



Cockermouth School

NEWSLETTER



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Year 11 Prom

Another fabulous evening of celebration with the crowning of the 2024 Prom King and Queen.



Year 13 Prom

A final hurrah for our Year 13 students, who are embarking on the next steps of their journeys.



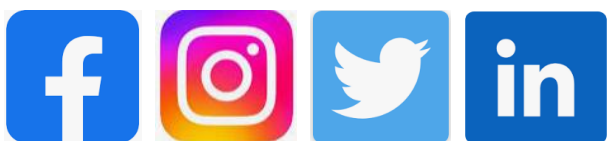
Sports Day

An amazing event where numerous school records were broken – one of which had been held since 1985!



Oxbridge Visit

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



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

Young Enterprise

Young Enterprise is a national charity which provides enterprise opportunities for school and university age students in the UK. This year, a group of year 12 students took on the challenge with their company, Gaia Bags. Gaia Bags created products from discarded tent material which they cleaned and sewed into stylish tote bags. As the competition progressed, they also designed their unique Festival Bag, purpose made for people to use at festivals. Their mission was to reduce the amount of waste produced from national festivals like Kendal Calling and improve the reputation of young people at these events, all while having a positive impact on the environment. For the Company Programme, the year 12s had to train themselves in sewing/design processes; produce the bags in-house; write a comprehensive report for judges; create an eye-catching trade stand; write and perform a stand-out presentation; and manage the team and their finances among many other tasks. The challenges the company faced were overcome as they developed their problem-solving skills.

In March, they competed in the Cumbria and Lancashire Finals at Lancaster University and won this event overall as well as securing the Best Company Presentation Award. Progressing onto the next round in April at the Manchester Met Business School, the company won again becoming North-West Company of the Year. They then competed in the National Young Enterprise Final in June, facing tough competition from around the UK. For the final, they had to film and direct a promotional video, perform their presentation and be interviewed by a panel of industry experts. Although they weren't able to take the overall prize, Gaia Bags won best promotional video which was an amazing achievement considering this was the first time Cockermonth School has ever reached the national final.

We are incredibly proud of Gaia Bags and the way in which they represented Cockermonth School at a national competition. A big thank you needs to go to Recreate and Make (a local shop who helped with sewing training), Hopegill Media (who provided support in filming and editing the promotional video) and finally, Mr Kitson and Mr Dawson who ran the competition within school and supported all the company's ambitions. Keep an eye out for next year's Young Enterprise team!



Cecilia Kenyon (Yr12)

The CSCA

Each year, with the help of parents, staff and students, the Cockermonth School & Community Association (CSCA) seeks to raise money towards projects, equipment and grants for the school. Earlier this year, we were able to purchase some benches (featured in the photo below) to be used in our outdoor areas using funds raised by the CSCA.

This term they hosted their annual pub quiz, which was a huge success and an enjoyable evening for all involved.

If you would like to be involved in the CSCA, their next meeting is on 25 September in school. You can also join the 100 Club for only £1 a month, with a chance to win £100 each month. To join the 100 Club, simply set up a £12 per annum standing order for Cockermonth School Association 100 Club, account number: 30272760, sort code: 20-66-97. Then email csaqueries@gmail.com to let them know you've signed up.

We would like to thank the CSCA members for their hard work and dedication to enhancing the resources and opportunities for our students.



Chessmaster Champion!

Our Year 7 student George W was this year's winner of the Chessmaster Competition. This exciting event, which has been running throughout the summer term, was expertly coordinated by Mrs. Pickavance and was another example of the incredible opportunities available to our students.

George's victory is particularly special given his family history - his great-grandfather was a champion chess player, making George's success seem almost destined. George has expressed his eagerness to test his chess-playing skills against his grandfather over the summer, continuing the family tradition of excellence in chess.

Congratulations, George, on your well-deserved win. We look forward to hearing about your future successes both on and off the chessboard - well done!



Oxbridge visit

Our Year 12 students recently had the incredible opportunity to visit Oxford University for their open day events, accompanied by Dr. Henley and Mrs Milledge. Hosted by Queen's College, the trip offered a unique glimpse into the life of an Oxford student and provided invaluable insights for those considering applying.

