



We Wish You A Merry Christmas!



Samba Band photos by Jered Bolton

On Saturday 3 December Cirencester's town centre reverberated to the sound of the Deer Park Samba Band. Pupils and accompanying staff had been invited by the organisers of the Christmas Markets to lead the Lantern Procession. In spite of the cold, Dan Cook, Music Co-ordinator, demonstrated his usual enthusiasm and confidently led the Samba Band through the crowds. "Having the opportunity to march and play outside is really what this music is all about. The pupils had a great time and got in to the festive spirit by

wearing their Santa hats and decorating their drums. The Market Place was very busy and playing to such a large audience was fantastic." A host of angels arrived at the Parish Church on Monday 12 December in time for our Carol Concert. The Art Club who made the angels this year had learned to block print, using stars and snowflake shapes as inspiration. Creating decorative patterned paper to clothe each angel; rich colours were used with silver and gold print, the colours of Christmas.

- In this issue:**
- Page 2 - Head's Message**
 - Page 3 - Enrichment Week 2012, Winter Weather and Chefs on Tour**
 - Page 4 - Science and Lego Challenges**
 - Pages 5 & 6 - The Wiz - School Production**
 - Page 7 - Sports News**
 - Page 8 - Library News, RP Debate and BBC School Report Project**
 - Pages 9 & 10 - Munich Trip reports**
 - Page 11 - KS4 News**
 - Page 12 - Class of 2011 Celebration of Achievement**
 - Page 13 - Choices At 14 and 16**
 - Page 14 - Staff News and News Briefs**
 - Page 15 - Term dates calendar**



Christmas Message from the Head



Our pupils have marked the beginning of the festive season in a number of ways. On Saturday 3 December, Cirencester's town centre reverberated to the sound of the school's Samba Band as they led the lantern procession around the Market place. On Monday 12 December we gathered in the Parish Church for our Carol Concert. This year's programme focused on the nativity from Mary's perspective. We joined the choir in singing traditional carols and enjoyed music from our flute and guitar ensembles and Cirencester's Community Orchestra. This week pupils have participated in festive assemblies and will enjoy a full Christmas lunch, with all the trimmings, on Friday 16 December.

A highlight for us all this term was our whole school production of 'The Wiz' which enthralled audiences in November. I am grateful to our Expressive Arts team for the efforts they and other staff put into ensuring the show's success and the pupils themselves excelled.

Providing high quality enrichment activities is a priority and this term pupils have had the opportunity to take part in a range of trips. Pupils in Year 7 have undertaken surveys in school and in Cirencester to help them understand their local environment while some pupils in Key Stage 4 travelled to Munich in Germany as a part of our Humanities and Languages cross curricular tour over half term. Similarly, in addition to participating in sports clubs and fixtures, pupils have fulfilled ambassadorial roles, representing the school on extended curriculum programmes. These have included a Year 10 Science Challenge in Cheltenham and a Year 9 Religious Philosophy Conference at

Cheltenham Ladies' College. Other pupils have taken part in the Year 9 Lego league in Bristol and a further group are preparing for the Model United Nations Conference at Alfrink College in The Netherlands, in February. They will form the sixth delegation from Deer Park to participate in this global citizenship-focused event.

This term we launched our programme for Enrichment Week 2012. Details are on our website. If you and your child have not yet returned your preference form, please do so in the New Year.

Thank you for your help and co-operation this term. We hope you have found your child's recent reports and parents' evenings useful. As you will be aware, Miss Skerten, Assistant Head, has been working with pupil and parent focus groups to review our school uniform and there will be an opportunity for you to find out more about the progress she has made in the Spring Term.

Pupils in Year 11 have just completed their mock examinations and we look forward to sharing their results with them on our Mock Exam Results Day on Friday 6 January. They are reminded that they should be revising over the break for their real GCSE exam in English on 10 January and module exams in Science and Geography.

As this term draws to a close, I wish you a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year. Our new term starts for pupils on Wednesday 4 January 2012 (Week 1).

Chiquita Henson
Head





Enrichment Week 2012



By the time you read this, pupils in Years 8 and 9 will know what they will be doing during Enrichment Week 2012, week commencing 2 July 2012. All Year 7 pupils will be taking part in 'Aim for the Stars'. Year 10 will be undertaking Work Experience and Year 11 will be sitting their GCSE exams.

This year we are encouraging parents to pay for Enrichment Week activities online using **ParentPay** (www.parentpay.co.uk). There may be specific payment deadlines, depending on the activity, but using ParentPay allows parents to schedule payments themselves and will also allow you to see how much you have paid and how much is outstanding at any stage.

Payments by cash or cheque (payable to Cirencester Deer Park School) to the school Finance Office are also acceptable.

Payment information will be outlined in the letter that your child will bring home. Please see the activity leader if there is a payment query. Most activities will have two payment deadlines:

Initial payment deadline **Friday January 13th 2012.**

Final payment deadline **Friday April 20th 2012.**

If you need a reminder of your ParentPay login details please contact the school.



ParentPay

Winter Weather

As you will be aware, the weather this term has been quite mild, however, as colder weather descends, we remind you that in the event of severe weather conditions we endeavour to keep the school open.

