



Cockermouth School NEWSLETTER



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Year 5 Days

The wizarding world of Harry Potter comes to life for students from our catchment primary schools. A day of potions, temperature probes and dragon pool!



Celebration Evenings

Award season starts with the recognition of outstanding student performances in Years 11 and 13.



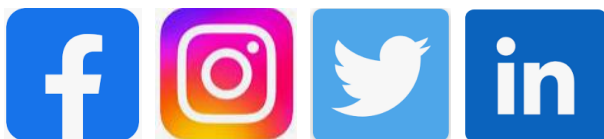
World Cheer Champions

A trip to Orlando, Florida to the Allstar World Cheer Leading Championships sees Lady Supremacy crowned victorious.



Chess Masters 2023

A game of tactics, strategy and control and one of the most popular boards games in the world. After a long hard battle, we finally have a winner.



Follow us on our social media platforms and visit our website for the latest school news.
[@cockermouthschool.org](https://www.cockermouthschool.org)



REACT Foundation Bursary Awards

The REACT Foundation held its Promises Evening at The Beacon in Whitehaven in mid-April. We were delighted that Year 11 students Toby C, Alex C, Jack B and Emma H were all awarded £200 post-16 bursaries; Oscar W collected the £1000 runners up Post-18 REACT bursary award while Sam McL received the £1000 bursary from the Institute of Mechanical Engineers.

Congratulations to our wonderful students and sincere thanks to The REACT Foundation for all the support they provide to students in West Cumbria.

Young Enterprise



Great news! Our Young Enterprise Team 'Sea Clearly' took their sea glass upcycled necklaces to ULCAN in Preston this week. There were 10 companies from Cumbria and Lancashire and we won a place at the North West final in May.

The students under the direction of Matthew C and Izzy T, interviewed well, wrote a great report and were really impressive in their presentation. The next level of the competition is at KPMG in Manchester on the 23 May. Watch this space.

Cumbria Schools FA U18 County Champions

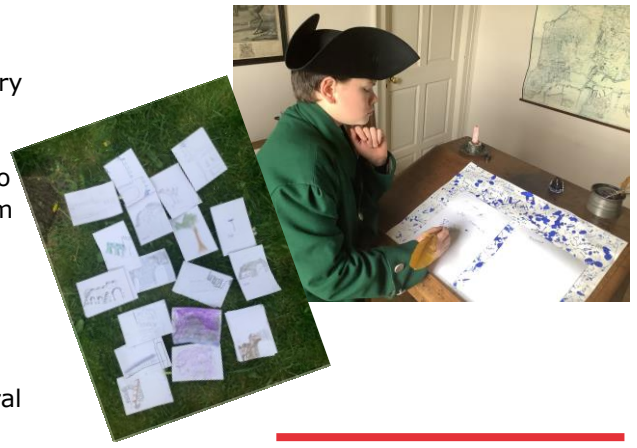
At the end of March, playing on a good pitch at Sheepmount in Carlisle, (but in conditions more typical of January) our U18 students were victorious 3-1 after extra-time against a strong West Lakes Academy side. We started strong and played an excellent opening 10 minutes, moving the ball fluently and in the right areas of the pitch. However, the next 20 minutes were testing. As the rain lashed down, we struggled to get a hold of the game. Eventually, through an error at the back WLA pounced and poked the ball into the goal from 10 yards. Our players dug deep and finished the first half with a strong 10 minutes. Into the second half and we were beginning to play some good football. Josh B and Leo H were solid at the back and had a much better connection with their positional play. Our midfield engine was beginning to take charge of the game and winning position back quickly when we lost it. A great shift from Dan W, Zak W and Harley E kept our game turning over and we began to create many attacking chances. Eventually the ball fell into the path of Harley E who slotted into the corner from 15 yards out. 1-1, game on! Both teams then had a spell of 10 minutes ahead of full-time where they could have snatched victory. Both teams were guilty of some poor challenges, but you could begin to see Cockermouth keeping their temperament better. Full-time was called and onto 10 minutes each way, extra-time.

We came out of the blocks at extra-time as the boys recognised the tactics which were working for them in the game. We kept supplying Sam C (Year 11) on the left wing and with his speed, direct running, and footwork we were on top. A ball was half-cleared from a Harley E cross from the right and rolled into the path of Zak W 25 yards out. He hit it first time and drilled the ball into the top left corner. It was a perfect strike, where the whole crowd of parents from both teams acknowledged the quality they had just witnessed. Many parents were starting to say, "that's a goal worthy of a county cup win". Cockermouth were believing. Sam C delivered three free kicks, one saved by the keeper, another striking the upright of the goal, and the final one whipped in with such ferocity that their defender could only deflect it into their goal. The referee, who managed 18-year-old boys extremely well, called full-time and Cockermouth School were crowned Cumbria Schools FA U18 County Champions. An amazing achievement from a great bunch of students.



