



# Cockermouth School NEWSLETTER



## INSIDE

### THIS ISSUE:

- YOUNG ENTERPRISE: Sea Clearly
- SPELLBINDING
- CHEMIST OF THE YEAR
- COUNTY ATHLETIC TRIALS
- POET IN RESIDENCE
- DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS
- YEAR 11 LEAVERS: Video
- SELLAFIELD ROBOTICS
- YEAR 7 TRANSITION
- U18 CRICKET TOUR: Sri Lanka
- WARRINGTON WOLVES SIGNINGS
- FORTHCOMING EVENTS



### Year 11 Prom

Another fabulous evening of celebration with the annual crowning of the 2023 Prom King and Queen.



### Year 13 Leavers' Picnic

An afternoon of fun and laughter with friendships and memories that will last a lifetime.



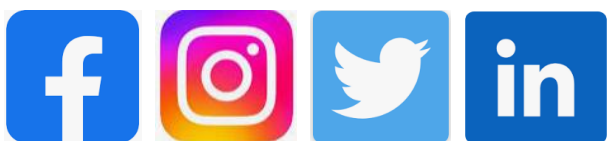
### Sports Day

A lively afternoon where numerous records were broken – some of which had been held for over 20 years.



### Oxbridge Visit

Oxford University Open Day event provides inspiration to ten of our Year 12 students.



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[@cockermouthschool.org](https://www.cockermouthschool.org)

# Young Enterprise

We had a great day at the Young Enterprise North West finals held at KPMG, Manchester on 23 May. Our team 'Sea Clearly' won the most sustainable business in the North West of England. Throughout the process, we manufactured beautiful jewellery made from sea glass fragments all collected from the Solway Coast. We take great pride in our business creating a stylish design of bespoke sea glass accessories, while ensuring no additional harm is done to the environment. Our actions to help the coastal ecosystems involved, cleansing the beach of waste when we collected our raw materials, financially supporting organisations such as The Ocean Clean-up and also sponsoring a turtle!

As Director of Marketing at our company I've developed a desire to pursue a career in a similar role in the future. I have been involved in all aspects of marketing during my time in the role such as, creating a brand identity, developing marketing strategies based on research, website design and social media etc. Not only this, but I have learned and developed many transferable skills throughout the process including; leading my department, collaborating in a team and demonstrating creativity in my marketing methods.

**Joe Blacklock Y12**



## Year 13 Leavers' Picnic

Friday 26 May, a day to remember...officially the last day of school for our Year 13 students and what a day it was too. The sun shone brightly and the music played loudly whilst memories from the past seven years were shared.

Students and the Sixth Form staff team enjoyed an afternoon of playing games, sharing food and eating ice cream. The three-legged race was a particular favourite, with tactics and techniques varying widely; running, walking and even dragging each other across the line! The tug of war left some with sore hands, but Miss Dean ensured it was always a fair competition. Egg and spoon races, welly throwing and a good old game of rounders ensured the afternoon was fun filled with plenty of laughter and a party atmosphere. The afternoon ended with the staff team performing a well-rehearsed dance routine for the students.

We wish each and every one of you the very best for the future on whichever path you chose to take. We look forward to welcoming you back to school on results day!



## Spellbinding

On 29 June the Spellbinding Awards Day was held at the North Lakes Hotel in Penrith. This was the culmination of Spellbinding, the Cumbrian secondary schools' annual book awards, in which the winning author for 2023 was announced. Awards Day is always a fun day out, with workshops, a book swap and competitions for the students, as well as a chance to meet some of the shortlisted authors.

Our enthusiastic group of Spellbinders who have worked very hard to read all the books in a limited time, were delighted to have the opportunity to attend and meet some of the authors.



## Chemist of the Year

Congratulations to Year 12 student, Billy J, who was presented with the Richard James Armstrong award for the 'Outstanding Chemist of the Year' at a presentation that took place at Futarama UK in Wigton.

Billy, who was joined by his parents, received the shield from Mrs Armstrong along with a McMurray Organic Chemistry book and a voucher, before being offered a tour of the Futarama site where they were able to see real chemistry in action.

Chemistry teacher, Mr Carruthers, said "It was a great occasion to share our memories of the late Richard Armstrong, his love for chemistry and an appreciation of the future talented chemistry students like Billy that we have at Cockermouth School."



## County Athletic Trials

On Saturday 10 June, the hottest day of the year so far, some of our young athletes travelled to Sheepmount at Carlisle to take part in the County Athletic Trials and did fantastically well. Those who finished in the top two qualified to represent team Cumbria at the Northern inter-counties event on Saturday 17 June. This took place in Gateshead against athletes from Northumberland, City of Newcastle, Durham, and North Yorkshire. Those who performed well or met English School's standards were considered for selection for the National Finals in Birmingham at the end of June.

Huge congratulations to all who took part, we are immensely proud of your achievements. Special mention must go to Year 9 students Lorton C and Daisy W who have achieved English Schools standard. Daisy crossed the line in the 800m at 2m16s and Lorton with a very impressive 11.7s in the 100m.

At the Northern finals, Year 11 student Dale C threw a personal best in the 700kg javelin of 49.07m and was also rewarded by selection at the Nationals. This is the second year running for Dale which is an incredible achievement.

Only 22 athletes were selected to represent team Cumbria at the finals...three of them being from our school!

Special mention must go to Daisy who took second in her heat at the Nationals which secured her a place in the 800m final. Daisy placed 5<sup>th</sup> in the final. We are immensely proud, well done.



## Sparx Maths

Our maths department introduced a new homework program this year and ran it as a trial with Year 8 - Sparx Maths. Sparx Maths is a digital platform that uses videos and homework questions and aims to improve students' progress in maths through personalised learning.

**Congratulations** to our top three, star students for gaining the most XP points over the past 12 months - Charlotte J, Asha H and Zoe L.



## Wordsworth House Poet in Residence

On Friday 30 June Cockermouth School English Department hosted published poet Suji Kim for a poetry workshop called *Wild Kingdom*. Suji delivered a presentation that inspired students to write in a range of poetic forms and then encouraged Year 7 students to explore nature in the school grounds before creating a poem about an animal.

### Butterflies

Elegant gliding  
latching  
on blooming flowers  
soldiers of the natural world  
**by Archie Parker Y7**

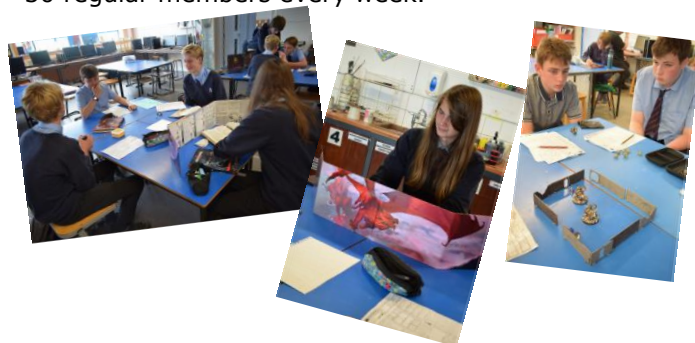


The English Department will be working alongside Wordsworth House in the future to provide more enrichment opportunities for our students.



## Dungeons and Dragons Club

The Dungeons and Dragons club has been running on Mondays after school for the last three years. In that time the club has grown in popularity and now has 25 - 30 regular members every week.



Dungeons and Dragons Club has many benefits for our students including:

- problem solving and teamwork
- creative thinking
- leadership and communication skills
- forward planning
- improving literacy and numeracy
- developing long lasting friendships

Anyone who is interested in the fascinating world of Dungeons and Dragons please drop by the Art Department after school on Mondays in the Autumn Term or see Mr Robinson S2.

# Year 11 Leavers' Assembly

We said our final farewell to Year 11 students on Thursday 8 June. Their leavers' assembly included a year group photo, the celebrated 'Shirt Signing' and leavers' hoodie distribution. Technical difficulties meant that the annual staff video reveal had to be postponed until the following day, but it was well worth the wait in the end! If you haven't already seen it, please follow this link <https://youtu.be/I0kSpsikFNE>

Some students leave us to follow a different pathway, whilst many will join us again in Year 12 in September - whichever path they choose, we wish them all the very best in their educational journey.

An emotional end to five fabulous years. We hope they enjoyed the trip down memory. The sky is the limit, we encourage them to take advantage of all opportunities offered and be the very best version of themselves. Good luck Year 11, hopefully we will see you on results day!



# Year 11 Prom

After months of preparation and organisation, Thursday 22 June saw the annual Year 11 Prom take place at The Greenhill Hotel, Wigton. Students and staff enjoyed a fabulous evening; smart suits, beautiful dresses, glorious weather and five years for friendship made the evening a night to remember.

Numerous awards were presented on the night, with the highly anticipated Prom King and Prom Queen for 2023 being awarded to Ethan S and Darcey B.

Our thanks go to the staff at Greenhill Hotel, Jeanne Rogers for her amazing photography and our wonderful Year 11 students who represented the school impeccably.



# Sellafield Ltd Robotics



On 11 July, students in Year 7 were enthralled when Sellafield Ltd joined us with some fabulous pieces of robotic kit. Demonstrations of unmanned aerial vehicles (drones) and agile robots (Spot the dog) saw students keen to learn more. Explanations were given on how and why the drones and robots are used on site to help Sellafield in their mission to create a clean and safe environment for future generations. By sending robots to do routine tasks in hazardous environments ensures staff are kept out of harms way and frees them up to do more urgent tasks. Spot even has its own radiation-proof suit to protect it from any contamination.

Forty Year 9 and Year 12 students spent the day with engineers from Sellafield Ltd designing and modelling a Mars Rover prototype. Students were asked to think about the terrain, environment, power supply and data collection that a Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) would encounter on Mars. They individually designed and presented their designs to the Sellafield engineers for feedback and then worked in teams to model a prototype of their design in 3D. Student's knowledge of Mars and Nuclear energy was shown and their ingenuity, design skills and knowledge greatly impressed the Sellafield Ltd Engineers.

Our thanks go to the Sellafield team for their time and providing our students with the opportunity to see how diverse the range of career prospects are within the nuclear sector.



# Year 7 Primary to Secondary Transition

It's a big deal moving from primary to secondary school, some Year 6 students are ready to take that big step whilst others find the whole experience rather daunting. At the start of June every year, Mr Woodcock - Pastoral Lead for Year 7, visits all of our catchment primary schools to spend some time with the Year 6 students explaining what life is like at Cockermonth School. He talks them through what they can expect, answers numerous questions from homework to uniform, what they can eat for dinner to what sort of clubs they can join. This year he took along with him, to each of the primary schools, four of their ex-students. Following a recent visit to St Bridget's Primary School in Brigham, this is what he had to say...

Yesterday, I took Mason T, Emilia H, Willow R and Stanley B to their old primary school to help with the Year 6 transition presentation. Like all the other visits, it went very well and the Year 7 students were amazing ambassadors for our school answering questions openly and honestly. However, this group of students took it to a whole new level. During the presentation we started talking about Drama lessons and all four students got up and danced and sang one of their pieces they had been working on. Not only this, but like all other visits, the students are desperate to go and see all the other classes and say hello to their old teachers. So, at the end of our session, we went to say hello to all the classes and the teachers greeted them with open arms. When we arrived at the Year 1 class, the member of staff was sat reading a book to her class. After saying hello the teacher asked how long we had left and would our students like to read to her class...they did! It was amazing to watch, and I felt privileged to be there and watch all the little ones sat around being read to. It was one of those moments where you wish everyone could see, it's hard to put into words, reading can be so powerful and it made me feel so proud.



## U18 Cumbria Cricket Tour

We are delighted to hear that three of our students have been chosen to represent Cumbria in the U18 Cumbria Cricket tour to Sri Lanka in Spring 2024. Year 11 student Lily K and Year 12 students Josh B and Kate F will join other cricketers to form one girls and one boys team on this incredible 11-day tour which promises to be a life changing experience for them all.

Cumbria Crickets aim is to make cricket inclusive, by removing affordability barriers and enabling opportunities. The students have been tasked with raising £2700 each by approaching local companies to help them raise the funds required to enable them to participate in this once in a life time opportunity. If you are able to help support them on their journey, whether this is by offering sponsorship, advertising or donating gifts for a raffle or auction please do get in touch with either [david.fallows@cumbriacricket.co.uk](mailto:david.fallows@cumbriacricket.co.uk) or [graeme.dodds@cumbriacricket.co.uk](mailto:graeme.dodds@cumbriacricket.co.uk)

## Warrington Wolves

The 29 June was a very special day for three of our Year 9 students as they put pen to paper and signed scholarship forms for Warrington Wolves. Ed W, Max B and Robbie J spent the day at the club with their families alongside 13 other new scholarship signees from around the country. The boys met all of the 1<sup>st</sup> team players and had their photos taken with Stefan Ratchford and Joe Philbin ahead of their game against Leeds Rhinos. Prior to the match starting, all of the new scholarship were presented to the fans where they walked the pitch and took the opportunity to shake hands with them.

