



# Christ Church Cathedral School

Friday 6th May 2022

Dear Parents,

I have recently returned from a gathering of Heads of Choir Schools in Winchester – the first, as one might imagine, since the pandemic. Winchester, if you do not know it, is a place where one could almost imagine that one has stepped back to the magnificence of the Middle Ages. The Cathedral, the longest medieval building in Europe, sits quietly in its close, its exterior tarnished by the passing years into a mottled brown. Nothing about the exterior gives any hint of the gleaming brilliance of its interior which looks as though it was constructed yesterday. As one stands at the West End, the vault seems to carry onwards into the distant horizon, arch after arch running ever eastwards. It is utterly breathtaking. Many of the interesting talks were held in Winchester College, again another set of incomparable buildings set within the meadows of the River Itchen. The place seems to be completely unaltered since its foundation. There is an extraordinary sense of peace – the perfect place for study. One can walk from the College along the river, the scene which inspired the poet John Keats to write his 'Ode to Autumn', an incomparable poem which I will resist quoting because we are surrounded, as I write, by the beauties of Spring!

It was lovely to hear from the Staff I met at Winchester of how well our former pupils are getting on there. One of the things that I appreciate most about my job is the conversations I am able to have with Heads, Registrars and Staff from senior schools about boys at our School. Unlike the relationships between senior schools and universities which is very distant indeed, we know our senior schools very well and every year I will have had a huge number of conversations with senior schools about our boys – crucial to ensuring that they go to schools that really suit them.

During the course of this term we are, as ever, having a number of speakers come to Cathedral Assembly. Amongst the number are the Heads of Cheltenham College and of Cokethorpe and the Registrar of Eton. Please take advantage of these opportunities to meet these senior school figures. There is always coffee after the services and not only is it a lovely time to catch up with fellow parents but also to meet some most interesting people.

At the conference some senior pupils played and sang magnificently. It again struck me how much the pupils change during their time at a senior school, turning into young men with extraordinary talents. Nonetheless, it did lead me to have a couple of conversations with our boys and parents. When our Form 8 boys leave us at the end of this term, some of them will have been at CCCS since Nursery and Reception. Not only will they have arrived here unable to read and write, they will leave us being able to write complex essays and do intricate mathematical sums, as well as understand Latin. They will have been here for ten years, a particularly long time given that they are just 13. There are very few institutions which can have a more positive effect upon an individual than a school like ours. Not only is the time involved so lengthy but the influence occurs at such a profoundly formative time in their lives. Those of us who teach at a prep school are incredibly privileged to do so and we must always remember the huge responsibility that this entails.

At our conference, there was a great deal of talk about the benefits of a choral education – all of the Heads there were, of course, convinced of this and could see how profoundly the training affected the pupils concerned, both in terms of what they learn and the resources that such a training affords them. Senior schools are always very keen to take Choristers as they have extraordinary powers of concentration, often far in advance of their contemporaries; nothing is more powerful than the ability to concentrate, particularly in an era when young people find it increasingly difficult to focus for reasonable periods of time. We are the only school in the Choir Schools Association which has three chapel choirs, a remarkable statistic. If your son is not already in a choir, particularly if he is in a younger year, I would encourage you to think carefully about whether you might wish him to be in one. Ms Biddell would be very happy to have a conversation with you about options.

As I arrived at Pre-Prep Assembly this morning I was greeted with an excited young boy who wished me a Happy Christmas. Given that it was gleaming with spring-like freshness outside, I remarked that I thought that it was unlikely to be Christmas but that it was very sweet to be greeted so positively. "Well then," he replied. "It must be Easter - so can I have some chocolate please?" It's always important to think on one's feet.

Mr Murray  
Headmaster

## Trinity 2022

**Monday 9th - Sunday 15th May**

MONDAY 9	
	Form 8 Maths CE Exam
1.30 - 3.30	Athletics (Forms 7 & 8) (Radley College)
3.30 - 5.30	<b>Nursery Parents' Meetings (Nursery)</b>
4.00 - 5.00	After School Football Club (Reception - Form 2) (Merton Field)
TUESDAY 10	
	French Listening CE Exam (Form 8)
2.30	U8 v NCS (Away)
2.30	U9 A & B v NCS (Away)
4.00 - 5.00	After School Tennis Club (Reception - Form 2) (WWH)
WEDNESDAY 11	
	<b>Forms 3 &amp; 4 No Swimming</b>
9.00	Form 2 Trip to Oxford Botanic Gardens
9.30 - 11.30	Stay & Play
9.30	Athletics (Forms 3 & 4) (Radley College)
3.30 - 4.30	After School Chess Club (Form 2)
4.30 - 6.30	<b>Form 3 Tutor Meetings (SchoolCloud)</b>
THURSDAY 12	
	French Speaking CE Exam (Form 8)
4.00 - 5.00	After School Football Club (Forms 3 - 6) (Merton Field)
FRIDAY 13	
8.30	Cathedral Assembly, including Nursery and Pre-Prep speaker Mr Damian Ettinger, Headmaster, Cokethorpe School
9.45 - 12.45	Form 5 Trip to The New Theatre, Oxford
2.30	U8 v Dragon (Away)
2.30	U9 A & B v Dragon (Away)
4.00 - 5.00	After School Cricket Club (Reception - Form 2) (Merton Field)
	CC: OUT
SATURDAY 14	
SUNDAY 15	<i>The Fourth Sunday after Easter</i> <i>University Fourth Week</i>