The students explored the beautiful colleges, meadows, and town of Oxford, taking in the historic architecture and picturesque scenery. A lovely walk through the University Parks and a visit to the town's renowned bookshops added to the enriching experience.

The evening at Queen's College was particularly memorable. Students enjoyed dinner in the historic dining hall, followed by an informative talk on the Oxbridge admissions process, including tips for writing outstanding personal statements. This session offered practical advice and answered many questions about applying to such prestigious institutions.

Throughout the day, students attended lectures and talks in their areas of interest, further fuelling their academic passions. They also had the chance to observe practice interviews, giving them a sense of what to expect during the admissions process.

This visit to Oxford University was an incredible experience for all involved, providing inspiration and valuable information as our students consider their future educational paths.



French Trip



Our Year 10 GCSE French students had an amazing adventure in Paris! Their trip was packed with unforgettable experiences, starting with shopping at the Versailles Market, where they discovered unique stalls, local treasures and immersed themselves in the vibrant culture.

The excitement continued with exploring the Hall of Mirrors at Versailles. A highlight of the trip was a serene boat trip along the Seine, where students soaked in the beautiful sights of Paris from a unique perspective. They also delved into World War II history, gaining valuable insights and a deeper understanding of the past.

Fun was had by all at the local theme park; Parc Asterix. They then took in the historic grandeur of the Arc de Triomphe and the elegance of the Champs-Élysées. Topping it all off was an exhilarating visit to the top of the Eiffel Tower, offering stunning views of the city.

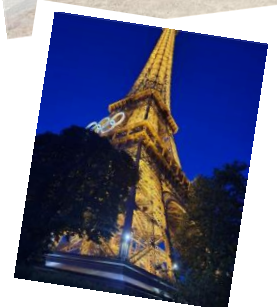
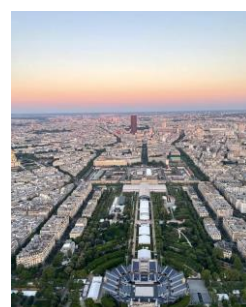
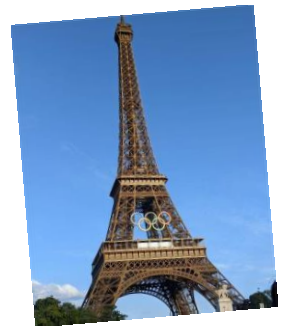
Overall, it was an incredible experience that combined fun, education, and cultural enrichment, leaving our students with memories that will last a lifetime.

Spellbinding

This year's Spellbinding Awards Day was truly magical! Fifteen of our KS3 students joined twelve other schools from across Cumbria, for the exciting announcement of the 2024 Spellbinding title. The atmosphere was electric as students eagerly anticipated the reveal.

Five incredible authors graced the event, sharing their writing journeys, chatting with students and signing books. Their presence added a touch of inspiration and insight into the world of literature. They were particularly thrilled to meet the 2024 winner Josh Silver, who took home the top prize for his outstanding dystopian thriller 'HappyHead'. His engaging storytelling and unique perspective left a lasting impression on everyone.

We would like to extend our congratulations to Thisuli, Jay, Robin, Nikola, Freya, and Evie Y for their prizewinning film poster interpretation of 'This Book Kills' which was truly outstanding!