However, following our risk assessments, should we judge the situation to be unsafe for pupils and staff to make their usual journeys to school, we will send parents and staff a **text message** at the earliest opportunity.

We will also advise Gloucestershire County Council and they will update their website www.glosclosedschools.com (you can also follow updates to this site on Twitter).

Closure details will be broadcast by **BBC Radio Gloucestershire**. We will also advise of any closure on our own website www.deerparkschool.net



Let us hope we have a snow free winter and that difficult decisions about whether to open or close the school are unnecessary this year.

Chefs on Tour

On the 29th of November, two chefs came from Gloucestershire Colleges to do a demonstration for our Year 10 Catering pupils. Gareth teaches the Catering students at the site in Cheltenham, and Sean, who is Malaysian, runs the restaurant where the students practice their craft, which is open to the public. They brought all their kit with them, and made a wide variety of dishes. They started by jointing a chicken, and they used that to make chicken in red wine sauce with green vegetables, chicken in cream and mustard sauce with sweet potato, chicken samosas and chicken goujons which they deep fried, and chicken wings in spicy sauce. They also made a pork stirfry dish, and a vegetable noodle dish. As well as that they made a chocolate and apple mousse, apple tart, a big Spanish potato tortilla and a big sausage roll. And all the time they were making jokes and teasing the kids. But they had a serious message as well; they told the pupils about the course at the college in Cheltenham, and about the future they might have if they take up Catering as a career. Gareth told them how he travelled the world working in kitchens when he was young, and Sean told about how he came England to work. The pupils really enjoyed tasting the food that was made, and watching the demonstration. Kieron Lane said that the whole thing was 'funny and exciting to see' and Olivia Jones said 'the food was exquisite'. Hopefully, those pupils who are interested will be able to take the offer of a day to visit the college. Rob Lambie and Rhys Thompson wrote 'a big hand to the chefs on tour for giving us an afternoon of pure fun, laughter and food. Thank you and we will be happy to have you back again.'





First Edition Science Challenge

by Sandra Millar, Science Teacher

On 15 November a group of eight Year 10 pupils spent a challenging but enjoyable day attending the 'Emergency Rescue Challenge' at Cheltenham Ladies College. The event was organised by the Engineering Development Trust who brought together pupils from a number of local schools.

Using only a combination of paper tubes and small metal tacks, our pupils, alongside those from other schools, competed in a series of small team challenges to design and build scale models of a communications tower, a survival shelter and a bridge. The only constraints were that the buildings should be able to be constructed quickly in a disaster zone.

I was impressed by the way our pupils worked with other students, showed initiative, imagination and resilience with the tasks, especially those that had to rebuild their constructions from scratch when the first designs did not work.

An excellent presentation gave the pupils an interesting insight into the career opportunities available in architecture and engineering.

Clemmie Livingston and Aisling Togher were thrilled to be part of the team that built the best communications tower. An excellent day was had by all. Many thanks to Head Science Technician Ken Stook for his support on the day.



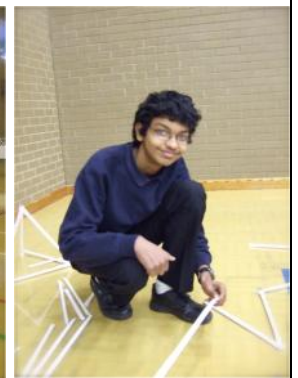
Archie White



Serena Griffin



Aisling Togher &
Clemmie Livingston



Shinoj Joni

Lego Challenge

by Lucy Stephenson & Alice Reeves
(Year 9 pupils)

A group of us recently had the opportunity to go to the Hewlett Packard offices in Bristol for the annual 'Lego Challenge', accompanied by Mrs Evans and Miss Grice.

For the event we had to compete against 27 other schools. Competitions take place across Europe, ours being the largest of them all! For each region two schools then go through to the 'Nationals' where they will compete with the other winners, and then finally 'Internationals'.

This year's theme was 'Food Factors'; or to put it differently 'the journey of food to our tables'. There are two different aspects to the challenge. Within the group each of us were put on the task

for one of these aspects. We had to prepare a presentation in which we identified a problem on the journey and then solved it. Then the Lego part - we had to programme a robot to complete parts of a course to get points.

Having spent weeks preparing and after a long trek over to Bristol we were all very excited when we arrived. The organisers had packed a timetable full with lots of exciting activities that began with an introduction and a quick

rendition of YMCA.

After that we nervously stepped out to perform our Presentation on cheese and mould, and our very own 'cheese mould scale'. This went quite successfully and the judges looked quite pleased. Later we had three goes with our robots. Each time the boys managed to improve our score dramatically. At the end we managed to squeeze into eleventh place. They then gave us 'the Balloon Challenge', in which we had to dress someone up in balloons (with a food theme of course!). Dylan made quite a good lemon in the end!

Although we didn't manage to win any awards we came away after a really enjoyable time and having learnt a lot!





