



COX
GREEN
SCHOOL

Committed to Achievement

2019-2020

Governors Annual
Report to Parents



TABLE OF CONTENTS

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRS OF GOVERNORS	3
MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER	4
SCHOOL LIFE DURING THE YEAR	5
THE SCHOOL YEAR ACTIVITIES	6
A LEVEL GEOGRAPHY TRIP	6
MADRID TRIP	6
IT TRIP TO MICROSOFT STORE	6
YEAR 13 HISTORY—RIFLE MUSEUM TRIP	7
YEAR 11 & 12 TRIP—UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD	7
AUSCHWITZ 2020	8
HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY	8
ENRICHMENT	9
PRIDE DAY	9
MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING	10
DOFE BRONZE AWARDS CEREMONY	10
COMPUTER STUDIES	10
JAMIE’S FARM	10
YEAR 10 COMPUTER SCIENCE	11
ANTI BULLYING AND WELL-BEING GROUPS	11
ASDAN AWARD	11
YEAR 11—YOU’RE HIRED	11
THE SCHOOL YEAR SPORTING ACHIEVEMENTS	12
RUGBY	12
JAVELIN	12
ICE-SKATING	12
ATHLETICS	13
CIRCUIT TRAINING	14
SWIMMING	14
SKIING	14
KARATE	15
BASKETBALL	15
THE SCHOOL YEAR DRAMA, MUSIC AND OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS	15
THE SPORTS ACADEMY IN THE SIXTH FORM	18
COX GREEN SPORTS ACADEMY TEAM ACHIEVEMENTS	19
STUDENT LEADERSHIP	19
PROVIDING FOR OUR MOST ABLE STUDENTS	20
OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUR DISADVANTAGED STUDENTS	21
PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT, BEHAVIOUR AND WELFARE	22
ATTENDANCE	23
YEAR 7 REVIEW	24
WORKING WITH PARENTS	25

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRS OF GOVERNORS

As newly appointed joint Chairs of Governors for Cox Green School, we are very pleased to be able to write the foreword to the Governors' 9th Annual Report to Parents.

This past academic year, particularly the second half, has certainly been a very challenging time for everyone at Cox Green School. The unprecedented events have meant that our school, like every other school in the country, has had to react rapidly to on-going events and to constantly review the way we work under the ever-changing ebbs and flows of the Covid Crisis – whether this has been providing work for our students to do at home, to upskilling the technological knowledge of our staff and students to use Microsoft Teams or ultimately to plan the running of the school under strict social distancing conditions.



In June, it was with regret that the Governors had to pass on the sad news that our Headteacher, Frankie Walsh, would be leaving the school. All good wishes go with her and her family from everyone at Cox Green.

In this coming academic year, it is more important than ever before to ensure that our school is proactive in tackling future challenges and holds a clear vision and purpose for all that we do. Governors have sought to ensure that delivery of our curriculum and support for students is maintained with as much continuity as possible. It is with this in mind that we were pleased to appoint Cathrin Thomas as Acting Headteacher at Cox Green School.

As a former longstanding Deputy Headteacher, Cathrin has a great depth of experience as a senior leader at Cox Green. She has both knowledge of the management of our school and invaluable insight of the school community. We firmly believe that Cathrin is the best placed to lead the senior leadership team at this time.

We are confident that Cathrin, along with our Leadership Team will ensure that all our students, in accordance with government guidelines, are returned to full time schooling as smoothly as possible. We are certain that with the major challenges that lie ahead for all schools, everyone on the school team, under Cathrin's Leadership, will pull together to ensure the best in all aspects of learning and in the support for our students.

This new academic year will be a challenging but exciting time. We have already experienced the enthusiasm that many of our students have shown on a partial return to school. We must now harness that enthusiasm as there is much to do in catching up on learning lost and in ensuring that the year is a rewarding experience for everyone at Cox Green. We are extremely proud of our school and how everyone has pulled together. We are confident that our school is ready and well equipped to face the challenges presented, that our students are well supported and that they will be encouraged to take every advantage of their time at Cox Green.

Nationally schools are at something of a watershed which, with all the changes that a return to 'normality' will undoubtedly bring, is a great opportunity for us all. We have all learnt new ways of doing things and in supporting each other. We must now take the best and most valuable of these in taking our school and our students forward. We have a great combination at Cox Green in our teaching and support staff, one that has shown, especially over the past few weeks that they care about what they do and strive to achieve what is best for our students. That is an excellent starting point for the new academic year and one that Cathrin and her team will most certainly build upon. It will be their innovation, attention to detail and commitment to everyone here that will enable our school to give all our students the best in education experience and ensure that they feel happy and secure in their time with us.

Please be aware that we, the Governors, can be contacted through the school and you are welcome to contact us if you would like to discuss something, or have concerns, or indeed if you are interested in joining us!

Wen-Lan Richard and Peter Thorn,
Chairs of Governors

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

This has been a year that none of us will forget! We have all faced an unprecedented way of working and learning and our staff and students have dealt with the ongoing situation with resilience, determination positivity and kindness.

Learning on site this year was sadly cut short for our students in March. Our Year 11 and Year 13 students conducted themselves admirably and bravely in uncertain times and we hope to find the opportunity to celebrate their success soon. Meanwhile, the rest of the school embraced online learning, following a virtual timetable of lessons and completing work on our online portal and via remote classrooms. To ensure students without access to IT facilities or the internet were not disadvantaged, staff ensured work was posted out to them regularly.

Prior to the pandemic, students enjoyed many successful residential trips and field trips. Further details are enclosed within this report. Students continued to embrace Duke of Edinburgh with enthusiasm and determination and this year I am delighted that 33 students completed their Bronze Award and four students completed their Gold award. Thanks must be extended to the staff committed to this scheme, without their time and dedication this simply would not be able to run. Following the damage to the new roof caused by Storm Dennis in February, we were unable to host this year's performance when planned and had to delay the event due to Health and Safety. This did not deter our amazing production and acting cast, who literally blew us away with their incredible professionalism and outstanding performances in "Beauty and the Beast" when we eventually staged it. The cast featured a range of students from all year groups, many of whom had not appeared in a production before and the staging and set design was spectacular.

