



Cockermouth School NEWSLETTER



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FORTHCOMING EVENTS



Matt Dickinson – author

Students were held in suspense during Matt’s latest visit to our school. He captivated their attention with stories of his adventures.



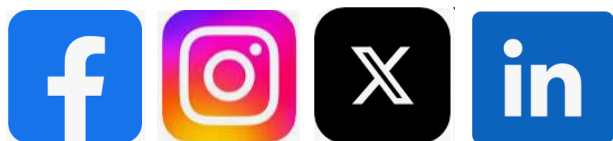
Rotary Young Musician

Musical talent was on display once again during our Young Musician competition.



The Sound of Music

A true-life story. Come and join the Von-Trapp family at our next school production, 7-9 February 2024, for an evening of musical joyfulness.



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



Sixth Form Open Evening

Year 11 students – a date for your diary: Thursday 1 February 2024. Come along and see what our fabulous Sixth Form has to offer.

Matt Dickinson – Visiting Author

We were delighted to be joined by author Matt Dickinson on Wednesday 15 November. Matt spoke to our students about his adventures, explaining that for his tenth birthday he asked for a pair of mountain boots and since that point he has never looked back!

As an award-winning film maker and writer, he has lived a life of adventure, working extensively for National Geographic TV, Discovery Channel and the BBC. During his action-packed career, he has filmed on Everest's summit (the first British film maker to do so and get back alive), in Antarctica, Greenland, Alaska, the Sahara Desert and on top of the highest live volcano in the world.

'The Death Zone'-- his account of the ascent of Everest's North Face during one of the worst storms ever to hit the mountain has become a best seller in multiple territories around the world and is regarded as essential reading for all those who love mountain literature.

Matt has worked with some of the great characters from the world of adventure, including Bear Grylls and Brian Blessed. Along the way he has survived avalanche, a killer storm in the death zone and even a beaver attack in Alaska! In his popular events for schools he describes what motivates explorers to take risks in the extreme corners of the planet and brings alive the challenges faced by the people who live in the highest, coldest and most dangerous regions on earth. He visits about a hundred schools a year. Stunning pictures and video clips accompany his talks. He writes occasional travel articles for The Telegraph and The Guardian—mostly on the subject of Everest which he has returned to twice in recent years.

Recently Matt has been busy writing books to inspire a whole new generation of climbers and explorers. His teen/ya action series 'Mortal Chaos' was well received by young readers and critics alike and was followed by his Carnegie Medal nominated trilogy 'The Everest Files' and the multi award-winning thriller 'Lie Kill Walk Away.'

Recently his brand-new comedy series for primary age readers, 'Popcorn Eating Squirrels', has been launched to an enthusiastic response!

If you have a chance to see one of Matt's events you will be in for a breath-taking audio-visual tour of discovery to lands of ice and fire. Avalanches, killer icebergs and volcanoes guaranteed!

Some of our Year 7 students were lucky enough to take part in a creative writing workshop with him.



Andromeda

At the beginning of Year 12 the physics department sent out an offer for Sixth Form students interested in STEM. The balloon project tasks a group of Sixth Form students to design a weather balloon payload capable of capturing images of the curvature of the earth. As a team we have nicknamed ourselves "The Cockermouth Andromeda Project", to mimic the naming structure of NASA, and go by this name on social media. We hope to launch the balloon in early winter this year (as long as there are agreeable weather conditions) and we believe it will carry our payload 130,000 ft up, into the upper atmosphere.

The images we capture will be used to show younger students what can be achieved by studying science subjects, and also as marketing material for companies who have sponsored us. In the group there are eight students, all with various roles, we are split into two teams: media and design. The design team consults with experts to create the payload and plan the launch, meanwhile the media team runs social media accounts and reaches out to companies to inquire about sponsorship. The project has had sponsorship and advice from various companies such as M-Sport and Createc, there is lots of work to come over the coming months, but the group is determined to have a successful weather balloon launch.



