



Christ Church Cathedral School

Friday 14th January 2022

Dear Parents,

This is the season when I spend a great deal of my time writing references about boys for their future schools. It is a process which I much enjoy because it allows me to focus upon our pupils as individuals and to concentrate upon their characters and all the things that they have achieved. The references have much in common with each other, of course – I find myself so easily able to find positive things to say about people, but they are also always different and I think that one of the most important aspects of a reference is to convey a sense of the character and colour of the particular pupil. Every year Mrs Fisher and I talk to parents about applying for senior schools and one of our most important messages is about the importance of choosing the right school for the right person. I'm convinced this approach is the right one as it is so obvious when I write references that people are so varied. I am always delighted to talk to parents about future schools – after all it is one of the principal purposes of a Preparatory School. When we invite prospective parents and pupils to our school Open Mornings parents will often say that the most impressive aspect of the school are the pupils who show them round. I am so delighted that our pupils have a reputation for politeness and thoughtfulness. I don't think these values are ever out of date and so we will continue to promote them.

We are always fortunate to have Gap Year Students in the school. At the moment our 'Gappers' are both from Sydney, Miss Halmerick and Miss Love. 'Gappers' are very important. They have to be exceptionally flexible in what they do and they have a habit of springing up all over the place – on tick off, on Brewer Street as greeters, in Pre-Prep listening to readers, on the bus run, on the edge (and sometimes in the middle) of football pitches – we really are very grateful to them for all they do. It has been quite an experience for them arriving in Britain, respectively, in November and January from Australia. Miss Love was on Brewer Street at the beginning of this term standing in –1°C telling me that the water temperature in the sea in Sydney at the moment is 21°C. She said she had never owned cold weather clothes. That has now changed! We then went on to a discussion about the Cotswold stone. I told her that it is particularly beautiful when the sunlight falls on it. It was a cloud-covered morning at 8.15 in early January. She squinted through the darkness looking at the rather grey stone in front of her, having to take my word for it that the stone could often look the colour of golden honey. I am certain that the delights of Oxford will become increasingly obvious as the year advances and indeed one can already feel things brightening up at the end of the day – a very welcome experience.

The Revd Canon Bruce Kinsey, Chaplain of Balliol College, came to speak to the boys this morning. He talked about following one's path in life. One of the stories he told was of a tightrope walker who had crossed the Niagara Falls on a tightrope. As if this was not enough, he decided to make it a little more spicy by pushing a wheelbarrow across the rope, which he duly proceeded to do. Now that's what I call serious talent! At Coffee afterwards one of the parents said that in a major international company, employees were no longer known as staff but as 'Talent'. I think this is a particularly appropriate name for the staff of our school, given how many talented people there are here. I am debating whether to rename the staffroom, 'the talent room' – or, another thought, how about 'the inspiration room'?

We were also discussing the extraordinary expansion of Bicester which has occurred in the last few years. The parent told me about a man he knew who had bought up an old scrap yard on the edge of the town and had an idea of a rather unusual shopping centre – he was laughed at by many at the time. Few would now question the foresight of the founder of Bicester Village! It reminded me of two things, firstly that we must always look for opportunities in the most unlikely of places – and secondly, that you have many fascinating conversations at Cathedral Coffee and I would be delighted to see you there on any Friday morning during term time.

Mr Murray
Headmaster

Hilary 2022

Monday 17th - Sunday 23rd January

MONDAY 17 4.00 - 5.00	After School Teddy Soccer Club (Reception, Forms 1 & 2) (WWH)
TUESDAY 18 4.00 - 5.00	After School Teddy Tennis Club (Reception, Forms 1 & 2) (WWH)
WEDNESDAY 19 9.00 - 11.45 2.30	Form 2 Trip to The History of Science Museum UI1 & UI2 v The Dragon (Home)
THURSDAY 20	
FRIDAY 21 8.30	Cathedral Assembly, including Pre-Prep and Nursery, speaker the Headmaster CC:IN
SATURDAY 22	
SUNDAY 23	<i>The Third Sunday after The Epiphany</i> <i>University Second Week</i>

The Pudding Competition



Please follow the link below for individual entry information:

[The Platinum Pudding Competition | A Recipe Fit for The Queen - Fortnum & Mason \(fortnumandmason.com\)](https://www.fortnumandmason.com/the-platinum-pudding-competition)



To celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee next term, we are launching a CCCS Pudding Competition alongside the National Platinum Pudding Competition being run by Fortnum and Mason.

