



# COTTESMORE SCHOOL



## ACADEMIC NEWS

The school year draws to a close on a high note, with our talented students continuing to display remarkable diligence, perseverance, and commitment right up to the very end of term. Their hard work and focus have been evident not only in the classroom but also across all aspects of school life.

We are especially proud of the outcomes of the Common Entrance examinations this year. Once again, our pupils have achieved outstanding results, with several earning

prestigious scholarships to top senior schools including Eton, Downe House, Harrow, Marlborough, Brighton College, Winchester and Oundle, among others. These accomplishments are a testament to the dedication of both our students and the staff who have supported them throughout their journey.

A heartfelt well done to our leavers for all they have achieved. We are incredibly proud of their growth, maturity, and resilience, and we send each of them our very best wishes as they embark on the exciting next stage of their education.

## INDEPENDENT SCHOOL OF THE YEAR

In June, Mr Rogerson travelled to Manchester to attend the prestigious Edufuturist Awards, where Cottesmore was honoured with the title of 'Independent School of the Year'.



This national recognition celebrates the dedication of its entire community and the school's innovative approach to education, commitment to forward-thinking practices. We are immensely proud of this achievement, which reflects the hard work, creativity, and vision that define life at Cottesmore.

## SPORTS ROUNDUP

At the IAPS Athletics Championships in Birmingham, Laurens and Esther represented the school in the javelin events, while Louis competed in the shot put. All three athletes demonstrated great skill and sportsmanship, making the school proud with their efforts on the day.

The Girls' 1st Team had an impressive run in the IAPS Cricket competition, progressing all the way to the semi-finals.



Their journey took them to Finals Day in Taunton, where they showcased determination, teamwork, and a high level of skill throughout the tournament.

Elliot delivered an outstanding performance at the IAPS Swimming Finals, finishing as the fastest swimmer in his age group in the U12 50m Freestyle. His speed and focus in the pool earned him a well-deserved top spot in this highly competitive event.



All of our tennis teams ended the term unbeaten, capping off a fantastic season of competitive play. In the singles championships, Olek and Pauline were crowned senior champions, while Rodrigo and Addy took the junior titles. A brilliant achievement all round, reflecting the strength and depth of tennis across the school.

Drakes dominated Set Athletics this year, winning by a considerable margin. Their impressive victory was driven by a wealth of strong athletes across multiple events, showcasing both depth and talent throughout the team.

## STEM

### *Ace Races at Goodwood*

A team of six passionate STEM students, Augusta, Rahim, Xander, Bel, Mona-Swan, and Serena, proudly represented Cottesmore at the Greenpower race at Goodwood Motor Circuit. After weeks spent designing and



fine-tuning their electric car at school, they rose to the challenge, showing outstanding teamwork, adaptability, and engineering skill against tough competition.

Calm under pressure and quick to problem-solve, the team impressed both spectators and peers, completing the course with enthusiasm and earning widespread praise. It was a day that celebrated innovation, collaboration, and the promise of young talent in STEM.



### *Rocket Power*

Students from local state and prep schools competed in an exciting model rocket event, building solid-fuel rockets that launched at speeds up to 200mph. It was a thrilling hands-on experience in engineering and physics.

The competition was judged by A-Level Physics students from Holy Trinity Church of England Secondary School and special guest Malcolm Jennings, the UK's top model rocket builder, who also inspired students with his expert insights.



### *Engineering Day*

Students from local state and prep schools came together for a fun, team-based engineering competition, tackling creative challenges like building newspaper towers, spaghetti structures, and cardboard bridges. The event tested their teamwork, problem-solving, and design skills.

Judged by A-Level Physics students from Eastbourne College, the day offered an exciting opportunity to explore real-world engineering in a collaborative and competitive setting.



## *Red or White?*

As part of an exciting hands-on science project, Form 3 got stuck into the traditional method of winemaking by stomping and crushing grapes to produce two school blends: the bold Cottesmore Crimson and the lighter West Sussex White. The fermentation process took place in the lab, where pupils explored the chemistry behind winemaking, monitoring the transformation of grape juice into (questionable) wine.

After several weeks, with permission from parents, Forms 3 to 6 gathered for a much-anticipated sip. The verdict? Unanimous disgust, but plenty of laughter. Despite the questionable flavour, the project offered a brilliant and memorable lesson in real-world science.

## *MOROCCO TRIP*

On the 27th March, a group of intrepid explorers headed off for 6 days in Morocco. Their journey began with a flight to Marrakech, where they plunged straight into the vibrant energy of the Souks and market square, soaking up the colourful stalls, bustling cafés, and captivating street performers. As the sun set, the group dined at a rooftop restaurant, savouring a traditional meal with panoramic views of the city below.