Curious Citizens

20 students from Key Stage 3 have been selected to take part in a very exciting opportunity in partnership with Curious Minds. Miss Cromack and Mrs Page took 10 students on a Cultural Tour of Cockermouth as part of this project. They visited Wordsworth House, where they got to play a harpsichord, write with a quill and learn about the life of William Wordsworth, whose poetry they study in school. They also visited the Bridge Gallery and Percy House Gallery, where they viewed paintings, textiles, ceramics, photography and prints made by a variety of local and international artists. They used this inspiration to create some of their own artwork, creating pencil and ink drawings of the area surrounding Cockermouth's Town Hall. The group finished their Cultural Tour with a meal at The Spice Club, which they thoroughly enjoyed!



Year 5 Days

Students from our catchment primary schools recently joined us for a Harry Potter themed Science day. Our House Elves (aka Science Technicians) had been busy preparing the Science labs for their visit to ensure their day was as magical an experience as possible.

They searched for the Philosophers Stone using magic wands; their temperature probes correctly located the stone which had been hidden in some luggage left on Platform 9 $\frac{3}{4}$. Students used flames tests to correctly label potion bottles after Neville Longbottom mixed all the bottles up during his detention and then they had to determine what was wrong with our Common Welsh Dragon as she was feeling slightly under the weather. They learned all about Disgusting Dragon Digestion by recreating what Myfawnwy had eaten to make her so poorly. Mashed bananas and coco pops usually go down a treat!

Year 5 students have also visited our creative arts departments where they took part in music, drama and art lessons for a morning of creative fun. They will also join us later in the year for a morning of PE and a full day of adventure and discovery that incorporates humanities, personal development and languages.

M Sport visit

On Wednesday 19 April our A level PE students visited M-Sport in Dovenby where we were welcomed by Matthew Wilson, ex-Cockermouth School student and British rally driver. They learnt about the engineering behind the cars and how a World Class sporting team works to compete at an elite level, encompassing some of their A level topics including aerodynamics, globalisation of sport, use of technology to aid elite performance and safety in sport. They had a brilliant visit concluding at the M-Sport show rooms and test track.

Thank you, M-Sport, for a fascinating and highly educational visit.



Balloon Launch

A group of six Y13 Physics students have been working on a project for the last 18 months with a view to launching a weather balloon to obtain footage and data from the edge of the atmosphere/space. After a failed attempt at the end of April, they successfully launched their balloon from the school field at 10.48am on Thursday 4 May. Although there were some strong gusts of wind which made the preparing and releasing of the balloon somewhat challenging, the predicted flight path was looking favourable and the students initially tracked it heading west towards Allonby and out over the Solway, its path changed and the balloon headed back inland and was last recorded over the Blennerhasset area. Unfortunately, it was at this point that communication with the balloon was lost and the team never managed to relocate the balloon again using their tracking systems. The team are hopeful a member of the public may come across the payload and make contact.

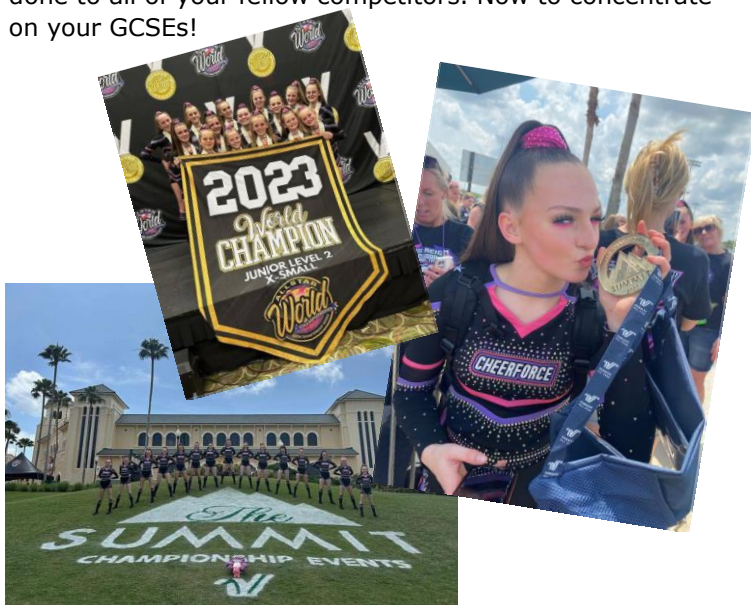


Cheer Leading World Champions!

