



Christ Church Cathedral School

Friday 15th November 2019

Dear Parents,

It has been an odd week for me because, though I have spent almost the entire week in a school, it has not been this one. It was in fact a school in Reading where I was helping to inspect on behalf of the Independent Schools Inspectorate.

I was very struck by the quality of my fellow inspectors. Any independent school can choose to be inspected by OFSTED, the government inspection agency, but most choose to use the Independent Schools Inspectorate, as do we. The experience of this inspection reinforced in my mind, the wisdom of this decision. All the other inspectors were either Deputy Heads or Heads and, in every case, had a great deal of experience of schools. They undertook the tasks assigned to them with both sensitivity and seriousness and they were all deeply intelligent and humane individuals. I felt strongly that the school concerned could not have received a more informed judgement. I was also heartened by the total lack of self-importance with which the inspectors went about their task. There was not a grandiose phrase uttered nor even the most subtle brandishing of the clipboard or Hi-Viz jacket, common signs of the self-important. As many of you may know, we are about to be inspected ourselves. On a Monday morning in the very near future, I will receive a telephone call from ISI central office announcing that the inspectors will be arriving in 48 hours. I hope, very much, that the people who come our way are similar to those with whom I have just worked. May I assure you that this little paragraph of praise to ISI inspectors is not designed to curry favour with any future inspector – rather that I wanted to put on record, that I am deeply impressed by the system of independent school inspections and the quality of the people carrying them out.

Next week, mock exams are being sat. The boys will have been given advice about what they need to know and how to revise it. Please encourage them to work hard, to do some revision, to prepare themselves for the challenge of the exam. Equally, these exams are mocks and their main purpose is to allow pupils to find out what their weaknesses are and thereby to have a chance to amend them.

Mrs Naylor's Memorial Service will be at Burford Church on Monday. The family have asked for some of our boys to sing at the service so we are taking 11 Form 8s with us. It is a great privilege for the school that the boys have been asked. I am sure that you will all think of Mrs Naylor and her family on this very difficult day.

It was lovely today, to return to Christ Church. Arriving back on a Friday morning throws you straight into Cathedral Assembly and, this morning, the Chaplain gave a most interesting talk about illumination and the casting of God's light upon the world. The talk started with an illuminated manuscript and the Chaplain produced a tiny piece of a 15th Century French Psalter which had been mounted in a frame. She walked slowly round the boys showing them this tiny piece of writing, glowing with the colour of the illustrations. As she passed through the Cathedral, the boys strained to catch a glimpse, standing up when they could, necks stretched. As I sat in the Cathedral, the golden stone ceiling glowing in the light of the sun, I said a few prayers of thankfulness to be working in a school where young boys cannot control themselves in the face of a fragment of 15th Century vellum!

Mr Murray
Headmaster

Michaelmas 2019
Monday 18th - Sunday 24th November

MONDAY 18	
3.30 - 4.30	School Exams begin (Forms 5 - 8) After School Chess Club (Forms 3 & 4)
4.00 - 5.00	After School Multi Skills Club (Forms 1 & 2)
4.30 - 5.30	After School Real Tennis Club
4.45 - 5.45	After School Chess Club (Forms 5 - 8)
TUESDAY 19	School Exams
WEDNESDAY 20	School Exams
12.00	U12 Rugby Festival at St Edward's
2.30	2nd Rugby 9-a-side v APS (Away)
3.30 - 4.30	After School Chess Club (Form 2)
THURSDAY 21	
2.30	U11 A & B v New College (Away)
2.30	U11 C & D v New College (Away)
2.30 - 3.30	Form 7 to the Ashmolean Museum (Pompeii Exhibition)
FRIDAY 22	
8.30	Cathedral Assembly, speaker, The Revd Dr Richard Ounsworth, OP, Blackfriars, Oxford CC: OUT (until 4.00 pm on Sunday)
SATURDAY 23	
SUNDAY 24	<i>The Sunday next before Advent</i> <i>University 7th Week</i>
4.00	CC: Return
4.00	PC: Rehearsal
4.15	CC: Rehearsal
5.00	CC: Rehearsal for Evensong
5.30	PC: Evensong (Pembroke College Chapel)
6.00	CC: Evensong

Form 7 visit to the Ashmolean Museum

Next Thursday afternoon, Form 7 will be visiting the Ashmolean Museum to see the not-to-be-missed Pompeii exhibition. We shall be back before the end of the school day. NR



ABRSM Music Exams



Please be aware that this term's ABRSM exams will take place in school
on Tuesday 3rd and Wednesday 4th December. SB

Cushion Concerts at the JdP

After our hugely enjoyable first SoundStories concert, we are 'buzzing' with excitement to explore all things **Brass** at our next concert this Sunday, 17th November, in the Jacqueline du Pre Music Building.