We continue to be extremely proud of the athletic prowess of our students, both within and outside of school. We hosted the national badminton trials for the district and qualified for the national competition qualifiers in three age groups. Our football team were also one game away from winning the league.

Students from Year 13 and 14 have accepted places in Further Education including Loughborough, Bath, Nottingham and our local universities Bucks New University and Royal Holloway. In addition, many students have secured amazing apprenticeships, most notably within PWC, Transport for London. Our Sports Academy students have excelled themselves academically and despite the recent travel restrictions have begun their USA studies online with the hope of travelling there in January.

The ongoing pandemic has highlighted the importance of kindness and trying your best. Our students have continued to impress us all with their voluntary work, care and charitable causes and I am delighted that we are producing such fine examples of young adults and citizens from our school. In addition, I cannot sing the praises of our entire Governing Body and staff team highly enough. Their dedication and commitment is what makes Cox Green the successful school it is.

As ever, I thank you, the parents and carers of our student community. Your continued support, more than ever this year, is hugely appreciated.

With best wishes

Cathrin Thomas
Headteacher

SCHOOL LIFE DURING THE YEAR

There were a significant number of school trips during the academic year. The Governors would like to thank all those staff who gave up their time in support of our students.

2019-2020

September	Year 7 and 10 - PE Year 11 Year 12 and 13 Year 13 - History Year 12 and 13	Netball Weekend Maidenhead Waterways 6th Form enrichment - Wessex/Lowbrook University Library Advertising Unlocked
October	Year 8, 9 and 10 Year 12 and 13 Year 12 Year 9 Year 8 Year 11,12 and 13 Year 12 and 13 Year 10 and 11 Year 10	Anti-Bullying Ambassador training 6th Form enrichment - Wessex/Lowbrook Royal Holloway Uni visit Football competition New Scientist Live Macbeth at Norden Farm Geography to Selsey - field work Jamie's Farm Madrid - Real Madrid football
November	Year 10 Year 12 and 13 Year 12 and 13 Year 12 Year 12 and 13 Year 13 Year 10 Year 11,12 and 13 Year 11 Year 8 Year 13 Year 11 Year 8,9 and 10	National Cup Football 6th Form enrichment - Wessex/Lowbrook BFI - Media Safe Drive Stay Alive Physics in Action Reading University visit Science in Action Microsoft Day Athletics moderation, TVAC Kew Gardens RS Masterclass Athletics moderation, TVAC Anti-Bullying Ambassador training
December	Year 11	Bucks New University - taster day
January	Year 12 and 13 Year 11 and 12 Year 11 Year 12 and 13 Year 10 Year 11	BFI - Media 6th Form enrichment - Wessex/Lowbrook 6th Form enrichment - Lowbrook - Sports 6th Form enrichment - Cookham Primary Rifles Museum Oxford University Auschwitz A-Level Geography - Reading town centre Holocaust Memorial Day - Norden Farm Holocaust Memorial Day - Earl of Wessex
February	Year 12 and 13 Year 12 and 13 Year 12 and 13	6th Form enrichment - Wessex/Lowbrook 6th Form enrichment - Lowbrook - Sports 6th Form enrichment - Cookham Primary

Year 8,9,10,11
 Year 9
 Sports Academy
 Year 12 and 13
 Year 13

Badminton tournament
 County Cup Football
 St Georges Park
 Spanish theatre
 Othello Lectures, London

March

Year 12 and 13
 Year 10
 Year 11

6th Form enrichment - Wessex/Lowbrook
 6th Form enrichment - Lowbrook - Sports
 6th Form enrichment - Cookham Primary
 Biology in Action
 Frantic Assembly - theatre
 Murcia - Spain - GCSE Spanish
 Athletics moderation, TVAC

THE SCHOOL YEAR ACTIVITIES

Cox Green firmly believes that students should be given opportunities to learn outside and beyond the classroom, as well as access to different types of activities and experiences. As you can see, we run a wide range of trips and residential opportunities (both abroad and nearer to home.) Below are details of some of the trip reports written by our students and staff.

A LEVEL GEOGRAPHY TRIP

The A Level Geography students had a blustery day trip to Selsey Beach on Friday 18th October. Students completed primary fieldwork on the physical features and defences at Selsey Bill. We measured the effectiveness of the groynes along the coast and measured the impact this has had on the beach profile. After a windswept adventure seeing the crashing waves and local fauna, we headed into town for some resident surveys before heading in out of the rain for hot chocolate. All in all a very successful day picking up on study tips and practising our data collection skills.



MADRID TRIP



From Friday 25th October to Tuesday 29th October a group of year 10 PE and Language students had a sporting and cultural trip to Madrid.



IT TRIP TO MICROSOFT STORE



On Tuesday 19th November, year 11 and sixth formers had a brilliant day at the Microsoft Store in London. It offered them a chance to use their computing skills for making the robot "OhBot" sing and tell jokes. Apart from coding the robots the attendees were able to explore the gaming rooms and practise driving skills on a McLaren parked in the store.



YEAR 13 HISTORY—RIFLE MUSEUM TRIP

On the 16th January, Mrs Clark, Mr Burrows and Mr Aston departed with 17 year 13 students to the Rifles Museum, situated in the heart of Winchester, which offers a fascinating insight into the story of the largest infantry regiment of the British Army.

The purpose of the visit was to enhance students' understanding of the British experience of Warfare from c.1790-1918. Students participated in a range of exciting workshops which included:

The Museum of the Royal Hampshire Regiment: *Why the Hampshire's carried a tiger wherever they fought - Victoria's Wars, the Opium Wars and India.*

The Gurkha Museum: *From Foes to Friends: The Gurkhas from the Anglo-Nepalese War (1814-1816) to WW1*

AGC Museum: *Women in the army: From Camp Follower to Combat*

HorsePower: the history of the British cavalry and their role in the Crimea War and WW1



The HorsePower Workshop was certainly the favourite as our guide was very knowledgeable and had some incredible artefacts on display which students were given the opportunity to handle. This included a sword used in cavalry fighting and a manual produced on how to sword fight from 1790!

The students also learned about the 1916 Military Service Act where conscription was introduced into the British army for the very first



time and also examined the important role of women in the army. Who knew that women had been involved in the army for over 1,000 years? It was an excellent and informative day out and our guide, Gemma, was very enthusiastic.

