

December
2020



The Cotswold School This Christmas



Thank you for your support



There aren't many of us who will be sad to see the back of 2020. Although it has been a year of disruption, loss and worry, the immense challenges that we faced have often become opportunities for support and innovation.

I have said it many times but, throughout the year – including when we were in the first national lockdown and schools were almost completely closed – I have been inspired by the care and commitment from staff, students and members of our school community.

Thanks to the ingenuity and commitment of many, we have still been able to create a festive atmosphere this Christmas in school. Although it is near impossible for schools to perform live music to an audience, invite a visitor into a building, enjoy a trip to the theatre, compete in sports matches or even host a cake sale, a number of Christmas activities have gone ahead, adapted for our world of social distancing and online interaction.

Ms Buckley and the Music Department recorded some lovely performances from musicians in all year groups, which has become our online Christmas Concert, available to watch on our website homepage. We hope that you will consider a donation to the school for our Music Enterprise Fund.



Miss Henley promoted a fantastic initiative for children to design and make Christmas cards, an idea she saw at the Bourton Co-op. These will be distributed to local people who might be self-isolating or unable to visit family over Christmas – a gesture of friendship from our school to our wider community.

PTA volunteers adapted the ever-popular Christmas wreath-making workshop, creating kits that were distributed far and wide. Your enthusiasm for this version of the event more than doubled the takings compared to 2019. We are immensely grateful to our PTA volunteers and organisers for the resourcefulness and commitment they give to our school – and to all of you who support their activities. You can read more about the PTA's fundraising later in this newsletter but a special thank you from me goes to Lisa Farley, Penny Wilkinson and as ever, to Anita Torris, who put so much time and hard work into such excellent events.

We were overwhelmed by your generosity in response to an idea suggested by Jess in Year 11, in memory of our friend and student, Grace Reason. Parents and carers have donated almost £1,900. We will be creating a special place outdoors to remember them and sending a donation to Midlands Air Ambulance, the family's charity of choice.

Finally, a thank you and farewell to Mrs Sewell, our Head of English. She joined us in 2009 as a newly qualified teacher and, among many other responsibilities, has gone on to lead the English Department with creativity and commitment. Congratulations on her promotion and best wishes from all of us in her new role as Assistant Headteacher at St Peter's High School in Gloucester.

Although many people will see family over Christmas, others may be missing loved ones and my thoughts are with you. I wish you a peaceful Christmas and hope that you keep yourselves, your friends and families as safe as possible.

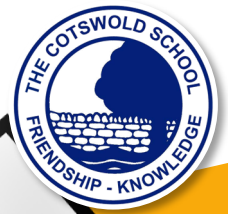
I look forward to what we can achieve in 2021 and thank you again for your continued support.



Will Morgan
Principal



Latest school news...



Check out the news stories on our website
<https://cotswold.gloucs.sch.uk/latest-news/>



PTA Christmas wreaths raise fantastic total for our students



All Pals Together



The Cotswold School is a UK top 30 school



Arkwright Engineering Scholarship award



Cotswolds Radio's Big Quiz raises £640 for our school



Join our outstanding Sixth Form



Your DofE achievements



Nurse inspires drawing for the Ashmolean

Christmas concert goes online

Thank you to Ms Buckley and her amazing team in the Music Department, who have produced a fabulous online concert. Visit our website and click on the link to view: www.cotswold.gloucs.sch.uk

Our talented musicians have been recording some beautiful pieces. Among them, the Year 7 Chamber Orchestra plays 'We Wish You a Merry Christmas' and the Sixth Form Chamber Choir sings 'Seasons of Love' from the hit musical Hamilton. There is also a selection of carols, including 'Hark, The Herald, Angels Sing' and 'Silent Night', sung and played by soloists and groups from across all year groups.

We are grateful for any donations to our **Music Enterprise Fund** (via Parentmail), as this year we are unable to raise money through ticket sales. The fund helps support access to music lessons and instruments for all students and our particular focus right now is to get the grand piano moved, professionally, into the music department.



