



Dear Parents,

I am still buzzing with the excitement of last weekend where even the weather seemed to be on our side; after weeks of grey skies and rainy horizons, the sun smiled on our celebrations.

I was so proud of the School, its staff and pupils and what we all managed to achieve. Friday's Enterprise Day and Alice Afternoon was a huge



success. The boys set up wonderful stalls, some making approximately £200 towards our charity. There was such an energy about the place; and even the buckets of water and sponges which were thrown



at me, did not dampen my spirits. Next door, the Alice Afternoon was beyond charming. A rabbit hole, constructed by Mr Pointin, led the boys into a magical wonderland of activities, our Woodland School was transformed into a riot of colour, I found even my adult imagination completely engaged.



The Mad Hatter's tea tent provided a perfect environment to enjoy a lovely English afternoon tea, our new marquee beautifully decorated with Alice impedimenta while the story-telling tent, resplendent in its dramatic colours was an oasis of calm, parents and pupils alike relaxing on soft cushions, lulled into a journey of the mind by the stories being read.



On Saturday, Sports' Day ran perfectly; the fields provided the beautiful backdrop for a whole school event and it was so lovely to see, as the tug of war came to an end, the whole school, parents, teachers and of course pupils, gathered together on a happy, happy day. I was so pleased that everyone stayed behind to enjoy the relaxed atmosphere of picnics and a brass band. May I thank again all the staff who worked so hard to ensure that the day was such a success, all of the parents for

supporting the events and for the assistance of the PTA and in particular its Chairman, Ellis Lloyd Payne. It was a wonderful joint effort and ultimately, it was the pupils who benefited most.

The School has been so busy over the past two weeks – the activities above took place within the context of a plethora of events: A trip to see the Greek Play at Bradfield on Monday, A French Day on Tuesday, Cricket matches, both home and away on Wednesday, the Confirmation Service last Thursday, Pre-Prep transition Day last week and Pre-Prep Transition Day this week

One of the most entertaining events was the Friends and Family Concert this Wednesday. For me it is always a wonderful symbol of the energy and diversity of the pupils and parents of our School. This year we were treated to a huge variety of instruments including a pair of lutes; we had one piece which involved three brothers, who incidentally have only been in the School since half term; we had a child playing with his grandfather, we had a Form 7 boy playing with a Form 2 boy, we had a boy performing with someone else's parent. All of the pieces had been chosen and rehearsed by the parents and children themselves, with Ms Biddell only providing support. There were performances from pupils who had only just started playing, and there were performances from people who had gained music awards at very demanding senior schools. In this glorious coming together we saw a microcosm of our School.

Continued...

Meanwhile, behind the scenes, the staff have been marking exam papers and writing reports. If we are ever tempted to imagine that these things aren't taken seriously I would like to report the following lunchtime conversation with a pupil: "Sir, I think I did pretty well in my exams. I got an average of approximately 80.1578 %" As teachers, we should never underestimate the interest our pupils will take in their achievements!

I look forward so much to seeing you all at Speech Day on Friday.

Mr Murray
Headmaster



1st XI v APS



On Wednesday 26th June, the 1st XI played their curtain-shutting game of Trinity Term and, for certain Form 8 pupils, closed the door on their Christ Church sporting career. Spurred on by immaculate dress code from all, a strong parent support enjoying the sunshine, with the best backdrop in Oxfordshire, the omens were looking good for a decent afternoon of cricket.

Ambrose (Captain) and all his leadership skills came to presence early on with his decision to put Abingdon into bat. The boys were given one instruction; to put last week's indifferent result behind them and go out to enjoy the last game of the season. They had nothing to lose and took the field. We started very well with bowling, Alex taking a wicket in the 3rd over to get us off to a quick start. However, one of Abingdon's star performers managed to hit a few sixes, to end on around 65 runs. That proved to make the difference. Why? Because with great perseverance and a never-say-die attitude, the boys took 7 further wickets with all the other batsmen scoring less than 10. Eventually Abingdon ended on a hearty 116 runs but our boys had done very well to take 8 wickets off a good team.

I told the boys they had done very well and had kept vibrant in the field. Their focus was evident and I would like to praise Sebastian for a runout thrown from the boundary - yes, the boundary! Extraordinary fielding, this is something he should remember for a while. The key to batting was initial patience (in order to get used to their attacking bowlers) but then to go for it. Nothing to lose as it was the final game of the season. The openers did this well. Ambrose was sailing on 15 runs until Abingdon worried and set on their big guns including a left-handed spinner who bowled our brilliant Captain. This was the start of a good spell for APS but, to their credit, our boys batted patiently and kept the run rate progressing at a steady pace. Special mention must go to Alex and Thomas who batted together for 9 overs. They faced hostile bowling and faced up to it extremely well hitting well-placed shots. The last over yielded 2 late wickets but the boys ended up on 68-5 which was a huge improvement on their all-out score of 16 last week.

