



Headteacher:
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Science



INVESTORS IN
PEOPLE UK



Healthy School



International
School Award
2007-2010

Training
School

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Dear Parents and Carers

As we come to the end of Term 3, a term which often starts dark and cold and then begins to brighten as the weeks go by, I wanted to be able to celebrate some successes with you.

The Cherwell School is awarded a national Pupil Premium Award and is in the top 90 schools in England for sustained improvement

Further to our 2014 GCSE results placing us in the top 6 percent of all schools for the progress our students make, we received a congratulatory letter this month from David Laws MP, Minister of State for Schools. I quote from his letter:

"It gives me great pleasure to write to you and congratulate your school on winning £5,000 in the key stage 4 category of the Pupil Premium Awards 2015. The reason you have been selected is that you are one of the most improved schools in the country in terms of attainment and value-added progress of your disadvantaged pupils since 2011. In addition, your school has proven to be one of the top 90 schools in England showing sustained improvement in the percentage of pupils achieving five or more A-C grades GCSEs (or equivalent), including English and mathematics GCSEs. I would like to congratulate your staff, governors, parents and pupils for their hard work and success."*

The category referred to as disadvantaged pupils means those eligible for free school meals, either currently or any time in the past 6 years, children in care, service children or those adopted. This is approximately 21% of The Cherwell School community and we refer to our pupil premium students as Cherwell Scholars. As well as the tremendous progress made by these students I am delighted that the progress of all of our students has been recognised. I would also like to add my congratulations to the 14 students in Year 13 who have had Oxbridge offers confirmed this term.

Further to the comment from Mr Laws I would also like to add my thanks to parents and carers as without your support for the school, and your child's education, we would not be able to achieve all we do now, and all we aim to do in the future. I am also glad to be able to share more good news in this letter since the school is about far more than academic achievement.

What follows is a summary of materials supplied by a range of colleagues covering just some of the activities that take place in school; do please refer to the student bulletin available on the website on a regular basis in order to stay up-to-date with the opportunities available.

Performing Arts

Drama:

- Theatre trips: In drama this year, students have already enjoyed five performances from highly acclaimed companies such as DV8, frantic assembly and pilot theatre. They have

been taken to the National Theatre in London, the Oxford Playhouse and Winchester Theatre Royal. Nearly 100 GCSE students have seen a contemporary interpretation of Othello and have been captivated by the highly acclaimed ghost in the play The Woman in Black.

- Residential: Yr 13 drama students have taken part in the drama residential to Ufton, working alongside the dynamic and reputable Gecko Theatre Company. Students are currently producing fantastic pieces of theatre to be performed in April.

Music:

- Arts mark gold evening in coordination with local community charity ArkT: Organised by year 12's to raise funds for ARKT
- The Holywell Room concert in support of World Cancer Day involving year 12 and 13 pupils: a quote from the organisers - "Thank you for bringing such a talented group of performers to the Holywell Music Room for the World Cancer Day Recital yesterday. It was a wonderful concert – I think that they did the school proud. The concert raised £193 through ticket sales on the door and the bucket collection. This is a significant achievement and we are profoundly grateful."
- **Cherwell Flute Quartet: Lily Vernon, Ellie Forsberg, Sophie Woolford, Hannah Gillingham**, were joint winners of the Gordon Woodward Quartet cup after playing at the Oxford Music Festival. They were also asked to perform at the Festival Concert as a result of their win.
- Jan Elsner in Year 13 won the Oxfordshire Youth Concerto Competition with the County Youth Orchestra at the Sheldonian. He played piano concerto Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue. Zoe Reed-Sanderson also in Year 13 playing the cello came third. To have 2 of the 3 finalists is certainly a cause for celebration.

Sports

- Year 8 and Year 10 Rugby Teams won their County Competitions and are therefore County Champions. The Year 7s are hopefully on their way to the same achievement!
- Under 16 Girls came 3rd in the Badminton County Finals. The team was Lillie Woods, Andrea Salazar-Perez, Charlotte Kershaw and Jasmin Hasib.
- The Year 9 Girls Netball Team have progressed to the Oxfordshire County Final
- The under 16 Cherwell Girls football team performed very impressively this year in reaching the last 16 in the England Schools Football competition.
- Cricket continues to grow in popularity at the school and recently 12 students from Years 7 to 10 were victorious in Oxford's inaugural Chance to Shine Indoor Tournament, where we beat stiff competition to lift the trophy.

County Cross-Country success:

- Under 17 girls: Overall team County Cross-Country Champions
- Elizabeth Dorey 2nd, Jessica Duckett 7th, Flora Kempton 8th and Ava Kuyken 9th
- Individual Under 19 Boys: Thomson Harris 3rd
- These students have qualified to represent Oxfordshire in the English Schools Cross-Country Championship taking place at Witton Park, Blackburn on Saturday 14th March.

Individual sporting successes:

- Ava Kuyken in Year 9 and Ella Franklin-Fraiture in Year 13 have both recently been selected for and attended England Football training camps in their respective age groups.
- Elizabeth Dorey in Year 11 continues to be selected for England Under 16 Rugby camps
- Luisa Chantler Edmond in Year 11 Won Gold in the shot putt for Under 17 Girls at the Southern England Athletics Championships
- Ross McMahon in Year 10 has been selected and represented Scotland Under 16s at football training camps.

- Miriam Pritchard in Year 11 has recently been selected for and been attending England Hockey under 18 training Camps and is one of the top 3 goalkeepers in the country at this age group.

The Cherwell School in the National Final of the UKMT Senior Maths challenge

Mr Dyer took a team of 4 of our best mathematicians to London to compete against teams from the nation's top schools. Out of the 78 teams present, only a handful of them were comprehensives, the majority were fee-paying or grammar schools with a few sixth form colleges, so our students had already done remarkably well to qualify. We finished with a total score of 155 out of 176 and our final position was 24th out of 78. The joint winning schools were Harrow, Hampton School and King Edwards, Birmingham. Overall it was an enjoyable day with some fantastic mathematics. The students Bohan Yu, Noah Porcelli, Lok-Hin Wong and Felix Vorlaender were excellent ambassadors for the school and deserve great credit for their achievements.

History

Historical Association Great Debate on the significance of the Magna Carta held at Magdalen College: Our Year 13s put in a great performance, Rhiannon Hodgson came 2nd, narrowly losing out on a chance to go to the final at Royal Holloway.

Easyread at The Cherwell

Easyread is a computer-based systematic phonics programme which retrains students' decoding habits, supporting those who find reading a challenge. We have been running Easyread since last October and it's going really well; currently we have 52 students on the programme. It has already proving to be a great success giving students confidence and strategies to de-code and work words out for themselves.

A Successful French Exchange

Madame Garitey says: "We (the MFL faculty) are ever so grateful to have spent a delightful week in the company of such an extraordinary group of students who, by their manners, politeness and genuine passion for the language, have been completely 'adopted' by our French hosting families. Their impressive work on WW1 presented to our French partners and their courage to cope with a different environment, language and culture have simply been the perfect evidence of their will to go beyond classroom learning and embrace any opportunity that the Cherwell school is offering to them: we have spent the most harmonious trip together, and the feedback from our French partners and our students was beyond our expectations."

I hope you find this an enjoyable selection of achievements which gives a small insight into the opportunities available to our students and the ways in which they are making the most of them.

Finally I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your families well for the February holiday.

Yours sincerely



Paul James
Headteacher