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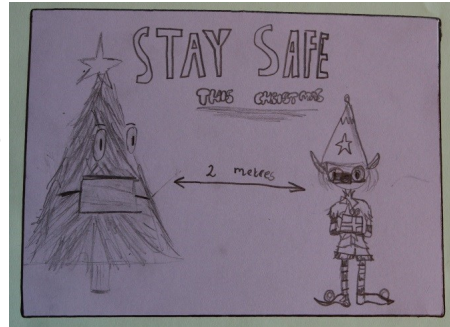
Cards for our community

Year 7 and Year 9 students have created over 140 Christmas cards to give to people in Bourton.

Miss Henley saw a notice at the Co-op supermarket, asking local children to create their own cards. She coordinated the collection of pupils' cards and street volunteers will deliver these, within Covid-safe guidelines, to people who may be self-isolating, or unable to meet others over Christmas.

Miss Henley said, "We have had some amazing designs.

"I wanted to ensure many elderly or vulnerable people know they are not forgotten. I hope they will all have at least one card this Christmas and feel like they are loved."



Foodbank donations

Mrs Holland, who coordinates donations from The Cotswold School to the North Cotswolds Foodbank says a 'massive thank you' to everyone who helped this year.

She added, "We were only collecting for half the time that we did in 2019 and I reckon we did almost as well!"

Donations of food and other items (240kg!) were sent in by our students' families. Mrs Holland said, "In a year of so much turmoil, it is good to think that this kindness could make some families' Christmases a little better. It was a team effort, including collecting donations, shopping, hauling boxes and delivering to the amazing volunteers at North Cotswolds Food Bank."



Improving our school facilities

Gloucestershire County Council is supporting a £5.8 million expansion and refurbishment programme at The Cotswold School, due for completion by the end of 2021. This is thanks to the school's success in providing an outstanding education for local children. Our Year 7 intake increases by one form of entry from 2021 onwards.

These facilities include:

- 10 classroom English block
- large learning resource centre
- two fully equipped science laboratories
- new gymnasium extension to our sports hall

Speller Metcalfe, the construction contractor, aims to create minimum disruption to school life throughout this period.

The story so far

Piling for the foundations for the main English block and Sports Hall have finished and the concrete slabs will be laid in both areas just before and after Christmas.

The main groundworks will be then be complete and the steel framework will go up.

We have also submitted a planning application for a new cover over the tennis courts.

New outdoor shelter

The governors have approved additional capital spend for another canopy area in front of the girls' gymnasium changing rooms. This will create a new covered dining area linking to the hall.

The area has been tarmacked in readiness for the canopy and construction is planned during February half term.

Please help us raise funds for our capital projects

We are grateful to those who donated via The Big Quiz, hosted by Cotswolds Radio; our PTA organisers and all of you who supported the Christmas wreaths and raffle, as this money goes directly towards the new outdoor shelter.

If you can consider making a regular donation to the school, please use the form here <https://cotswold.gloucs.sch.uk/school-development-fundraising/> or speak to Mandy Tye, our Chief Financial Officer: mtye@thecotswoldschool.co.uk



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Broadcast stars

Our Cotswolds Radio presenters

Cotswolds Radio is a fun and upbeat community radio station, run by volunteers, playing a range of pop, rock, Motown and classical music 24 hours a day. You might have heard Mr Morgan being interviewed sometimes on the Breakfast Show (from 7.30 each day). The station was set up during the first lockdown this year.

The station is committed to training others, particularly young people, to prepare, produce and present radio broadcasts. Did you know that some of our current and former students are among its popular presenters? These include Johnty in Year 11, who presents Music through the Decades; and Poppy in Year 9, who broadcasts weekly alongside her dad.



Poppy keeps her listeners happy

When is your show?

My radio show is on Cotswolds Radio on Wednesdays at 7 pm.

How did you get involved with the station?

I got involved through my dad, who is a local doctor. He was asked to talk about the coronavirus early on in the first lockdown. I sent an email to the radio station about my dad and they asked me if I wanted to have a go at the show (as a one-off), which I did.

How did that lead to a regular slot?

They apparently saw that I was doing very well and asked me to do another show and I started by sending over some songs I wanted to play. After lockdown I started doing it live in the studio.