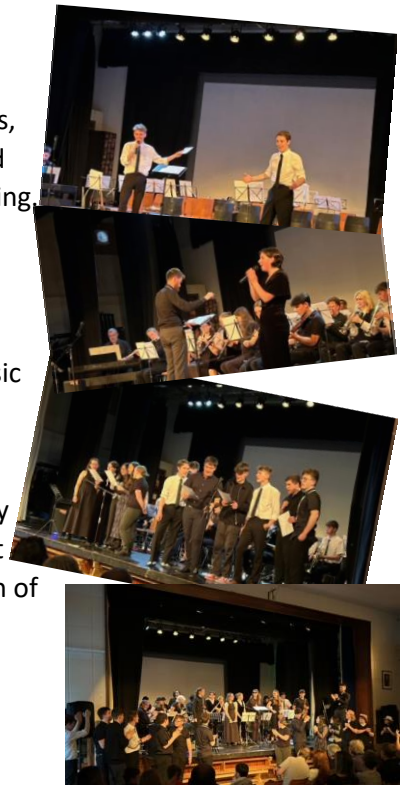
Blues Night

What a fabulous evening we experienced at our annual Blues Night! The event was a remarkable showcase of musical talent, featuring an array of solo performances, band pieces, and orchestral arrangements that left everyone in awe. Our talented students and dedicated staff truly outdid themselves, delivering performances that were both captivating and inspiring.

The evening began with the school orchestra, followed by a series of solo acts, each one highlighting the individual skills and unique styles of our students. The second half featured vocal solos with the orchestra, Pop Choir, Boys' Choir, and one of our own student's compositions for GCSE Music: a spy chase sequence. For the grand finale, we heard the classic 'Blues Brothers Revue,' beautifully encapsulating the spirit of the night.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to our fantastic students and staff whose hard work and dedication made Blues Night an unforgettable experience. The enthusiasm and joy shared by the performers and the audience created a vibrant and fun-filled atmosphere. It was evident that everyone had a wonderful time, making Blues Night not just a concert, but a celebration of our school community's talent and spirit.

Thank you to everyone who attended and supported this special event, your presence and participation made it all the more enjoyable.

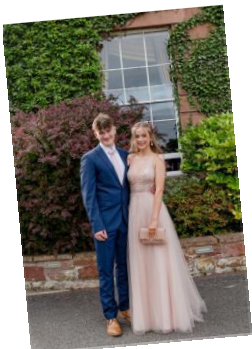


Year 11 Prom

The Year 11 annual prom was definitely a night to remember! After months of preparation and organisation, students gathered together on Thursday 20 June at the Green Hill Hotel, Wigton, in their finest attire, to mark the end of their school journey.

Numerous awards were presented on the night, with the highly anticipated Prom King and Queen for 2024 being awarded to Kearon C and Neve A – congratulations to both of you!

Our thanks go to the staff at Greenhill Hotel for being superb hosts, Jeanne Rogers for capturing these wonderful memories and our amazing Year 11 students who represented our school impeccably.



Year 13 Prom

The Year 13 Prom was an unforgettable evening, marking the culmination of our students' hard work and perseverance over the years. Held at the Hundith Hill Hotel on 21 July, the event was a perfect blend of sophistication, celebration, and camaraderie.

A big thank you to the Hundith Hill Hotel for hosting and Jeanne Rogers for her superb photography.

To our Year 13 students, as you move on to new adventures, may you carry the memories of your time at Cockermouth School with you. Congratulations on all your achievements, and here's to a bright and promising future!



Transition Activities at Cockermouth School

At Cockermouth School, we believe in making the transition from primary to secondary school as smooth and enjoyable as possible. Our transition process starts much earlier than you might expect, with students from our local primary schools being invited to take part in activities with us from as early as Year 3. By the time these students join us in Year 7, Cockermouth School and our staff are already familiar to them, making the transition a lot less daunting.

Recently, we hosted several exciting activity days for Year 5 students from our local primary schools. These budding scholars joined us for an arts event, a matinee performance, a Harry Potter-themed science event, an engaging PE day and a stimulating humanities event. To top it off, they also stayed for lunch, giving them a taste of the culinary delights that our amazing kitchen staff freshly prepare.

In addition to these activity days, Mr. Woodcock, our Pastoral Lead for Year 7, has been busy visiting all our catchment primary schools. Accompanied by former students from each school, he spent time with Year 6 students, explaining what life is like at Cockermouth School. He addressed their questions on a variety of topics, from homework and uniforms to lunch options and extracurricular clubs, ensuring they felt well-prepared and excited about their next step.

To further ease their transition, we welcomed all Year 6 children who are due to start with us in September for their Intake Days on 2 and 3 July. During these days, they were introduced to their new form tutors and had the opportunity to make friends within their form groups. They also familiarised themselves with our school layout and daily routines.