Addison Harris Y13

Rotary Young Musician

We are immensely proud of our connection with Cockermouth Rotary Club and are grateful to them for their continued support of our school. The Young Musician competition is one that is always looked forward to by staff, students and families alike.

This year saw students partake in voice, piano and guitar pieces in front of judges: Richard Bennett, Karen Shankland, Phil Wood, Wendy Saunders and Jean Lack, and an audience from our local community. The judges were very complimentary and stated that the students had chosen interesting and ambitious pieces.



The overall winner was Jason M (Year 11) who played two piano pieces. The judges commented that his use of rubato was effective and that he wove the intricate textures with care and handled the dynamic contrasts well. Runner up was Jackson J (Year 10) who sang and accompanied himself on the guitar, his song choices of Wagon Wheel and Brown Eyed Girl were sung with conviction and were most enjoyable to listen to.

Congratulations to all who took part, and our thanks again to Cockermouth Rotary Club.

The Sound of Music



Rehearsals are well under way for our next school production, with cast and crew meeting twice a week to ensure they are ready to showcase 'The Sound of Music' in February 2024.

The message behind the production is 'to have the courage to do what you believe is right and to be true to yourself'. The heart-warming story includes many much-loved songs including, Do-Re-Mi, The Hills are Alive and So Long, Farewell.

Come along and join us, tickets go on sale in the new year.

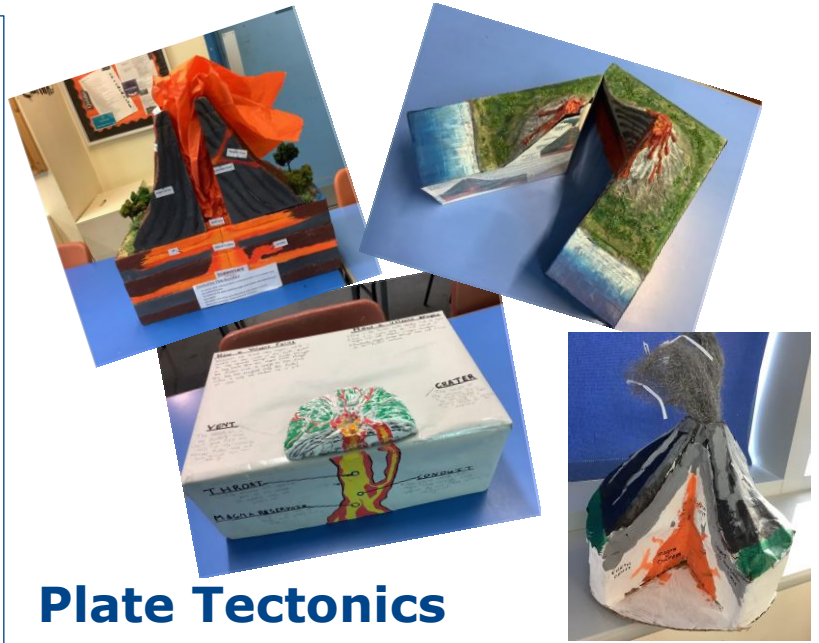


Plate Tectonics

In Year 9 Geography, students have been combining their creativity and geographical knowledge to consolidate their understanding of the Volcanoes and Earthquakes topic. Students made models to demonstrate their understanding of plate boundaries, the structure of the Earth and volcanoes.

The photographs are just a selection of the amazing models that have been created. Once students had created their model, they spent a lesson peer marking the models using pre-defined criteria and then reflecting on how they could improve their models if they were to do them again.

Grow Club

Cockermouth School's Grow Club has had a successful first year. Students have harvested two different varieties of potatoes, shallots and spring onions.

Members of the club have taken produce home to share with their friends and families, and any leftover have been sold to staff to raise money for more seeds and compost. The club are hoping to increase crop diversity next year as well as experiment with permaculture methods such as companion planting and building a Hügélkultur bed.

If any students would like to join us, we meet at the Eco Centre Biomes after school on Wednesday week 1. Everyone is welcome!