What has been the highlight so far?

Recently, my Wednesday show had the highest number of listeners yet, and if that wasn't enough... I was invited on to the Chris Evans breakfast show to speak about it, which was amazing!

You can listen to Johnty, Poppy and all the other presenters at cotswoldsradio.com and follow them on Facebook and Twitter.



Big total in the Big Quiz

Thank you to everyone who took part in The Big Quiz, kindly hosted by Cotswolds Radio in aid of The Cotswold School PTA.

You raised £640.00, which will go towards funding a new purpose-built outdoor shelter for students at The Cotswold School, which we're aiming to build in February.

Drama **The show must go on**

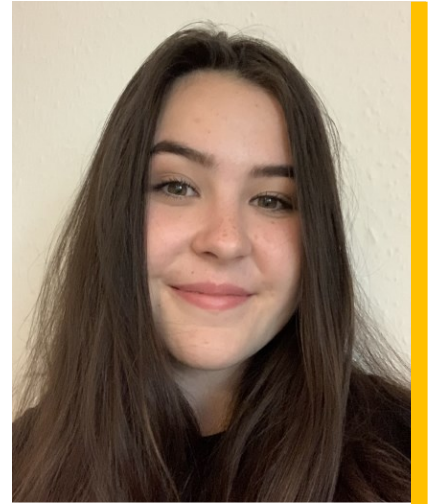
'Machinal' performed for Gold Arts Award

Lucy Pomeroy (far right), Year 13 Drama and Theatre student and Deputy Head Girl, directed 'Machinal', as part of her Gold Arts Award. The play, about a woman trapped in a mechanical society, was performed by Year 12 drama students. Lucy explains why she wanted to experience the role of a director.

"Undertaking the Gold Arts Award is about experiencing other art forms, creating new work, and being involved in the industry itself. I wanted to complete the award as it would allow me to achieve an extra qualification in drama and theatre and expand my knowledge in an area I love.

"I've learnt so much from directing, such as patience; time management; and how to work and manage others with positivity. Directing is difficult but so fulfilling at the same time. Seeing the play being performed gave me so much, as I saw my hard work pay off.

"As I am in Year 13, the Gold Arts Award forms part of my university application. I hope to go on to study Drama and English Literature and use my newly learned skills in the future, either in directing or teaching."



Drama examinations and Year 7 Drama Club

Drama lessons and practical exams have been under way within social distancing restrictions and, instead of trips to see plays, some groups have enjoyed web-streamed productions from prestigious theatres.

Year 7 Drama Club is going strong. Their Christmas play was The Grinch, which was filmed and shared with their fellow students in the Year 7 Christmas assembly.



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Wise words

Congratulations to our Rotary national award-winning writer and environmentalists, 2020

Rhiannon's story about 'Connections' won the Rotary National Young Writer Competition at senior level. Rebecca's project, raising awareness of air pollution levels at the start and end of the school day, took her to the top of the Rotary National Young Environmentalist Competition, also at senior level.

Runners-up in the Young Environmentalist Intermediate Category National Final was a team – Lily, Alice and Emilia – who produced a project to eliminate single-use plastics in a local stream.

Bob Hadley from the North Cotswolds Rotary Club said, "This is an amazing achievement by all concerned and our thanks go to The Cotswold School for their support in running these competitions to encourage and promote young talent."



Governors' update

Many meetings in recent months have focused on monitoring the school's COVID-19 risk assessment and return to school plans. Governors convened two extra meetings for this sole purpose and asked challenging and robust questions to ensure that they were happy with the school's response.

The most recent meeting in December was the annual opportunity for governors to see the school accounts prepared by Mrs Tye, our Chief Financial Officer, and audited by external accountants. The accounts will be on the website if you would like to take a look yourselves. Governors have also been busy with all the regular committee meetings and monitoring the plans for our latest building project and we thank them for the part they will play in its ongoing planning and delivery.

September also saw the first meeting of our newly formed committee, Welfare and Wellbeing, which will focus on all aspects of wellbeing and pastoral affairs such as attendance and safeguarding, the new PSHE curriculum and mental health. Chaired by Mrs Rachel Havill, it has got off to a great start.

