



Christ Church Cathedral School

Friday 4th March 2022

Dear Parents,

It will have escaped none of us that there is a violent war underway in Ukraine. I spoke to the pupils about this in the Cathedral this morning. I mentioned that we would be trying to help some of those who are suffering and in dire need, by raising money and collecting vital supplies. You will see in the email from Miss Farmer, we are suggesting that, on Monday, pupils wear blue and yellow socks (the colours of the Ukrainian flag) if possible, or, if they prefer, something else in those colours. Miss Farmer has listed the supplies that are most needed at the moment. I would be very grateful if you could help by contributing if at all possible. We did so well in terms of raising money for 'Oxygen for India' last year and it would be wonderful to be able to achieve such a level of giving again. The situation is, of course, very shocking and it is the first time that our pupils have experienced a war so close to home. In light of this, we will be monitoring them very closely and have provided a sheet which I hope may be useful if your child wishes to talk about the situation.

On Tuesday we have our Open Morning in the School. It will, as ever, be delightful to show visitors around the School. The most important element of the morning is the pupils - our best ambassadors. As ever, the Form 8 boys will be doing the tours. In the survey of 2020, it emerged that more than 50 per cent of parents heard about the School via the recommendation of friends or colleagues. Do please take the opportunity to recommend the school to any potential parents that you know. Furthermore, I always feel that we are so fortunate in terms of our parental body and it's likely that their friends will be as equally delightful! Thank you too, to all those who have been displaying banners and who have put fliers around.

There are few schools which take children to age 13 where the senior Poetry Recitation Competition could be won by a boy reading Beowulf in the original Anglo Saxon - but our Head Boy, Henry, managed this feat. It was an extraordinary pleasure listening to Henry reading literature that had been written in this country 1,300 years ago. As ever, I was so struck by the variety and sophistication of the recitations and it was a joy to hear the relish with which our boys performed. It was the end to the first half of term.

I enjoyed a delightful drink last night with a number of parents at the White House pub in Grandpont. The Parent Reps had various questions to ask me, which had been suggested by other parents in their form. I was able to give some answers and absorb the interesting suggestions that were given. It is clear that Kathryn Croxson has many ideas about what the PA can do. One idea is the parental book club which sounds most engaging - I hope that as many of you as possible might be able to join it.

Talking of books, we all enjoyed World Book Day yesterday. As I stood on Brewer Street I saw a stream of literary characters arriving from around the city; at times one could almost have believed that this was Hogwarts as boys with scars on their heads appeared in considerable numbers. One had to control one's panic as a number of terrifying Gruffaloes were spotted and the temperature rose with the arrival of a pair of Zogs. There were so many splendid costumes and I hope wearing them will inspire the boys to get reading.

I dressed up as 'Awful Auntie', a David Walliams character. She has thick orange hair, smokes a pipe and carries around an owl called Wagner. When I arrived in Nursery, one boy pointed determinedly at me and said: "I think I know who you are! Aren't you Mr Murray?" Clearly, I had not been able to take on the role of a cantankerous old aunt with a perpetual scowl completely convincingly. Not such a bad thing, perhaps.

Mr Murray
Headmaster

Hilary 2022

Monday 7th - Sunday 13th March

MONDAY 7	
3.30 - 4.30	After School Chess Club (Forms 3 & 4)
4.00 - 5.00	After School Football Club (Pre-Prep) (Merton Field)
4.10 - 5.00	After School Ancient Greek Club (Forms 7 & 8)
TUESDAY 8	
9.30 - 11.30	Open Morning
4.00 - 5.00	After School Tennis Club (Pre-Prep) (WWH)
4.30 - 6.30	Form 7 Parents' Evening (online)
WEDNESDAY 9	
2.30	U13 A v Dragon (Away) (11-a-side)
2.30	U13 B v Dragon (Away) (9-a-side)
2.30	U13 C v Dragon (Away) (8-a-side)
3.30 - 4.30	After School Chess Club (Form 2)
THURSDAY 10	
4.00 - 5.00	After School Football Club (Forms 3 - 5) (Merton Field)
FRIDAY 11	
	Form 8 Trial CE exam results
8.30	Cathedral Assembly, speaker The Chaplain, Eucharist Celebrant
4.15 - 5.15	After School Football Club (Forms 6 - 8) (Merton Field)
	CC: OUT
SATURDAY 12	
10.00 - 1.00	School Play rehearsal
SUNDAY 13	
	<i>The Second Sunday in Lent</i>
	<i>University Eighth Week</i>

