final secured their place in the final against Colyton Grammar School. Rising to the occasion, the team delivered an impressive performance under pressure, combining skill, determination and unity to secure a 21–14 win and the title of National Vase champions.

The celebrations that followed reflected the significance of the achievement, gold medals, a well-earned trophy, and unforgettable moments shared as a team. It marks a proud conclusion to five years of playing netball together, built on dedication, friendship, and a shared passion for the sport.

Alumni Achievements

We're always so proud to hear about the incredible things our former students go on to do after leaving school. From career milestones and academic successes to creative projects and community contributions, our alumni continue to inspire us with their achievements.

In this section, we shine a spotlight on some of the recent accomplishments shared with us - proof that the Cotswold School spirit continues long after leaving!

If you have a story to share, we'd love to hear from you for a future edition.

Elsa Lamb

Elsa attended The Cotswold School from 2010 to 2017 and has since built an exciting career in the renewable energy sector. She now works in the construction of offshore wind farms, playing a key role in ensuring these large-scale infrastructure projects are delivered responsibly and with minimal impact on the marine environment.

Her work sits at the intersection of engineering, sustainability and environmental protection, contributing to the UK's transition towards cleaner energy while safeguarding marine ecosystems. Elsa is passionate about the positive impact renewable energy can have on tackling climate change and is keen to stay connected with the school community through the alumni network.

Chris Pearce

Since leaving school, Chris has been working as a History teacher in Worcestershire for nearly five years. He finds the profession highly rewarding, particularly the opportunity to take learning beyond the classroom. Recently, he accompanied 60 Year 7 students on a trip to France, providing them with a rich insight into French culture and history. The itinerary included visits to a partner school, Fougères Castle and Mont-Saint-Michel, helping to bring topics such as the Norman Conquest to life following their studies earlier in the academic year.

Alongside his teaching career, Chris has remained actively involved in the Scout movement, which has been an important part of his life since childhood. With close to a decade of leadership experience, he continues to find the role incredibly fulfilling. Supporting young people as they develop confidence, resilience and valuable life skills is a privilege, and he takes great pride in seeing them grow into capable and well-rounded individuals.

Alumni Voices: 2016 leaver Charles

After leaving The Cotswold School in 2016, Charles went on to study Aerospace Engineering at the University of Southampton before joining the Royal Air Force as an Engineer Officer. His career has already taken him into highly demanding and dynamic environments, including working alongside elite teams such as the Red Arrows. Now, he has returned to academia and is currently studying Engineering for Sustainable Development at Cambridge University, with a growing interest in space sustainability and the role engineering can play in supporting the future of the global space industry.

In this interview, Charles reflects on the teachers and experiences that shaped his path, the importance of stepping beyond the classroom, and why developing resilience, perspective and a commitment to lifelong learning are just as important as academic success.

How did you first become interested in STEM, and which teachers inspired you?

I always had a natural interest in science and technology subjects, but I did not make the decision to study engineering until the end of Year 12. Up until that point, I enjoyed those subjects, but I had not necessarily connected them to a clear career path.

During my time at The Cotswold School, I was fortunate to be taught by a number of excellent teachers who played a big role in shaping my interests. In particular, Mr Macmorland, Dr Bettington and Dr Scantlebury all helped to build my enthusiasm for science and mathematics. Their teaching made the subjects engaging and helped me to see their relevance beyond the classroom.

A key turning point for me was getting involved in the Science and Engineering Club. That was where I really discovered a passion for problem solving and for applying theoretical knowledge to real-world challenges. It helped me to see that engineering was not just about learning formulas or concepts, but about using those tools to create solutions. That ultimately led me to choose aerospace engineering when I left school.

I also developed a strong interest in geography thanks to Mrs Griffiths. That subject opened my eyes to global challenges and environmental issues, which has come full circle in my current studies. It is a big part of the reason why I have returned to university to focus on engineering for sustainable development.