The boys in each of the three houses, plus Pre-Prep, are invited to produce a favourite pudding and bring it into school. The puddings will be judged by staff and Mr Kilby. A winner will be chosen from each house and one from Pre-Prep; the winning puddings will be made after Easter, on the day we have our celebration. ADM

In order that all boys are able to take part, we will be holding the judging on the following Mondays. So, please can the puddings (nut free) be brought into school on:

Carroll - Monday 31st January

Sayers - Monday 7th February

Pre-Prep - Monday 14th February

Wolsey - Monday 28th February

Reception News

Reception boys made their own sandwiches on Thursday. The boys had to sequence pictures to put instructions in the right order, then follow them to make sandwiches that were fit for a lighthouse keeper!

They all had to concentrate hard when spreading the butter and then it was a difficult choice... would it be cheese or ham? Before cutting their sandwiches into neat triangles, they topped them with a special lighthouse stamp. The perfect lunch! RF



Form 2 News



Form 2 boys began the new term with an outdoor Art lesson. We went to Christ Church to do some observational drawings of the College.

The boys loved looking at the unusual shapes of the doors and windows and the beautiful colours of the stone.

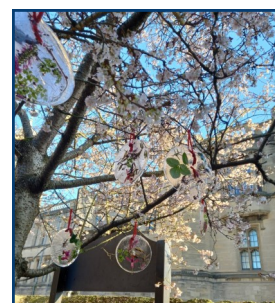
A Stonemason from the College came over and told us all about the replacing of the stones every 250 years! EF



Nursery News

As the temperature fell this week, Nursery children were excited to find frozen puddles at the bottom of our slide and in the various pots and pans in our mud kitchen where rain water had previously collected.

We decided to make the most of these beautiful sunny, yet freezing, days to create some natural 'ice pictures'. We collected leaves, berries, seeds and sticks in the Woodland School and arranged them on plates. We covered them in tap water and left them in the garden to see what would happen. Our 'ice pictures' didn't disappoint! We're hoping they will still be hanging in our tree on Monday morning but that does mean it will have to stay very cold all weekend!! NE



More Nursery News...



Our 'Sound of the Week' has been **L** and we have certainly been busy with lots of activities and stories based around the letter. We made lions, lemon linguine and fantastic lighthouses (with real lights).

Our friends who took home the 'Sharing Bag' this week found some very original objects beginning with **l**! Thank you to everyone at home who helped find things to share. **NE**



CCCS School Barber



We are delighted to welcome Andrea Chrisostomou to the school as our 'in-house' School Barber. Andrea will be available, by appointment, for haircuts in the Walton Centre on Fridays from 4.10 - 6.00 pm and most Saturday afternoons from 1.00 - 6.00 pm for all CCCS pupils and staff.



Ms Chrisostomou is a professional hairdresser and is the mother of Luca Taylor, who was a Cathedral Chorister here until last year so she is very familiar with the school, our routines and the boys. Having a Barber onsite is a brilliant opportunity that will enable parents to bring boys in for haircuts without the need for parking in town and waiting in busy salons for haircuts.

Services	Costs
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

Give Andrea a call on **07748 105192** to book an appointment.

Football News



On Wednesday 12th January we took two senior teams to play football against The Dragon.

Our 1st XI, which included some younger boys, took on a strong Dragon A team. The boys all worked hard and had the first opportunity to implement the playing style we have been working on in our last few Games lessons. With our opponents being very physical, it was important to move the ball quickly and try to exploit the space in wide areas.

We played some very attractive football and we created quite a few chances to score. Defensively, the boys worked really hard to stay compact and hold out the strong Dragon attack. We made ourselves very difficult to play through in central areas but did, unfortunately, concede two long-range efforts which resulted from a couple of counter attacks.

Although the game finished as a 4-0 defeat there were plenty of positives for us to take forward. Well done to Ed Hare, Troy and Henry for stepping up to play for the 1st XI and not looking at all out of place. Jeremy, Merlin, Tom and Maurits all gave stand out performances!



Our 2nd XI played against The Dragon 3rd team. It was a closely fought contest, which saw Arlan score for us from outside the box and we lead 1-0 at half time. In the second half, The Dragon strung a few more passes together and with the sun directly in our goal keeper's eyes, The Dragon scored 4 goals.



Matthew B and Arlan both worked very hard throughout and Kit showed some glimpses of being a useful defender. We need to practise our shooting as despite creating several chances, we converted only the one, which proved to be the difference.



