



Cockermouth School NEWSLETTER



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- THE SOUND OF MUSIC
- SKI TRIP TO AUSTRIA
- DANCE LIVE
- SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING
- CSCA – 100 Club winners
- WORLD BOOK DAY
- ANDROMEDA
- CHESSMASTER COMPETITION
- YOUNG ENTERPRISE
- FORTHCOMING EVENTS



The Sound of Music

Possibly our best School Show yet! Audiences were entertained for three nights with some spectacular performances from all involved.



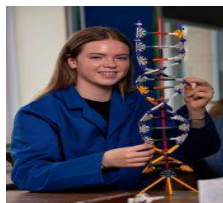
Annual Ski Trip

Students enjoyed an action-packed week in the Austrian sunshine on this year's annual ski trip to Austria during the February half-term break.



Dance Live!

After months of rehearsals and hard work, students from a number of Year Groups performed at this prestigious event in Blackpool last month.



Sixth Form Open Evening

Our Sixth Form open evening was better than ever with good attendance from our current Year 11 students plus those from neighbouring schools.



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

Show Time! – The Sound of Music

Our school show is a hugely anticipated event each year, enjoyed by students, staff, our school families and the wider community and this year was no exception. In fact, it may just have been our best show yet! We've certainly received lots of feedback telling us just that. During the weeks in the run up to the show, the familiar songs that we all know and love could be heard coming from the school hall as rehearsals got under way. As the production drew nearer, the rehearsals ramped up with everyone putting in a huge amount of time and effort to make sure they were ready for opening night.

The show was performed to a packed-out hall every night for three nights. There was a real sense of excitement as guests started to arrive, it's such a familiar story and there are so many catchy songs, everyone has their favourite. The performances from everyone involved were outstanding! From the cast and crew to the orchestra and support team. Everyone gave their all and the result was a fabulous performance every night with lots of toe tapping, cheers and standing ovations. The singing and dancing really was exceptional, not to mention the wonderful orchestra and of course, the acting.

As well as three nights of consecutive performances, the students also managed to squeeze in a matinee for children from our local feeder schools.

It was a real delight to see them gazing up at the performers in awe. Hopefully lots of them will go on to star in some of our future productions.

A huge thank you to all the staff, students and volunteers who contributed in any way and made this one of or (if not THE) best shows yet. A special thank you to the members of the Cockermouth School and Community Association who gave up their time to sell raffle tickets and serve half-time refreshments. If anyone would like to help them at future events they'd love your support! And of course, we really must mention Miss Mossop, Mr Relph and Mr Deakin, without their time, hard work, and dedication none of this would be possible, from us all a very big THANK YOU! We can't wait to see what you have planned for next year!

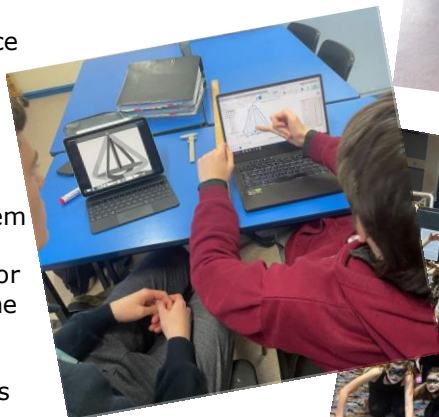


Dance Live!

On Tuesday 27 February our Dance live team travelled to the Wintergardens in Blackpool to perform on one of the biggest stages in the country! Our team, comprised of over 60 students from years 7-13, have been working hard since September to prepare their piece, 'The Wrath of Enchantress.' The performance told the story of how two explorers, Lily and June, went on an expedition through the rainforest. Accidentally, they unleashed an evil enchantress and her army onto the rainforest, subsequently trapping June in the process! Lily and the forest had to work together to save June and restore the rainforest. The piece centred around the themes of friendship, teamwork and the importance of the environment which the judges praised with enthusiasm. The judges also described the students' performance as 'powerful and emotive'.

There were six other schools competing, with three of them being local to Cumbria too! Our students achieved an incredible 3rd place overall and won an additional award for the use of the LED screen to support the performance. The staff who support the dance club are so proud of the students and the level of commitment, dedication and teamwork they have demonstrated. Hard work really does pay off!

Dance club are having a short break before they get ready to prepare for next years competition. They've already got their thinking caps on and have some big plans!