Of course, the person who had the best time was Mrs Clark, who was in her element chatting about history all day long and even bought herself a fridge magnet!

Well done to year 13 for being fantastic ambassadors for Cox Green and engaging well with the visit.

YEAR 11 & 12 TRIP—UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

On the 22nd January, 26 of year's 11 and 12 visited the University of Oxford. The students had a talk from Dr Organ on applying to a university, as well as the admissions process at Oxford, followed by a tour of Brasenose College campus with current students. Pictured below is the question and answer session that they had with their tour guides where our students asked some fantastic questions. They then had a tour of the city, including the covered market and the Sheldonian Theatre. Students then had lunch at the college and had a chance to sit at the top table which is usually reserved for lecturers and distinguished guests! It was a fantastic day and the students gained some good insight into the admission process and life as a student at the University of Oxford.



AUSCHWITZ 2020

47 year 11 students and 5 staff enjoyed a fantastic trip to Krakow on Thursday 23rd January to Sunday 26th.

On Friday, students had an unforgettable experience during a guided tour around Auschwitz. Pupils were able to witness the scale of the atrocities committed by the Nazi party during World War Two, and grasp an understanding of the Holocaust memorial 75 years on from the liberation of the camp. Students found the tour very moving and have shared their experiences since returning to school.



The second activity of the day was a visit to the incredible salt mines! Students were in awe of the cathedrals, chandeliers and statues produced by the miners. Not only that, but students seized the opportunity to 'lick the walls' to taste the salt mines for themselves.

The day ended with a superb meal at a restaurant in the Jewish quarter of Krakow, where students were treated to live music from a band playing traditional Jewish folk songs. Students danced away the hours, with some even buying the band's CD!

On Saturday, students began with a touching discussion with a Holocaust survivor, Monika Goldwasser. Monika spoke to the students about her experience of surviving Nazi persecution and spoke to students about the importance of being kind. Following this, students went on a walking tour of the famous city of Krakow, visiting landmarks such as the market square, royal castle and cathedral. Students commented on how they loved the atmosphere in the city!



After the walking tour, students visited Schindler's factory, recalling the experience of Polish people living under Nazi occupation and grasping an understanding of the life of Oscar Schindler and other brave people that stood up to help Jews during the war. The museum was extremely informative and students impressed their guides with their knowledge.

The day finished with a night out at the bowling, with star performances from Ben McDonald and Niamh Williams!

A huge thank you to all of the students who were a pleasure for the entire trip!

Another thanks must go to Mrs Clark, Mrs MacKenzie, Mrs Feetham and Mrs Bell who made the trip run so smoothly.

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY

On Monday 27th January a group of year 10 students attended the Holocaust Memorial Day at Norden Farm. At the event students from Cox Green School and Holyport College listened to a conversation between John Fieldsend and Sir Nicholas Winton's son, Nick Winton. The conversation was chaired by Rabbi Jonathan Romain MBE and was followed by a screening of the film Nicky's Family. John Fieldsend's story is tragic and remarkable.

John is one of the children saved by Sir Nicholas Winton before the start of WWII. He was born into a Jewish family with a Czech mother and a German father in Czechoslovakia during 1931. He was only seven years old when he was forced to say goodbye to his family and escape to England, with his brother, where they were sent to different foster families. He went to a school with other Jewish children from Germany. His parents were sent to Auschwitz-Birkenau. For a short while he was able to keep in contact with his parents through letters with a limited word count. As a teenager he received a package in 1946. Someone had discovered a collection of photograph albums in his grandparents' house in Czechoslovakia and asked the International Red Cross to find the rightful owner. Inside one album, in a letter his mother had written:

"Dear Boys. When you receive this letter the war will be over. We want to say farewell to you who were our dearest possession in the world".

John regularly gives talks to school children around the UK. He was recently awarded a BEM (British Empire Medal) for services to Holocaust Education.

Some lucky year 11s who returned from Auschwitz on Sunday got to meet Prince Edward and chat about their trip!



ENRICHMENT

As well as various residential trips, the school offers other experiences to enhance learning and develop our students as great team players and citizens of the future. Some examples include:

PRIDE DAY

In September we were delighted to welcome The Welsh Guards, IBM and Maidenhead Foodbank to the school on PRIDE day. Once again, our students were a huge credit to us and spent the day engaged, focussed and interested. Students also participated in team games and sports and a team of year 11 students spent the day volunteering at Maidenhead Waterways which was exhilarating and exhausting for all involved!



Huge thanks must go to Mr Burrows for his efforts in organising such a successful day, one which the students got so much from!



MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

Well done year 10 for organising a fabulous coffee morning on Friday 27th September. Thank you to everyone who contributed cakes and of course to everyone who bought cakes. They raised a fabulous £478.29.



DOFE BRONZE AWARDS CEREMONY

The first Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Awards Ceremony for Cox Green School was held on Thursday 23rd November. Huge congratulations to all the students involved, you should all be incredibly proud of your achievements! Massive thank you to staff who supported them throughout! You are amazing!



COMPUTER STUDIES

During October, year 12s completed Stage 1 of Cyber Discovery, an online, extracurricular programme turning teenagers into Cyber Security experts.



Year 9s completed the Bronze stage of Duke of York, a programme that helps children develop digital employability skills.

JAMIE'S FARM

Before half-term several students from years 10 and 11 went on a trip to Jamie's Farm. They spent 4 days working on the farm and faced many challenges that they wouldn't deal with on a usual day-to-day occurrence. They worked extremely hard – clearing out the pigs, feeding and herding animals, chopping up wood and cooking all of the meals. They did everything that was asked of them and got along as a group superbly. Each student can be proud of their achievements at Jamie's Farm. Well done.



YEAR 10 COMPUTER SCIENCE

Huge congratulations to Computer Science year 10 students who have completed a coding competition, competing against students their age from around the world. Through their tremendous efforts and commitment, they have all achieved a High Distinction.