Martial Arts

Five of our students travelled to Strasbourg at the beginning of November to represent England in the 50th Wado-Kai European Cup. Congratulations to Ross P, Rory G-W, Samantha H, Joe C & Emily C on their amazing efforts:

- Samantha bringing home a Bronze medal in the U16 team Kata.
- Ross, Joe & Rory winning Gold in the U16 team Kata.
- Ross gaining a Silver in the U16
- Emily winning Bronze in the U14 team Kata.

We are delighted to share with you that Year 9 student, Megan T has also been competing; Megan took part in the Prof. Chang Ung Cup, an international open competition hosted by the World ITF Taekwon-Do Council, at the Ravenscraig Regional Sports Facility. She competed in the junior female 1st degree black belt division, remaining undefeated in flying high kick (now her 3rd gold medal to add to her World championship and English championship gold medals) and claimed the bronze medal in patterns.



CSCA – 100 Club winners

Congratulations to the winners of the last two 100 club draws. The £100 prize for September's draw goes to Alicia Crane and October's draw was Kirsti Howarth. It costs just £1 per month to enter and all profits go towards the fundraising goals agreed with school.

Last year we raised enough funds to buy six new benches for the outside seating area near the catering POD. If you'd like to find out more about how to join the 100 Club or to get involved with the fundraising, please email cscaqueries@gmail.com



Sixth Form Open Evening



A warm welcome is extended to all potential students and their parents to attend our Sixth Form Open Evening from 18:00 – 21:00 on Thursday 1 February. You will be provided with the opportunity to meet our inspirational staff and discover the exceptional educational opportunities available to our Sixth Form students.

Please visit cockermouthschool.org for more details

X - Country Trials

On Friday 24 November, Cockermouth School PE department hosted the Allerdale district x-country trials. Over 130 students competed across 6 different age categories. These included Y7 boys, Y7 girls, Y8/9 boys, Y8/9 girls, Y10/11 boys and Y10/11 girls.

Students from Cockermouth School ran exceptionally well. The first 12 finishers in each race progress to represent team Allerdale in the county trials on Wednesday 10 January. Cockermouth School have 36 athletes who have progressed, and we look forward to seeing if they can take the next step and qualify to represent team Cumbria in the regional finals.

A special mention to our student athletes who achieved a top three podium finish. Thomas D (3rd in Y7 boys), Lottie D (1st in Y7 girls), Lizzie J (2nd in Y7 girls), Toby K (2nd in Y8/9 boys), Luke D (3rd in Y8/9 boys), Evie Y (3rd in Y8/9 girls), Toby H (2nd in Y10/11 boys), Sammy W (3rd in Y10/11 boys), and Louisa D (2nd in Y10/11 girls). Congratulations.

A Little Princess

The whole of Year 7 visited the Theatre by the Lake recently to watch A Little Princess. They really showed their enjoyment throughout the performance, so much so that one of the main actors came to speak to us as we were boarding the coaches to say what a wonderful group of students we had and he had enjoyed their reactions to the performance. We also spotted three of our Year 9 students in the cast: Daisy, Merryn and Esme who gave a fabulous performance.

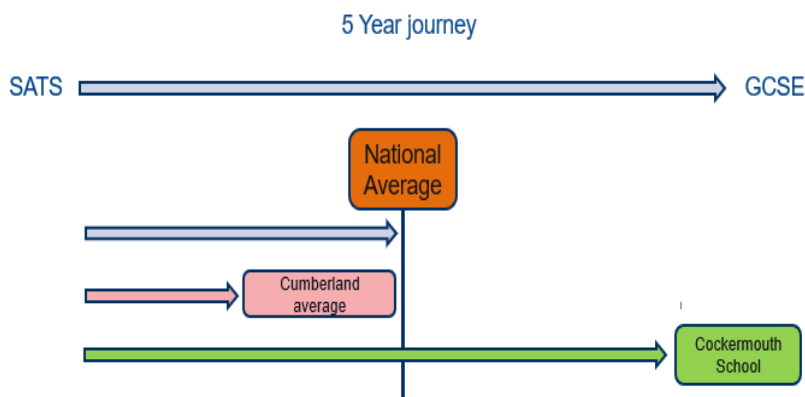


Summer 2023 Exam Outcomes

We are delighted that this year's summer GCSE results show that we remain the highest performing school in Cumberland. Our Progress 8 score (+0.42) also places significantly above average on a national level.

