



Christ Church Cathedral School

Friday 13th May 2022

Dear Parents,

Those of us who were lucky enough to be in the Upper Library last Friday were given an extraordinary treat. The room was looking resplendent in the sunshine, its airy spaces illuminated by the early evening light. The walls of old leather tomes, tanned with the ages, lent a deep patina to the room which must have struck everyone present. The librarians had laid out some incomparable treasures. In pride of place was a book of biblical passages commissioned by Cardinal Wolsey. As with everything he did, he spared no expense. The volume was made from vellum, effectively animal skin – indeed each double page was made from an entire animal. Just to show how much had been spent on the book, only a small amount of writing had been put on each page. The illustrations were truly sumptuous. The colours were dazzlingly vibrant as if they had only been painted that very morning. On every page, the Cardinal's coat of arms had been painstakingly painted. There were other treasures too. We were the first group ever to have been shown a copy of the first bible ever printed in America which had been published in Boston in the Mid 17th Century. There was a visitors' book from the Deanery at the time of Henry Liddell and in it the very clear signature of his famous daughter Alice. I also saw a 1st edition of Copernicus's book where he outlines his revolutionary theory that the earth went around the sun. The book was open at the page where he had drawn a little diagram of the sun surrounded by the planets. We were looking, therefore, at the very first reliable illustration of the solar system. Here at Christ Church we are so lucky to have access to such extraordinary treasures.

As you will have seen from the posters around the City, we have held two very successful Open Days recently, one last Saturday when we held a Chorister Afternoon and one Stay & Play on Wednesday. In both cases there were good numbers of people and both events were thoroughly enjoyed by all concerned. The visiting boys at Chorister Afternoon loved being in the colourful environment in which they found themselves and were delighted to sit in the Great Hall, at what they decided was the Gryffindor Table. At the Stay & Play, the young pupils were sent on a Bear Hunt around the Nursery garden, searching high and low for carefully hidden bears. Both events were attended by some of our older pupils who sung with the potential choristers and helped play with the bear hunters. In both cases the parents remarked on how helpful and charming our boys had been. We are so fortunate in our senior pupils and though I love this time of year greatly, it is always somewhat clouded by the fact that we lose our Form 8s. Having said that, it is always a matter of pride to see these charming young men heading off into the world to attend their senior schools.

At this time of year, the cow parsley is at its most verdant. The Woodland School really is a picture, so very different from the way it looks in the autumn. Mown paths wind their way through the cow parsley and under the canopy of leaves – it is a wonderful place for the children to be. We spend a good deal of time over at the fields this term, taking the pupils who do not have Games that day over to the pitches at lunchtime. One really does have to remind oneself how fortunate we are to have such extensive fields in the middle of a city.

Exam season has begun. Some elements of Common Entrance Maths and French have been sat this week. I have been very impressed by the calmness of the boys. I believe strongly that we should be training our pupils how to take exams and how to revise. If they arrive at their senior schools knowing how to do so, they will have such an advantage over many of their fellow pupils who have had far less practice.

But it's so important that our pupils continue to develop other skills too. Our Art Exhibition, which is being assembled by Mrs Cottrell as we speak, will be open for viewing after the House Music Competition this time next week. All around the School people are auditioning for the competition, playing musical instruments at all times - during break time, at lunch, in between lessons. The place is awash with sound. Meanwhile, the House songs are underway; this year the theme is a patriotic one in honour of the jubilee. I am looking forward to next week hugely. In the meantime, have a lovely weekend!