ANTI BULLYING AND WELL-BEING GROUPS

Cox Green are very proud to announce two new initiatives. Our Anti Bullying and Well-being groups have been setup to ensure that students learn in a supportive, caring and safe environment without fear of being bullied. Our ambassadors have been trained by the Diana Anti Bullying ambassadors and have begun to work with students during break times. Our ambassadors learnt about the different types of bullying and the impacts this can have. The Anti Bullying group runs twice a week. If you have any concerns, please e-mail reportbullying@coxgreen.com



Our second group, the Well-being group, were trained by the organisation Relate and we are proud to announce that our ambassadors were the first to be trained as well-being ambassadors. The training allowed our students to identify what well-being is and strategies to help staff and students at Cox Green. Well-being is about ensuring that pupils are able to make the most of their educational opportunities regardless of their background or financial circumstances and through promotion of attendance at school. A student's health and well-being is dynamic and changeable. It is key that all pupils at Cox Green are able to aspire and succeed within our school. The Well-being group meets twice a week. All students are welcome.

ASDAN AWARD

Year 13 students were presented with their Peer Mentoring ASDAN award after an intensive programme in the summer with the Youth Services Team at RBWM in which they looked at risk taking behaviours affecting young people.



YEAR 11—YOU'RE HIRED

Thursday 16th January was the annual "You're Hired" event for the year 11 students. 165 students were interviewed for 20 minutes each by business representatives. This year we were fortunate that a large number of volunteers came forward and gave up their time; Centrica was able to provide us with 12 volunteers that day which was just fantastic. There were 17 interviewers in total each with expertise in recruitment and employment, so their feedback and encouragement should give the year 11 students confidence when applying for sixth form, colleges, apprenticeships and part time employment. Feedback from both students and interviewers was extremely positive and there was a definite buzz around the school site.



THE SCHOOL YEAR SPORTING ACHIEVEMENTS

Cox Green School is not only fortunate to have amazing sporting facilities but also to have fantastic sports men and women in the student body. Some of our sporting successes include:

RUGBY

Finlay Moore 10.3

Finlay plays Rugby for London Scottish, one of the oldest and most famous clubs in the world and who are based in Richmond. He is in the Developing Player Pathway which is essentially County training squad, in this case for Middlesex. Furthermore, he is also in the Scottish Qualified wider squad. This is for players who are qualified to play for Scotland but don't live or go to school there. Three teams will be selected - East Scotland, West Scotland and, Scottish Qualified - and the national squad will be picked from them. All the signals are that Finlay has a good chance of being in the final SQ team. Most selected players are at public school; to be selected from a non-rugby playing state school is unusual.

Harrison Edwards 8.5

Harrison plays for Maidenhead Rugby Club 'A' Squad and on the weekend of 1st March they played against Newbury. Maidenhead lost but Harrison scored 4 of Maidenhead's 6 tries.

Harrison takes all of his sport in his stride and takes a relaxed but focused approach to be the best he and the team can be and this has won him praise on a number of occasions by both Maidenhead rugby coaches and other teams nominating him as player of the day or man of the match. The team knows that if they can get the ball to Harrison he will do everything he can to get the ball to the touch line.



With Harrison showing potential, he has been selected for the London Irish Development program, he is one of 50 selected from around the country. London Irish are in the Rugby premiership.

JAVELIN

Finlay Moore 10.3

Finlay is at the top of the rankings ie Number 1 for Scotland and 5th in the UK. He is doing this without the proper footwear (which makes a difference with this discipline) and using a supplied javelin as he doesn't have his own one.

Well Done Finlay.

ICE-SKATING

Megan Turnbull 8.3

On Monday 11th November, Slough Synchronised Ice-skating Team competed in the Synchronised Skate London Open Competition. This day was full of excitement and nerves. They did the practice run through in the late morning, which went well. In the late afternoon they did the competition skate; it went really well and I was really lucky to be an alternative on the team. They did amazingly and we came 3rd. Everyone was very excited and happy and we will always remember this exciting and successful day.
By Megan



Sapphire & Jet Wheeler 11.3 & 8.7

Sapphire and Jet competed in the London Open Synchronised Skating Competition. The team gave their best ever performance of their routine, and despite moving up to a higher category came in a very respectable third place.



Zoë Flitton 9.2



Zoë's team competed on Monday 9th March at Sheffield in the Steel City Trophy. She skates with team Fusion who are based at Bracknell ice rink.

The girls skated well, with a number of new members in the team and had a clean program. They had 15 on the team and Zoë lead them onto the ice.

They scored 19.9.

ATHLETICS

Aimee Munt 9.5

Aimee competed for her athletics club, Slough Junior AC, on Sunday 12th January in the Sportshall County Championship. Aimee and her team competed very well and her club came 1st overall and on top of this, she came 2nd individually just 4 points off 1st place!

Sportshall is a long standing indoor multi-sport competition where clubs compete locally and at county level. Athletes compete to represent Berkshire regionally and then nationally if they qualify. As Aimee achieved 2nd place, she hopes to be picked to compete for Berkshire at the South East Regionals this March. A great achievement Aimee, well done!



Cross Country Success for our Cox Green Superstars

A big congratulations to all our Cox Green Students who entered the Berkshire Schools Cross Country Championships at Newbury Show Ground last weekend. All students performed really well and did Cox Green School proud. A big well done to Tegan Thomson in year 7, Willem Hoonhorst, Harvey Hoonhorst and Imogen Wilson in year 9, Josh Pope in year 11 and Abbie Jones in year 13 who all achieved great results.

An extra well done to Abbie Jones as she finished in 4th position in the U19 Senior Girls race, just missing out on a medal, however still qualifying for Inter counties which is amazing. A big thank you for all your help in leading the Cox Green School team on the day Abbie, a great role model.

Well done again to all our students!



Success at Intercounties for Abbie Jones



Well done to Abbie Jones who competed at the Schools Intercounties in Chelmsford on Saturday where she was placed 2nd for Berkshire out of 19 runners and finished 5th overall for her age group. This is Abbie's best ever position and she has been selected for the Berks Senior Girls Team at the English Schools Cross Country Championships in Liverpool on 14th March. Another great achievement!

Abbie ran for Berkshire at Intercounties on 9th March in U20 at Loughborough, she was 47th out of 130 (this is her first year in U20) and third home for Berkshire (the team came 7th). Another great achievement for Abbie!



CIRCUIT TRAINING

Toby Gillard 10.3

We are hugely proud of year 10 student Toby Gillard, winner of the Junior Strength Academy Sports Personality of the Year 2019. Congratulations.