Andromeda

After many months of hard work, the Year 13 balloon project team successfully launched Andromeda from the Cockermouth School field on 16 March. Conditions were perfect and the launch went without a hitch. Live data from the payload suggested the balloon reached an altitude of 38,000m before bursting and descending back to Earth. The team tracked the balloon, identified the landing site in Windermere and got to work on recovering the payload.

They eventually identified the landing site from the GPS signal as Belle Isle in the middle of Lake Windermere. This island happens to be the only private island on Windermere so recovery was not going to be as straightforward as hoped! Fortunately, the estate manager came across the balloon hanging 10 metres up in a tree, retrieved the payload and made contact. The balloon was collected a few days later and the team are now in the process of sorting through the footage from the cameras. More images from space to follow... follow them on Instagram @cockermouth.andromeda



Climate Festival



Members of our sustainability branch of the School Council had a fabulous day at the Power of 10 Climate Festival at Rheged in February. There were so many inspiring workshops and activities. Our students were thrilled to be awarded the Group Champion Award and are now excited to start their climate campaign. Well done everyone!

Find out more by following The Power of Ten.

<https://powerof10.another-way.org.uk>



CyberFirst Event

A group of 34 Year 8 and Year 9 girls attended the CyberFirst Empower event at Energus in Workington last month. There were approximately 550 female students in attendance from schools across Cumbria. The aim of the event was to encourage girls to pursue an interest in STEM subjects by introducing them to inspirational people working in technology and cyber roles today. The students engaged in a series of interactive sessions with various organisations, both local and global. As you can see from the photos, they thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

Dumfries Ice Bowl

Earlier this month our A Level PE students made the journey across the border to the Dumfries Ice Bowl, where they had the opportunity to try their hand at curling. Students were taught curling skills and tactics and then had the chance to play each other in some very competitive games. Experiencing a new sport as a novice linked to our studies about Skill Acquisition topics of learning theories, types of guidance and feedback. When competing some of the students (and staff) experienced the effects of anxiety which also sparked some interesting conversations about its impact on performance.

Students also got to watch an exciting ice hockey match which saw the Solway Sharks take on the Leeds Knights, we got to witness some of the socio-cultural topics of violence in sport in action with some intense interactions between some of the players. It was a pretty close match but The Leeds Knights had the edge on the day and went on to win 5 – 2. Thank you to Scottish Curling and Solway Sharks for a fabulous day and for giving our students the opportunity to try something new.



Ski Trip

50 students from Year 11 to Year 13 travelled to the Austrian Alps during the February half term break to enjoy a fantastic six full days of skiing. Based in the picturesque town of Zell am Zee, we spent most of the week skiing on the Kitzsteinhorn. A combination of a good dump of snow when we arrived and a respectable altitude ensured we had good skiing conditions throughout the week. We also spent two days skiing on the Schmittenhöhe where tree lined pistes offered a pleasant contrast to the high mountain feeling of the glacier skiing on the Kitzsteinhorn.

There was a good mix of absolute beginners and those with some ski experience so it was fantastic to see a variety of groups learning at such different levels. The progress from total novice to confident skier, in just 6 days, is remarkable to watch. There were a few bumps, bruises and blisters along the way, but constant big smiles and laughter suggested it was all worth it.

The next Ski Trip will take place in February 2025, when some of our Year 10 and Year 12 students will be heading off to Sauze D'Oulx in the Italian alps. We are looking forward to another brilliant trip!



CSCA – 100 Club winners

Congratulations to the winners of the last three 100 club draws. The £100 prize jackpot goes to,

December – W. & A. Walker

January – Mr & Mrs Fee

February – Mrs J Inglesfield

It costs just £1 per month to enter and all profits go towards the fundraising goals agreed with school. The CSCA has just agreed to fund a further 5 picnic benches for students thanks to funds raised. To find out more about joining the 100 Club or to get involved with fundraising, please email

cscaqueries@gmail.com

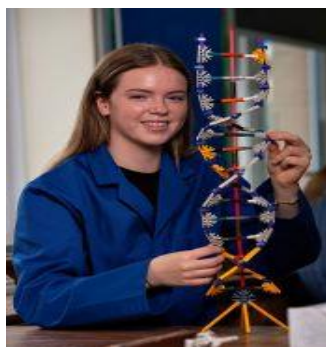


World Book Day

World Book Day was bigger and better than ever this year with a whole week of fun activities for students to get involved in. We had a book swap in the library where students could exchange their unwanted books, a book giveaway where students could choose a selection of World Book Day books for free and a scavenger hunt, which had students following clues to find out which member of staff was reading which book. We're looking forward to next year already!