THE WIZ

16 17 18 November @ Cirencester Deer Park School





Members of the audience congratulated pupils and staff on their absolutely tremendous production of 'The Wiz', a colourful retelling of 'The Wizard of Oz' with lively foot tapping soul rhythms which played to packed houses on three evenings in November!

Pupils from Watermoor Primary School had the opportunity to see a special preview performance on Tuesday 15 November. They thought it was 'wicked', 'brilliant' and 'mind-blowing'! Teacher, Jo Pearce said, 'I thought the band were fantastic and played extremely well all the way through the performance.' Tom Sandilands, age 12, who played the keyboard in the band said, 'It was a great experience,' and fellow band member and drummer, Harry Teague, aged 14, felt, 'It was great' and said, 'I have learnt a lot about how bands work in shows!'

Parent, Phil Waterhouse, commented, 'I am always in awe of the talent both on display and behind the scenes that goes into any school production. 'The Wiz' was truly one of the best school shows that I have ever had the pleasure to see and the warmth of the occasion combined with some fantastic individual performances was a real credit to the school.' In particular, he commended Katrina Webb, aged 15, who played a superb Dorothy and Tom Broadbent, also 15, who entertained everyone in his role as the Tinman. The Scarecrow, Henry Blackaller, aged 14, and the Lion, Alex Butler, aged 15, are equally worthy of special mention.

Rachel Snowball, mother of Tom, aged 13, who comically strutted his stuff on stage as Lord High Underling, congratulated the show's Director, Vito Anzalone: 'I just wanted to say thank you for putting on such a superb show of such a high standard. To include the number of children that you did and to rehearse within such a limited time frame was truly amazing.'

Similarly, the uncle of Shaye Poulton- Richards who played a stunning Evlene, the Wicked Witch of the West, enjoyed the final performance so much he recommended it should go on tour! None of the cast, who throughout the rehearsals and shows demonstrated impressively high levels of commitment and teamwork, wanted the production to come to an end. Shaye, said, 'I feel lucky to have had the opportunity to be

part of such an amazing experience. I have learnt that I can cope being out of my comfort zone.'

Taking their final bows, the cast expressed their gratitude to staff, the chorus, dancers, musicians and technicians for the support they had received, not least from the show's Director, Drama Teacher, Vito Anzalone, and our aspiring choreographers, Hannah Ponting, Della Hill, Sophie Park and Amy Williamson who created impressively tight and creative dance sequences.

Lizzy Chambers, aged 16, who deftly played the character-changing Wiz, reflected, 'This is my last show before leaving to go onto sixth form. I have made lots of new friends and it has allowed me to be involved in the Performing Arts at Deer Park. It has been a fun experience and a real challenge to play a completely different character to any I have played before.'

Vito Anzalone, enjoyed working with everyone involved and praised the way in which they all contributed to the success of the production: 'Young people can achieve so much when motivated and encouraged. I hope this experience contributes to their confidence and enjoyment of being involved in a project bigger than themselves. The staff have equally been brilliant in their help. I feel we have achieved a real sense of community.'

Headteacher, Chiquita Henson, said, 'I am immensely proud. A production of this scale is infectious and it draws people in. The strengths of an event of this kind are the opportunities it gives pupils both on and off stage. I have been impressed by the commitment of everyone involved especially the hours they have put in. It was a privilege to watch and an honour to say thank you to those who ensured a show of this quality ran smoothly.'





Christmas Sports News

by Anne Hacker, Head of PE

This term has been really busy with pupils taking part in a wide variety of sporting activities including Rugby, Netball, Basketball, Hockey, Cross Country and Badminton.

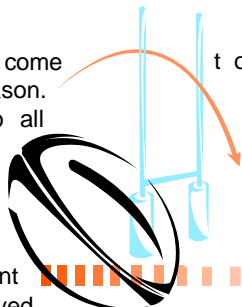
We appointed newly qualified teacher Alex Cumming part way through Term 1 and he has proven to be an excellent addition to the faculty and has fully involved himself in extra-curricular activities, leading Badminton Club and being responsible for a Rugby and Basketball team. He has also worked with Simon Pike on primary school sports coordination and they have successfully delivered a tag rugby competition and two indoor athletics competitions, in addition to going into primary schools to develop football.

Our new **Games Captains** are excellent ambassadors for the PE Faculty: Sophie Carter, Hannah Carter, Zoe Carter, Jess Marriot, Caitlin Pembroke, Lottie Baxter, Millie Goodinson, Katy Pearson, Joe Gale, Jack Peare, Sam Clarke, Louis Mulcock.

New this year, in preparation for the London 2012 celebrations, we have appointed two Deer Park **Gold Young Ambassadors**. They are George Thrussell and Georgia Walker. They will be responsible for leading the Olympic initiatives within the Partnership. They have already attended a Sports conference in London on Leadership qualities and learning how to be Young Ambassadors. **Addistar Leaders** have also been appointed to support the Gold Ambassadors. They are Corrie Hart, Jake Ashton, Lauren Smith and Callum Coles.

RUGBY: We have come to the end of the season. Congratulations to all pupils who have taken part in all the practices and matches.

Year 7 Tournament – both teams played 3 and won 3, winning the tournament. Year 8 played 5 - won 3, drew 1, lost 1.