We hope all our future students have a fantastic summer break and look forward to seeing them again in September, ready and excited to embark on their new journey at Cockermouth School!



Celebration Events

Throughout the summer term we have enjoyed welcoming students from all year groups back into school for our Celebration Events. Awards have been given for academic performance, to those who have best represented our school values, for sporting achievements, to recognise performance in the creative arts, for specific notable achievements within school and for consistent high performance. The evenings in Years 7-11 have also seen us recognising two "Students of the Year" in each year group, building on the weekly and monthly awards that we have taken the time to celebrate.

We are grateful to be part of a school with so many wonderful students and unfortunately it isn't possible to recognise everyone for their achievements on these evenings. We want all of our students to aspire to be part of these events and we have been delighted to celebrate alongside our winners and their families. A huge well done to all of the students who have received an award, but also to the many excellent students who have worked hard but not been recognised on this occasion.

It has been another excellent year and the continuing success of our school, is down to the hard work of our students and staff and the support of our school community. Thank you to everyone that has played their part.



Sports Day

Our annual Sports Day on 4 July was nothing short of extraordinary, marking a historic moment in our school community's athletic history. This year, the event saw an unprecedented number of school records shattered, including a milestone that had stood since 1985!

The energy was palpable from the start as students gathered to challenge their fitness and celebrate sportsmanship. We had over 900 students participating from Years 7 – 10, with Year 12 students supporting the day in variety of roles.

Over 4000 boys and 4000 girls have taken part in our sports days since 1985. To be a record holder is a fantastic achievement. We congratulate students with new sports day records in 9 events:

New Year 7 records were set in: 200m (Thomas D), Javelin (Luke H) and 4x100m boys relay – (Thomas D, Jude D-C, Billy L, and Reece J).

New Year 8 records were set in: The rounders ball throw (Jack S and Freya K).

New Year 10 records were set in: 200m (Lorton C), 300m (Caleb C), 4x 100m boys relay (Lorton C, Josh R, Freddie B, and Olly H) and the rounders ball throw (Archie C).

The success of Sports Day was not just measured in records but also in the incredible sportsmanship, staff support and volunteer efforts. Special thanks to our dedicated Year 12 volunteers, for ensuring the event ran smoothly.

Thank you to everyone who made this day memorable. Your enthusiasm, effort, and support are what make our school truly special.



Upcoming Events:

Thu 15 August: A Level Results Day

Thu 22 August: GCSE Results Day

Wed 4 September: Start of Autumn Term for all students

Thu 12 September: Year 10 Ready to Learn Evening

Mon 16 September: Year 12 Ready to Learn Evening

Thu 19 September: Year 7 Ready to Learn Evening

Thu 26 September: Year 6 Open Evening

Tue 1, Thu 3 & Wed 9 October: Year 6 Open Mornings

Thu 3 October: Year 9 Ready to Learn Evening

Fri 4 October: Year 12 Lancaster University Visit

Wed 16 October: Year 13 Parents' Evening

Tue 22 October: Year 7 Transition Meetings

Mon 28 October- Fri 1 November: Half Term

Thu 14 November: Year 8 Ready to Learn Evening

Wed 11 December: Year 9 Parents' Evening

Mon 16 December: Carol Service

Fri 19 December: End of Autumn Term for all students

Barcelona Trip



Our Year 10 GCSE Spanish students embarked on an incredible trip to Barcelona, where they had the opportunity to immerse themselves in the city's rich culture and history. One of the highlights was visiting the awe-inspiring Sagrada Familia, a masterpiece of architectural design.

Throughout their stay, the students explored the vibrant streets of Barcelona, soaking up the local atmosphere and practicing their Spanish in real-world settings. They wandered through the picturesque Parque Ciutadella, enjoying its lush greenery and beautiful fountains. A visit to the Bunkers de Carmel provided breath taking panoramic views of the city, a perfect way to cap off an amazing journey.

This trip was not only an educational experience but also a memorable adventure that our students will cherish for years to come.



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