



# Christ Church Cathedral School

Friday 21st January 2022

Dear Parents,

The organ in the Cathedral is being serviced. We're not talking about dropping it in for a quick MOT; rather the whole instrument has been surrounded by an intricate construction of scaffolding which will allow the technicians to get to all the hundreds of pipes. It is a complex business. This morning the scaffolders were working to such a tight deadline that they could not stop to allow us to hold our service in the Cathedral. We had, instead to move to the Chapter House where we all gathered, surrounded by the glorious mediaeval faces which have looked out across the light-filled spaces of the building for hundreds of years. Mr Dickinson himself sat underneath the carved face, which has been given a new nose by the modern day mason who was responsible for the brilliant renovation. We were visited by The Revd Andrew Allen, Chaplain of Exeter College, who spoke to us about the differences between outward appearance and inward reality. He reminded us about the importance of taking time to get to know one another and of not making too many hasty assumptions about people, which would often prove to be inaccurate.

Anyone who has read any Shakespeare will know that the difference between appearance and reality is one of the major concerns of Shakespeare's plays. Talking of the works of the Bard, I asked on Monday in Assembly the old chestnut, "Who has made any New Year's resolutions?" One fairly young boy put up his hand with great enthusiasm. "I want to read all of Shakespeare's books this year." He did ask me slightly nervously a little later how many books Shakespeare had written. I explained that he had written 37 plays 154 sonnets, and some other poems in addition. Greatly to his credit he looked completely undaunted. I am very pleased that such ambition is being nurtured in the School, even if I have a slight suspicion that he may have bitten off slightly more than he can chew, so to speak.

I look forward to Cathedral Assembly next week when Nursery and Pre-Prep will be attending and the Sub Dean will talk to us and bless two trees which we are planting to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The Christ Church Gardeners have kindly agreed to bring the trees into the Cathedral for the occasion, their last journey before being planted firmly in the ground. I hope that as many of you as are able to, will join us.

Last Monday is sometimes referred to as Blue Monday, the day which certain experts have worked out is the most depressing day of the year. A calculation has been made which can, it is suggested, prove that the third Monday in January should indeed have this reputation. It is:

$[W+(D-d)] \times TQ / M \times Na$

where W=weather, d=debt, D=monthly salary, T=time since Christmas, Q=time since the failure of new year's resolutions, M=low motivational levels, and Na=the feeling of a need to take action.

One expert writes of this complex formula:

"The lack of any explanation for what is meant by 'weather' and 'low motivational levels' means the dimensional homogeneity of the resulting formula cannot be assessed or verified, rendering it similarly meaningless."

I didn't put it quite so succinctly to my audience but suggested that there was every reason for us to feel positive, including the fact that it was a beautifully sunny morning. I was able to quote the wisdom of Winnie the Pooh, including: "I don't feel very much like Pooh today," said Pooh.

"There there," said Piglet. "I'll bring you tea and honey until you do."

Which led me to talk about the delight of small treats and secondly my favourite of all: "Any day spent with you is my favourite day." I was then able to spend the day in school so it became my favourite day!

I am pleased to say that the message of the talk must have rubbed off on one of the boys who responded, when asked how he was, with the word "Blissful!" No Blue Monday at CCCS.

And indeed there has been so much to be blissful about this week including the wonderful inventions carefully drawn by Form 2 following their study of Leonardo da Vinci which showed so much imagination and inventiveness – who knows what brilliant gadgets of the future will be invented by our inventive and ambitious pupils. I hope you have a blissful weekend.