It is important for the Governing Body to have as wide a range of specialist knowledge as possible so we are delighted to welcome our three newly elected parent governors. Mrs Jenny Birrell and Mrs Lucy Morrison bring with them financial and legal expertise and Mr Daniel Souch has a career background in construction and related health and safety. Our governor skills audit, which we completed recently, shows that between them our governors cover a huge range of expertise and this enables the Board to fulfil its duties with great confidence. Thank you to Mr Tim Redding for being a staff governor for the last few years. He decided not to stand again so Miss Cath Lamb has been elected to the role. Welcome aboard to all our new governors. Full details of the Governing Body are on the website.

On behalf of the governors I send you all good wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

Fran Hudson, *Clerk to Governors*

Oxford University's 'virus factory'



Year 7 students learned how viruses 'hijack' our cells and turn them into their own personal 'virus factories'.

They were encouraged by the science department to watch an after-school online lecture run by Oxford University Physics Department. Well done to Ziv, Isobel, Joshua, Sam, Lorna, Ashleigh, Jan, Oliver C, Ella, (another) Oliver C and Henry, who all received merits for recording three things they learned about viruses.



Lorna said, "I joined the zoom call and it was amazing. I learnt so much from it and am really happy I participated. I learned about..."

How small viruses really are and that they are measured in nanometres.

How long it takes to just prepare one cell (really long!) for examination with an electron microscope.

The process of a virus infecting a cell."



Oliver C discovered:

A virus can't move on its own.

If a human was the size of Europe, a virus is the size of a football.

It's hard to recognise a virus and it requires a lot of ICT work.



Sam said the three things he learned are:

A virus is 30-200 nanometres in size.

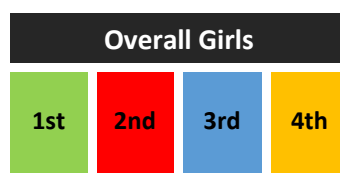
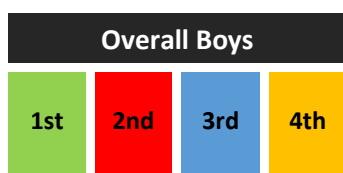
There are four main different types of virus.

A computer learns to identify something (e.g. a virus) by being given lots of different pictures of it.



Cross-country results

	1st	2nd	3rd	1st
Year 7 BOYS	Mike Aldridge 11.56 ●	Myles Pemberton 11.57 ●	Rohan Symons 12.38 ●	2nd
	4. Maxim Bryars; 5. Jan Winkowski; 6. Oli Stacey; 7. Ed Nicholas-Brown; 8. Lewis Daniels; 9. Hugo Negus-Cole; 10. Jimmy Hunt			3rd
				4th
	1st	2nd	3rd	1st
Year 7 GIRLS	Lucy Hillary 13.35 ●	Alex Pradel 14.10 ●	Flo MacCurrach 14.11 ●	2nd
	4. Lily Everitt; 5. Evie Twigg; 6. Poppy Wolfendale-Smith; 7. Maggie Brain; 8. Emily Bell; 9. Ivy Knight; 10. Izzy Townsend			3rd
				4th
	1st	2nd	3rd	1st
Year 8 BOYS	Toby Pennell 11.44 ●	Harrison Walker 12.15 ●	Reuben Beard 12.25 ●	2nd
	4. Tom Gallagher; 5. Joe Barnard; 6. Jack Nevins; 7. Tom Finley; 8. Leo Krasopoulos; 9. Jack Adebajo; 10. Jacob Sinton			3rd
				4th
	1st	2nd	3rd	1st
Year 8 GIRLS	Leila Denne 12.28 ●	Lauren Jefferies 13.18 ●	Immie Lawrence 14.26 ●	=2nd
	5. Ailsa Morrison; 6. Hattie Phipp; 7. Tilly Jones; 8. Imogen Hutchinson; 9. Emme Luney; 10. Erin James			=2nd
				4th
	1st	2nd	3rd	1st
Year 9 BOYS	Henry Campbell-Black 10.40 ●	Tom Pennell 11.23 ●	Henry Hunt 11.56 ●	2nd
	4. Tawanshe Hove; 5. Johnty Friend; 6. Edward Jones; 7. Rhys Prout; 8. George Brain; 9. Josh Hennessy; 10. Harry Clarke			3rd
				4th
	1st	2nd	3rd	1st
Year 9 GIRLS	Ella Gray 11.57 ●	Katie Havill 12.06 ●	Izzy Fernandez-Pozas 12.10 ●	2nd
	4. Phoebe Alvin; 5. Lilly-Anna Walmsly; 6. Kady Beauchamp; 7. Poppy Bates; 8. Hannah Fulford; 9. Lily Langsbury; 10. Millie Swait			3rd
				4th
	1st	2nd	3rd	1st
Year 10 BOYS	Sam Cotton 12.07 ●	Finley Davies 12.18 ●	Will Puddy 12.23 ●	2nd
	4. Cameron Tyler; 5. Joe Lovell; 6. Henry Wheeler; 7. Ed Mitchell; 8. Max Sissons; 9. Jake Brown; 10. Ben Hughes			3rd
				4th
	1st	2nd	3rd	1st
Year 10 GIRLS	Maite Capper 14.01 ●	Shannon Townsend 16.10 ●	Blanca Espallardo 17.16 ●	2nd
	4. Liv McMorris; 5. Isla Albutt; 6. Matilda Milner; 7. Izzy Dennett; 8. Jess Ardron; 9. Scarlett Boyce; 10. Mia Jaquiss			3rd
				4th



