



# Christ Church Cathedral School

Friday 7th October 2022

Dear Parents,

Even in the rain, Edinburgh is a beautiful city. I have spent the second half of this week in the Scottish capital, at the joint conference for the Independent Association of Prep Schools (IAPS) and Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference (HMC), surrounded by some of the most exquisite architecture in the world. Edinburgh will forever be associated with the Enlightenment, that flowering of Classical and rational learning which occurred in the 18th and early 19th Centuries. The City still bears the imprint of those extraordinary times in the incomparable New Town, constructed between 1760 and 1830. Beautiful classical crescents run, one after the other, across the city between the Castle, high above on its craggy rock, and the cool waters of the North Sea. So many of the buildings are heart-stoppingly beautiful, the very model of quiet and balanced Classicism. Increasingly, in a world of false news and heightened emotion, where people's feelings about things are allowed to clinch arguments, the quiet rationalism of these streets, crescents and squares, speaks to me of the reliability of rational thought. Never have we needed it more than now. Education seems, to me, as much as anything, to be about giving young people the ability to think clearly and logically. Such an ability is more empowering than any other. Professor Mona Siddiqui, OBE, Professor of Islamic and Interreligious Studies at Edinburgh University and a regular contributor to the Today Programme's *Thought for the Day*, said that at Edinburgh, she felt that her students were increasingly finding it difficult to write essays properly. Increasingly, those who can put forward arguments cogently and logically will be those who will influence others and have the ability to affect the future. Never has the teaching of rational argument been more important.

One of the most interesting talks was from Marc Randolph, co-founder and first CEO of Netflix. Marc explained that his interest was not in films but in start-ups, and that he lives in a world where he and his colleagues are constantly pitching ideas at one another, the vast majority of which are failures. This, he said, did not matter at all. In fact, he felt the greatest danger was that people generally did not try things out, that they did not innovate because they were frightened of failure. For Marc, failure was an opportunity to learn; the thing to avoid was not to make the same mistake twice. I am sure he is right - so often we feel restrained about taking risks and yet so little will advance without doing so.

This thought was brought home by the venue for the conference dinner - the National Museum of Scotland. We dined in a vast hall surrounded by the fruits of Scottish innovation; there were steam engines, racing cars and most strikingly, Dolly the Sheep, the first cloned mammal in the world. So much advancement has come from those brave enough to think in different ways, thereby bringing about innovation.

Not everything, of course, is about looking forward though. I found a moment to pop out for a walk. The weather was, as it often is here in Edinburgh, breezy. I had put on a thick tweed suit and my Harris Tweed cloth cap. Harris Tweed, made in the Outer Hebrides, is a wonderfully durable material designed to endure the full force of the west Atlantic weather. As I walked through the New Town a man approached me. "Pal!" he asked, looking at my tweedy attire, "Are you part of a film set? You look as though you're taking part in a 1950s drama." I have to say I was delighted and took this as a compliment. Perhaps that was the wrong way to read it. Anyhow he was very cheery and seemed delighted that I had donned such a costume to navigate the streets of his home city!



Back in Oxford, I am delighted that Jeremy has been appointed as Head Boy, Eren as Deputy Head Boy and Thomas as Sports Prefect. I am certain they will carry out their roles magnificently and that the School will benefit hugely from their mature and thoughtful approach. It is one of the most important aspects of a Prep School that boys attain positions of responsibility so early in life – the experience of having had roles such as these will hugely benefit them in the years to come.

From left to right: Thomas, Jeremy and Eren.

Mr Murray  
Headmaster

# Michaelmas 2022

## Monday 10th - Sunday 16th October

MONDAY 10	
3.30 - 4.30	After School Chess Club (Forms 3 & 4)
4.00 - 5.00	No After School Football Club (Reception - Form 2) (Merton Field)
TUESDAY 11	
9.00 - 12.00	I.M.P.S Training for Form 6
4.00 - 5.00	No After School Tennis Club (Reception - Form 2) (WWH)
4.30 - 7.00	<b>Pre-Prep Parents' Meeting (SchoolCloud)</b>
5.00 - 6.15	CC: Rehearsal (Chapter Parlour)
6.00	CC: Court Sermon
WEDNESDAY 12	
	Swimming (Forms 3 & 4)
2.45	U10 & U11 Rugby v MCS (Home)
3.30 - 4.30	After School Chess Club (Form 2)
4.00 - 5.00	No After School Tag Rugby (Forms 3 - 6) (Merton Field)
THURSDAY 13	
4.00 - 5.00	No After School Football Club (Forms 3 - 6) (Merton Field)
FRIDAY 14	
8.30	Cathedral Assembly, speaker tbc
4.00 - 5.00	No After School Tag Rugby Club (Reception - Form 2) (Merton Field)
	CC: OUT (Return in time for 4.30 pm rehearsal on Saturday)
SATURDAY 15	
4.30 - 6.30	CC: Rehearsal (WWH)
SUNDAY 16	
	<i>The Eighteenth SUNDAY After Trinity</i>
	<i>University Second Week</i>
6.00	CC: Installation of new Clerks and Choristers at Evensong