Mr Murray  
Headmaster

## Hilary 2022

**Monday 24th - Sunday 30th January**

MONDAY 24	
3.30 - 4.30	After School Chess Club (Forms 3 & 4)
4.00 - 5.00	After School Teddy Soccer Club (Reception, Forms 1 & 2) (WWH)
4.10 - 5.00	After School Ancient Greek Club (forms 7 & 8)
TUESDAY 25	<i>The Conversion of Paul</i>
2.30	Form 2 v Church Cowley School (Home)
4.00 - 5.00	After School Teddy Tennis Club (Reception, Forms 1 & 2) (WWH)
WEDNESDAY 26	
2.30	U13 A & B v Bruern Abbey (Away)
3.30 - 4.30	After School Chess Club (Form 2)
THURSDAY 27	
2.30	U8 & U9 v Church Cowley School (Home)
FRIDAY 28	
8.30	Cathedral Assembly, including Pre-Prep and Nursery, speaker the Headmaster CC:IN
SATURDAY 29	
11.15	Picture Gallery - Cardinal Scholars
SUNDAY 30	
	<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://fortnumandmason.com)**

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 had fun preparing for their cookery lesson on Thursday. They all washed their hands and put on their CCCS aprons. The task was to make marbled vanilla and chocolate butterfly cakes. The children followed the recipe carefully and weighed out all the ingredients. The final cakes were superb. RF



## Pre-Prep News



Reception and Form 1 enjoying their outdoor lesson on how to use a hammer BANG, BANG, BANG!!

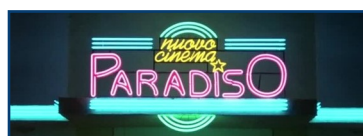


## Languages News

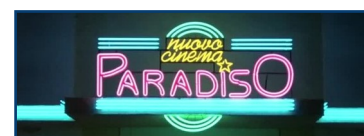
We were delighted to launch a new scheme and announce our first Language Ambassadors.

The boys, in Forms 3 - 7, have shown a passion for languages, taken part in extra-curricular linguistic challenges and worked at consistently high standards in French lessons.

Bravo Adam, Rory, Navraj, Hugo, Trust, Franklin, Hugo, Micky, Sener, Peter, Jason, Isaac, Thomas et Eren! We are sure that more boys will become Language Ambassadors in the future. SL & AEW



## Desert Island News



The Travelling Oceanic Picture House will be unfurling its silver screen between the palm trees of the Desert Island on Monday 31st, and boys and parents are warmly welcome.

The format is broadly the same as for Desert Island English, except that instead of bringing extracts of literature to share, boys are asked to let me know the details (usually YouTube) of a two or three minute film clip of which they are especially fond, and then come along ready to offer a little context before showing it and a little comment after.

Might anyone who would like to attend – on a first come, first served basis – kindly let me know by sending an email with the link to your film clip to [watson.p@cccs.org.uk](mailto:watson.p@cccs.org.uk) . Meanwhile, the Desert Island Popcorn Maker will be out gathering grains to put in his cooking pot for the big night. PW



## Football News



On Wednesday 19th January we hosted two teams from the Dragon - an U12 side and a Colts team.



In the U12 game both sides began playing a positive style of football. Dragon took an early lead, but we stuck to our game plan, realising the importance of holding our shape. This allowed Jeremy to play the ball out of a congested midfield area to Yourui on the left wing, who exploited the space well and scored from just outside the area with a powerful shot into the top left corner of the net.

Two goals in quick succession from Florian and Hugh gave us a two-goal lead, rewarding our hard work and wide build up play. Dragon scored just before the break to leave the game 3-2 to us at half time. The second half saw more end to end football with both teams in search of the next goal. A mixture of good defending and some slightly wasted opportunities from both sides meant that there were no second half goals and our U12 claimed their first victory of the season.



In the Colts match, it is fair to say that we dominated the game both with possession as well as territory, so it was a shock when Dragon scored the opening goal after a break away. To our credit we continued to fight hard and didn't lose hope.



We didn't keep our shape quite as well as the older boys did in their match. Despite being so strong 'on paper', we still didn't gel as well as we could have, as a team. We managed to create several chances, hitting the post on a few occasions, before Will S got on the end of a fantastic cross from Troy to equalise the game; 1-1 was the final score.

We need to develop more of a 'killer instinct' in the box, so that we can finish games off properly and be more decisive when it comes to our decision making.

