

WELCOME to *The Sixth Former*

As Year 13 students put the finishing touches to their personal statements and get close to submitting their applications to university, I am reminded just what a busy and purposeful school Cokethorpe is. To call them a dynamic student body would be an understatement and it is heartening to see so many of our Sixth Formers committed to supporting the School in so many activities and projects despite the pressures of study and applying to university. It is this ability to navigate the demands of A Levels whilst still finding time to develop away from the class room which ensures our Sixth Formers are well equipped to be successful in life after Cokethorpe.

Mr M Shingleton, Head of Sixth Form



Don't Forget...

Dates for your Diary

Thursday 23 to Friday 31 October
Half Term
Tuesday 4 November
Lower Sixth Parents' Evening
Friday 14 November
UCAS Application Deadline
Tuesday 9 December
General Studies Lecture
Friday 12 December
Michaelmas Term Ends

Top Ten Tips For...

University Interviews

Applications expert Cathie Griffin, from Taylor and Griffin Training Consultants, explains the ground rules of university interviews.

1. Be natural, be yourself and don't bull**it.
2. Listen very carefully to the question.
3. Think before you speak.
4. Know when to shut up. The question only needs one answer.
5. Make eye contact and smile. It should feel like a conversation not an interrogation.
6. Try and have an air of confidence, even if you're not at all confident. Don't fidget, sit still and upright.
7. Dress smartly, don't wear trainers unless you're going for art or drama.
8. Think about obvious questions they will ask, and prepare answers.
9. Don't make things up.
10. Be prepared to answer strange questions.

A full explanation of each tip is available from the Careers Department or Head of Sixth Form.

Looking At...

The Sixth Form Centre

There has been an increasing need for enhanced Sixth Form facilities to accommodate the growth in the number of pupils staying on for their A Levels. Work on the New Dining Hall and Sixth Form Centre started on 14 July 2008.

The Sixth Form Centre will be located on the first floor and the facilities will comprise of a main social area, one classroom (to take 24 students) and two offices. The windows of the social area will look towards the woodland area and the playing fields.



Important Information...

Making Learning a Priority

There are many benefits to having a part-time job (work experience, independence and a link to the adult world, financial, social and organisational). However, long working hours may impinge on study time and leave students tired and less able to concentrate. Nationally it has been shown that paid work of a few hours per week has a negligible impact on A Level grades, but that long working hours significantly reduce grades.

Research published by Hodgson and Spours, based at the London Institute of Education, shows that '*Sixth Formers who spent more than five hours per week in*

jobs did less well than expected. Students who work for more than 15 hours were the worst affected, falling from expected BBB grades to CCD.'

We recommend that a maximum of one weekend day or two evenings a week be devoted to paid work. Some students have taken on more than this, to the detriment of their studies.

Another factor hindering the performance of students is their desire to regularly attend late-night functions during the school week. Please keep late nights to weekends in general.

A LEVELS 2008

Grades A: 33%
Grades A to B: 63%
Grades A to C: 80%
Grades A to E: 99%
Avg UCAS Score: 300

Look At Some...

Useful Websites

- GCSE/A Level/University Community
www.thestudentroom.co.uk
- 2008 Student Satisfaction Survey
www.unistats.com
- List of University Open Days
www.opendays.com

336

days until the
Sixth Form Centre
opens

Checklist For...

The Upper Sixth

- Register on UCAS website
- Arrange careers interview
- Reach decisions on possible courses
- Short-list possible universities
- Draft Personal Statement
- Complete UCAS application:
 - 15 October 2008 for Oxbridge and courses in medicine, dentistry and veterinary science/medicine
 - 14 November 2008 for all other applications
- Research gap year (if applicable)
- Draft CV (if applicable)

Pot Noodles and Beyond...

Interested in learning how to cook on a budget?
See Mr Shingleton for more details.

So Far This Term...

Sixth Form Socials

The Lower Sixth started their term with the City Challenge Induction Day in Oxford, allowing them to get to know each other, and their form tutors, prior to their first day in School.

On 25 September, all the Sixth Form went bowling. Everyone was really excited and anxious to get there. This was a great way to get to know everyone better. As we arrived the lanes filled up as we started bowling. Everyone had a fantastic time and I'm sure made lots of new friends.

Next Social Committee Meeting:
Friday 10 October 2008



Another Amazing Fact From...



One quarter of the bones in your body, are in your feet.

Talking About...

Student Advice Books

How to Write a Winning UCAS Personal Statement (2008)
Ian Stannard
RRP: £12.99



How to Complete Your UCAS Application 2009 Entry
RRP: £12.99



The Virgin 2008 Alternative Guide to British Universities
Piers Dudgeon
RRP: £16.99



Essential Study Skills: The Complete Guide to Success at University (2008)
SAGE Study Skills Series
RRP: £14.99



Focus On...

Geography

Why study Geography?

- You enjoy learning about people and their societies, economies, cultures and the environment
- You are keen to learn and develop a wide range of skills
- You are seeking a broad based academic degree, offering above average graduate employability

There has never been a better or more important time to study Geography. Growing interest in issues such as climate change, migration, environmental degradation and social

Spotlight On...

Exeter University

Sheralyn Morey, a Third Year English student, explains why this small Devon city is a great place to study.

Exeter is a great place to study. The city is student-friendly, but it is easy to escape the student bubble as the coast and Dartmoor are a short journey away. The city is small enough to walk everywhere, but there are regular bus services to and from campus. Exeter is safe in comparison to many other cities, students usually walk home in a group after a night out but a taxi rarely costs more than £5.

There are two campuses - St Luke's and Streatham. Assessment varies from subject to subject. Every student has a personal tutor who is the first point of call. Contact hours depend upon subject, and range from six hours a week for arts subjects, to up to 25 hours a week for courses such as Maths or Physics.

cohesion makes it one of the most relevant courses you could choose. Whatever your passion for the world - fascination with landscapes or concerns about inequality - Geography will provide you with knowledge and transferable skills that will reward you personally and advance you professionally.

Many of those leaving university with a geography degree enter three fields of employment: administration and management; marketing or financial work.

Royal Geographical Society

DON'T FORGET...

... the Head of Sixth Form, Deputy Head of Sixth Form, Director of Studies, Careers Advisor and Headmaster are all available to help you!

DID YOU KNOW?

- There are over 160 universities in the UK
- UCAS lists over 60 thousand courses that are available in the UK.