10.00 am and 11.00 am for under 5s, 12.00 noon over 5s.



Chorister Fireworks Party



Owing to a most welcome break in the rainy weather, we finally managed to hold our annual Cathedral Chorister Fireworks Party on the meadows last Sunday.

This was by kind permission of the Dean and was attended by Cathedral Choristers and their Families. JR



Changes to Children's Medical Details

Please may we request that parents keep us informed of any changes to the original Medical Form submitted at the start of their child's time here at CCCS.

Thank you. RF

La rançon du succès

It was so difficult to choose this year's winners! So many boys challenged themselves and produced high quality projects, that we struggled to keep to our success criteria. Creativity, originality, French (fluency, pronunciation, content) and fun.

We wanted to feel that it was the boys' - and not their parents' - French challenge. It was clear that the boys put their hearts into their projects... and hopefully had a lot of fun!

Our projects went from planning and carrying out scientific experiments to preparing baking classes, creating puppet shows, animating films, singing in French, dubbing films and re-telling African myths...

Please do congratulate your son for taking part in this year's challenge. The boys did their Houses proud! The winners of the 10 selected projects will go to a French Café very soon but we'll make sure that every boy who took part in our French adventure gets rewarded also.

We would like to add a big "MERCII" to parents for encouraging their children to take part in the project. SL

Forms 5 - 8 Games

On Monday afternoon, Forms 5 - 8 boys will need to bring their Games kits to school.

Forms 5 & 6 boys do not normally do Games on Monday afternoons but next week is an exception. ADM



Match Reports



U8 TAG Rugby and U9 A Rugby v NCS

Forms 3 and 4 travelled to NCS last Friday for our local derby match. Form 3 played in TAG matches and Form 4 played full contact. All boys played incredibly well with convincing wins in four of the five matches. The fifth drew. Well done boys.

Colts A v Bruern Abbey



On Wednesday afternoon, our U10 boys played against Bruern Abbey at home. They took time to get going but soon realised that they needed to meet fire with fire against a physical Bruern side. We slowly started regaining our structure and after a motivating half-time team talk, we came back with a real desire to win. This led to a lot more continuity and team work - with us winning a very competitive game 30 points to 20.

Colts B v Bruern Abbey

Also on Wednesday afternoon, we took our U11 boys to play against Bruern Abbey. The first half was a little disappointing with our boys not really playing as a team. However, during the second half the boys were much more focussed and determined. Some very good running from many of the team. Although we were not successful, the boys learnt much about working as a team. ADM

PTA Blurb

As we steam our way through the term, I'm pleased to say that we're making some fine progress on our plans for the Punch Party on the 14th December. A 'Volunteers Group' has been set up on Classlist, so please feel free to take a look.

Unfortunately, this evening's Gin Tasting Event has had to be cancelled due to a poorly TOAD (The Oxford Artisan Distillery). I am hoping to rearrange, aiming for the 23rd January (as a replacement for the Ceilidh), but keep an eye out on Classlist for more information.

Another regular 'event' that I established last year was an informal meeting with the Headmaster. This is opportunity for me to put forward comments, suggestions, concerns and praise on behalf of the parents in an informal setting. Our next meeting will be on the 20th November, so if you have anything you'd like me to share, please do let me know. You can either speak to me directly, email me on pa@cccs.org.uk, or message me in Classlist. I'm happy to keep names out of the conversation if you prefer to remain anonymous!



Finally, on charity matters, the school officially presented a cheque for £5,000 to Soundabout this week, concluding our year of activity with the Charity - the first time the school and PTA have collaborated on charity activities. Whilst our links with Soundabout will, I am sure, continue to bubble away in the background, the PTA's primary focus for 2019/20 will be supporting the Pavilion build. Of course, it remains important that the school continues to use charity to raise awareness of other issues and needs, and as such, I am sure all of us parents will continue to support our children's fundraising and charity efforts! More updates throughout the year.

That's all for now! See you on the school run!

Ellis
Unparalleled Leader of the PTA