The speech from the presentation of the award:

'This year has seen our winner demonstrate all the qualities we look for in a young athlete. These qualities include resilience, commitment, integration within the team and outside learning. He has completed the DofE bronze award which involves numerous physical activities as well as theory and is now working his way through the silver award which includes designing physical sessions. He continues to support other athletes within the group and this characteristic goes a long way not just in JSA but in life.

Myself and my coaches would like to personally thank this young man for his commitment and would like to congratulate him on a fantastic year of training.'

SWIMMING

Katie Crowhurst 11.1

HUGE Congratulations to Katie who has been selected for the British team in the 2020 World Para Swimming Open European Championships. The Championships were scheduled to take place in Funchal, Madeira in May 2020, but have been postponed.



SKIING

Zoë Flitton 9.2



During the Christmas holidays, Zoë was at the Ambition Championships in Maria Alm, Austria. She competed, over 4 days, in 2 slalom and 2 GS (Giant Slalom) races with competitors from Great Britain, Netherlands, Australia, New Zealand and Austria. Zoë took part to gain Alpine race experience on much longer, tougher courses and to improve her BASS seeding prior to the English Alpine Championships in Italy in February. She had mixed results with 1 DSQ (disqualified), 1 DNF (did not finish) when she popped out of her binding, and 6 completed runs which all count for seeding. Her best

result was 6th in the U14 slalom, with some really strong times which should help with the seeding.

The GS course took a minute to complete and saw all the competitors reaching physical limits on the ice.

From 9th to 22nd February Zoë spent 2 long and tough weeks training and racing. She trained in Austria first, and took part in a GS (Giant Slalom) race there where she unfortunately crashed and suffered mild concussion and snow burns on her face. However once she got to Bormio, Italy, she bounced back and completed all the races. The English Alpine Championships attract the strongest competition from all the home countries and well beyond with many international competitors. In each race of the U14 girls category there were around 60 competitors. Zoë was placed 8th in the slalom which was a great achievement in her first alpine season competition. She drew bib 1 and had to set the time to beat, and on run 2 was last to race with the worst course condition.

In the Super-G (Giant Slalom), which took place on the Olympic Stelvio piste, the run had been injected to make it icy and competitors reached speeds of around 50mph. Zoë had never trained or raced Super-G but she completed the courses.

In the GS she skied well and came in the top 30.



KARATE

Harvey Duncan-Taylor 10.7

Harvey attended karate school in Spain in March. As he was the youngest attendee he was allowed to start the training with their bowing ceremony and the master trainers had to bow to him.



BASKETBALL

Laurence King 9.3

A massive Congratulations to Laurence for achieving the Coaches Award for his basketball team, Reading Rockets U14. Unfortunately, the awards ceremony couldn't be held in person but Laurence received his award virtually!

What an outstanding achievement – Well done Laurence!

THE SCHOOL YEAR DRAMA, MUSIC AND OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS

Cox Green School also has fantastic Performing Arts and Music facilities and some amazingly talented students. Some of their successes include:

Sienna Eden 11.2

Sienna won the Gold Medal with a very high distinction in the Intermediate Woodwind Class, on her flute, at the Maidenhead Festival.

She is also performing in a production of 42nd Street at the Maidenhead Musical Comedy Theatre. We wish her the best of luck!

Santiago Ferreiro Escobar 8.1

Santiago played in the Maidenhead 54th annual festival of Music and Dance. He won a bronze medal in his category P18 (Grade 3) - piano. He played The Clown and the Ballerina by Crosland.

Well done!



Jet Wheeler 8.7

Congratulations to Jet who played Uncle Wess and Cowboy Bob in 'Footloose' at the Royal Theatre Windsor from 29th October to 2nd November.

Abbie Jones 13.2

Super proud of you Abbie, firstly a place in the national schools' event and now "volunteer of the year". Abbie is also Mr Morris's first student to qualify for the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award. Congratulations.



Beauty and the Beast

I'm so proud to be able to write about how fantastic Beauty and the Beast has been and more importantly, how brilliant the students have been. The performances really showed how hard the students worked on Beauty and Beast. The dedication was fantastic and it was lovely to see the different year groups supporting each other. As always it was an absolutely pleasure to work on the production. Thank you to everyone who had been involved and been a part of creating an absolutely fantastic show.

Ms Lane



Mellie Cloete, 7.5



Mellie started fundraising for the Costa Foundation in 2016 by climbing Snowdon. She decided in 2017 that she was going to take on the full 3 Peaks Challenge before she reached Secondary school and in June this year she became the youngest climber (at 10yrs old) to successfully complete the Costa 3 Peaks Challenge. That's Ben Nevis, Scafell Pike & Snowdon climbed back to back during awful weather that had experienced adults struggling to battle and only little patches of sleep gleamed in the car on route to the next peak.

The main reason for this challenge is to raise money for the Foundation and Mellie (very confidently) reached out to Costa's Master of Coffee to see if he would help her with her task and agree to deliver a Coffee Masterclass that she could raffle off. With great ideas like these so far this year she has raised £2,483 for the Costa Foundation.

On Monday 30th September, Mellie was invited to the Costa Roastery in Basildon to take part in and co-host the 2 Masterclasses that were delivered by Costa's Master of Coffee, Gennaro Pelliccia and Coffee innovator, Luke Antinoro. During the day, she received a surprise visit from Costa's Head of Community and Costa Foundation, who presented Mellie with the Costa 3 Peaks Super Stars Award, which has been awarded to the Mountain Goats team for being brilliant examples of positivity, teamwork and cross team support prior to and throughout the event weekend. This is an amazing achievement as the award tends to go the bigger teams.

Mellie was part of a team of only 3 climbers and 2 drivers.



Abby Harris 11.3



Abbey likes to keep it under wraps but we wanted to share how utterly proud we are of her nomination by SATRO for her outstanding work in class. She came 2nd out of over 400 students and was offered an apprenticeship based on her work ethic and passion for Alternative Curriculum.



THE SIXTH FORM - GROWING FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH

Through our morning Seminar programme, students in year 12 and 13 have received opportunities to contemplate, debate and discuss the themes of Health, Careers, Well-Being and Success, Sustainability and Politics. Feedback has been extremely positive, with students going on to further research the topics or challenge their own personal views and outlooks on these wide-ranging issues. The life skills these informative sessions provide for formulating their own opinions and views, as well as debating with their peers, will be invaluable for their future education and employment beyond school.