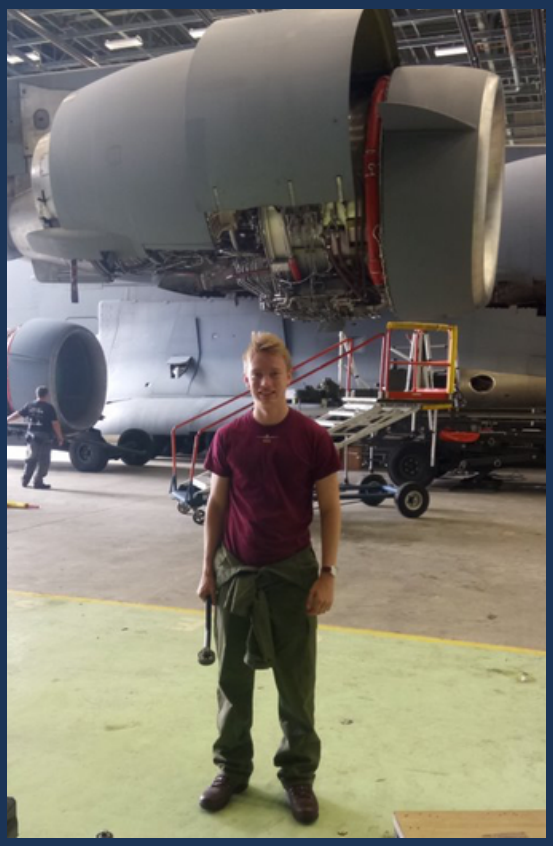
What path did you take after leaving school?

After completing my A-levels, I went to the University of Southampton to study Aerospace Engineering.

I chose that course because it brought together my interests in science, engineering and aviation. At the time, I also had ambitions of joining the Royal Air Force, so it felt like a natural fit.

Alongside my degree, I joined the University Air Squadron, which provided a valuable introduction to military life. It offered opportunities such as flying and leadership training, and it gave me a clear sense of the career I wanted to pursue.

After graduating, I went straight into the Royal Air Force as an Engineer Officer. It was a fairly direct transition from education into a professional role, and it marked the beginning of what has been a very rewarding and varied career so far.



What are you doing now, and how has your career developed?

I am currently studying Engineering for Sustainable Development at Cambridge University, supported by the Royal Air Force. The course focuses on leadership, strategy and the broader context of engineering, particularly in relation to global challenges.

It has been a very different academic experience compared to my undergraduate degree. There is a much greater emphasis on critical thinking, discussion and written work, which has pushed me to develop new skills. It has also given me the opportunity to learn alongside people from a wide range of professional backgrounds and countries, which has been incredibly valuable.

Alumni Voices: 2016 leaver Charles

My main area of interest at the moment is space sustainability. As space becomes increasingly important on a global scale, there is a growing need to develop solutions that ensure it can be used responsibly and sustainably. That is something I am particularly passionate about and hope to contribute to in the future.
Once I complete my studies, I will return to the Royal Air Force and continue my career there, bringing back the knowledge and experience I have gained. My main area of interest at the moment is space sustainability.

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What role did extracurricular activities play in your development?

Extracurricular activities were a really important part of my time at school, and I would say they were just as valuable as what I learned in the classroom.

In a professional environment, technical knowledge is important, but it will only take you so far. Skills such as communication, leadership, resilience and teamwork become increasingly important as you progress in your career.

For me, rugby played a huge role in developing those skills. It taught me how to work effectively as part of a team, how to deal with setbacks and how to stay resilient under pressure. Those experiences have translated directly into both my academic work and my career in the Royal Air Force.
I would strongly encourage students, particularly those focused on academic subjects, to get involved in activities outside the classroom. Whether that is sport or something else, those experiences help to build the kind of skills that are difficult to teach but incredibly important in the real world.

How did you manage the pressures of Sixth Form?

Sixth Form is a very important and often challenging period. There is a lot of pressure, both academically and in terms of thinking about the future, and it can feel quite intense at times.
One of the most important things is to maintain a sense of balance. For me, staying active and spending time outdoors was essential. Whether through sport or simply being outside, it helped me manage stress and maintain a clear head.

It is also important to maintain relationships and interests outside of school. Having that separation from the academic environment allows you to step back and keep things in perspective. It reminds you that while exams are important, they are not the only thing that matters.
Looking after your mental wellbeing is just as important as your academic performance, and finding that balance is key.