We are delighted to hear that Year 11 student Emily Irving, along with her Cheer Force Knights Maryport team members have been crowned world champions at the Allstar World International Cheer Competition in Orlando, Florida.

Emily and her team have spent many hours practicing their routines over the past year specifically for this competition, synchronising their moves to within milliseconds of each other. During their time in America, the girls took part in two competitions; 'Miss Reign' and 'Lady Supremacy' gaining a silver medal with Miss Reign at The Summit Competition and a gold medal at The Allstar World Championship with Lady Supremacy. Lady Supremacy was up against a field of 87 teams from all over the world – but they were the only one from the UK. Being crowned victorious with an outstanding performance is something that they will never forget, it has been an experience of a lifetime.

It may have been the first time that Cheers Force Knights Maryport have taken part in an International competition, but we don't think it will be the last! The dedication of the team members, their parents and coaches have certainly put Cumbria on the map. Congratulations Emily and well done to all of your fellow competitors. Now to concentrate on your GCSEs!



Literacy Support

The literacy support programme works to support and aid students with their reading ability, comprehension, spelling and writing skills.

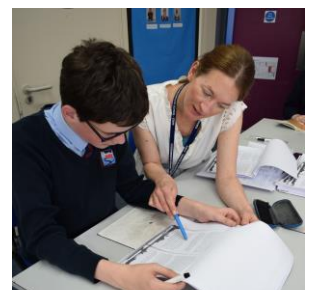
When joining Cockermouth School, every student is assessed on these skills and, with the help of a variety of other information, those who need extra support are offered it. Each student's individual struggle is identified so that it can be addressed directly in sessions with a member of the team as well as by subject teachers who all work with the team to co-ordinate effective literacy support. This work has developed as a method to improve literacy skills as a school because it is valuable in all subjects as well as in later life.

The work is overseen by Miss Quine as the Director of English and Literacy, and Mrs Cosh, the Literacy Teacher who works directly with the students, has a plethora of skills which she utilises to help support each of her students. As a former primary school teacher, she has experience with teaching students to read and, through her six and a half years of teaching English across the world, has also learned how to teach the subject from the very basics. When working with the students, her love for the job shines through as she understands their struggles and wants to help them overcome these issues which is aided by the engaging and enjoyable nature of each session.

Not only does the programme help younger students, but also Sixth Form students who volunteer to run sessions with the younger students. This provides the younger students with good role models who they can look up to and build relationships with, whilst also giving the Sixth Form students a range of opportunities to learn.

They are able to build new skills in literacy and communication, as well as building on their self-confidence and sense of responsibility which will help prepare them for their futures.

Elayna Towell Y13



Mental Health Awareness Week

Mental Health Awareness Week is now in its 23rd year and is hosted by the charity, Mental Health Foundation. This year's theme was 'anxiety', a common feeling that can sometimes get out of control.

We were all encouraged to wear green to show our support. Students were offered a visit to our Eco Centre garden and pond at lunch time for a tour of the facility and the opportunity to relax and enjoy the calm surroundings.



15 to 21 May 2023

Mental Health Awareness Week



#ToHelpMyAnxiety

Celebration Evenings

May sees the beginning of our annual celebration events taking place to recognise and reward our outstanding students for the contributions they make to our school community. Students in the lower school are recognised for their Academic Achievement, Progress and Engagement, Excellence in Performance, and for best demonstrating our school values of *Aspire . Enjoy . Include . Respect and Community*. High Performance Awards are presented to ten individuals, with a further two awards going to our 'Students of the Year'. Students in the Sixth Form receive Academic Awards from Heads of Departments and Mrs Regan, Head of Years 12 & 13, nominates Ambassador Awards to those students who have gone above and beyond.

We were delighted to welcome students and their families from Years 11 and 13 into our school recently for their Celebration Evenings. We are exceptionally proud of the students who received awards and extremely grateful for the support of their families. A great strength of our school is the community that we serve and the relationships that we enjoy. Congratulations to all award winners.