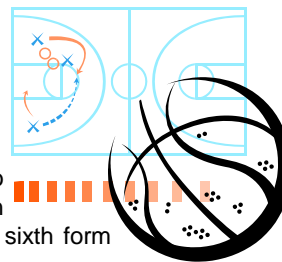
Year 9 played 3 - won 1, lost 2.
Year 10 played 3 - won 1, lost 2
Year 11 played 2 - won 2.

Congratulations to Joe Gale who was selected for the District rugby team.

NETBALL: We have come to the end of the season. Congratulations to all the pupils who have taken part in all the practices and matches.

Year 7 played 5 - won 2, lost 3.
Year 8 played 4 - lost 4 ;5th in the league.
Year 9 played 4 - won 2, lost 2; 3rd in the league. Year 10 played 4 - won 1, lost 3, 4th in the league. Year 11 played 4 - won 3, drew 1 ,1st in the league.

I would personally like to thank the following Year 11 girls who have played for five years and finished the **Year 11 league in 1st position:** Millie Goodinson, Georgia Wing, Zoe Carter, Hannah Carter, Sophie Carter, Jess Marriot, Lottie Baxter, Georgia Noyes. I hope they continue to be involved in netball through sixth form and beyond.



CROSS COUNTRY: Well done to all the pupils who attended Cross Country Club and to those who entered the District races. The following pupils were selected to compete for the Area at the County Cross Country Championships: Matt Crew, Harry Skelton and Thomas Bury. Congratulations to Thomas who performed really well and has been selected to compete for the county next year.

INDOOR HOCKEY :

Year 11 tournament – reached the semi-finals. Year 9 tournament – reached the semi-finals. Congratulations to Corrie Hart who was selected for JAC County squad.

Well done to everyone who has attended clubs and practices.

Details of the Olympics Torch Bearers, plans for **London 2012** at Deer Park and the Sports Fair will be in the next edition.

Primary Schools Sports

By Simon Pike, Assistant Head Key Stage 3 and Primary School Liaison

This term Deer Park has hosted a number of sporting events.

At the beginning of November our **Year 10 Young Leaders** organised a Tag Rugby tournament for Year 5/6. It was a fantastic event fully attended by ten hopeful teams. Results were as follows:

- 1st Stratton A
- 2nd Chesterton A
- 3rd Powells B
- 4th Kemble B
- 5th Powells A
- 6th Kemble A
- 7th Chesterton B
- 8th Stratton B
- 9th Sapperton
- 10th Watermoor

Congratulations to all!

Subsequently we have held two Indoor Sports Athletics events, both of which were highly competitive. The top seven boys and girls from our Primary family faced their rivals at the Grand Final held at Kingshill on 7 December!

Our Year 10 students have enjoyed sharing their knowledge and skills with Years 4-6 from Chesterton, Sapperton and Powells. They have coached skills in Hockey, Netball and Football. Praise must go to Mr Schlaefli, Year 10 Boys PE and Chesterton Year 5 for their tremendous spirit despite torrential rainfall whilst enjoying football training!

Finally two Young Ambassadors, Georgia Walker and George Thrussell have been chosen to represent CDPS. On 6 December at Deer Park they met their counterparts from Farmor's, Sir William Romney and Kingshill. They shared ideas and experiences. They are particularly looking forward to beginning their outreach work at primary schools focusing on the Olympic values.

A happy sporting Xmas to you all!





Library (PLC) News

by Yvonne Reynolds, Librarian

We can't believe how quickly Christmas has come around! Having joined the school this year, September was a huge learning curve for me, but thanks to Mrs Bond I have now settled in and it feels as if I've always been in the PLC!

We've had a busy couple of terms. Our annual **Year 7 Reading Challenge** went well with a flame being added to the tutor groups' torches with each book review handed in. The results were announced last week with 7Li winning by only 4 flames. Their prize will be to watch a new DVD in the PLC this week.

We have been selective about the **new books and DVDs** that we have ordered but all are proving popular and all our recent new books are out at the moment which is great. We have just over £40 to spend on books from commission gained on the recent **Scholastic Book orders** – thank you to all parents who ordered books. If your child has not already bought their new books home, they are in the PLC ready for collection.

We were visited by the author **Joffre White** who told us about his book, "Frog," and the work, imagination and persistence that is needed to write a book and to have it published. The three Year 8 classes enjoyed his visit and he stayed and chatted to other pupils in the PLC throughout lunch. Joffre has very kindly agreed to come and run a couple of writing workshops for us next year.

*Wishing you all a Merry Christmas,
Mrs Bond and Mrs Reynolds in the PLC.*

RP Debate

by Lucy Stephenson and Dee Okyay

(Year 9 pupils)

Early in December four Year 9 pupils (Dee Okyay, Ellie de Carles, Alice Reeves and Lucy Stephenson) had the opportunity to take part in a religious philosophy debate at Cheltenham Ladies College. We arrived feeling in awe and out of place in the beautiful, historic buildings. But as soon as we were immersed in the activities of the day and we met RE Today's Steven Pett we were enjoying the atmosphere and company.