The boys have faced some tough opposition this term and have learnt cricket the hard way through these matches. However, they can take a lot from this season despite some heavy results. Their attitude has been wonderful and they all seem very eager to improve their cricketing ability. Form 8 boys have all done extremely well and Ambrose, in particular, has been a standout leader of the team. They should be confident in their future schools because they are all very able and should aim for the top teams. I can assure them that they will all be missed next year and I wish them all the best. We have some big gaps to fill, but the current Form 7s must now step up - although they have shown real ability all season. It has been a pleasure to coach the 1st XI and I hope we use this season as a benchmark for future success. Well done to all the boys and I thank their parents for supporting us through rain and shine this season. DB

Trinity 2019
Saturday 29th June - Monday 8th July

SATURDAY 29 10:00	CC: Ordination Service CC: OUT (12 noon)
SUNDAY 30 1.30	<i>The second Sunday after Trinity</i> CC: Choir Cricket Match Choir Term ends after Evensong
MONDAY 1 3.30 - 4.30 4.00 - 5.00 4.20 - 5.45 4.45 - 5.45	After School Chess Club (Forms 1 & 2) last session After School Cricket Club (Forms 1 & 2) last session After School Real Tennis last session After School Chess Club (Forms 5 - 8) last session
TUESDAY 2 4.00 - 5.00	After School Tag Rugby (Forms 1 & 2) last session
WEDNESDAY 3 9.25 - 11.15 3.30 - 4.30 4.15 - 5.15	ABRSM EXAMS - Morning only Form 8 to University Swimming Pool Forms 3 & 4 Swimming - last session After School Chess Club (Form 2) last session After School Football (Forms 3 - 6) last session
THURSDAY 4 8.45 2.00	Form 8 Assembly Nursery End of Year Celebration (WWH)
FRIDAY 5 8.30 1.30 2.00	Cathedral Assembly, speaker The Chaplain All Nursery children to be collected by parents and taken to the Cathedral for Speech Day Speech Day and Prize Giving End of School Year (return 04.09.19) Form 8 Leavers' Tea (Meadow) REPORTS CC: OUT
SATURDAY 6	
SUNDAY 7	
MONDAY 8	Forms 5 & 6 French Trip to Normandy departs (return 12.07.19)

Christ Church Cathedral School Alice Afternoon



Boys and girls in Nursery and Pre-Prep paraded their Mad Hatter waistcoats at the Alice Afternoon on the Meadow last Friday. The four winners of the competition, Ianis and Sukhmani (Nursery), Rees (Reception), Navraj (Form 1) and Solomon (Form 2), were awarded their prizes before disappearing down the rabbit hole into the Woodland School which had been transformed into a Wonderland.



The children enjoyed the Alice Trail, which included a Pin the Grin on the Cheshire Cat competition, making caterpillars out of elderflower branches and concocting "Drink Me" potions. Many enjoyed cream teas in the Mad Hatter's tea tent with their parents whilst the School's senior and junior brass bands played; some children played croquet with flamingo mallets they had made in woodwork.

Mr Morton, who read excerpts from Alice in Wonderland in the rainbow-coloured Storytelling Tent, said: "As a retired teacher from CCCS, I certainly felt like the Old Turtle as I read a passage from Alice's adventures to a tent-full of smiling pupils: "Why did you call him Tortoise, if he wasn't one?" asked Alice. "We called him Tortoise because he taught us," said the Mock Turtle angrily. "Really you are very dull!" He added: "Mrs Morton and I found the whole afternoon enchanting. Judging the best waistcoats competition was such a difficult task, however; they were all truly magnificent."

Solomon said: "I put pom-poms on my waistcoat. It was very hard. I did the ideas but my parents helped me. I felt very happy when I won." Lucas, also in Form 2, said he enjoyed designing an "Eat Me" label for his miniature pot of marmalade – one of the activities on the Woodland Trail. "Today I had my marmalade on my toast," he said.

Ben, in Form 2, also enjoyed decorating his waistcoat. "I put hearts on my waistcoat because I was the Queen of Hearts," he said. "I had a big axe. At the end the Queen of Hearts chases Alice to the door and that's the end of the dream." CJ



Speech Day Friday 5th July at 2.00 pm



There will be a concert at 2.00 pm followed by Prize Giving

Parking will be available from 1.30 pm on the Broad Walk

This year we have decided that prize winners will be able to take their cups and shields home for the summer holidays

Please take great care of them and ensure that you bring them back to the school office on the first day of Michaelmas Term

Form 2 visit the History of Science Museum

On a dull morning we all went down some damp stairs to the entrance of the museum. We went inside and were greeted by our guide Helen. She gave us a sheet that made us find an old object that did the same thing as an object on the sheet.