### Lost and Found



- Carl in Form 6 has lost his **black bicycle chain lock**
- Cosme in Form 6 has lost his (named) **sports jacket**
- Dominic in Form 4 has lost his CCCS **'quarter zip midlayer' top**

Please could parents make sure that all school clothes are clearly named. We have heard of quite a few lost blazers and tracksuit tops this week and it is much easier for us to help find them (on whoever is wearing the wrong item) if clothes are clearly named.

Thank you. LK

## Form 1 News

In Form 1, we have been practising our creative writing by learning about adjectives and time connectives. Over the past fortnight, the boys have been drawing on their combined superhero strength and guile to solve a mystery...

The notorious Evil Pea has been on the loose, causing havoc in our classroom, and striking fear into the hearts of peace-loving fruits and veggies.

First, he captured our Supertatoes and locked them up. It was only the boys' Maths genius that allowed us to crack the code to the lock and release them. Next, Evil Pea raided the kitchen and took carrots, pears, tomatoes, and satsumas hostage, leaving notes mocking our inability to catch him. Then, Form 1 created 'Wanted' posters using our superhero adjectives, and we enlisted the help of the rest of the school to catch the pesky perpetrator. At last, Evil Pea's reign of terror came to a sticky end when he was trapped in a strawberry jelly, trying to kidnap yet more innocent veggies from the kitchen. Finally, he is back where he belongs, in the freezer! TR



## Form 2 News

On Wednesday, Form 2 boys were very lucky to welcome a special visitor, Jackie Holderness, reading to them from her book about St Frideswide "The Princess Who Hid in the Tree".

Jackie talked about how medieval Oxford was different from the city we know now, where it got its name from and what life was like so many years ago.

The most enjoyable part was dressing up and acting the story out. Every boy played a part and performed it with great enthusiasm. EF



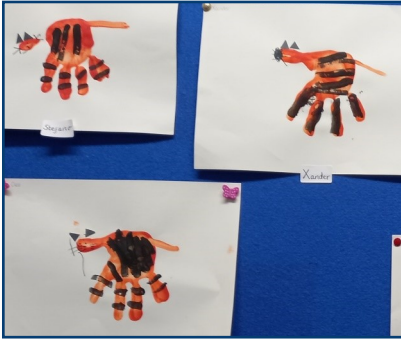
## Flexi-Boarding



We are now able to offer flexi-boarding for £58.00 per night. If any of our parents would like to use this facility, please contact Mrs Kemp: [registrar@cccs.org.uk](mailto:registrar@cccs.org.uk).



## Nursery News

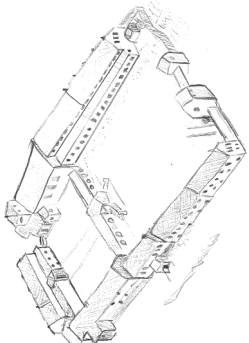


We have had a busy week in the Nursery with lots of activities based around **T**, our 'Sound of the Week'. We turned our handprints into tigers, made tuna pate in Cookery Club and have been singing **Ten Green Bottles**.

In Science Club we mixed two primary colours together and had lots of messy fun, predicting and making secondary colours. NE



## Form 6 News



Carson (Form 6)

On Monday, our Form 6 boys headed to the Corinium Museum. The trip was great fun all the way through! First, we participated in the Roman Workshop, looking at ancient Roman burials and we dressed up as Romans that may have been buried.



