



COTTESMORE SCHOOL

Michaelmas Term

As usual Cottesmoriens have applied their boundless energy to academic study, sport, hobbies and activities. However there is always time to pause and reflect; our Chapel services at Harvest Festival and Remembrance Sunday in particular provided opportunities for stillness and to appreciate all that we have.



School News

Twenty Seven pupils across both Prep and Pre-prep, along with five new members of the academic staff received a warm Cottesmore welcome in September, enabling them to quickly settle in to the rhythm of a new school year.

Sports Round-Up

A packed fixture card has yielded some very impressive successes from our teams. This term has seen a great many fixtures at all levels for the girls in both Hockey and Netball. The senior boys produced a sound set of results in football this term with some excellent wins.



So far, congratulations must go to Josh who has been awarded a full sports scholarship to Cheltenham College.

In September the 1st XI Boys were beaten finalists at the Copthorne VI's. Josh was the team's leading scorer with 16 goals.

In November, Miss E-W said that her team's Final hockey match versus Brambletye was the best display of prep school hockey she had witnessed, due to the bravery, commitment and work ethic of her players. The 1st Girls won the game 4-2.



The depth of skill shown by the U10 girls this term has been phenomenal. Despite often playing against teams a year older than them, they have won the vast majority of their games and Miss Yeates says that their fitness and level of determination is quite simply unrivalled by any other team they have played.

In November and December, Rugby teams through all ages effected clean sweeps of Worth, Belmont and Copthorne, in what has been a 95% start to the season.



Cottesmorian Orla came first in the Hickstead Inter-schools Team Showjumping Competition 2022 in September. It was a superb event - beautifully organised and hosted. The whole Cottesmore team showed great skill, resilience and team spirit.

Cottesmorian dancer Zofia, was the youngest contestant at the World Championships WADF 2022 in her category [8-12 years], she came 3rd in the jazz dance duo, 10th in the jazz dance solo and 11th in show dance. It was a gruelling schedule - three days of competing with teams from many different countries. What a wonderful display of resilience, talent and inspiration!



Cottesmorian skier Alex was selected to represent Great Britain at the Lowland Championships in Landgraaf to compete with Belgium, Netherlands, Luxembourg, Denmark, Iceland and Ireland. GBR selected 15 U14 boys & 15 U14 girls and he was one of them. Well done indeed!



Charity Support

Cottesmore Pyjama Onesie Day 2022

Onesie/Pyjama Day which was created to raise funds for charity 'Crisis' was a roaring success thanks to the two organisers, Cottesmore girls Zara and Indi. There was a veritable safari of outfits on show; we had zebras, Cookie Monsters, Stitches, a camouflage crew, paint splashes, a menagerie of animals, but the Oodie troop were the warmest. The two organisers made a hard-hitting speech at the beginning of the day about homelessness and the chosen charity Crisis. They then organised a series of activities, including a karaoke dance-off after supper. Well done to all involved!



Chapel and Music News

This term has seen the introduction of a new initiative in Chapel, namely Exeat Friday services, giving an opportunity for parents to take part and to hear the choir perform. The choir has grown in numbers and has seen a big influx of new members and has worked very well towards the Carol Services. Other highlights this term have included services for Harvest and Remembrance.



The Play

Mr Livermore: The school play this year was based on Roald Dahl's *The Wonderful Story of Henry Sugar*. All forty-two of the Cottesmore top year were involved with the children not only performing as actors, but also doing the lights, sound, backstage and the live music.

We wanted an old country house vibe for this show and a whiff of the 1930s too. So, staging it in the hall worked perfectly. Added to the effortlessly cool set, we had Mrs Dolman's glittering costumes, Mrs Cheneler's fabulous dance routines, a split stage joined by a catwalk through the audience, Beatles songs sung gorgeously and played breathtakingly by Yanning in Form 4, we had Mr Stein's and Miss Yeates' eye for minute detail in the direction, Max's professional lighting and sound work, and superbly focused actors with some very obvious engaging talent on parade.

A highlight for me was during the pre-prep performance when Henry Sugar threw money down from the balcony, and the young audience shrieked to their feet with outstretched hands as the notes fluttered down on them.