Our Wednesday afternoon Enrichment sessions have offered our students a rich and varied set of opportunities, helping us to continue to expand the 'Work Ready' and 'Life Ready' part of our curriculum. These sessions have continued to offer opportunities for students to develop themselves in ways that a conventional classroom does not always allow. Our Cox Green School Sports Leaders and our Cox Green School Coding Ambassadors Award schemes are good examples of this. Both of these qualifications have been designed by Cox Green School staff to allow our Sixth Formers to progress through three

different levels (Bronze, Silver and Gold awards) in teaching a skill to younger students. Both groups have worked closely with numerous primary schools in the area teaching younger students the skills needed to succeed at computer coding as they enter secondary school, and have organised sporting tournaments and competitions. This has enabled us to build upon our links with the local community.



These stronger links with our neighbouring primaries have enabled us for the first time to send Sixth Formers without Cox Green School staff supervising to local primary schools where they have been helping younger children to enjoy reading. This is in addition to other Sixth Formers also providing support in Cox Green School subject departments, working with KS3 students in a structured way. Other students have used their Enrichment time this year to work on developing life-skills such as catering on a budget, event managing their



school prom (which will now hopefully take place in September), publishing their own yearbook, and learning new sporting skills to aid mental and physical well-being. Finally, another first for us this year in Enrichment was the introduction of a Debate Club which practiced the researching debating and presentation of many different topics such as the impact of driverless cars, and legislation of Euthanasia, providing the participating students with valuable skills they could use as evidence in job and UCAS applications.

The EPQ (Extended Project Qualification) has also been successful this year. Initial uptake this year was slightly lower as EPQ was included in our Enrichment offer this year, but there were still a large number of students participated in the taught skills sessions. These skills provide students with higher order study skills such as sophisticated time management tools, advanced essay writing advice and source evaluation skills which helped them to manage the transition from GCSE to A level more successfully. They also equip students with skills that are in demand in the workplace as well as their future studies. To complete the award in just year 12 is a real achievement since students need to invest 120 hours to the qualification in addition to their other A level studies, and the additional complication of school closure due to COVID 19 has made this even more of a challenge this year. However, we have a number of year 12 students who are on track to complete this award before the summer holidays. Topics have been varied and have included investigations into the influence of K-Pop idols in cosmetic surgery, how we can make container housing sustainable and whether or not sexually antagonistic coevolution is ever going to be likely in humans.



We have had an extremely successful year for our year 13 students as they embark on their future pathways. We have had a number of unconditional offers from universities this year, as well as offers from Russell Group universities, including Manchester, Birmingham, Nottingham, Durham and Imperial. One of our students will also be taking up a place with the prestigious Royal College of Music, having received an extremely generous scholarship.

Alongside this, we have been impressed with our students and their apprenticeship success this year. One of our students has secured a high level apprenticeship with PWC following attendance at their summer programme and a rigorous interview process. Several students are awaiting interviews for companies such as Soft Cat, Scania and Transport for London which have been suspended due to the current Covid 19 situation. We are offering continued support in any way we can. It was also disappointing that a GAP Year to Nepal has also had to be put on hold, that was planned for this summer.

Parental involvement has continued this year with a high turnout at parents evening and with engagement with the information evenings. The What Next UCAS/Apprenticeship future pathways event had to take place virtually this year due to the Covid 19 situation, however the number of views of the YouTube presentation implies a very high parental engagement.

THE SPORTS ACADEMY IN THE SIXTH FORM

Our Sports Academy offers a bespoke post-16 programme which combines full time education and professional football training. We are now offering 2 and 3 year pathways which supports students' progress to University, International Scholarships, employment within the sports industry or progression to elite sport.

As well as students undertaking both A Level and BTEC subjects, the Academy allows students to grow and develop work ready skills through multiple streams such as: work experience, FA coaching qualifications, sport industry networking and employment.

In 2019/2020, the Sports Academy had success on and off the pitch. The students have gained some outstanding experiences visiting the home of English Football – the state of the art, St. Georges Park. The trip gave the students an insight into how the England team prepares for international fixtures whilst developing their knowledge of potential pathway opportunities within the industry.



Several of our students represented Berks & Bucks FA U18 County side.

Off the pitch, the Sports Academy students continue to embed themselves within the school community assisting with mentoring and supporting the PE department with officiating lower school fixtures.

We now have a large cohort of students gaining employment/placements with sports coaching organisations in the local primary schools.

We have developed a very successful Fitness and Personal Training qualification which has proved beneficial for some year 12 and year 14 students this year.

COX GREEN SPORTS ACADEMY TEAM ACHIEVEMENTS



Unfortunately, this season was cut short due to COVID-19, however both our National and Tactic squads have remained competitive all season, narrowly missing out on winning the league title. Our Cox Green Academy sides also have had strong seasons in their leagues falling short on winning their respective titles.

Windsor 1st - Partner Club

Our partnership has now seen players progress and develop in the senior first team over the past 4 years. Many of the players have established key roles at other senior clubs within the local area.

Individual success

Finn Kelly Lewis, Jack Simmons, George Denton and Ben Jameson have secured US University scholarships.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

This year has seen exciting opportunities for Student Leadership within the school.

We are in the second year of our Anti Bullying and Well Being groups. Last year thirty-six students from year's 7-9 successfully applied for the scheme and were trained by external agencies. This year the programme has enabled students to be supported by Diana and Relate ambassadors and support students throughout the school. The scheme runs across the break times at Cox Green and allows mentoring sessions to take place. Alongside this, our ambassadors have worked closely with the year 7 group struggling with the transition into secondary education. Our younger students have a buddy system which enables them to speak with someone if they have any concerns. These schemes are closely linked to our Well Being Club run by 6th form mentors offering our students an opportunity to meet and discuss issues as a group.



With the introduction of our House system at Cox Green, house captains have been selected in each form and play a major role in the events taking place throughout the year. Our house captains have organised events to raise money, such as cake sales and non-uniform days.