Music News

We have a busy few weeks of Music coming up, and it's wonderful to hear so much performance happening around school at the moment.

Please keep the following dates in mind for your diaries. Pre-Prep boys will perform in their annual concert at 2.30 pm on Tuesday 15th March, and Forms 3 and 4 have their own concert at 2.30 pm on 22nd March. Both events will take place in the William Walton Hall and parents are warmly invited, though please send an email to schoolsecretary@cccs.org.uk if you'd like to come so that we can keep track of numbers.

Lastly, this term's Trinity music exams will take place on Tuesday 29th March. A timetable will go up in school next week, so please remind your son to check it if he has an exam this session. Best of luck to all candidates! SB

Appeal for Aid to Ukraine

On Monday we hope to start a week-long appeal to raise funds to aid Ukraine. We are asking that the boys of Prep and Pre-Prep, and the boys and girls of Nursery come in on Monday wearing their school uniform as usual, but wearing either yellow and blue socks or something yellow and blue on their uniform.

We hope to do this to raise awareness of the desperate need of the Ukrainian people, who are now at war. Along with wearing the colours of the Ukrainian flag, we ask that each child brings a donation to school. There will be buckets at the Brewer Street gate on Monday morning and a donation tub in the office.

You may also donate to Ukrainian charities that are on the ground through the United Help Ukraine Charity:

<https://unitedhelpukraine.org>.

If you prefer to give a practical gift, we are collecting donations in school which will be taken to one of the Oxford 'Drive aid to Ukraine' points. The list that charities are requesting keeps being updated, but medicine and toiletries seem to remain consistent. The donations currently being requested are as follows:-

- Blankets
- Hand sanitiser, disinfectant, face masks, rubber gloves, Paracetamol, Ibuprofen, wipes
- Toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, body wash, shampoo
- First aid bag/products (plasters, bandages, swabs, small scissors)
- Baby food, baby formula, nappies
- Female hygiene products
- Flashlights
- Non-perishable food (canned food, jars of Nutella & peanut butter, cereal bars, instant noodles, biscuits)



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

Easter Holiday Camp

Please could parents who would like their boys to attend our Easter Holiday Camp this year

email Mr Dickinson: dickinson.p@cccs.org.uk.

The Camp is scheduled for the first week of the Easter Holidays, 4th - 8th April.

(A letter outlining this year's Camp was emailed to parents on 23rd February)

World Book Day 2022

World Book Day 2022 brought the usual wonderful variety of costumes (a record number of Harry Potters – and indeed Muggles – this year, I think) and it was lovely to see how much time and effort had been put into making them by parents of boys both young and old. Standouts for me included the tremendous Form 1 effort of... Miss Hunt and Gordon, who came as a mother-and-son dinosaurs (NB not crocodiles!) but there were, as you can see in the photograph below, many, many others.

The day began with a splendidly light-hearted drama improvisation from the whole of Form 7, who performed six different versions of the story of Goldilocks... the point being that once you have a sound core story (yes: scene, characters, conflict, crisis and resolution) you can bring your own imagination to it and tell it any way you like. The English Department then had reading lessons (obvs.) and the boys, books in hand, became absorbed. Trainee Literacy Support Dog, Tikka, was hard at work in Wolsey, as were Gordon and Thistle in Pre-Prep, and then it was on to lunch, a splendidly Roald Dahl themed meal organised by Mrs Green and prepared by Mr Kilby and his team.