What key values from The Cotswold School have stayed with you?

There are a number of values that have stayed with me, but one of the most important is the idea of striving for excellence. During my time working with the Red Arrows, excellence was central to everything we did. That mindset of always aiming to do your best and taking pride in your work was something that was first developed during my time at school.

Another key value is the importance of friendship and building strong relationships. During my career, particularly when working in international environments, I have seen how important it is to have a network of people you trust and can rely on. That sense of community and support is something that The Cotswold School places a strong emphasis on.

I have also carried forward the importance of applying knowledge. Through experiences like the Science and Engineering Club, I learned to think about why I was learning something and how it could be used in practice. That approach makes learning more meaningful and more engaging.

Finally, I have developed a strong appreciation for lifelong learning. Returning to university has reinforced that education does not stop when you leave school. It is an ongoing process, and it is a privilege to be able to continue learning and developing throughout your life.

I would encourage all students to embrace that mindset and to see themselves as lifelong learners, wherever their path may lead.

Upcoming Alumni Events

Alumni vs Students Cricket Match - Summer 2026

We are pleased to be planning a Summer Alumni vs Students Cricket Match and warmly invite members of our alumni community to take part in this special event.

The match will provide an opportunity to return to The Cotswold School, reconnect with fellow former students and enjoy an afternoon of friendly sporting competition with our current pupils. It promises to be a celebration of school spirit, community and shared memories, both on and off the pitch.

Players of all abilities are welcome to express their interest, whether you previously represented the school or simply enjoy the game.

Further details, including the date and format of the match, will be shared shortly. If you would like to attend, please register via the link below as soon as possible, as we need numbers to ensure the event is viable and enjoyable for all attendees. Feel free to share this invitation with fellow alumni - we would love to see as many familiar faces as possible!

RSVP Here

The Cotswold School is Turning 40!

The Cotswold School will mark a significant milestone in 2028 as it celebrates its 40th anniversary.

As the school approaches this landmark year, plans are beginning to take shape to recognise its history, achievements and the strong sense of community that has defined The Cotswold School over the past four decades.

To support this work, the school is establishing a Fundraising and Celebration Committee. The committee will help shape anniversary events, gather ideas and perspectives from across the school community, and support fundraising initiatives in the lead-up to 2028.

The school is keen to involve alumni and members of the wider community with a range of skills and experiences. Those with expertise in fundraising, event planning or community engagement are particularly encouraged to take part, although enthusiasm and a willingness to contribute time and ideas are equally welcome.
Anyone interested in finding out more, or supporting the anniversary celebrations in other ways, is invited to contact the school at admin@thecotswoldschool.co.uk.

Further details about the anniversary programme will be shared as plans develop, and the school looks forward to working with past and present members of its community to make the 40th anniversary a memorable and meaningful celebration for all.

Get In Touch

We love hearing from our alumni! Whether you've started a new job, launched a business, travelled the world, or simply want to share a fond memory from your time at The Cotswold School - we'd love to feature your story in a future newsletter.

Please get in touch with any updates, photos, or milestones you'd like to share. You can email Grace Dembowicz at **marketing@thecotswoldschool.co.uk**

Your stories inspire our current students and help keep our alumni community connected!

Reunion - Register Your Interest

We're excited to be planning an alumni reunion for this summer - a chance to reconnect with old friends, reminisce about your time at The Cotswold School, and see how the school has grown.

If you'd like to be kept in the loop or are interested in attending, please register your interest by completing the form linked below. We'd love to hear from you!

Keep an eye out for more details in the coming months.

Register Here

Become An Alumni Ambassador

We're looking for former students to join us as Alumni Ambassadors - helping us grow and strengthen The Cotswold School alumni network.

Whether you'd like to support with reunion planning, share your career journey to inspire current students, or simply help spread the word about our growing community, we'd love to have you involved. It's a great way to stay connected, give back, and be part of something that continues to make a difference.

If you're interested in becoming an Alumni Ambassador, please get in touch with Grace Dembowicz at **marketing@thecotswoldschool.co.uk** - we'd love to hear from you!