KEY:	Apollo - ●	Artemis - ●	Poseidon - ●	Zeus - ●
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Talking about university

Undergraduates from our school are helping current sixth formers with university applications

They recorded videos and wrote emails to share their experiences about their courses and how they chose them; what their accommodation is like; quality of teaching; the local towns and campuses; and support and welfare.

Thank you to Jenny, studying Civil Engineering at Loughborough University; Niamh at the University of Cardiff; Zoe, who is studying Materials Science and Engineering and Laurie, studying English Literature—both at the University of Sheffield; Maddie, reading Philosophy at Southampton University; and Brooke, who is at Bristol studying Geography.

Oxford students giving back to school

In zoom meetings held at lunchtimes, Year 12 students got some great advice about applying for courses from former students now at the University of Oxford.

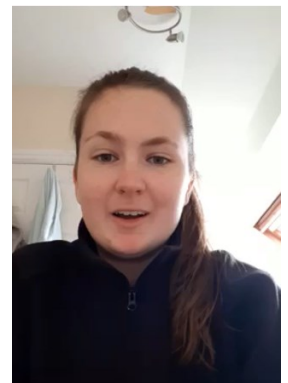
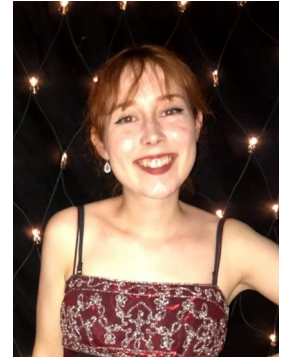
Sophie Taylor, who left The Cotswold School Sixth Form in 2017 to read Geography at the University of Oxford, is now a research assistant in the university's School of Geography and Environment. Joe Salf is at Somerville College, Oxford, reading Medicine. Sophie and Joe held a lunchtime zoom with Year 12 students, to offer advice about applying to Oxbridge for medicine, science and humanities courses.

In another session, Ellen Walkingshaw, studying Theology at Mansfield College; and Jossy Munro, who is now doing a Masters at St Peter's College, discussed applications for arts, languages and humanities courses.

Early applications to Oxbridge

Several Year 13 students had mock interviews with members of our senior leadership team and other volunteers, to prepare them for Oxbridge interviews. Bethan Powell said,

"I found my two mock interviews incredibly useful. Both were challenging, but I learnt lots of useful tips and strategies to help me stay calm for my real interview. The main things I will take away from the mock interviews is to think the problems out loud, it's not about getting to the answer (because you're not going to know the answer!), it's about your thought process and using what you do know."



Clockwise from top: Joe, Ellen, Zoe, Bethan, Sophie, Jenny.