It has been super to gather that so many boys and their families are balancing screen time with reading time and once again may I take the opportunity to encourage that a ratio of about 1:3 is, I think, perfect. Screen time is there as a treat... and the other three quarters of our sedentary leisure can be spent developing our imaginations, concentration span and, well, characters.

Very well done indeed everyone! PW



CCCS School Barber



Men's Haircuts - £17.50, Children Under 16 - £13.50

Over 60s - £13.50, Students - £15.00

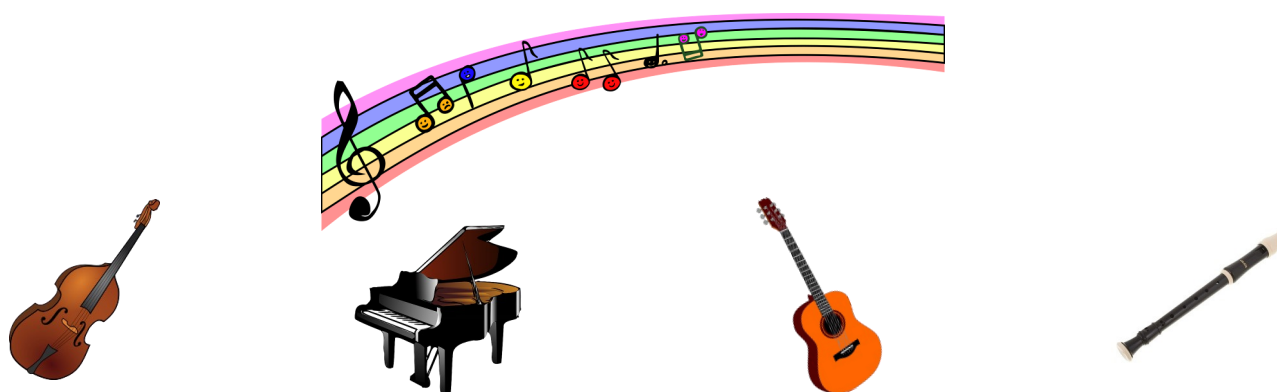
Clipper Cut - £10.00, Beard Trim - £5.00



Call Andrea on **07748 105192** to book an appointment.

CCCS Pre-Prep Concert

2.30 pm Tuesday 15th March, William Walton Hall



A selection of instrumental and vocal performances by the boys in Pre-Prep. All welcome!

Please R.S.V.P. to: schoolsecretary@cccs.org.uk if you would like to attend. SB

Football News

On a very wet Wednesday afternoon our U11 & U10 teams hosted Church Cowley School for the annual fixture between the two schools.

The U10 game was one of the best games of our season so far. Both teams played very attractive football, creating an extremely competitive fixture, even in conditions that would usually hamper a positive playing style.

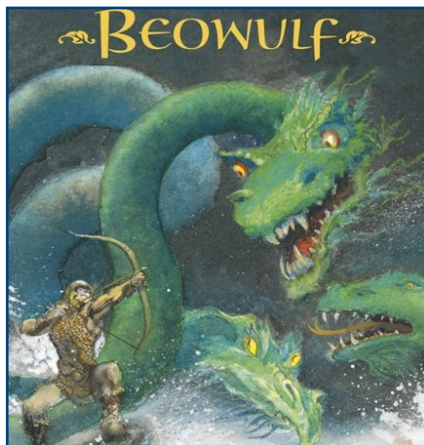
Christ Church dominated the first half but found themselves 1-0 down at the break, having done everything well but not yet scored. A brief team talk on using the conditions to your advantage, as well as knowing when and where to take risks, seemed to help - as we flew out of the blocks and into a 3-1 lead.

Church Cowley battled back very well, levelling the game with a few minutes left to play. Christ Church were unlucky to have a last minute winner ruled out as the ball was judged to have gone out.