We have twenty sixth form students who were trained by an external agency to become our first sixth form mentors for pupil premium students in Years 7-10. This scheme has doubled in size and is currently working with 123 students every week. Our mentors discuss aspirations, further education, behaviour and attendance and strategies on how to help their mentees. We have seen a significant

improvement in the behaviour of key students in each year group.

The year has also seen the growing success of Senior Student Leaders. An array of students have represented the school at a wide variety of school events such as Open Evenings, Parents Evenings and the Remembrance Day service. In addition, the student body has initiated a variety of charity events raising significant amounts for money for local and national causes.



PROVIDING FOR OUR ABLE STUDENTS

It is of paramount importance that we meet the needs of our most able students. We offer challenge in lessons and a diverse range of enrichment activities as well as individual and group mentoring.

In 2019/2020, a strategic focus of Cox Green was to look at developing mastery and Meta cognition with all students. Lessons and training sessions have been led allowing students to develop these skills to help them achieve the highest possible grades. In year 11, an initiative called the Russell Group was setup allowing 42 HPA (Higher Prior Attainer) students' extracurricular lessons focusing on pathways into universities and the skills required to tackle top end responses in exam questions. This programme was followed up with some key messages being shared in form periods teaching from the top allowing all the opportunity to push themselves to the top end grades.

Staff have been encouraged through CPD and fortnightly teaching and learning presentations to focus on student-led / flipped learning, deeper questioning, scaffolding from the top down, understanding the learning, comfort and panic zones and the discourse around home learning. Learning walks focusing on challenge have been used as a starting point; members of staff who demonstrated expert levels of challenge shared their strategies as part of the fortnightly teaching and learning briefing. In practical subjects such as PE, subject teachers use success criteria in creative ways to assess the student's prior knowledge and understanding of a topic. Success criteria is shared as a problem solving challenge that the students need to work together to solve. This approach has proven to be successful as it allows the students to connect prior learning to new learning.

The culture for HPA students challenging themselves has been central to this year's discourse. Students work has been used in open evenings and the year 7 open day allowed parents the opportunity to see HPA work in different classrooms. Displays throughout the school are used by staff to focus on the achievements of our students and the work that HPA students are able to complete. We had planned for our Year 7 students to be involved with the year 6 into 7 transition day, helping students and modelling in the taster sessions. This would have given an opportunity for the students in year 6 to see the excellent work ethic of these students and for the students to have praise and responsibility for hard work. The plan is on our return in September for this process to take place and model the outstanding work completed.



As a school, we are constantly in contact with universities offering courses and workshops for High Achieving Students. Year 11, 12 and 13 students visited Oxford University in January 2020 and our mentoring system with our PP (Pupil Premium) students focuses on the opportunities at Russell Group universities and local employers.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUR DISADVANTAGED STUDENTS

Cox Green School sees reducing the progress gap between those students who are disadvantaged (in receipt of free school meals in the last 6 years, in care, service children and those who are young carers) as an absolute priority. We work hard on an individual basis to remove any barriers to learning.

All disadvantaged students have received a careers interview and attended university open days depending on their year group. The additional funding the school receives has supported a range of initiatives which are explained in detail on the school website where they have been evaluated for impact.

This academic year saw our mentoring scheme expand to all disadvantaged students from years 7-10. 32 sixth form mentors were trained by an external agency and run weekly sessions with mentees. Mentees arrive in DINE for breakfast and spend 20 minutes working through a diary highlighting progress in attendance, behaviour, achievement and academic subjects. Our mentors are role models and bench mark potential for these students. All students are encouraged to look beyond barriers and consider sixth form courses and universities. Mentors are aspirational and use their own backgrounds to motivate the students.

We continually adjust our curriculum offer so that it is bespoke to each year group. A group of students went to Jamie's farm where they experienced working on a farm for four days building their confidence and promoting team-work. It was amazing to see students' leadership skills and resilience really growing. Reading programmes such as 'Read-Write-Inc' have been demonstratively successful in rapidly raising student's literacy skills. Maths and English have run smaller class sizes in particular year groups, to support students with the core skills, and targeted revision sessions for individuals to work on gaps identified in mock exams and classes.

We are very aware that a set of good qualifications at GCSE or A Level are not the only tools students will need to reach their next step, either to go to university, apprenticeship and ultimately their career. Our homework club has been adjusted due to student demand and therefore the nights it is on have changed. The staff member running it supports students in completing the homework, finding resources and providing a space to do it. Students have been shown in tutor time how to review their work each day and also how to manage their time and homework using their planners. Students who have gone on to do well at apprenticeships or university always remark that it is the frequency of work they have done independently that has helped them the most.

We subsidise trips for disadvantaged students and encourage participation in at least one of the myriad of extra-curricular and enrichment clubs run throughout the day. Examples of such enrichment activities this year have included: Auschwitz, Madrid, Paris, college trips, a wealth of performing arts and musical events, charitable events, reading events in the community, work experience and a range of theatre trips. We recognise that although we publish enrichment activities and suggest them to students they still do not always attend. We would strongly urge parents and carers to ensure that their child participates in at least one enrichment activity to help nurture their soft-skills and make them more competitive career-wise. Employers are on the look-out for the soft-skills of communication, leadership and teamwork.



We have become more aware that we have a growing number of students who have significant care duties outside of the school day and these duties bring barriers to their learning. We have worked with the Children's Society to set up a Young Carers Club. Its aim is to raise awareness of these individuals to staff and to support these students with their additional barriers. A number of sixth formers are mentors to these students and the group meets on a regular basis to talk, share concerns and experiences.

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT, BEHAVIOUR AND WELFARE

At Cox Green School, we continue to ensure that our students are cared for, are kept safe and are supported in becoming the best young person they can be. Developing the ethos of PRIDE takes place in the actions of all of our students within our community and we are proud of the fact that our young people have identified the key messages below in their day to day actions in and outside of the school:

Passion for learning and a desire to achieve to potential and beyond; to leave Cox Green as confident, well qualified, inspired young people and prepared for any future challenge.

Respect as a core principle of every interaction.

Insight into the needs of others – at a local, national and global level so that each child develops the skills to make a positive contribution to society.

Diligence – the ability to be resilient and persevere; a commitment to make mistakes and to learn from them.

Enjoyment of the opportunities available and to develop a passion for lifelong learning.

