



Christ Church Cathedral School

Friday 1st April 2022



Dear Parents,

Yesterday I attended a ceremony in Oxford Crown Court during which Old Boy and Governor Mark Beard was sworn in as High Sherriff of Oxfordshire. The High Sherriff is the oldest non-ecclesiastical office in the Country, dating back to Anglo Saxon times. The role is held for a year with the object of supporting the police, the Judiciary and to promote charity. The office comes with some elegant regalia which Mr Beard was wearing and in order to hold the role, the person has to possess a coat of arms which is hung in the court. Mr Beard is very proud of his association with CCCS and was very keen, therefore, that I attended. I hope that during his year as High Sherriff he will visit the School.

I had never seen so many bewigged individuals in one place before and the whole ceremony was presided over by a High Court Judge of great eminence, who looked out at the world from underneath a wig of immense proportions. I was very struck by the formality of the occasion which underlined the importance of the proceedings and reminded us that certain institutions are very ancient indeed. Nonetheless, it was pointed out that the role has developed over the course of time and is now one devoted primarily to charitable works rather than to entertaining travelling members of the Judiciary. Mr Beard wishes the School to help support one of his charities, Active Oxfordshire, working together with the Angus Irvine Playing Fields Trust which we already support to help bring sporting opportunities to children in less affluent areas. We will be very pleased to do so.

What a day it has been! The April Fools joke was that it was colder at the end of term on April 1st than it was when term began in early January – an age away. But it quickly warmed up and by the time we had our Easter Party, the sun was shining brightly. The event was a real triumph – staff, parents and pupils worked together to ensure that the entertainments were varied and engaging. There was food and drinks, and copious raffle prizes and hampers to be won. It was so nice for parents and pupils to see one another. In some ways this was ironic as we have had our worst week in terms of Coronavirus disruption since March 2020 and I want, particularly, to thank the teaching staff for the extraordinary job they have done covering for one another at this very difficult time - I don't think there was a day when another person didn't test positive. But we have made it to the beginning of the holidays! It was also a perfect occasion to bid Miss Berry farewell as she very sadly leaves us to become the PA to the creatives at ITV. Her final act was to judge the Easter Hat Competition, which she did with aplomb! Thank you so much Miss berry for everything you have done for the pupils, staff and parents of the school.

And then there was the Pre-Prep Palm Sunday Service in the Cathedral. Most of the parents gathered to watch the young narrators and singers remind us of the old story. Over half the Pre-Prep staff are off sick but the children, so keen to perform, were delighted to follow the instructions of the small number of remaining staff. The children were all sporting their yellow Easter hats – looking for all the world like a field of golden daffodils – a wonderfully uplifting scene!

One very clever wheeze had been created. An Easter Egg Hunt had been organised in the Woodland School for the pupils – it was not eggs that had been planted, but letters. All the pupils had to gather up the letters to spell E-A-S-T-E-R. Once they had done so, they were able to claim their egg. It was not the usual case of someone getting all the eggs and someone getting none – plus there was a bit of education – at CCCS, even Easter Egg Hunts can become educational and, likewise, education is fun and has its reward!

In the Cathedral, I reminded the boys that the Easter story ends with the Resurrection. I hope that you will find the holidays a time for renewal and refreshment and I thought it worth letting you know that I have reminded the pupils to be very helpful when at home! Why not set the bar high? Happy Easter!

Mr Murray
Headmaster

Trinity 2022

Monday 25th April - Sunday 1st May

MONDAY 25	
9.00	School Office Opens
10.00	SMT Meeting
1.30	Whole Staff Meeting
TUESDAY 26	
	INSET
6.00	CC/CP: Return
6.00	CC/CP: Parents Meeting (WWH)
WEDNESDAY 27	
7.55	CC: Rehearsals begin
8.25	Term begins
12.00 - 3.30	U9 & U11 Football tournament (Windrush Valley)
1.30 - 4.10	French Speaking & Listening Mock Exams (Form 8)
3.30 - 4.30	After School Chess Club (Form 2)
THURSDAY 28	
8.00	WC: Rehearsals begin
9.05	UKMT Junior Mathematics Challenge (Forms 7 & 8)
4.00 - 5.00	After School Football Club (Forms 3 - 6) (Merton Field)
FRIDAY 29	
8.30	Cathedral Assembly, speaker tbc
	Form 8 trip to Coleshill
4.00 - 5.00	After School Cricket Club (Reception - Form 2) (Merton Field)
	CC: IN
SATURDAY 30	
SUNDAY 1	<i>The Second Sunday after Easter</i> <i>University Second Week</i> CC: Home after Evensong



Flexi-Boarding

We are now able to offer flexi-boarding for £55.00 per night. If any of our parents would like to use this facility, please contact Mrs Kemp:

registrar@cccs.org.uk

It Can Be Done



Last week we were at last able to put on a play before parents. 'It Can Be Done' featured a school (St Botolph's) whose lively Lower 5th are preparing to put on a play (Can it be done?) under the direction of their Ecology teacher (a masterful portrayal of a harassed teacher by Eren). The Prime Minister, Mr Conway (played with suave authority by Jeremy) has a son at the school, and he pays a visit to tell them of the measures being put in place to repair the planet. Meantime one of those responsible for global efforts to restore the planet, an earnest Dr Drinkwater, is sparring with his insouciant lodger, Cassian Watt, who doesn't read the news, preferring 'stories with happy endings'. (This pair played deftly by veterans of the boards Henry and Sebastian.) Meanwhile the awkward Republic of Linan is threatening war. Can the English-torturing Linanese Ambassador (enjoyably played by Nishan) explain his country's policies on live television?