### Summer Camp

**Summer Camp will be running for the first two weeks of the Summer Holidays.**

**Details to follow next week...**



## Music News



An important feature of Music at CCCS is our tradition of inviting senior boys to demonstrate their instruments for the Pre-Prep. Our younger pupils always enjoy these visits immensely, and they provide an excellent opportunity for Forms 7 and 8 to develop new leadership skills. It was particularly lovely to see Felix S talking about the tuba to Form 2 last week. He explained an array of mechanical features as well as describing the extraordinary history of his own instrument (which was used by a WAAF band in World War 2!)

I'm very grateful to all the senior boys who give up their time to be wonderful musical ambassadors, and look forward to many more visits later in the term. SB

## House Music Competition 2022

Boys in the Prep department are hard at work preparing for this year's House Music Competition. The last date for boys to win a point for their House - and try for a place in the Final on 20th May - will be Friday 13th May. There is one point available for every instrument played, and Jubilee-themed House Songs to learn too!

The ideal instrumental performance will be carefully-prepared and confident, with good attention to dynamics and phrasing. Boys should also make sure they choose something that they genuinely like playing, as this really does make a difference. Good luck Carroll, Sayers and Wolsey! SB

## Architecture Club News

Members of the Architecture Club enjoy the sun-blessed view atop Oxford's oldest building, the 11th century tower of St Michael-at-the-Northgate. There was once a St Michael-at-the-Southgate until Cardinal Wolsey put another building in its place. NR



## Joint Evensong



The Cathedral Choristers performed a joint Evensong with the choir of Chapel Royal on Tuesday. Prior to rehearsals beginning, our guests were invited to tour the library, in which are displayed original manuscripts from composers, included Byrd and Taverner.

Christ Church and Hampton Court Palace share the historical distinction of being both founded by Cardinal Wolsey and then taken over by Henry VIII, making for a unique musical collaboration.

Following the service, both choirs were treated to supper in the Great Hall, Christ Church. JR



## Photography Club

Did you spot us on Thursday? We were very 'focused' for our first Photography Club.

We were aiming to take amazing pictures on the theme of 'work'. Somehow, we went (only slightly) off-piste and took beautiful photos of Christ Church, its gardens and famous ducks! It was lovely to see how the boys helped each other as they learned how the editing features of their phones' lenses and cameras worked.

We will display the boys' photos by the end of Term. SB



## Cricket News

On Wednesday, we played Abingdon Prep School in a block fixture of Cricket. Our U11 A team hosted APS for their first Cricket fixture of the season. We won the toss and elected to bat first. Unfortunately, we struggled to score many runs off the bat and relied on wides and no balls to move our total forwards. The boys need to listen to Mr D's advice on backing up, running between the wickets and calling, as this would help them to add runs to their score more frequently. Henry and Ed both hit a boundary in their innings to leave us on 38. APS were able to put bat to ball more often and passed our total in 11 overs, shortly before the heavy rain hit.

Our B team played pairs Cricket, scoring 99 off of their 20 overs with some good batting. APS were on 27 from their 17 overs when heavy rain put an end to play, meaning the match ended in a draw.

Our 1st XI went into their fixture at APS without having had a practice. This was very apparent in certain areas of the game. APS scored 119 for 5 with only 40 runs coming off the bat! We need to become far more Cricket-aware when it comes to fielding and bowling, working together to reduce the opposition scoring runs.

Chasing 119, with some bad weather approaching, we changed tactics and used Tobias as a 'pinch hitter'. The gamble paid off with Tobias hitting three or four lusty blows to get us off to a very quick start. Thomas continued the good work, and got our run rate well above the required rate! A couple of quick wickets put us under a bit of pressure, but Maurits hit some excellent cover drives to keep us slightly in front. With rain coming down, Thomas accelerated again to give us a victory by 5 wickets with 2 and a half overs to go.