I was so proud of everyone involved, especially the children, who helped make it a fun show to both produce and watch.

Visits

French Trip to Normandy

Mrs Revill: After not being able to go on their scheduled French trip due to COVID, our year 8s were lucky enough to finally experience the delights that France has to offer during a last minute 3-day trip to Normandy.

They sampled the tasty local cuisine and visited places of interest including the World Heritage site of the Mont St Michel.



The aim of the trip is always to develop the pupils' linguistic and cultural understanding, as well as giving them authentic experiences in France so vital for success at CE or Scholarship. Pupils were given Euros to go off in groups within the boundaries of a small village market and were asked to buy their own lunch one day. We stayed at the Château la Baudonnière and were looked after by a variety of 'animateurs' who only spoke French to the children whilst they enjoyed a variety of tasks that included bread making, orienteering and team building. The children returned from the trip full of confidence and extra enthusiasm which was lovely to see!

Westminster Abbey



Mr Borthwick: Forms 5-6 visited Westminster Abbey in order to consolidate their study of the English Reformation. Lou, leading the educational team, took us on a wonderful behind-the-scenes tour where the children were able to both visualise the changes made to the church as well as those not made due to the abbey's status as a royal peculiar. The children asked excellent questions of the staff there and really made the most of the afternoon. Having run it for many years, I can honestly say that it is my absolute favourite day trip and it was enjoyed by all pupils and staff. Here are some words from Lou at Westminster Abbey:

'Dear Ross, it was lovely to see you again, we hope you all enjoyed your visit. We thought your students were amazing- so many wonderful questions and knowledge.'

Pre-prep News



The Pre-prep children have had an exciting and busy term, welcoming in many new families to Cottesmore. The children have been introduced to many new topics this term including Diverse Britain, the Stone Age, space (with a visit to the South Downs Planetarium) and Awesome Authors!

The Harvest Assembly and the Nativity Play performances were delightful, allowing the girls and boys to demonstrate their confidence and enjoyment in singing and acting.

Fun Activities and Sundays 'in'



As always there has been a full term of activities planned for Sundays 'in'. Hobbies, games and activities organised by the staff on duty make leisure time fun, while there is also a programme of trips on offer. This term these have included Brighton pier and funfair, Zorbing, AirHop and Guildford ice rink. Back at school Ceramic Shack came to Cottesmore for a day of creative activities making plates, mugs, money boxes and ornaments.



Our Bonfire Night celebrations were the traditional and exuberant mix of a huge bonfire, a dazzling firework display, plenty of warming food and mulled wine for the parents. Some energetic country dancing was followed by a live band, with a guest appearance by the Headmaster on his guitar.

The term was rounded off by our splendid Christmas events 'Carols by Candlelight' and 'The Feast': a celebration of another successful term for both staff and children.



Staff News: Salvete and Valet

Mrs Kim Spohr will be joining the secretarial team from 3rd January. She will be taking on the task of organising exeat and holiday travel arrangements moving forward.

Mrs Tracy Moore will be joining the matron team in the new year. Mrs Moore has previously been a senior nursing assistant and a house parent.

While Karen Haynes will be continuing to work on Cottesmore projects, creating Cottesmorian publications, she will be leaving her current post as Secretary.

We are very glad to welcome Mrs Sarah Tall and Miss Laura Taylor into the Pre-prep as our new teaching assistants and after school waiting club staff. Miss Lauren Haworth is our Reception class teacher while Mrs Lucy McCulloch is absent on maternity leave.

We will be saying a fond farewell to matron, Mrs Hurrell, who will be returning to Scotland to be closer to family.

Have a very Merry Christmas From Cottesmore Team



DIARY DATES

11th January	Term starts 17.30	19th February	Half term ends 19.00 (No Chapel)
27th January	Exeat begins 16.00	3rd March	School concert 14.00 Exeat begins 16.00
30th January	Exeat ends 19.00 (No Chapel)	6th March	Exeat ends 19.00 (No Chapel)
10th February	Half term begins 16.00	22nd March	End of term 11.00