We expect high standards of our students and ensure that learning time is maximised. The standard of students' uniform and equipment is high as this is checked at the start of every day. Our school behaviour policy supports all staff to ensure students have every opportunity to reach their potential through a calm and organised learning environment. We recognise that all students will have varying needs and backgrounds and we aim to support these.

Throughout the year our pastoral teams have lead a PSHE programme, which has had specific focus on a number of key issues. Assemblies have been linked to the programme and speakers from a number of organisations have come into Cox Green to discuss matters such as online safety, knife crime and employment opportunities. Our SAFE team have continued to work with students on a number of issues relating to anxiety, resilience and are a source of support for all year groups.

The House System is an integral part of our Pastoral System and School Culture, and the challenge is to instil a sense of pride and commitment. Students have enthusiastically participated in a variety of House Events throughout the year and there is a real positive feel throughout the School towards this system as we approach the next academic year. Charity events and initiatives to enhance PRIDE at Cox Green School have been developed through the work of the House system.

This year has seen positive points being issued to our students for a range of academic and extra-curricular achievements. These have been celebrated through the issuing of Bronze, Silver, Gold and our prestigious Governors Award badge as well as through half-termly celebratory assemblies. Star of the week and hot chocolate mornings were arranged to recognise the efforts of students in each year group as well as our fortnightly PRIDE awards. Impressively Diana Pascu in year 8 had already amassed 1063 (Gold Award) by the Easter half term.

Our Student Voice system and the introduction of the School Council has allowed students in all year groups the opportunity to voice concerns and support staff in evaluating our environment. Feedback in these meetings has shown that students feel safe in school and are aware of the support mechanisms available. Students have been able to voice their opinions on homework, clubs, teaching and curriculum choices. Specific focus groups were implemented in year 11 after the mock exams to identify any issues our students had and strategies we could put in place to support our year 11s.

ATTENDANCE

We are proud of our standards around attendance and continue to expect our students to have as close to 100% attendance year on year. We continue to set a school target of 96% attendance and are relentless at supporting students and their parents in ensuring this.

Attendance is one of our core focuses and to support this we offer access to parenting classes, regular home-school contact, and support in lessons, use of within school resources and referral to outside agencies. We make home visits when we have no known reason for a student's absence and work closely with an Educational Welfare Officer. We believe there should be 'no excuses' as to why a student should not succeed. Attendance is vital to all of us as it supports academic progress and social interaction both in and out of school and ultimately provides the holistic, well-rounded education at the centre of our core values.

Our SAFE team and the Attendance Officer, work collectively to increase our attendance figure as a school. This year our attendance figure as a school dropped below the national average attendance figure of 94.5% by 0.4%. These figures were taken on the 18th March just before the school lockdown. We have worked closely with our Heads of Years and tried to identify why certain groups/students and interventions that have been put in place have not impacted the overall figure or the persistent absenteeism figure. The start of the academic year was a particular challenge with a number of holidays impacting our original figures. Our teams have worked with students struggling with anxiety and resilience especially in the difficult period and has been successful helping key students overcome issues.

This year also saw a new attendance system put in place by our attendance officer which enabled us to get data quicker so we were able to work within the line management process at Cox Green School and work with external agencies to support key students.

YEAR 7 REVIEW

Lindsay Schoeman – 7.2

My experience of year 7 has been a positive one, thanks to the induction day and staggered start in September. I was not in the same form as my friend from primary school, but that didn't matter, because we met at break and lunchtimes and have both made new friends. The staff are mostly friendly and helpful, taking time out to help you. If you are feeling worried or anxious, staff are there to help. It is really easy to find your way around as each subject has its own section/building. The new canteen is lovely, with plenty of space and I highly recommend the bacon rolls. There are so many opportunities to try new clubs/sports after school.



Carly Quigley – 7.4

My first year at Cox Green School has been great. When I first started I was a little nervous but I soon got used to my way around the school. I have met many kind teachers who have been really helpful and supportive and my form tutor is really nice and supportive. I have made a lot of new friends and have enjoyed all of my lessons. I have enjoyed year 7 very much and I am looking forward to moving up to year 8 which I'm sure will be amazing too. My advice for the new year 7s is not to be scared about starting in a new school because you will get used to getting around and learning different subjects as there will be lots of supportive teachers to help you get through your first year. Make sure you enjoy your first year.

Ionut Mihai – 7.2

Year 7 was a good year for me because it helped me to discover a lot of things that I didn't know. This is why I would like to thank all of the teachers that helped me to become better at almost all the classes and they made the school a good and fun experience.

Lola Harris – 7.3

My first year at Cox Green School has been very enjoyable! Even in lockdown, we have been given a good amount of work and help if we need it on Teams and email. When we were at school, all the teachers and staff were really kind and helpful if we lost our way or just needed some help. We do lots of fun activities, instead of just writing things and studying. It makes learning more fun and interesting. There have been lots of competitions and events that have been held at school which are not just fun but you learn something without really knowing that you are in a lesson. I am so happy that I chose to go to this school because it is really good!

Marius Anea – 7.4

Hello future year 7s! Today I will give you some advice about being a year 7. First of all, never think negatively on the work and tests because these are the most important things of being a year 7. Second of all, on the first day of year 7 try and talk to many people so you can try and make many friends. And finally, be kind to everyone. Being kind to everyone you see will boost them into a feel-good mood. Now I will be talking about my year 7 experience. When I first moved into year 7, I was very shy and scared of what would happen. My class was 7.5, but there was something wrong. I was doing French instead of Spanish so I asked my parents if I could move class. My parents and teachers said ok so I moved into 7.4. As I was doing so well in all lessons this work was inspiring me to do wonderful in my tests. The tests came up and you wouldn't believe what awesome scores I got... My parents were feeling very hopeful for me and I passed. My parents started calling me clever, then Covid-19 started, but I am still doing the fantastic work I did in school.



WORKING WITH PARENTS

We hold regular parent meetings and the Headteacher offers an open door policy so that strong relationships are developed.

All letters to parents are posted on our website and sent out via email.

At each Parents' Evening we also formally survey our parents so that we know how they feel about the school and what we can do to improve. Feedback is overwhelmingly positive as shown by the results of the academic year 2019 – 2020:

