



Newsletter

From the Head Teacher

This term has seen the publication of the national school league tables and you cannot have failed to hear the politicians in the news lambasting schools yet again. The release of this national data enables schools to put their own achievements into context. I am delighted to report that this analysis confirmed just how well our Year 11 students performed last summer.

Changes in the way English GCSEs were marked saw a drop nationally in the number of pupils achieving five A*-C with English and Maths from 61% to 57%. But The Warriner's results have shot up in the other direction to 66% compared with 57% in the previous year. These results put The Warriner ninth in the league table of Oxfordshire schools issued by the Department for Education. County-wide, there was also a drop in the A*-C pass rate but the reduction of 61% to 59% was nothing like as marked as the national trend. These figures give us real cause for celebration.

Furthermore.... We are certainly not resting on our laurels. In November, we entered the entire Year 11 for GCSE English and achieved 86% A*-C, with 31% getting the coveted A* or A grades. This is even better than the amazing 81% achieved last year.

The one constant in education is that change is ever with us. In order to continue to maintain this upward trend we too must change. To really fly, we sometimes have to let go of some of the things that we hold dear. Supporting the ongoing achievements of our young people is always firmly at the heart of all that we do. I firmly believe that our current change

agenda will enable us to build upon these successes even further.

Annabel Kay



Hairspray

On February 11th and 12th, the Drama and Music departments staged *Hairspray* as this year's School Production. Set at the beginning of the Civil Rights Protests in early 1960s Baltimore, the production cheerfully tells the story of a successful attempt to end segregation on a local TV dance show.

The school hall was festooned with anti-racist protest slogans ranging in origin from the present day back to the 1930s. The cast wore T-shirts that indicated their label within the

world of the play, whether they were 'White' or 'Negro', 'Chubby' or 'Hot'.

The audience were treated to fabulous musical accompaniment from an accomplished band led by Lewis Wallington and lots of energetic fabulous dancing choreographed by Danielle Harris. The involvement of these two Sixth Formers, their utter commitment and professionalism, made this show what it was.

The young cast were very mature and sensitive in their performances with some awesome singing - particularly Jess Marsden as Motormouth Maybelle - who blew our socks off with her *Big, Blonde and Beautiful*.

This has been a fabulous production to work on with an amazing, talented team of performers, musicians and technicians. It has consumed many many hours of rehearsal since September and everyone involved can be very very proud of what they have achieved.

Mrs K Parsons & Mrs F Godsall Drama Department



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Sixth Form Visit to Oxford Brookes University

My visit to Oxford Brookes University was an eye opener for me in regards to my future prospects within a University setting. The well organised layout of the day allowed me to experience all of what the University had to offer in my chosen career of Nursing. The informative lecturers and students of the University helped me to understand what it would be like to be a part of the community there and what it has to offer. They all offered helpful information and answered all queries I had. The taster sessions, especially Midwifery, gave me the chance to experience my potential course in its simplest form and this helped me to consolidate my decision on my career path. The overall atmosphere of the day was very professional and beyond my expectations. The day as a whole gave me a chance to see University for what it is and helped me to see whether University is for me. Oxford Brookes is definitely on my list of potential Universities now.

Hope Barton

**OXFORD
BROOKES
UNIVERSITY**



The Warriner School Website

"To keep up to date with all the latest school information, visit our website. Better still: set it as your home page! We also tweet @WarrinerSchool and have our own Facebook page, so do follow/like us."



Show my Homework

More and more students and parents are now firmly in the habit of using Show My Homework, and it seems to be having a really positive impact. The free App is also proving increasingly popular. If you don't know your log in details (and parents have a separate account to provide a family overview if you have more than one child at the school) then please contact Mrs Burch on g.burch@warriner.oxon.sch.uk . It takes a matter of seconds to sort out!

Mrs Gayle Burch Assistant Associate Headteacher

The Warriner School—School Term & Holiday Dates 2014-2015

Term ends :	Friday 13 th February 2015 – 3.30pm
Holiday :	Monday 16 th February 2015 – Friday 20 th February 2015 (inclusive)
Term starts :	Monday 23 rd February 2015
Term ends :	Friday 27 th March 2015 – 3.30pm
Holiday :	Monday 30 th March 2015 – Friday 10 th April 2015 (inclusive)
Term starts :	Monday 13 th April 2015
Term ends :	Friday 22 nd May 2015 – 3.30pm
Holiday :	Bank Holiday Monday 4 th May 2015
Holiday :	Monday 25 th May 2015 (Bank Holiday) – Friday 29 th May 2015
Term starts :	Monday 1 st June 2015
Term ends :	Friday 17 th July 2015 – 1.00pm



INSET DAYS - STAFF ONLY TO ATTEND:

Monday	1 st June 2015
Monday	20 th July 2015

Obituary—Mrs. Barbara Conheaney

Mrs. Barbara Conheaney who died recently aged 91 was devoted to The Warriner School from when it opened in 1971. She worked in the kitchen to provide school dinners. She and her friend and colleague, Mary Welch, formed the Home/School Guild which organised many successful fund-raising events. In her later years at school she served the staff refreshments at break.

By the time she retired (aged 84) in 2008 she had served under six headteachers. A highlight of her long service to the school was serving tea to Prince Charles when he visited in 2003. Not just any cup of tea – it had to be made to his own specification which of course Barbara carried out to the letter.

She last visited the school when the refurbished Library and Study Centre was opened two years ago. A cheerful, caring person she held the school close to her heart and everyone over the years loved Barbara which was reflected in the large turnout of Warriner past and present staff at her funeral.





Farm News

Although we are very much still in the clutches of winter, spring is just around the corner, with all the promise it holds. The cows have started calving and in just a matter of weeks the sheep will start lambing. With this in mind, our annual lambing weekend will be taking place on 7th and 8th March. Please see the flyer on

on page 5 for more details and put the date in your diary.

Hedgelaying Course

We ran another successful hedge laying course in January – you may have seen the photos and write up in the Banbury Guardian – and are making good progress on the hedges around the farm.

Hedgelaying involves cutting nearly through the stem of each individual hedge plant, just above ground level, cutting away at the stem to thin it down to a point where it will flex and bend over but not snap off. Because the outer layer of the stem is not damaged, the plant survives, sending out new shoots and thickening up the hedge. Traditionally this was carried out to create a stock proof barrier, the thorny bushy parts being left on the livestock side to discourage them from eating or pushing through the hedge.

Nowadays, hedgelaying is generally carried out to keep the hedge young and dense to provide cover for wildlife and a windbreak for livestock.

These are fun, practical and popular courses, and if you would be interested in taking part in our next one, please email Isabel Hands (i.hands@warriner.oxon.sch.uk) and you will be sent further information.

Kissing Gates

The year 10 and 11 vocational groups have been busy installing new kissing gates on the newly surfaced pushchair/wheelchair access footpath that runs through the farm land. This had been hard, physical work and the students have done a good job. The path will be officially opened on Friday 13th February.

Shop News

We like to stock new, interesting ranges of items in the shop and currently we have handmade felt goods and pottery, as well as the usual extensive range of delicious home reared meats, fresh eggs and cakes. Please come and have a look. The farm shop is open on Saturdays between 9.00 am and 1.00 pm, and at other times by arrangement (Tel: 01295 721471 or b.james@warriner.oxon.sch.uk).

We have also started making fresh eggs and cakes available to buy in the school reception, so if you are popping in to school you can also make a purchase there.

Farm Club

Farm Club started up again before Christmas and the students have been involved in fun projects, including halter training last year's lambs, learning how to handle and groom the donkeys, weighing piglets, enriching the chicken runs and feeding the pregnant ewes. This runs on a Wednesday lunchtime, and is a membership only club for those students who have shown commitment and enthusiasm for farm activities at lunchtimes from the beginning of the school year.



Laura Angus Farm HLTA

100% Attendance Celebration Tea

I realise it was some time ago but unfortunately I haven't been able to distribute all of the photographs to the families concerned. If any student involved did not receive their photo and would like it could they please come and collect it from me.

Many thanks,

Trina Willcock
Student Support Services



School Transport—9th March 2015

Oxfordshire County Council will communicate directly to all parents details of their child's/children's school transport routes, pick up and drop off points which take effect from **Monday 9th March 2015**.

The **new school day** structure commences on Monday 9th March 2015, which is:

8.25am	Warning Bell
8.30am	Tutorial/Assembly
8.50am	Period 1
9.50am	Period 2
10.50am	Break
11.05am	Warning Bell
11.10am	Period 3
12.10pm	Period 4
1.10pm	Lunch (45 minutes)
1.55pm	Warning Bell
2.00pm	Period 5
3.00pm	End of school day



Stagecoach 489 leaves Banbury bus station at 7.55am. School has requested change to pick up at the end of the school day ie. 3.15pm, which they are considering - to be confirmed.

Leigh Barmby (School Business Manager)

Private Hire Services from Banbury

UK Coach Excursions—The new provider, Glen Copehorn of UK Coach Excursions is operating the following route:

Banbury Pick up points	Current Time	W.e.f. 9 th March 2015
Train Station	7.50am	7.30am
Ferndale Road	8.10am	7.45am
Highlands	8.12am	7.47am
Ferriston	8.15am	7.50am
Ruscote	8.20am	7.55am
Woodgreen	8.22am	7.57am
Queensway	8.25am	8.00am
Easington	8.30am	8.05am

This service is a private hire arrangement between yourself and UK Coach Excursions.

If you would like to use this service please contact them directly on 01327 306931 or email sales@ukcoachexcursions.co.uk

The cost per day is £2.65 return.

Castle Cars

Castle Cars operate taxi services approved by O.C.C.

Castle Cars have been approached by some parents who reside in Banbury to operate private hire minibus from Bodicote and/or Cherwell Heights.