PTA News

Your Christmas wreaths and raffle tickets raised £8,530 towards the costs of a purpose built outdoor shelter for our students.

The PTA's wreath kits alone raised an amazing £4,530. The traditional workshop was perfectly adapted to a packaged, home-based event. Anita Torris, Chair of the PTA, said the response from the school community was incredible:

"Thank you so much Penny Wilkinson and Lisa Farley, who are such committed volunteers; and Mark and Paul at Phipp Feeds, who let us roam through their forest of Christmas trees – and to everyone who helped source and collect foliage.

"The response from people who wanted to make them was amazing. The community spirit and enthusiasm took us by surprise!"

Please continue to use [smile.amazon](https://smile.amazon.com) and easyfundraising.com when you shop online. Find out more about the PTA [on our website](#).

Christmas raffle and wreaths total

£8,530

Thank you to everyone who took part!

The raffle prize winners are being contacted.

A special thank you to all our sponsors:

Drew's Drivers,
Bourton-on-the-Water
Richard Wills logs, Northleach
The White Hart, Winchcombe
The Cotswold Fitness Centre
Everyone Active,
Bourton-on-the-Water
Essence Hair, Bourton-on-the-Water
Indoor Karting
The Cooperative supermarket,
Bourton-on-the-Water
Croft Restaurant,
Bourton-on-the-Water
The Yoga Tree,
Upper Rissington & Northleach
Dean Motors, Bourton-on-the-Water
Fran Kirk Yoga & Pilates,
Hook Norton
The Spa on The Square,
Moreton-in-Marsh
The Chequers Pub & Restaurant,
Churchill
Cotswold Farm Park
Fern, manicurist,
Bourton-on-the-Water
Pauline McCrann, sound relaxation,
Bourton-on-the-Water
The Bakery on the Water
Borzoi Bookshop, Stow-on-the-Wold



December 2020



The Cotswold School

PTA

The money we raise together makes a difference to every child at The Cotswold School.

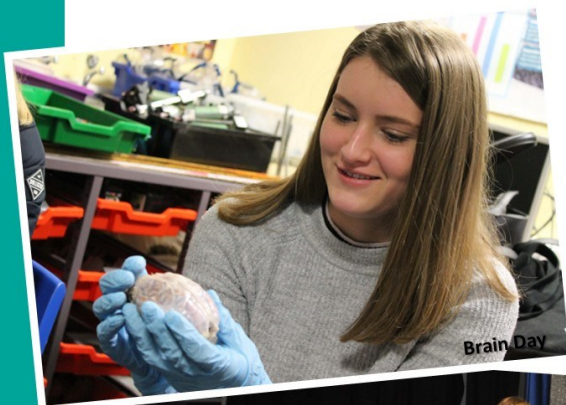
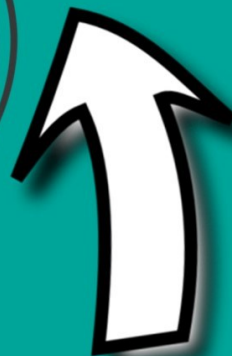
From laptops to xylophones, sewing machines and saws, your contributions fund equipment, activities, visitors and learning materials to enhance every student's education.

Support our events throughout the year

- Quiz night
- Bars & raffles
- Christmas wreath workshop
- Chastleton House tea & cakes
- Tesco 'bags of help'

£19,600
raised
in 2019

£24,200
raised
in 2018



Brain Day



Music equipment



Speech Evening



Specialist learning equipment



[easyfundraising.co.uk](https://www.easyfundraising.co.uk)



[smile.amazon.co.uk](https://www.smile.amazon.co.uk)



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PTA@thecotswoldschool.co.uk



Term dates and contacts

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@TheCotswoldSchool | **@Cotswold_School**

Term 3 4th January - 12th February
Term 4 2nd February - 1st April
Term 5 19th April - 28th May
Term 6 7th June - 21st July



Second-hand uniform shop

Please contact cneale@thecotswoldschool.co.uk to donate good quality outgrown uniform or to obtain items

The Cotswold School

PRINCIPAL Mr Will Morgan

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