Mr Murray
Headmaster

Trinity 2022
Monday 16th - Sunday 22nd May

MONDAY 16	
3.30 - 4.30	Arts Week begins (WWH) After School Chess Club (Forms 3 & 4)
TUESDAY 17	
10.00 - 12.00	Forms 3 & 4 trip to the Story Museum
12.00 - 8.00	WC: Trip to Worcester Cathedral
2.45	U9 A v Manor Prep (Home)
2.45	U8 A v Manor Prep (Home)
4.00 - 5.00	After School Tennis Club (Reception - Form 2) (WWH)
WEDNESDAY 18	
2.15	1st XI v Bruern Abbey (Home)
2.15	2nd XI v Bruern Abbey (Away)
3.30 - 4.30	After School Chess Club (Form 2)
THURSDAY 19	
4.00 - 5.00	After School Football Club (Forms 3 - 6) (Merton Field)
FRIDAY 20	
8.30	Cathedral Assembly, speaker Nicola Huggett, Head, Cheltenham College
1.30 - 4.00	House Music Competition (Christ Church Cathedral) Adjudicator, Howard Ioanascu, Director of Chapel Music, Winchester College
2.30	Art Exhibition closes (WWH)
4.00 - 5.00	After School Cricket Club (Reception - Form 2) (Merton Field)
	CC: IN
SATURDAY 21	CC: Depart for Choir Tour to Sweden (return 28.05.22)
SUNDAY 22	<i>The Fifth Sunday after Easter</i> <i>University Fifth Week</i>



Forms 3 and 4 Swimming

Please can all boys in Forms 3 & 4 bring loose fitting, light-weight pyjamas AND their swimwear to wear underneath, for Swimming on Wednesday. Thank you. ADM

School Baptisms

Every year, children at the School have the opportunity to be baptised. This year's School Baptism will take place during the Cathedral Assembly on Friday 17th June.

If you would like your child to be baptised (at any age), or to know more, please get in touch with the Chaplain:

philippa.white@chch.ox.ac.uk / 01865 276214 or the Registrar: registrar@cccs.org.uk

A letter with more details will follow next week. PW

Nursery News



This week Nursery have been finding out about the Muslim Celebration of Eid-ul-Fitr.

Tammy brought her beautiful outfit in from home that she wore to celebrate the end of Ramadan with her family. She proudly put it on to show her friends.

We read a story called 'Sweet Dates to Eat' by Johnny Zucker and we all enjoyed tasting dates. NE



Form 2 News



On Wednesday morning in a drizzle, we walked to the Botanic Garden and met Tegan. First, we mixed two colours to see what colours they made. Hugo.

Then we were told to find a heart shaped leaf, a circular leaf and a star shaped leaf. I observed some pitcher plants that looked like a jug. Albert.

My second favourite part was the cactus room because it made me cooler and I found a very big cactus which I found interesting and a cactus that looked a little bit like a green man with some yellow and green spikes sticking out of his body. Terry.

We went to a rainforest and we found a pink banana. After that we found a pineapple, cotton and coffee. I learnt about the levels of the rainforest (the floor, the understory and the canopy). Pericles.