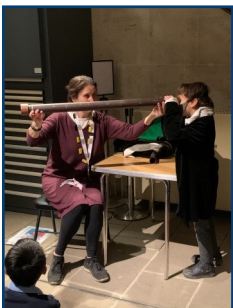
A very good afternoon of football for CCCS! PD

## Form 2 News



Form 2 boys spent the most informative morning at the Oxford History of Science Museum.

A big thank you to Helen Pooley who led a workshop about space explorers, teaching the boys about various constellations, Galileo Galilei and the planets of our Solar System. EF



## 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.



## **Special Cathedral Assembly**

**We would like to invite you to attend the  
Blessing of Trees  
for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.**



**Held in the Cathedral  
on Friday 28th January 8.45 am  
(Parking is available on the Broad Walk from  
8.15 am until 10.00 am)  
Tea, coffee and mini Victoria Sponges will be  
served afterwards in the Chapter House  
of the Cathedral.**

**We look forward to seeing you there.**

**Kind regards, Rebecca Farmer Head of Pre-Prep**

## CCCSPA

Together with Michael Crooks, the PA will be organising a Book Club for anyone keen to socialise after having had their nose in a book! Parents, teachers, staff etc., all welcome. Book Club will occur every 6 weeks. Details (and book) to follow in the coming weeks. If you have other ideas about ways we can get together and support the school community, do get in touch.

### Meet and Greet

**Tzen Sam : Parent of Teddy (Reception) and Cleo (soon-to-be in Nursery)**

**What did you want to be when you grew up and what are you doing now?** When I was young, I told everyone I wanted to be a lawyer, though in hindsight, it was probably because that's the kind of thing you have to say when you're growing up in a Chinese community in Singapore! I did actually try to be a lawyer for a bit then quickly realised it wasn't for me. At the moment, I'm working on my PhD in English and Norwegian literature, and intend to stay in academia.

**If you could travel anywhere in the world tomorrow, where would you go and why?** I'd love to take the children to Sardinia in Italy. We recently had a Sardinian girl staying with us, and she painted the most idyllic vision of her family home in Sardinia, waking up in the morning to collect eggs from her hens, making fresh bread and pasta every morning, picking fresh vegetables from her garden for salads and pasta sauces and hopping across the road to her uncle's artichoke farm. I'm completely sold!

**Who is your idol, and why?** I don't think I have an idol, although there are many strong, independent women in history who I admire for having the courage to speak their mind.

**Favourite city or town and in which season?** Venice, in winter, around the time of Carnivale, when you get a quieter and more intimate perspective on the city.

**One thing you would change in the world if you could?** The further along I get in my PhD, the more I wish we had always lived in a world where the voices of women were heard just as loudly and clearly as the voices of men. Obviously we have come quite far since the late-Victorian period, but in many ways, there is still work to be done.

**What is your favourite book?** Only one? Perhaps I should go for the 'Complete Plays of Henrik Ibsen' - as I am devoting years of my life to studying it!

**Is there a family trait/habit that you have? (I discuss my dream of the night before to anyone that will listen, My grandmother did the same!)** My family is fanatic about all areas of food and drink and I think it is catching! I think my children have it too - they never stop talking about food!

**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 pick up sailing and live out the Swallows and Amazons dreams of my childhood!

**Any advice on how to relax at the weekend?** A nice meal and a bottle of wine?

Tzen, I love how you have reminded me that we look at possible holiday destinations and tend to forget that people actually live in the way we would daydream about. There is something pretty special about hearing chooks cluck away, knowing that your scrambled eggs are in the making. I guess the urban allotments are a small slice of this for many living in cities.

I'm pretty pleased someone like you is studying such a current and important part of our history and our future. I love that a man in this era made a very sensible decision to be a part of paving the way for women in the way that Henrik Ibsen did. What a guy. I can picture you in a little row boat on the River Cherwell in spring, nose in a book, some wine, handmade bread and picnic, with a crowd of people on the edge of the river waving you down, wishing they were in the same boat as you.

Thank you Tzen.

Have a great weekend,

Kathryn  
PA