Sixth Form Open Evening



Our Sixth Form Open Evening was a fabulous event attended by lots of our Year 11 students and their families. We also had the pleasure of welcoming a number of students from neighbouring schools.

All departments provided interesting and informative sessions on each of the subjects available to study in our Sixth Form and there were opportunities to ask lots of questions from current students and staff. We have since received an encouraging number of applications and are currently in the process of conducting interviews with applicants. We look forward to making offers to successful students in the coming weeks.

ESAA Cross Country Championships

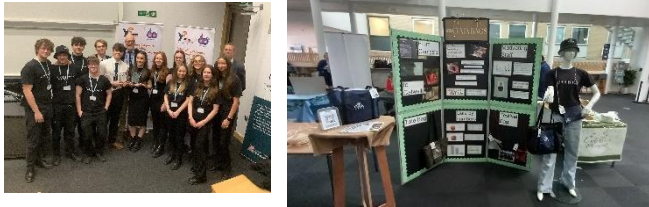
Four of our students represented Team Cumbria in the English Schools' Athletics Association (ESAA) Cross Country Championships earlier this month.

This annual event brings together the best athletes in each of the 46 Counties in England to compete for the honour of being the best in the Country. Congratulations to Daisy W, Luke D, Ruth W and Daniel H. Great ambassadors for the School and County.



Young Enterprise

We are delighted that our Sixth Form Young Enterprise team won the best presentation award and went on to take first place in the regional competition held at Lancaster University. They will now be representing Cumbria and Lancashire in the North West final in Manchester to be held after Easter. The team "Gaia" have a fantastic sustainable, upcycling product of making fabric 'festival bags' and 'tote bags' from donated old and discarded tents. They make all stages of the bags themselves including outers, inners and straps, and have developed a range of production skills including design, cutting and sewing, and quality control. Beyond the production they have built a brand, organised their finances and managed a team. The Young Enterprise competition event requires the production of trade stand, the submission of a company report, taking part in a question and answer session with judges, and delivering a company presentation to an audience of around 150 people. Well done to everyone for their hard work and dedication over the last few months.



Cumbria Rugby 7s Champions

The Year 10 Boys beat 3 local schools in a competition to take the title of Cumbria Rugby 7s Champions earlier this month.

They had wins over Netherhall, Kirkbie Kendal and Trinity Schools. All players were outstanding but a special mention to Ed and George on their performances.

Well done boys, all that training and superb teamwork paid off. We look forward to following your progress.

Year 10 boys celebrate their achievement at becoming 'Cumbria Rugby 7s Champions'.



Forthcoming Events:

- 15 April: Start of Summer Term
- 22-30 April: Year 12 Mock Exams
- 23 April - Year 5 Science Event
- 24 April - Year 7 Parents Evening
- 1-8 May - Year 11 Speaking Tests
- 2 May - Year 11 Celebration Event
- 7 May - Year 13 Celebration Event
- 9 May-24 June - GCSE and A Levels
- 27 May-31 May - Summer Half Term
- 17 June - Year 8 Celebration Event
- 19 June - Year 12 Employability Day
- 24-25 June - Sixth Form Induction Days
- 27 June - Year 9 Celebration Event
- 1 July - Year 12 Celebration Event
- 2-3 July - Year 6 Intake Days
- 4 July - Sports Day
- 6 July - Cockermouth Live
- 8-12 July - Year 10 Work Experience
- 8 July - Year 5 PE Event & Tour
- 11 July - Year 7 Celebration Event
- 12 July - Year 5 Humanities Event
- 12 July - Blues Night
- 15 July - Year 10 Celebration Event
- 15-19 July - Year 12 Work Experience
- 17-19 July - Year 7,8 & 9 Enrichment Activities
- 18 July - Year 10 World of Work Day

Chessmaster Competition

The Chess Club visited Keswick School earlier this month to take part in the CHESSMASTER competition. Unfortunately, they were beaten in the end but everyone won or drew one game and, more importantly, everyone had a great time. Special mention to James A who won all of his games. Huge thanks to Keswick School for hosting us and providing a delicious buffet lunch. We're looking forward to the rematch next year.

Congratulations to Locke W in Year 8 who recently won the Cockermouth School Chess Club Final. After many chess matches and some very close calls Locke skilfully beat off the competition to take the title and lift the trophy. Well done Locke!