In the second part of the session, we looked at the exhibitions and entered information into our handbooks. My favourite exhibition was the mosaics, and I think that the way of arranging rocks to make beautiful pictures is very fascinating. I wish I could participate in other similar trips again soon! Carl (Form 6)

At Chedworth we started off by looking at models of the Villa at Chedworth, when it was used. It looked very grand and large. Then we had a tour around the ruins of the Villa. The tour guide told us that the Villa had experienced many landslides that covered the whole place up until Victorians found mosaics and they thought they were over something important (they were over the ruins of the Villa itself) and they uncovered it. There were some cool places, like the boiler and the baths with beautiful mosaics. This was my favourite part as we got to see one of Britain's largest mosaics and to see how they used baths back then with their equipment. Finally, the tour guide told us that the green dotted area on the ground was where they had preserved a very long mosaic. Overall, I loved this trip and I wish we could participate in more! Trust (Form 6)



## Charity News

Thank you so much for all of the incredibly generous donations and messages of luck that I received before the London Marathon on Sunday.

I completed the marathon in 3 hours 38 minutes and Oxford Hospitals Charity have been in touch to say they are delighted with the money raised.

Thank you again! SP



## CCCS Barber

To book appointments in school you can either message:

07748 105192 or email: [andreachrisostomou@yahoo.com](mailto:andreachrisostomou@yahoo.com)

**Prices:** Mens haircut £17.50, Students £15.00, Clipper cut £10, Beard trim £5,

Over 65s £13.50, Under 16s £13.50





## Life Skills Club News

The boys have been honing their life skills making mocktails and canapés, hosting a drinks party, making sushi and washing cars. Next week we will be ironing and sewing on buttons... KS



## Form 5 News

Form 5 enjoyed their Space Explorers Day at Rutherford Appleton Laboratory. They programmed their robots, tested materials for UV protection - ready to build a house on the moon, enjoyed a session in the Planetarium, learnt about the Boulby Laboratory and are now hoping to go to Mars one day! SL





## Reception News

In class, we have been learning about the changing seasons and how the earth orbits the sun. We made night and day pictures to show that in the daylight the stars are still in space, but invisible. The children drew yellow stars on a white background to experience this. By adding a blue colour wash afterwards, they made darkness fall. The stars suddenly appeared as if by magic! Outdoors, we practiced our numbers on the playground. RF



## Cathedral Choir News

Last Saturday, the Cathedral Choristers travelled to Badminton House, in Gloucestershire, to perform a concert including works by Handel, Faure, Parry and Walton. The concert was extremely well received with the choir receiving rapturous applause and a standing ovation. Congratulations to the boys, in particular, William Smyth, who sang the solo in *Set me as a seal upon thine heart* (Walton). JR





## Sports News

On Wednesday afternoon our Forms 7 & 8 boys travelled to The Dragon School to play their first fixture of the season. In the 1st XII matches, the boys showed amazing bravery and skill. We moved the ball well in attack and showed huge commitment in the tackle, while defending. CCCS ran out winners in both games against The Dragon and Ashfold. Lots to work on in training but a very promising start. In the 2nd XII match, it started off as a tight affair with both teams working hard to stay compact and leaving the other side struggling to find space to attack, before their six touches ran out. The teams traded tries and came into the halftime break at one try-all. In the second half, The Dragon found their stride and were able to create more gaps in our defensive line to exploit - and ran out 5-1 winners.

This fixture was a good experience for the all the boys and a great way to continue working on what we have covered in recent Games sessions. NH

Notable performances: Ethan, Thomas, Yourui, James.



## Meet and Greet

Xia Gledhill, Parent of Thomas in Reception

**What did you want to be when you grew up and what are you doing now?** That is an old question which takes me back to my school days. I remember a short story about all the animals of earth queuing for gifts from God. They are all sure what they want and they get it, but when it is a human infant's turn, the child says, "I haven't decided yet, can you give me power to change to be something later?" This is the human's answer, and I have always been just the same. I think, deep inside of me, I may just want to see more and do more and not be limited by any one type of role or any one description. The way I have found to practice this is by diving into the world of books and travel for fulfilling my curiosities. This has given me the courage to move from my home city and country to Oxford in the UK, and meet many interesting people along the way. So far, I am still working on it. It may not be a traditional job, or role, but a truly lifelong goal.

**If you could travel anywhere in the world tomorrow, where would you go and why?** I would like to go to somewhere with plenty of sunshine and the opportunity for learning more of humanity's story. Ancient agriculture and settlement sites are at the top of the list. The first point above is because I came from a sunny place and it really recharges me. The second point is because those places are the last great switch in our culture, from hunter-gatherers to farmers. To understand how life is for us now and in the future, it is worth finding out how we used to be.