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

Art News

Christ Church Cathedral School's Art Exhibition

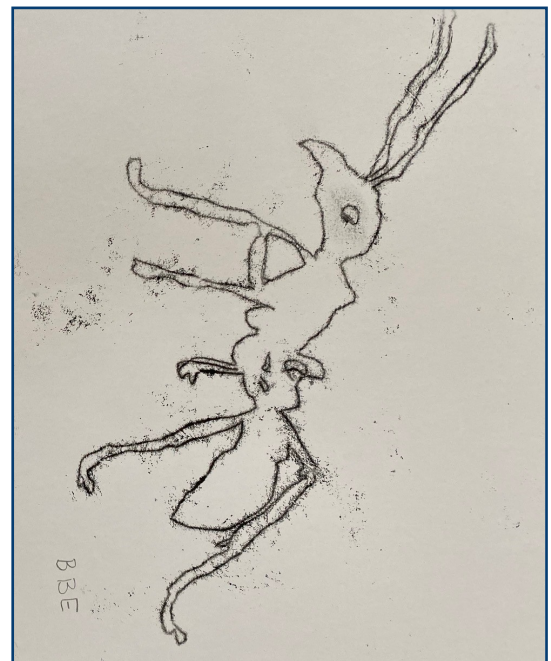
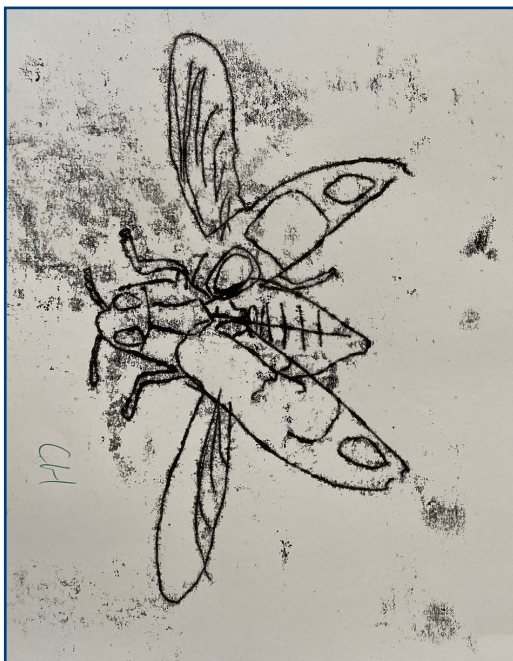
Private View - Friday 20th May, 4.00 - 5.30 pm
(following the House Music Competition 4pm - 5.30pm)

Open for Parents to View
Monday 23rd - Friday 27th May during school hours



We invite you to come and visit our Art Exhibition. You will be able to see our school corporate handprint Art piece, made to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee and your son and his peers' artistic pieces created this year!

We look forward to welcoming you. EC



PEMBROKE AND WORCESTER CHORISTER VOICE TRIALS



I am excited to announce that voice trials for the Worcester and Pembroke Chapel Choirs will take place in school on the morning of 6th June. These informal auditions are aimed at boys in Forms 3 and 4, although there are some places available for boys in older years too.

Worcester Choristers sing Tuesday and Sunday chapel evensongs during the eight weeks of Oxford University Term, alongside the student altos, tenors and basses of Worcester Choir. They rehearse at 8.00 am on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, as well as after school on Fridays. Worcester Choristers receive free singing and Theory tuition in school, and are regularly prepared for singing exams.

Pembroke Choristers sing Sunday evensongs in their chapel during the University Term, and there are rehearsals in school at 8.05 am on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Pembroke Chapel Choir is a mixed choir of men and women, but since 2019 Christ Church boys have sung the top line alongside the soprano student members of Pembroke College.

All choristers are popular with senior schools due to their self-discipline, confidence and musicality. The Worcester Choristers have a fine record of winning Music awards to their next schools, and one of our Form 8 boys in Pembroke's first ever intake of choristers was awarded a Music award at St Edward's.

At voice trial, boys will be asked to sing a short, simple piece (something learnt in class, or a favourite hymn will do) and undertake simple aural tests. Everything will be done to ensure boys feel at ease... it really isn't scary at all! Parents who think their son might be interested should contact Miss Biddell (biddell.s@cccs.org.uk).



Form 5 News

What a treat! We took Form 5 to the New Theatre, Oxford this morning to see *Gangsta Granny* by David Walliams, who is a much-loved children's author. Our boys found the performance hilarious - there was much laughter throughout.

I fear that attempting to steal the Crown Jewels may appeal to Form 5 now... and they are really hoping that cabbage soup and cabbage cakes will **not** be on our school lunch menu anytime soon.

Hopefully we are now in the 'Post-Covid' era and we will be able to enjoy such local trips more frequently in the near future. SL

Music News

House Music Competition 2022 - I have so enjoyed hearing auditions for this year's Music Competition, which have - for the first time - spilled out into *al fresco* break-time performances. As well as auditioning with their 'serious' pieces, boys have been busy teaching each other instruments to win as many points as possible. String players have been teaching the viola to wind players, brass players have been teaching the horn to woodwind players, and we've even had the saxophone and oboe taught by Form 4 boys to their friends. I have loved hearing so many boys getting an insight into the challenges of new instruments. As infinite performances of 'Hot Cross Buns' echo across school, we're all reminded that this really is a competition for everybody, no matter the stage of their musical life!