The Play was fortunate in these virus-bedevelled times in having such an excellent cast and backstage crew. Also of note were the many screen appearances of choristers, normally unable to feature in school productions. Congratulations all round!

Form 3 News



The Form 3 classroom was transformed into 'The Puzzle Pyramid!' this week.

The boys were invited to come on the trip of a lifetime to Egypt. The archaeology trip included a visit into a newly discovered room inside a pyramid. As they entered the room with their team, the boys became trapped in the pyramid! They had to solve fraction problems to find the code to let them out before the time ran out!



The problems included finding equivalent fractions, ordering fractions, adding and subtracting fractions and finding the fraction of a number. They also had to build a fraction wall and make pizza fractions. Luckily, Form 3 found the code and escaped! Congratulations Form 3 for excellent problem solving and team work this week. SG

French News



An excited group of Reception and Form 1 boys set off straight after lunch on Wednesday afternoon for an afternoon of full immersion French!

Our mini French trip didn't take us too far away, as we only had to walk just around the corner, but, oh how lucky we are to have the Story Museum on our doorstep!

Here the boys stepped into a magic world of stories, with a variety of play areas arranged and decorated, as

you encounter them in stories.



We all had a marvellous time. Once safely back at school, one little 'Pre-prepling' sidled up to me to tell me that he had "really, really enjoyed himself": "Although, Madame Williams, could we please do the whole thing in English next time?" Hmmm... AE-W

Meet and Greet

Matthew Packford - Parent of Tamara in Nursery

What did you want to be when you grew up and what are you doing now? When I was young, I almost certainly wanted to grow up to be Superman. Sometimes, I feel that the school run would have been a lot easier had I chosen this as my career path. I am now a Chartered Surveyor and so I spend my time negotiating leases rather than saving the planet.

If you could travel anywhere in the world tomorrow, where would you go and why? I would love to travel to the Antarctic. I have a curiosity to visit a world which is relatively untouched by human development and an environment where people have battled with the harshest of conditions to explore. It is a place where humankind seems to visit on nature's terms.

Who is your idol, and why? There are many people who have inspired the world. However, those who have had the biggest impact upon me personally are people I am, or have been, close to, who I have talked to and with whom I have had an interactive relationship. Of particular note is my grandfather who was a strong character and who had a great sense of fun. Somebody once said that "An interested person is an interesting person" which describes my grandfather perfectly, as he was interested in everything and everybody he talked to. Everybody has a story to tell.

Favourite city or town and in which season? When I was growing up my family would spend the Autumn half term holiday each year in Grindelwald, Switzerland. It was after the summer tourist season had expired and before the winter ski season had started and therefore the town was quite quiet. I loved the fresh air, sound of the cow bells, wooden chalets and hot chocolate with the frothiest milk. I used to sit out on the balcony at night, staring up at a twinkling light from a walking lodge, which was located half way up my favourite mountain. I used to sit there, taking in the crisp evening air, wondering what the occupants of the lodge were experiencing.

One thing you would change in the world if you could? As a surveyor, therefore somebody who works in the 'built' environment, I think that it would be great if everybody had a place to live, somewhere to call their home, and a place that they can be proud of. Shelter is one of the basic requirements of human survival and everybody should have their safe place.

Favourite Book? I am not sure that I could narrow down to a favourite book. However, if I was to be left on a desert island I would like to be left with *The Jolly Postman* and my Economist subscription - so that I could keep abreast of what is happening in the world.

Is there a family trait/habit that you have? If I was to illustrate Tammy as a caricature, I would draw a massive heart with a pair of legs, arms and a head. She brings home what she produces at cookery club on a Thursday and will not touch it until it is cut into little bits for the whole family to share. She is always one to give a big hug and make sure others are ok. This attribute, she has inherited from her mother.

If you could start something new (hobby/interest or sport) and were not limited with time/age/ money, what would it be? I would quite like to learn to ride a horse and go trekking through the Rockies.

Any advice on how to relax at the weekend? My wife and I used to enjoy getting up, strolling out of our door and wandering out for breakfast. This is something we used to do until our third child arrived on the scene - but getting three children under 5, including a baby, dressed to leave the house is not an easy task. We now enjoy heading out for a late morning coffee and piece of cake at one of the many independent coffee shops near to where we live.

It really sounds like a cape would definitely come in handy on Saturday mornings. I am sure someone with lots of children invented Deliveroo to manage the expectations that leaving the house with small children is an episode. Instead, let's have a friendly person arrive at your door with everything edible you need! I have always thought that someone who has the patience and skill to understand the terminology of a lease is without question creating an opportunity for others! So you're contributing to the dreams and hopes of others by reviewing all the important words, thus providing shelter, as long as you greet your clients sans cape and red boots, as sadly, our society generally assumes that adults wearing dress-up clothes are going to a party. Good luck in your pursuits, it was kind of your grandfather to pass down his adventurous and kindred spirit.

Have a lovely Easter break,
Kathryn