

Welcome...

The Lent Term is always very hectic in the Sixth Form, but this one is proving to be exciting as well. With the hard slog of the Michaelmas Term behind us, we are able to look forward – aided by some excellent offers from prestigious universities and by the growing anticipation of the new Sixth Form Centre. There is no doubt that Cokethorpe has come a long way from the days when 30 students made up the Sixth Form body! It is because of this growth, and our continued determination to ensure that the education and guidance we offer is the very best possible, that a third member has been introduced to the management team. I am delighted to be given the opportunity to help shape the future of the Sixth Form, and look forward to working with tutors and students alike to ensure that the Cokethorpe experience is as rewarding and beneficial as possible. I have no doubt that the coming years will continue to see us go from strength to strength.

Mr A Uglow, Assistant Deputy Head of Sixth Form

Talking Point...

The Great A Level Debate: Grade Inflation?

You are probably tired of hearing people talk about how A Levels are supposedly getting easier. However, while getting an A grade is quite rightly a cause for celebration, it has nonetheless caused problems for universities and employers. It has become difficult for universities to select students because they can be faced with hundreds of students with straight As at A Level.

The Experts Have Their Say:

Chris Woodhead (Chairman of Cognita Schools): 'Top universities should be invited to collaborate with the highest achieving schools to create a new A Level system. Each year, a fixed percentage of candidates should be awarded each grade. For example, the top 10% could be awarded the A grade. The best students would be identified, and universities would know which candidates deserve a place.'

Peter Tymms (Professor at Durham University): 'Having additional higher grades is one way forward, for example the introduction of the A* grade.'

Imperial College, London: 'We'd like universities to be told how many times a candidate has repeated an A Level module. We'd also like exam boards to release the full breakdown of marks, rather than just grades.'

What do you think of the views above?

Last Term...

Sixth Form Socials

The Sixth Form shopping trip took place on Saturday 29 November. Students descended on Birmingham to buy Christmas presents for their friends and families.

Sixth Formers and their tutors let their hair down on Friday 12 December at Freud's in Oxford, where they enjoyed a Christmas dinner to celebrate the end of term.



Assessing Your Options...

Should I Take a Gap Year?

Advantages

- You may get the opportunity to have new experiences and meet new people
- It may boost your career prospects as many employers look favourably on those who take a gap year
- You could learn new and valuable skills
- It may help you to develop confidence and independence
- It may help you to raise money for higher education
- You may be more focused and committed when you do reach university
- You may not get the same opportunity later in life

Don't Forget...

Dates for your Diary

- Tuesday 3 February
Sixth Form Study Day
- Tuesday 17 March
Careers Convention
- Thursday 19 March
General Studies Lecture
- Thursday 26 March
Upper Sixth Parents' Evening
- Friday 27 March
Lent Term Ends

210

days until the
Sixth Form Centre
opens

Look At Some...

Useful Websites

- National Union of Students
www.nus.org.uk
- Student Recipes
www.studentrecipes.com
- Money Saving Tips
www.moneysavingexpert.com

Make Your Voice Heard...

Sixth Form Projects

We would like to hear your views on two future ventures. It has been decided that a Sixth Form Handbook is to be compiled for present and prospective Sixth Formers including information, rules and advice on Cokethorpe Sixth Form. Please let us know your thoughts on what should be included.

In addition, we would also like to add to the list of charities that the School supports. All suggestions are welcome, ranging from local to national organisations.

Please hand in all suggestions to Mrs Copeland.

Update On...

The New Sixth Form Centre Committee

As excitement continues to grow over the new Sixth Form Centre, the Lower Sixth have been keen to share their views on how the centre should be laid out. Together with Year 11, discussions have taken place on furniture, facilities and storage. Students have certainly been keen to take ownership of the new building and help shape its future.

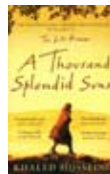
One might expect such discussions to be preoccupied with social matters, but students have expressed a desire to ensure that study opportunities will exist within the new social area, despite having unique access to the excellent facilities in the Reference Library. It would appear that for more serious study, students will make their way to the library, but even whilst they relax in the new Sixth Form area, some students want to be close to their studies. Who says that learning can't be fun?



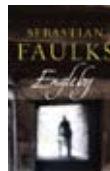
We Would Recommend...

Books Worth Reading

Mr Ettinger recommends
A Thousand Splendid Suns
by Khaled Hosseini



Mr Elkin-Jones recommends
Engleby
by Sebastian Faulks



Mrs Holmes recommends
Judge and Jury
by James Patterson and Andrew Gross



Mr Williams recommends
The Reader
by Bernhard Schlink



Spotlight On...

Leeds University

Niall Lavell, a second year Psychology student, explains why Leeds is a great place to live and study.

The University of Leeds is among the top ten universities for research in the UK and with 30,500 students it is also the second largest university. I knew when I came to the open day that it was the place for me. The university itself is a single site, city centre campus, meaning that the longest time it takes to walk to and from lectures is ten minutes. Campus facilities are top notch, with more computer clusters than you could shake a stick at, two massive main libraries, a lively student union and lots of on-campus shops.

Leeds itself is a true student city with a vibrant, friendly atmosphere and lots to do. There is a great music scene catering to all tastes, as well as lots of cinemas, shops, bars, clubs, theatres and museums.

Focus On...

History

Why study History?

- History provides us with an understanding of the present day, and how individuals, nations, and the global community might develop in the future
- Many History graduates forge careers in fields such as teaching, journalism, publishing, PR and government
- The study of History develops a range of skills in, for example, critical reading, evaluation, analysis, interpretation of evidence, presenting and persuasion.

'The analysis and interpretation of history provide an essential context for evaluating

contemporary institutions, politics, and cultures. Understanding present society is not the only reason to study the past; history also provides unique insight into human nature and civilization. By seeing the world through the eyes of others, we develop a sense of context and coherence and confront the record not only of human achievement, but also of human failure, cruelty, and barbarity. The study of history provides us with a framework for understanding the human condition and grappling with moral questions.

Frank Luttimer, Professor of History

DON'T FORGET...

...remember to consult your University Survival Packs for hints, tips and advice on life after Cokethorpe!

DID YOU KNOW?

According to UCAS figures for 2007-2008, 7% of the total number of accepted university applicants took a gap year