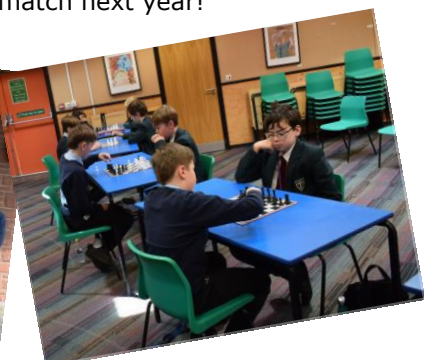


Chess Masters

Friday lunchtime Games Club has seen an influx of new members keen to learn how to play Chess. So much so, we have been gifted with some new chess sets to keep up with the demand. Year 7 students took it amongst themselves to arrange a knockout Chess Masters competition, posters encouraging people to join in were displayed and a schedule was created and over recent weeks the Chess Masters 2023 tournament has been taking place.

Our finalists, Year 7 students Joel H and Evie Y, battled it out over three lunchtimes until Evie was finally crowned the 2023 Champion. Well done to you both.

Following our posts on social media, we were delighted when Keswick School contacted us to see if we would like to take part in a friendly game of chess. A date was set and ten students from Keswick travelled to us for the afternoon. The students played three games, each lasting 30 minutes. After round one, it was a draw, round two saw Keswick take the lead by half a point but they pulled away and won overall at the end of round three. The students were amazing and their concentration throughout was very impressive. We are already looking forward to the re-match next year!



Grow Club

Land behind the Eco Centre has taken on a new lease of life recently as our new Grow Club members have taken over its cultivation. Miss Cromack and Mrs Page have introduced some of our students to the world of gardening, covering all aspects of growing and nurturing of plants. From sowing seeds, potting-on seedlings, transplanting into prepared beds to the design and layout of the area. Students have had a hands-on approach to it all. They are using the 'no-dig' method of growing this year and thanks to the kind generosity of Oakhurst Garden Centre and West Coast Composting Ltd, they have been able to enrich the soil with compost to give the plants the best start. Students have researched 'hugelkultur' the centuries old traditional way of building a garden bed out of logs and plant debris – if anyone has any old rotten logs they would like to dispose of, they would be gratefully received! Aiming to be totally organic, they have also had to look into how to deal with garden pests – rabbits and slugs in particular.



Attendance Advice Coffee Morning Friday 9 June 2023

Venue: Strategically Resourced Provision

Time: 9:00 - 12:00

Do you want to help your child get the most out of school?
Does your child struggle to attend school?
Have they lost their motivation?
Have they had a fall out with their friends?
Are they avoiding lessons?
Are they unsure about their future?

If yes, this coffee morning could help.
No need to make an appointment, just pop in and have a chat with a member of the Attendance and Pastoral Team.

A warm welcome awaits.

Julie Topping, the Local Authority's Inclusion and Access Officer for Attendance and Dr Jude Davies, Cumberland Educational Psychologist from the Service will also be present if you would like to seek any further advice or support.



Cumbria Police

We were delighted to be joined by PCSO 5417 Jones and PCSO 5375 Parker from Cumbria Police who presented a very important assembly on Knife Crime to Year 7. Students were informed of the issues around knife crime, who is affected, the law surrounding knives and bladed/pointed articles and how we can work together to stop knife crime.

They highlighted how the knife crime burden falls mainly on young males in deprived areas and that the majority of victims are males aged between 18 and 24.

Students had the opportunity to ask questions and speak to the officers at the end of the assembly.



Forthcoming Events:

- 15 May – 28 June: A Level & GCSE Examinations
- 29 May – 2 June: Half Term
- 15 June: Year 12 Employability Day
- 19 June: Year 8 Celebration Evening
- 26 June: Year 10 Celebration Evening
- 26 & 27 June: Sixth Form Induction Day
- 30 June: Blues Night
- 3 July: Arts Celebration Event
- 4 & 5 July: Intake Days
- 5 July: Intake Parents' Meeting
- 6 July: Sports Day
- 7 – 11 July: GCSE/A Level French Trip
- 7 July: World Challenge - Madagascar Team 1
- 10 – 14 July: Year 10 Work Experience
- 10 July: Year 7 Celebration Evening
- 13 July: Year 9 Celebration Evening
- 14 July: World Challenge – Madagascar Team 1 & 2
- 17 – 19 July: Year 12 Work Experience
- 17 – 19 July: Activities Week
- 17 July: Year 12 Celebration Evening
- 18 July: Year 10 World of Work Day
- 19 July: End of Term
- 17 August: A Level Results Day
- 24 August: GCSE Results Day
- 5 September: Start of Autumn Term for all students

An exceptional learning experience for all
aspire • enjoy • include • respect • community