All three boys also play for Cockermonth Titans and added to their trophy haul again at the beginning of July following their win against Wath Brow Hornets, 22-12, in the U14 North East Cup. Max B was Man of the Match. Congratulations to you all, we look forward to watching your rugby careers develop.



# Sports Day

Every year our students come together to celebrate the annual sports day competition. This occasion creates time for student to showcase their athletic abilities and engage in friendly competition. After a morning of temperamental weather conditions for the students involved in long distance track events, we were greeted with warm sunshine come the afternoon.

The atmosphere was spirited and lively as students and staff eagerly awaited the opening event. Over the course of the afternoon there were multiple records broken starting with Year 8 student Charlie T with the new time of 43.02s for the 300m and our Year 9 student Daisy W surpassing the 800m record which has stood since 2001. She completed it in just 2m20.26s. Additionally Caleb C set a new time for the boys 300m of 38.1 seconds. Finally, Year 10 student Zara A spectacularly broke a record for the javelin which was yet to be broken since 1994 throwing a staggering 30.71m.

Mr Woodcock led the commentary for the day supported by Miss Travers and Mr Harrison as the DJs. The time keepers were Mr Moore, Miss Hayton, Dr Atherton and Mrs Rennie.

Today marked the last sports day for a number of our staff members, Mrs Regan, Miss Revill, Mrs Thompson, Mr Ulyatt and Miss Bowe, some of whom also took part in the staff versus sixth form relay which brought the day to a close on a high note.

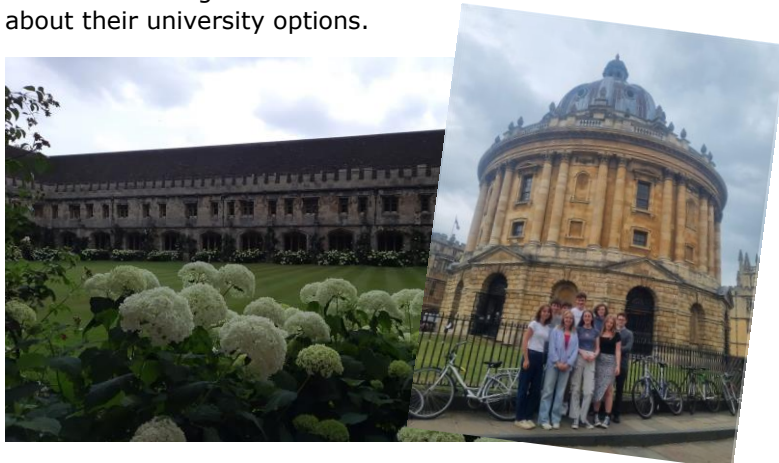
Thank you to the PE department for ensuring the day ran smoothly.

**Maisie Hodgson Y10**



## Oxbridge Visit

At the end of June, Dr Henley and Mrs Mellor took 10 Year 12 students to Oxford to access the Oxford University open day events. We were kindly hosted by Queen' College where we were able to experience living in college overnight and enjoying our meals in their 'Hall' which was a bit of a Harry Potter-type experience. During the trip we were able to visit different academic departments to attend subject lectures and learn more about their courses. We also visited a range of different colleges to see how students live and learn in an Oxbridge college environment. Beyond the university element of the trip, we all really enjoyed travelling to and around a beautiful historic town. We managed to squeeze in a trip to the History of Science Museum and enjoy browsing the huge selection of books in the vast bookshops of the city. This trip is definitely worth thinking about in the future for any students with high academic attainment who are curious about their university options.



## Forthcoming Events:

- 14 July: World Challenge – Madagascar Team 1 & 2
- 17 – 19 July: Year 12 Work Experience
- 17 – 19 July: Activities Week
- 17 July: Year 10 Study Skills
- 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
- 28 September: Year 6 Open Evening
- 3 October: Senior Maths Challenge
- 3, 5 & 11 October: Year 6 Open Mornings
- 11 October: Year 11 Parents' Evening
- 23-27 October: Half Term Holidays
- 9 November: Year 7 Transition Event
- 9 November: Rotary Young Musician Competition
- 15 November: Matt Dickinson, Author Visit
- 22 November: Year 9 Parents' Evening

An exceptional learning experience for all  
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