After that we went upstairs and this weird man who claimed to live in the Victorian era came to meet us. He said that he was called Mr Wimshurst. He told us about a machine that made sparks at high voltage. It could go up to 80,000 volts.

My favourite bit was when he made paper circles fly about. I also liked it when it made a boy's hair stand up. Ben

Friends and Family Concert on Wednesday 26th June

Congratulations to the pupils, friends, parents, grandparents and siblings who made this year's Friends and Family Concert such a spectacular success.

What a privilege it was that so many people chose to spend their summer evening gathering in school to share music with each other on the piano, violin, trumpet, harp, tenor horn, lute (and all manner of other instruments). Thank you so much, everyone!
SB



Year 7 visit to the Cathedral



We visit the Cathedral every Friday of course; but on Thursday Year 7 spent the afternoon seeing rather more than usual and learning something of the site's history. Indeed in a short time we covered an extensive span of time and space - from the shrine of Frideswide (her story so vividly illustrated in Burne-Jones stained glass) with its rare watching chamber, and the tomb of Lady Montacute (whose children's effigies lost their heads to the iconoclasts), through the Wolsey foundation (peeking into the old playground where the boys of our earlier incarnation would have played), past quite a few epitaphs, including the large 17th century one in the south transept to Baron Edward Littleton (with a misspelling in the first word), and the sad account of the 19 year old who drowned at Sandford ('voragine absorbtus est'), to the Great Hall, with the portraits of Dean Liddell and Lewis Carroll and the fire dogs which may have inspired Alice (in Wonderland's) weirdly stretched neck.



And we asked why *No Peel* is hammered into the door at the foot of the stairs. Students who opposed the University MP Robert Peel's support for Catholic emancipation were responsible – in 1829.

Thanks to Jackie Holderness and colleague Tom for giving us such an informative and pleasant tour. NR

Bradfield Greek Play

On Monday a group from Forms 7 & 8 went to Bradfield College, accompanied by Mr Cotterill, Dr Lenaghan and Miss Farmer, to see Euripides' Alcestis. (Veteran readers of this Newsletter may remember that we went to see The Persians two years ago.) The Bradfield Greek Play is performed by pupils in the original language (a huge achievement in itself) in the College's open-air Greek theatre (the Greeker); and it is a rare opportunity for us moderns to taste a little of the experience of ancient drama, where mythical stories of gods, and heroes and strong-willed women are played out in quasi-ritualistic verse and music. Alcestis, a strange play, transports us to the palace of King Admetus in heroic Thessaly, where we see golden-masked Apollo, bow in hand, argue with Death himself, winged and black. Why is Death here? He has come for Alcestis, the King's young wife, who has agreed to die in her husband's stead. Apollo can do no more for the couple; and Alcestis must die. And while Admetus has a dying wife in one room, in another part of the palace Heracles (passing by on his way to his Eighth Labour) is making merry with the wine cellar. If you want to know what happens next, ask a boy in Year 7: fabula longa, Newsletter brevis.



Bradfield did it good service, with some impressive delivery, costumes and a fine chariot; and with arresting and effective music that reminded us that music was an integral and vital element of tragedy. The boys seemed to follow the dialogue attentively, helped by the translation beamed onto the skene, since they had their own considered views on the performance; and it felt to be altogether a worthwhile trip. And surprisingly (this being Trinity, 2019) there was not one drop of rain.

πολλὰ δ' ἀέλιπτος κραινουςι θεοί. NR



French Day 2019



This year we welcomed the expertly organised and brilliantly busy French Day to the calendar. Planned down to a tee by Madame Loyer, with help from Madame Williams, the boys and girls across all year groups, including Pre-Prep spent the day manning various stalls and enjoying fun activities.

There were presentations on sporting events in France, flags designed by Form 3, sewing of puppets, Harry Potter being taught in French, French Coding and lots more. This all took place in the morning, everybody was in good spirit and the intermissions were met with croissants and wonderful baguettes for lunch.



The afternoon saw the older pupils take part in various French sports. We played Boules by the Keyhole (the weather fortunately improved), French cricket in the Squash Courts and Football in the Hall. Then we enjoyed ice cream in the playground. The fun was non-stop and credit must go to Mr Dickinson and Mrs Dunbar-Morris for organising an exciting afternoon.

The PTA Blurb

The week seems to have flown by in a blur of School social events, planning, and work, so today's submission is extremely short. I'm just reminding those of you who have signed up for the Vincent's Club Dinner to be ready for a really fun evening and to wish everyone an excellent final week of Trinity Term.

In the final Newsletter next week, I'll give you a rundown of what the PTA has done this year and what we can look forward to in 2019/2020!

See you on the school run! Ellis