'The Good Life Or A Good Life' and 'Materialism Or Nihilism' were just some of the questions we set out to answer. The meaning of our existence seems like an impossible concept; however once we became involved in the discussion we began to realise just how you might answer it. Concluding with squash, biscuits and an interesting slide show about the afterlife we left having learnt a great deal. Overall the day was really enjoyable and interesting.

We would like to thank Cheltenham Ladies College, Miss Hope and Mrs Stubbs for giving us the chance to take part in such a fantastic event.



■ BBC NEWS SCHOOL REPORT ■

Make the news
in your school



by Lizi Lake and James Calford (Year 11 pupils)

Over the past few weeks 24 pupils have been taking part in a unique opportunity to learn the skills and techniques associated with journalism and the media. BBC School Report is a nationwide project involving hundreds of schools across the country. It gives 11-16 year olds the chance to produce news stories that will be available to a national and international audience.

On the 8th November Tamsyn Kent, a BBC journalist of over 15 years experience, visited the school and led the students in

a workshop which included interview skills and the technique 'vox popping'.

Since then, on Tuesdays after school, pupils have learnt about green screen technology, and how to put together a comprehensive report about a given topic. After the Christmas break, we will begin gathering the stories that we will use on BBC School Report Day, the 15th of March 2012.

You can find out more about the School Report project at www.news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/school_report



Munich

by Emily Pearman, English Teacher

On Thursday 20 October 34 Year 11 pupils and five members of staff left the school to travel to Germany. The cross-curricular visit over the half term break enabled GCSE candidates to practise their German speaking skills and complement their studies of Hitler's Germany in History.

The itinerary for this educational visit included a tour of the city of Munich, the 1972 Olympic Park and the town of Berchtesgaden, Hitler's former residence (now destroyed) and the southern headquarters of the Nazi Party. Pupils toured the Third Reich Museum and went up the mountain to the 'Eagle's Nest'. They also visited the Nazi Party bunker system which has over 16 km of tunnels and rooms. They had the opportunity to visit Salzburg, home to 'The Sound of Music'. Pupils visited the famous convent and Mozart's house. Keen musician, Sam Bristow, described this part of the trip as 'A treasure trail and an exhibition in music history itself'.

During the week long tour, pupils went to the highly interactive Deutsches Museum and Neuschwanstein Castle, which featured in the film 'Chitty Chitty Bang Bang'. Jess Hawes found walking up to the castle exhausting: 'But we knew it was going to be something special!' She was not disappointed. The trip to

Dachau concentration camp was particularly moving.

Paul Owen, Head of Humanities, said, 'The trip proved to be very rewarding. Our pupils gained a valuable insight into the Nazi Party and life in Hitler's Germany. They came away with an understanding of Germany's past but also an appreciation of its modern technological status and culture'.



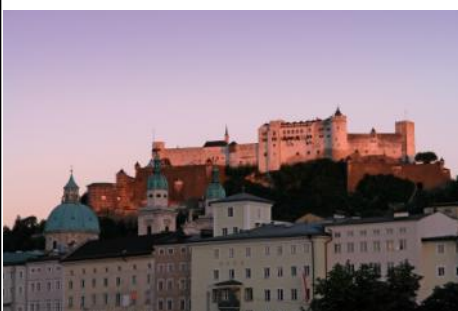
The Sound of Munich (and Salzburg)

by Sam Bristow (Year 11 pupil)

Music would not be the first thing to associate with a school History trip to Munich and Salzburg. Especially considering the itinerary included visits to Dachau Concentration Camp and the Eagle's Nest.

However, in addition to our historical journey exploring the rise to power of the Nazi dictatorship, a range of musical experiences also awaited us - music from Mozart to Elton John! For one such as me with a broad taste in music, this trip was a treasure trail and an exhibition in music history itself.

The visit to Mozart's hometown, indeed the town of his birth, meant I was able to visit the Mozart museum (once his own



house), displaying his possessions – proudly shown off by the Salzburg locals. This is, particularly for musicians familiar to classical repertoire, an opportunity of a lifetime. The presentation of his own handwritten scores and instruments was a particular delight for yours truly, who has spent nine of his sixteen years listening to, and studying, the music and personality of Mozart. This is a place that should be thoroughly recommended.

This was quickly followed by a visit to the Mirabel Gardens, used in the hit film of the musical 'The Sound of Music'. This is quite a place to go to: the memorable fountain from the famous song Do-re-mi a sight to savour. Many pupils took the opportunity to re-enact the famous scene from the movie. Unfortunately, I had an ankle injury sustained from some time before; hence I could not participate, to my great shame. None the less, the visit to such a site is a great experience for fans of the film. The sound of music really was heard again that day.

The next day too there was a slight musical feel, as our tour progressed from Austria back to Germany and to the great Schloss Neuschwanstein Castle, a fairy tale Castle, built specially as a monument, by King Ludwig II, to the music of the great and infamous opera composer Richard Wagner.