**Continued...**

**Who is your idol, and why?** In my early life my father fulfilled the role of my idol. I could list hundreds of reasons why but out of all, he is a real flesh and blood person I know who has been through many ups and downs and, more importantly, has never given up fights or his heart. He has been a great self-learner and has risen again and again from the ashes. Outside of his hard work ethic he is always charitable and finds time to take care of those struggling. He is very old now, but still keeps on doing that. He has demonstrated to me, by example, how to successfully combine career, family and kindness to others.

For a second personal idol, I am happy to say Elaine Morgan. I love her search for scientific truth, even in the face of institutional opposition. While there are, no doubt, people greater and stronger than these two, for me these real life fighters are great proof of all the historical legends. For these, we all work with love and courage to make a new legend for a new time.

**Favourite city or town and in which season?** I have travelled to many places, but still want to visit more, so I guess my favourite place will always be the next one to visit. For which season, I think it will be a lovely sunny day. Sunshine always refills my batteries.

**One thing you would change in the world if you could?** I think God has done the best job ever that can be. Everything is good at some level. We can work towards a better understanding, as an ant tries to investigate a new building. Any changes? How can we do this better? I love to learn more about what we know - and what we don't know. Human beings are like those three blind men touching an elephant: they each learned something - but not enough to put together a complete description. What we do is sit down to argue who has got the correct answer. If I were to have a wish, I would wish people could respect each other's findings, instead of wasting time arguing about whose partial understanding is the best one. To spend the time working out how to sew the findings together, so that we can discover more truth about the universe. For our life, we are all blind people touching a tiny part of the elephant. We should work on putting more pieces of the puzzle together, and so have a better guess at what is in the middle of the empty blank, and beyond.

**Is there a family trait/habit that you have?** Yes, as noted, we do discuss our dreams. We also talk about our ancestors. How did my grandparents and parents get through tough times such as famines, wars, illness and social movements. Some stories may seem old, but the older I am, the more understanding I have of the value of this knowledge. Some aspects of history get missed from history books, but family stories help you understand it more fully.

**Favourite Book?** So far, it is *The Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy*. Partly, I love its wild imagination and humour and partly, I feel the wisdom behind Sci-Fi has helped me get through a lot of tough spots. I love to use the super computer robot, Marvin's, depressed phrases to make jokes with my children's endless demanding requests. You can give it try, that may get them to know more about Marvin, the super-intelligent AI robot.

**If you could start something new (hobby/interest or sport) and were not limited with time/age/money, what would it be?** For the hobby, there will never be one I don't like, if there's no limitation. Books, arts, crafts, building, chess, language, football, golf, bike, music, skating, water sports, animals, gardening... I love them all, and I don't care how much I achieve at each if I get fun from doing it. However, maybe not cooking, camping, fishing or competitive babysitting!

**Any advice on how you relax at the weekend?** To keep them calm, we have no TV or any screen time for the children at home after school. So, a weekend movie night via projector is one good way for us to enjoy our family time together. Other times, Thomas loves to play his favourite music (Pirates and Mermaids) then create a 'show' for us to watch. My daughter and I love to stay together for painting, chatting, and making mini 'books' with Thomas in kitchen. Other times, I do knitting or sewing while listening to Dad read books for everyone (accompanied by ten thousand "whys?" from the kids). While this might make our home seem like something from old black and white movie days, it does give us a peaceful time in the evenings. I am looking forward to Thomas soon getting to the stage where we can all have fun together with board games.

As a parent, I root for my children. Its a great honour to be their parent. With their help, I feel better able to see the bigger part of the cycle of human life. Children are the best gift from the God: they break down the man-made barriers and show us how both great, and small, you are, together with all the other parents of the world.

Sun certainly does refill your batteries, and the summer months really did come through with the good rays. By the sound of it, you've filled your cup and are ready to hit the colder months with gusto and your glass half full approach to life. It is really interesting to read the ideas you have towards everything - although I am not familiar with competitive babysitting? That sounds really exhausting. It doesn't sound like you'll be likely to experience any element of boredom, with so many interests, I thought I would introduce another which may save you some time. Foot golf! It could combine two of your sports and takes half the time of a normal round of golf. Life fighters is a great expression and your father sounds like a terrific person to have learnt from. Nothing wrong with a black and white movie setting either! Some of the world's best cinema existed during this time, I can recommend a board game that you may like to play with Thomas one day, 'Colour Brain' which is a good one for the quiet observer. Thank you Xia and welcome to CCCS.

Enjoy your weekend!  
Kathryn