After a refreshing dip in the hotel pool, everyone set off for the Low Atlas Mountains to begin a two-day trek.

Staying in mountain gîtes nestled among snow-capped peaks, all accompanied by mules that carried the gear and cooking supplies.



On day four, they crossed the scenic Imlil Pass and made their way to the coast. There, they experienced a memorable camel ride along the shoreline, arriving at their beachside campsite just in time to watch the sunset.

The next day brought a visit to the historic coastal town of Essaouira, followed by a relaxing swim back at the hotel. The trip was wrapped up with a morning surf session, a final wander through Marrakech's souks, and a return home, tired but full of unforgettable memories.

## *PRE-PREP*

The Pre-Prep have enjoyed a rich and rewarding term, filled with hands-on learning experiences both on-site and beyond. From exploring our beautiful school grounds to venturing further afield, the children have embraced every opportunity with enthusiasm.

A highlight of the term was a wonderful day at Goring Beach, where rock pooling offered a chance to observe sea creatures up close and learn about marine life in its natural habitat. Another exciting outing took everyone to Chessington Zoo, supporting the children's studies of animal habitats, survival needs, and the care of a diverse range of species.



Back on campus, the much-anticipated Pre-Prep Sports Day was a roaring success, with children giving their all to beat previous records and celebrating each other's achievements with enthusiasm.

Academically, the children have made impressive strides across the curriculum. Their reading skills have flourished, enhancing their ability to explore new topics with growing curiosity and confidence.

The school lake provided a stunning setting for interdisciplinary learning, as students engaged in pond dipping, tracked the life cycle of tadpoles, and took part in nature walks to observe birds and insects using their senses of sight and hearing. Forest School sessions brought our surroundings to life, with children building shelters, identifying tree types, creating fire with flint and cotton wool, and, of course, toasting marshmallows around the fire.

## FINAL DAYS OF TERM

### OC Day

The Cottesmore home team welcomed 120 guests for Old Cottesmorians Day. The day was filled with warm reminiscing, beginning with a morning golf competition, which was

won by Xavier Ford. Later, everyone enjoyed a wonderful drink in the Headmaster's garden, followed by a delicious barbecue.



### Junior Play

The Form 1 play, *Peter Pan*, was a triumph, showcasing stunning performances from both cast and crew. Afterwards, guests were treated to canapés and wine in the hall. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who helped make it such a special occasion.



### The Boat Race

The 2025 Boat Race went swimmingly, with Drakes claiming victory. However, it was the hilarity and ingenuity on display that truly defined the day.







At the same time, we hosted our first official timed paddle boarding race, a dynamic and exciting new addition to the event.

### ***SALVETE AND VALETE***

We are delighted to announce that Mrs Samantha Pritchard BSc (Hons) RN will be joining Cottesmore as our new medical lead from September 2025. Samantha is currently

the lead practitioner and specialist nurse at a GP surgery in West Sussex. She is excited to become part of the Cottesmore community and, as is tradition for the role, will be moving onto the estate with her husband. Her daughter will also be joining the Pre-Prep in September.

As we welcome Samantha, we will also be bidding farewell to Nurse Sam Barrett. We are deeply grateful for her outstanding work in developing the medical department at Cottesmore. In September, Sam will begin a part-time nursing role at Cranleigh, a local senior school. We thank her for her dedication and wish her and her family every success in the future.

We are also pleased to welcome Laura Rolley as our new Head of Marketing. Laura brings a wealth of experience and creativity to the role, and we look forward to the positive impact she will have in sharing and celebrating all that makes our school so special.

### **TERM DATES – WINTER TERM**

<b>Wednesday 3 September</b>	<b>Term Begins</b>	<b>17.30</b>
Thursday 4 September	New Children arrive	
Friday 12 September	Weekend Exeat begins	16.00
Sunday 14 September	Weekend Exeat ends	18.30
Friday 26 September	Weekend Exeat begins	16.00
Monday 29 September	Weekend Exeat ends	19.00 (No Chapel)
Friday 17 October	Half Term begins	16.00
Sunday 2 November	Half Term ends	19.00 (No Chapel)
Friday 14 November	Weekend Exeat begins	16.00
Sunday 16 November	Weekend Exeat ends	18.30
Saturday 29 November	Play	14.00
	Weekend Exeat begins	16.00
Monday 1 December	Weekend Exeat ends	19.00 (No Chapel)
Sunday 7 December	Carol Service	18.00
<b>Wednesday 10 December</b>	<b>Term Ends</b>	<b>11.00</b>