What we are particularly proud of in these results is that all groups of students, whether they have high, middle or lower prior attainment and those with SEND have made great progress in their five years at Cockermouth School. This is what we really value, as an inclusive and comprehensive school that aims to provide an exceptional learning experience for all those in our school community.

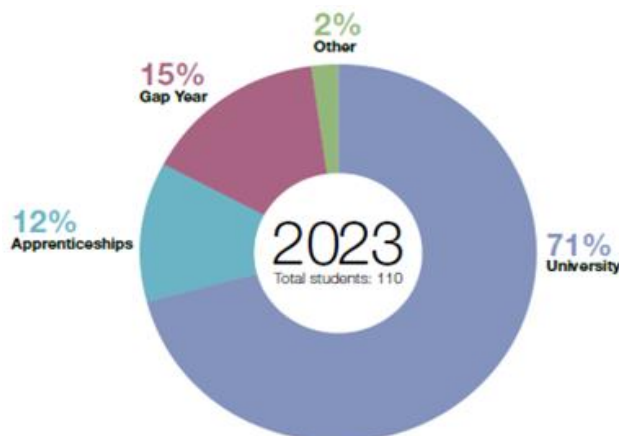
This published data shows the progress that each student has made across eight GCSE subjects from the scores they achieved in their SATS. The chart below shows an illustration of the progress students in our school make when compared to the National and Cumberland average Progress 8 scores.



Following on from our excellent GCSE results, our average points score for A Level courses in 2023 places our Sixth Form in the top 20% of schools nationally, and the % of students achieving a minimum of AAB grades at A Level places us in the top 10%.

Once again, and most importantly, is how these results enabled our Year 13 students to progress into the next phase of their education, training or employment. The chart to the right shows the breakdown of destinations for students leaving our Sixth Form in 2023.

We are incredibly proud of the achievements of our students, that is a product of the hard work and commitment of our students, the high levels of academic and pastoral support that students in our school receive every day and, of course, the support that is received from parents and carers.



Carol Service

Our annual carol service took place on Thursday 7 December in Christ Church and was led by the new Head of Music, Mr Patrick Relph.

The evening saw a 'very' full house and represented everything we value at Cockermouth School. The students performed with huge smiles on their faces and the audience enthusiastically responded with their applause and percussion! It was a joyous occasion, and once again, so inclusive, which is what we are about.

Year 7 also enjoyed their final assembly of 2023 with a lovely Christmas sing-a-long!

The school hall came alive with the sound of 'Jingle Bell Rock' and 'We wish you a Merry Christmas'. What a fabulous way to bring the end of term to a close.



Forthcoming Events:

- 10-16 December: Sixth Form Trip to Salamanca
- 13 December: Christmas Lunch
- 14 December: Year 7 Christmas Disco
- 15 December: Street Sing & Hospital Carols
- 3 January: Start of Spring Term
- 10 January: Year 10 Parents' Evening
- 12 January: Year 9 GCSE Preferences Deadline
- 18 January: Year 11 Information Evening
- 18 January: Cross Country Trials
- 22-31 January: Year 13 Mock Exams
- 30 January: Poetry Live – Manchester
- 31 January: Intermediate Maths Challenge
- 1 February: Sixth Form Open Evening
- 6 February: Year 12 Parents' Evening
- 7-9 February: School Production
- 10-17 February: Ski Trip
- 26 February-12 March: Year 10 Mock Exams
- 27 February: Dance Live
- 11-15 March: Carlisle Music Festival
- 20 March: Year 8 Parents' Evening