To register your interest is using this route, please contact them directly on 01295 270011 or email info@castlecarsbanbury.co.uk



Warriner Prefects

A genuine *THANK YOU* to our team of Year 11 and Sixth Form Prefects for all your hard work over the past term. Some highlights of what the team have been up to include:



Outstanding support at Academic Tutoring Evenings for Years 9, 10 and 11 – you did our school community proud.
Superb help in organising and running Year 9 Parents Evening – it could not have worked so well without you!
Running 'Perfect Support Club' in January – this is evolving into something new, so watch this space...
Delivering some superb whole school assemblies – particular highlights included Clem Saynor in the Darwin assembly!
The introduction of 'Harry's Helpers' – our brand new Prefect helpline, led finely by the legendary Harry Mills! (below)

What's to come?

- Harry's Helpers is taking off! See our advert in the Banbury Guardian (5/2/15), and please encourage your children in Years 7, 8 and 9 to email the Prefect team if they would like any help with homework or revision. An expert response in less than 48 hours.
- Prefect Support Club is moving, and changing. After half-term it will take place during tutor time, once per fortnight, where young students will spend some time with Prefects as 'buddies'. They will have the opportunity for some one-to-one or small group reading, chatting, playing board games, and generally making older friends around school.
- After Easter, Year 11 Prefects will be 'winding up' towards exams, so we will be looking to Year 10 students to apply for a Prefect position next year.



Thanks for your support, as ever – *Mr J Knowles*

The Warriner School Careers Fair

Thursday 5th March 2015

6pm- 9pm

School Hall

Open to all students and parents



Explore your future...

Lambing Open Afternoons

Come and see the
newborn lambs and calves
at the

Warriner School Farm, Bloxham OX15 4LJ

on Saturday 7th and Sunday 8th March

2.00 - 5.00pm

**Enjoy a cup of tea and
some home-baked cake
in the Farm's Education Centre!**



**This is a fundraising event—
your support is vital to enable us to continue our work**

Sports News

Hot off the press is the following report from a very proud Dad of Emily Thompson, Year 10. Emily went to the rescheduled Oxon Cross Country Championships at Radley College, Abingdon on Tuesday 10th February.



"She ran a great race and won the U17 category by quite a distance. The U17s were running in the same race as the U19s over a 4.4km course. She also succeeded in beating the first U19 girl by about 40-50m, which she was happy with. So she has a selection letter to represent the Oxfordshire team at the Nationals race on Saturday 14th March in Blackburn, but they are travelling by coach to Stafford on the Friday evening and staying overnight."

On behalf of the school we wish Emily good luck in the forthcoming race. PE Department

First Sixth form Netball Tournament

Our Sixth form netball team triumphed in the under 19s netball tournament at Banbury Academy. Playing 4 equally strong and athletic Sixth Form teams (Sibford, Banbury, BGN and Chenderit) we still managed to reign victorious. It was a wonderful experience playing our first competitive tournament and really look forward to many more matches with local Sixth Forms. Well done team: Phoebe Homer, Alex Williams, Holly Smith, Holly Burbidge, Billie White, Rachel Evans and Tanzela Yasin



Review by Tanzela Yasin

Badminton

U16 girls and boys both successfully won their North Oxon Partnership Tournaments and went through to the Centre Parcs Oxon Finals on Tue 10th Feb. Both teams played really well however the standard was very high. A great learning opportunity and one not to have missed!! Well done team!



Table Tennis has seen a growth in The Warriner with a very popular lunch and after school club that is linked to Banbury coaches. As a result, this year has been the first year we have entered the Oxon Schools Championships with both an U13 (see photo) and an U16 boys team. Special mention to Oli Keene in Yr 8 who got through to the Finals and played the number 9 in the UK!

Good Luck to the following teams in some of the dates ahead for next Term:

Yr 10 & 11 girls attending the Netball weekend in Liddington 6th - 8th March.

The Dance and Netball Leaders in their forthcoming Primary Festivals in March.

The School Winter Game Finalists - Swimmers Thursday 17th April and Cross Country teams 17th April in Abingdon venues.

Job Opportunities Ignite for NVQ Sports Leadership Students

The Physical Education Department is now in to its second year of delivering an exciting programme in collaboration with Ignite Sports UK. This is in the form of a vocational qualification (Level 2 NVQ) in Sports Activity Leadership. The programme is designed to provide our students with vocational experience which will benefit them in the jobs market. We are delighted to report that 3 of our students Brandon Haden, Maddie Hancox and Danielle Harris have been successful in their applications to Cherwell District Council to become Sports Activity assistant leaders. This paid employment will see them become part of the CDC staff who will lead sport and physical activity programmes for children in the 5-16 age group during school holidays and after school clubs.

Tom Gubbins, Head of Sport & Recreation at CDC, was very impressed with the maturity of our students both in their application as well as at interview. The students were able to talk about how they have worked practically within our Warriner PE curriculum and extra-curricular provision. By showing initiative, communication skills and good time management our students explained how they have planned, delivered and reviewed practical sessions with support from a qualified teacher or coach.

Many thanks go to Ignite Sports UK; Leigh Tomlinson as Tutor has afforded The Warriner programme expertise and professionalism whilst Justin Merritt, the company's Managing Director, has provided support and guidance throughout. We look forward to building on this positive relationship as we move our programme forward over the next 12 months. If any Year 11 students are interested in finding out more about the NVQ programme please see me for a chat.

Vinny Halsall PE Department NVQ Co-ordinator