The Music Competition final will take place in the Cathedral at 1.30 pm on Friday 20th May. A list of instrumental finalists has now gone up in school, and every Prep pupil will be involved in the House choir performances too. Parents will be very welcome to attend, but if you can't make it in person then you can follow the live-stream at https://youtu.be/7UqkR7pUe_U.

Pupils should wear their white shirts to school next Friday.

We are fortunate to have Howard Ioanascu as this year's adjudicator. Mr Ioanascu was, for five years, Director of the Junior Academy of the Royal Academy of Music, and he is currently Director of Chapel Music at Winchester College. I am very much looking forward to hearing his thoughts about our instrumentalists and choirs, so hope that as many of you as possible will be able to join us next Friday! SB



Gardening Club News



CCCS Eco and Gardening Club is in full swing and we are busy weeding, digging, planting and watering.

This week one half of the club's members picked out cucumber and tomato seeds then laid them out to dry on some kitchen towel before planting them in pots next week.



Meanwhile, the other group spent time heroically tackling the bed of monster weeds outside the DT room. Much to the delight of the Club, the herb and flower seeds planted in recycled egg boxes last week are growing at speed on the sunny Form 3 classroom windowsill. Thank you, Mrs Green and Form 3! CS and AEW

Meet and Greet

Jia Sun - Parent of Alexander

What did you want to be when you grew up and what are you doing now? I wanted to be a politician when I was young, but I can't believe that I have been living in the UK for over 15 years. Now I am a businessman.

If you could travel anywhere in the world tomorrow, where would you go and why? I'd like to travel to Egypt because I like their culture and I would like to explore the mysterious history of Egypt.

Who is your idol, and why? Winston Churchill is my idol. I admire his courage and his willingness never to give up.

Favourite city or town and in which season? Beijing is my favourite city, every season is beautiful but especially winter. When it is snowing, the very classic atmosphere fills all of the city. I also like London, I think the best season in London is summer.

One thing you would change in the world if you could? I wish there would be no war in the world. The Russia and Ukraine conflict has made millions of refugees, many cities have been destroyed and thousands of citizens killed. It is really a disaster in the 21st century.

Favourite Book? *Fortress Besieged* written by Qian Zhongshu. This book is about marriage, family, traditional Chinese literati. Also, you can see the whole of Chinese society through the description of many fictional characters.

Is there a family trait/habit that you have? Our family have a sumptuous dinner every Saturday. We drink some wine and the kids drink beverages. We have different eating times during weekdays, but we eat and drink and have lots of talking on Saturday nights. My father and grandfather did the same when I was a child.

If you could start something new (hobby/interest or sport) and were not limited with time/age/money, what would it be? I would like to learn an instrument like piano or cello. My son is learning the piano now and I always enjoy his playing. So I wish I could play too, and one day play together.

Any advice on how you relax on them weekend? Every weekend I will find some short and nice place to walk my dog, enjoying nature with my family - of course on the sunny days. Sometimes we go to museums and the London Barbican. There are lots of good restaurants in London and these are the best places to relax.

I am very interested in your 'Sumptuous Saturday' evening tradition, making it a special occasion to look forward to each week and I love that there is a designated time and lots of talking. It must be a really fun, noisy and exhausting evening, but one worth waiting for - you have the whole week to gather news and prepare for the coming Saturday. I admire your discipline - it only highlights my lack of discipline. I generally can not wait for anything, so you may be able to suggest some tips on patience! I completely agree with you on Beijing, such a vibrant and buzzing city, full to the brim of fascinating culture and history, I can only imagine how pretty it is in the winter time. I could listen to Alexander play the piano all day long, he is probably qualified to teach you, Jia, and he might even give you a family discount for the tuition fees! Thank you.

Enjoy your weekend,

Kathryn