A great victory and a special congratulations to Thomas who scored 60 not out in his first innings of the season.

Our 2nd XI played at APS too. Despite a solid 25 runs from Sebastian and 13 from Ivan we lost heavily to a team that enjoyed hitting the ball. Dominic and Lawrence showed some promise when it came to bowling.

I am looking forward to having some Cricket practices so we can make further improvements to a promising start to the season. PD





# Classical Music at Dorchester Festival



**The King's Singers**  
Saturday 8th May 7.30pm



**Monteverdi Vespers**  
Thames Consort  
Saturday 7th May 7.30pm



**Maki Sekiya**  
Goldberg Variations  
Friday 6th May 6pm

**Amici Della Voce**  
BH Mon 2nd May 6pm  
*The Baltic Connection*  
Gorecki, Pärt, Miškinis,  
Dubra and Esenwalds.



**Garsington Opera**  
**Garden Concert**  
Saturday 30th April 4pm



**Concert with Two pianos**  
Thurs 5th May 6pm  
Maki Sekiya  
and Ilya Chetverikov  
*Debussy, Stravinsky and Rachmaninov*



[www.dorchesterfestival.com](http://www.dorchesterfestival.com)  
0333 666 3366



## Meet and Greet

Emma Hunt - Form I Teacher

**What did you want to be when you grew up and what are you doing now?** When I was younger, I loved to sing. I thought I could be the perfect addition to the Spice Girls or S Club 7. However, I was asked to leave ballet classes as I was more of a 'stomper' than a graceful dancer so maybe a solo career would have been a better idea. Now, I am lucky enough to be a part of the wonderful staff at CCCS. Sadly, I am leaving at the end of this term as I start my new adventure in Somerset after my wedding this Summer. CCCS will always hold a special place in my heart and the support I have had over the last 6 years and the brilliant friends I have made along the way will never be forgotten.

**If you could travel anywhere in the world tomorrow, where would you go and why?** I have never travelled to Australia or New Zealand. I'd love to see all of the wonderful sights and pop in to say Hi to Mr Cox!

**Who is your idol, and why?** I have two idols and they are my parents. They have been incredible role models as they are hardworking, kind, generous, supportive and are always there if I need them. They have always pushed me to be the best version of myself and their constant care and guidance has shaped me into the person I am today.

**Favourite city or town and in which season?** Positano in Italy in the summer. Sitting on the beautiful Amalfi beaches eating too much pizza and gelato is my idea of heaven.

**One thing you would change in the world if you could?** Family is very important to me. So, if I could change anything in the world it would be for all those families who have been parted during the pandemic or due to the current troubles, to be able to be together again.

**Favourite Book?** Since teaching I have fallen in love with children's literature. There is an amazing book called the 'The Book of Hopes' that was put together by Katherine Rundell during lockdown. It is a collection of work from a variety of famous authors and illustrators to comfort, inspire and entertain. Katherine wrote in the beginning of the book that 'Real true hope is not the promise that everything will be all right- but it's a belief that the world has so many strangenesses and possibilities that giving up would be a mistake; that we live in a universe shot through with the unexpected'. It's an incredible read and I would recommend getting a copy.

**Is there a family trait/habit that you have?** My whole family love board/card games and are horribly competitive when we play together. Luckily, my fiancé has the same competitive streak, but I was not impressed when he announced, "Shot gun not with Emma!" before playing one particular game.

**If you could start something new (hobby/interest or sport) and were not limited with time/age/money, what would it be?** I would love to learn a language. I recently went away with my sister-in-law to be and we were chatting with a waiter who spoke multiple languages. He said, "It's important to be able to communicate with the world as different languages and cultures bring joy and with better communication the world could be a happier place".

**Any advice on how you relax on them weekend?** I relax by surrounding myself with the things and people that bring me joy. I spend my weekends walking Gordon, eating lots of chocolate and having macaroni cheese with Miss Long in front of the FI.

I've got it, your calling! A good mix between ballet and stomp, is surely The Haka, 'Actions include the stomping of the foot, the protrusion of the tongue and rhythmic body slapping to accompany a loud chant', don't miss your moment at your first dance at your wedding, if your fiancé is competitive in the board game arena, let me tell you, it won't stop there, it may result in the ultimate dance off! The Haka is known to be a war cry to intimidate the (board game) enemy, but also to welcome special guests at celebrations, just leaving that visual there.

Somerset is cheering out aloud in regards to your impending arrival! A countrified Gordon will also be very much missed, and you made it through online learning with grace, patience and without skipping a beat, and left us all eternally grateful for never giving up, even when the computer said "No"

Do not forget there are many people here who would definitely shot-gun with Emma.

Enjoy your weekend,

Kathryn  
PA