Something that took me much more by surprise was a gallery discovered in the Olympic Tower, yet another destination on this trip. Up in the sky in the darkness of a cold October night, where the entire sleeping city of Munich is visible to your gaze, hidden behind a curtain, is a collection of mementos of the modern music world. Things including Freddie Mercury's leather trousers, separate guitars signed by Frank Zappa and Ozzy Osbourne, a photo signed by Marilyn Manson, numerous items signed and owned by the Rolling Stones and the proudly displayed mirror piano played by Sir Elton John. This is a place for a listener of any kind of music heard within the last forty years, it is a treasure trove!

These are only the highlights of a jam-packed schedule over the course of six days that have something that somehow relates to music. Even the world renowned Technology Museum has a collection of musical instruments for presentation ranging from harpsichords and organs from the late 17th century to the most modern of instruments that I don't even have a name for.

This too is frightfully educating, as is everything on this journey. If you are a musician and you get given the chance, go. If not, go anyway. Either way, it is a really enriching experience.



Memories of Schloss Neuschwanstein: The Day we Climbed a Castle

by Jess Hawes (Year 11 pupil)

Walking up to the castle, we knew it was going to be something special. The sheer length of the walk (although painful) suggested the grandeur that lay ahead, and this was mirrored in the horse-and-trap rides taking more sensible tourists up and down the slope.

The castle was like a fairy tale, with its size and shape, and it was clear why it was the perfect setting for 'Chitty Chitty Bang Bang', although we made the trip in a slightly less glamorous coach rather than the famous flying car.

Unfortunately, on entering, we were not allowed to take photos, but they were hardly needed, as the style and décor of the finished rooms was so memorable. The beautiful mosaic floor in the throne room, with the painted walls telling their stories, enhanced the crown-like chandelier caging the room in bohemian glass. The ornate fireplaces were like miniature castles in themselves; the detailed carvings of the dark wood added more ominous mystery and beauty to the chambers. Everywhere you looked there were busy canvas brush strokes, each so detailed they depicted dreams in themselves, and some even painted directly onto the walls.

It was a great visit, the only faults being the hundreds of steps we climbed and descended, and the majorly overpriced gift shop! The most noticeable thing was the swan imagery around the castle with carefully-crafted doorknobs, paintings and ceramic-like figures to scale, and the influence of Wagner was shown - although even with an English-speaking tour guide no one was really sure who he was!

The views were amazing, but the walk all the way down was definitely not - however we were helped along by Pringles and German chocolate from the kiosk half way down. It was a memorable part of the trip, and well worth the visit - but perhaps the horse-and-trap would be a more favourable option next time!



Dachau Concentration Camp

by Rhiannon Smith (Year 11 pupil)

During October other students, myself and teachers got the chance to visit Munich. Whilst we were there we took a tour around the Dachau concentration camp, complete with our own tour guide.

Before we went in I couldn't help but feel apprehensive about

what would lay behind the gates, what would I see? How would I feel about it? And just how depressed would I feel at the end? Surprisingly not much. Don't get me wrong, I didn't go happily away skipping down the path whistling the Sound of Music songs (which I had to do later with Miss Pearman. In public - an experience I will never forget), but I did feel reassured that despite its undoubtedly horrifying



past, this camp (and all of Germany) was trying to make amends for all of its victims. The money we paid to go in was donated to local charities; inside the camp, alongside the original buildings, were memorials set up for those that suffered whilst inside.

Our tour was excellent; we even had some tag-alongs listening

to our tour guide. We saw how the prisoners were catalogued, and given a badge, so that the Nazi officers could see who they were, what they were in for, and how severe the punishment would be. What really disturbed me was the way in which nothing was sugar coated. Everything that happened within the camp was explained in detail, from the food rations to the live human experiments. We saw how twisted the Nazis were and how they treated the prisoners like they were less than human. Dachau was not an extermination camp (although it was equipped with a gas chamber and furnaces) like Auschwitz, it

was built for the intention of breaking people until they considered themselves worthless. It deprived them of all hope.

As you can imagine nobody really felt like eating much that night, yet we came to terms with the fact that what happened was in the past, it was terrible and should never be forgotten, but Germany was doing everything it could to fix the wrongs it made.

Despite this I think Dachau will always stay with me, the images I was shown were truly shocking and to know that I was in the very same place where this nightmare happened. The full impact hit me when our tour guide pointed out that we got to do the one thing that many prisoners never got the chance to do. Leave.



Key Stage 4 Charities Week



October saw the return of the annual Cirencester Deer Park School Key Stage 4 Charities Week, supporting a variety of charities, including the British Heart Foundation, The Royal British Legion and Cancer Research. This year was marked by some fantastic individual fundraising efforts that contributed to a total of over £1500.

Notable contributions were made by Rob Lamble who sacrificed his leg hair during a sponsored wax, Della Rose Hill and her dance team who mounted an impressively attended dance-athon and Mr. Johnson, Ms. Brace and Mr. Hoare who were socked in the 'Sponge a-Teacher' stocks.

The highlight of the week was the charity busking session held by the very talented Katy and Rob Pearson who played guitar and sang in the dining hall drawing a crowd of over 100 people. Katy said "It was a great experience to play for our year group. It built our confidence in performing and best of all we raised loads of money for our chosen charities."