The U11 game was also very exciting. We managed to score two early goals, which set the tone for the whole game and put pressure on Church Cowley's defence. They continued to pass the ball around well, using the wide areas and finding the space behind their defence. This led to many chances and we turned, at half time, to be 3-0 up.

The boys were encouraged to continue expressing themselves and to work hard to get back in defence. This led to another goal early in the second half. Mr D mixed things up and despite us still dominating the match, Church Cowley scored a goal of their own. Then, an own goal left the final score being 5-1, but more impressive than the score was the way the boys played as a team. Despite the weather, another fantastic afternoon of football. PD





Poetry Recital Competition 2022

We were incredibly fortunate this year to have Dr Ralph Townsend as our adjudicator. Former Headmaster of Winchester College (and Oundle School... and Sydney Grammar School – just saying!) he was also, for several years earlier in his career, Head of English at Eton... so he “knew of what he spoke”! And as the competition went on, this became ever clearer: each and every boy was given valuable advice about his poem and his delivery – so thank you very much indeed, Dr Townsend!

The adjudicator’s final duty is his most difficult and I was delighted to learn that another trip to Blackwell’s would be necessary in order to buy one or two additional prizes... because the winners were:

Seniors:

- First place - **Henry** with the introduction to Beowulf;
- Second place - **Ivan** with Ozymandias;
- Third place - **Alexander** with Last Lesson of the Afternoon

Intermediates:

- First place - equal **Sener** with Homework Stew and **David** (online from South Korea!) with Abilene, Texas;
- Second place - **Micky** with his own poem St Frideswide;
- Third place - **Splendour** with his brother Opulence’s powerful Hear Ye!

Juniors:

- First place - **Will** with Sick;
- Second place - **Matthew** with local favourite Jabberwocky;
- Third place - **Harshadeep** with The Christmas Story.

In the House competition, **Sayers** came first with 11 points, **Wolsey** second with 9 and **Carroll** third with 7.

It is a marvellous thing, so wonderfully human, to commit a poem to memory. The little grey cells may change over time – and as they do so, bring new perspectives to the words learned – but the words themselves, the rhymes, the rhythms, the cadences, the emphases all stay ‘for the duration’... as I think (and hope – though it’s never too late to start) we all know.

Very well done indeed to all of the boys who learned a poem this year; likewise to my colleagues in the English Department for fostering and encouraging this ancient and important aspect of the subject we love. PWV

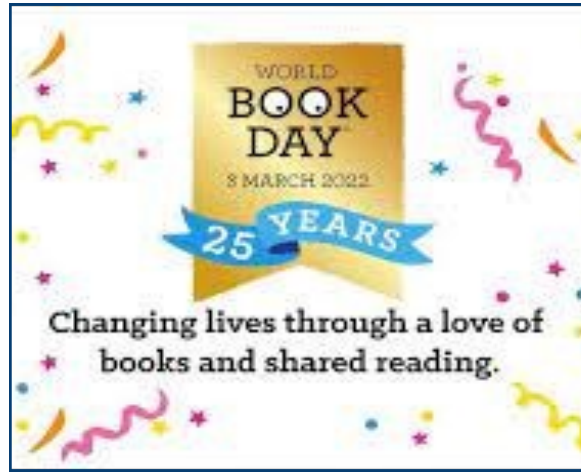


Cathedral Choristers at The Sheldonian

Our Cathedral Choristers returned early from their half term break to perform in an all Haydn programme at the Sheldonian. The concert included a cello concerto performed by Steven Isserlis with the boys performing Missa in tempore belli (Mass in Time of War) following the interval. Prior to performing the Mass, the Conductor of the Oxford

Philharmonic (Marios Papadopoulos) reflected, “Little did we know what the situation in Europe would be when we planned this concert”. Showing solidarity with the people of Ukraine, the Orchestra began this half of the concert by playing the Ukrainian National Anthem, a lyrical and somewhat melancholy piece composed by Mykhailo Verbytsky who himself founded a Cathedral Choir and Music School 1828.