Thursday afternoon saw our two U9 teams travelling to play The Manor Prep School in Abingdon. We started very well taking a quick two-goal lead and playing some very good football indeed. Unfortunately, at 2-0 up, our teamwork and togetherness were replaced by players looking for individual gains and trying to do far too much on the ball. This allowed The Manor to rescue a draw. Hopefully, this will give the boys a chance to recognise the importance of playing as a team and sticking to our style of play for the entire game,

regardless of whether we are winning or losing.

Our U9B team staged a brilliant 6-1 victory against The Manor Prep School. A quick start saw a VAR-style goal awarded with the last touch coming off Navraj. Buoyed by this, Navraj found the net twice more to bag a hat trick in our first match. Two good goals from Milan and one from Matthew, who worked tirelessly in midfield, capped off the win.

A great afternoon boys and let's maintain this, going forward. PD



CCCSPA

Welcome back and I hope you are safe and well. The days are getting longer which can only be a good thing, as the years seem to fly on by. The PA are starting to gather up ideas for the months ahead and hope that we can build on some good ideas and plans we finished the year with.

Meet and Greet

Jen Watkiss - Parent of Isaac, Form 6

What did you want to be when you grew up and what are you doing now? I've always been a lover of language and words, and knew that somehow I'd end up in a career that involved writing. I'm also very curious. I've landed in Marketing for various technology and industrial companies, which scratches both itches of learning about new and/or very niche businesses, and ferreting out the stories worth telling about them.

If you could travel anywhere in the world tomorrow, where would you go and why? I'm all-consumed at the moment by the issue of whether or not Omicron will scupper our plans to finally see our family in Canada this Christmas (just passed) But in slightly less fraught times, Tokyo has been on my "to visit" list for ages. Aside from a love of Japanese food, I'm fascinated with the way technology seems to integrate with personal life in ways we don't tend to imagine further West. I remember studying innovations out of Japanese Mobile companies while at Uni that we are still just adopting today. Not to mention the street fashion! I am nowhere near cool enough to pull off any of their looks, but I could happily sit for days and just take it all in.

Favourite city or town and in which season? Probably heavily coloured by the aforementioned trip to Canada, but I've found it hard to top Vancouver on a sunny early-Spring day, where you could genuinely both sail and ski in the same 24h, all among gorgeous scenery and world-class food (can you tell I'm writing this near dinner time!)

One thing you would change in the world if you could? Remove barriers to global mobility. People's abilities to live, love, and work wherever they can feel safe and contribute best shouldn't be hampered by the accident of their birth and the passport they hold.

What is your favourite book? I couldn't possibly pick a favourite, but a few novels stick with me long after I've finished them, and I catch myself wondering what the characters are doing before I remember they're not real. The most recent of those was A Little Life by Hanya Yanagihara.

Is there a family trait/habit that you have? Curiosity. We are all champions at turning idle rhetorical questions into fact-finding missions.

If you could start something new (hobby/interest or sport) and were not limited with time/age/money, what would it be? I'd move to a small holding and start an agricultural project of sorts. I still have an unfinished project of creating a BLT sandwich entirely from scratch, which went off-track when we ended up with a sheep instead of a pig at a livestock auction. But that's a story for another day.

Any advice on how to relax at the weekend? I love cooking. Not the end of the workday rush to shove some sort of sustenance into everyone as efficiently as possible, but the rare weekend endeavour when there's time for exploration of what's in season, or looking good at the market, and then pottering about with seasonings and sauces and sides for hours. Then the joy of enjoying the fruits of that labour with family or friends until we're stuffed and lolling about with a digestif and talking well into the evening. Even better if someone else does the inevitable cleaning up the next morning!

Reading through Jen's responses simply made me very hungry and search my desk for leftover nuts or anything remotely edible, from this weekend of cooking I had visuals of a Nigella Lawson type spread, not to mention the idea of creating a BLT from scratch. Wow. I have heard about this being done, how would you manage your expectations of the outcome flavour? The obvious difficulty being it takes many months and seasons to get the ingredients together and I'm not proud of it, but I can eat a BLT in a matter of minutes. How would you slow down the consumption to have it match the effort, dedication and cost? An idea that returns the original value to our simple sandwich. Brilliant. Curiosity is by far one of the greatest gifts one can receive and I am sure, and I hope, it is contagious, especially after reading about Jen. I can't help thinking about that sheep....

Have a lovely weekend,

Kathryn
PA