Mr Johnson, Head of Key Stage 4 commented "It has been an impressive response to the fundraising challenge that illustrates our pupils' awareness of issues in the world around us and their willingness to make a difference."



Mock GCSE Results

January signifies a new year and the very beginning of the very end for our Year 11s. There is still much work to do in the up-coming module tests and big exams in English, Geography and Science throughout January. Revision and exam practice will be key to pupils' success and their attitude over the final 19 weeks of school will be crucial.

January 6th, 2012 is a big day for our Year 11s during period 6 - they will be formally receiving their official mock results and teachers' forecast for their grades. The idea is to replicate as closely as possible the real results day and to set a marker for their remaining time at Deer Park where they can realise that success is the only option! This day should form the very beginning of the last phase of Year 11 where there is all to play for and everything to achieve.

English GCSE

All Year 11 pupils have their only English Language exam on 10th January 2012. This exam is one of the most important ones that they will sit - English Language GCSE is not only a requirement for further education but can also be a deciding factor in which university pupils will be accepted into. Pupils can use iDeer to revise over the holidays - there are past papers, online text books and numerous revision tasks available.





Class of 2011 Celebration of Achievement

On Thursday 10 November 2011 former pupils from our 'Class of 2011' and their parents filled the Main Hall at Cirencester Deer Park School for our Key Stage 4 Celebration of Achievement. We were delighted to welcome them back and share in their success.

The school's new Head of Key Stage 4, James Johnson, coordinated the awards' evening. In his opening presentation, he commended them on their outstanding performance: 'Congratulations! I am in awe of your marvellous achievements. You have definitely raised the bar and left a legacy for those who follow you to aspire to achieve! Well done!'

Incredibly over 50% of pupils in the year group were nominated for awards for their effort, improvement and achievement across the curriculum and, of these, more than 40% received a certificate. David Clarke, former Head of Key Stage 4, was delighted to be invited back to celebrate the year group's success: 'I am especially pleased to come back and share in your success. It is not until you leave that you realise what a special place Deer Park is and I will always cherish the two years we spent together'. Referring to the ambitious drive he had regularly demonstrated in the year group's assemblies, he characteristically reminded them to be 'sharks not jellyfish!'

There were individual awards in each curriculum area and, individually, Heads of Faculty who joined senior staff on stage, congratulated the year group on their resilience and positive attitudes to their studies. They identified the contributions pupils had made to the school during their time with us. Anne Hacker and Liz Norman, our Heads of PE and Expressive Arts, also acknowledged the tremendous commitment of pupils who throughout their time at Deer Park consistently participated in extra-curricular activities. Philip Beckerlegge, Chair of Governors commended two pupils for their significant contribution to the life of the school. In his summing up he shared his belief in the future for our young people: 'Deer Park prepares our pupils for the next stage in their lives and learning exceptionally well and

they clearly benefit from the range of challenging activities on offer. I am very proud of my association with the school and extremely grateful to the staff here who always go the extra mile'.

Parents appreciated the evening and thanked staff for the help and support their children had received. One parent commented 'The Celebration of Achievement Evening was a lovely event to attend, the atmosphere was warm with much enthusiasm coming from the audience. My daughter really enjoyed meeting up with all her friends and sharing experiences of College and how life has progressed from School. We would like to thank all the staff for all the hard work and support that they have given her during her time at Deer Park.'

Headteacher, Chiquita Henson, praised the 28 pupils in the year group who had achieved excellence by attaining 8 or more A* or A grades. This year the awards for Academic Excellence went to Laura Hobson and Michael Cannon and the special Headteacher's Award went to the two pupils in our 'Class of 2011' who had made the most progress in the core subjects since joining the school in Year 7, Ashu Sharma and Tham Esteves.

Also congratulating the successful pupils were our guest speakers, former pupils and now elected local councillors, Joe Harris and Siobhan Brazier. They reflected on the Year group's achievements and inspired the audience by describing the personal journeys they have undertaken as young campaigners who have consciously chosen to represent the views of others to influence change. They were articulate and excellent role models. Both expressed their gratitude to Deer Park for the foundations and direction it has given them.

As pupils on our 'Class of 2011' collected their certificates, much was being made of their Yearbook, which captures their experiences and, we are confident, will provide material for reflection and reminiscence in the future. We share their fond memories and wish them every success.





Key Stage 4 Future Choices

Cirencester Deer Park School and Cirencester Kingshill School are working collaboratively to help improve the future opportunities available to our pupils. In October we hosted a CAREERS CONVENTION here at Deer Park for all of our Year 9 to Year 11 pupils. There were a good range of organisations present, ranging from companies to colleges to universities, and a wealth of information for all year groups. All young people in Years 9 to 11 will, in

the next few months, have to make decisions that will affect their future, and it is vital that they are equipped with as much information as possible. **Year 9** pupils will soon be considering option choices for Key Stage 4. The Careers Convention was an excellent opportunity to look at universities and further education colleges to see what entry requirements are needed, as well as talking to employers to discover the skills and qualifications required in

various occupational areas. **Year 10** and **Year 11** pupils will soon be making choices for post 16 progression, whether it is college, sixth form or employment. At the Careers Convention there were people on hand to answer questions, and it was a good opportunity to look at universities to gain an idea of entry requirements and the vast number of courses available.