Haydn wrote Missa in tempore belli in 1796 during Austria’s struggle against the French, four years into the Napoleonic War. Austria feared invasion and Haydn reflects this tension in the music with references to battle in the Benedictus and Agnus Die using the timpani to represent distant cannon fire. JR



Meet and Greet

Amanda Camarinha Fussthaler, Parent of Arthur

What did you want to be when you grew up and what are you doing now? I was born in Brazil and danced ballet for all my young life. I had big aspirations to become a professional ballet dancer, move to London, dance at the Royal Opera House and become a principal one day... However, as you grow older, you mature in life and I ended up with a BA in Tourism and Travel business. Eventually, I worked as an Executive Assistant for global companies. It was a time of intense work which I enjoyed a lot. For the time being, I look after my wonderful family.

If you could travel anywhere in the world tomorrow, where would you go and why? I would go to Russia to speak with Vladimir Putin and would tell him to end the war immediately. What happens at this very moment is absolutely unbelievable and unthinkable.

Who is your idol, and why? I wouldn't want to single out a specific person, but I admire human activists and their resulting products in every level, which involve imagination, talent, beauty, and emotional power. This is all related to art and allows people to express themselves regardless of whatever background they may come from.

Favourite city or town and in which season? Oxford in autumn and Fernando de Noronha all year round. A preserved national park and beautiful island in the north east coast of Brazil, it has limited entry capacities to protect the nature and its origins. A good example of sustainable tourism. There, you can swim with wild dolphins and learn about sea turtles. You will find several of the most beautiful beaches in the world there.

One thing you would change in the world if you could? Inclusion to be aimed at, and embraced by, all people. Irrespective of race, gender, abilities or nationality. I would also give equal access to opportunities and empower disadvantaged individuals. We can all contribute to our communities for a start.

Favourite Book? I can recommend some Brazilian Literature from internationally renowned authors. If you are curious about the country itself, it will enrich your perception about it and its culture. Two good ones are '*The Complete Stories*' by Clarice Lispector and '*My German Brother*' by Chico Buarque. For children, I recommend the poem '*Aquarela*' from Vinicius de Moraes. He is a wonderful writer and composer for Brazilian Popular Music. His work brings me fond memories of my time in school.

Is there a family trait/habit that you have? At New Year's Eve the family always only ever wears white. It is a Brazilian tradition and means wishing peace for everyone. If we happen to be on a beach, we would be watching fireworks and the children would jump seven waves, right after the clocks chime. This will bring luck for the coming year.

If you could start something new (hobby/interest or sport) and were not limited with time/age/ money, what would it be? I think I would like to learn how to ski properly. As a matter of fact, I have never been good at it and do not cope very well with snow. I am the total opposite of my husband, who is Austrian, loves the Alps and never feels cold.

Any advice on how to relax at the weekend? Just play endlessly with your children and have fun with them... and listen to Bossa Nova!

The Bossa Nova is on and I'm swaying and hoping that I am directly transported back to Brazil. I feel lucky to have the freedom, and a moment, to do so. I am picturing you all in white, jumping the waves; it sounds idyllic, civilised, and a special tradition to have - and far from the world we are in now, so thank you for a brief encounter elsewhere. Envious of your white outfit, my mother banned me from wearing white when I was 15 as I continually spilt food, and I suspect I was so nervous of wearing white, that my clumsiness only increased (hence the ban). I'm excited about the prospect of you learning to ski properly. Please lock this in, as I can see you en l'air. I don't know many Brazilian ballet dancers who can also graciously carve it down the mountain, but the combination of these two talents would be thrilling to watch. I'm wondering if, in your roles as an EA, you ever casually introduced a Sissone movement on your way to the water cooler, to break the intensity! Would have been lovely to witness. Thank you so much Amanda.

Enjoy your weekend,
Kathryn