Post 16 Choices

Year 11 have been investigating the various options available to them for life after Deer Park. The time has come to start completing applications for their preferred Colleges and Sixth Forms, as deadlines are fast approaching.

Once pupils have had enough of Christmas TV and playing with their new toys and technology, it would be advantageous to use the time available over the Christmas break to make a start on applications.

It is important that great care is given to completing the applications so pupils make the right impression. If pupils are having difficulty making an application they should come and ask Mr Germaine or staff in the Key Stage 4 Office for help.

Application Deadline Dates:

Cirencester College	2 March 2012
Bournside	27 January 2012
Hartpury	Ongoing
Farmor's	13 January 2012
Balcarras	3 February 2012
Stroud High / Marling	8 February 2012
Sir Thomas Rich's	10 February 2012
Stroud College	Ongoing
Pate's	20 February 2012

We will be running specific events for pupils who are seeking Apprenticeships in February as part of National Apprenticeship Week.



Choices at 14

Year 9 is a critical year. It represents an important transition. For the first time in their education pupils have the opportunity to choose their own course of study.

Choosing which subjects to study to GCSE level and perhaps beyond is a crucial decision, the consequences of which could both open and close future career paths. The whole process can appear daunting. After all, there is so much to choose from and so much riding on making a wise choice. However, with the help of parents, subject teachers and tutors we can make it manageable, enabling pupils to make an informed decision.

Information will be available in January and decisions on what to study in Key Stage 4 will be made in February 2012.



Post 16 Transport

It is very important that students think about transport when they choose the Post 16 provider they would like to attend. The majority of students are not eligible for transport and this will usually have to be organised and paid for by the students themselves. No student aged over the age of 16 years receives free transport to their school/college although the County Council does offer transport assistance to those students who are entitled and who have made the contribution to the cost of provision. There are some special circumstances and you can find out more on the Gloucestershire County Council website. Go to

www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/educationtransport

and select 'Transport for students between 16 to 19 years'.



Staff News

Chris Germaine

Anyone who know Chris Germaine, our 14-19 Curriculum Coordinator, knows that he is passionate about local cricket. Chris was nominated this year for an **OSCA**... no, that's not a misspelling and it was not of the film variety. OSCAs are the Outstanding Service to Cricket Awards, recognising the efforts of grassroots volunteers. Having won the Building Partnerships category of the Gloucestershire Cricket Board



OSCAs, Chris joined a national shortlist of four for that category and spent an interesting day at Lords for the NatWest OSCAs 2011 meeting some legends from the cricketing world such as James Anderson, Matt Prior, Peter Willey, Claire Taylor and Michael Vaughan. Chris was awarded runner up in his category but pupils at Deer Park, both boys and girls, will continue to benefit from the passion

that Chris feels for the game.



Ken Stook



Ken Stook, Senior Science Technician, was nominated by the Science Faculty for the award of **Technician of the Year** from the Salters' National Awards for Science Technicians. From a very large number of entrants, Ken was shortlisted.

We received visits from three judges, including a Chemistry professor and one of the authors of the OCR 21st Century

Science Course that our pupils study.

We are delighted that Ken was shortlisted as a Finalist in recognition of the work that he does in the Science Faculty and in other roles, including first aider and photographer at school events.



News Briefs

We are delighted to be welcoming Cirencester Baptist Church to the growing list of local organisations that are using the school facilities out of normal hours. The Church is re-locating to the school every Sunday for a trial period over the next few months having outgrown their existing accommodation. Other local clubs for whom the school provides a "home" are Cirencester Hockey Club, Cotswold Gym Club, Gloster Jets Basketball team, Cirencester Table Tennis League, Stratton Football Club, Cirencester Cricket Club, Stagecoach Theatre School, Cirencester Community Orchestra, Cotswold Primary Music Centre, and Corinium Players Guitar Ensemble. We always encourage community use of the school if we have capacity, as this is a public facility and should be available to as many people as possible. It also helps us to deliver our promise of "more than a visible curriculum".

Parents of pupils who use school transport are reminded that pupils may be asked to produce their bus pass/season ticket at any time by a bus driver and may be refused transportation if they can't produce it. We have had a number of instances of pupils having lost their pass some time ago and never reporting this which has led to problems when bus drivers challenge them. Please check with your son/daughter that they do have their pass with them every day; if it has been lost, contact Shire Hall (for Gloucestershire passes) or the transport operator to obtain a replacement).

Please ensure that all pupils' belongings brought into school are clearly marked with their name. We recover a staggering amount of lost property each term. If items have a name on them they are returned to the pupil immediately but if they don't, they sit in the lost property cupboard waiting to be claimed. Large amounts of clothing, shoes, coats, jewellery, glasses and mobile phones remain unclaimed each year and eventually these are recycled through local charity shops but it seems such a waste when the property must have belonged to someone! So please take a few minutes to mark items as it may well save considerable expense at a later date.....

Thank you.



